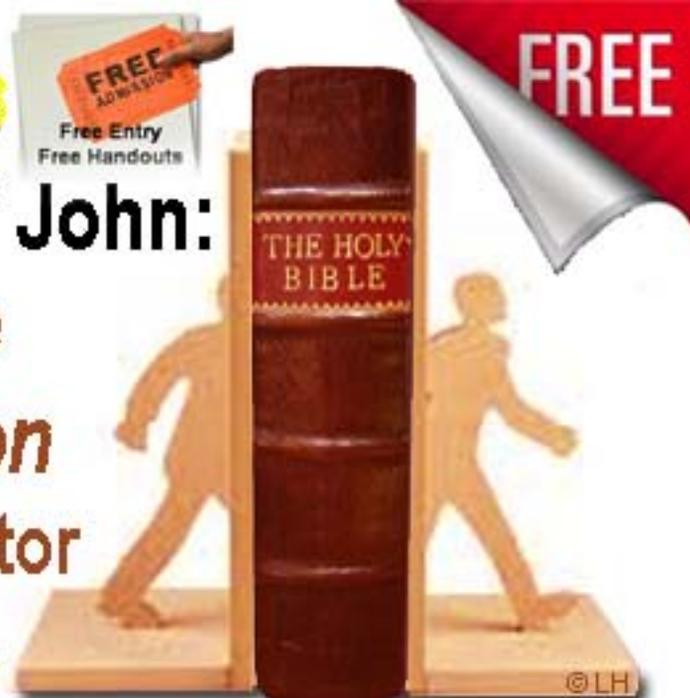


Free Seminar Series

In The Footsteps of John:

Walking through the *Book of Revelation* with John the Revelator

www.lrhartley.com/john



In the Footsteps of John is a twenty-part multimedia seminar and workshop for those curious about the Book of Revelation. Walk alongside John and with your presenter find out from the Bible what the Revelator means when he fills his book with symbols and graphic word pictures.

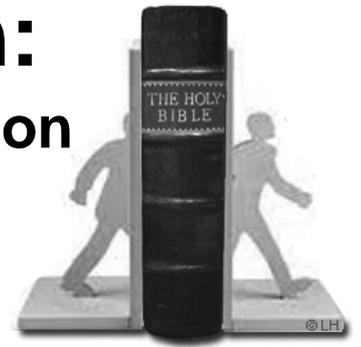


We will ask of John and compare other parts of Scripture to understand what John meant when he wrote about God's Sanctuary, The Seven Churches, Glimpses of Heaven, The Mystery of the 144,000, Omens and Warnings, End-time Plagues, Armageddon, A Leader in Chains, New Heavens/New Earth and much more. Each program will include a hands-on study to unlock some of the mysteries and unravel the meaning behind the symbols, images and word-pictures in this truly interesting book.



In the Footsteps of John: Walking through the Book of Revelation with John the Revelator

www.lrhartley.com/john



Walk alongside John and with your presenter to find out from the Bible what the Revelator means when he fills his book with symbols and graphic word pictures. Each week we will read at least one chapter together. We will ask of John and compare other parts of Scripture to understand what John meant when he wrote about God's Sanctuary, The Seven Churches, Glimpses of Heaven, The Mystery of the 144,000, Omens and Warnings, End-time Plagues, Armageddon, A Leader in Chains, New Heavens/New Earth and much more. Each program will include a hands-on study to unlock some of the mysteries and unravel the meaning behind the symbols, images and word-pictures in this truly interesting book.

Program 1: The Book of Open Secrets

Most people have opinions regarding the Bible.

Interestingly, recent polls indicate that men and women everywhere wish to understand the Bible better.

However, for a majority, the book of Revelation is a major problem.

Its prophetic language and mysterious symbols seem to defy comprehension, so millions have given up ever understanding it.

Many feel that the book applies largely to either the past or the future, and that furthermore, it is a closed or sealed, book and not meant to be understood by people today.

But the truth is that the book of Revelation is neither closed nor sealed.

Gods angel commanded that it not be sealed (Revelation 22:10). Some of the most important messages that God has ever given are found in this book.

Revelation is an open book It was written especially for our times – the last days of earth's history (Revelation 22:10-12), and a very special blessing is pronounced upon all who understand and heed the counsel of the book (Revelation 1:3 & 22:7).

Revelation is really a summary of the entire Bible, in which the main

themes of Holy Scripture are reviewed in order to stress their importance. As an acorn embodies the mighty oak, so Revelation embodies the great key points of the entire Bible.

Why We Are Here Today

Seminars are very popular, today. They are being conducted over the world on virtually every subject. But this series (adapted from Seminars Unlimited) is more than the average program that is planned to impart information or to satisfy curiosity.

This series will bring you face to face with Jesus Christ in a most startling manner. It will stop you right in your track. Suddenly you will see Him in a new and wonderful light.

Walking through this book with John the Revelator will provide a new understanding of the history of this world since the cross. It is, in fact, the story of the centuries-long warfare between Christ and Satan.

It will provide hard-to-believe meanings to current-day events.

It will unveil to you the meaning of grand, climactic, shocking events to take place upon the earth – events that will have a profound effect upon you and your loved ones.

It will reveal to you the Devil's plans to ensnare people. This infuriates him. So he will do everything possible to prevent your attendance at this series. The program you miss could be the one that you need the most.

It will lead you to the most momentous decisions of your life.

You will be astounded as the great God of Heaven and His Son Jesus Christ, speak to you through the Holy Spirit. You will often be surprised at what you hear. But keep your mind open. God's surprises are always for our good. You may not always agree with what is presented. But this need not prevent the series from being a great spiritual high point in your life.

The Bible is not like any other book It was written by God, and can only be understood as He helps us. Thus, it is absolutely imperative to spend time in prayer, asking God for His help. Unless we do this, the Devil will see to it that we end up with erroneous conclusions.

“In The Footsteps of John” will bring into sharp focus the fact that both the Lord and the Devil are asking for your worship. The tragedy is that millions are honouring Satan, and do not even know it. Revelation sounds an awesome warning against this, and shows you how to avoid it.

It is not possible in the short time we are together to cover every detail of the Book of Revelation, but we will cover as best we can the main points. Study-guide answers are posted on our website: www.lrhartley.com/john.

A Broad Over-view of the Book of Revelation

Chapter 1	The Hero of the book is introduced
Chapters 2 & 3	Christ's message to the seven churches
Chapters 4 & 5	Opening a mysterious sealed book
Chapters 6 & 7	The seven horsemen of the Apocalypse; The sealing of God's people
Chapters 8 & 9	The seven trumpets
Chapter 10	Eating the bittersweet book
Chapter 11	The two witnesses in sackcloth
Chapter 12	The mysterious woman standing on the mook
Chapter 13	The mark of the Beast
Chapter 14	The puzzling message of the three great angels
Chapters 15 & 16	The grapes of God's wrath
Chapters 17 & 18	Mystic Babylon, the great harlot
Chapter 19	The Rider on the white horse defeats the beast
Chapter 20	The dragon is bound in the bottomless pit for 1000 years
Chapters 21 & 22	The city of God; The new Heaven and new earth

Part 1: How to understand the Book of Revelation

Study Question 1 – Read Revelation 1:1-5, 11, 19

The Book of Revelation passed through five steps to reach us what are they:

1. God gave it to _____
2. Jesus gave it to _____
3. The angel gave it to _____
4. John _____ it down. (v. 19)
5. John sent the book to the _____. (John wrote the book of Revelation on the small rocky island of Patmos (Revelation 1:9) in the Aegean Sea where he had been banished by the Emperor Domitian

because of his faith and forced to work in the mines as punishment. Patmos was an island prison, the “Guantanamo Bay” of its day. John wrote Revelation under the most forbidding and discouraging circumstances.)

Study Question 2 – Read Revelation 1:3

God promises a special blessing to those who _____,

_____ and _____ the things written in the Book of Revelation.

Study Question 3 – Read John 5:39

Whom did Jesus say the Scriptures reveal? _____,

Study Question 4 – Read Luke 24:25-27, 32

When explaining prophecy, what approach did Jesus use?

He _____ unto them in _____ the

_____ the things concerning _____. (Jesus pointed out what other writers of the Bible said on the subject. His method is, of course, the correct one: *Let the Bible explain itself*. Only as we study Revelation in light of what other Bible writers say on the same subject can we ever hope to understand it. Our personal opinions regarding prophecy or interpretation do not count. The amazing key to understanding Revelation is the study of other Bible writers, especially those of the Old Testament. Revelation is a mosaic of Old Testament imagery.

Taylor G. Bunch, a renowned author says, “*Twenty-six of the thirty-one Old Testament books are quoted from in Revelation, and of the 404 verses in the book, 276 are borrowed or copied from other Bible authors*”.

The first five chapters of Revelation, for example, contain 27, 15, 13, 16 and 14 references respectively to the Old Testament. So keep in mind

that we unlock Revelation's prophecies and symbols by finding out what other Bible writers say on the same theme.)

Part 2: Communication by Symbols

Study Question 5 – Read again Revelation 1:1

What does Revelation 1:1 say that the angel did to the message he gave to John?

And _____ it by His angel unto His servant John.

(‘Signify’ means to ‘communicate by signs, tokens or symbols’. So Revelation's prophecies are symbolic.)

Study Question 6 – (Revelation 1:1)

How does Revelation 1:1 say *why* God presented this message to John?

God presented the message to _____ unto His servants things which must soon come to pass. (The word ‘shew’ or ‘show’ in the context of Revelation indicates a panoramic view. As you read Revelation, it is easy to see that God was showing views to His servant with sound effects. In reporting on the visions, John says “I saw” or “beheld”, or something similar, 73 times. In Revelation, God is presenting events, nations, religious movements and organizations in word pictures or cartoons. Revelation is God's word-picture book or a vast word-picture gallery.

Study Question 7 – Read Luke 8:10

Why did Jesus speak in parables and clothe the Book of Revelation in symbols?

That _____ they might not _____, and

_____ they might not _____. (Jesus spoke in parables that only the Spiritually-oriented could understand. He clothed Revelation in symbols for the same reasons: Only those sincerely seeking truth and guided by the Holy Spirit can comprehend

it. Further, the enemies of God are unmasked, and God's people are revealed in Revelation. Centuries ago, God's enemies would have destroyed the book if it had been written in literal language. For this reason, it was necessary to present the messages of the book in language only God's people can understand.)

But the symbols need not hinder understanding The Bible tells us what they mean in literal language. Listed below are three prophetic symbols with the Bible explanation of their literal meaning.

Write your understanding of the literal meaning of

1. Beast: _____ (Daniel 7:23)

2. Water: _____ (Revelation 17:15)

3. Day: _____ (Ezekiel 4:6)

Part 3: The Authority of Bible Prophecy

Study Question 8 – Read 2 Peter 1:16, 19

How reliable are the words of prophecy?

“Were _____ of His majesty ... we have also a more _____ word of _____.” (Prophecy is more reliable than an eyewitness account.)

Study Question 9 – Read 2 Peter 1:20 and Revelation 22:18, 19

God gives two warnings in regards to interpreting prophecy. What are they?

1. “No _____ is of any _____ interpretation.”

2. We are not to _____ or _____ away from the words of this prophecy.

Study Question 10 – Read Isaiah 29:10 -14

Since God says that Revelation is not now (and never has been) sealed, why is it that so many feel it is closed, sealed or impossible to understand?

Satan’s strategy is to claim that Revelation cannot be understood because

“It is _____” or because we are not

_____. (Satan does not want people to understand Revelation because it clearly exposes his snares, so he does everything possible to discredit it. Satan used this strategy in Old Testament days. He is doing it again very effectively, today.

Study Question 11 – Read 2 Timothy 3:16

How much of the Scripture is inspired?

Answer: _____.

Study Question 12 – Read 2 Peter 3:15, 16

If we twist Scripture to fit our own opinions and preferences, what can be the result?

_____.

Part 4: Four Important Keys to Understanding Revelation

Study Question 13

Four things are essential to truly understand the Bible including Revelation. What are they?

1. Spiritual things are _____ discerned (1 Corinthians 2:14)

2. I must _____ for truth. (Revelation 21:6)

3. I must _____ the Bible and _____ all _____ by its teachings. (2 Timothy 2:15 and Acts 17:11)

4. "If any man _____

_____ he shall _____ the

_____ whether it be of _____. (I must be willing to do God's will as it becomes clear to me. Christ dedicated Revelation to 'His servants' or followers. He gives no indication that others will understand it. The secret of understanding Spiritual matters is found in Daniel 12:10: "None of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand". To really understand prophecy, I must have the spiritual illumination that is given only to those who love and serve God.

Study Question 14 – Read Revelation 3:10, 22:14

What promises does Jesus give to those who obey His word?

1. He will keep them from the _____ of

_____.

2. They will have right to the _____ of

_____ and may enter through the _____ of

the _____.

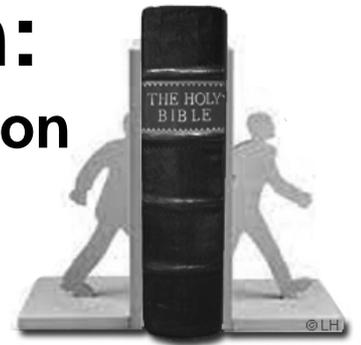
Study Question 15 – Your personal response

As the Holy Spirit of God shows you great truths about Jesus Christ in the Book of Revelation, are you willing to obey these truths?

Answer: _____.

In the Footsteps of John: Walking through the Book of Revelation with John the Revelator

www.Irhartley.com/john



Program 2: Revelation's Super Hero

The dictionary defines a hero as a person who is admired for their courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities or the chief male character in a book, play, or film, who is typically identified with good qualities, and with whom the reader is expected to sympathize.

Dictionaries typically use synonyms such as brave man, champion, man of courage, great man, man of the hour, conquering hero, victor, winner, conqueror, lionheart, warrior, paladin, knight, white hat; chevalier, star, idol, superstar, megastar, celebrity, celeb, luminary, lion, ideal, ideal man, paragon, exemplar, shining example, perfect example, favourite, darling, knight in shining armour, knight on a white charger, beau ideal, informal-celeb.

Typically a superhero is a benevolent fictional character with superhuman powers. In mythology and folklore both a hero or superhero was defined as a person of superhuman qualities and often of semi-divine origin, in particular one whose exploits were the subject of ancient Greek myths.

Now you will see from this that there are obvious problems calling Jesus a superhero. Superheroes are always conquering. And they conquer because they are bigger, stronger, faster, and smarter than their opponents, however Jesus conquered through weakness and not strength. Jesus isn't part human and part God. He is fully human and fully God.

But look back through that definition and you will see that Jesus is indeed both super and a hero, and sadly many people are totally unaware that it is Jesus who is the real hero in the Book of Revelation.

Many versions will have the man-made name of the book as the Revelation of John the Divine. But verse one of Chapter one reveals that it is actually a revelation of Jesus.

This book discloses some very extra-ordinary and exciting things about Jesus, in fact, the key purpose of the book is to help us to see Jesus in a new light.

There are a number of names or titles that I give my wife at different times. Sometimes I will call her by her given name (Rosemary). Other times I may call her using endearment descriptors such as Sweetheart, Darling, Precious, Sweetie or Honey. If I'm talking about her to another, I may call her 'My wife' or 'My wonderful wife' or 'The Mother of our children'. Likewise, there are at least 36 (if not more) names or titles of Jesus in the Book of Revelation.

For example:

- 1 Jesus Christ – Revelation 1:1
- 2 Faithful Witness – Revelation 1:5
- 3 First Begotten of the Dead – Revelation 1:5
- 4 Prince of the Kings of the Earth – Revelation 1:5
- 5 Alpha and Omega – Revelation 1:8-13
- 6 First and last – Revelation 1:8, 11, 13
- 7 Son of Man – Revelation 1:13
- 8 He that liveth and was dead – Revelation 1:13, 18
- 9 He that holdeth the seven stars – Revelation 2:1
- 10 He who walketh midst the golden candlesticks – Revelation 2:1
- 11 Son of God – Revelation 2:18
- 12 He which searches the reins and hearts – Revelation 2:23
- 13 He that hath the seven stars – Revelation 3:1
- 14 He that is holy and true – Revelation 3:7
- 15 He that hath the key of David – Revelation 3:7
- 16 He that openeth and no man shutteth – Revelation 3:7
- 17 He that shutteth and no man openeth – Revelation 3:7
- 18 The Amen – Revelation 3:14
- 19 The faithful and true witness – Revelation 3:14
- 20 The beginning of the creation of God – Revelation 3:14
- 21 Lord – Revelation 4:11
- 22 Lion of the tribe of Judah – Revelation 5:5, 9
- 23 The root of David – Revelation 5:5, 9
- 24 A lamb as it had been slain – Revelation 5:6, 7
- 25 The lamb – Revelation 5:8, 9
- 26 The Lord God of the Holy Prophets – Revelation 22:6
- 27 Lord of Lords – Revelation 17:14

- 28 King of Kings – Revelation 17:14
- 29 The word of God – Revelation 19:13-16
- 30 Faithful and true – Revelation 19:11
- 31 Beginning and the end – Revelation 22:13
- 32 Rider of white horse – Revelation 19:11
- 33 Christ – Revelation 20:4
- 34 He who hath the sharp sword with two edges – Revelation 2:12
- 35 He that hath the seven Spirits of God – Revelation 3:1
- 36 The bright and morning star – Revelation 22:16

Jesus is mentioned by one of these names or titles or a pronoun representing one of these names over 137 times in the first three chapters alone and over 250 times in the book of Revelation.

Part 1: Revelation’s Super Hero

Study Question 1 – Do you doubt that this book is about Jesus Christ?

***Study Question 2 – How does Revelation describe Jesus?
Read Revelation 1:13-16***

a. Revelation 1:13 ... His garment down to the

b. Revelation 1:13 He wore a golden

c. Revelation 1:4 Hair was _____ like

 or

d. Revelation 1:14 Eyes like _____ of

e. Revelation 1:15 Feet like fine _____ as

_____ in a _____

f. Revelation 1:15 Voice as the sound of many

g. Revelation 1:16 Countenance bright as the

Daniel chapter 10 (especially Vs 5-9) has another word picture of Jesus.

Both John (Revelation 1:17) and Daniel fell to the ground faint and helpless when they saw Him.

Look at this comparison:

	Daniel 10 (5 th Century BC)	Revelation 1 (AD 90)
1	Man (Certain Man)	Man (Son of Man)
2	Clothed in (Priestly) linen	Clothed in (Priestly) linen
3	Golden belt	Golden belt
4	Body like beryl (Beryl is clear but reflects back colours)	Body clothed
5	Face like lightning	Face like the sun
6	Eyes like lamps of fire	Eyes like flames of fire
7	Arms & Feet like polished brass	Like burnished brass
8	Voice like a multitude (many people)	Voice like many waters (many people)
9	Daniel responds by fainting	John responds by fainting

Part 2: What a Wonderful Saviour

Study Question 3 – What has Jesus done for us?

Read Revelation 1:5

“He _____ us and
_____ us from our
_____.”

**Study Question 4 – What else has Jesus done for us?
Read Revelation 1:6**

“And He hath made us _____ and
_____.”

In Old Testament times people had to approach God through priests but Jesus has changed that and made us all priests so that we may approach Him directly.

**Study Question 5 – What is it, according to the 24 Elders that makes Jesus worthy to redeem us?
Read Revelation 5:8, 9, 12**

“For Thou wast _____ and hast
_____ us.

The title ‘Lamb’ referring to Jesus is used 26 times in Revelation. Jesus is clearly the Lamb of God (See John 1:29).

In Old Testament times, lambs were sacrificed when people sinned. These lambs typified Jesus, who took the people’s sins and died as their atonement (*at one-ment*). Jesus, the Lamb of God, died on Calvary in our place and for our sins. Through Jesus we are set free.

No wonder the people of Revelation 5 cried out “worthy is the lamb that was slain” (Revelation 5:9)

Study Question 6 – Was Jesus’ sacrifice an afterthought, or was it planned before sin entered this world?

Read Revelation 13:8; Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 1:18-20

“Who verily (truly) was forordained before the

_____ of the

_____ .

Study Question 7 – Listen while your presenter reads Revelation 4 & 5 about a sealed book that no-one could open. Who finally opened the book?

_____, the _____.

Study Question 8 – What do you think this book is that only Jesus has the authority to open?

Let’s look at some other Scripture verses:

a. Revelation 3:5; 17:8 speak of the book of

_____ .

b. Revelation 21:27 calls it the _____

book of _____ .

c. Revelation 20:12 mentions both _____

and the _____ of

_____ .

Notice that these books are all mentioned in connection with the judgment. Revelation 13:8 makes it clear that the saved will have their names written in the book of life, and according to Revelation 3:5 those who turn away from Christ will have their names removed from that book.

The reality of the message of Revelation chapter 5 is that only Jesus can tell who is saved and who is lost. He, and He only, reads the heart and knows who are truly His. This is why it is so imperative not to judge or fellow human beings (Matthew 7:1) and why it is crucial to place our lives in His hands. He alone cleanses us from sin (1 John 1:9). He alone is able to present us “faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy” (Jude 24).

Truly, there is no “other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). This is why John, in Revelation 5 was so tearful and hopeless until Jesus appeared. It also explains why the elders burst forth with rejoicing when Jesus intervened for the people from this earth whom He loves.

Homework reading:

Why does God keep books?

1. He is concerned with obedience and justice – Read James 2:10-13
2. To exonerate God’s Character – Read Revelation 5:12, 13
3. Because He loves us – Read Romans 8: 38, 39.

Part 3: The Origin and Power of our Superhero
Study Question 9 – Did Jesus have His beginning when he was born of Mary or did He exist prior to His Bethlehem birth?

Read Revelation 22:6, 7

He _____ from

_____ .
Revelation 22:6,7 calls Jesus “the Lord God of the holy prophets”.

1 Peter 1:10,11 also says that Jesus is the one who inspired the prophets of old. Other Bible passages say very clearly that Jesus did indeed exist before coming to earth to be born of Mary. See John 17:5, 24; John 1:1-3, 14; Philippians 2:5-11.

Study Question 10 – Who especially is mentioned as involved in the creation of the world and in the formation (at creation) of man?

Read Revelation 3:14

The word ‘beginning’ in Revelation 3:14 is used in the sense of ‘origin’. Becks translation puts it, “the origin of God’s creation”. The Jerusalem Bible says, “the ultimate source of God’s creation”.

Homework reading:

Other passages that proclaim Jesus as creator are Ephesians 3:9; John 1:1-3, 14; Hebrews 1:1, 2; Colossians 1:13-17.

Study Question 11 – Is Jesus God?

Read Revelation 19:13-18, John 1:1, 14; Revelation 22:6, 7.

In Revelation 19:13-16 Jesus is called the word of God and John 1:1-14 makes it very clear that the “word is Jesus and that He is, indeed, God. Other verses of Scripture that clearly point out the same thing are, for example, 1 Timothy 3:16; Titus 3:4 and Hebrews 1:8

Part 4: An amazing Time Prophecy

Over 500 years before Jesus’ birth, God foretold the exact year He would come. This astounding prophecy proves Jesus is the Messiah.

Study Question 12. How much time (of special favour) was allotted to the Jewish nation?

(We will look at the implications of God’s rejection of Israel as a Nation in our ‘*In The Footsteps of John*’ study number 14.)

Study Question 13 – Using the Bible’s prophetic rule that one prophetic day is equal to one literal year, how long is this 70-week time period?

Read Ezekiel 4:6

_____ .
70 weeks times 7 (the number of days in a week) equals 490 prophetic days or 490 literal years.

Study Question 14 – When was this 70-week (490-year) time period to begin?

Read the first part of Daniel 9:25

“From the going forth of the _____ to

restore and rebuild _____ .”

God’s people were in captivity in Persia. The Lord impressed the Persia King, Artaxerxes, to make a decree that permitted all Jews who so desired to return to Jerusalem to restore and rebuild the city. The decree is recorded in the Bible in Ezra chapter 7.

Two other kings had also made decrees prior to this but they do not qualify in relation to this prophecy as they only referred to the rebuilding of the temple.

Study Question 15 – When was this decree Issued?

Read Ezra 7:7, 12, 13

In the _____ year of

_____ the _____ .

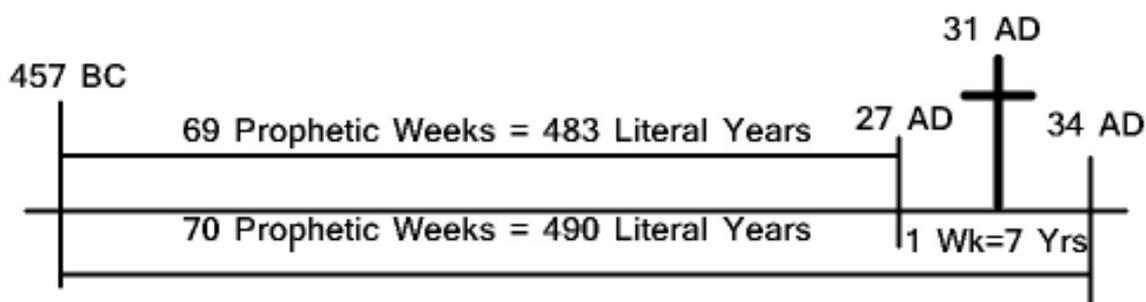
These verses point out that the decree was issued in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes. History shows that the king began his reign in 464 B.C. His seventh year would be 457 B.C. The decree was implemented in the autumn of that year sometime after Ezra’s arrival in Jerusalem.

Study Question 16 – How long was it to be from the decree of Artaxerxes until the Messiah appeared?

Read Daniel 9:25

_____ weeks or _____ years.

69 weeks times 7 (the number of days in a week) equals 483 prophetic days, which in Bible prophecy are 483 years. Mathematical calculations show that if we begin in 457 BC and move 483 years into the future, we will reach the year 27 AD.



Study Question 17 – Did the Messiah appear in 27 AD exactly 483 years after the decree of Artaxerxes in 457 BC?

Read Luke 3:1, 21,22; Acts 10:30; John 1:41

(If there is a margin reference to John 1:41, read that also).

‘Messiah’ is the Hebrew word for ‘Anointed’. ‘Christ’ is the Greek word for the same. Though Jesus was born the Son of God, He was not the ‘Messiah’ or the ‘Anointed’ one until He was anointed.

Acts 10:38 says He was anointed by the Holy Ghost.

Luke 3:21, 22 says that the anointing of the Holy Ghost, which made Him the Messiah, took place at His baptism.

And Luke 3:1 points out that His baptism took place in the 15th year of Tiberius Caesar.

History shows that the 15th year of Tiberius was 27 AD., the very same year Jesus was baptised, as prophecy had predicted.

Jesus’ anointing as the Messiah marked the beginning of the 70th week of Daniel 9.

**Study Question 18 – When Jesus began preaching, after His baptism and anointing by the Holy Spirit, what did He say which indicated He knew about Daniel’s prediction that He would be anointed and become the Messiah In 27 AD?
Read Mark 1:14, 15**

“The _____ is _____.
There is no room for any mistake here, as the Messiah appeared *right on time* as predicted by Daniel hundreds of years before. He is, indeed, the Messiah, the Son of God. This gives us an unshakable foundation on which to stand.

Part 5: Jesus’ Crucifixion Foretold

Study Question 19 – We have considered 483 of the 490 years of privileged time given to the Jewish Nation. One final week of the 70 original remains. (one week of 7 prophetic days = 7 literal years). What was to happen in the middle of that last week or 7 years? Read Daniel 9:26, 27.

Jesus was to be “_____” or crucified.
The Scripture passage says that Jesus was to be ‘cut off’ in the middle of the last week. One-half of 7 years is 3½ years. Add 3½ years to the autumn of 27 AD., and you reach the spring of 31 AD.
In direct fulfilment of this prophecy, Jesus was, indeed, ‘cut off’ or crucified in the spring of 31 AD. Jesus caused ‘the sacrifice and the oblation to cease’ because He, as the Lamb of God, replaced the symbolic sacrificial lambs when He became the supreme sacrifice for all people on the cross (See 1 Corinthians 5:7).

Study Question 20 – How much of this privileged time did the Jewish Nation have left after 31 AD. and when did it end?

- a. How much time was left: _____ years.
- b. When did it end? It ended in the _____ of

The first 3½ years of this 7-year period led us to the Spring of 31 AD. when Jesus was crucified. Adding the 3½ years remaining to 31 A.D. brings us to the autumn of 34 AD. At this time this special period given to the Jewish people closed and the gospel was now to be given to the Gentiles also.

Study Question 21 – How may Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews) today become part of God’s chosen people and thus be saved? Read Galatians 3:29; Romans 2:28, 29; Romans 9:6-8.

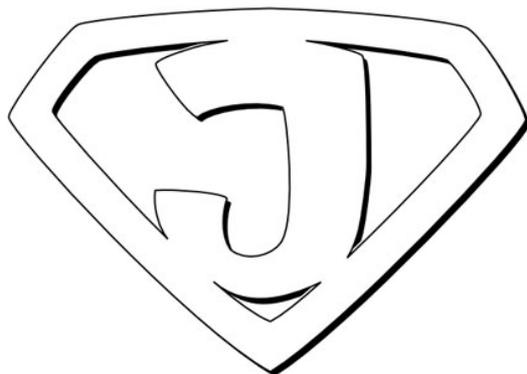
“If ye be _____ then are ye _____
seed and _____ according to the
_____.”

Persons of all races may become part of God’s chosen people by accepting Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Daniel 9:26 says Jesus was cut off, but not for Himself. Jesus died for you and me, that we might have eternal life. Jesus knocks at the door of each heart (Revelation 3:20).

Study Question 22 – your personal response

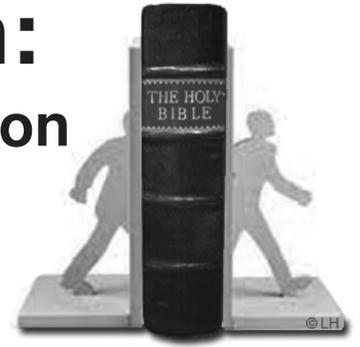
In the light of Jesus’ matchless love, are you willing to serve and follow Him?

Jesus died for you and me! Can we resist such love?



In the Footsteps of John: Walking through the Book of Revelation with John the Revelator

www.lrhartley.com/john



Program 3: Revelation's Adversary

Ways of Interpreting Revelation

As every reader of the Bible knows, the books of Daniel and Revelation are written largely in symbols. Bible students, consequently, describe them as apocalyptic prophecy to distinguish from straightforward classical prophecy, such as we find in the major and minor prophets of the Old Testament. In these two apocalyptic books God reveals the sweep of the moral controversy which has convulsed our planet, focusing on the ultimate victory of His cause and the final doom of the forces of evil.

Historical Method of Interpretation

Your seminar author has followed the historical method of prophetic interpretation to explain the symbols and their meaning. Sometimes this approach is called the historicist method or the continuous historical method. The historicist method accepts the assumption that the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation are intended to unfold and to find fulfillment in historical time – in the span between the prophets Daniel and John respectively and the final establishment of God's eternal kingdom.

The year-day principle (one symbolic day = one literal year) is an integral part of this method inasmuch as it functions to unroll the symbolic time periods so that we are able to locate the predicted events along the highway of history.

Jesus used the historicist method for interpreting Daniel when He announced, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand" (Mark 1:15).

In this affirmation of prophetic fulfillment He alluded to Daniel's 70 week prophecy (Dan 9:24-27) which foretold the appearance of the Messiah. Near the close of His life Jesus again referred to the same prophecy. This time, however, He pointed to another aspect: to "the prince that [should] come [and should] destroy the city and the sanctuary." (v. 26; see Matthew 24:15; Luke 21:20.)

These events were to take place after His death and ascension. Their historical fulfillment occurred in the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple by the Romans in A.D. 70.

The Protestant reformers likewise employed the historicist method. On this basis they concluded that the Papacy was the focus of several of the prophecies in Daniel and Revelation.

Preterist and Futurist Methods of Interpretation

Sixteenth century Protestant interpretations of Daniel and Revelation shook the Roman Catholic Church. In response the Catholic Counter-Reformation introduced the initial arguments for two different systems of prophetic interpretation: preterism and futurism. These moves served to deflect the accusing finger of prophecy away from the papal system.

Preterism (from the Latin, *praeter*, meaning "past") argued that these prophetic books met their fulfillment in the pre-Christian past or early centuries of the Christian era. Preterism eventually penetrated Protestant thought in the late eighteenth century and became the standard view of liberal Protestantism.

Today, standard historical-critical scholarship places the composition of Daniel in the second century B.C. and sees its alleged prophecies as reflecting the person and times of Antiochus IV Epiphanes, the Seleucid king of Syria. The book of Revelation is restricted to a Roman setting in the first centuries of the Christian era.

Futurism entered Protestant ranks in the first quarter of the nineteenth

Your seminar author is a proponent of the historicist method of interpreting Daniel and Revelation and is using it in this series, firstly because it makes good sense, secondly because it reveals God's unerring accuracy, and thirdly because it was the method used by Christ, the Gospel writers, Paul the Apostle and the Reformers.

There are a number of other methods of interpretation that are outside the scope of this seminar.

A brief review of the Book of Revelation quickly reveals several crucial points:

1. A terrifying, deadly, organized conflict is taking place, on this earth between good and evil.
2. Jesus, the Son of God, powerfully leads the forces of good with love, courage, wisdom, kindness, patience, integrity, gentleness, serenity, sympathy, compassion, tact and geniality. His leadership style is one of concern and fair-play for even His worst enemies He is worthy of our worship because He is our creator and our Redeemer.
3. An adversary, on the other hand, leads the forces of evil in relentless, devastating assaults upon Jesus and His people. According to the book of Revelation, that adversary, the antagonist in the drama, is the devil and Satan. As a leader, he is unbelievably militant, crass, venomous, heartless, hateful and unscrupulous, yet, incredible as it may seem, He also, asks for our worship

In this study we will consider shocking facts about the Devil which will doubtless astound you. Remember that he is our bitterest enemy. He is dead serious about destroying every one of us; and unless we are aware of his characteristics and strategy, the odds are very great that he will ensnare and ruin us, or else we will be duped into worshipping him.

We were created, in the beginning, with the desire to worship. The truth is that all of us worship something. With some it may be our own opinions or our assets We give homage to Satan when we permit anything, other than Jesus, to have first place in our lives

The shocking, sobering facts are that every person on this planet is, this very day, either worshipping Jesus or giving homage to Satan. Many pay homage to Satan innocently. They would turn from him in disgust were his evil strategies exposed. The central purpose of today's study is to expose the archenemy and to uplift Jesus, our Redeemer.

Part 1: Aliases of the Enemy

Study Question Study Question 1 - What are the names or titles applied to Revelation's Adversary in the Book of Revelation?

a. Revelation 2:10_____.

b. Revelation 12:9_____.

c. Revelation 12:9_____.

d. Revelation 12:9_____.

e. Revelation 12:10_____.

Satan is specifically mentioned 55 times in the book of Revelation. In addition, he is referred to indirectly, scores of times, as he works through his agents to destroy God's work and His people. "Satan" means "adversary" or "enemy". "Devil" means "slanderer".

Study Question 2 – Where did the Devil come from? Revelation 12:7-9

_____.

Study Question 3 – Why did he leave Heaven? Revelation 12:7-9, 2 Peter 2:4

"He was _____out into the earth"; because he had_____.

Study Question 4 – Who were cast out with him? Revelation 12:7-10

_____.

Study Question 5 – How many angels were cast out with him? Revelation 12:3, 4; Revelation 12:7-10

_____ of the _____ of

It is assuring to know that there are two good angels for every evil one, and Revelation 5:11 and Daniel 7:10 indicate that there are billions of angels. It all fits together when we note how the Bible comments on the subject:

Job 38:7 says the morning stars, or angels, sang together at the time of creation

Rev. 12:3,4 shows that one third of them fell with Satan.

2 Peter 2:4 confirms that God did not spare the angels who sinned. (This means that God did not let this rebellion stand. He judged and punished these fallen angels. Some translations say they went to hell. Specifically, Peter uses the Greek word “*Tartarus*,” which was a part of the Greek underworld. This is somewhat different from the other biblical references to “hell,” though it shares a close relation. Peter says that these angels remain there, being held in chains, or pits, of darkness until God is ready to fully judge them for their sin.)

Jude 6 confirms that angels did fall.

Just think of it! One third of heaven’s angels were deceived by Satan! He has incredible power to deceive and convince. He who deceived the angels can much more easily deceive people. We must never forget that staying close to Jesus is our only safety.

Study Question 6 – What was the origin of the angels, including Satan? Colossians 1:16

They were _____ by

_____.

Think of it. Both Jesus and the angel who became Satan lived in Heaven before the creation of this world. Since Jesus created everything, He also

created the angel who introduced sin into the universe. Doubtless, the two loved each other deeply at one time. How it must have torn at Jesus' heart to see rebellion and sin begin and develop in the heart of this great angel till it was necessary to oust him from Heaven. And sin is still the same today. It always brings separation from God, heartache, sorrow and woe.

Study Question 7 – What was Satan doing in Heaven before his fall, and what was his name?

a. Isaiah 14:12 His name was_____.

b. Ezekiel 28:14; Psalm 80:1 He was a covering

_____.

In these passages of Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14, Satan depicted under the figure of the prince of Tyre and the king Babylon. The imagery transcends a mere local application these two rulers. What we see reflected in these heathen powers are the characteristics of their real king, Satan.

According to Psalm 80 verse 1, Gods throne is located between two cherubim (angels). One stands on each side in a position of highest honour and trust. Lucifer was one of these cherubim before he fell.

Contrary to Scripture, in the art of the Renaissance, cherubim (singular: cherub) were depicted as chubby babies with wings.

Part 2 The Lustre of Lucifer

Study Question 8 – How does the Bible describe Lucifer before his fall? Ezekiel 28:12-17

a. Verse 12 “Full of_____, perfect in

_____.”

b. Verse 13 “Every precious_____was thy covering.” (In one of my seminars one attendee asked if Lucifer would have had more sparkles than Liberace!)

c. Verse 13 “The workmanship of thy tabrets [*timbrels or tambourines*]

and of thy_____.was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

The point here is that Lucifer was a fabulous singer and musician.

d. Verse 15 “Thou wast_____.”

The myth that Satan is a strange mixture of half beast/half man has caused thinking people everywhere to deny his existence. Thus they become easy prey to his brilliant deceptions.

Study Question 9 – What caused Lucifer’s fall?

a. Ezekiel 28:17 “Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty...”

In other words, he was_____.

b. Isaiah 14:12-14 Pride and self-exultation caused him to decide that he

would be like the _____.

Lucifer wanted to rise above and rule others, even God. Jesus, on the other hand, took on the humble form of man and became a servant. The lesson is clear: to serve and love and give is to be like Jesus; to insist that others serve us and to force and covet and grab is to be like Satan. All of us will be on one side or the other.

Study Question 10 – What strategies and characteristics of Satan are revealed by John?

a. Revelation 12:13 He _____ God’s people.

b. Revelation 12:9; 20:8, 10 He _____.

c. Revelation 12:10 He is an _____ of the

_____. (See, for example, the first few chapters of the book of Job)

d. Revelation 2:10 He puts God’s people in_____.

e. Revelation 2:13 He _____ or

_____ God's people.

f. Revelation 12:12, 17 He is very xxx with the _____ who do God's will.

g. John 8:44 "He was a _____ from the beginning ...

he is a _____ and the _____ of it."

Part 3 Exposing Satan's Strategy

Study Question 11 – What amazing two-fold warning does God give of Satan's most effective deception strategies 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

a. Verse 14 Satan appears as an _____ of

_____.

b. Verse 15 His ministers appear as _____ of

_____.

Satan seldom poses as an evil one, but rather as a warm, loving friend or Christian worker. He thus deceives the unwary by the millions. In this guise he is at his most damaging, evil worst. Satan usually does not work openly. Rather, he works through human agents whom he can willingly or unwillingly—even unbeknown to them—use or manipulate (see Ephesians 6:12).

Study Question 12 – Can Satan really work miracles or does he only appear to do so? Revelation 16:13, 14; 2 Thessalonians 2:9

"They are the _____ of _____

working _____.

Study Question 13 – How effective are his miracles in deceiving people?

a. Matthew 24:24 If it were _____ they would _____ the very_____.

b. Matthew 7:21-23 So effective that on judgment day many will think they are _____ until Jesus tells them they are _____.

Study Question 14 – Would Satan ever quote Scripture to deceive? Matthew 4:1, 5, 6

Yes, he would. He even quoted Scripture when tempting _____.

Misuse of Scripture is often Satan’s most formidable weapon.

Study Question 15 – Who is Satan infuriated with in these last days? Revelation 12:17

a. Those who keep the _____ of _____.

b. And “have the _____ of Jesus Christ”.

Study Question 16 – How can I be certain that Satan will not deceive me?

a. Isaiah 8:20 I must check my religion by the _____ and_____. (A phrase referring to the Word of God)

b. Acts 17:11 I must submit all new light to the scrutiny of the_____.

c. John 7:17 If I am willing to do Jesus' will I will know of the doctrine (teaching) whether it _____

of_____.

d. 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 I must receive a love of

the_____.

Be careful what you believe. Life and death are involved. Satan's masterful misuse of Scripture is destroying millions. Check every belief carefully by the Word of God.

Study Question 17 – What dangerous animal is Satan like today? 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:12

A _____ because he knows

his time is_____.

Satan realises that time is very short. How tragic that so few people on earth realise the same.

Part 4 The Foe's Final Fate

Study Question 18 – Where will Satan finally be placed? Revelation 20:10

In the lake of _____ and_____.

Study Question 19 – What will the fire do to him and with what result?

a. Ezekiel 28:18 It will turn him into _____.

b. Hebrews 2:14 He will be _____by Jesus.

c. Ezekiel 28:19 "Never shalt thou be _____."

The Devil's destiny is that he will be completely put out of existence.

What a relief to know that soon the tormenter will be gone forever.

**Study Question 20 – How can we defeat the Adversary?
Revelation 12:11**

- a. By the _____ of the _____
- b. By the _____ of our _____
- c. By being willing to _____ rather than knowingly dishonour God

Homework:

Read James 4:7-9 for other helpful counsel
on how to defeat Satan.

Study Question 21 – In the light of Jesus' matchless love for you right now and His blessed invitation of Revelation 22:17 for you to come be His child, will you decide to

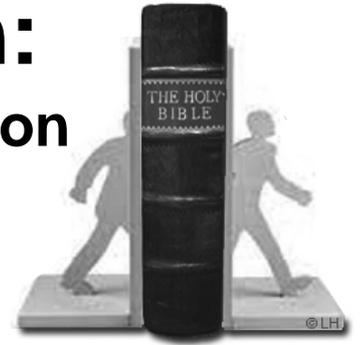
- a. ask Jesus to control your life, and
 - b. bear testimony to others of His love and power, and
 - c. consider your relationship with Jesus a matter of life and death?
- _____.



Are you confused about salvation?

In the Footsteps of John: Walking through the Book of Revelation with John the Revelator

www.Irhartley.com/john

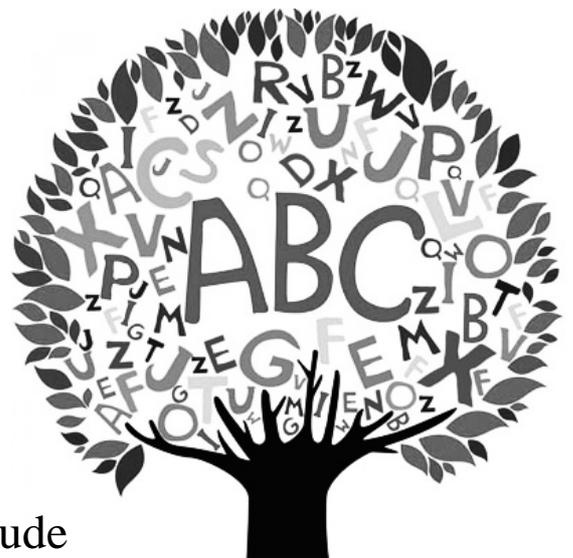


Program 4: The Gospel According to Revelation

The Gospel Alphabet

A lthough things are not perfect
B ecause of trial or pain
C ontinue in thanksgiving
D o not begin to blame
E ven when the times are hard.
F ierce winds are bound to blow
G od is forever able,
H old on to what you know;
I magine life without His love
J oy would cease to be
K eep thanking Him for all the things
L ove imparts to thee.
M ove out of “Camp Complaining”,
N o weapon that is known
O n earth can yield the power
P raise can do alone.
Q uit looking at the future,
R edeem the time at hand,
S tart every day with worship
T o “thank” is a command.
U ntil we see Him coming
V ictorious in the sky
W e’ll run the race with gratitude
X alting God most high.
Y es, there’ll be good times and yes, some will be bad, but...
Z ion waits in glory...where none are ever sad!

The Gospel Alphabet



— Anon

Quoting from Charles Haddon Spurgeon:

‘An unbelieving lecturer gave people an opportunity to reply to him after his oration, and he was of course expecting that one or two rashly zealous young men would rise to advance the common arguments for Christianity, which he was quite prepared, by hook or by crook, to battle with or laugh down.

Instead, an old lady carrying a basket, wearing an ancient bonnet, and altogether dressed in an antique fashion that marked both her age and her poverty, came up on the platform. She began by saying, “I paid threepence to hear of something better than Jesus Christ, and I have not heard it. Now, let me tell you what religion has done for me.

I have been a widow thirty years, and I was left with ten children. I trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ in the depth of poverty, and he appeared for me and comforted me, and helped me to bring up my children. None of you can tell what the troubles of a poor lone woman are, but the Lord has made his grace all-sufficient. You say that’s all nonsense. Those who are young and foolish may believe you, but I know there is a reality in religion. Tell me something better than what God has done for me, or you have cheated me out of my threepence.”

Such a mode of controversy was new to the lecturer, and therefore he gave up the contest, and merely said, “Really, this dear old woman is so happy in her delusion I should not like to undeceive her.”

“No,” she said, “that won’t do. Truth is truth, and your laughing can’t alter it. Jesus Christ has been all this to me, and I could not sit down in the hall and hear you talk against him without speaking up for him. I’ve tried and proved him, and that’s more than you have.”

What is this gospel that is so real to some and yet an enigma to others? Today we are going to discover the Gospel according to Revelation.

The first three chapters of the Bible (Genesis 1, 2 and 3) tell how sin entered this world; and the last three chapters of the Bible (Revelation 20, 12 & 22) tell how sin will be eradicated from the earth. The chapters in between tell how God related to this awful tragedy.

The punishment for sin is death (Romans 6:23). The ugly malignancy of sin could not be tolerated, else it could endanger the whole universe. The super-tragedy of sin is that when Adam and Eve disobeyed, sin passed to all mankind, thus all people from that time to the present face the death penalty.

So Heaven was suddenly confronted with a horrible dilemma: either sin would have to be excused and tolerated (thus jeopardising the universe), or all people would have to die. God flatly refused both options He could not stand the thought of separation from His earthly children whom He dearly loved; nor could He permit the ugly virus of sin to take over.

Instead, in an act of unbelievable risk and love, He decided to send His only Son (Who is, Himself, God) into the world to die in your place and mine. Our sins and our death penalty were placed upon Him and we were set free.

In Revelation 2:10 Jesus offers the crown or life to everyone of His faithful followers.

Happily, through Jesus our Saviour, we can still receive this wonderful gift of eternal life.

Momentous questions at once spring into mind:

What must I do to benefit from Jesus' sacrifice?

How can I know that He accepts me?

My faith is weak. How can I strengthen it?

What is Revelation's good news for me?

For the next little while we will examine God's answers to these all-important questions. Please keep a prayer in your heart as we grapple with these intensely significant themes.

Part 1: God's Love as Revealed in Revelation

Study Question 1 – What is God's great plan to save His people? Revelation 14:6

The Everlasting _____.

Commenting on this verse, evangelist John Carter said, "The 'Everlasting' Gospel has got nothing to do with how long preachers take to tell it".

Study Question 2 – When did the plan to save people go into effect? Revelation 13:8

At the _____ of the _____.

All who have ever been saved since the fall of man have been saved by the blood of Jesus (Acts 4:12). There was no different plan for Old Testament believers. They accepted Jesus' blood in looking forward by faith to the cross.

We accept the same blood looking back by faith to the cross.

The truth is that no one was ever saved by simply shedding animal blood (Hebrews 10:4). The sacrifices of the old covenant made at Sinai foreshadowed, to the Hebrew believer, the coming death of the Redeemer, who would truly make possible the forgiveness of his sins (Hebrews 9:15).

Consequently, he was forgiven because of his faith in the coming Lamb of God (John 1:29).

Study Question 3 – What happened when Adam sinned, and why? Romans 5:12

a. What happened? "_____ passed upon all _____."

b. Why? Because "_____ have _____."

Study Question 4 – Why is living a life of sin such a serious matter? Romans 6:23

Because the _____ or punishment for sin is _____.

Study Question 5 – What does sin do to our relationship with God? Isaiah 59:2

It _____ us from _____.

Study Question 6 – What did Jesus' death do for His people? Revelation 1:5

_____ them from their _____.
Jesus died for the whole world (John 3:16; 1 John 2:1, 2)

Study Question 7 – Upon whom have my sins and my death-penalty been placed? Isaiah 53:6

Isaiah 53 is a moving Old Testament prophecy of Jesus' sufferings and death.

Study Question 8 – Why was God willing to give His Son to us and why was Jesus willing to die? John 3:16; Revelation 1:5

The Cross is the place where grace and sin collide with a crash, but the wreckage is suffered on the heart of God. The sinner walks away free - free from sin's penalty, free to walk with God, free to live in His Heaven for all eternity. — David Zimmerman (Psalms 32:1-4; Isaiah 53:6; Revelation 20:11-15)

Part 2: Jesus Our Saviour

Study Question 9 – What must I do to benefit from Jesus' sacrifice? Acts 16:31; Mark 16:16

“_____ on the Lord Jesus Christ”.

Study Question 10 – How may I receive forgiveness and cleansing? 1 John 1:9

Confession also includes turning away from sin (Proverbs 28:13)

Study Question 11 – What does the Bible say must accompany repentance? Acts 3:19

In the original language here, “repent” means to have a change of mind’. To “convert” means to “turn around’. “Repentance” means a genuine “change of mind and attitude toward God, toward oneself, and toward others”. Under the Holy Spirit, the repentant person begins to see things as God sees them. Conversion means a U-turn on the highway of life.

Study Question 12 – What is this conversion experience called In Scripture and why? John 3:3-7

- a. What is it called? New birth or being _____ again.
- b. Why? Because when we are born again we have no past. At conversion, a person is cleansed from sin and starts all over as a new born baby, in a changed relationship with God.

Study Question 13 – Who comes into my life after conversion? Revelation 3:20; Ephesians 3:17-19

When the Holy Spirit speaks to our hearts, and implants within us the attitudes of repentance and faith, and we accept Jesus as our personal Saviour and Lord, then:

- a. Jesus will come into our lives. Revelation 3:20; Ephesians 3:17-19
- b. God freely forgives our sins. 1 John 1:9
- c. God accounts to us the Righteousness of Jesus. 2 Corinthians 5:21
- d. God accepts and treats us as His children. 1 John 3:1-3

Study Question 14 – Through what agency does Jesus abide in my life? John 14:17

_____.

Study Question 15 – When Jesus abides in my life through His Holy Spirit, what two marvellous things does He do for me? Philipians 2:13; Ezekiel 36:25-27

“Both to _____ and to _____ of His good pleasure.”

Jesus gives me a willing heart and then adds the power to do His will.

Study Question 16 – Why should I be confident, relieved and excited once I have experienced the new birth? Philipians 1:6; Jude 24, 25

“He which hath _____ a good work in you, will

_____ it until the day of _____

_____.”

Jesus works *within* me and *for* me to make me righteous.

I can be confident because my salvation rests upon His ability to perform, and not mine.

Study Question 17 – What is the big problem that faces many people? Matthew 7:21

They are eager to call Him Lord, but refuse to _____ Him.

Jesus must be crowned both Saviour and Lord of my life. Most find it easier to crown Him *Saviour* (everybody would like to be saved) than to crown Him *Lord*. To crown Him Lord means I will let Him run my life—let Him take the Pilot’s seat. I will follow where He leads, rather than demand my own way. Many of us do not want anyone else running our lives, including Jesus. It is in our nature to rebel against it. This is the root of sin, and it is what Jesus died for.

Study Question 18 – How difficult is it, sometimes, for me to let the Lord lead me where He knows I should go? Matthew 5:29,30

It is as hard as plucking out an _____ or cutting of an _____.

Study Question 19 – Why is it absolutely imperative for me to crown Jesus Lord, to allow Him to abide within me and provide direction to my life? Genesis 1:28, 29; 1 Peter 1:22,23; Colossians 3:8-10

So He can restore me to His _____.

Genesis 1:26 says, ‘*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*’

In Genesis 5:1 & 3 we read, ‘*This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him ... And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth.*’

The tragic truth is that we are all born with a sinful nature. We are all separated from God. By creation Adam was made in God's Image and by procreation we have been made in Adam's Image .

I would like to suggest the following formula to understand Adam's Image : God's Image plus Sin equals Adam's Image. This means that to restore the Image of God in mankind, sin needs to be removed. In other words, Adam's Image minus Sin equals God's Image. However, because sin is part of our 'Adam's Image' nature, we cannot, of ourselves, remove sin and become again like God's Image.

It is the Gospel plan to restore it within us. At conversion the old life dies and a new life, which comes from the new birth, begins. But, as with natural birth, to be born is not enough, we must also grow (Ephesians 4:15).

Susanna Wesley (1669-1742) wrote, "There are two things to do about the gospel—believe it and behave it". Growth in the Christian life after conversion (theologians call it sanctification) is what restores a person to the image of God just as mankind was created in the beginning.

If I allow Jesus to abide within me and miraculously run my life. He will restore God's image within, and will prepare me for a place in His kingdom. See Colossians 1:27; Galatians 2:20.

Part 3: Jesus Receives Us

Study Question 20 – How can we know that Jesus has accepted us when we ask? | John 1:9; Titus 1:2

Because He promised it and He cannot _____.
We are saved by God's grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8, 9). Jesus promised salvation and acceptance. He cannot lie. So when I ask for salvation and give myself to Him, I receive it that very moment because He promised it. "Faith" means I accept it and claim it at once because He promised it; and not because I feel or see anything different.

Study Question 21 – How may I strengthen my faith? Romans 10:17; Matthew 4:4; Psalm 119:11

Study the Word of _____.

All have some faith (Romans 12:3). We strengthen our faith by studying God's Word. This is one of the main reasons we are studying today, walking "in the footsteps of John the Revelator".

Study Question 22 – How will true conversion change my life?

a. John 13:35; 1 John 3:14; Matthew 5:44 – I will begin to

_____ everybody.

b. 2 Corinthians 5:17 – My lifestyle will be _____.

c. 1 John 3:22 – I will be willing to keep His _____

and I will want to _____ Him.

d. Romans 12:1, 2 – I will begin to know what God's

_____ is for me.

e. Acts 4:19, 20; Acts 1:8; Mark 5:19 – I will want to tell others what

"_____ things the Lord hath _____" for me.

f. Acts 4:31; Luke 11:13; Ephesians 6:18 – I will want to spend time

talking with God in _____.

The big difference is that after conversion I will really *want* the Lord to have His way with my life. I will want His Spirit to guide me (Romans 8:9, 14).

"A turn involves two things: it involves a *terminus a quo* and a *terminus ad quem*. It involves a *turning from* something and a *turning toward* something."

— William Barclay (1907-1978)

Study Question 23 – What is Jesus’ provision to save sinners called? Romans 6:23

A _____.

Study Question 24 – The Bible is clear that many people will be lost. Since Jesus’ provision for sinners is a free gift, why will so many be lost? Isaiah 1:19, 20

“If ye be _____ and _____ ye shall eat the good of the land; but if ye _____ and _____, ye shall be devoured by the sword.”

The gift is free, but I must be willing to receive it or Jesus cannot help me.

A soap manufacturer and a pastor were walking together down a street in a large city. The soap manufacturer casually said, “The gospel you preach hasn’t done much good in the world, has it? Just observe. There is still a lot of wickedness in the world, and a lot of wicked people, too!” The pastor made no reply until they passed a dirty little child making mud pies in the gutter. Seizing the opportunity, the pastor said, “I see that your soap hasn’t done much good in the world, has it? Just observe—there is still a lot of dirt in the world, and a lot of dirty people, too.”

The soap manufacturer replied, “Oh, well, soap is only useful when it is applied.”

And the pastor said, “Exactly. So it is with the gospel.”

Part 4: The Gospel According to Revelation

Study Question 25 – What five grand and glorious truths does Revelation tell us about this incredibly good news of Jesus’ plan to save His people?

a. Revelation 1:18 – Jesus is _____ for evermore and he

has the _____ to unlock _____ and _____.
_____. (Jesus is a living Saviour who has power over death and the grave)

b. Revelation 5:9 – He was _____ to _____ us (buy us back) to God. (Jesus’ sacrifice was for you and me personally.)

c. Revelation 7:14; Revelation 19:8 – He gives us _____ raiment. (Jesus’ righteousness—the white raiment—is a gift. I do not earn it. Jesus, by a great miracle, provides it free.)

d. Revelation 14:6 – The gospel will go to every _____, _____, _____ and _____.

_____. (Jesus will not overlook one single person anywhere. Every one of us is extremely important to Him.)

e. Revelation 21:6; Revelation 22:17 – If I thirst for Him, He will give me of the fountain of the _____ of _____

_____ freely. (Jesus’ part in salvation is to furnish the power, miracles, love, forgiveness and grace. My part is to truly desire [or thirst] for Him to save me.)

Study Question 26 – It is unthinkable that any of us present here at this “In the Footsteps of John” series would fail to accept Jesus’ miraculous free offer to forgive and cleanse us and to restore us into His image.

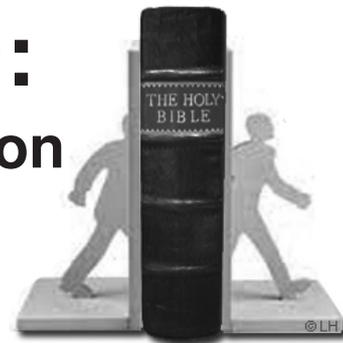
Jesus is anxious to work miracles for all of us.

Will you, right now, decide to accept His plan to save you or reaffirm that great decision if you have made it in the past?

_____.

In the Footsteps of John: Walking through the Book of Revelation with John the Revelator

www.lrhartley.com/john



Program 5: A Bundle of Love Letters

The books of the New Testament are largely letters written by the apostles to various churches or individuals. Christendom, in general, accepts all these letters as God's authoritative word to the church today.

But one of the New Testament books, Revelation, bears the name of Jesus, himself. In fact, the book is entitled, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*. It begins with seven specific letters or epistles from Jesus to the churches. Of all the letters or epistles of the New Testament, surely these personal letters of love, with special counsel from our Lord, should receive the greatest attention and concern by His people.

But it is not so. Tragically, these seven imperative letters from Jesus have been almost entirely ignored. Satan, the archenemy of God's people, must certainly rejoice that most Christians are not listening to Jesus' important counsel from His own extraordinary book of Revelation.

Thank God, it is not too late. In today's walk with John the Revelator we come to grips with this bundle of love letters.

May the Holy Spirit guide us as we study chapters two and three of Revelation and listen to Jesus' crucial counsel for busy Christians in this day and age.

“Revelation is God's word, creation his work,
the Spirit sole seer and interpreter of both.”

— Amos Bronson Alcott (1799-1888)

Part 1: Seven Ignored Messages of Jesus

Study Question 1 – What solemn warning does Jesus give in regard to the extreme importance of every word of Revelation?

a. If I add anything to Revelation, God will add to me the

_____.

b. If I subtract anything from Revelation, God will remove my name

from the _____ of _____.

This passage indicates that everything in Revelation is important and absolutely nothing can be left out. Nor can anything be added to improve it. It was given by God and is perfect as is.

Study Question 2 – Where were these seven churches located? Revelation 1:4

In _____.

Though these seven letters were originally sent to seven churches in Asia, the messages apply to Christians today, as do all the other letters or books of the Bible. 2 Timothy 3:16, 17 makes this very clear. Further, these seven letters have additional application to God's church in seven eras, beginning with the apostolic days and ending with the coming of Jesus.

Study Question 3 – Three statements that Jesus makes to the seven churches are so exceptionally important and so relevant to Christians in all eras that they were given to all seven churches.

What are these three statements that were made to all seven churches?

a. Revelation 2:2; 2:9; 2:13; 2:19; 3:1; 3:8; 3:15 "I know thy

_____.

Jesus sees our works or conduct, good or bad, and properly evaluates everything at all times. Keeping this in mind has a dramatic effect upon one's lifestyle.

When he was a teenager, my son David was given a wristband with the letters WWJD written on it to remind him that in all of life's choices he should consider "What **W**ould **J**esus **D**o?" in a similar circumstance. You and I would be wise to take as a motto for our choices and conduct the words of Genesis 16:13, "Thou, God, seest me".

b. Revelation 2:7; 2:11,17; 2:26; 3:5; 3:12; 3:21 "To him that

Some teach that we do not have to do anything at all to enter the Kingdom but Jesus did not teach that. Repeatedly He clearly states that "overcoming" is essential. However, it is only possible through the blood of the Lamb, Revelation 12:11.

c. Revelation 2:7; 2:11,17; 2:29; 3:6; 3:13; 3:22 "Hear what the

saith to the churches."

God's Holy Spirit convicts people of sin and leads them to repentance, John 16:8, 13. Without the Holy Spirit, no one ever feels sorrow for sin or finds new truth. No wonder Jesus stressed so forcefully the importance of listening to His Spirit.

SUMMARY: Here are God's three messages to every person today:

1. God knows all about me. I cannot deceive Him.
2. "Overcoming" is imperative. It takes place only through Jesus.
3. I must heed the voice of the Holy Spirit at all times.

"As prayer is the voice of man to God,
so revelation is the voice of God to man."
— Cardinal John Henry Newman (1801-1890)

Part 2: Ephesus – Era of the Apostles

Because time is limited, as we look at these messages to the seven churches, we will emphasize only the key points of each era.

Ephesus, the church of the Apostles. represents God’s church of the first century. Before his death (Circa 65AD) the apostle Paul could say the gospel had been taken to the whole world (Colossians 1:5, 6, 23). With incredible speed the church grew to over 6 million, by the end of the first century.

Study Question 4 – What reproof did Jesus give the Ephesians? Revelation 2:4

They had _____ their _____ love. A zealous, on-fire, new Christian who joyously shared his faith everywhere, was mentioned on a church board. An old-time member commented, “He will get over that.” Yes, unfortunately all too often, we do “get over that”. We lose our first glowing love for Jesus and settle down to formalism. Jesus says that when this happens we have “fallen” and must “repent” (Revelation 2:5). Loss of love is a fatal disease of the heart that destroys. If we lose love, we lose all.

Study Question 5 – Jesus commended the Ephesus era of the church for their attitude toward false teachers. What was their attitude? Revelation 2:2

“Thou hast _____ them which _____ they are _____ and are _____.”

They withstood them openly. Jesus commended them for this. The Nicolaitans of verse six were false teachers who advocated compromise. They felt their spiritual liberty gave them freedom to practice idolatry and immorality. Jesus made it clear that He holds the church responsible to keep wolves out of the flock.

Part 3: Smyrna – Era of Persecution

Smyrna (100AD to 313AD) covers a period of fearful persecution and martyrdom for the church. The Roman Empire attempted to stamp out Christianity. Only God knows how many were decapitated, burned, fed to lions and slain by the sword. The church lived so close to Jesus He gave them no reproof.

Study Question 6 – What encouragement did Jesus give to Smyrna? Revelation 2:10

“_____ none of these things which thou shalt suffer
... be thou _____ unto _____ and I
will give thee a _____ of _____.”

The “ten days” of verse 10 (using the prophetic principle of a prophetic day for a literal year, Ezekiel 4:6) were probably the ten years of unparalleled persecution under the Roman ruler Diocletian from 302AD to 312AD.

Study Question 7 – What was promised to the overcomer in Smyrna? Revelation 2:11

“He that _____ shall not be _____
of the _____ death.”

All except those translated, must die the first death (Hebrews 9:27), but there is a resurrection from the first death (1 Corinthians 15:51-54). The second death is the one where the lost die in the fire (Revelation 21:8). From this death there is no resurrection.

Part 4: Pergamos - Era of Compromise

Pergamos (313AD through to 538AD) covers the era of state-supported religion and compromise. Christianity had grown so rapidly that there were places where Christians were in the majority. The Roman Emperor, Constantine, professed conversion and had his entire army baptised as Christians.

Satan, unable to destroy the church through persecution, corrupted it by popularity, compromise and worldly alliance. Pagan beliefs and practices corrupted the church. Pergamos was called Satan's Seat (Verse 13) because it was the headquarters of Rome's heathen religion. The Lord rebuked the church of this era for allowing false teaching to flourish.

Study Question 8 – The doctrines of a man and a group were mentioned. What are their names? Revelation 2:14, 15

a. Man: _____.

b. Group: _____.

Baalam, according to (the Book of) Numbers 22 to 25, was a prophet of God who turned traitor to secure worldly gain and kingly favours. He symbolises the spirit of the Pergamos period when believers compromised true Christianity in favour of Roman officials. For the "Nicolaitans", see the note after Study Question 5.

Part 5: Thyatira - Era of Apostasy

Thyatira (538 through the 1400'sAD) is the longest period of all the seven churches This period, sometimes called the "Dark Ages", was a time of fearful apostasy.

Study Question 9 – The Lord rebuked the church of this era for opening its doors to an evil woman who corrupted it. What was this woman called? Revelation 2:20

_____.

Jezebel was the heathen wife of Ahab, one of the Old Testament Kings of Israel. She was very wicked and very powerful (1 Kings 16, 18-20; 2 Kings 9). She hated and persecuted God's church and its prophets, and endeavoured to wipe them out. She imported 850 heathen priests or prophets and instituted an apostate system of religion.

Study Question 10 – What solemn warning did God give to this Jezebel and all who follow her? Revelation 2:22, 23

a. "I will cast them . . . into great _____."

b. "I will _____ her _____ with _____."

In Scripture, the relationship between Jesus and His church is represented by marriage. Jesus is the groom. His church is the bride. Any unfaithfulness to Jesus or His pure teachings is thus called adultery or fornication (sexual immorality). The punishment threatened of sickness, tribulation and death are indeed real. Neither the church, the state, nor false teachers will escape God's punishment for spiritual unfaithfulness or adultery.

Study Question 11 – Whom do you think the "rest" are in Thyatira, who opposed the spiritual corruption of that time period? Revelation 2:24

_____, _____,

_____, _____,

_____, _____, etc.

The last part of verse 19 indicates that things would finally begin to change for the better. This doubtless, refers to the powerful ministry of many great spiritual leaders whom God raised up to oppose error and apostasy, and lead His church back to Jesus and biblical truth. Their

names are well known: Wycliff, Huss, Jerome, Luther, Zwingli, Calvin, Knox, Joachim Vadianus, Newton, Wesley etc. Though many of these men served the Sardis era of the church, some had already begun work in the last part of this time period.

Part 6: Sardis - Era of Reformation

Sardis (1500s through to mid 1700s AD) covers the crucial period of reformation when Spirit filled men shook the world by testing Christian beliefs against God's Word. Some of these great men of God founded church denominations, still in existence today. But, alas, when they died, their followers ceased searching for truth, compromised what they already possessed and went backward with astounding rapidity.

***Study Question 12 – What did Jesus say was about to happen to the spiritual experiences of the church of this era?
Revelation 3:2***

It was about to _____.

This solemn lesson is for us today. Keep pursuing truth and follow it as you find it and blessings will come. Refuse to do so and calamity comes. Jesus reveals light to us gradually as we can handle it (John 16:12). If I accept light as He gives it, I receive more until I have full light (Proverbs 4:18, 19).

If I refuse light, it goes out and I stumble in darkness (John 12:35).

***Study Question 13 – What striking words describe the condition of the Sardis era of the church as Jesus viewed it?
Revelation 3:1***

“Thou hast a name that thou _____ and art _____.”

Jesus here points out that formal religion is worthless. Paul describes such religion as “having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof (2 Timothy 3:5).

Part 7: Philadelphia, era

Philadelphia (mid 1700's to mid 1800's AD.) is the era of the birth and expansion of foreign missions and the American and British Bible Societies. Missionaries encircled the world.

Great revival preachers like Whitefield and the Wesleys helped spark a global revival. The greatest revival since Pentecost was fuelled by the study of the books of Daniel and Revelation.

The name "Philadelphia" or "brotherly love" is fitting. As Jesus looked at His church of this era He offered no reproof.

Study Question 14 – This church had difficulties, however, with the same group as did the church of Smyrna. What was this group called? Revelation 2:9

The _____ of _____.

Notice that the people of Satan's synagogue or church were pretending to be faithful, true members of God's church and did not reveal their true colours. These are the most dangerous emissaries of the Devil, because they appear so righteous and sweet and loving. Jesus calls them wolves in sheep's clothing (Matthew 7:15). We can expect the Devil's representatives to be devious and deceitful, after all, the Devil is the father of lies (John 8:44). If we stay close to Jesus and check all teachings (including mine) by His Word, we will not be deceived (Isaiah 8:20; 30:21).

Study Question 15 – God talks to Philadelphia about something opening and shutting (Revelation 3:7, 8). What was it?

A _____.

The answer mentioned here is the door into the Most Holy Place of Heaven's Sanctuary. The door into the Most Holy Place was opened in Heaven by Jesus during this time period (mid 1700's to mid 1800's AD.), and no man can shut it. The amazing significance of this event will be studied in detail in two other lessons in this series. Exciting events began

to transpire in heaven when this door opened. Be sure not to miss these coming lessons.

Part 8: Laodicea – Modern Christendom

Laodicea (mid 1800's until Jesus comes). The heart beats faster as we study about the church of our day. These words are direct council and reproof to Christians living now. Jesus knows our spiritual problems and needs. He offers solutions and assistance.

Study Question 16 – what does Jesus say that our problems are today? Revelation 3:15-17

a. Verse 16 – We are _____.

b. Verse 17 - We feel that spiritually we are _____ and

need _____ when truly we are spiritually

_____, _____,

_____, _____ and

_____.

This condition is alarming. Nothing is worse for me to think I am in harmony with God's will when, instead, I am desperately in need of repentance (verse 19). Many, seemingly devout people, will be lost in the final judgment for the same reason (see Matthew 7:21-23). It is bad enough to be in trouble; it is worse yet to be in trouble and not know it.

Study Question 17 – What three things does Jesus counsel me to obtain in order for me to see myself as I really am, so I may bring my life into harmony with Him? Revelation 3:18

a. _____ (a precious metal).

b. White _____ (white clothing).

c. _____ (medicine).

Study Question 18 – What is the meaning of gold, white raiment and eye salve?

a. “Gold” means the true riches of Heaven that are manifested in a golden character, that will stand up under the fire of persecution and adversity. It includes God’s Word (Psalm 19:7-10) and a faith which works by love (Galatians 5:6; James 2:5; Job 23:10).

b. “White raiment” means Jesus’ Robe of Righteousness (Isaiah 61:10; Revelation 19:8). It is given by Jesus as a free gift. We do nothing to earn it. We receive it by faith alone (Zechariah 3:1-5). And it is retained only by faith in Jesus (Romans 1:17).

c. “Eye salve” means two things: firstly, discernment to understand God’s word (Psalm 119:18; 1 John 2:20, 27) and secondly, it refers to the rôle of Holy Spirit to help us see our true condition and make proper choices (John 14:26; Ephesians 1:17-19).

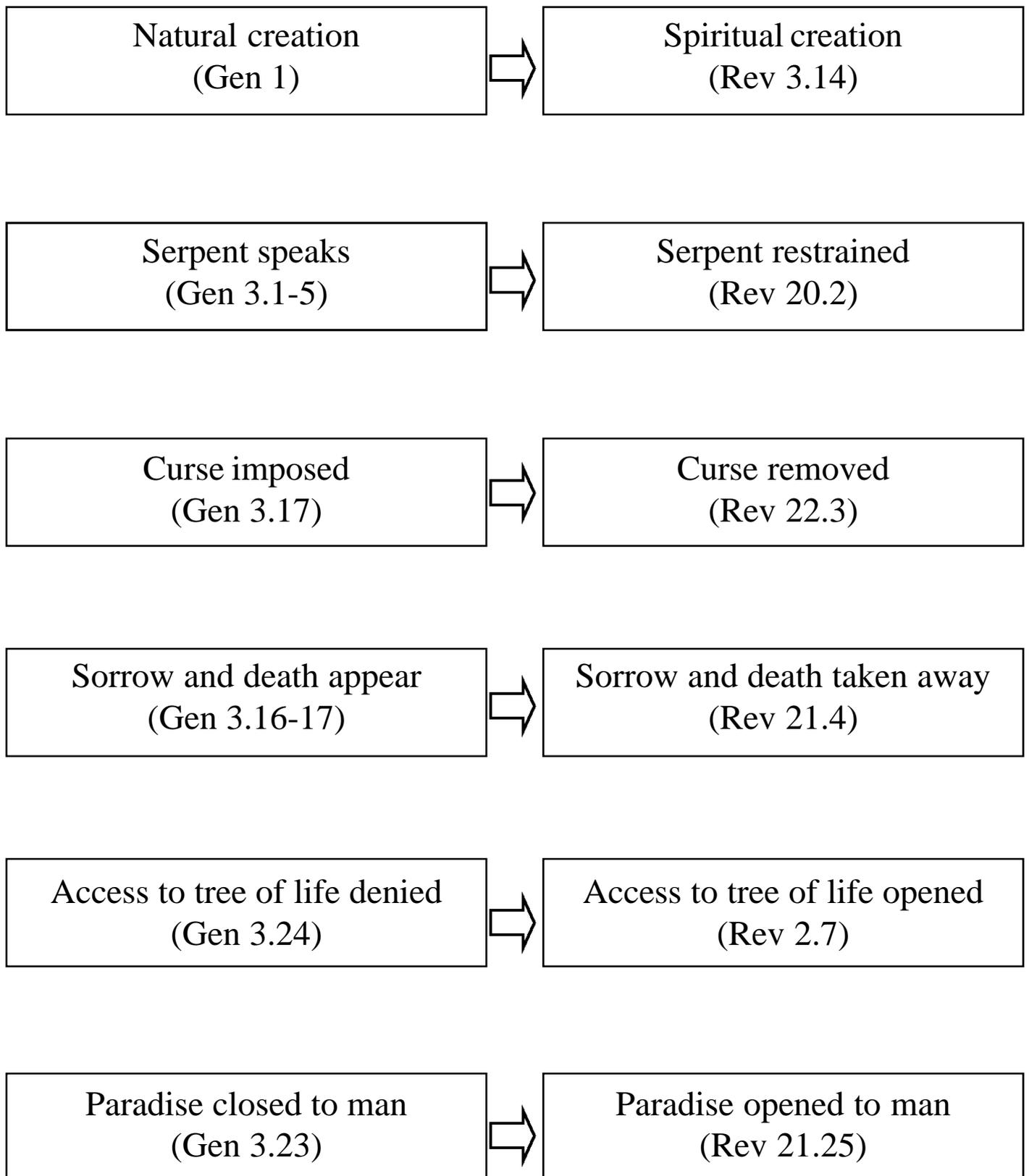
Study Question 19 – What must I do to be certain that the precious gold, the white raiment and the healing eye salve are mine? Revelation 3:20.

Open wide the _____ and let Jesus enter my

_____.

The special words of Jesus to His church through seven eras—this bundle of love letters—is fantastic. However, He has much more to say in the remaining 19 chapters. Some counsel will be shocking and startling, but since it is His counsel, I want it anyway. Don’t you?

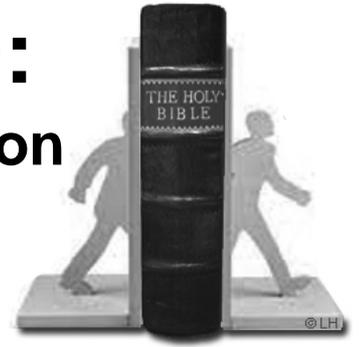
Comparing Genesis and Revelation



The above chart from Lionel Hartley, Multimedia Bible Studies Vol 1, L&R Hartley, 1998
and some other parts of this series courtesy of Seminars Unlimited.

In the Footsteps of John: Walking through the Book of Revelation with John the Revelator

www.lrhartley.com/john



Program 6: Revelation's Overt Rapture

The return of Jesus to gather His people from the earth is the grand theme of the Bible. One verse out of every eleven in the New Testament speaks of this momentous event. Evangelist Dwight Moody declared that the event is mentioned two thousand five hundred times in Scripture. Some refer to this glorious event as the rapture, although the term does not appear in the Bible.

This earthshaking event is the ultimate goal of all Bible prophecy. This goal is more conspicuous in Revelation than any other book of the Bible. In Revelation, Jesus' return is "the most outstanding event of the book; the keynote of its messages; the hub around which its . . . visions revolve. Each scene in this prophetic drama climaxes with the coming Christ". To study Revelation is to become acutely aware of Jesus' second coming. No wonder the devil keeps announcing that the book is sealed.

It is shocking to recall that at Jesus' first coming, as a babe in Bethlehem, the people were surprised and unprepared. This was true in spite of the fact that hundreds of Old Testament prophecies clearly described His first coming with detailed accuracy. But the people were applying the prophecies of His second coming to His first coming and ignoring those that applied to the first advent. Thus, they were prepared to reject His appearance as the infant son of a poor family.

History has a way of repeating itself. It is shocking to consider, but could it be possible that Christian people today may be misconstruing the 2,500 Bible prophecies of Jesus' second return?

Could they be setting themselves up for one gigantic mind-boggling surprise? Could even some serious Bible students be fatally confused

regarding His return? Jesus solemnly warned of this sad possibility when He spoke of His return in Matthew 24. He said, “Take heed that no man deceive you” (Matthew 24:4). He further stated that erroneous concepts regarding His return would be so powerful and convincing that “if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect’ (Matthew 24:24).

Then He capped it with, “Behold, I have told you before”. We would say, today, “You have been warned!”

In light of this solemn warning by Jesus, let us now prayerfully see what the prophecies reveal about this overt rapture.

The usual New Testament terms for the Second Coming of Jesus are:

Parousia (‘presence,’ ‘out-shining’) appears commonly in ancient papyri for the visit of an emperor or king.

Epiphaneia (‘appearance,’ ‘appearing’) occurs often in classical Greek to describe the glorious appearance of the pagan gods.

Apokalupsis (‘revelation’) is used of the ‘appearing’ or ‘revealing’ of the Christ at His Second Coming.”

Rapture (‘caught up’) is best understood from the context, and is found in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”

Part 1: “I Will Return”

Over the years, many leaders who have left for one reason or another have said they would return.

On March 11, 1942, after struggling against great odds to save the Philippines from Japanese conquest, U.S. General Douglas MacArthur was forced to abandon the island fortress of Corregidor under orders from President Franklin Roosevelt. Left behind at Corregidor and on the Bataan Peninsula were 90,000 American and Filipino troops, who, lacking food, supplies, and support, would soon succumb to the Japanese offensive.

After a hair-raising sea voyage and a flight to Northern Australia, he then took another aircraft and a long train ride down to Melbourne. During this journey, he was informed that there were far fewer Allied troops in

Australia than he had hoped. Relief of his forces trapped in the Philippines would not be forthcoming. Deeply disappointed, he issued a statement to the press in which he promised his men and the people of the Philippines, "I shall return." The promise would become his mantra during the next two and a half years, and he would repeat it often in public appearances.

It wasn't until October 20, 1944, a few hours after his troops landed, MacArthur waded ashore onto the Philippine island of Leyte. That day, he made a radio broadcast in which he declared, "People of the Philippines, I have returned!" And the liberation that followed is history.

In 1914 the famed explorer Ernest Shackleton left London on his so-called "Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition" to Antarctica in the icebreaker *Endurance*.

However after weaving a path through the ice fields of the Weddell Sea, Shackleton and his men came within eighty-five miles of the coast when their timber ship was trapped in sea ice only one day's sail away from Vahsel Bay.

Over a period of many months, immense pressure began to accumulate around the wooden hull and timbers began to twist and crack.

Eventually on October 27th 1915, *Endurance* succumbed to the colossal pressure of the ice, sinking 2000 fathoms into ocean.

Prior to the ship sinking, Shackleton ordered three of the ships lifeboats to be saved along with the sledging dogs, camping stores, and food provisions. Their larder was topped up with seal meat, dog meat, and penguins. They made it as far as Elephant Island on April 14th, 1916, but, as a team could go no further.

Shackleton realised that in order to be rescued, he had to go and get help from the nearest inhabited island, South Georgia, 800 miles away. His parting words to his crew were something like, "I will return!"

He embarked on an epic journey across the Southern Ocean, immersed in salt water, sleeping on a bed of ballast stones, experiencing near starvation and dehydration. It would take a further four months and four rescue attempts to reach Elephant Island. Eventually he did return and all of the 22

men left behind were saved on August 30th 1916 by Shackleton aboard the Chilean ship Yelcho.

We have heard of Exiled kings and princes who have returned. But what about Jesus?

Study Question 1 – Two men in white clothing suddenly joined the disciples as they were watching Jesus disappear in a cloud at His ascension. What did they say about the manner of Jesus’ return to the earth? Acts 1:9-11

That He would _____ in the _____ manner as He departed.

Note the following regarding both His departure and His return:

- a. He will be visible. They saw Him depart (Verses 9, 10)
- b. He will return in a cloud. He left in a cloud (Vs 9)
- c. He will be flesh and bones. He was flesh and bones when He left (See Luke 24:36-43,50). The angels said, “This same Jesus will return” (Acts 1:11)
- d. His ascension was literal, personal, bodily and visible. His rapture will be the same.

Study Question 2 – How did John tell us Jesus would return? Revelation 1:7; 14:14

As the angels promised, Jesus, who went away in the clouds, will return in the same manner. The Bible reports this fact too often for any to question it. The New Testament alone mentions the fact at least nine times.

Study Question 3 – What are these clouds? Psalm 104:3 (Compare Psalm 68:17)

Thousands of _____.

Study Question 4 – Who will see Jesus when He comes? Revelation 1:7

_____ , _____.

Note that this, also, is too plain to be misunderstood. Every human being on earth will see Jesus at the rapture. This includes both the saved and unsaved. Matthew 24:30 says that all the tribes of the earth shall mourn at His appearing.

***Study Question 5 – Who will come with Jesus at the rapture?
Matthew 25:31***

All the _____ of _____.

Study Question 6 – How will these angels assist Jesus in the rapture? Matthew 24:31

Ans: They will gather the _____ from all over the earth.

Part 2: An Invasion from Outer Space

Study Question 7 – How long will it be from the time Jesus and the angels leave Heaven for this earth until they are back in Heaven with God’s raptured saints? Revelation 8:1

About _____ days.

We will study the seven seals of Revelation later. But briefly, the sixth seal ends as the wicked realize that ‘The Day of the Lord’ is upon them (Rev. 6:12-17). During the seventh seal there is complete silence in heaven for one half hour prophetic time (Revelation 8:1). It is silent in heaven during this time period because all the angels are with Jesus for the rapture (Matthew 25:31), and Heaven will be empty. Since a day in prophecy equals a literal year (Ezekiel 4:6) I believe we can conclude that a ‘half hour’ would be approximately 7½ days. Thus heaven would be silent for about a week, the length of time that would be spent on the round trip for the rapture.

Study Question 8 – Many beautiful Christians believe that the

rapture will be secret. What do the following passages of Scripture teach regarding this point?

a. Matthew 24:27 Jesus compares His rapture to _____.
There is nothing secret about lightning.

b. Psalm 50:3-6. God will not keep _____ and it shall be _____ round about Him.

c. Jeremiah 25:30-33 “The Lord _____ from on high . . .

He shall mightily _____ . . . He shall give a

_____. A _____ shall come, even to the
the ends of the earth.”

There is nothing secret about a mighty roar, a shout and a noise heard to
the ends the earth accompany the rapture.

d. I Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:52 indicate that the rapture will
be accompanied by:

A trumpet _____, a _____ and a

_____.

Study Question 9 – What will happen to the righteous dead at Jesus’ Coming? 1 Corinthians 15:52, 53; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17

They will be _____ incorruptible and immortal and

caught up into the _____ to meet the _____ in the air.

Study Question 10 – What will happen to the righteous living at Jesus’ Coming? 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54

They will be _____ from corruptible to

_____ and from mortal to _____ and
caught up (raptured) to meet the _____ in the _____.

Homework: Other references to this event:

Resurrection of life – John 5:28, 29
The first resurrection – Revelation 20:6

Study Question 11 – What kind of bodies will the saints be given at the rapture?

- a. Philippians 3:20, 21 Bodies like _____.
- b. Luke 24:36-43, 50, 51; Acts 1:11

(Luke 24:39) _____ and _____.
(and yet capable of space travel - 1 Corinthians 15:51)

Part 3: Counterfeit Christs

Study Question 12 – Does Jesus walk on the earth, or remain in the air, at His Second Coming? 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17

He _____ the

Jesus promised to return to take His people to be with Him (John 14:1-3). He did not promise that at His Second Coming, He would immediately reign over the earth in its sinful condition. John sees the redeemed at the heavenly throne (Revelation 7:9, 10).

Study Question 13 – Suppose that a glorious being suddenly appeared in Jerusalem who claimed to be Christ and who fitted the description of Jesus in Revelation 1:13-17.

Suppose that he preached warm beautiful Bible truths with power, called down fire from Heaven, healed the sick, helped stop wars, read minds, blessed children, etc.

What would be your reaction?

We should know at once that he was an _____.

We should know this immediately, because Jesus at His coming makes a *sky appearance* and not an *earth appearance*. He remains in the air while impostors appear on earth. Further, we need to note that Satan appears as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14), works miracles (Revelation 16:14; 2 Thessalonians 2:9), can call fire down from heaven (Revelation 13:13), will use scripture and even quoted it to Jesus (Matthew 4:6), is full of wisdom and perfect in beauty (last part of Ezekiel 28:12).

Study Question 14 – Would it be okay to go to see a false Christ, even if you knew it wasn't Jesus? Matthew 24:23-28

No, because Jesus said, “Go not _____”.

Part 4: A Serious Admonition

Jesus clearly commanded, regarding such cases, that we are not to believe it is Christ, and further, that we are not to go look. “Go not forth” the Bible says. If I disobey that injunction and place myself in jeopardy, the devil has an unfortunate advantage over me. He deceived one third of heaven’s angels (Revelation 12:3, 4). I would be most foolish to think that he cannot deceive a mere human being who takes himself out of Jesus’ hands by disobeying Jesus’ word. “Go not forth”. Those who look will be deceived. The odds are about 100%. Satan’s strategy will be to make people believe that Jesus has already come, so they will be off guard and unprepared for His real coming. We must not underestimate the devil’s power to deceive. If I depend on what I see and upon human reason and logic, Satan will deceive me. If I remember that Jesus will come in the clouds and that every eye will see Him when it happens, and if I obey Jesus and refuse to go see impostors, I will not be deceived.

Part 5: Here Comes the King

Study Question 15 – What will the wicked do at the time of the rapture? Revelation 6:14-16

Cry for the _____ and _____ to fall on them.

Study Question 16 – What will the Lord do to the wicked at the rapture? 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12; Isaiah 11:4; 2 Thessalonians 1:7, 8

Destroy them with the _____ and with the _____ (Spirit) of His mouth.

Modern science has developed laser beams of light that can destroy. If a ‘man-made’ light can do that, just think what a ‘God-made’ light can do.

Study Question 17 – Why doesn’t God give the wicked another opportunity to repent after the rapture? 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12

They are lost because they “ _____ not the _____ but had _____ in _____.

Another opportunity would also be spurned by the lost. Jesus will not appear for the rapture of His people until every person on earth has heard the message of salvation (Matthew 24:14; Mark 16:15), and has made a decision for or against it, after fully understanding and fully weighing this all-important issue of life and death (Revelation 22:11, 12).

Those who are lost have simply decided they prefer a sinner’s lifestyle and have chosen to disobey God even after they fully understand His loving call to salvation. They would be miserable in Heaven. It would be cruel to include them. If I choose to be lost, God will not force me to be saved, though He will be terribly broken-hearted, and deeply hurt over my decision (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12).

Study Question 18 – What threefold glory will be manifested at the coming of Jesus? Luke 9:26

The glory of the _____, _____ and the _____.

The glory of one solitary angel caused an entire Roman guard to fall as dead men when he appeared at Jesus' tomb (Matthew 28:2, 4).

Try to comprehend the glory of millions of angels, plus that of the Father and the Son. This fantastic brilliance will far outshine the noonday sun, and the unsaved will be slain by its brightness (2 Thessalonians 2:8).

Indeed, He is coming "with power and great glory" (Luke 21:27).

Study Question 19 – What will Christ, the rider on the white horse, and His armies do to the nations at the rapture? Revelation 19:11-16

_____ the nations.

This passage clearly points to the destruction of the nations.

Study Question 20 – What is the crowning purpose of Jesus' return? John 14:2, 3)

To take His _____ home.

We long for Heaven and home. Even more important, Jesus and His Father long for all of us to come home. Consider the joy of that incomparable reunion.

Here are some exciting things to look forward to: The reunion of loved ones (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18); the blind will see, the dumb speak and sing, 'the lame walk (Isaiah 35:4-6); no more death, sorrow, pain or tears (Revelation 21:4).

Study Question 21 – What does Paul call the Second Coming in Titus 2:13 and how does he say we should feel toward it? 2 Timothy 4:8

a. Titus 2:13 The Blessed _____.

b. 2 Timothy 4:8 To _____ it.

Study Question 22 – Can any person know the exact time of

Jesus' return? Acts 1:7; Matthew 24:36; Mark 13:32

No. Only the _____ knows.

According to a David Jeremiah's *Turning Point Daily Devotional* (Jan. 2, 2011), the fourth-century Christian writer Lactantius determined Jesus would return in A.D. 520. Many believed Jesus would come in the year 1000, causing adherents to stay up all night on New Year's Eve 999, awaiting the great event. Some among the Anabaptists believed Christ would come in 1533—exactly 1500 years after His death (by their reckoning). Archbishop Ussher believed our Lord would come on a particular day in 1644. George Rapp, a religious teacher in Pennsylvania, predicted Christ's return on Sept. 15, 1829. William Miller caused widespread panic through America by announcing Oct. 22, 1844, as the date of Christ's return. In the 1980s, a popular booklet gave 88 reasons why the rapture would occur in 1988.

Others since have prophesied: Among those who predicted the Second Coming would occur in the year 2000 were the psychic Edgar Cayce, Timothy Dwight IV (President of Yale University), Isaac Newton, James Harmston (April 6), and pastor Ed Dobson. In the article 2011 End Times Prediction 'prophet' Harold Camping claimed that the rapture would be on May 21, 2011 followed by the end of the world on October 21 of the same year. Starting in 2008, Mark Biltz began teaching that Christ's return would correspond with the September 28, 2015 lunar eclipse.

Others have made similar predictions: Ronald Weinland (2019), psychic Jeane Dixon (2020), F. Kenton Beshore (2021), New Age Theosophical guru Alice A. Bailey (2025) and physicist and intelligent design advocate Frank J. Tipler (by 2057).

Study Question 23 – What can we know for certain about when Jesus' will appear? Matthew 24:32, 33

Know that it is _____, even at the

_____.

As we see Jesus' last-day prophecies fulfilled then we know that His Second Coming is very near.

Study Question 24 – How will people be rewarded at Jesus’ Second Coming? Revelation 22:12

“To give _____ man _____ to his

_____.

Although we are saved by grace, we are rewarded according to our works. This will be made clear in a future study.

Study Question 25 – Will His coming be a surprise to everyone? Matthew 24:44

Yes, “for in such an _____ as ye think

_____ the Son of Man _____.

Study Question 26 – From the same verse (Matthew 24:44), since His coming will be a surprise, how can we avoid missing out?

Be _____.

Note that we are not told to *get* ready, but to *be* ready. To do this, we accept Jesus and stay connected daily through talking to Him in prayer, listening to Him through Scripture, talking of him in our conversations with other and living by His example. During his 1960 presidential campaign, John F. Kennedy often closed his speeches with the story of Colonel Davenport, the Speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives. He said, “One day in 1789, the sky of Hartford darkened ominously, and some of the representatives, glancing out the windows, feared the end was at hand. Quelling a clamour for immediate adjournment, Davenport rose and said, ‘The Day of Judgement is either approaching or it is not. If it is not, there is no cause for adjournment. If it is, I choose to be found doing my duty. Therefore, I wish that candles be brought.’.”

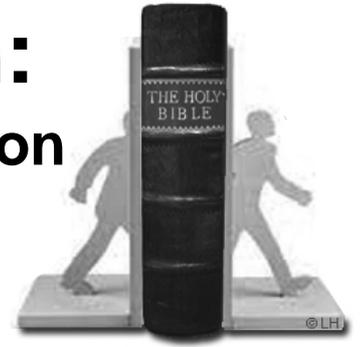
Study Question 27 – If He should come tonight, would you be ready?

_____.

**Next program:
“Constrained by Chains”**

In the Footsteps of John: Walking through the Book of Revelation with John the Revelator

www.lrhartley.com/john



Program 7: Constrained by Chains

Revelation, chapter 20, states that a mighty angel is going to bind the devil with a great chain and cast him into a bottomless pit for 1000 years (one ‘millennium’).

Satan resents the fact that this damaging information about his future has been made public information in the Scripture. He spreads the falsehood that Revelation is a closed book which none can comprehend, or else he distorts its meaning.

Unfortunately, much that is said today about the 1000 years is not factual. Some of it sounds suspiciously like something Satan might invent to trap people. He does this to strengthen his own position as the leader of those who choose to rebel against God. The devil is not playing games.

Satan has one aim in mind: the destruction of you and your family and all other people on this earth.

Where he has distorted the information regarding the 1000 years, he has done so with the sinister and hateful thought in mind of destroying you and me. Our only safety is in staying strictly with God’s Word.

As we do this, we will expose the devil’s snares. The Lord is anxious to assist us.

Part 1: Two Resurrections

Study Question 1 – What takes place as the great 1000-year period begins? Last part of Revelation 20:4

There will be a _____.

The *New English Bible* makes it plainer, “These came to life again and reigned with Christ for a thousand years”. So a resurrection marks the beginning of the great 1000-year period of Revelation 20.

Study Question 2 – This resurrection is called the first resurrection (Revelation 20:5, 6). Who will be raised in it?

The _____.

The first resurrection is for the “blessed and holy”.

Study Question 3 – We have noticed that the first resurrection, the resurrection of the righteous, begins the 1000-year period of Revelation 20. Jesus speaks of the second resurrection as the resurrection of damnation. The wicked will be raised in it (John 5:28, 29). When will the second resurrection take place?

After the 1000 _____ are _____.

We have now established three key points:

1. The resurrection of the righteous, the first resurrection, begins the great 1000 year (millennium) Period.
2. The resurrection of the wicked, the second resurrection, ends the great 1000 period.
3. The period between these two resurrections is the 1000 years (or millennium) of Revelation 20.

Part 2: Two Recompenses

Study Question 4 – What great event occurs at the time at the first resurrection when the 1000 years begin?

1 Thessalonians 4:15, 16

The second _____ of the _____.

Before his death, Winston Churchill arranged his own funeral. There were stately hymns in St. Paul's Cathedral and an impressive liturgy. But at the end of the service, Churchill had an unusual event planned. When they finished the benediction, a bugler high in the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral on one side played Taps, the universal signal that the day is over. There was a silent pause. Then a bugler on the other side played Reveille, the military wake-up call.

It was Churchill's way of communicating that he had an expectation that having said "goodbye" here, after what would be for him a mere pause, he would be resurrected with the wake-up call of the angel's trumpet. The purpose of the Second Coming is for Jesus to receive the people who have served Him in all ages. He refers to these people as His 'saints'.

Study Question 5 – At the Second Coming, what happens to the saints who have been raised from the graves and to the saints who live to see Jesus return?

a. **1 Corinthians 15:51-54** They will be changed from mortal to

_____.

b. **Philippians 3:20, 21** They will be given bodies like

_____ body.

c. **1 Thessalonians 4:17** The saints will then be caught up to meet the Lord

in the _____.

Study Question 6 – What happens to the wicked who are living when Jesus returns? 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; 2:8; Isaiah 11:4

They will be _____ by the breath (Spirit) of His

_____ and _____ with the

_____ of His _____.

Study Question 7 – How will the Second Coming of Jesus affect the wicked who are in their graves when Jesus appears? First part of Revelation 20:5

They remain in their _____ until the 1000 years are

_____.

The righteous dead (the ‘blessed and holy’) are raised as the 1000 years begin (Revelation 20:6). The rest of the dead (the wicked) remain in their graves and are not raised until the 1000 years close (Revelation 20:5).

Study Question 8 – Jesus promised that, at His return, He would take His people to the same place that He went at His ascension. What is this place? Acts 1:9-11; John 13:33, 36; John 14:1-3

_____.

Jesus promised that He would go and prepare a place for His people, and then come and take them to that kingdom. Acts 1:9-11 says specifically that He went to heaven. In John 13:33, 36 He promised that His disciples could one day join Him where He was going — in heaven.

Part 3: A Summary of the Millennium

(Bible references for each of these points will be detailed in future study guides.)

Events that begin the 1000 years:

1. The Second Coming of Jesus *for* His saints
2. Devastating earthquake and hail
3. Wicked plea for rocks and mountains to fall on them
4. Righteous dead resurrected
5. Living righteous changed
6. Righteous caught up into cloud to meet the Lord in the air
7. Wicked slain by Lord’s coming
8. Wicked dead remain dead
9. Satan bound and constrained by chains
10. Cloud takes righteous to Heaven

Conditions and events during the 1000 years:

1. Saints participate in the judgement of the wicked in Heaven
2. The earth in devastation and total darkness
3. No living people on earth
4. Satan and his angels forced to remain on earth, bound and constrained by a chain of circumstances

Events at the close of the 1000 years:

1. The Final Coming of Jesus *with* His saints
2. The (new) Holy City descends on the Mount of Olives
3. The wicked are raised
4. Satan is loosed (unconstrained, unbound)
5. Satan talks the world into trying to capture the Holy City
6. The Holy City is attacked
7. Fire from Heaven destroys the attackers
8. Fire purifies the earth and then goes out
9. God creates a new Heaven and a new Earth
10. God sets up His new Kingdom on this earth

Part 4: Marvels of the Millennium

Study Question 9 – Jeremiah saw (in vision) the earth just after the coming of Jesus. How did he describe what he saw? Jeremiah 25:33

The _____ ... shall be from _____ of
the earth even to the _____. ... they shall not be
_____ neither _____ nor
_____.

He saw dead bodies covering the earth. None were being buried and no one was crying. The reason is simple: there was no-one left to conduct a funeral, because during the 1000 years the righteous are all in heaven and the wicked are dead.

Revelation 19:11-21 is another word picture of the Second Coming of Jesus. Jesus is the man on the white horse (verse 11). He smites the nations at His coming (verse 15) and dead bodies are left everywhere as the 1000 years begin (verses 17, 18, 21).

Part 5: Global Devastation

Study Question 10 – What happens to the earth at Jesus' appearing? Revelation 16:18, 20

“And there was a great _____ ... and there fell upon men a great _____ out of Heaven.”

Study Question 11 – What will conditions be like on the earth during the 1000 years?

Isaiah 24:1, 3, 19, 20; Jeremiah 4:23-26, 28

Five shocking conditions stand out:

- a. **Jeremiah 4:23, 24, 28** Heavens ... had no _____.
Heavens above will be _____.
- b. **Jeremiah 4:25, 26** “And lo, there was no _____.”
- c. **Jeremiah 4:23** “The earth ... was without _____ and void.”
- d. **Isaiah 24:1, 3** “The land shall be utterly emptied and _____.”
- e. **Isaiah 24:19, 20** “The earth is utterly broken _____.”
The devil is an equal-opportunity employer—all who work for him will suffer the same fate.

Study Question 12 – What is this “bottomless pit” the devil is bound in for the 1000 Years? Revelation 20:1-3; Genesis 1:1, 2

The root word translated “bottomless pit” in Revelation 20:3 is “abyss”, the same word used (Greek “*abussos*” = abyss; Hebrew “*tehowm*” = abyss) that was translated “deep” in the King James Version of Genesis 1:1, 2. The Smith-Goodspeed translation correctly uses the original word “abyss” in both Genesis 1:1, 2 and Revelation 20:1, 2. This tells us the “deep”, the “abyss” and the “bottomless pit” all refer to the same thing – and that is the earth in its formless (torn up), empty (void of people) state and in total darkness. This is why Jeremiah, when in vision he saw the earth after the second coming said, “Lo” (or “sure enough”), a.) it was “without form” or torn up, b.) there was “no man” and c.) there was no light (the heavens were “black”). A summary definition of the “bottomless pit” or “abyss” would be: the earth torn up, without any people and in total darkness. A very appropriate place to constrain the “Prince of Darkness”.

Answer to Study Question 12: The “Bottomless pit” means this earth

without _____, with the heavens above being

_____ and with no _____ alive on the earth.

At the devil's booth are all things sold,
Each ounce of dross costs its ounce of gold;
For a cap and bells our lives we pay,
Bubbles we buy with a whole soul's tasking:
'Tis heaven alone that is given away,
'Tis only God may be had for the asking;
No price is set on the lavish summer;
June may be had by the poorest comer.

— James Russell Lowell (1819-1891)

Part 6: Satan Constrained

Study Question 13 – Why is the devil to be constrained or bound during the 1000 years? Revelation 20:3

“That he should _____ the nations _____

_____.

When the devil brings up your past, you bring up his future.

The constraining or binding of Satan is to stop him from deceiving and tempting people. Literally chaining him in a pit would not prevent that. He does not need to move off the spot to tempt us. Furthermore, Satan has many evil angels to do his bidding.

US Confederate General Longstreet, during the battle of Gettysburg, had one of his Generals come up to him and report that he was unable to bring up his men again so as to charge the enemy. “Very well,” said the General, “Just let them remain where they are; the enemy’s going to advance, and it will spare you the trouble.”

There are only two things that could stop the devil from tempting and deceiving, and they would be either if there were no people or no devil. During the 1000 years the first of these comes into effect: all the people are suddenly gone. The wicked are dead and the righteous are in Heaven, so Satan has no-one to tempt; no-one to deceive.

So, as I mentioned under our Summary of the Millennium, this chain is a chain of circumstances. The Lord forces Satan to remain here on earth for 1000 years without access to people. When we’re busy and circumstances will not allow us to do a certain thing, we commonly use the expression “I’m tied up just now”. The same is true of Satan’s chain.

Study Question 14 – What will the righteous be doing while in Heaven during the 1000 years? Revelation 20:4, 12, 13

Participating in the _____.

This judgment, in which the saints participate, takes place in Heaven. Jesus

said that the place He is preparing for His people, is in His Father's house (John 14:2, 3) and that the Father is in Heaven (Matthew 6:9).

Study Question 15 – What purpose does this mammoth trial or judgment serve? (After all aren't people by this time either lost or saved?) Revelation 22:12; 1 Corinthians 6:2, 3; 2 Peter 2:9

Note: 1. This judgment does not involve the righteous (2 Peter 2:9). The judgment for all of the saved takes place prior to Christ's second coming. A future lesson in this *In the Footsteps of John* series will consider the judgment of the righteous.

2. The judgment involves only the dead (Revelation 20:12). Only the wicked are dead at this time, so this judgment only involves the wicked.

3. This judgment accomplishes two very important things: It decides the degree of punishment for all the lost, including Satan and his angels (Revelation 22:12; 1 Corinthians 6:2, 3) and it clarifies for the righteous why some whom they love were shut out of Heaven.

4. The dreadful problem s sin will be settled only when all who have ever been involved (people and angels) understand and openly confess that God has been loving, fair, and honest in everything. The judgment, in its many phases, clarifies this for both men and angels (perhaps we should say that it is God who is on trial). God already understands fully the 'who, what and why' of the judgment, so it is not for His benefit that these concerns are being raised.

a. This judgment decides the degree of punishment for the

_____.

b. It also clarifies for the righteous why some their loved-ones have been shut out of _____.

Part 7: After the Millennium

Study Question 16 – What great city comes down to earth at the close of the 1000 years? Revelation 21:2, 10

“And I John saw the holy city, _____

_____, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”

Study Question 17 – What will happen to the land when the feet of Jesus stand upon the Mount of Olives?

Zechariah 14:1, 4, 10

All the land shall _____ a _____.

As the Lord stands on the Mount of Olives, the mountain will cleave and spread out to make a great plain as a base for the Holy City.

Notice that Jesus’ final coming at the close of the 1000 years is *with* His saints (last part of Zechariah 14:5). At the second coming, when the 1000 years begin, Jesus comes *for* His saints (Matthew 24:31).

Study Question 18 – What happens to Satan after the thousand years? Revelation 20:7

He is _____ out of his prison.

Remember that the resurrection of the wicked takes place at close of the 1000 years (Revelation 20:5). This resurrection looses Satan because he, once again, has people to deceive.

Study Question 19 – What does Satan do that shows he has not had a change of heart during the 1000 years?

Revelation 20:8

He goes out to _____ the nations.

Part 8: It’s Doomsday!

Study Question 20 – When Satan and his followers go up to capture the Holy City, what happens to them?

Revelation 20:9

_____ comes down from God out of

_____ and _____ them.

Study Question 21 – What happens to the devil at this time?

Revelation 20:10

“And the devil ... was _____ into the

_____ of _____.

The devil will be *in* the fire, not outside tending the fire nor torturing the wicked in the flames.

Study Question 22 – What does Jesus call this fire?

Revelation 20:14

This is the _____.

All are raised from the first death (Hebrews 9:27; John 5:28, 29). From the second death, however, there will be no resurrection.

Part 9: Eden’s Paradise Restored

Study Question 23 – What does Jesus do after the earth is purified by fire? 2 Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 21:1, 3

He will _____ new _____ and a new

_____.

Study Question 24 – Where will the Lord live after the new earth is created? Revelation 21:2, 3

He will live on the _____.

Jesus promised that the meek will inherit the earth (Matthew 5:5).

As I look around this sin-sick groaning planet (Romans 8:22), I’d rather not inherit it for eternity, thank you very much. However, God is creating a *new* earth (Revelation 21:1). In harmony with His promise, God will set up His Kingdom here on the *new* earth, and live with His people. This earth will become the centre of the universe.

Please notice, however, that He does not move His Kingdom here to convert the lost. His Kingdom is established here only after the lost have been cast into the fire.

Study Question 25 – Where must my name be written if I am to escape the fire? Revelation 20:15

In the _____ of _____.

Many teach that there will be an opportunity to repent during the 1000 years. They call this falsehood the “Second Chance” doctrine. Others claim that during the 1000 years there will be a first chance or opportunity given to those who had never heard the plan of salvation. But this is impossible. During the 1000 years the righteous will be safe in Heaven and the wicked will all be dead. An unsaved person can no more repent during the 1000 years than a corpse could suddenly sit up in his casket today and repent at his funeral, and for the same reason: they are both dead.

This “Second Chance” teaching delights Satan who hopes people will put off deciding today, believing they will have another chance during the 1000 years.

Scripture urges us to make a decision today (Joshua 24:15 – “... choose you this day whom ye will serve ... as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”). The truth is that Jesus will not return to this earth until all have heard His wonderful message of salvation and have decided for or against it (Matthew 24:14; Mark 16:15; Revelation 14:6, 7).

Study Question 26 – Whom does Jesus invite to become citizens in His great new Kingdom? Revelation 22:17

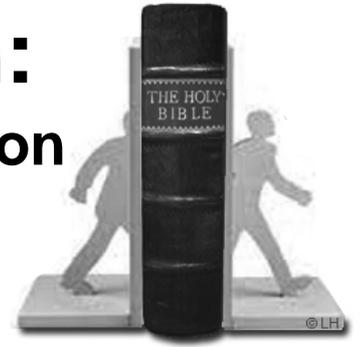
“And _____ let him [or her] take of the water of life freely”

Study Question 27 – Will you accept Jesus’ invitation?

_____.

In the Footsteps of John: Walking through the Book of Revelation with John the Revelator

www.lrhartley.com/john



Program 8: Earth-bound Space Station

For centuries, sceptics viewed God’s people with derision and disdain as they spoke glowingly of travelling to, and living in, God’s Heaven beyond the sky. With contempt, the critics pointed out that space travel for human beings was a scientific impossibility, and that such nonsense should be limited to the fantasy world of fables.

Then, suddenly, men began venturing into space. Today, the nations of the world plan for space stations and colonies in the sky. Not too many have begun preparing for a voyage through space, however, because of uncertainties regarding scheduling, property ownership, isolation, loneliness, effect on health, stress and fear of the unknown.

In the words of William Wordsworth (1770–1850) “The heart leaps up” when one thinks of leaving this earth and living in a fantastic new storybook city in the sky. Something about that thought fires a persons’ soul as few other things in this world. And there is a reason for this – a God-given reason. Jesus implanted eternity in our hearts (Ecclesiastes 3:11 – the word in the King James Bible translated ‘world’ is ‘*owlam*’ that can also be translated, ‘continuance’, ‘eternal’, ‘everlasting’ or ‘perpetual’).

Jesus, our Creator, has planted deeply within each human heart, a desire to travel and visit the dominions of outer space. It is exciting to discover that He plans for space voyages and space living to be a regular experience for His people when He sets up His new Kingdom.

Part 1: Eternity in Our Hearts

Study Question 1 – What has God prepared for His people? Hebrews 11:16

A beautiful _____.

(Someone has said that even “*supercalifragilisticespialidocious*” cannot describe it.)

Study Question 2 – What is the name of the city? Revelation 3:12

The _____.

Study Question 3 - 3. Where will the New Jerusalem come to after the 1000 years? Revelation 20:9, 21:2, 10

It comes _____ to _____.

Study Question 4 - Where will this colossal space city land? Zechariah 14: 1, 4, 5.

On the _____ of _____.

At the Second Coming, Jesus comes *for* His saints (John 14:2, 3). At the final coming, at the close of the 1000 years, He comes *with* His saints (last part of Zechariah 14:5). A Christian woman was once talking to a servant of Christ about the assurance of her safety in the Saviour and said, “I have taken a single ticket to glory, and do not intend to come back.” Whereupon the man of God replied, “You are going to miss a lot. I have taken a return ticket, for I am not only going to meet Christ in glory, but I am coming back with him in power and great glory to the earth.” The saints are inside the Holy City as it descends. Jesus steps onto the location that would have been where the Mount of Olives was before the destructive earthquake at the beginning of the 1000 years, and it flattens out to make a great plain (Zechariah 14:10). This great plain will be the largest landing site in the

Universe. The city will then descend and rest upon this great plain.

Study Question 5 – The city is perfectly square. What is the distance around God’s great city? Revelation 21:16

_____.

Ancient cities were measured by outside wall circumference. A furlong is an eighth of a mile (around 200 metres), which means the city will have a circumference of 1,500 miles (about 2,415 kilometres); and since it is square, each wall will be 375 miles (about 603 klm.) in length. It will contain 140,625 square miles (about 226,314 sq klm.), which is more area than Virginia, District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Vermont combined. It is unbelievably gigantic. Pundits tell us that at least 39 billion people could live in the city. The world’s population is 7.6 billion (March 2018), so this is five times the world’s present population.

Part 2: An Architects Dream

Study Question 6 – What 6. What else does Revelation say about this amazing city? Revelation 21:10-27

a. Verse 11 – It has the _____ of _____

b. Verses 12, 17, 18 – The jasper wall is _____ cubits high (or thick) – About 216 feet or 66 metres

c. Verses 12, 13, 21 – It has _____ gates made of

d. Verses 14, 19, 20 – It has _____

_____ of precious stone

e. Verse 21 – It has streets made of pure _____

The story is told of a miser who asked a pastor how a man could take his hoard of gold ingots to Heaven. The pastor asked, “Why on earth would you want to take paving stones to Heaven?”

f. Verses 23, 25 – It has no need of sun or moon: there will be no

“And once again the scene was chang'd, New earth there seemed to be; I saw the Holy City Beside the tideless sea; The light of God was on its streets, The gates were open wide, And all who would might enter, And no one was denied. No need of moon or stars by night, Or sun to shine by day; It was the new Jerusalem That would not pass away. Jerusalem! Jerusalem! Sing for the night is o'er, Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna forevermore!”

— Frederick E. Weatherly, *The Holy City*, 1892

Study Question 7 – What is the source of the city water supply? Revelation 22:1

The _____ of _____, which flows from
God's _____.

Pure, sparkling, life-giving water for everyone.

Study Question 8 – What miraculous food will be available? Revelation 22:2

Fruits from the _____ of _____.

After sin Adam and Eve lost the privilege of eating this wonderful fruit in the Garden of Eden. But then, it will be available to the saved through all eternity.

Study Question 9 – Will we become tired of eating this fruit? Revelation 22:2; Genesis 3:22

The fruit _____ each _____ and those

who eat it will live forever.

It seems clear that the fruits and the leaves provide the antidote of death, and perpetuate eternal, youthful lives for all of God's people. What an experience.

Study Question 10 – Is Heaven worth all our suffering and trials? Romans 8:18

They are _____ to be

_____ with the glory that shall be revealed in us.

Corrie Ten Boom in *My Heart Sings* (Christianity Today, Vol.40, No.5) wrote, "Although the threads of my life have often seemed knotted, I know, by faith, that on the other side of the embroidery there is a crown."

Part 3: Our New World

Study Question 11 – What happens when the wicked try to overthrow the city? Revelation 20:7-9

The wicked are devoured by _____.

Study Question 12 – What else happens besides destroying Satan and his followers? 2 Peter 3:10

"... the heavens shall _____ with a great noise and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth ...

shall be _____."

The fire devours sin and sinners and purifies the earth from all evidence of sin.

Study Question 13 – Describe what God does next. Revelation 21:1; 2 Peter 3:13

He creates _____ and a

_____ wherein dwelleth
righteousness.

Study Question 14 – Where will God live after the Holy City comes to earth? Revelation 21:3

Here _____ with His people.
Jesus promised that “The meek shall inherit the earth.” (Matthew 5:5)

Study Question 15 – Will everyone have a beautiful home in God’s city? John 14:2, 3

_____. Jesus is the architect and builder.
Your home in the Holy City will be more beautiful than any place this world has ever seen. Jesus will most likely use the most costly of building materials, precious metals, rare jewels and colourful stones. No two will be alike.

Part 4: God’s Real People

Study Question 16 – What kind of bodies will we have in God’s Kingdom? Philippians 3:20, 21

Bodies just like _____ (glorious bodies).

Study Question 17 – Did Jesus have a real body after His resurrection? Luke 24:36-43

_____, Jesus had flesh and bones, hands and feet.

Study Question 18 – What will the saints do in the New Earth? Isaiah 65:21, 22

They shall _____ houses and _____

them, and they shall _____ vineyards and

_____ the fruit. They shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

Acts 3:20, 21 promises that everything will be restored to God's people that Adam and Eve lost by sin. Adam and Eve were real people, so we will be real people with brilliant minds and perfect bodies, enjoying an exciting, satisfying eternal life in the beautiful new world.

Study Question 19 – Can we fully describe the glory of the new world? 1 Corinthians 2:9

“But as it is written, eye _____

_____ ear _____

neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which He hath prepared for them that love Him.” (Isaiah 64:4)

Here is a description of perfect physical fitness.

Study Question 20 – Will we have bad dreams about the past? Isaiah 65:17

No. “the former shall _____ be _____ nor come into mind.”

The woes of this life will not weigh on the heart. They will be as though they had not been.

Part 5: Eternal Joy and Health

Study Question 21 – Give three marvellous promises about Heaven. Isaiah 35:1, 33:24, 60:18

a. “The _____ shall rejoice and _____ as the rose.”

b. “The _____ shall _____ say, I am

_____.”

c. “_____ shall _____

_____ be heard in thy land. . .”

Study Question 22 – Will people recognize each other in heaven? 1 Corinthians 13:12

Yes. “Then shall I know as I also am _____.”

Study Question 23 – Who will be our constant companion and friend? Revelation 14:4

_____. We shall follow the Lamb.

Those who love and follow Jesus here will have the privilege of following Him in the ‘Earth Made New’, and throughout His vast universe of unnumbered worlds in space. What a thought to consider. Nothing could be better than the companionship of Jesus, either now or then.

Study Question 24 – Only sin keeps you out of God’s Kingdom - what can you do about it?

a. **1 John 1:7, 9** – “If we _____ our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

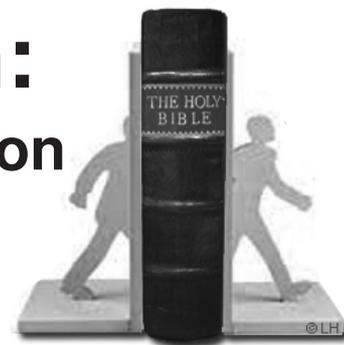
b. **Revelation 1:5** – “Unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins, in His own _____.”

Study Question 25 – Are you willing to forsake sin and prepare for a place in Heaven and the New Earth?

_____.

In the Footsteps of John: Walking through the Book of Revelation with John the Revelator

www.lrhartley.com/john



Program 9: Sounds of Galloping

Virtually everyone in the Christian world has heard of the four horsemen of the apocalypse. There is even a rock band using this as their stage name. But, should you quiz fifteen or twenty of your church friends, the odds are that none of them would have the faintest idea as to who the real horsemen are.

R. Geoffrey Brown writes, “I would like to take you, if I could, to a graphic portrayal of the Word of God in a great cathedral in Milan. Come in out of the glare of the Italian sunshine, pass through the cathedral doors, and suddenly see stretching out before you, Europe’s third largest cathedral where fifty-two marbled columns hold up the lofty, octagonal dome, with over 4,400 turrets and pinnacles. Statues of angels rise all about us, and the effect is one of an incomparable combination of grace and grandeur, beauty and vastness.

Up front behind the altar, like a window opening out of heaven, is one of the largest stained glass windows in the world. Depicted here is not an Old Testament scene. That stained glass window does not depict just the resurrection of Jesus Christ the Lord, not his just crucifixion or ascension. With tremendous imagery the window depicts the triumph of Jesus Christ the Lord.

The afternoon sun strains in, turning the window into a sea of glass mingled with fire. You see the vials being outpoured, the trumpets, Michael and his angels in battle against the dragon, the great angel with

the rainbow upon his head and one foot upon the earth and the other upon the heaven, declaring in the name of him who lives forever and ever that time shall be no longer. Bound with a chain, Satan is thrown into the bottomless pit at last. The great white throne glows in the sunlight.

Most impressive of all is the great, white horse. Upon the horse sits a still greater rider with the armies of heaven behind him. He comes to set everything straight at last for everyone of us who has hoped in him, and for everyone who has been subjected to the pain and prejudice of living for Jesus Christ in a world seemingly gone mad.”

In the days when the sun never set on the British Empire, the Foreign Office posted Miles Cavendish in Khartoum, Libya. The colonial government had decorated the central square of the city with a dramatic equestrian-type statue of General Charles George Gordon. Gordon had died heroically in 1885 when Khartoum fell to the troops of the Mahdi after a ten-month siege. Converted into stone, Gordon now forever would survey the city from the back of a camel.

Cavendish had one son. The boy was named Charles—after General Gordon, of course. Cavendish was a dedicated British civil servant. His heart swelled with the spirit of imperial obligation and pride. He made it his business to impress his son with the importance of the statue. “That is Gordon,” he said to his son, and bowed his own head in a moment of reverent silence. The boy loved the statue and virtually every day he would run to the square to take a look at Gordon.

When the Foreign Office informed the elder Cavendish that he was being transferred from Khartoum to Lahore, the boy’s last deed before leaving was to proceed to the square to say a solemn farewell to Gordon. As Miles watched, his eyes welled up with tears. He said to himself, “Indeed, here beats the heart of a true Englishman. The lad is well named indeed!”

On board the steamer to Lahore, the boy turned to his father thoughtfully and said, "Father, I have a question I have always wanted to ask." "Yes, my son?" "It concerns Gordon. There's one thing I don't understand." "What is that, my son?" "Tell me. Who is that silly looking man who sits on Gordon?"

As we enter this study with mention of a great white horse, let us not fail to take note of who the rider is.

The four horsemen are part of the seven seals of Revelation, chapters six and eight. These seals are seven symbolic events that face the people of God, from the ascension of Jesus until His second coming. They cover the same time period as the seven churches of Revelation, chapters 2 and 3.

Part 1 The Symbols Explained

Study Question 1. What do horses and riders represent in prophecy?

a. Zechariah 1:8-10: "These are they whom the Lord hath sent to

_____ through the earth."

b. Zechariah 6:2-5: "These are the _____ of the heavens, which go forth from standing before the Lord of all the earth." These spirits are angels from Heaven. Hebrews 1:13,14 states plainly that angels are ministering spirits sent by God to minister to His people upon the earth. These four spirits are angels which minister over four very important time periods and special events that God's people must pass through, beginning with the New Testament Church.

Study Question 2. Who announced the four mysterious horsemen? Revelation 6:1, 3, 5, 7

The _____.

These are called “four living creatures” in some translations. They have special responsibilities in Heaven.

Part 2 The Seven Seals

Study Question 3. How is the rider of the white horse described? Revelation 6:2

“... he that sat on him had a _____; and a _____ was given unto him: and he went forth _____ and to _____.

What a fitting symbol for the church of the first century. So successful was God’s church that before Paul died, he said that the gospel had been preached to the entire [known] world (Colossians 1:5,6,23).

White symbolizes the purity of the church (Psalm 51:7, Isaiah 1:18). The crown signifies victory (James 1:12; 2 Timothy 4:7, 8; 2 Corinthians 9:25). The bow symbolises success in battle against evil (Psalm 7:11, 12; Psalm 45:4, 5). The white horse represents the same period of time covered by the Ephesus Church, the first century A.D.

Study Question 4. What did the rider of the red horse do? Revelation 6:4

“Power was given unto him to take _____ from the earth, and that they should _____ one another.”

The red horse, under the second seal represents the Roman Government’s bloodthirsty persecution of the people of God during the second, third & early part of the fourth centuries, A.D. The sword is associated with war and bloodshed (Isaiah 3:25 – compare 1 Chronicles 22:8). The red horse represents the same period of time covered by the Smyrna Church. God uses the colour red to depict war, slaughter and bloodshed (Ezekiel 32:6,11; Jeremiah 46:10; Nahum 2:3).

Study Question 5. Why did God use a black horse under the third seal?

a. *Acts 26:18*: “.. from _____ to _____”

b. *John 12:35*: “Walk while you have the _____, lest _____ come upon you.”

Spiritual darkness or blackness is sin, apostasy and error. These are the very opposite of the light of the gospel. The church during the fourth, fifth and first part of the sixth century became popular, worldly, and finally very corrupt when church and state united. The black horse represents the same era as the Pergamos church, a time when millions of pagans, with their false practices and teachings, came into the church. This resulted in the persecution (represented by the sword) of true, Bible-believing Christians.

Study Question 6. What did the black horse rider have in his hand? Revelation 6:5, 6

“A pair of _____.”

The balances represent the union of church and state when Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire under Constantine.

A picture is given of food being weighed during a terrible famine. The famine symbolizes an acute scarcity of the Word of God (Amos 8:11, 12). Bibles were not available to the people and the church stopped preaching the Word. The oil represents the Holy Spirit (Zechariah 4:2-6) and the wine represents Jesus’ blood of atonement (Matthew 26:27-29). These two precious gifts were not to be lost sight of during this intense spiritual famine.

Part 3 Martyrs for Jesus

Study Question 7. Who rode the pale horse? What followed? Revelation 6:8

“His name that sat on him was _____, and

_____ followed with him.”

The pale horse with its rider Death, followed by the grave (“Hades” in Greek), symbolizes the millions of God’s people destroyed by sword, starvation, wild beasts, and other cruel methods of torture and killing. This period is covered by the Thyatira church from the sixth through the fifteenth centuries (known as the Dark Ages).

Jesus said that this period of tribulation was the worst ever to be (Matthew 24:21). And even more tragic, instead of the government persecuting Bible-believing Christians, it was the church. This terrible time of persecution was prophesied also by other Bible writers (Daniel 7:21, 25; Revelation 13:5, 12:6, 14, 17:6). Jesus plans for these martyrs to be closest to Him in His new kingdom (Revelation 7:13-17).

Study Question 8. What did John see and hear under the fifth seal? Revelation 6:9,10

a. He saw souls “_____ for the _____ of _____.”

b. He heard them cry for God to avenge their _____. In the fifth seal the blood of the martyred saints cried out symbolically to God, like the blood of Abel did after he was slain by his brother (Genesis 4:10). It was a terrible time of persecution when true, Bible-believing Christians were put to the death by the millions for their faith.

Study Question 9. How long do they rest before receiving their rewards? Revelation 6:11

a. “And _____ were given unto every one of them.”

b. “For a _____, until their fellow-servants also, and their brethren should be ... fulfilled.”

The white robes indicate victory for these martyrs (Revelation 19:8, 3:5). Though their victory was already won, they were to rest or sleep in the tomb a little season until Jesus returns and rewards all His saints - together, at the same time (Hebrews 11:39, 40).

The fifth seal covers the same era as the fifth church — Sardis — from the sixteenth to the mid eighteenth century. So the horrible persecution of the fourth seal continued under the fifth seal. Jesus said this time of persecution would be shortened (Matthew 24:21, 22).

It was drastically shortened, and finally stopped by the dynamic preaching of the great preachers of the Reformation (Huss, Jerome, Knox, Tyndale, Luther, etc.).

Part 4 Signs in the Heavens

10. What events take place as the sixth seal opens?

Revelation 6:12, 13

a. “A great _____.”

The great earthquake of Nov. 1, 1755 was the greatest catastrophe the world had seen since Noah’s flood. It was felt over the greater part of Europe, Africa and America. Since it centred in Portugal, it is commonly referred to as *The Lisbon Earthquake*.

When God made the sun, moon and stars at Creation He said, “Let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and for years” (Genesis 1:14). So some of these great signs also appeared in the heavens:

b. “The _____ fell.”

The falling of the stars, November 13, 1833 was an exciting display of heavenly fireworks, perhaps the greatest ever witnessed on the face of the earth. It was seen across North America, and it is estimated that 200,000 stars an hour fell over a period of 5 or 6 hours. People thought that surely it was the Judgement Day. So when God’s prophetic clock struck, the signs in the heavens appeared.

c. “The _____ became _____.”

The ‘dark day’ of May 19, 1780 caused great alarm, and many thought the end of the world had come. Beginning in mid-morning, it became so dark that lamps had to be lit in the houses. The darkness covered a large part of North America, and caused serious-minded people to study their Bibles for an answer.

d. “The _____ became as _____.”

About midnight on May 19, 1780, the unusual darkness lifted and the moon appeared, but it was as red as blood. This represented the closing of an era when a true knowledge of Jesus the Son of Righteousness had been obscured (during the Dark Ages), and the blood of millions of true Bible-believing Christians was spilled.

Study Question 11. The next great event under the sixth seal is? Revelation 6:14 -17, Matthew 24:30

The _____ of Christ. Then the wicked will cry, “The great day of His wrath is come.”

It is sobering indeed to realize that we are now living between verses 13 & 14 of the sixth seal of Revelation 6. The *next* great sign will be the sudden appearing of Jesus Christ coming in the clouds of glory (Matthew 24:30). The sixth seal covers the time periods of both the sixth and seventh Churches — Philadelphia & Laodicea — from about the middle of the eighteenth century to the coming of Jesus.

Part 5 The Seal of God

Study Question 12. Who will be able to stand when Jesus returns? Revelation 7:2, 3

Those who are sealed by God: “Hurt not the earth ... till we have

_____ the _____ of our _____
in their foreheads.”

The people who will be ready for Jesus’ coming must first receive God’s

seal - a sign in their foreheads. Our next lesson in this “In the Footsteps of John” series (*A Stamp of Approval*) we will learn what this very important sign or seal is, and how we may receive it.

Study Question 13. What happens when all have heard the gospel? Revelation 14:6, 14

_____ in the clouds.

The Everlasting Gospel and the Three Angels’ Messages of Revelation 14:6 - 10, with God’s sealing truth is sweeping across the earth like a grass fire on a windy day.

Study Question 14. How can I know when Jesus will appear? Matthew 24:33

When you see the signs, “Know that it is _____, even at the _____.”

It is very exciting to know the second coming of Jesus is near. However, no man knows the exact day or hour of His return (Matthew. 24:36). The all-important question is, “Are you ready?”

Part 6 Silence in Heaven

Study Question 15. What happens when the seventh seal is opened? Revelation 8:1

“There was silence in Heaven for about the space of

_____.”

This is the second time (that your lesson author is aware of) that there is silence in heaven. The first time is quite understandable from scripture but is perhaps best expressed in words from the book *Desire of Ages*, Chapter 74, and occurred when Jesus was in Gethsemane: “*There was silence in heaven. No harp was touched. Could mortals have viewed the amazement of the angelic host as in silent grief they watched the Father separating His beams of light, love, and glory from His beloved Son?*”

This second recorded silence takes place at the time of Jesus' coming. On this occasion, Heaven is silent because Heaven is empty. The Father waits while the holy angels come with Jesus when He returns for His saints (Matthew 16:27, 25:31).

Study Question 16. How should we act during signs of Jesus' return? Luke 21:28

“_____ up and _____ up your
_____ for your redemption draweth nigh.”

Our most exciting thoughts should be of our Lord's return. We must make our preparation for this great event first in our lives, and tell others so they too, may be ready.

Theologian Edwin D. Peterman tells us, “The great Church reformer Martin Luther was once asked what he would do if he knew for certain the world was going to end tomorrow. Without hesitation he replied, ‘I would plant an apple tree this afternoon’.”

Luther was not given to speculation about the *ending* of the world. He focused rather on the *end* of the world, that is, the *purpose* of the world which God intends for the present time.

Luther would plant an apple tree today, even though the world may end tomorrow, because he believed that what may happen in the future does not excuse us from what God requires of us here and now.

Study Question 17. How does Jesus feel when we ask for His help? Jude 24,25

He will “keep you from falling and present you faultless before the presence of His glory with _____.”

Remember:

1. No matter who you are, or what your past has been, Jesus will accept you if you really want to be saved.

2. He will forgive your sins and help you to prepare for His great and glorious coming, so you may take that amazing space journey from earth to heaven.

Part 7 Signs that show Jesus will return soon

Accumulation of wealth - James 5:1-8

Capital/Labour troubles - James 5:1-8

War preparations - Matthew 24:6, 7; Revelation 11:18

Increase of knowledge - Daniel 12:4

Unrest, upheaval - Luke 21:25-27

Craze for pleasure - 2 Timothy 3:1-4

Religious scepticism - Luke 18:8

Intemperance, physical decay - Luke 17:26-30

Falling away from Bible truth - 2 Timothy 4:1-4

Moral degeneracy and decline of spirituality - 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Unparalleled travel - Daniel 12:4

Destructive earthquakes, cyclones, famines, etc. - Matthew 24:7

Abounding lawlessness - Matthew 24:12 ; 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Scoffers - 2 Peter 3:3-5

Communication with spirits - 1 Timothy 4:1-2

Deceptive miracles - Revelation 16:14; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

Great peace movements - 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 [

False christs/prophets - Matthew 24:24

People will be too busy - Luke 21:34 ; Matthew 24:37-39

Men will have power to destroy the earth - Revelation 11:18

Increasing crime and evil - 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 13

Denial of creation - 2 Peter 3:3-6

Fear, distress of nations - Luke 21:25, 26

Heresy and apostasy - 2 Thessalonians 2:3; 2 Peter 2:1, 2

Children disobedient to parents - 2 Timothy 3:1, 2

Increase in homosexual behaviours 2 Timothy 3:3 (without natural affection); Romans 1:26-32; Leviticus 20:13; 1 Corinthians 6:9.10; Deuteronomy 22:5

Truce breakers - 2 Timothy 3:1, 3

Foul, blasphemous speech - 2 Timothy 3:1, 2

Rise of many false religions - 2 Peter 2:1, 2; Matthew 24:24; 1 Timothy 4:1-4 ; Revelation 18:2, 4, 5

Giving of a special message to all the world to prepare people for Christ's coming - Matthew 24:14; Revelation 14:6-14

Ever learning and never coming to a knowledge of the truth - 2 Timothy 3:1, 7

Prevalence of Divorce - Matthew 24:37-39 (compare Genesis 6:2; 2 Timothy 3:1-5)

Homework:

Read Matthew chapter 24 & Luke chapter 21 for a more detailed study of the present-day signs of Jesus' return. We may well be the last generation to be living upon the earth before Jesus comes.

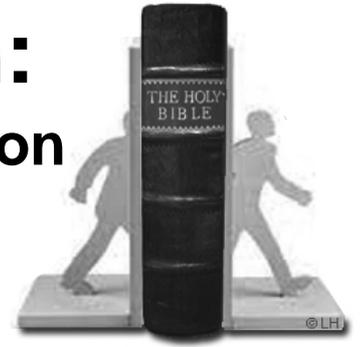
Study Question 18. Will you decide now to do whatever Jesus wants you to do?

_____.

Our next topic: *Study 10 - A Stamp of Approval*

In the Footsteps of John: Walking through the Book of Revelation with John the Revelator

www.lrhartley.com/john



Program 10: A Stamp of Approval

Would you be surprised to learn that God has a special sign, seal or mark that He places upon His people?

Ephesians 1:13, 30 "... sealed with that holy Spirit of promise ... And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Would you be shocked to discover that most people are totally unaware of God's mark, and thus ignore it? Would you be dumbfounded to find out that one great prime purpose of Revelation is to identify and restore God's mark to His people?

Well, incredible as it may seem, the above statements are true! Few things are as important to God as His mark. And, tragically, when God looks at most of His people today, He can only shake His head and say, "The mark is missing." It would be difficult to find a more important topic for study. Please pray much as you consider this most vital matter.

Part 1 Seal? What Seal?

Study Question 1. Why does God delay earth's final destruction? Revelation 7:1-3

"Hurt not the earth ... till we have _____ the servants of our _____ in their _____."

God will not permit the final winds of war to bring total destruction upon the earth until His people have received His mark, or seal.

Winds in prophecy represent war, bloodshed and destruction (Jeremiah 25:31-33; 49:36, 37)

Study Question 2. How widely will God's message about His seal be proclaimed? Revelation 14:6

“To every _____ and _____ and _____ and _____”.

We shall discover that the seal or mark of God is an important part of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14, which will be proclaimed worldwide with great power, just before Jesus returns. Remember that “seal”, “sign” and “mark”, often are used interchangeably in scripture (Romans 4:11; Ezekiel 9:4; Revelation 7:2, 3)

Study Question 3. How is a seal used symbolically in scripture? Ezekiel 9:4

a. *Romans 4:11* “... a seal of the _____ of the faith.”

b. *Revelation 7:2, 3* “... hurt not the earth ... until we have sealed the _____ of our _____ in their foreheads.”

c. *Ephesians 4:30* “And grieve not the _____ of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

A seal may stand for a truth or requirement of God. A seal may indicate God's ownership and approval.

Part 2 A Government Seal

Study Question 4. What three things does a government seal contain?

Government seals are used to officially identify legal documents.



Such a seal gives the authority's:

A. _____

B. _____



and C. _____ over which he rules or has authority.

Example: Name: "*The Government*"; Title: "*The Government of Western Australia*"; Territory: "*Western Australia*"

Study Question 5. Identify God's Seal in His Holy Law. Exodus 20:8-11

"The seventh day is the Sabbath of the _____ thy

_____ ... for the Lord _____

_____ and _____."

The fourth commandment reveals God's seal.

- A. Name "*Lord thy God*"
- B. Title "*Creator*" (The Lord made)
- C. Territory "*Heaven and Earth*"



Study Question 6. What is God's Sign or Seal of His Creating and Redeeming Power? Exodus. 31:17; Ezekiel 20:12; Revelation 4:10, 11

The _____ is the sign that God is Creator and Redeemer!

God, Himself, made the Sabbath to be a *sign* of His creating and redeeming power.

Study Question 7. Where will God’s Sign or Seal be on a Person? Revelation 7:3

“In their _____ .”

Note: The forehead represents the mind (neuroscientists tell us that the forehead or *dorsolateral prefrontal cortex* (dlPFC) is the seat of our willpower); we serve the Lord with our minds (Romans 7:25). So when we consent to keep God’s Sabbath, we are marked or signed in our minds, represented by our foreheads.

Part 3 God’s Holy Sabbath

Study Question 8. When did God make the Sabbath? Genesis 2:1-4

When “the _____ made the _____ and the _____”.

After the six days of creation , God made the Sabbath on the seventh day.

Study Question 9. What did God use to make the Sabbath? Exodus 20:10

“The seventh _____ is the Sabbath”.

God made the Sabbath from a 24-hour day – the 7th day. It is made of time, and time is what it takes to develop a true friendship with the Lord. He offers me 24 hours a week of His priceless time so He and I can become warm, close friends. How can I ignore such an offer?

“God, by giving the Sabbath, has given fifty-two springs in every year.”
– Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834)

Sunday's child is fair of face,
Monday's child is full of grace,
Tuesday's child is full of woe,
Wednesday's child has far to go,
Thursday's child is loving and giving,
Friday's child works hard for a living,
But the child that rests on the Sabbath Day,
is blithe and bonny and good, they say.

— Anon

Study Question 10. What did God do to make the Sabbath special? Genesis 2:2, 3

“He rested on the seventh day ... and God _____ the seventh day and _____ it.”

“Sanctify” means to set aside for a sacred use or make holy.

In the Bible (for example in the NIV translation) the very first holy ‘thing’ mentioned is not holy ground, holy altar, holy vessel, holy water, holy oil, holy people, holy temple, holy mountain or even a holy (holey?) apple, but a day – the Sabbath day. Genesis 2:3 tells us that God ‘made’ the Sabbath holy.

What does this context suggest that holiness means? First of all, holiness comes from God. He is the author of it. Secondly, for a day to be holy is for it to be different from the other days. Notice that holiness and blessings seem related. A holy day is a day set apart from others, a special day, a blessed day with promised blessings.

Study Question 11. When God blesses how long is it for? 1 Chronicles 17:27

“It shall be blessed _____.”

Study Question 12. For whom did God make the Sabbath? Mark 2:27, 28

“The Sabbath was made _____.”

Some say the Sabbath was made for the Jews only, and not for Gentiles, but Jesus says it was made for all mankind, or people everywhere, from the very beginning of time.

Study Question 13. What command is given about the Sabbath? Exodus 20:8-11

“_____ the Sabbath day to _____ it _____.”

This command is so clear that a person would have to try hard to misunderstand it. It is the only one of the ten beginning with the word “Remember”. God saw that men would forget. Our memory is often what makes us wonder what we forgot. Someone once wrote, “Our great-grandfathers called it the *holy Sabbath (a holy day)*; our grandfathers, *the Sabbath*; our fathers, *Saturday*; but today, *a holiday*”

Part 4 The New Testament Sabbath

Study Question 14. Were the Ten Commandments ever repealed? Matthew 5:18, Luke 16:17

_____. “It is easier for heaven and earth to pass than one tittle of the Law to fail.”

God’s law and His commandments are the same thing. Matthew 5:17-19; Romans 13:8-10

Study Question 15. What day did Jesus and Paul keep? Luke 4:16; Acts 17:2; Acts 18:4

“The _____ day.”

“In spite of all of our dickerings with the calendar, it is patent that the human race never lost the septenary [seven-day] sequence of week days and that the Sabbath of these latter times comes down to us from Adam, through the ages, without a single lapse.”

— Dr. Totten, Statement. (Dr. Totten of New Haven, Connecticut, was

Professor of Astronomy at Yale University when this statement was made.)

Study Question 16. How should it affect me to learn that Jesus kept the Sabbath? 1 Peter 2:21

I should _____ His _____.

Since Jesus set an example for me in Sabbath-keeping, surely I will want to follow Him in keeping it.

Study Question 17. Did Christian Gentiles keep the Sabbath? Acts 13:42

_____. Verse 43 reveals that the Sabbath-keeping Gentiles were also living under grace, so legalistic law-keeping could not have been a reason for Sabbath observance.

John Newton wrote, “Safely through another week, God has brought us on our way; let us now a blessing seek, waiting in his courts today. Day of all the week the best; emblem of eternal rest.”

Study Question 18. Did Jesus plan for His disciples to keep the Sabbath after His resurrection? Matthew 24:20

_____. He instructed them to pray that their escape would not be on the Sabbath.

When Jesus made this statement He knew Jerusalem would be destroyed almost 40 years in the future; so He clearly expected them to be keeping the Sabbath 40 years after His resurrection.

Part 5 God’s People Identified

Study Question 19. How does Revelation refer to those who will be saved? Revelation 14:12; 12:17

As people who “_____ the _____ of God and have the testimony of Jesus.”

This includes Sabbath-keeping since it is the fourth commandment (Exodus 20:8-11).

Study Question 20. Why is breaking God's commandments or laws, so serious? 1 John 3:4; Romans 6:23

Because breaking God's law is _____ and the _____ of sin is _____.

Study Question 21. What sin does God especially name in Isaiah 58:1, 13, 14?

The NIV reads, "Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the house of Jacob their sins.... If you *keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath* and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the Lord's holy day honourable, and if you honour it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the LORD, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob.' The mouth of the LORD has spoken." (Italicised emphasis added).

He said they were _____ upon His Sabbath.

God calls Sabbath-breaking a sin. In Isaiah's day they were trampling upon God's holy Sabbath, which is His sign or seal. Men today are doing the same serious thing. His command is to "Cry (shout) aloud!" and explain the Sabbath to them. Jesus the Good Shepherd knows His loving sheep will gladly follow Him in Sabbath-keeping when they understand, because they love to please Him.

Josephine Cunningham Edwards, in her book *Bricks for Sale* (Review & Herald Publishing Assn, 1941, p53) wrote of a man who had turned his back on God's Sabbath Day. This is how she described his sorrowful lot: "With a feeling of foreboding, he saw the velvet curtains of night drawn down and pinned with stars.

When he leaned out of the window to get a breath of fresh air, he could hear the little night creatures sawing away on their fiddles in the symphony of the night.

Pete felt frightened because he couldn't pray. He had that mental discomfort of someone who cannot recollect a dream, or who knows he has forgotten something and cannot remember what it is.”

A Child's Poem for the Sabbath Day

The Seventh Day of every week is God's great Gift for us to seek.
The Sabbath is for us to rest, when Friday's sun sets in the west.
We keep Sabbath of every week. We find God's Best is very sweet.
He gave the Sabbath from the start. He liked Creation, every part.
The Seventh Day - a Gift for us, we gladly rest, and stop each fuss!
God set apart this Holy Day, for us to learn to keep His Way.
The Sabbath is a sign for Him, that all His kids are home, within.
We're safe inside His garden, sweet. The Sabbath Day, we love to keep.
The fourth command tells us what's true.

Sabbath is like God's weekly glue.

We learn His ways each Sabbath Day, we cling to Him, and never stray.
The joy we find when we obey is greater than the world's heyday.
The Sabbath is a Gift for man. Enjoy this Rest from Father's Hand.

—Anon

Study Question 22. Which day will the saints keep in the New Earth? Isaiah 66:22, 23

“For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another,

and from one _____ to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.”

Study Question 23. What should be my motivation for obedience to God's commands? John 14:15

_____, keep my commandments.

Study Question 24. What must I do to worship Him as Creator? Exodus 20:8-11

_____ the _____ day, to keep it

_____.

Someone has suggested that “Without God, our week would be SINDay, MOURNday, TEARSday, WASTEday, THIRSTday, FIGHTday and SHATTERday. Seven days without God makes one WEAK”.

(www.lrhartley.com/prayer)

Study Question 25. Why should Sabbath-keeping be exciting? Mark 2:27, 28

Therefore the _____

_____ is _____ also of the

_____.

Jesus created everything in cooperation with His Father (John 1:1-3, 10, 14; Hebrews 1:1, 2; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:13-17). This, of course, includes the seventh day Bible Sabbath.

The Sabbath is thrilling and exciting to Christians because it centres in Jesus. It is His day. It represents His power to create, His love, His power to save from sin, and His miracles. Most exciting of all, Jesus set His wonderful day aside to be with us and to help us become like Him.

Theologian Gerhard Pfandl wrote, “The Sabbath and marriage are the only earthly institutions that come to us from the time before sin entered the world. Hence, sometimes they are called the twin sisters of Paradise. When you look at our world today, it's obvious that Satan has worked hard to deface and defile them.

The fourth commandment is, in a sense, a test commandment. It tests humanity's spirituality. Because it deals with time, which is invisible, rather than with tangible objects, it is well suited to measure humanity's attitude toward God. How we feel toward the Sabbath is an indicator of how we feel toward God. It is the only commandment an individual can break and yet be fully accepted as a good person in any conservative Christian society.

In a certain sense, the Sabbath is arbitrary. Why the seventh day over any other? It's because God said so, that's why. There's a lot of obvious and apparent logic in not stealing, not killing, not coveting, and so forth. You don't have to be a Christian to follow those precepts; many non-Christians do.

But to obey the seventh-day Sabbath, which isn't rooted in any natural phenomena, is to reveal a willingness to obey simply because God tells us to. Sabbath keeping is an act of faith; we keep the seventh-day Sabbath, not because it's socially acceptable, not because it's popular, not because it fits in with any natural cycle. No, we keep the seventh-day Sabbath because God commands us to, and as New Testament Christians saved by grace, we reveal our faith through obedience to God's commandments (James 2:10, 11; 1 John 5:2, 3; Revelation 14:12).

In fact, by resting on the Sabbath, we're revealing to the world that all this talk about resting in Christ isn't just talk. As Sabbath keepers, we truly rest in Christ's work of salvation for us, not just daily but also in a special way each week. We reveal the fullness of our assurance in Christ by resting on the Sabbath (see Hebrews 4:1-11). Sabbath keeping is an outward expression of our rest in Christ.”

In the cinematographic version of Frank L Baum's children's story *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, Dorothy merrily bounds down the Yellow Brick Road singing a bouncy melody as Toto runs as fast as his stubby little legs will carry him. They're off to see the Wizard who knows the way home to Kansas. Yet at an unexpected intersection of several Yellow Brick Roads, Dorothy must choose the only one that leads to the Emerald City, where the Wizard resides.

"Now which way do we go?" Dorothy ponders.

"That way is a very nice way," counsels the Scarecrow, hanging from a post in a nearby field as he points in one direction. "It's pleasant down that way, too," he muses, pointing in the opposite direction. Finally, he crosses his arms, pointing in both directions at once. "Of course," he concludes, "people do go in both ways."

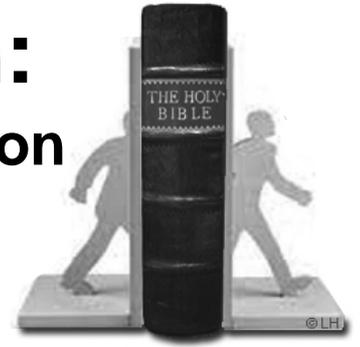
Choosing which way to proceed is troublesome because individuals do take every possible path. Yet not all paths take you where you want to go. Some choices, deceptively alluring at first, end up taking you nowhere.

Study Question 26. In John 14:15 Jesus says: "If you love me keep my commandments." Do you love Him enough to keep all of His commandments now?

"If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it. If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it. He sends you flowers every spring. He sends you a sunrise every morning, He invites you celebrate Creation's Birthday with Him, not once a year but every seventh day. Face it, friend — He is crazy about you! Although God didn't promise days without pain, laughter without sorrow, sun without rain, He did promise strength for the day, comfort for the tears, and light for the way. If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it." — Anon

In the Footsteps of John: Walking through the Book of Revelation with John the Revelator

www.lrhartley.com/john



Program 11. The Strangest Change of All Time

Some years ago, musicians noted that errand boys in a certain part of London all whistled out of tune as they went about their work. It was talked about and someone suggested that it was because the bells of Westminster were slightly out of tune. Something had gone wrong with the chimes and they were discordant. The boys did not know there was anything wrong with the peals, and quite subconsciously they had copied their pitch.

So we tend to copy the people with whom we associate; we borrow thoughts from the books we read and the programs to which we listen, almost without knowing it.

Many years ago I was taught the art of piano tuning from a retiring piano tuner who kindly donated all of his tuning tools to me when he retired. I learnt much from him, but one of the most valuable lessons was when he told me to “The art of piano tuning is to listen for absolute pitch and then emulate it in the piano strings”.

God has given us His Word which is the absolute pitch of life and living. If we learn to listen to it and live by it, we shall easily detect the false and discordant music of the world.

Part 1 Sunday Sacredness

Since Revelation is a book for the last days, and since it centres on Jesus and His resurrection, one would expect to find some exciting comments in the book in regard to the church custom of keeping Sunday as a holy day in honour of His resurrection (the Russian word for Sunday,

woskersicnye, means resurrection).

But, strangely, the day itself is not even mentioned in Revelation. Stranger yet, though the day is mentioned eight times in other books of the New Testament, in no case is a command given to keep it holy. Since millions of sincere and loving Bible believing Christians worship on Sunday, why is the Bible so strangely silent on this subject?

Could it be that more is involved here than appears on the surface? One of the greatest prophecies of the book of Revelation involves the subject of Sunday worship.

It would be extremely difficult if not impossible to understand this important prophecy unless the topic in this lesson becomes crystal clear. So, let us examine the eight scripture references in the New Testament that mention the first day of the week.

Obviously, if there is a command to keep Sunday holy, we should find it in one of these Bible passages. Please note, your lesson author is neither condemning, criticizing nor affirming anyone who keeps Sunday holy, but rather simply asking the Bible what it has to say about it.

Study Question 1. Do any of these three 'resurrection texts' say that Sunday is holy?

Mark 16:9 “Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene ...”

Matthew 28:1 “In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn towards the first day of the week ...”

John 20:1 “The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early...”

In the Bible, what we call Sunday is always and only called the ‘first day of the week’.

Study Question 2. Does this fourth text say that the day is holy? Mark 16:1,2.

This New Testament text tells us something very interesting. Sunday is not the Sabbath, because the Sabbath was past when Sunday came.

Study Question 3. Does this fifth passage say Sunday is holy? Luke 24:1.

“Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, ...”

The physician Dr Luke (Colossians 4:14), a Gentile Christian, wrote the Gospel of Luke thirty years after Christ’s ascension, but no change in the day of worship is mentioned. The book of Acts covers a period of 23 years after Jesus’ ascension and mentions the Sabbath in eight different chapters, but without any hint of change.

In Luke 24:1 these women came on the ‘first day of the week’ to do “their work” (anointing the body of Jesus) not to rest. (Exodus 20:9, 10 “Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work...”)

In Acts 1:1-3 Dr Luke tells us that in his gospel he recorded *all* that Jesus did and taught (and this would naturally include all that He said regarding the commandments), yet he only mentions the ‘first day of the week’ once (in the verse above - Luke 24:1).

Study Question 4. Does this sixth text reveal a regular Sunday meeting? John 20:19

They assembled “_____ of the Jews.”

This could not have been a regular meeting to honour the resurrection,

because until Jesus appeared in their midst they refused to believe He was raised! Mark 16:14 *Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen (KJV).*

Study Question 5. The seventh text answers a number of questions. 1 Corinthians 16:1,2

- a. Does this passage say the first day is holy? _____.
- b. Does it say, “Give money when the collection plate is passed in your church on the first day?”

_____. Verse 2 “let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”

Study Question 6. What is the significance of “lay by him”?

_____, _____
_____.

The New Testament, in the language of today says, “Each of you should, at home, lay aside some money he makes, and save it.” Paul was requesting money for the Jerusalem Christians, who were suffering famine and hardship (Acts 11:27-30; Romans 15:26).

So, Paul wrote ahead to the churches he would visit, asking each believer to save money at home weekly, so it would be ready when he arrived. These Christians kept Sabbath holy and usually reviewed their weekly financial accounts at the beginning of each week (on Sunday). So it was an ideal time to plan their giving.

Study Question 7. The eighth and final New Testament text is Acts 20:7-11.

- a. Does it say to observe Sunday as a holy day? _____.

b. Does it say the Sabbath was changed to Sunday? _____.

c. Does it say they met every Sunday for worship? _____.

Paul was on a farewell trip to the churches. Acts Chapters 20 and 21 mention at least five other churches that Paul visited on the same farewell trip. When he told the people that he would not see them again, they wept much (Acts 20:37, 38; 21:13,14). The meeting at Troas was a special farewell meeting. That is why it lasted so long.

The fact that they broke bread (or celebrated communion) does not indicate that the day was holy as Acts 2:46 tells us that they broke bread every day.

Also, in the Bible, a 24-hour day is measured from evening to evening – or as we would say, from sunset to sunset (Leviticus 23:32; Mark 1:31). So the dark part of the day comes first in Bible time reckoning (the evening) followed by the light part (the morning) of the day (Genesis 1:5). This meeting was called in the dark part of the day (Acts 20:8 says that the lights were on), which is what we now call Saturday night. Some Bible translations put it that way, for example the New English Bible says, “On Saturday night...”. By Bible reckoning the dark part of Sundays begins when the sun goes down on Saturday night.

So this special farewell meeting could not possibly be an indication for Sunday sacredness because Sunday keepers begin their holy day in the moments following midnight.

As an aside, the word ‘morning’ is from the Old English ‘*morwening*’, meaning after evening until noon (‘noon’ is from ‘*nona*’ meaning the ninth hour or the middle of the day). The Hebrew for morning, ‘*boqer*’ means the break of day, likened to a plough (Hebrew ‘*boqar*’) breaking up the soil and opening a furrow. Evening (Hebrew ‘*ereb*’) is from the Old English ‘*aefnung*’ meaning to close the day.

Study Question 8. Could the disciples have changed the day if they wanted to? Matthew 5:18; Deuteronomy 4:2

“Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law” “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it...”

_____.

God used the Sabbath as a covenant with His people. There must be at least two people to form a covenant or contract, and it can only be changed if *both* parties agree. Can we then change our Sabbath covenant with God without his acknowledgement and approval?

Study Question 9. Satan’s strategy is to get us to break just one of God’s commandments! Why? James 2:10-12

When you _____ in one point you are

_____ of _____.

God’s Moral Law is like a ten-sided fortress. Only one side needs to be broken down for the enemy to enter.

Study Question 10. John speaks of the Lord’s Day - which day is it?

Revelation 1:10 “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day.”

Exodus 20:10 “But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God...”

Isaiah 58:13 “If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day...”

Mark 2:28 “...the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath”.

Which day is the Lord’s day?

The _____ is the Lord’s Day.

People sometimes call Sunday the Lord’s Day, but the Bible calls the Sabbath the Lord’s Day.

Part 2. Memorial of Jesus' Resurrection

Study Question 11. What does the Bible call Sunday? Ezekiel 46:1

An ordinary _____.

Study Question 12. Where did the Sunday sacredness come from? Matthew 15:3-9

Verse 9 (KJV) "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the _____ of _____."

Misguided men have substituted another day of worship for the Sabbath.

Study Question 13. What did Jesus give us to honour His death, burial and resurrection? Romans 6:3-6, Colossians 2:12

_____.

Part 3 Calendar Change Explained

JULIAN 1582		October				Gregorian 1582	
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
31							

Study Question 14.

The Romans who ruled in Jesus' day gave us our modern calendar. Only one change has been made since then and it did not affect the weekly cycle. In October of 1582, ten days were removed. Thursday the 4th was followed by Friday the 15th. Therefore the seventh-day Sabbath on our calendar today is the very same seventh-day that Jesus kept

The seventh day on our calendar is the same seventh day that was on the calendar when Jesus was here.

Have calendar changes made it impossible to find the Sabbath?

_____.

Part 4 Nailed to the Cross

Study Question 15. The Bible talks about more than one type of Sabbath. Which Sabbaths are no longer binding since the cross? Colossians 2:14-17

Those that were a “_____ of _____ to _____”.

There various types of laws mentioned in the Bible. For example, Leviticus is divided into Ceremonial Laws (Leviticus chapters 1-10), Health Laws (Leviticus chapters 11-15), Liturgical Laws (Leviticus 16), Civil Laws (Leviticus 17-25), Moral Laws consisting of the Ten Commandments (Leviticus 26 – see also Deuteronomy 5:6-21; Exodus 20: 10-17) and Judicial Laws (Leviticus 27).

The yearly Sabbaths were not a part of God's perfect Ten Commandment Law that will stand forever and tells us to observe the seventh-day Sabbath (Psalm 19:7; 111:7,8; Isaiah 66:22,23).

Study Question 16. What do Sunday churches say about this problem?

Baptist: “There is no Scriptural evidence of the change of the Sabbath institution from the seventh to the first day of the week” — Baptist Manual

Christian Assembly: “There is not in any place in the Bible any intimation of such a change.” — First Day Observance

Episcopal/Anglican/Church of England: “Is there any command in the New Testament to change the day of weekly rest from Saturday to Sunday? None!” — Manual of Christian Doctrine

Lutheran: “The observance of the Lord’s Day (Sunday) is not founded on any command of God.” — Augsburg Confession of Faith

Summary: “There is _____ Scriptural _____”.

Part 5 My Love and Obedience

Study Question 17. Does Revelation say God’s people keep his commandments? Revelation 12:17; 14:12; 22:14

_____ - three times.

Study Question 18. What does Jesus say to us about this problem? Matthew 15:3

“[Jesus] answered and said unto them, Why do ye also

_____ the commandment of God by your

_____?”

We serve whomsoever we obey (Romans 6:16). Will we serve Jesus and worship on his holy day? Or will we serve (and thus worship) misguided men who were led by Satan to replace God’s holy day with a substitute?

Study Question 19. Do you want to be on the side of tradition and lose, or do you want to be on the side of truth and win?

Study Question 20. Do you want the blessings God gives those who keep the Sabbath?

Part 6 The 10 Commandments (According to the New Testament)

“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments” (1 John 5:2)

First Commandment: “...Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve” (Matthew 4:10).

Second Commandment: “Little children, keep yourselves from idols” (1 John 5:21). “Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device” (Acts 17:29).

Third Commandment: “... that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed” (1 Timothy 6:1).

Fourth Commandment: “But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day” (Matthew 24:20). “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath” (Mark 2:27, 28). “There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his” (Hebrews 4:9, 10 – see also margin). “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth ... all things were created by him, and for him” (Colossians 1:16).

Fifth Commandment: “Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself” (Matthew 19:19).

Sixth Commandment: “... Thou shalt not kill...(Romans 13:9). Thou shalt do no murder” (Matthew 19:18).

Seventh Commandment: “... Thou shalt not commit adultery” (Matthew 19:18; Romans 13:9).

Eighth Commandment: “... Thou shalt not steal” (Matthew 19:18; Romans 13:9).

Ninth Commandment: “...Thou shalt not bear false witness” (Romans 13:9; Matthew 19:18).

Tenth Commandment: “Thou shalt not covet” (Romans 13:9; 7:7).

Part 7 Comparing God and His Law

God is...	God’s Law is...
Spiritual (John 4:24)	Spiritual (Romans 7:14)
Love (1 John 4:8)	Love (Matthew 22:37-40)
Truth (John 14:6)	Truth (Psalm 119:172)
Righteous (1 Corinthians 1:30)	Righteous (Psalm 119:172)
Holy (Isaiah 6:3)	Holy (Romans 7:2)
Perfect (Matthew 5:48)	Perfect (Psalm 19:1)
Stands forever (James 1:17)	Stands forever (Psalm 111:7, 8)
Good (Luke 18:19)	Good (Romans 7:12)
Just (Deuteronomy 32:4)	Just (Romans 7:12)
Pure (1 John 3:3)	Pure (Psalm 19:8)
Unchangeable (James 1:17)	Unchangeable (Matthew 5:18)

Malachi 3:6 says, “For I am the LORD, I change not”. God’s law is a transcript of His character and can no more change or end than can the Eternal God, Himself.

Part 8 Comparing Moral and Ceremonial Laws

Moral Law is...

Called the “Law of Liberty”
(James 2:8-12)

Spoken by God
(Deuteronomy 4:12)

Written by God on stone
(Exodus 24:12)

Placed *in* the Ark
(Hebrews 9:4; Exodus 40:20)

To stand forever
(Psalm 111:7, 6)

Gives the *knowledge* of sin
(Romans 3:20)

Not greivous; not contrary
(1 John 5:3)

Judges *all* men
(James 2:10-12)

Spiritual
(Romans 7:14)

Ceremonial Law is...

Called “Law.. contained in ordinances”
(Ephesians 2:15)

Spoken by Moses
(Leviticus 1:1-3)

Written by Moses in a book
(2 Chronicles 35:12)

Placed in the *side* of the Ark
(Deuteronomy 31:24-26)

Ended at the cross
(Colossians 2:14-17)

Given *because* of sin
(Galatians 3:19)

Contrary to us
(Colossians 2:14-17)

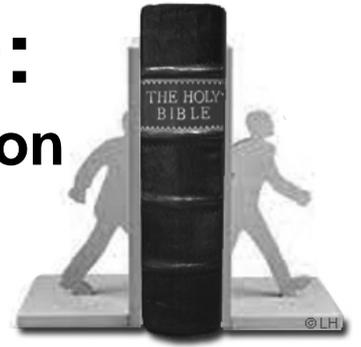
Judges *no* man
(Colossians 2:14-17)

Sensual (Carnal)
(Hebrews 9:10)

Former American President, Ronald Reagan, said,
“I've been told that since the beginning of civilization,
millions and millions of laws
have not improved on the Ten Commandments one bit”.

In the Footsteps of John: Walking through the Book of Revelation with John the Revelator

www.lrhartley.com/john



Program 12. One God, Two Ideologies, Three Angels

Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969) said, “Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its labourers, the genius of its scientists, the houses of its children. This is not a way of life. ... Under the cloud of war, it is humanity hanging itself on a cross of iron.”

Right now, during a time of apparent world peace, there are numerous internal conflicts in progress around the world. Since World War Two tens of millions of human lives have been snuffed out in these hostilities. Even the nations not at war are at each other's throats.

War may emerge anywhere, it seems, and force innocent people to flee. Homes, families, jobs and security are suddenly disrupted and controlled by the enemy. People in such crises realize they may be dead by nightfall. Who can measure the trauma and anguish involved?

While the final countdown for this earth nears the zero hour, every person on earth is making decisions that will determine his or her eternal destiny. Millions are wondering which way to turn, what choices to make.

Satan is determined to draw the multitudes of earth into his camp. His philosophies and theories seem to have a bewitching effect upon people.

His movement is unveiled in Revelation 11. It is engulfing millions.

On the other hand God has a grand message of hope and deliverance for people in these desperate hours. Further, He promises that His message will sweep across the entire world quickly in these last days. His magnificent message is found in Revelation 14.

Christ's and Satan's movements are diametrically opposed. The gospel of Christ is the basis for the first; atheism and secularism supported by the evolutionary theory, is the basis of the second.

The theory of evolution has swept into and captured the national school systems even in Christian countries, in spite of the fact that God condemns it as "science, falsely so called" and "philosophy and vain deceit" (1 Timothy 6:20, Colossians 2:8, 2 Peter 3:3-6).

God's message provides a joyous way out of today's confusion, heart-aches and crisis. Satan's plan is to lead us to personal trauma, woe and destruction.

It is difficult to properly stress the importance of the subject of today's study. We will look at Revelation 11 first.

Part 1. God's Two Witnesses

Study Question 1. What are God's two witnesses who suffer shameful treatment? Revelation 11:3, 4

The two _____ and the two _____.

The two olive trees refer to the Holy Spirit (Zechariah 4:3-6). The two candlesticks refer to the Bible, God's Word (Psalm 119:105, 130). So the two witnesses, olive trees and candlesticks all refer to the same thing - the Bible, which was given by the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21). These two witnesses refer to the Old and New Testaments of the Bible (John 5:39, Luke 24:27).

Croft M. Pentz relates in his *'The Complete Book of Zingers'* (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1990), "Truth needs no defence—it only needs witnesses."

Study Question 2. How long were God's people and the two witnesses persecuted? Revelation 11:2, 3

_____ or 1,260 days.
42 prophetic months and 1260 prophetic days are the same. They equal 1,260 literal years because in prophecy a prophetic day equals a literal year (Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers 14:34).

Study Question 3. When did the 1,260 years of persecution occur?

A.D. _____ - _____
(History affirms a 1,260-year period from 538 A.D. to 1798 A.D., when the Christian Church persecuted Bible - believing Christians).

Study Question 4. What warnings are pronounced against those who attack God's Word? Revelation 11:4-6

"_____ devours them".
People who hurt or do violence to the Holy Scriptures will, in the end, be destroyed by fire (2 Thessalonians 1:8, Revelation 22:18, 19).

Study Question 5. Who finally killed the two witnesses? Revelation 11:7

"The _____ that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit."
The beast from the pit is Satan (Revelation 20:1-3). However, as in Revelation 12:3, 4, the beast also represents an earthly kingdom through which Satan successfully worked (Revelation 12:3, 4, 7-9).

Study Question 6. How long would the two witnesses remain dead? Revelation 11:9

_____ days, which represent 3½ years (*to be explained after the next Study Question*). Satan despises the Bible because it exposes his evil plans and uplifts Jesus. He tries to keep us from studying the Bible at any cost, so let's promise God to spend some time in Bible study each day.

Study Question 7. What nation did Satan use to “kill” the Bible? Revelation 11:8

“Spiritually... called _____ and

_____ where also our Lord was crucified”

Only one nation could possibly fit: the nation of France. It was grossly immoral (Sodom) and atheistic and God-hating (Egypt). During the French Revolution, before the 1,260-year persecution ended, the French government burned and banned Bibles for three-and-a-half years in an effort to abolish Christianity.

The phrase “where also our Lord was crucified” is explained in Hebrews 13:12 and Acts 7:58 revealing that killing God's witnesses is as serious as crucifying His Son.

Study Question 8. What happened after the witnesses were raised? Revelation 11:11, 12

They _____ up to Heaven.

This means that the Word of God would be highly exalted after it was resurrected — and it was. The *British and Foreign Bible Society* was organized in 1804 and the *American Bible Society* in 1816. The Bible became available to the man on the street, and has remained a best seller to this day.

Study Question 9. When God's power struck what

happened? Revelation 11:13

“...the tenth part of _____

fell and in the earthquake were slain of men _____

_____.”

The city mentioned here is the fallen Roman Church, supported by the ten nations of Europe (Revelation 17:12,13). This symbolic “earthquake” hit as Napoleon sent his military to Rome and captured the Papal leader in 1798, bringing to an end the 1,260-year period. France represents a tenth part of the city. Interestingly, seven thousand was the number of Nobles who lost titles during the French Revolution.

Part 2. Origin of Atheistic Communism

Study Question 10. Why did militant atheism spread to Russia? Galatians 5:9; Ecclesiastes 10:1a; James 3:5b

“A _____ leaven leaveneth the

_____ lump.”

A little evil can become big very quickly. The reign of atheism spread as the power of the church and the nobility was broken. Then atheism went north and east to the vast country of Russia. In the Russian Revolution of 1917 a significant part of the uprising was the attack upon religion. Today, Russia’s millions are still, overwhelmingly atheistic.

The virus of atheism has swept across the world, infiltrating everywhere and gaining adherents to an alarming degree. The school systems of the world dispense atheism in their adherence to evolution.

Satan’s movement to defy God has virtually captured the sciences. The devil is angry, militant, brilliant and determined. His *religion* of atheism engulfed a third of the world and is still growing even today.

Part 3. Revelation's Three Angels' Messages

Study Question 11. How far will God's great last day movement go? Revelation 14:6

“To _____ nation and kindred and tongue and people.”

God's last day movement will go worldwide. No one will be left out. All will clearly understand God's requirements and His love. God commands that the everlasting gospel of love for these last days must include His three-point message of Revelation 14:6-12.

Study Question 12. The first part of God's message for today is? Revelation 14:7

“Fear God and _____ to

_____ for the hour of His judgement is come and worship Him that made heaven and earth.”

The message is opposed to evolution. It says “worship the Creator for the hour of his judgement is come”. (Did you know that the judgement has already begun?) In our last study, you will recall, God made it clear that He asks His people to keep His Sabbath as proof that they accept Him as Creator.

Study Question 13. What is the second part of God's great message for today? Revelation 14:8, 18:2-4

“ _____ is _____ .”

“ _____ of her my people that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”

The second point of the message is, “[Symbolic] Babylon has fallen. Get out quickly or you will be involved in her sins and will receive of her plagues.” Edythe Draper shares with us the proverb, “The way to

Babylon will never bring you to Jerusalem”. The real ancient city of Babylon is no more, but you can still see the Gates of Babylon at the great Pergamos Museum in East Berlin. Babylon means “Gate of God” but the gate of that particular god is no longer in use — “Babylon is fallen”.

Part 4. Mark of the Beast or Mark of the Lord?

Study Question 14. What warning does the third part of God’s message give? Revelation 14:9, 10

“If any man worship the _____ and receive his _____ ... the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God.”

God is saying that if a person receives the mark of the beast, he is lost and will receive of her plagues. We will investigate this mark of the beast in more detail in study number 19 (you may recall that in our last study we learned that the mark [or seal] of the Lord is His Sabbath).

Study Question 15. How are those described who accept this message? Revelation 14:12

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that _____ the _____ of God, and the faith of Jesus.”

Part 5. God will finish His work.

Study Question 16. What happens when God’s great messages reach the world? Revelation 14:14; Acts 1:9-11

“I looked and behold a white cloud and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man” (Revelation 14:14). “And when he [Jesus] had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. ... this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven” (Acts 1:9-11).

Answer: The _____ of Jesus.

Jesus returns in the cloud as soon as His message reaches every person on earth. He won't come back until all people have heard and clearly understand His wonderful plan of salvation and His invitation for them to live with Him eternally in His glorious new kingdom. All who are lost eternally will be lost with a full understanding. Jesus is fair. He will see that all clearly see the issues.

Both the Old and New Testaments are filled with promises of the Second Coming of Christ. Someone has reported that there are 1,845 references in the Old Testament alone and a total of 17 books that give it prominence. Of the 260 chapters in the entire New Testament, there are 318 references to Christ's Second Coming. That averages one out of every 30 verses. Furthermore, 23 of the 27 New Testament books refer to this great event. That leaves only four books that do not refer directly to the Second Coming. Interestingly, three of these four books are single-chapter letters that were written to specific persons on a particular subject.

Study Question 17. How long will it take for God's messages to reach everyone? Romans 9:28

“He will finish the work and _____ it
_____ in righteousness.”

This is a promise! God Himself will cut short the time required for the three angels' messages to go to the whole world with great power. To us it may seem that it is a long way off, however He does promise He will come *soon*. We are most likely the generation who will live to see the King return. Are you ready? Are you impatient? What good will it do a farmer to be angry at the plants because they are later in yielding fruit than he thinks they should be? It won't affect the plants. It is not in his power to ripen fruits at his pleasure. Therefore, as the farmer exercises patience and long-suffering waiting for the earth to yield her fruit, so should we in waiting for the presence of the Lord.

Study Question 18. Why will many be lost when Jesus returns? Hosea 4:6

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast

I will also reject thee”

Many will be lost because God gave them information or knowledge and they refused to hear it. People who were lost in Noah’s day “knew not” for the same reason: they wouldn’t listen. (Matthew 24:37-39).

Part 6. Jesus calls His sheep

A gentleman travelling in Syria, relates how he stopped to watch three shepherds who were at a well watering their flocks. The three flocks were all mingled together at the watering place. The traveller could see no difference between them, and he wondered how they would get them separated again without great trouble. But presently one of the shepherds stood forth and called out, “*Menah*,” the Arabic for “Follow me,” and sure enough thirty sheep immediately separated themselves from the indiscriminate mass and began to follow the shepherd up the hill. Then, a second shepherd lifted the cry, “*Menah*,” and a second flock separated themselves and started after him, while the rest of the sheep remained as unconcerned as if no one had spoken at all.

The traveller was so astonished that as he saw the third shepherd preparing to depart, laying his hand to his crook and beginning to gather a few dates fallen from a palm beneath which he had been resting, he stepped up to him and asked: “Would your sheep follow me if I called them?” The man shook his head. “Give me your shepherd’s cloak and crook and let me try.” the traveller said He even wound the shepherd’s turban round his head and standing forth began to cry, “*Menah, Menah!*” but no sheep stirred. They only blinked at him lazily in the sunshine. “Do they never follow any one but you?” asked the traveller. Only when a sheep is sick that the silly creature follows any one,” the shepherd said.

Study Question 19. As one of Jesus' sheep, what will I want to do? John 10:27

Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them and they

_____."

A party of tourists was on its way to Palestine and its guide was describing some of the quaint customs of the East. "Now," said he, "You are accustomed to seeing the shepherd following his sheep through the English lanes and byways. Out in the East, however, things are different, for the shepherd always leads the way, going on before the flock. And the sheep follow him, for they know his voice." The party reached Palestine, and, to the amusement of the tourists, almost the first sight to meet their eyes was that of a flock of sheep being driven along by a man. The guide was astonished and immediately made it his business to accost the man. "How is it that you are driving these sheep?" he asked. "I have always been told that the Eastern shepherd leads his sheep." "You are quite right, sir," replied the man. "The shepherd does lead his sheep. But you see, I'm not the shepherd, I'm the butcher."

Study Question 20. Why has Jesus given us His wonderful messages? John 15:11

"These things have I spoken unto you, that _____

_____ might _____ in you, and

that _____ might be

_____."

Jesus wants us to be happy. Following where Jesus leads and heeding His loving counsel is the only way to everlasting joy and happiness.

Study Question 21. What does Jesus promise us as a free gift? 1 Corinthians 15:57

“But thanks be to God which giveth us the _____ through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Victory over sin and evil is a free gift from Jesus. We need only accept it. Author Reginald Wallis writes, “The triumphant Christian does not fight for victory; he celebrates a victory already won. The victorious life is Christ’s business, not yours.”

Study Question 22. Do you want to escape the awful fate of those who remain in Babylon?

_____.

Study Question 23. Are you willing to receive God’s last day message and be victorious?

_____.

Author Ray Bakke tells of an old Glasgow professor named MacDonald who, along with a Scottish chaplain, had bailed out of an aeroplane behind German lines during the Second World War. They were put in a prison camp. A high wire fence separated the Americans from the British, and the Germans made it next to impossible for the two sides to communicate. MacDonald was put in the American barracks and the chaplain was housed with the Brits.

Every day the two men would meet at the fence and exchange a greeting. Unknown to the guards, the Americans had a little homemade radio and were able to get news from the outside, something more precious than food in a prison camp. Every day, MacDonald would take a headline or two to the fence and share it with the chaplain in the ancient Gaelic language, indecipherable to the Germans.

One day, news came over the little radio that the German High Command had surrendered and the war was over. MacDonald took the news to his friend, then stood and watched him disappear into the British

barracks. A moment later, a roar of celebration came from the barracks.

Life in that camp was transformed. Men walked around singing and shouting, waving at the guards, even laughing at the dogs. When the German guards finally heard the news three nights later, they fled into the dark, leaving the gates unlocked. The next morning, Brits and Americans walked out as free men. Yet they had truly been set free three days earlier by the news that the war was over. While Christ's Kingdom is not fully achieved, we know the outcome of the battle. We too have been set free. Victory can be ours now.

In Ashtabula, Ohio, in 1876, a train went off the tracks and over the bridge, and many people were killed. One of those who died was Reverend P. P. Bliss, a hymn writer and great evangelist. One of his most famous hymns was "*Hold the Fort*". It was written after the occasion when Atlanta had been besieged and General Hood, for the Southern armies, came up and tried to draw away Sherman's army. Hood wasn't successful, but he did have a couple of victories. One of them was at Alatoona Pass, where he attacked. At that point Sherman was on Kennesaw Mountain, a distance away. He looked down and could see that they were losing it. So Sherman (using a mirror) heliographed to his beleaguered troops, "Hold the fort, I am coming."

Major Whittle, a member of Sherman's army, later recounted the tale to Bliss, who used it as the inspiration for his famous hymn:

Ho, my comrades, see the signal, waving in the sky!

Reinforcements now appearing, victory is nigh.

Refrain: "***Hold the fort, for I am coming, Jesus signals still;
Wave the answer back to Heaven, By Thy grace we will.***"

See the mighty host advancing, Satan leading on;

Mighty ones around us falling, courage almost gone!

See the glorious banner waving! Hear the trumpet blow!

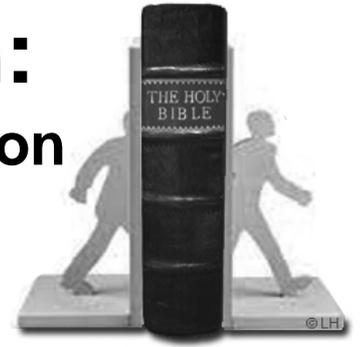
In our Leader's Name we triumph over every foe.

Fierce and long the battle rages, but our help is near;

Onward comes our great Commander, cheer, my comrades, cheer!

In the Footsteps of John: Walking through the Book of Revelation with John the Revelator

www.lrhartley.com/john



Program 13. Who Has the Keys?

Part 1. What keys?

In Matthew Chapter 16, verse 19 Jesus speaks of keys to the kingdom of heaven.

A discerning author from last century tells us: ‘He [Jesus] said, “I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”’

“The keys of the kingdom of heaven” are the words of Christ. All the words of Holy Scripture are His, and are here included. These words have power to open and to shut heaven. They declare the conditions upon which men are received or rejected. Thus the work of those who preach God’s word is a savour of life unto life or of death unto death. Theirs is a mission weighted with eternal results. The Saviour did not commit the work of the gospel to Peter individually. At a later time, repeating the words that were spoken to Peter, He applied them directly to the church’ (Ellen G White, *The Desire of Ages*, Pp413, 414).

We will investigate these keys in another study. Today we are going to look at a different set of keys.

Part 2. Revelation’s Keys of Death

When a person dies is he really dead? There is an old saying, “Dead men tell no tales,” but do they? Today, millions believe that they are in touch with the dead.

According to author James S. Hewett, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Ken McAvoy, a cancer patient who doctors say has only months to live, is

doing a booming business with his offer to deliver a message to the deceased for twenty dollars. He placed two advertisements in a regional magazine offering to contact people on the other side and has fielded dozens of calls from people seeking his services. In the first week he had five requests. By the second, he had more than two dozen. Messages ranged from “I love you and will join you soon” to a simple “Why, Dad?” from a child cut out of a will.

Government officials the world over seek counsel from those who supposedly communicate with the dead.

Is this some gigantic hoax? Or is it one of the grandest blessings to ever come to man? Even more sobering, your own life and future could be in jeopardy. There is no defence for guesswork when results can be so far reaching and final. We must obtain the facts.

Thank God that Jesus, the star of the drama of Revelation, has the answers. He was dead but is now alive forevermore. You might be surprised by some of the things you will learn in this lesson.

Victory Over Death

Study Question 1. What does Jesus have in His hand?

Revelation 1:18

“The _____ of hell and death.”

One day in Central Africa, a missionary and a writer who wished to remain anonymous visited an outstation where, a short time before, the witch doctor, Kalamba, had accepted the Saviour. The implements of his craft, constituting a fortune to those people, he had publicly buried.

They found him in sore fear and distress. His heathen neighbours, now that he had no ‘medicines’ for defence, were predicting his speedy death. “Our medicines will ‘eat you’”, they said. And in his dreams, to which pagan peoples have always attached a dread significance, he had been hearing his wife say to him, “I have dug your grave.”

The missionary spent an hour or more trying to talk him out of his agony

of fear, but the terror was still visibly there.

The writer then suggested to the missionary that he turn in his Baluba Testament, to Revelation 1:17, 18, and show Kalamba, who could not read, the Saviour's assurance, "Fear not; I...have the keys of... death."

"Have him put his finger on it," the writer said, "have him memorize it, and explain to him that those keys are held not in the hand of his enemies, or of dreams, or of hostile medicines, but in the hand of his Saviour, whose personal word to him is, "Fear not, Kalamba, I, your Friend and Saviour, have the keys of death."

This was done, and as Kalamba placed his finger and glued his eyes on that assurance and heard it explained, most beautiful it was to see the anguish of fear lifted and his face grow radiant with peace and courage and joy.

Thank God that Jesus has the keys, or answers, to the mysterious questions and problems regarding death. And since He alone has the answers, we must go to His Word for information. No other source is reliable.

Study Question 2. What is Jesus called in Revelation 1:5?

"The _____ begotten of the dead"

He was not the first raised numerically. Others had been raised prior to His resurrection. He was first from the standpoint of importance. His resurrection is first and foremost of all.

Study Question 3. Why is Jesus' resurrection so important to me? 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

"In Christ shall all _____ made _____."

His resurrection is important to you and me because it has made all other resurrections possible.

Part 3. God Created Man

Study Question 4. How did God create man in the beginning? Genesis 2:7

He “_____ man of the _____ of
the ground and _____ into his nostrils the
_____ of _____.”

Study Question 5. What happens at death? Ecclesiastes 12:7a

“Then shall the _____ to
the earth as it was...”

Study Question 6. What returns to God at death? Ecclesiastes 12:7b; James 2:26

a. “...and the _____ shall _____
unto God who gave it.”

b. “For as the body without _____ is
dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

The margin says that “breath”. “Spirit” and “breath” are alternate translations from the same Greek word (*pneuma*, from *peno*).

Job also points out that the “spirit” and “breath” are the same (Job 27:3). So the “spirit” that returns to God at death is simply the breath of life (Genesis 2:7).

Study Question 7. Did God place the breath of life in man at creation? Genesis 2:7

What happened? “And _____ became a living soul.”

God formed man's body of the dust. He then combined breath with this body and man became a living soul. So biologically speaking, *body plus breath equals soul* (a living being).

The Bible makes it clear that a living, breathing person is a soul. Therefore, we all are living souls.

Study Question 8. Do souls die? Ezekiel 18:4, 20

_____. "The soul that sinneth it _____
_____."

The Bible does not support "the undying soul" concept. Rather, scripture teaches the human soul is subject to death.

Part 4. Death and The Grave

Study Question 9. What happens to the soul at death? Psalm 104:29, 30

"... they _____ and _____ to
their _____."

The soul goes nowhere, it simply ceases to exist. At creation two things combine to make a soul — body and breath. At death these two separate. It is only the "breath of life" or "God's divine power which maintains life" that returns to God - not the soul (Acts 17:28).

Study Question 10. Where are the dead? John 5:28, 29, Job 21:32

In their _____.

The dead are not in Heaven or hell, but are in their graves. At Pentecost Peter said that David was in his grave and not in Heaven (Acts 2:29, 34). True, David may well be saved in Heaven, but not yet. It is God's plan for all the dead to wait in their graves until Jesus returns and resurrects them (Hebrews 11:32, 39, 40).

Study Question 11. Can dead people think? Psalm 146:4

“His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day

Study Question 12. Do dead people know what loved ones are doing? Job 14:12,21

“His sons come to honour and he _____ it

_____; and they are brought low, but he

_____ it _____ of them.”

The following scriptures are specific:

Job 7:9, 10 *The dead can't go back and haunt houses.*

Psalm 6:5 *The dead do not remember or give thanks.*

Isaiah 38:18, 19 *The dead can't learn truth.*

Psalm 115:17 *The dead do not praise the Lord.*

Study Question 13. Does any part of man know anything in death? Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, 10

“The _____
anything.”

Words could not be plainer. The dead are in no way involved with anything. They cannot contact the living. Death is not life in Heaven, hell or purgatory. Death is just the opposite of life.

The words “soul” and “spirit” are used 1,600 times in the Bible, but never—not even once—is either word given any recognition of life or personality or wisdom or knowledge when separated from the body.

Part 5. Resurrection From Death

**Study Question 14. When are the righteous dead raised?
1 Corinthians 15:20, 23; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17**

At the _____ of Christ.

Study Question 15. How did Jesus refer to death?

John 11:11-14

“These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend

_____; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.”

Death is called “sleep” at least 50 times in the Bible. We are to regard it as a sound, dreamless sleep until the resurrection morning when Jesus comes.

Notice how else Jesus Himself describes death:

Matthew 9:24 He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn.

Mark 5:39 And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? The damsel is not dead, but sleepeth.

Luke 8:52, 53 And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead.

In Jesus’ own words above, death is described to be like a sleep.

The Gospel writer Matthew (27:52, 53) wrote: And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

The Apostle Paul believed likewise:

1 Corinthians 15:12-22 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the

dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring [forth from the grave] with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we, which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent [precede] them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which 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. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Here are a few examples from the Old Testament:

Job 14:12 So man lies down and does not rise; till the heavens are no more, men will not awake or be roused from their sleep.

Psalms 13:3 Consider and hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death.

Daniel 12:2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Robert C. Shannon tells us that in Bristol, England there is this epitaph: 'Scipio Africanus, / Born a Pagan and a Slave / Now Sweetly Sleeps a Christian in My Grave'.

Perhaps none of us can say that we were born pagans, nor can we say that we were born slaves. However, we had become slaves to sin and had to be liberated. We all have had to move from doubt to faith. It is possible for us to view death as the sweet sleep of a Christian who will wake to life everlasting.

The Bible translator J. B. Phillips (1906-1982) wrote, "Christ taught an astonishing thing about physical death: not merely that it is an experience robbed of its terror, but that as an experience it does not exist at all. To 'sleep in Christ,' or 'fall asleep,' – these are the expressions the New Testament uses. It is high time the 'icy river', 'the gloomy portal', 'the bitter pains' and all the rest of the melancholy images were brought face-to-face with the fact: Jesus Christ has abolished death."

Will Hay (1888-1949) described death this way: "For each of us there comes a moment when death takes us by the hand and says, 'it is time to rest, you are tired, lie down and sleep'."

John Donne (1572-1631) penned, "One short sleep past, we wake eternally, and death shall be no more: death, thou shalt die".

Samuel Bolton (1606-1654) observed, "The believer is freed from death as a curse. The nature of death is taken away, and therefore the name is changed. It is but called a sleep, and a sleep in Christ, and a gathering to our fathers, a change, a departing. Death is the godly man's wish, the wicked man's fear."

Laurence Binyon in his poem "Lest We Forget", read at ANZAC Ceremonies every year has this less-well-known stanza describing fallen soldiers: "They mingle not with their laughing comrades again; / They sit

no more at familiar tables at home; / They have no lot in our labour of the day-time; / They sleep beyond England's foam.”

Study Question 16. Do people have immortality now?

1 Timothy 6:15,

16

_____. Only _____ has immortality now.

Man is mortal, subject to death (Job 4:17). Yet God's people do have the gift of eternal life now through Jesus. It begins with the new birth and will be continued for eternity (1 John 5:12; John 6:54).

Study Question 17. When will God's people receive immortality? 1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:51-55

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God”(1 Thessalonians 4:16).

“Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” (1 Corinthians 15:51-55).

The _____ of Jesus.

Immortality means ‘not subject to death’. Jesus will give immortality to His people as a free gift at His second coming. Until then no-one but God has immortality.

Most Protestants today believe, as Catholics do, that at death, people either go to Heaven (or paradise) for eternity or they burn in Hell for eternity. Dr. Edward White (1819-1898), a Congregationalist minister in

Britain, is usually credited with uncovering this lost doctrine of “soul sleep”. His discovery began with his rejection of John Calvin’s (1509-1564) view of predestination. Calvin taught that only a predetermined number of people could be saved and the rest were doomed to suffer in eternal hell. Dr. White argued that God alone is immortal (1 Timothy 6:15, 16), and therefore, the soul of man cannot be immortal. Since the soul is subject to death, the souls of sinners cannot be tormented forever.

Part 6. Satan’s Hoax About Death

Study Question 18. What lie about death did Satan tell Eve?

Genesis 3:4

“Thou shalt _____ surely _____.”

In essence, Satan said, “You won’t really die if you disobey”, and that is what he is still telling people today.

Study Question 19. Why does Satan want people to believe the dead are alive? Matthew 24:24; Revelation 16:14.

“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall

_____ the very elect” (Matthew 24:24).

Satan and his angels can pose as spirits of the dead to deceive people.

Study Question 20. What causes the fall of Babylon?

Revelation 18:2, 4, 5

She has become “the _____ of devils.”

Satan has gained access to the churches through his falsehood that the dead are alive. This gives Satan full power to deceive (1 Timothy 4:1).

Study Question 21. What happens when evil angels deceive world leaders?

a. Revelation 18:23 “... by thy sorceries were _____

_____ deceived.”

b. Revelation 16:13, 14 “_____ them _____ the _____ of that great day of God Almighty.”

Satan and his angels, claiming to be the spirits of the dead, will influence the rulers of the nations of the world and lead them into that final battle of Armageddon, which will end in their total destruction.

Part 7. An Important Test:

Study Question 22. Where should I seek information about death? Isaiah 8:19,20

a. People should “seek _____ their _____.”

b. “If they speak not according to _____... there is no light in them.”

This passage plainly states that we must refuse to listen to those who claim to speak for the dead. We are to receive our information from God’s word only.

Study Question 23. Those who obey God will enter Heaven. Who are some who will not enter Heaven? Revelation 22:15

“For without are dogs and _____ and whoremongers and murderers and idolators.”

Study Question 24. Does witchcraft claim to contact the dead? Ephesians 5:11

_____. God says, “And have no fellowship with the

_____ of

_____.”

Grandma Rigby lived near the top of a hill accessed only by very dangerous narrow winding road cut into the hillside with the cutting on one side and a steep cliff on the other. One day when she was in the

village at the bottom of the hill she asked around the village to possibly employ one of the young unemployed youth to act as her driver.

Three young possibilities came to see her before she returned home. She asked each of them the same question: “Because it can be very thrilling driving up and down the mountain road, tell me how close to the edge do you think you could go safely without tipping my vehicle off the road?”

The first young man enthusiastically explained that he could easily drive with in a few inches of the edge and still not overturn the vehicle. Upon hearing this, the second young man bragged that he could easily drive with as much as half the wheel width over the edge. The third young man, the one who got the job, said, “Madam, because I value you and your vehicle I would be sure to drive as far away from the edge as possible!”

In the same way, we should stay as far away as possible from anything that in any way resembles witchcraft.

Presumed contact with the dead is contact with satanic forces.

Part 8. No More Death

Study Question 25. Why are the godly dead called blessed? Revelation 14:13

They “_____ from their labours...”

It does not say they transfer their labours to Heaven (No, their work is done).

Man simply sleeps in the grave till the resurrection (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

Study Question 26. What finally happens to the curse of death? Revelation 20:14

“And death and hell were _____

_____ the lake of _____. This is the second death.”

Death ends in the lake of fire. Then God says, “There shall be no more death” (Revelation 21:4).

Study Question 27. When loved ones die, what is our comfort? 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18

The hope of the _____. We should “comfort one another with these words.”

The Bible does not picture an immortal soul winging its way to Heaven at death, neither does it present death as an open door to Heaven. God’s word always calls attention to the second coming of Jesus and the resurrection of the dead as the time of heavenly reward.

Part 9. God’s Great Power

Study Question 28. What great power is promised to us today? Philipians 3:10

“... the power of His _____.”

What a joy it will be to see resurrected our friends and loved ones who died believing in Jesus. Truly, the second coming of Jesus will be a grand and glorious event for those who love and serve Him.

Study Question 29. Do you see that your only hope of eternal life is in Jesus?

Study Question 30. Are you determined to be among the obedient ones who are raised in the first resurrection?

Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892) wrote, “If you desire Christ for a perpetual guest, give him all the keys of your heart; let not one cabinet be locked up from him; give him the range of every room and the key of every chamber”.

Why be afraid of death,
As though your life were breath?
Death but anoints your eyes
With clay. O glad surprise.
Why should ye be forlorn?
Death only husks the corn.
Why should you fear to meet
The thresher of the wheat?
Is sleep a thing to dread?
Yet sleeping you are dead
Till you awake and rise,
Here, or beyond the skies.
Why should it be a wrench
To leave your wooden bench!

Why not, with happy shout,
Run home when school is out!
The dear ones left behind?
Oh, foolish one and blind!
A day and you will meet—
A night and you will greet.
This is the death of death
To breathe away a breath
And know the end of strife,
And taste the deathless life,
And joy without a fear,
And smile without a tear;
And work, nor care to rest,
And find the last the best

— Maltbie D. Babcock

If you are a believer, the moment you leave this life, the body is put to sleep. That's the way the early Christians spoke of their own who died. In fact, they called the place of burial, the graveyard, the *koimeterion*, and that really means a rest house for strangers. It was the word for the inn that was closed to Mary and Joseph. Such places were all through the Roman Empire, and we get from it our word 'cemetery' today. A cemetery is a resting place, a sleeping place.

What do we call sleeping places today? We call them motels and hotels. You don't weep, do you, when your loved ones write, "We're going to spend a week at the Hilton Hotel in San Francisco"? We congratulate them and think it's wonderful. We miss them if they're close to us and are going to be away from us, but they're asleep in the Hilton Hotel.

Well, that was the feeling of the early church. They took their loved ones and put them out in the cemetery, in the ground, when they were asleep in death, and called it the *koimeterion*.

A Christian gentleman who was seriously ill and lacked assurance of salvation said to his physician, “Doctor, although I’m a Christian, I’m afraid to die. Can you tell me exactly what happens to us in the hour of death?” The surgeon, who was also a believer, thought for a moment and then replied, “I’m afraid I can’t give you an exact answer to that question!” As he walked across the room to leave, he desperately wished he could say something comforting.

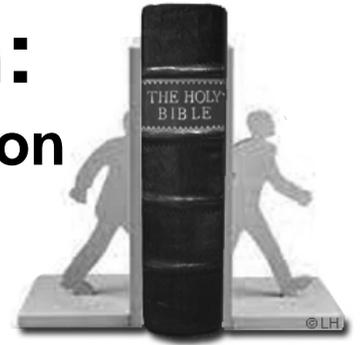
Pausing briefly before opening the door, he heard the sound of scratching and whining on the other side. Suddenly he realized that he had left his car window open and his little dog had jumped out. With the patient’s permission, he let in his pet poodle who leaped on him with an eager show of gladness. In a flash the doctor’s mind was awakened to a scriptural truth he had never before put into words.

Turning to the sick man, he said, “Did you see how my dog acted? He’s never been in this room before. He had no idea what was inside; yet when I opened the door, he sprang in without fear, for he knew his master was here. As Christians we have not been told a great deal about the glories that await us in heaven after the resurrection. But one thing we do know; our Master is there, and that is enough.

“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:50-57) .

In the Footsteps of John: Walking through the Book of Revelation with John the Revelator

www.lrhartley.com/john



Program 14. Here Comes the Judge (Part 1)

Would you believe that about 3,500 years ago, in a desert just east of Egypt, God demonstrated with graphic aids His entire plan of salvation to over two million slaves who had just been freed?

Would you believe that about 2,500 years ago God referred to these visual aids as foundation material when in a vision He announced to His exiled prophet in Iran, the date for the judgment to begin?

Would you believe that in the book of Revelation, God reveals that one way that His church can be identified is that it will be announcing to the world the date for the judgment to begin?

It all seems incredible, doesn't it? Yet, it is true, and more than this, the subject is so important that Jesus refers to it directly or indirectly at least *fifty times* in the book of Revelation.

Make no mistake about it: in this lesson we consider a topic of life and death import. It will touch upon several extremely significant Bible themes which are interrelated and which are weighty beyond description.

We will need to seek explanations outside of Revelation for this subject. We will look especially at the book of Daniel, which covers several of the same prophecies as does Revelation. The books of Daniel and Revelation explain each other.

May the Holy Spirit guide us in our study.

Part 1 – The Sanctuary Symbol of Salvation

Study Question 1. In Moses' day, God freed His people from slavery in Egypt, and led them into the desert where He explained His plan of salvation to them through visual aids.

What was the most important visual aid called? Exodus 25:8

“And let them make me a _____.”

The sanctuary was the portable temple where God met His people for worship and sacrificial offerings.

Study Question 2. How would Moses know how to build this sanctuary? Exodus 25:40

God showed him a _____.

Study Question 3. Where is the original sanctuary that God used for the pattern? Psalm 102:19; Hebrews 9:23; Hebrews 8:1-5

The earthly sanctuary was a pattern of the sanctuary that is located in

_____.

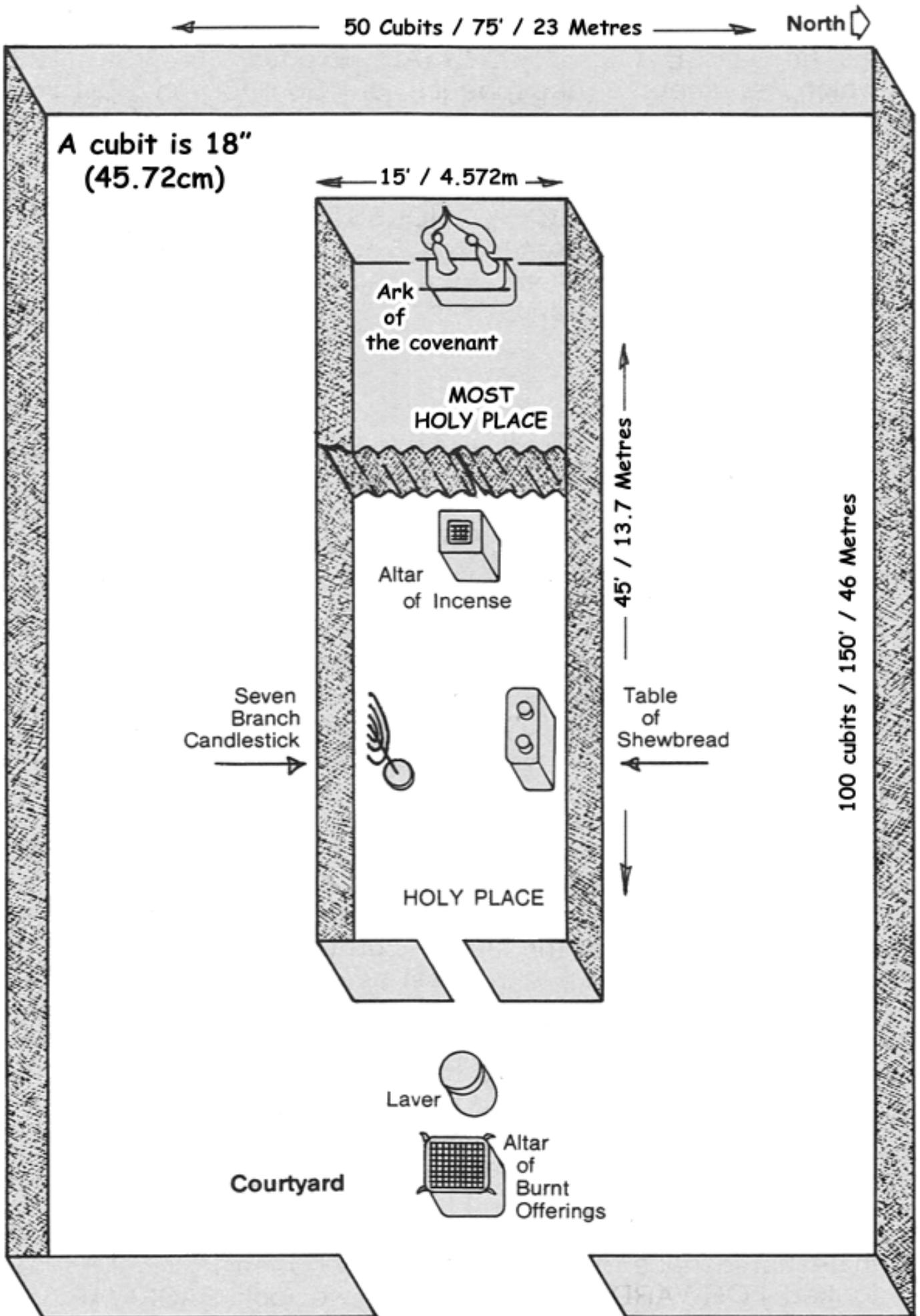
“They offer worship in a sanctuary that is a sketch and shadow of the heavenly one; for Moses, when he was about to erect the tent, was warned, ‘See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain’” (Hebrews 8:5 NRSV).

Study Question 4. Why is it important to understand the sanctuary? Psalm 77:13

“Thy _____, O God, is in the _____.”

God's way or His plans for the salvation of mankind are revealed in the sanctuary.

On the next page is a drawing of the sanctuary and courtyard based on the description found in Exodus chapters 25-40. A detailed description of this may be found on pages 11, 12 of this study guide.



Study Question 5. What happened in the earthly sanctuary or temple when Jesus died? Mark 15:37, 38

“The _____ of the _____
was rent in _____.”

The temple veil (as thick as the palm of your hand) was tom in two from top to bottom by unseen hands; and the Most Holy Place was thrown open to view. Ordinarily, no one but the High Priest saw inside the ‘Most Holy Place’, and he saw it only annually on the Day of Atonement. The earthly sanctuary services had come to an end with Jesus’ death. He is the true Passover (1 Corinthians 5:7; Revelation 5:6-14) to which the sacrificial system pointed. The law of sacrifices was to last only until Jesus’ death (Galatians 3:16, 19). From that moment the *heavenly* sanctuary began to serve God’s people, and the *earthly* sanctuary, and it’s services, were nullified by God (Hebrews 8:1-5; 9:24).

Part 2 – Jesus Our High Priest

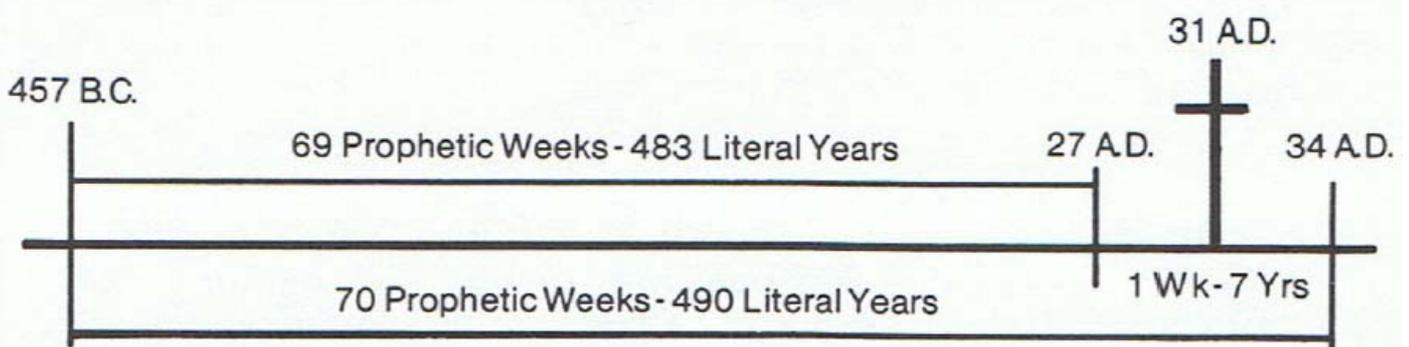
Study Question 6. When Jesus began to serve as our priest in the heavenly sanctuary, after His ascension, in which apartment or section was He working? Revelation 1:12, 13

“I saw . . . in the midst of the seven _____

one like unto the _____ of man”.

He began His ministry as our priest in the *Holy Place* where the seven candlesticks are (See the diagram on the previous page).

Let’s review a few points that we looked at in an earlier study:



a. Beginning with Artaxerxes' decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem in the autumn of 457 B.C., God gave His chosen people, the Jews, 490 additional years of probationary time, which would end in the autumn of 34 AD.

b. The first 483 years were to reach to the Messiah. It happened precisely as foretold. Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit in the autumn of 27 AD. and became the "Messiah" which means "anointed" (Luke 3:1, 21, 22). He recognized the fulfillment of this prophecy when he began to preach by saying, "The time is fulfilled" (Mark 1:1-4, 15).

c. Jesus' crucifixion took place 3½ years after His anointing, in the spring of 31 AD at the time of the Passover.

d. Four hundred and eighty-three (483) years passed from the decree of Artaxerxes until the Messiah in 27 AD. After 27 AD., one prophetic week, or seven years, yet remained of the 70 weeks, or 490 years allotted to the Jews. Jesus was "cut off" or crucified (Daniel 9:26) in the "midst of that week" (Daniel 9:27) in the spring of 31 AD. The crucifixion came right on prophetic schedule: 3½ years after the autumn of 27 AD. It was mid-week, or the middle of the seven years, so 3½ years remained — which ended in the autumn of 34 AD.

Part 3 – The Gospel to the Gentiles

Study Question 7. When Jesus sent His disciples to preach, where did He tell them to go and not to go? Matthew 10:5, 6

a. "Go _____ into the way of the _____."

b. "Go rather to the lost _____ of the house of

_____, He told His disciples not to work among the Gentiles yet, but to go only to the Jews (Israel). The reason is clear: the Jews' probationary time as God's people did not end until 34 AD. They were to be given first opportunity.

Study Question 8. Stephen was stoned and general persecution was launched against the church 3½ years after the cross in 34 AD.

What did the apostles later say which indicated probation had closed for the Jews as God's chosen people? Acts 13:46

“It was _____ that the _____
of God should _____ have been
spoken to _____; but seeing ye put it
_____ you, and _____
yourselves _____ of everlasting
_____, lo, we _____ to the
_____.”

Study Question 9. In Matthew 21:43, Jesus warned plainly that He was taking the kingdom from the Jews and giving it to another nation.

**To what nation did He refer? Galatians 3:7, 29;
Romans 2:28, 29; 1 Peter 2:9.**

“They which are of _____ the same are the children of
_____” . . . “If ye be _____, then are
ye Abraham's _____ and _____”.

Literal Israel rejected God by finally killing Jesus and His followers. God then took away from *literal* Israel the privilege and responsibility of communicating God's love to the world.

The chosen nation (the Christian Church) referred to in Matthew 21:43 is *spiritual* Israel (Galatians 6:15, 16). Every servant of Jesus from every race, world-wide, is a part of God's “holy nation” (1 Peter 2:9), to which

the promises made to Israel of old, now apply in a *spiritual* sense. In Luke 21:24 Jesus said, “Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled”. The time of the Gentiles reaches to the coming of the Lord (Matthew 24:14). Earthly Jerusalem will never again be accepted as God’s chosen city. His chosen city is the New Jerusalem (Revelation 3:12). The prophecies of Revelation have very special meaning for the “nation” of spiritual Israel. This is why your author has included this important topic.

Study Question 10. Since Jesus only lived 3½ years of the last seven given to the Jewish people, how could He confirm His covenant for the entire “week” or seven years as promised in Daniel 9:27? Hebrews 2:3

Salvation; which at the _____ began to be _____

by the Lord, and was _____ unto us by _____

that _____ Him”.

The disciples confirmed it for the last 3½ years.

Virtually *all* Bible scholars agree that the first 69 weeks of Daniel 9 end with the baptism of Jesus (27 AD.), But many take the last week of the 70 week prophecy and move it down to just before the Lord’s return. No other Bible prophecy is divided in this strange non-biblical way.

Study Question 11. Is there any Scriptural reason for doing this?

_____.

Part 4 – The Seven Year Tribulation Theory

Study Question 12. The teaching that projects into the future the last seven years of Daniel 9:24-27 is not in the Bible.

Where did it come from? Mark 7:13

“Making the word of God of none effect by your _____.”

You may be shocked to discover that this popular and widespread teaching which moves the last seven years of the prophecy of Daniel 9 into the future came from men. History documents this. It is not hard to check this at a public library or on the Internet.

In the 1500's the reformers were teaching that the prophecies of both Daniel and Revelation indict the Papacy as the antichrist. This greatly discomfited the Papacy so they struck back by adopting a few other interpretations of the prophecies. One of those alternate interpretations is *Futurism*, a system developed (According to *The Blessed Hope* by George Eldon Ladd.) by the Jesuit scholar, Francisco Ribera, in the 16th century.

In the mid-nineteenth century, Ribera's concept was further developed and has become the basic method of interpreting the books of Daniel and Revelation. Modern *Futurism* applies all of Revelation, excepting the first four chapters, to the few final years at the end of the world. It makes antichrist a single, evil person who would be received by the Jews, would rebuild Jerusalem, abolish Christianity, deny Christ, persecute the church (the tribulation) and rule the world for 3½ years.

Most adherents of this non-biblical theory would be startled to learn the origin of Futurism. Futurists set aside the prophetic rule that one prophetic day equals one literal year (Ezekiel 4:6). They count the 3½ years/42 months/1260 days of Daniel and Revelation as a literal 3½ years and project it into the future. But God's prophetic rule (which history has proven) makes the 3½ years/42 months/1260 days a literal 1260 years which is the time of the Papal persecution of the past — 538 AD. to 1798 AD. (We will delve into more on this in later lessons).

There is no Bible justification whatsoever for moving the last seven years of Daniel 9 into the future. Those seven years are past. They ended in 34 AD.

Puzzlingly, many futurist scholars agree on the date of 31 AD. for the crucifixion but still refuse to abandon their seven year theory.

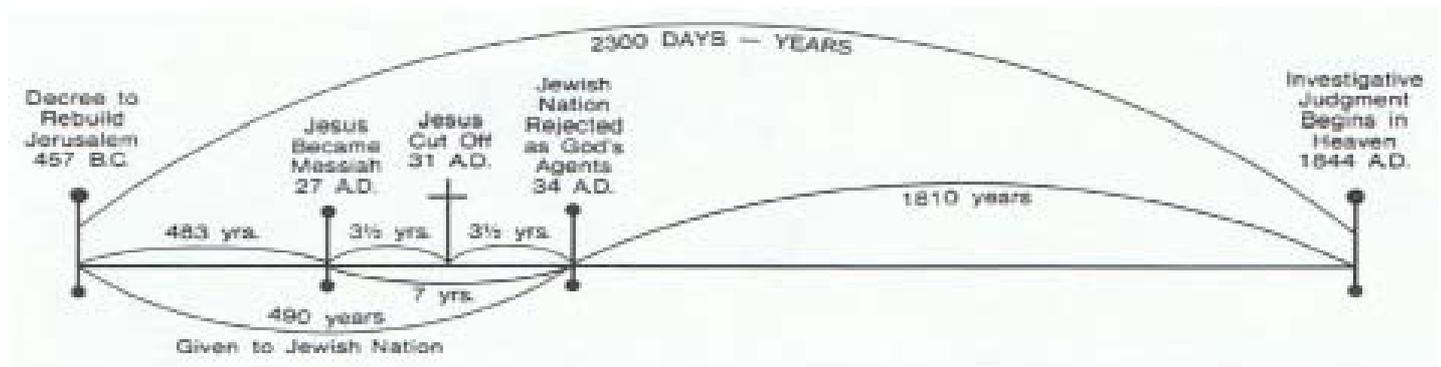
The *tragedy* is that "Futurism" confuses us as to whom the *real* Antichrist is by placing *antichrist* or the *beast* at some time in the future,

when the Bible clearly indicates this power, in existence today, came out of Pagan Rome. Unless we correctly identify this beast, we risk receiving it's *mark* and losing our place in God's Kingdom.

Part 5 – The Date for the Judgement Given by God
Study Question 13. When did Daniel say the sanctuary in heaven would be cleansed? Daniel 8:14

“Unto two _____ and three _____ days; then shall the _____ be _____.”

Both Daniel 8 and 9 deal with the 2300-year prophecy. Daniel 9 explains the date for the beginning of the time prophecy of Daniel 8. The 490 years allotted to the Jews begins at the same time as the 2300 years. The chart below completes the 2300 year time prophecy diagram.



Study Question 14. When did the judgment begin in heaven? (See above)

_____ AD.

Many thought that Jesus would return to the earth at this time because of these prophecies. Former Jew Joseph Wolfe in Europe, Jesuit Priest Manuel de Lacunza y Díaz in South America, Former Baptist William Miller in the US, and hundreds of other clergymen. It is most sobering to realize that the judgment has been in session for well over 150 years.

Look again at the plan of the sanctuary on page 3.

Study Question 15. When the judgment began in heaven, at which compartment of the sanctuary did the prophet John see Jesus? Revelation 11:15-19

“And there was _____ in His temple the _____”(vs. 19).
The prophet saw Jesus where the ark is located in the sanctuary – that is in the second apartment, the *Most Holy Place* (See diagram on page 3).

Study Question 16. What must God’s last-day church be preaching world-wide today, as part of the gospel? Revelation 14:6, 7

“Fear, _____ and give _____ to Him; for the _____
of His _____ is come.”

God’s church for today *must* be teaching that the heavenly judgment is *now* in session. It began in 1844, and when it ends, the horrific problem of sin will be ended forever. Consequently all should give glory to God.

Study Question 17. How many will join in praise to Jesus, the Lamb, at His throne? Revelation 5:11

“Ten thousand times ten thousand and _____ of thousands”
(vs. 11).

Study Question 18. What touching words are found in Daniel 9:26 in connection with Jesus’ sacrifice?

“Shall Messiah be cut off but _____.”

Touching, indeed. When Jesus died it was not for Himself. He died for our sins because He loves us dearly and beyond our comprehension.

Part 6 – My Personal Application

All Jesus asks in return for giving His life for us is that we accept Him as our loving Saviour and Friend, and let Him recreate us into His image, so

He can take us into His new kingdom. What a wonderful Lord and Saviour.

Study Question 19. Jesus longs for you to say the word of acceptance now, so He can write your name in His book of life. Will you do it?

The Old Testament Sanctuary and its Services According to Scripture

1. A drawing of the sanctuary and courtyard appears on page 3.
2. The sanctuary consisted of three main parts: The *Courtyard* (Exodus 27:9-13), The *Holy Place* and the *Most Holy Place* (Exodus 26:33).
 3. In the courtyard were the *Altar of Burnt Offerings* (Exodus 27:1-8); the *laver* for washing (Exodus 30:18-21); and the sanctuary structure itself.

The courtyard fence was made of white linen supported by 60 pillars (Exodus 27:9).
 4. Inside the Holy Place were three pieces of furniture:
 - a. The *Table of Shewbread* (Exodus 25:23-30) which represented dependence on God for physical and spiritual food. It pointed to Jesus the living bread (1 Corinthians 11:23, 24; John 6:51).
 - b. The *Seven Branch Candlestick or Menorah* (Exodus 25:31-40). The *lights* represent the Word of God (Psalm 119:105) and Jesus Christ (John 9:5); and the *oil* represents the Holy Spirit (Zechariah 4:1-6; Revelation 4:5).
 - c. The *Altar of Incense* (Exodus 30:1-9). *Incense* represents the prayers of God's people (Psalm 141:2; Revelation 5:8; 8:3, 4).
 5. In the Most Holy Place there was one piece of furniture only, the *Ark of the Covenant* (Exodus 25:10-22). It was a chest overlaid with gold. The cover was called the *Mercy Seat* (Exodus 25:17-22). On it were carved angels of gold. Here, between the angels, dwelt the presence of God.

Inside the ark were the Ten Commandments written on tables of stone (Deuteronomy 10:4, 5). The Ark demonstrated both mercy and law. The law must be kept but God provides mercy for His people who break it.
 6. When a person sinned he brought a sacrificial animal to the priest. He confessed his sins over the head of the animal then slew it with his own hands. Sin

was thus transferred from the sinner to the animal substitute. The priest sprinkled some of the blood on the horns of the altar of burnt offerings and a portion of its flesh was eaten by the priest (See Leviticus 6:25-30).

With the sin offering (for the congregation as a whole), blood was sprinkled on the veil by the priest and put on the horns of the altar of incense. Sin was thus transferred from the animal substitute to the sanctuary. This demonstrates how Jesus becomes my substitute before the Father when I accept His blood in my behalf.

There was no intrinsic virtue in the blood of a lamb to atone for sin. Faith in Jesus' sacrifice to come was the key (1 John 1:7). They looked *forward* to the cross just as we look *backward* to it

Christ is represented by the *lamb* that *dies* as my substitute (John 1:29) and also by the *priest* who *lives* as my High Priest in heaven. Both symbols are necessary to represent Jesus' ministry. His sacrifice paid for my sins; His present ministry restores me to His image. Both are essential. Neither is sufficient alone.

7. In addition to the daily services, once each year the high priest entered the Most Holy Place to 'cleanse' the sanctuary (Leviticus 16:29-34; Hebrews 9:7). The sins of the people were transferred all year long, by their sacrifices, to the sanctuary. Once a year, on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) two goats were chosen, one as the scapegoat and the other as the Lord's goat. The Lord's goat was slain and its blood taken into the Most Holy Place, accomplishing the work of cleansing. Then the priest put the sins on the scapegoat, who was led into the wilderness to escape and die (Leviticus chapter 16 and 23:27-30).

The Lord's goat represents Jesus, who is our atonement, substitute and example. The scapegoat, who represented Satan, was separated from God's people forever. In like manner, after being arraigned in judgment at the close of the thousand years, Satan, his angels, and sin will be destroyed and thus banished forever from the universe.

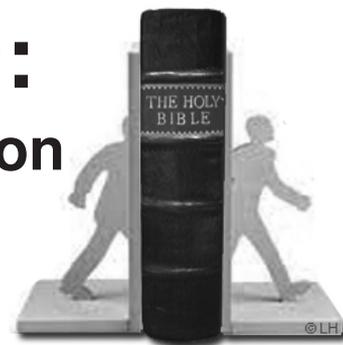
The Day of Atonement was a day of judgment. If sins were confessed prior to that day the people were saved. If not, they were cut off from among God's people. Their doom was sealed (Leviticus 23:27-30). It was a day of heartfelt confession, repentance and earnest prayer.

The Jews have always considered the Day of Atonement or 'Yom Kippur' a solemn day of judgment. From the Jewish Encyclopædia we read:

"God, seated on His throne to judge the world . . . openeth the Book of Records; it is read, every man's signature being found therein. The great trumpet is sounded; a still, small voice is heard; the angels shudder, saying, this is the day of judgment . . . On New Year's Day the decree is written; on the Day of Atonement it is sealed who shall live and who are to die" (Article, Atonement, day of...).

In the Footsteps of John: Walking through the Book of Revelation with John the Revelator

www.lrhartley.com/john



Program 15. Here Comes the Judge (Part 2)

The word ‘judgement’ fills the mind with questions: Who will be judged? How is evidence gathered? Must I defend myself with my stammering mouth or does heaven provide legal help? Who decides Satan’s sentence? Why does God need a judgement anyway? Doesn’t He already know everything about everyone? In light of my conduct, do I have even the slightest chance of being pronounced innocent in the judgement?

The judgement is such a crucial part of God’s great plan that some claim that the Scriptures mention it 1,000 times. Revelation says it most loudly, however. In the last lesson we discovered that the judgement has already begun in heaven. May God’s Spirit impress us as we continue to study this vital topic.

Part 1 – On Trial Before God

David Mansfield (an Australian Anglican Minister) in his book *‘About Life that’s Worth Living and Lasts’* (Self-published, Sydney, 2001, p147) dramatically illustrates our topic for today: ‘Having celebrity status, [Bishop Witt] was invited to be a guest on a television chat show. Lounging on their studio couches, chatting away before a live audience and viewers all over Australia. [Bishop Witt] broke into the flow of questioning and asked the chat-show host, “Do you realise that one day the Good Lord will be sitting where I am, and you’ll be the one being interviewed?”

The television host responded, “Will it make a good interview?” “It will be a very short interview,” Bishop Witt said, “The Good Lord will lean over, tap you on the knee, look into your eye, and ask ‘What did you think of Me?’ ... and your life will depend on that moment!”

Study Question 1. According to Scripture, who will face heavenly Judgement? 2 Corinthians 5:10

“For we must _____ appear before the judgement seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

Study Question 2. According to our last lesson, when did the judgement begin in heaven? Daniel 8:14

The judgement began in 1844. Jesus then entered the Most Holy Place of the sanctuary to begin the heavenly Day of Atonement. Revelation 11:19 fits the same time period. It also speaks of the judgement beginning in heaven.

Study Question 3. Who are the judges? Psalm 50:14-21; John 5:22

“_____ is judge Himself.”

“For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgement to

_____”

Though God presides at the judgement, He has turned over the leading role to His Son. How exciting to have our best and truest friends as our judges.

Study Question 4. What attitude do the Father and Son have toward us?

John 16:27 a. “For the Father Himself _____ you...”

1 Timothy 2:3, 4 b. “God our Saviour... would have

_____ to be saved.”

There are three phases of the judgement. Phase one is a pre-second-advent judgement, phase two is a judgement during the 1,000 years and

phase three is a final judgement at the close of the 1,000 years.
Let's review them carefully.

Part 2 – Phase One, the Pre-Advent Judgement

Study Question 5. Who will face God in the first phase of the judgement that is now taking place in heaven? 1 Peter 4:17

“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the

_____ of _____: and if it first begin at

_____, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?”

The house of God is His church (1 Timothy 3:15). The judgement, now in progress, centres on those who *claim* to be Jesus' servants. The wicked are not judged in the first phase of the judgement that will reveal which *believers* are false and which are true.

Study Question 6. Who is the advocate (or attorney) for the righteous? 1 John 2:1; Hebrews 9:24; 7:25

“And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father,

_____ the righteous.”

It seems incredible (praise God), but our judge is also our representative. The Bible is clear (Hebrews 2:17, 18) that He is merciful and faithful. What superb traits for our advocate. Jesus who gave His life for us, now serves as representative to stand for us in Heaven.

Study Question 7. What will be considered in the judgement? Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14; Matthew 12:36

“God shall bring _____ into

judgement, with every _____,

whether it be _____ or whether it be _____.”

Study Question 8. What will God use as His standard of measurement in the judgement? James 2:10-12

“...they... shall be judged by the _____ of _____.”
The Ten Commandments are God’s standard in the judgement . In study number 11 we learnt that the law is God’s character described in words.

Part 3 – God’s Great Record Books

Study Question 9. Where does God keep the record of my life? Revelation 20:12

“ And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and

_____ [of Remembrance] were opened: and another book was opened, which is the

_____ of _____: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”

Although Revelation 20:12 refers to the third phase of the judgement, the books will be testimony also for the first phase of the judgement (Daniel 7:10). The records are accurate and complete. They include even thoughts and motives. The court is fair. I need not be there. The books will speak for me.

Part 4 – Heaven’s Books of Record:

The Book of Life and the Book of Remembrance

The Scripture tells us the following regarding the Book of Life:

- a. The faithful have their names in the Book of Life (Revelation 13:8).
- b. One’s name can be removed from the Book (Revelation 22:19).
- c. The names of the wicked are not recorded in the Book of Life (Revelation 17:8).
- d. The overcomer’s name will not be blotted out of the Book (Revelation 3.5).
- e. Those with their names in the Book of Life will enter the Holy City (Revelation 21:27).
- f. It is used in the judgement (Revelation 20:12).
- g. If person’s name is not in the Book, he will be cast into lake of fire

(Revelation 20:15).

h. All who are written in the Book will be delivered (Daniel 12:1).

i. Christians can rejoice that their names are in the Book of Life now (Luke 10:20).

j. Faithful church members names are in the Book now (Hebrews 12:23).

k. If person turns back to a life of sin, his name will be blotted out of the Book (Exodus 32:33).

l. The righteous are included in the Book (Psalm 69:28).

m. The Book records names of faithful workers (Philippians 4:3).

The Scripture comments as follows regarding the Book of Remembrance:

a. It records Christian testimonies and witnessing (Malachi 3:16).

b. It contains a record of our good deeds (Nehemiah 13:14). Salvation is a free gift of God. It is based upon the works of Jesus alone (John 1:29; 3:16; 5:24). Our works do give evidence of our connection with Jesus, however, so the Lord looks at them. “Faith without works is dead” (James 2:26). The book of Revelation says clearly four times that we will be judged by our works: Revelation 2:23; 20:12,13; 22:12. Also, Christ repeatedly said to the seven churches, “I know thy works”. Works do, indeed, say something about the depth of our experience with Jesus. No Christian experience can be genuine without them.

c. It records our tears (Psalm 56:8).

d. Even secret things are recorded in this book (Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14).

Study Question 10. Who presents the case against us?

Zechariah 3:1, 2

“And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of

the Lord, and _____ standing at his right hand to resist him. And the Lord said unto Satan, The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan; even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee...”

Satan, the old accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10) who disputed with Michael regarding the body of Moses (Jude 9) and who made wild accusations against Job (Job chapters 1 and 2), is the enemy who accuses us.

Study Question 11. While the present judgement is going on in heaven, what does Revelation predict will be happening

on earth? Revelation 11:18, 19

- a. “The _____ were _____ ...”
- b. “...and shouldest destroy them that _____ the _____.”

The nations are angry, and with devastating weaponry, pollution, domestic and industrial waste, people are destroying the earth.

Study Question 12. Does God need books and a judgement (or court trial) to find out about me and my conduct or does He know everything about me already? 1 Kings 8:39; John 3:18; 2 Timothy 2:19

_____. “Thou ... _____ the _____ of all the children of men”.

The judgement is for the benefit of others. The Bible says sinners are already condemned before God. It is us who need to know why God saves some and destroys others.

Study Question 13. Since the present judgement which is now in session (Daniel 7:9, 10) is not needed by God, for whose benefit is it? Revelation 3:5

“I will confess his name before ... His _____”.

God is omniscient (all knowing) but the angels are not. The present judgement will permit them to completely examine all evidence and be fully satisfied regarding God’s justice. God does not announce the decision until the angels are clear that all people have made up their minds about God and Satan. There will be no more changing sides (Revelation 22:11, 12). It is not a decree but an announcement. All have made final choices. More probationary time would change nothing.

“[Judgement] is the last resort of God's wisdom and holiness ... In it God takes no delight.” — S. M. Merrill

Part 5 – Phase Two, Judgement

During the 1000 Years

Study Question 14. When will the wicked be judged? Revelation 20.4

“And _____ was given unto them ... and they lived and

reigned with Christ a _____ years.”

The wicked will be judged in heaven *during* the 1000 years of Revelation 20. This is the second phase of the judgement.

Study Question 15. Who helps judge the wicked, including Satan and his angels? I Corinthians 6:2, 3

“The _____ shall judge the world ... _____ shall judge angels”.

Study Question 16. For whose benefit is the judgement of the wicked conducted? After all, people who are not in heaven during the 1000 years are lost anyway, so, why conduct this judgement for the wicked?

_____ is on trial The Judgement is to vindicate _____’s character.

This second-phase of the judgement is for the benefit of the righteous. Many will be lost whom the righteous thought to be Christians.

The Three Phases of the Judgment:		1844		Second Coming of Christ		Holy City Descends Close 1000 Years		Rewards	
1. Who judges? 2. Where conducted? 3. For whose benefit?	Phase #1	1. God and angels 2. In heaven 3. Angels	1000 Years - Rev. 20	Phase #2	1. God and righteous 2. In heaven 3. Righteous	Phase #3	1. God, angels, righteous 2. On earth 3. Wicked, Satan, evil angels	Right	Wick int

Looking at the records and asking questions will remove all doubt as to God's fairness. It will be seen that those who are lost chose to ignore God in spite of myriads of loving appeals from His throne.

Part 6 – Phase Three, Judgement at the End of the 1000 Years

Matthew 25:31-46 pictures a third phase of the judgement when both the righteous and the wicked stand before God, alive, for receiving reward or punishment. God reveals then why people are saved or lost.

***Study Question 17. Does this judgement occur at Jesus' second coming or at the end of the 1000 years, and for whose benefit is this phase of judgement conducted?
Matthew 25: 32***

a. When? At the _____ of the 1000 years.

b. For whom? The _____.

It takes place at the close of the 1000 years because that is the only time in earth's history when all who have ever lived will be alive at once (although only for a short time), either inside or outside the Holy City (Revelation 20:11-15). This judgement convinces the wicked, including Satan and his angels (who will at this time have questions answered and will finally see) that God is loving, kind, just and fair. God never pulls rank on his enemies or orders them to be silent; He simply presents clear-cut evidence that is too plain to question. Those who think that God will never punish or destroy people, would do well to consider the fact that God did, indeed, do so at the time of the flood (Genesis 7:23), and at the destruction of Sodom, Gomorrah and the neighbouring cities (Jeremiah 50:40).

Study Question 18. When God announces rewards and punishments in the judgement, is He making the decision at that moment, or simply permitting angels and the righteous to confirm what He already knew? Revelation 15:3, 4; Romans 2:5; 1 Corinthians 4:5

“Thy _____ are made _____ (apparent).”
The redeemed in heaven clearly give the reason why all consider God to be just and true: His judgement’s are made manifest (or as the New English Bible says, “Thy just dealings stand revealed”). God knew all along where every person stood. In fact, He already has the names of the saved in the Book of Life (Revelation 13:8; 17:8). But in order to solve the problem of rebellion and sin He patiently waits until men and angels, both good and evil, see what He has long seen. The truth about every being will be revealed in the judgement. It will be too plain for any to debate (Isaiah 3:10, 11).

Part 7 – Assurance of Salvation Now

Study Question 19. Since I must yet face God in judgement, can I have assurance of salvation now? Daniel 7:22; Isaiah 3:10

“Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be _____ with _____ (her).”

God has promised to pronounce a favourable sentence on all people who love and truly follow Him. He calls them *saints* and gives them promises of assurance.

Part 8 – Bible Promises of Assurance

Assurance is defined as: firm persuasion; full confidence or trust; freedom from doubt; certain expectation; utmost certainty (Hebrews 10:22 *Let us draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith*); firmness of mind; undoubting steadiness; intrepidity.

Assurance is produced by faith (Ephesians 3:12; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 10:22).

Assurance is made full by hope (Hebrews 6:11; Hebrews 6:19).

Assurance is confirmed by love (1 John 3:14; 1 John 3:19; 1 John 4:18).

Assurance is the effect of righteousness (Isaiah 32:17).

Assurance is abundant in the understanding of the Gospel (Colossians 2:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:5).

See the free supplement: ‘Why a Christian Can Have Assurance’.

Study Question 20. Sins are forgiven when we confess them. When are they blotted out of God's records? Acts 3:19, 20, 1 John 1:9

“_____ ye therefore and be converted that your sins may be blotted out.”

Herein lies a confusion for many people. In the 1970s, after receiving qualifications in accountancy, I was employed for several months to sort out the recent past accounts for a pharmaceutical company in New Zealand. The record books were all hand-written in purple indelible ink and bound in a large volume. My job was to locate and correct errors by a previous employee. Each time I found the necessity for a change, this was recorded in green ink along side the entry so that the change could be seen alongside the original record that was “blotted out” by ruling a single green line through it. In the same way, God will not accept a simple cover-up. All records of sins remain on the books until the very end so all will have access to the records at all times. Nothing will be swept under the rug, however the record will show the change that has taken place through our repentance and God's forgiveness.

These adjusted records will then demonstrate to all observers that God has forgiven the sin that we have confessed and forsaken.

Part 9 – God's Judgement is Fair and Final

A lady in an airport bought a book to read and a package of cookies to eat while she waited for her 'plane. After she had taken her seat in the terminal and became engrossed in her book, she noticed that the man one seat away from her was fumbling to open the package of cookies on the seat between them. She was so shocked that a stranger would eat her cookies that she didn't really know what to do, so she just reached over and took one of the cookies and ate it. The man didn't say anything but soon reach over and took another. Well, the woman wasn't going to let him eat them all, so she took another, too. When they were down to one cookie, the man reached over, broke the cookie in half, and got up and left. The lady couldn't believe the man's nerve, but soon the announcement came to board the 'plane.

Once the woman was aboard, still angry at the man's audacity and puzzling over the incident, she reached into her purse for a tissue. It suddenly dawned on her that she really shouldn't judge people too harshly – for there in her purse lay her still-unopened package of cookies.

Study Question 21. Revelation repeatedly points out that both men and angels will excitedly and loudly praise and thank God for the justice and satisfaction of the judgement . What specifically are they saying? Revelation 16:7; 19:2; 15:3

They shall say, “_____ and _____ are thy judgements.”

Study Question 22. What finally does everyone in the universe do to express their feelings about God's fairness and love? Philipians 2:10, 11

“That at the name of Jesus, _____ knee should bow...

And that _____ tongue should _____ that _____ Christ is _____ .”

All who have ever lived face God at the close of the 1000 years. No one will be forced in this acknowledgement, as it will be finally so clear, that all in heaven and earth (including Satan and his angels) bow to confess that Jesus is fully just and that every person has received what he, himself, chose. The lost are shown to be lost because they preferred the lifestyle of the evil one. Heaven would be torture to them. It would be unfair to include them. And the righteous are shown to be like Jesus. Although Satan never doubted Jesus' forgiveness, he did doubt that God could indeed restore men to His image. The redeemed will stand before him as proof it has happened. No question will ever be raised again about the handling of the sin problem and the character of God. They will have all been answered.

A young and successful executive was travelling down a neighbourhood street, going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar.

He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something. As his car passed, no child appeared. Instead, a brick smashed into the Jaguar's side door! He slammed on the brakes and backed the car back to the spot where the brick had been thrown. The angry driver then jumped out of the car, grabbed the nearest kid and pushed him up against a parked car, shouting, "What was that all about and who are you? Just what are you doing? That's a new car and that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money. Why did you do it?"

The young boy was apologetic. "Please, mister... please, I'm sorry, but I didn't know what else to do," He pleaded. "I threw the brick because no one else would stop." With tears dripping down his face and off his chin, the youth pointed to a spot just around a parked car. "It's my brother," he said. "He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up."

Now sobbing, the boy asked the stunned executive, "Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me."

Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into the wheelchair, then took out a linen handkerchief and dabbed at the fresh scrapes and cuts. A quick look told him everything was going to be okay.

"Thank you and may God bless you," the grateful child told the stranger.

Too shook up for words, the man simply watched the boy push his wheelchair-bound brother down the footpath toward their home.

It was a long, slow walk back to the Jaguar. The damage was very noticeable, but the driver never bothered to repair the dented side door. He kept the dent there to remind him of this message: "Don't go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention!"

God whispers to our inner being and speaks to our hearts.

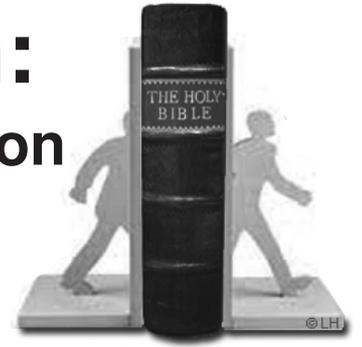
Sometimes when we don't have time to listen, He has to throw a brick at us.

It's our choice to listen or not.

Study Question 23. Jesus is saying, "My son, my daughter, give me thine heart" (Proverbs 23:26). He wants to enter your name in His Book of Life and keep it there. Will you let Him have that great joy?

In the Footsteps of John: Walking through the Book of Revelation with John the Revelator

www.lrhartley.com/john



Program 16. A New Family

Let's start with a poem: *The Land of Beginning Again* by Louisa Fletcher Tarkington.

“I wish there were some wonderful place / Called the *Land of Beginning Again*, / Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches, / And all our poor, selfish griefs / Could be dropped, like a shabby old coat, at the door, / And never put on again.

I wish we could come on it all unaware, / Like the hunter who finds a lost trail; / And I wish that the one whom our blindness had done / The greatest injustice of all / Could be at the gate like the old friend that waits / For the comrade he's gladdest to hail.

We would find the things we intended to do, / But forgot and remembered too late— / Little praises unspoken, little promises broken, / And all of the thousand and one / Little duties neglected that might have perfected / The days of one less fortunate.

It wouldn't be possible not to be kind. / In the *Land of Beginning Again*; / And the ones we misjudged and the ones whom we grudged / Their moments of victory here, / Would find the grasp of our loving handclasp / More than penitent lips could explain.

For what had been hardest we'd know had been best, / And what had seemed loss would be gain, / For there isn't a sting that will not take wing / When we've faced it and laughed it away; / And I think that the laughter is most what we're after, / In the *Land of Beginning Again*.

So I wish that there were some wonderful place / Called the *Land of Beginning Again*, / Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches, / And all our poor, selfish griefs / Could be dropped, like a ragged old coat, at the door, / And never put on again.”

All of us have at times desperately wished for an opportunity to start all over again with a new, clean record. The book of Revelation repeatedly refers to the privilege of beginning again. For example, Revelation 1:5 tells us that Jesus washes evil from our lives so we can start over. Revelation 3:8 sets before us an open door to a new life. Revelation 10:8-11 explains that after bitter disappointment we must begin afresh; and Revelation 21:5 promises that Jesus will make everything new.

Do you know that Jesus has lovingly provided for us a public ceremony in which the past is officially buried and a marvellous new life begins? Nothing in all the world compares with this great event for joy, satisfaction, peace and relief. It is priceless.

Jesus says that this momentous and meaningful experience is absolutely imperative for any who would enter His new kingdom. This magnificent event is called baptism. Let's see what Jesus says about this vital matter.

Part 1: Jesus Commanded Baptism

Study Question 1. What is the gospel commission?

Matthew 28:19

“Go. ..and _____ all nations, _____ them.”
(Note the order: teach (learn) first, then baptism.)

Study Question 2. Is baptism important? Mark 16:16

“He that _____ and is _____ shall be _____
but he that _____ not shall be _____”

Study Question 3. What are some forms of baptism used today? (Answer provided)

- i. Being sprinkled with rose petals, rice or salt
- ii. Being anointed with oil
- iii. Having wine poured on you

- iv. Immersion or submersion (whole body submerged backwards in water).
- v. Triune immersion (body submerged forward 3 times).
- vi. Aspersion (being sprinkled with water).
- vii. Infusion or affusion (having water poured on you).
- viii. Dry Cleaning Method (Celebrant waves his/her arm(s) over you rather than using water)
- ix. Words spoke over telephone, in a recorded message, over the radio or TV, or by email or conventional mail
- x. Simply having the Holy Spirit in the life (Eg. Quakers and The Salvation Army)
- xi. Symbolic (or figurative), e.g. by crouching down while words of blessing are pronounced over you.
- xii. Partial Immersion (for example Greek Orthodox Church baptism of the 500-strong army of tsar Ivan the Great of Russia who were all baptized excepting their fighting arm and sword).

About fifteen different ceremonies are called baptism today and many people say, “What difference does it make?” Because we should be anxious to follow His counsel, we shall take note that it makes a real difference to God.

Study Question 4. Now many ways are there into God's kingdom? Ephesians 4:5

“One _____, one _____, one _____”
 God recognizes only one true form of baptism. All other forms are not really baptism at all.

Study Question 5. What does the word “baptize” mean?

to _____, _____ or _____.

Wikipedia, under the search ‘Baptism’, tells us: Baptize comes from the Greek word ‘*baptizo*’ which means ‘to dip, submerge or immerse’. While John the Baptist's use of a deep river for his baptism suggests

immersion, "The fact that he chose a permanent and deep river suggests that more than a token quantity of water was needed, and both the preposition 'in' (the Jordan) and the basic meaning of the verb 'baptize' probably indicate immersion. Matthew [3:16] will speak of Jesus 'coming up out of the water'. Phillip and the Eunuch also went down and came up out of water (Acts 8:38-39). Baptism is likened unto a burial in Romans 6:3.

Part 2: Our Perfect Example

Study Question 6. Who is my example in everything, including baptism? 1 Peter 2:21

Study Question 7. How did John baptize Jesus? Mark 1:9-11

By _____.

Just what was John's baptism? The practice of baptism was an outgrowth of God's command to the unclean, once the days of purification had been fulfilled, to go and wash himself in the Jordan, as a final proclamation, or sealing, of his cleanness, and to mark his re-admittance back into the community of the people of God. John's baptism was a baptism of repentance (by deliberate choice, a turning away from sin).

Study Question 8. What did Jesus tell John when he first refused to baptize Him? Matthew 3:13-15

"To _____ all Righteousness."

Jesus did not need baptism but He knew all of us do. Jesus requested baptism to give us a perfect example for our righteous living.

G. Campbell Morgan writes, "The life of Jesus was absolutely sinless. If He were not sinless, then we have no Gospel. All the value of His dying depends upon the virtue of His living. Why, then did the Sinless submit to a baptism of repentance? . . . When this Man came to him, One

among a crowd, so like them that the crowd did not distinguish Him, there was yet a difference The supreme element in the baptism of Jesus was the identification of the Sinless with the sinner. He who had no sin to repent of, took His place among those who had sin to repent of. He who was sinless, went down into the baptism that was the portion of the sinner. . . . He submitted to the baptism of John, indicating by this symbolic action his identification of Himself with His people in their sin, in order that He may put that sin away. . . .”

(The Gospel of Matthew, Old Tappan: Fleming H. Revell, Co., 1929, Pp25, 26).

Study Question 9. What was Heaven’s response to Jesus’ baptism? Matthew 3:16, 17

“And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my _____, in whom I am _____.”

When Jesus was baptized it so pleased God that He spoke openly; likewise it pleases God when you and I are baptized today.

At the Baptism of Christ, two distinct ‘ministries’ were given to Him. He was called the ‘Beloved Son’ and was said to have ‘well-pleased’ God.

These two comments are not without historical parallel. The phrase ‘beloved son’ had a distinctive connotation to the Jewish ear. Psalm 2:7 uses the phrase. This Psalm addressed to David and the kings who were to come from his line. Psalm 2 is one of several Psalms which were used as part of a coronation ceremony. Israel's king is God's viceroy on earth. So ‘beloved son’ is meant in the sense of Christ now entering his position as a Davidic ruler.

‘Well-pleased’ is reminiscent of Isaiah 42:1, which contains statements regarding the servant of Jehovah saying that he is the one in whom God will put His holy Spirit. The servant is also said to be the one in whom God's soul delights. Thus it appears that this voice from heaven is commissioning Christ in his Messianic office. Isaiah 61:1 is also a

Messianic prophecy.

So what does the servant in Isaiah do? He eventually suffers. Thus, at the Baptism, Christ is given a dual office of Messianic ruler and suffering servant.

Study Question 10. Why did John baptize in Aenon?

(A-Enon means the 'place of springs') **John 3:23**

“ _____ there was _____ water there.”

Study Question 11. What did Paul say about those who teach contrary to scripture? Galatians 1:11, 12, 8, 9

“Let him be _____”

The curse of heaven rests upon men and angels who attempt to change any teachings of Jesus.

Study Question 12. How did Philip baptize the Ethiopian treasurer. Acts 8:27-39

By _____

Philip baptized the treasurer the same way Jesus was baptized.

Part 3: Baptism is Important

Study Question 13. According to Jesus, how important is baptism? John 3:5

“ _____ a man be _____ of _____ and of the

_____ he cannot enter into the _____ of _____.”

Jesus said Christian baptism is an important part of our response to the Gospel invitation. Jesus cross, which is supremely important, is mentioned 28 times in the New Testament.

On the other hand, baptism is mentioned over 100 times.

Study Question 14. Where did other forms of baptism come from? Matthew 15:9

Jesus said, “In vain they do worship me, _____ for

_____ the _____ of _____”

Misguided men have introduced these other forms of baptism with no approval from Heaven. History is clear that for centuries after the cross, baptism by immersion was the only form of baptism. Other forms of baptism were added because they were more convenient. Thus a God-given, sacred ceremony has been shoved aside by human hands. The Catholic Church somehow identified a *baptism of desire*, by which those preparing for baptism who die before actually receiving ‘the sacrament’ are considered saved, as evidenced by the practice of infant baptism.

Baptism was universally seen by Christians as in some sense necessary for salvation, until Huldrych Zwingli in the 16th century denied its necessity

Study Question 15. Some say baptism by the Holy Spirit is all we need. Is this true? Acts 10:44-48

_____.

According to the Bible, before baptism, a person must:

- a. be taught and must accept all of Jesus’ teachings. Matthew 28:18-20
- b. believe these teachings with all his heart. Mark 16:16
- c. repent of his sins. Acts 2:38; Revelation 25, 6, 16, 21, 22
- d. turn away from sin. Romans 6:5, 6; Matthew 3:7, 8 and
- e. experience the new birth. 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 3:5

Study Question 16. In light of Question 14, should infants be baptized (Christened)?

_____.

Since infants cannot comply with God’s requirements, no minister has a right to baptize them.

Sin is not counted against a child until he is old enough to understand and be accountable, at which time the youngster should prepare for baptism.

John 9:41 - *Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.*

James 4:17 - *Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*

Part 4: Baptism and Salvation

Study Question 17. In Noah's day, people were saved by getting inside the ark. ***What does God provide for man today?***

1 Peter 3:20, 21

“The like _____ whereunto even _____

doth also now _____ us.”

The ark in the water symbolized safety in Noah's day, and a person acknowledging God in the waters of baptism symbolizes the same today. For those immersed in it, the waters of the flood literally represented the grave, death and burial, the waters of baptism symbolically represent the grave, death and burial. But, praise God, the waters of baptism also represent Jesus' past and proven resurrection and our future and promised resurrection). In both cases the heart must be right first. But a heart right without baptism is not enough, any more than a heart right in Noah's day would have been enough without getting into (or being immersed in) the ark.

Study Question 18. Like a marriage, whose name do we take at baptism? Galatians 3:27

“As many of you as have been _____ into

_____ .. have put on _____”

We take Christ's name in baptism just as a wife takes on her husband's name at a wedding. Baptism is as essential to a Christian as the wedding is to a marriage. Both ceremonies must be based on deep-seated love and full understanding if they are to be meaningful. To refuse baptism is to refuse to take Christ's name as if ashamed of it. Baptism is a public

declaration of our relationship to Jesus. Baptism is also like a wedding ring as they both symbolize transactions. A wedding ring symbolizes a new life in marriage, just as baptism symbolizes a new life in Christ. Wearing a wedding ring does not make you married any more than being baptized makes you saved. Baptism is not for salvation but for demonstration. Baptism is a public outward declaration of an inward change of heart.

A minister was seeking to explain the significance of baptism to a new convert. He was gesturing as he talked and noticed that as he was using his hand its shadow fell on the ground. So he said to the convert, “Do you see the shadow of my hand on the sand? Now this is just a shadow. The hand is the real thing. When you came to Jesus, when you believed in Jesus, that was the real thing. You were joined to him, and what happened to him also happened to you. Jesus was alive, then he died and was buried, and then he rose from the dead. That is what happened to you when you believed and placed your trust in him.”

He pointed to the shadow on the sand and said, “When you go down into the water and are raised up again, that is the shadow of what has already happened.” Water baptism is a picture, a symbol, to teach us what happened to us when we accepted Jesus.

William Willimon wrote, “In baptism we are initiated, crowned, chosen, embraced, washed, adopted, gifted, reborn, killed, and thereby sent forth and redeemed. We are identified as one of God’s own, then assigned our place and our job within the kingdom of God.”

Study Question 19. What is the experience of the person who is in Christ? 2 Corinthians 5:17

Study Question 20. How do we honour the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus? Romans 6:4-6

Be _____

Salvation centres on Jesus' death, burial and resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:3, 4). Baptism by immersion represents all three. There is death to sin. Next a burial of the old life of sin beneath the water. Then a resurrection from the water to an entirely new life. No other form of baptism fits this symbolism.

The Evangelical Catechism says, "When we physically die, in a sense we are just catching up with our baptism."

Friedrich Rest wrote, "In baptism, the Christian is born. His old self is buried and the new self emerges."

Merely being sprinkled can not be likened to death, burial and resurrection. Many will misapply James 5:14-16, but oil is used, not water or perhaps Ezekiel 36:25 (*Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.*) to baptism, however the context in Ezekiel is relation to a blessings package, not establishing a ceremony or ordinance, and it is God, not a priest or minister who is providing this blessing.

Study Question 21. What ceremony brings us into God's true church? 1 Corinthians 12:13

"For by one _____ are we all _____ into one _____"

Baptism is the official act which makes one a member of Christ's body. His body is His church (Colossians 1:18). Christ has made baptism the sign of entrance into His true church.

Study Question 22. Is rebaptism ever proper? Acts 19:2-5

Rebaptism is proper when major new light is received into our spiritual life. Also, those who go out into a life of disobedience, and then come back to the Lord and His church, should consider rebaptism. Many people today are rebaptised when they learn of the Sabbath truth and

other important truths to which their lives must conform in order to please Jesus.

Part 5: Baptism Pleases Jesus

Study Question 23. Once a person meets Jesus' conditions for baptism, how soon should he be baptized? Acts 22:16

Study Question 24. When I refuse baptism, who am I rejecting? Luke 7:30

I am rejecting the “counsel of _____”

Study Question 25. Is being like Jesus very important to you?

Study Question 26. Is it important for you to be baptized the way Jesus was?

Part 6: At a Baptism:

Lord, in humble, sweet submission, / Here we meet to follow Thee, /
Trusting in Thy great salvation, / Which alone can make us free. /
Naught have we to claim as merit; / All the duties we can do / Can no
crown of life inherit; / All the praise to Thee is due. / Yet we come in
Christian duty, / Down beneath the wave we go; / O the bliss! the
heavenly beauty! / Christ the Lord was buried so.

— Robert T. Daniel. Cited in *Bible Readings for The Home Circle*,
Review & Herald, 1958

One day, a preacher was giving a sermon on baptism and in the course of his sermon he was arguing the fact that baptism should take place by sprinkling and not by immersion. He pointed out some instances in the

Bible. He said that when John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the River Jordan, it didn't mean in — it meant close to, round about, or nearby. And again when it says in the Bible that Philip baptized the eunuch in the river, it didn't mean in — it meant close to, round about, or nearby.

After the service, a man came up to the minister and told him it was a great sermon, one of the best he had ever heard, and that it had cleared up a great many mysteries he had encountered in the Bible.

“For instance,” he said, “the story about Jonah getting swallowed by the whale has always bothered me. Now I know that Jonah wasn't really in the whale, but close to, round about, or nearby, swimming in the water.

“Then there is the story about the three young Hebrew boys who were thrown into the fiery furnace, but were not burned. Now I see that they were not really in the fire, just close to, round about, or nearby, just keeping warm.

“But the hardest of all the stories for me to believe has always been the story of Daniel getting thrown into the lions' den. But now I see that he wasn't really in the lions' den, but close to, round about, or nearby, just like at the zoo.

“The revealing of these mysteries have been a real comfort me because I am a wicked man. Now I am gratified to know that I won't be in Hell, but close to, round about, or nearby.

And next week, I won't have to be in church, just close to, round about, or nearby. Thanks. You have really put my mind at ease.”

Part 7: If You Choose Baptism:

“You're taking this step of faith / In obedience to the Lord / To be baptized in His precious name / And heed the Master's call;

To rise up with faith in God / And go where He may lead / To share God's love to everyone / And touch them in their need.

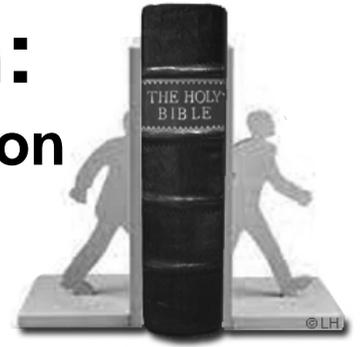
May God pour out His blessings / Upon your life today / So you may walk in His abundance / As you commit to Him your way.

Keep on trusting in the Lord / No matter what you face / And keep your eyes on Jesus Christ / And live in His sweet grace.”

— M.S. Lowndes

In the Footsteps of John: Walking through the Book of Revelation with John the Revelator

www.lrhartley.com/john



Program 17: Where are the Fatidical*?

Part 1: The Power of Prophecy

Prophets are people signally honoured by God. In Revelation, an angel twice told John that he considered the prophets his brothers (Revelation 19:10, 22:9). Revelation mentions either false or true prophets a dozen times.

The first chapter of the 2,000-page *People's Almanac* published in 1975 lists a number of prophecies that psychics claim would occur before the year 2000. Here are some of them (tell me if you think that they came to pass...):

— Sometime between 1981 and 1990 “Love, as we know it, will cease to exist.”

— An invisibility device will be created, it will look like a flashlight or an aerosol can.

— From 1975 until 1978, the devil will rule the earth.

— In 1980, there will be a breaking up of icebergs around the North Pole.

— Scientists will explore the newly revealed depths of ocean and find alien machines, including “a huge ball, part of it protruding, from which radiates tremendous energy.”

— In 1983, all of the women in St. Louis, Missouri will lose their hair.

— Several psychics predicted New York City would be annihilated by rising waters by the year 1990.

A group of students at Harvard once tried to fool Agassiz, the famous professor of zoology. They took parts from a number of different bugs

*(*Fatidical means one who is gifted with prophetic power.*)

and with great skill attached them together to make a creation they were sure would baffle their teacher. On the chosen day they brought it to him and asked that he identify it. As he inspected it with great care, the students grew more and more sure they had tricked this genius.

Finally, Professor Agassiz straightened up and said, “I have identified it.” Scarcely able to control their amusement, they asked its name. Agassiz replied, “It is a humbug.”

John was so convincing and influential in presenting Jesus that tradition tells us that his enemies tried to kill him by placing him in boiling oil. When the oil failed to harm him he was banished to the Island of Patmos, a fortress where he was forced to work in the mines. But there Jesus gave him the precious book of Revelation.

The scripture itself came to us from prophets who were guided by the Holy Ghost. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16).

Walter Rauschenbusch (1861-1918) wrote, “Prophets are the beating hearts of the Old Testament” and we could add that the pulse of the Book of revelation was the Spirit-filled heart of a prophet. The church is indebted to prophets to a degree that is almost impossible to calculate.

Part 2: Modern Prophets and Visions

Have you ever wondered why in these challenging and crucial days for God’s people - just before the second coming of Jesus — we no longer have prophets? Is John the last prophet that Jesus has spoken through? Why did God quit speaking through prophets or did He?

This is a most stimulating and challenging subject. As we get into it, please pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit, the same Spirit who guided the prophets of old.

Part 3: How God Communicates

Study Question 1. How does God communicate with His prophets? Revelation 1:1-4

- a. God spoke to _____ b. Jesus spoke to an _____
- c. The angel spoke to _____
- d. John spoke to the seven _____ (and to _____)

Study Question 2. To whom will God reveal His future plans? Amos 3:7

His servants the _____.

Study Question 3. Where do true prophets get their information? 2 Peter 1:21

“Holy _____ of God _____ as they were _____
by the _____”

Study Question 4. Must a prophet write a book of the Bible in order to be a true prophet?

At least twelve true prophets who did not write a book of the Bible are mentioned in the scriptures. Among them is John the Baptist, of whom Jesus said there was no one greater (Matthew 11:11).

_____.

Study Question 5. Does God ever prophesy through women?

Several women were mentioned as prophetesses in scripture: Anna (Luke 2:36-38); Miriam (Exodus 15:20); Deborah (Judges 4:4); Huldah (2 Kings 22:14); and the four daughters of Philip (Acts 21:8, 9).

_____.

Study Question 6. Does God also speak through prophets in the last days? Joel 2:28-31

_____.

In the last days God promises to speak through both men and women, including young people.

Part 4: Spiritual Gifts Today

Philip Yancey wrote, “I suspect if a true prophet from God came in judgment against the sins of our modern culture, he would be greeted first with incredulous laughter, then scorn, then violent opposition (Philip Yancey, *True Confessions: Owning Up to the Secret Everybody Knows*, Word Publishing, Milton Keynes, England, 1967, p9).

Curiously, the exact same responses greeted most of the Old Testament prophets.

Study Question 7. When Jesus ascended He left gifts for the church. What are they? Ephesians 4:7, 8, 11

“He gave some, _____; and some _____, and some, _____; and some _____, and _____”

Here, Paul lists prophets second after apostles.

Study Question 8. Why were the gifts given? Ephesians 4:12

“For the _____ of the saints, for the _____ of the ministry, for the _____ of the body of Christ.”

The body of Christ is His church. “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence” (Colossians 1:18).

Study Question 9. How long were these gifts to remain in the church? Ephesians 4:13

“Till we all come in the unity of the _____ and of the _____ of the _____ of God, unto a _____ man, unto the measure of the _____ of the fullness of _____.”

These gifts, including prophets, remain in the church until the saints become completely like Christ (in other words, these gifts remain until the end of the world when Jesus returns).

Study Question 10. What will the church with all these gifts do for you? Ephesians 4:14

“No more children, _____ to and fro, and _____ about with every _____ of doctrine.

When one enters the church that has all these gifts he is immediately anchored. Satan’s objective is to remove or counterfeit these spiritual gifts. If that happens, the church will drift aimlessly amidst false doctrine.

Study Question 11. Did God’s New Testament church have the gift of prophecy? 1 Corinthians 1:6, 7

“The testimony of _____ was confirmed in you... you come behind in no gift.”

They had all the gifts including prophecy. The testimony of Christ is the spirit, or gift, of prophecy. “And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Revelation 19:10).

Study Question 12. Will God's last day church have the gift of prophecy? Revelation 12:17

_____. They "keep the _____ of God and have the _____ of Jesus Christ."

Study Question 13. What three things does Paul command regarding prophets? 1 Thessalonians 5:20, 21

"Despise not _____." " _____ all things."

"Hold fast that which is _____."

Study Question 14. How does one test a prophet to see if he is true? Isaiah 8:19, 20

"If they _____ not according to this _____ it is because there is no _____ in them."

"And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him" (Deuteronomy 18:21, 22).

"If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul" (Deuteronomy 13:1-3).

God is serious about those who would presume to speak for him. In Deuteronomy 18:20 we see just how serious when he says: “But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death.” (See also Jeremiah 23:25-32.)

Study Question 15. What other things identify a true prophet of God?

- a. Moved by Holy Spirit — not man’s will (2 Peter 1:21).
- b. Doesn’t give his own interpretation of prophecy (2 Peter 1:20).
British Prime Minister Winston Churchill stated: “Any man must have a blind soul who cannot see that some great purpose and design is being worked out here below.”
- c. Points out sins of people against God (Isaiah 58:1). A W Tozer (1897-1963) wrote, “Scholars can interpret the past; it takes prophets to interpret the present ... A prophet is one who knows his times and what God is trying to say to the people of his times.”
- d. Warns of coming judgment (Isaiah 24:20; Revelation 14:6, 7).
- e. Edifies, exhorts, comforts the church (1 Corinthians 14:3).
- f. Recognizes the deity of Jesus (I John 4:1-3). Author Jerry Vines tells us, “There is a little chapel in the Italian Alps that has an unusual arrangement of statues. Down the inner walls of the chapel are statues of Old Testament prophets. All of these prophets are pointing toward the centre of the chapel. In the centre is a picture of Christ. Whoever designed those statues in that chapel understood that their lives must point to Jesus Christ (Jerry Vines, *Interviews With Jesus*, Broadman Press, Nashville, 1981, p109).
- g. Works and lives in harmony with the Bible (Matthew 7:15-20).
- h. Not an astrologer, witch, medium or clairvoyant (Deuteronomy 18:9-12).

Part 5: What does a prophet do?

There are at least 10 things that a prophet may be called to do:

1. To reveal the nature and attributes of God to men (Deuteronomy 5:4-10, Leviticus 19:1-4)
2. To make known to men the laws of God (Exodus 20:1-17).

3. To call the people back to obedience to God's laws (2 Chronicles 24:19). The Lord sent prophets among them to lead them back to him. They warned the people, but they would not pay attention.
4. To exhort the people to sincerity in worship (Jeremiah 7:1-11)
5. To warn them of Divine judgement upon sin, both personal and national (Jeremiah 36:30-31)
6. To foretell future events which God had willed (Jeremiah 30:1-3)
7. To foretell the coming of the Messiah, the Saviour (Isaiah 9:6)
8. To record the history of God's dealings with men (Deuteronomy 31:9-13)
9. To record the Word of God in the Holy Scriptures (Exodus 17:14; 34:27; Deuteronomy 31:22-26; Jeremiah 36:1-2; 27-28)
10. To challenge a nation (1 Kings 18:21) or to rebuke evil rulers (1 Kings 21:17-24; Daniel 5:17-28)

Study Question 16. What is the condition of a church without the gift of prophecy? Matthew 15:14

_____.

A church without vision or eyesight is in a very sad condition. The Bible says, "Where there is no vision the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18).

John Ruskin wrote, "The greatest thing a human soul ever does in this world is to see something, and tell what it saw in a plain way. Hundreds of people can talk for one who can think, but thousands can think for one who can see. To see clearly is poetry, prophecy, and religion, all in one."

Part 6: Are Miracles a Test?

Study Question 17. Do miracles prove a prophet is true? Revelation 16:14

_____. Because the spirits of _____ can also work miracles. Miracles prove only one thing — supernatural power. Such power may come from either God or Satan.

Study Question 18. What are God's three methods of speaking to prophets? Numbers 12:6-8

a. _____; b. _____

c. _____ to _____

Crystal balls, palm reading, tea-leaf deciphering, star gazing, ouija boards, Tarot cards and talking to the dead are not God's methods of communication with a prophet.

Study Question 19. What happens to a prophet in vision?

- a. Loses natural strength; receives supernatural strength (Daniel 10:8)
- b. No breath in body, yet able to speak (Daniel 10:16, 17)
- c. Doesn't see, yet eyes are open (Daniel 10:5-8; Numbers 24:3, 5)
- d. Not conscious of surroundings (Daniel 10:5-8)

Study Question 20. What happens to those who believe God's prophets? 2 Chronicles 20:20

“Believe His prophets, so shall ye _____.”

There is no chance for a person to prosper spiritually if he refuses to believe God's prophets. John says we must read, hear and keep the things in His prophecy (Revelation 1:3).

Part 7: A Prophet's Ministry

Study Question 21. Are prophets called to serve the church or unbelievers? 1 Corinthians 14:22

“Prophesying serveth them which _____”

Study Question 22. What is prophecy called in Revelation? Revelation 12:17; 19:10

“Testimony of _____, which is the _____ of

”

When the Holy Spirit gives a message through a prophet we are to regard it as a message from Jesus, Himself.

Study Question 23. Against whom did Jesus warn in the last days? Matthew 24:24

“_____ Christs and false _____.”
Peter also warns against false prophets (2 Peter 2:1, 2).

Study Question 24. What types of false prophets does God condemn? Deuteronomy 18:9-12; Revelation 22:15; 21:8

- a. Diviner — fortune-teller
- b. Observer of Times — astrologer
- c. Enchanter — magician
- d. Witch/Wizard — psychics
- e. Familiar Spirits — spirit medium
- f. Necromancer — consults dead
- g. Sorcerer — spiritism
- h. Charmer — uses charms, casts spells

Study Question 25. Whose counsel did the people reject in rejecting John the Baptist? Luke 7:28-30

“The counsel of _____.”

John the Baptist was a true prophet yet he was not a Bible writer. The counsel of a true prophet is always the counsel of God. To reject it is to reject God.

Part 8: The Four Tests of a Prophet

“[You shall] discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not” (Malachi 3:18).

1. Lifestyle

Look at the prophet's life. It certainly will not be perfect but, in general,

the prophet will be a spiritual, God-fearing person. Moses, for example, had two failures recorded against him, but the majority of his life, the record tells us, he lived in accordance with God's Word (Deuteronomy 34:10).

False Prophets: “But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgement” (Isaiah 28:7).

2. Biblical Harmony

The things the prophet says will harmonise with what the Bible says. Scripture clearly teaches that if the message is contrary to the Bible the speaker is not a true prophet (Isaiah 8:20).

“If anybody thinks he is a prophet or spiritually gifted, let him acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command” (1 Corinthians 14:37 NIV).

“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter 1:19-21 KJV).

3. Accuracy

Do the prophecies come true? This question must be answered in regard to what the prophecy says; whether or not it is conditional.

For example Jonah's prophecy against Nineveh (Jonah 3:4 “And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.”) was not fulfilled because the people of Nineveh repented and turned to God.

However Moses threats against Pharaoh (Exodus 5:1, 17:17, etc. - “And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness. / Thus saith the LORD, In this thou shalt know that I am the LORD: behold, I will smite with the rod that is in mine hand upon the waters which are in the river, and they shall be turned to blood.” Etc.) came true because Pharaoh did not let God's people go.

In general, if the prophecy is not a threat with a promise for leniency (in the actual words (e.g. Moses) or in the context (e.g. Jonah), then the prophet can be identified by the fact that the prophecies come true.

4. Reflectors of Christ

Finally, the fourth test of a prophet is a check on whether or not their lives glorify & emulate Jesus (Philippians 2:5-9).

“The prophets and apostles did not perfect Christian character by a miracle. They used the means which God had placed within their reach; and all who will put forth the same effort will secure the same results.”
— Ellen G. White, *Reflecting Christ*, p97.

To have the mind of Jesus is to reflect God's attitude: “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end” (Jeremiah 29:11).

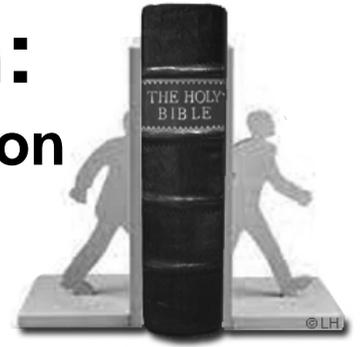
Part 9: Personal application

Study Question 26. Since God still speaks through prophets and since the word of a true prophet is the personal testimony of Jesus to you, are you willing to test modern prophets by the Bible and obey those who agree with scripture?

_____.

In the Footsteps of John: Walking through the Book of Revelation with John the Revelator

www.lrhartley.com/john



Program 18 - The Mark of False Worship

Many humorous pieces begin with “I have some bad news and some good news ...”. The next two lessons in this series are a little like that in that today’s study has some *terribly* bad news, yet in our next study we will encounter some *terrifically* Good News.

Part 1: False Worship

The most fearful, awe-filled and shocking language in all the book of Revelation is reserved to describe the mark of the beast. To read how God describes the punishment for those who receive the mark of the beast (Revelation 14:9-11) is enough to immediately put a sober look on any person’s face. Revelation points out the following specifically:

- a. Any person who receives the mark of the beast will be lost
- b. The majority of people on earth will receive this mark
- c. The time will come when civil authorities will endeavour, by starvation and death threats, to compel people to receive this mark.

God teaches in Revelation 13 that all people on this earth are rapidly dividing into two groups: one group following the God of heaven, and the other following the beast. Those who follow God will receive the sign or mark of God (we learnt about God’s mark (or sign) in study number 10: *A Stamp of Approval*). Those who follow Satan, represented by the beast, will receive the sign or mark of the beast. Tragically, unless a person knows for certain what the mark of the beast is, he will inevitably end up with the mark and not even be aware that he has it. Are you positive that you can identify the mark of the beast? Anything less than this can cost you your life (Revelation 1:3).

Part 2: The Beast of Revelation 13

In order to identify the “mark” we must first identify the “beast”.

**Study Question 1. In prophecy, what does a beast represent?
Daniel 7:23; Jeremiah 50:17, 43, 44**

“The fourth _____ shall be the fourth _____”.
Beasts in prophecy represent kingdoms, governments, or earthly ruling organizations. The term does not denote disrespect. It does not mean beastly characteristics (some translation use the word ‘creature’). The description of each beast is a description of the government involved.

According to Revelation 13:1 this beast, with a mark, comes up out of the sea.

**Study Question 2. What does water represent in prophecy?
Revelation 17:15**

“The waters ... are _____ and _____ and _____ and _____.”

Water, in prophecy, represents a populated area

Part 3: The Beast’s Eight Points of Identification

Study Question 3. Read Revelation 13:1-8, 18.

Notice that this beast, which has a mark that we must not receive, has eight pronounced characteristics.

Point Number 1. It would receive its “_____”, and his seat, and great _____” (vs. 2).

The dragon, Revelation 12:3, 4, 9, though primarily representing Satan, also represents Pagan Rome, whom Satan used to try to destroy Jesus when Herod, a Roman ruler, killed the babies of Bethlehem (Matthew 2:16-18). History is clear that the Papacy received its power, authority and capital city from old Pagan Rome. This quote from history is typical: “The Roman church ... pushed itself into the place of the Roman world empire, of which it is the actual continuation. The Pope ... is Caesar’s successor” (Adolf Harnack, *What is Christianity*; New York; Putnam, 1901, pp. 269,270). Obviously the Papacy fits point number one.

Point Number 2. Would become a _____ power (vs. 3,7). None would dispute that during the middle ages the Papacy was indeed a world-wide power so, once again, the Papacy fits the identification.

Point Number 3. Would rule for 42 _____ (vs. 5).

Remember that, in prophecy, one prophetic day equals one literal year (Ezekiel 4:6). The time of the Papacy's rule is repeatedly referred to in prophecy as 1260 days, 42 months or 3½ years. All equal the same thing: 1260 prophetic days or 1260 literal years. The power of the Papacy became supreme in Christendom in 538 A.D. due to a letter of Roman Emperor Justinian, which acknowledged the bishop of Rome as the head of all churches. This letter became part of Justinian's code, the fundamental law of the empire. The power and status of the Papacy reached its lowest ebb in 1798 A.D. when Napoleon's general, Berthier, took the Pope captive and he died in exile. 538 A. D. to 1798 A. D. is exactly 1260 years, as prophecy predicted. Again, the Papacy fits the identification point. No other power could possibly fit this.

Point Number 4. Would be guilty of _____ (vs. 5, 6).

The Bible defines blasphemy as claiming to be God (John 10:33) and claiming power to forgive sins (Luke 5:21).

Once again the Papacy fits the identification point:

a. It claims to forgive sins. From a catechism we note the following:

“QUESTION: Does the priest truly forgive the sins, or does he only declare that they are remitted?

ANSWER: The priest does really and truly forgive the sins in virtue of the power given him by Jesus Christ” (Joseph DeHarbe, *Catechism of the Catholic Religion*; New York; W. H. Sadler, Inc. 1924, P. 279).

b. It claims to be God. “Thou art another God on earth.” (Christopher Marcellus, *Oration in the Fifth Lateran Council, Session IV [1512] in Mans*, S.C., Vol. 32, Col. 761 [Latin]).

“The Pope is not only the representative of Jesus Christ, but he is Jesus Christ, Himself, hidden under the veil of flesh” (*Catholic National*, July, 1895).

Point Number 5. Would receive a deadly _____ which would heal. Then the entire world would follow Him, (vs. 3). As mentioned earlier, the Papacy was dealt what appeared to be a death blow when in 1798 Napoleon’s general, Berthier, took the Pope captive and he died in exile (Joseph Rickaby, *The Modern Papacy*, in *Lectures on the History of Religion*, Vol. 3, Lecture 24, p1, London: Catholic Truth Society, 1910).

Half of Europe thought that the Papacy had ended with this event. God, however, was on record that the wound would be healed and that the influence of the Papacy would grow until all the world followed her leading. Even a novice recognizes today that the Papacy is, in many ways, the most influential power on earth. And with each overseas trip of the present pope, the Papacy’s influence and power increases. Multiplied millions from all over the world look to the Papacy today as the only hope for world unity, love, peace and decency — precisely as God predicted. So, again, the Papacy fits this identification point.

Point Number 6. Would have the mystic number _____, (vs. 18). *Six hundred + threescore (a score is 20; threescore is 3 x 20 = 60) + six = 666.*

Revelation 13:17, 18 says to count the number of the beast’s name and that it is the number of a man. *The* man we think of when the Papacy is mentioned is the Pope. What is his name? One of the Pope’s official titles is “Vicar of the Son of God” (*Our Sunday Visitor*, April 18, 1915, in *Answers to Readers Questions*) which in Latin is “VICARIUS FILII DEI”. Often newspaper articles, when referring to the Pope as “Vicar of Christ”, will enclose the words in quotation marks because they are a translation of his title or name. The book of Revelation is saying that the Roman numeral value of the letters of his name will equal 666. Let’s see if it does:

V -	5	F -	0	D -	500	112
I -	1	I -	1	E -	0	53
C -	100	L -	50	I -	1	501
A -	0	I -	1			
R -	0	I -	1		501	666
I -	1					
U -	5		53			
S -	0					
	112					

So the Papacy fits the sixth point.

Point Number 7. Would be a religious power — it is involved in

_____ (vs. 5, 8).

This power is not a secular government but is involved in spiritual matters. The word “worship” is used four times in Revelation 13, a chapter specifically about false worship. Again, the Papacy fits this identification point.

Point Number 8. Would war with and persecute the _____, (vs. 7). It is common knowledge that the Papacy did persecute and destroy conscientious Christians, especially during the peak of its period of control during the Middle Ages. Many historians say that more than fifty million people died for their faith during this period of great tribulation (for example, W E H Lecky, *History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe*; New York; Braziller, 1955, Vol. 2, pp. 40-45). The church felt it was doing God a favour in stamping out “heresy”, but the fact remains that it did persecute and destroy. Many modern Catholics disapprove of these persecutions. The Papacy fits this point, also.

There may be two sides to some questions, but there is only one side here: the beast of Revelation 13:1-8,18 represents the Papacy. And this power has a mark that we dare not receive.

IMPORTANT:

There are many beautiful, sweet, loving Roman Catholic Christians who serve Jesus gladly and whom Jesus counts as His children. Even the current pope seems to be a warm, gracious, congenial, courageous person who loves God. This lesson is not an attack upon our Christian Catholic friends. It is an attack upon the devil who is responsible for the entire miserable affair. It is true, however, that God, Himself, has told us that this system has a mark that we dare not receive. Sincere Protestants, Catholics, Jews and the un-churched will all be anxious to discover what this mark is so they can avoid receiving it. Thank God that He has, in the book of Revelation, uncovered Satan’s ugly plans.

Part 4: The Beast's Mark of Authority

Study Question 4. What is the beast's mark?

Since we have now positively identified the beast as the papacy, let's permit the papacy to tell us what its mark is.

Here is the famous question that the Papacy has repeatedly asked Protestants, and upon which Protestants have remained strangely silent:

5

“You will tell me that Saturday was the Jewish Sabbath, but that the Christian Sabbath has been changed to Sunday. Changed! But by whom? Who has authority to change an express commandment of Almighty God? When God has spoken and said, ‘Thou shalt keep holy the seventh day’ who shall dare to say, nay, thou mayest work and do all manner of worldly business on the seventh day, but thou shalt keep holy the first day in its stead? This is a most important question which I know not how you can answer. You are a Protestant, and you profess to go by the Bible and the Bible only; and yet, in so important a matter as the observance of one day in seven as a holy day, you go against the plain letter of the Bible, and put another day in the place of that which He has commanded. The command to keep holy the seventh day is one of the Ten Commandments; you believe the other nine are still binding; who gave you authority to tamper with the fourth? If you are consistent with your own principle, if you really follow the Bible and the Bible only, you ought to be able to produce some portion of the New Testament in which this fourth commandment is expressly altered” (*Library of Christian Doctrine*; Burns and Oates, pp. 3-4, London).

But as we studied before, virtually all churches admit in their official writings that there is no scriptural basis for Sunday sacredness. Protestantism stands guilty before the judgment bar of God of throwing out the Bible Sabbath. God, Himself, gave the Sabbath as a sign or mark of his power to create and his power to sanctify or save (Exodus 31:17; Ezekiel 20:12). Dare any man tamper with this sacred sign that represents the great God of Heaven and all that He stands for?

Part 5: The Attempted Change of God's Law

It seems incredible that the papacy has been able to change the day of worship from Saturday to Sunday and have virtually the entire world follow.

Study Question 5. Did the papacy really change God's fourth commandment (Sabbath to Sunday)? Daniel 7:25

“And _____ to change times and _____.”

Daniel 7 is a parallel prophecy to Revelation 13. The message is clear: the papacy only *thought* a change had been made. The Sabbath of the commandment is still binding. Sunday is not a holy day.

Study Question 6. What was God's criticism of His ancient priests or pastors? Malachi 2:7-9

“Ye have caused many to _____ at the law ... ye have not

kept my ways, but have been _____ in my law”.

God does not change (Malachi 3:6). He still is hurt when religious leaders are partial to the nine commandments and cause people to stumble over His Sabbath command.

Study Question 7. How did the people in Hosea's day regard the great things of God's law? Hosea 8:12

“They were counted as a _____ thing”.

Things have not changed. If you decide to keep the great, holy Sabbath of God's law, people will still consider it a strange thing.

God said that the religious leaders in Ezekiel's day were profaning holy things; putting no difference between profane and holy things and showing no difference between the clean and the unclean.

Study Question 8. What specifically did He have in mind? Ezekiel 22:26

“They have _____ their _____ from my _____ .”
It is still happening today. Many religious leaders say, “There is no difference between Sabbath and Sunday”, or “Any day will do if you are sincere”. But God still says, “Thou hast despised My holy things, and hast profaned My Sabbaths” (Ezekiel 22:8). He also says He will pour out His “indignation” (Ezekiel 22:31) upon those who say, “Thus saith the Lord God, when the Lord has not spoken” (Ezekiel 22:28). To claim that God says Sunday is a holy day when God has, instead, ordained the Sabbath is a very serious matter that He will not overlook.

Study Question 9. What did God say about attempts to change His law or word in any way?

- a. Deuteronomy 4:2 Do not _____ or _____ a single thing.
- b. Proverbs 30:5, 6 If I add to His word He counts me a _____.
- c. Luke 16:17 And it is easier for _____ and _____ to pass [away], than one tittle of the _____ to fail.

Part 6: Popular Churches Are Embarrassed

Study Question 10. When we ask the Papacy of today, “How could you change God’s holy law?” they are embarrassed. But their response is even more embarrassing to Protestants.

One day a man picked up Peter Geiermann’s *Convert’s Catechism of Catholic Doctrine* and read the following on page 50:

“Q. Which is the Sabbath day?

A. Saturday is the Sabbath day.

Q. Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?

A. We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday”.

The man was dumbfounded and supposed there must be some mistake so he wrote a letter to the then-famous James Cardinal Gibbons of

Baltimore and asked if the Catholic church did, indeed, change the day of worship from Saturday to Sunday.

The Cardinal replied, “Of course, the Catholic church claims that the change was her act. And the act is a *mark* of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters”.

Notice, also, the following words from *The Catholic Record of London, Ontario, Canada, September 1, 1923*: “Sunday is our *mark* of authority ... the church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact”.

Notice this from *A Doctrinal Catechism* by Stephen Keenan:

“*Q. Have you any other way of proving that the church has power to institute festivals of precept?*”

A. Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her, she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday, the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority.”

The Papacy claims that it changed the day of worship from Saturday to Sunday and that Sunday or Sunday-keeping is its mark of authority and power. God’s mark or sign of power, is Sabbath and Sabbath-keeping (or more simply, True Worship) and the beast’s sign or mark of power, is Sunday and Sunday-keeping (or more simply, False Worship).

Part 7: How the Mark is Received

Study Question 11. Where is the beast’s mark placed on people? Revelation 13:16

“In their right _____ or in their _____ .”

The mark is not literal. Remember, we are dealing with symbols. The forehead represents the mind with which we serve God (Romans 7:25), and the hand is a symbol of work (Ecclesiastes 9:10). Those who accept Sunday observance willingly are marked in the forehead. Those who agree to work Sabbath to avoid boycott or death are marked in the hand.

Study Question 12. Do people who now observe Sunday as a holy day have the mark of the beast? Revelation 13:16, 17

“And that _____ man might _____ or _____ save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”

No one has the mark of the beast now. No one will be marked until the law forces a person to stop buying and selling unless he has the mark. When it becomes a major issue and men are forced to decide for either the mark of God or the mark of the beast, then those who work on Sabbath or observe Sunday as a holy day will be marked. Sabbath breaking, however, even today, is a very serious matter, because it involves sin (1 John 3:4). Those who knowingly profane God’s holy day now may well lose their ability to think and see clearly and will end up in darkness (John 12:35).

In these last days, God has commanded His angels to hold back the winds of strife from the earth until something happens to His people.

Study Question 13. What is that something? Revelation 7:1-3

“Hurt not the _____ ... till we have _____ the _____ of God in their _____.”

God is holding back devastating destruction from the earth until His people receive His seal, sign or mark, which, as we saw in study number 10, is His Sabbath. Soon, toward the end of time, every person on earth will be in one of two camps: God’s camp with His Sabbath mark, or the beast’s camp with his counterfeit Sunday mark.

The Holy Spirit is assuredly working to clearly show people that loyalty to God is involved here and to impress them to accept God’s Sabbath mark which represents His creative and redemptive power.

It is not enough to claim that we serve God. We must also obey Him (Luke 6:46).

In the Bible, winds blowing represent strife, war and commotion (Jeremiah 49:36, 37; 4:11-13; Zechariah 7:14).

Study Question 14. Who will receive God’s wrath in the last days? Revelation 14:9, 10

Those who receive the _____ of the _____ .
God's wrath is contained in the seven last plagues (Revelation 15:1;
Revelation 16:1, 2)

Part 8: A Test of Loyalty

Study Question 15. How does God decide whom it is that we serve? Romans 6:16

“His _____ ye are to whom ye _____.”
God chooses everybody to be saved (1 Timothy 2:3, 4). The devil chooses everybody to be lost (1 Peter 5:8). We choose whom we will serve by whom we obey (Joshua 24:15). We obey God and serve Him by, amongst other things, accepting His mark, as it is not so much a matter of which day, but rather a question of loyalty — to Christ or to the beast. God's Sabbath is like a banner or flag. When we obey Him we stand under His Sabbath banner. When we, with our eyes wide open, stand under the banner of the beast, God sees us as serving the beast.

Study Question 16. How does God see me if I am neutral? Matthew 12:30

“He that is not _____ Me is _____ Me.”

According to Revelation 13:11, John saw another beast rise up out of the earth about the time that the beast of verse 1 went into captivity (vs. 10).

Study Question 17. Whom do you think this other beast represents?

No other country except the United States of America can fit here. It came up from an almost-uninhabited area (the earth). It was lamblike (peaceful and docile) and it arose around 1798 when the Pope went into captivity. It was in 1776 that America declared her independence. Obviously, current government attitude must change before this prophecy can be fulfilled. But since God predicts that it will do so there

is no question about it happening.

Study Question 18. What two tragic things does this second beast cause people to do? Revelation 13:12, 16

To “_____ the first beast” and “to receive a _____” in the hand or forehead.

America will lead out in forcing people to receive the mark of the beast. That magnificent country will soon repudiate religious freedom and will force people into false worship. The possibility of further intimacy between USA and the Papacy was highlighted when one considers the selection of American dignitaries at the funeral of Pope John Paul II. The funeral took place on April 8, 2005, and was one of the largest gatherings of statesmen and world leaders in history (Source: N Kulish & A Cowell, NYC Times, 9 December 2013). Because of the numbers anticipated to attend, most countries were limited to 5 persons each. The U.S. attendees were George W. Bush - then President of the United States of America, Laura Bush - then U.S. First Lady, Condoleezza Rice - then U.S. Secretary of State, and two former Presidents of the United States: George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton.

Study Question 19. How will the second beast convince people they should listen to him? Revelation 13:13, 14

“And _____ them ... by the means of those _____ which he had _____ to do”.

Study Question 20. To whom will this second beast make an image? Revelation 13:14

“Saying ... that they should _____ an _____ to the _____ which had the _____ by a sword, and did _____ “.

An image is a copy. During the Middle Ages the first beast supported

false worship by the arm of the state and persecuted and killed those who refused to comply.

The second beast will do the same. We see omens today of such things in America with the uniting of church and government leaders to enforce religious morality to stem the tide of evil in a decaying society. Their motives are honourable but forced worship is always evil. Forced prayer in public schools and forced Sunday blue laws can be dangerous for the same reason. Blue laws, also known as Sunday laws, are laws designed to restrict or ban some or all Sunday activities for religious reasons, particularly to promote the observance of a day of worship or rest. The name is based on an 18th-century usage of the word 'blue' meaning 'rigidly moral' in a disparaging sense. So the Government uses a moral argument to circumvent accusations of limitations to freedom of religion. The second beast will utilize boycott and death threats to force people into line (Revelation 13:15-17). The image is the union of church and state with forced worship. Remember God does not ever force our worship or obedience. In love, He always gives us the freedom of choice.

Part 9: God's People Lovingly Obey

Study Question 21. What did the disciples say about whom to obey? Acts 5:29

“We ought to obey _____ rather than _____ “

And Jesus said, “In vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men” (Matthew 15:9).

Mark Sutton wrote in 'Proclaim' magazine, “A special group of men perform an important task for the United States Treasury Department. Their job is to track down counterfeit bills and those who distribute them. Naturally, these men must be able to readily identify fake currency.

How are they trained to do this? You would think they'd study all types of counterfeit money being printed. No, that's not what they do. They spend hours with 'real' money. They come to know how the bills look and even how they feel.

These agents don't have to know all the different types of 'phoney money' or 'funny money'. Because they are intimately familiar with the real thing, everything else stands out as false."

We Christians do not need to be informed of every type of sin or every wind of doctrine that exists. We should concentrate on getting to know our precious Lord better and living closer to Him.

Study Question 22. What can I do to make certain I will not receive the mark of the beast? Revelation 14:12

"Keep the _____ of _____ and the _____ of _____."

Revelation 14:9-11 warns against receiving the mark of the beast. Verse 12 tells what the victorious saints do to avoid the mark: They keep God's commandments and have Jesus' faith.

Praise God it is both the faith *in* Jesus and the faith *of* Jesus that makes the miracle of commandment-keeping possible. My faith in Jesus' indwelling presence is the key. Jesus fulfils God's commands in and through me by His miracle-working power (Romans 8:3, 4).

Part 10: God's Last Warning Message

God's last message to the world, Revelation 14:6-12, includes:

a. Worship of the Creator (vs. 7). That means I choose true worship and wear both inwardly and outwardly the sign or mark of His creatorship, His Sabbath. For emphasis, verse 7 even quotes part of the Sabbath commandment: "... made heaven and earth and the sea" (Revelation 14:7; Exodus 20:11).

b. Not receiving the mark of the beast (vs. 9-10). That means I choose not to accept and receive the devil's counterfeit sign of false worship including Sunday sacredness. It is God who gives us these two solemn warnings. What could be more sobering?

Satan, who hates God, asks for my allegiance through the adoption of his sign or mark. Jesus, who is God, asks for my allegiance through the adoption of His sign or mark.

Study Question 23. When we decide to accept Jesus and fully follow Him, what happens? Matthew 11:28-30

“Ye shall find _____ unto your souls. For my yoke is _____ and my burden is _____.”

Deciding to follow Jesus fully and to accept His holy sign brings rest, peace, joy, happiness, and blessings that are indescribably glorious. It is one of the most exciting decisions of a lifetime. The word ‘Sabbath’ means ‘rest’. Accepting God’s Sabbath sign brings rest and release from the burdens of life. Such blessed relief can come from no other source.

Jesus is waiting at the door of your heart for your answer. He says, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me” (Revelation 3:20).

Study Question 24. Will you decide now to receive His glorious sign as evidence that you accept Him as your blessed redeemer?

_____.

Part 11: How Easily Deceived?

“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect” (Matthew 24:24).

The humorist Lucian of Samosata (c125-180 A.D.) wrote satire in the mid-second century, and he loved to pick on Christians — especially when he sensed something suspicious. In one of his works, he reports on a deceiver named Peregrinus, a murderer and child molester who fled to Palestine and got involved with the Christians.

“In a trice he made them all look like children; for he was [a self-proclaimed] prophet, cult leader, head of the synagogue, and everything,

all by himself. He ‘interpreted’ and explained some of their books and even composed many, and they revered him as a god, made use of him as a lawgiver, and set him down as a protector, next after that other, to be sure, whom they still worship, the man who was crucified in Palestine because he introduced this new cult into the world.”

Peregrinus was imprisoned for his involvement with the Christians. This, Lucian says, was an “asset to his future career” as a charlatan.

Christians travelled from all around to visit him; some tried to rescue him.

“Much money came to him from them by reason of his imprisonment, and he procured not a little revenue from it.”

Lucian comments on the strange beliefs of “these poor wretches” (his name for the Christians) who “despise all things indiscriminately and consider them common property, receiving such doctrines traditionally without any definite evidence. So if any charlatan or trickster, able to profit by occasions, comes among them, he quickly acquires sudden wealth by imposing upon simple folk.”

Released from prison, Peregrinus wandered for a while, “possessing an ample source of funds in the Christians, through whose ministrations he lived in unalloyed prosperity.”

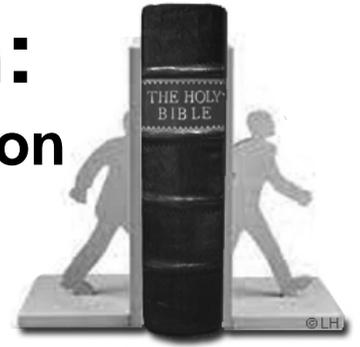
But his defrauding of the Christians would not last forever. Lucian says he “transgressed in some way even against them (he was seen, I think, eating some of the food that is forbidden them) they no longer accepted him.”

Lucian’s tale continues, culminating in Peregrinus’s spectacular suicide. Before a crowd of Greeks at the Olympic festival, he jumped into a burning pyre. “So ended that poor wretch [Peregrinus], a man who (to put it briefly) never fixed his gaze on the verities, but always did and said everything with a view to glory and the praise of the multitude.”

Of course Lucian treated this story in his classic satirical fashion, so he may have overstated the facts. A fraud like Peregrinus could never dupe Christians so thoroughly, could he?

In the Footsteps of John: Walking through the Book of Revelation with John the Revelator

www.lrhartley.com/john



Program 19 – True Worship

According to an old legend, a man became lost in his travels and wandered into a bed of quicksand. Confucius saw the man's predicament and said, "It is evident that men should stay out of places such as this." Next, Buddha observed the situation and said, "Let that man's plight be a lesson to the rest of the world." Then Muhammad came by and said to the sinking man, "Alas, it is the will of God." Finally, Jesus appeared. "Take my hand, brother," he said, "and I will save you."

You may have heard someone cry out in anguish, "Who or what and how do I worship? With whom do I worship? I'm trying desperately to find God's church but what hope do I have? There are hundreds of church denominations and sects in the world. Most claim to be God's true church, and all are alike in certain areas, yet different in others. I could never, in my entire lifetime, examine the teachings of all these groups. I feel frustrated and traumatized. It is almost as if God were playing games with me. It all seems so futile and so pointless."

Tragically, millions share such sentiments. Perhaps you, yourself, feel the same way. And rivalry between the denominations is so common and so un-Christian. Just the other day I heard of a certain bishop with this antagonistic attitude. It seems a Baptist family had a death in the family while their minister was out of town. They asked a minister of another denomination to conduct the funeral service. He said he would have to check with his bishop, so he sent him a message, "Can I bury a Baptist?" The bishop responded, "Sure, bury all the Baptists you can!"

Did you know that, in Revelation, God so clearly describes His church for these last days that once you know what he says you can as easily select His true church from among all the churches as you could select your country's flag from among all other flags? No wonder Satan panics when people begin studying the book of Revelation. He knows that God's church is clearly described in the book and he utilizes every imaginable tactic to prevent our getting serious over its study. If everyone understood Revelation, Satan's kingdom would be in immediate jeopardy, and God's great name and His noble church would be exalted in a most exciting manner. Let's look at Revelation's amazing description of God's church. It is found in Chapter 12.

Revelation 12 - "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: 2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. 3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. 4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. 5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. 6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days. 7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. 12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. 13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man-child. 14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly

into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. 15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. 16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. 17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

Part 1: God’s Church Today

Study Question 1. Jesus says in Luke 17:26, that the time just before His second coming will be like Noah’s day. How many ways of escape were there in Noah’s day? Genesis 7:1

Study Question 2. How many faiths or churches did Paul say Jesus has? Ephesians 4:5

“One Lord, _____ faith, one baptism.”

As in Noah’s day, God has but one boat or church that is going through to safety. Be certain that you board the right vessel. Ephesians 5:25-27 points out clearly that Jesus died to bring His Church into His kingdom.

Study Question 3. Obviously, there are many beautiful Christians in all churches. Since God has only one true church, which He will save, what will happen to the sincere Christians in other churches?

a. ***John 10:16*** “And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be

_____ fold, and one shepherd.”

b. ***John 10:27*** “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and

_____ me:”

Here Jesus is pictured as the good shepherd, His people as sheep and His church as the fold. Jesus plainly says that some of His sheep are not yet in His church but that He will call them, and they will follow Him into His church (John 10:27).

Part 2: God's Church Symbolized

Study Question 4. How does God symbolize Zion or His church in prophecy?

a. **Jeremiah 6:2** "I have likened the daughter of Zion to a comely and delicate _____."

b. **Isaiah 51:16** "... say unto Zion, Thou art _____ people."

The Bible repeatedly symbolizes God's church as a virtuous woman.

Study Question 5. In Revelation 12:1, Jesus introduces His church under the symbolism of a virtuous woman.

a. **Where did John see the woman?** In _____
Heaven here refers to the sky where the birds fly (Genesis 1:20)

b. **What was she clothed with?** The _____
The sun represents Jesus and His righteousness (Psalm 84:11; Romans 13:14; Malachi 4:2; John 9:5).

c. **What was she standing on?** The _____
The moon has no light except that reflected from the sun. It represents the Old Testament sacrificial system which had no light except that reflected from the gospel (Hebrews 10:1).

d. **What was on her head?** A _____ of twelve stars.
The crown of twelve stars represents the work of the twelve disciples which crowned the early years of the church (Matthew 10:1-4).
A summary of Revelation 12:1 – Since the sun and the moon make a complete whole, this symbolism represents the sum total of the church in history: the church before the cross and the church after the cross.

Study Question 6. What next takes place in this great prophecy of God's church? Revelation 12:2, 5

- a. A _____ is born into the church.
- b. The child is later caught up to God's _____.

Study Question 7. Who is this baby who is destined to rule all nations and who ascended up to heaven? Psalm 2:7-9; Revelation 19:13-16; Acts 1:9-11

Part 3: The Great Red Dragon

Study Question 8. A great red dragon is next pictured. a. Who is this dragon? b. Where did he come from? Revelation 12:7-9; Revelation 12:3, 4

- a. _____
- b. He was cast out of _____.

Study Question 9. When the devil left heaven, a. Whom did he bring with him? b. What did he try to do to the child? Revelation 12:3, 4; 12:7-9

- a. "The _____ part of the _____ of heaven".

Stars are angels (Revelation 1:20). Satan deceived one-third of the angels and "his angels were cast out with him".

- b. "To _____ her child as soon as it was born".
Satan, through Herod, tried to kill Jesus at his birth by destroying all the babies of Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1-18). Joseph and Mary were forewarned by an angel and fled to Egypt. These two events were

predicted by Old Testament prophets, Jeremiah (Jeremiah 31:15) and Hosea (Hosea 11:1). Though the dragon represents Satan, it also has a secondary application to Pagan Rome. A beast normally represents a kingdom or political power (Daniel 7:23). Herod was a Roman ruler, whom Satan used to try to kill Jesus at birth.

Study Question 10. What outstanding and extremely crucial facts are mentioned in Revelation 12:10-12?

- a. The accuser ... is cast _____.
- b. They overcame by the _____ of the Lamb.
- c. The devil is angry because time is _____.

Three facts of utmost importance to God's people are established in Revelation 12:10-12.

These facts are:

1. Jesus defeated Satan, the accuser of the brethren, at the cross
2. All of us can overcome through the blood of Jesus and by witnessing.
3. The devil is infuriated because his time is short. We cannot expect him to behave like a gentleman. He is our bitterest enemy.

In the introduction to our last study we promised that in today's study we will encounter some terrifically Good News. Here it is: The message is that Jesus, who has defeated Satan, offers His matchless power to us as a free gift. So, with Jesus' power in our lives we cannot fail. Satan's fury need not affect us.

Always remember the following five points regarding Satan:

1. He is a defeated foe.
2. He was defeated in the war in heaven and cast out.
3. He was defeated by Jesus at the cross and lost his dominion.
4. He will be defeated legally in his case in the judgment and he will again be defeated when he attacks God's holy city.
5. Finally, he will suffer the defeat of being blotted from the face of the earth in the lake of fire, and, most wonderful of all, Jesus promises that he will be defeated in his bitter, grudge fight to destroy you and me. What a tremendous message of hope from Jesus.

Part 4: God's Church Persecuted

Study Question 11. After Satan failed in destroying Jesus when he was here on earth, what did he do to the woman (symbolising the church)? Revelation 12:13

He _____ the _____.

Study Question 12. Using the prophetic rule of one prophetic day equals one literal year, how long was this persecution to last? Revelation 12:6, 14

_____ years

This period of tribulation is repeatedly mentioned in the Bible because it is the worst ever to face God's people (Matthew 24:21). It is referred to as 1260 days, 42 months, and 3½ times, or years (Revelation 12:6, 14; 13:5; Daniel 7:25). All add up to the same – 1260 prophetic years. The two wings represent speed (Deuteronomy 28:49). This tribulation is called (Revelation 12:15) a flood of persecution (see Isaiah 59:19). History is clear that the Papacy was the power that persecuted for 1260 years. You will recall from an earlier lesson that the period began in 538 A.D. when Papal power became supreme in Christendom due to the letter of Roman emperor Justinian, which acknowledged the Bishop of Rome as the head of all churches. This letter became a part of Justinian's Code, the fundamental law of the empire. The period ended in 1798 when Napoleon's general, Berthier, took the Pope captive. At least 50 million Christians died for their faith during this period of persecution.

Study Question 13. What did the church do when this persecution began? Revelation 12:6

“And the woman _____ into the _____.”

The wilderness typifies the deserted and remote places of earth. God's people fled for their lives and hid in solitary places of the earth. The church dared not operate in the open else its members would not have survived. God's true church did not exist openly as an organization from 538 to 1798 AD. Many wonderful Christians are members of churches that were organized and openly functioning between 538 and 1798 AD.

However, none of these churches can be God's remnant church, into which he is calling all his people today because God makes it clear that His last church would not exist openly as a formal organization during this period.

Part 5: Two Types of Worship

A key theme throughout the Book of Revelation is worship. In study number 10 (*A Stamp of Approval*) we looked at when to worship – not just every day but specifically on the day identified by God's Mark. In our last study we looked specifically at Revelation chapter 13 and read a picture of false worship identified by Satan's Mark. Today's study is based on Revelation chapter 12 giving us a much broader picture of true worship. Revelation 14 tells us whom we should worship.

Study Question 14. If the object of our worship is not the beast and his mark, how is the object of our true worship identified? Revelation 14:7

“... Fear [reverence] _____, and give glory to him; ...

worship him that _____ heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

God is identified because he alone is our creator.

Study Question 15. In John's first epistle, what is the very last admonition? 1 John 5:21

“Little children [that's us], keep yourselves from _____.
Amen [meaning 'surely', 'so be it', 'verily'].”

An idol is anything we put before God – time, money, possessions, behaviours, interests, obsessions, etc (Acts 17:29).

Thousands of years before this, God gave His people the same warning (Exodus 20:4; Deuteronomy 4:16, 23, 25, 5:8, 7:25; Jeremiah 51:17; Habakkuk 2:18; etc.).

Part 6: How to Worship

So if we only worship God, how do we go about it?

If we are to walk in the footsteps of John, we need to look in his library and use the same reference book that he used to understand how to worship. He used the Hebrew liturgy (Psalter) textbook – the Psalms. There are numerous direct or indirect quotations from the Psalms in the writings of John that we can take as an indication of the writers' familiarity with the Psalter. For example, Revelation 15:4 (Psalm 86:9); John 12:27 (Psalm 6:3a); John 19:24 (Psalm 22:18[compare Matthew 27:35; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:34]); John 19:36 (Psalm 34:20); John 15:25 (Psalm 35:19b); John 13:18 (Psalm 41:9); John 15:25 (Psalm 69:4); John 2:17 (Psalm 69:9a); John 6:31 (Psalm 78:24); John 10:34 (Psalm 82:6); John 12:13 (Psalm 118:25, 26 [compare Matthew 21:9; 23:39; Mark 11:9; Luke 13:35; 19:38]).

Because Psalm 92 was written especially for Sabbath worship, we can take it as a model for how to worship.

Study Question 16. How do we 'do' worship? Psalm 92

Like Revelation 14:7, Psalm 92:1 tells us the Object of our worship: The Lord, the most high God.

Verses 1 & 3 tell us how to worship: with thanksgiving and with music, what to sing (praises), to include musical instruments if available (compare Psalm 150), and for the worship to be solemn (Hebrew *Higgaion* – meditation, solemn sound, not boisterous).

Verses 2 & 4 tell us why we worship: To acknowledge God's loving kindness, faithfulness and the works He has done. (Verse 5 describes these works).

Verse 6 warns against foolishness (Hebrew *keciyl* – foolish, stupid, silly, not taken seriously) & brutish (Hebrew *Ba'ar* – fiery, greedy, wasteful) behaviour.

Verses 7 & 8 contrast the transitory life of wicked man with the eternity of God.

Verse 9 highlights the fate of the wicked to contrast verses 10-14, which highlight the blessings of worshipping and acknowledging God.

The Psalm concludes with another reason for worship, i.e.: To show that

the Lord is upright: he is (our) rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him

A summary:

- a. Our worship should be joyful yet solemn, remembering that we are in the presence of the Most High God.
- b. Our worship should spring from gratitude within our hearts (thankfulness) and an acknowledgement of who God is and what He has done.
- c. Our worship should be taken seriously.
- d. Our worship should not be conducted foolishly, flippantly and without regard to the Object of our worship.

Our worship is for the benefit of:

1. God – He is the Object of our worship and deserves our thankfulness and praise (Verse 1, 2, 5, & 8)
2. The worshipper: (Verses 10-14) and
3. Observers and other worshippers: the music should lead others to see the righteousness and surety of God (Verse 15)

Part 7: God's Church Identified

According to Revelation 12 and 14, the following seven great points identify God's church for today into which He is calling all His people.

God's church:

1. Will appear *after* the wilderness (the Dark Ages experience) that is, after 1798.
2. Will hold same truths as apostles (teachings will align with the Bible).
3. Will keep the Ten Commandments, including the fourth (seventh-day Sabbath).
4. Will have the gift of prophecy.
5. Will preach the final, end-time, three-point message of Revelation 14:6-12.
6. Will be a world-wide missionary church (to every nation, tongue & people).
7. Will teach salvation through Jesus Christ (the everlasting gospel).

Study Question 17. Jesus hands you these seven specifications and says, "Go find my church". What does He promise when we seek? Luke 11:9

"Seek and ye shall _____."

Study Question 18. How many church organizations in the world fit all of these seven points? Ephesians 4:5

The church which sponsoring this 'In the Footsteps of John' Series fits all seven points.

Study Question 19. Once one recognizes God's true church, is it necessary to become a member? Acts 2:47

“And the Lord _____ to the church daily such as should be _____.”

Notice the following:

- a. We are all called into one body (Colossians 3:15).
- b. That body is the church (Colossians 1:18).
- c. We enter the church by baptism (1 Corinthians 12:13).

It is just as imperative to enter God's ark or church today, as it was to enter the ark in Noah's day. Jesus intends to save the church (Ephesians 5:25-27).

Revelation 1:12, 13, 20 pictures Jesus walking among His churches. He still walks among the churches today calling His people (Hebrews 13:8).

Study Question 20. As He speaks to you and calls you into His blessed ark of safety for these last days will you respond to His loving call? You are precious to Him.

Part 8: Who is Michael the Archangel (Revelation 12:7-9)?

1. Michael the archangel is Christ. Note the following evidence: a. Jude 9 calls Michael 'the archangel'. b. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 says that it is the voice of the archangel that will raise the dead. c. John 5:27-29 says that it is Jesus' voice that will raise the dead, so therefore, Jesus is the archangel.
2. Michael (Christ) the archangel is the second person of the Godhead. The Bible

clearly refers to Him as God (John 1:1-3, 10, 14; Titus 1:3, 4; Colossians 2:9; John 5:20; 1 Timothy 3:16).

3. Michael (Christ) the archangel is not a created being but rather existed from eternity with His father (John 1:1-3, 10, 14; John 6:38; John 17:5, 24; Colossians 1:15-17; Micah 5:2; John 8:58)

4. Michael (Christ) the archangel is apparently the supreme commander or leader of the angelic host (and is thus called the archangel), but serving in this capacity does not detract from His deity or make Him, in any way, a created being. When this “Captain of the host of the Lord” appeared to Joshua, the fact that Joshua worshipped Him is proof that this captain of the host was the Lord and not a created angel (Joshua 5:14, 15).

5. We know that Christ is not a created angel because angels, as created beings, are not to be worshipped (Colossians 2:18; Revelation 19:10; Revelation 22:8, 9). But angels, themselves, worship Christ (Hebrews 1:6).

6. Jesus is called the “angel of the Lord” (Exodus 3:2); the “angel of God” (Exodus 14:19); the “angel of His presence” (Isaiah 63:9); the “messenger of the covenant” (Malachi 3:1); and “angel” (Exodus 23:20); “mine angel” (Exodus 23:23); and “His angel” (Daniel 3:28).

Let’s look further at a few of these references. Repeatedly these passages refer to the angel as the Lord or God:

a. The “angel of the Lord” who came to Gideon (Judges 6:11-22) is called the “Lord” in verse 14.

b. Manoah said he had “seen God” (Judges 13:22) when the “angel of the Lord” appeared to him (Judges 13:3-21).

c. The angel who came to Joshua (Zechariah 3:1-10) causes sin to pass away and gives righteousness. Only God can do these things.

d. When the angel appeared to Jacob (Hosea 12:4) he said he had “seen God face-to-face” (Genesis 32:30).

e. The “angel of His presence”, “saved” and “redeemed”, which only God can do (Isaiah 43:11; compare Isaiah 44:6).

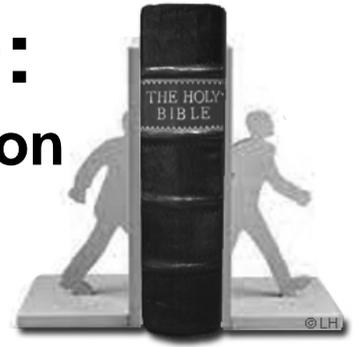
f. “Mine angel” (Exodus 23:23) could pardon transgression which only God can do (Mark 2:7).

7. A careful comparison will show that: the “prince of princes” (Daniel 8:25); the “prince of the host” (Daniel 8:11); “Michael, your prince” (Daniel 10:21); Michael, “the great prince” (Daniel 12:1); and “Messiah, the prince” (Daniel 9:25) all refer to the same being, the Lord Jesus Christ. (See also Acts 3:15; 5:31; Revelation 1:5.)

8. The being who appeared to Daniel (Daniel 10:5, 6) is obviously Christ because the description of Him is the same as that of Christ in Revelation 1:13-15. This being is also called Michael in Daniel 10:13.

In the Footsteps of John: Walking through the Book of Revelation with John the Revelator

www.lrhartley.com/john



Program 20. Victory and Defeat

Weapons of death and destruction are always purchased from the same vendor (Revelation 12:9), and lasting peace can only be found through the entrance of a single door (Revelation 3:20, 21).

Authors Larry Collins and Dominique la Pierre in *'O' Jerusalem'* tell us, "On November 29, 1947, the United Nations voted to partition Palestine into separate Jewish and Palestinian states. The following day, Swissair flight 442 left Lydda Airport in Tel Aviv for Paris.

On board that airplane were two unsuspecting men who were oblivious to the other's presence. Captain Abdul-Aziz Kerine was on a mission for the Syrian government to purchase weapons for an anticipated war with the Jews. Just a few rows away, Ehud Avriel was contemplating a similar mission, as David Ben-Gurion had sent him to buy weapons for an expected conflict with the Arabs.

After landing in Paris, both men took different routes but ended up at the same place, the Zbrojovka Brno company in Prague, Czechoslovakia. In an irony of ironies, these two men, representing opposing people, flew on the same plane to buy weapons from the same company."

Part 1: A Pageant of Conquest and Defeat

Jesus has given us in Revelation a unique three-fold view of history from apostolic days until the end of time. These three views are given in seven churches, seven seals and seven trumpets.

In the messages to the seven churches (Study #5), Jesus unfolds the *religious history* of the Christian era. He points out His people's faults and promises the victory to overcome. He makes it clear that His church is very precious to Him and that it will come through triumphantly.

The seven seals (Study #9), unfold the *social history* of the Christian era and trace especially the great apostasy. The seals comfort God's people by pointing out that God is in control of history and that He will bring an end to sin and suffering.

The seven trumpets, which we study today, depict the *military history* of the Christian era as it affects the church. They present Revelation's pageant of conquest and defeat (Revelation 8:2-13).

Pause now to read Revelation 8:2-13

Firstly, the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th trumpets portray the break-up of the original Roman Empire (both east and west) in symbols that are astonishing in their detail. In symbolic language, we see the barbaric tribes that carved up the Pagan Roman Empire and prepared the way for the Papal Roman Empire. Both Daniel and John (in Revelation) prophesied that this religious power would rule and persecute Bible-believing Christians for 1260 years.

Secondly, the 5th and 6th Trumpets picture the onslaughts of the other tribes, under their various leaders, which gave rise to another religious power that warred against Christianity.

Thirdly, the 7th trumpet presents the final period of time when God's last day church gives the everlasting gospel and the Three Angels' Messages of Revelation 14:6-10 to the entire world (Study #19).

The trumpets finally culminate in that great final battle of Armageddon that ushers in the second coming of Jesus and brings an end to sin.

Part 2: The Climax of World History

The “silence in heaven” of Revelation 8:1 takes place at the coming of Jesus (see Study #9). Verses 2-5 give a view inside the sanctuary.

Study Question 1. Is this sanctuary on earth or in heaven?

Revelation 8:3

“The golden altar which was before the _____.”

The throne is in heaven. Revelation 8:1-5 is really a continuation of chapter 6 of Revelation, and is thus part of the closing events of earth’s history as portrayed in the sixth and seventh seals.

Study Question 2. Where did the angel cast the censer filled with fire? Revelation 8:5

“The angel ... cast it into the _____.”

Casting the censer to the earth signifies that the judgment, which is now in progress in heaven, has closed. The voices, thundering, lightning and earthquake take place at Jesus’ coming (Revelation 16:17, 18; 6:14-17).

The Book of Revelation reveals the prophetic history that leads up to this great event. The winds of war, under the 7 trumpets give rise to major religious powers that oppose God’s people. Here we find Daniel’s prophecy concerning the fall and division of Pagan Rome coming to pass under the first, second, third and fourth trumpets. Brutal attacks by the Ostrogoths (Goths), Vandals, Heruli and Huns fulfilled this prophecy of Daniel 7 (See Study #12).

Part 3: Military Conquests Destroy Rome

Study Question 3. What was cast upon the earth when the first trumpet sounded? Revelation 8:7

“Hail and _____ mingled with _____.”

Most Bible commentators agree that the hail, “fire and blood” represent the savage attack upon Rome by the Goths under their ruthless leader Alaric. They came like a hailstorm with massacre, arson and cruel oppression. Family members were separated and people were treated

with brutality as the hordes swept over Greece, Asia Minor, Italy, Spain and southern France. The city of Rome was invaded and ravaged for six days in 410 A.D.

The trees of Revelation 8:7 represent God's people.

Study Question 4. What happened to them?

The third part of the _____ was _____ up. Trees being burned up represent severe persecution upon and mass destruction of God's people. Grass also refers to God's people. The burnt grass refers to the desolation and difficult times that came to them.

A mountain represents a nation or kingdom.

Study Question 5. When the nation of the second trumpet was cast into the sea. what happened? Revelation 3:8

The third part of the sea became _____. Blood refers to the bloodthirstiness of their onslaughts. This fiery mountain represents the Vandals under their leader Genseric. The 'ships' of verse 9 indicate that the power was a maritime power which indeed it was. Their ships controlled the Mediterranean. At one time these pirates destroyed 1,110 Roman ships in one night. On land they pillaged and plundered. The modern word 'vandal' comes from their exploits. They ravaged the city of Rome for 14 days in 455 A.D. taking 1,000 captives, including the Empress and her daughters.

Study Question 6. How many sea creatures and ships were affected when the vandals struck? Revelation 8:9

"The _____ part."

'Creatures... in the sea' and 'ships' refer to the sea of humanity and their possessions. 'The third part' means that a sizeable portion of people and their possessions were wiped out.

Study Question 7. What fell from heaven when the third trumpet sounded? Revelation 8:10

“A great _____, burning as it were a _____.”

This flaming meteor represents Attila, the leader of the Huns. His troops devastated and occupied Europe from the Volga River to the Danube. They killed or forced survivors to pay large indemnities. Attila called himself the *Scourge of God* and boasted that the grass never grew where his horses trod. His warriors scarred their faces to add terror to their appearance. Once his warriors, on horseback, trampled 200 young ladies to death and left their bodies for the vultures. The word ‘*Hun*’ is still a synonym for plunder and pillaging.

Study Question 8. What was the star called? Revelation 8:11

The star is called _____.

‘Wormwood’ means ‘bitterness’ and it represents the bitter, cruel and heartless onslaughts of the Huns which resulted in the death of many people.

Study Question 9. When the fourth trumpet sounded, what was smitten and became dark? Revelation 8:12

“A third part of the _____ and _____”.

Some commentaries say the sun, moon and stars refer to the Roman emperors, senators and consuls who were either destroyed or hindered from doing their work effectively. However, they also symbolize the light of the gospel that was darkened during this onslaught.

The fourth trumpet power is the barbaric Heruli led by their king Odoacer. He deposed Romulus, the Roman emperor, and abolished the Roman empire of the west. Rome surrendered to him in 476 A.D. Government officials (represented by the sun, moon and stars) were unseated as pointed out above.

Rome, shortly after this, was broken up into the ten kingdoms that became modern Europe (Daniel 2:41-43). The attacks upon Pagan Rome during the first four trumpets led to the demise of that proud empire which had murdered untold thousands of God's people.

Study Question 10. What power was it that darkened the sun, moon and stars under the fourth trumpet?

Three of the four barbaric powers pictured under the first four trumpets, were uprooted and destroyed by the little horn power of Daniel 7. They were the Vandals, Ostrogoths (Goths) and Heruli, (see study #12). The little horn, Papal Rome, emerged as Pagan Rome was being destroyed. Thus the papacy was established.

The papacy is also identified as the beast of Revelation 13 which has a mark, (see Study #19). it established a counterfeit day of worship and elevated tradition above the Holy Bible.

Part 4: More Bloodthirsty Conquests

The last three trumpets are also called 'woes' because they are so extensive and devastating. When the 5th trumpet sounded (first woe) a star fell to earth and was given the key to something.

Study Question 11. What was the key to? Revelation 9:1

"The key of the _____."

The bottomless pit here also represents the vast wastes of the Arabian and Sahara deserts from whence the warriors of this trumpet came.

Study Question 12. By what insect are warriors are represented? Revelation 9:3-7

"And there came out of the smoke _____."

Locusts represent the Arabs or Saracens. The 'star' of verse 1 represents Mohammed whose religion of Islam formed the basis for welding these desert nomads into a mighty war machine which in a few years

conquered Persia, Syria, Egypt, Africa and Spain. The Saracens converted two-thirds of the Christians of Africa and Asia to Islam. They brought in a counterfeit Sabbath (Friday), a counterfeit prophet (Mohammed) and a counterfeit Bible (the Koran). They reject Jesus as the Messiah and teach righteousness by works. So effective was their religious persuasion that they threatened to obscure the light of the gospel. Their onslaughts were largely against Eastern Rome.

Study Question 13. How long were the Saracens given power to hurt and torment people? Revelation 9:5, 10

For hundreds of years the Mohammedan tribes were nomadic with little organization. Near the close of the 13th century Othman welded them together and formed the Ottoman Empire. The five months are 150 years prophetic time ($5 \times 30 = 150$). The 150 years began on July 27, 1299 A.D., when Ottoman invaded Nicomedia and ended on July 27, 1449 A.D. By this date, the Empire had attained such power that the Greek Emperor Constantine had to ask its permission before mounting the throne. This 150 year period helps anchor this prophecy.

The sixth trumpet (second woe) symbolizes the Ottoman Empire whose Turks overthrew the Eastern Roman Empire.

Study Question 14. Who did the angel of the sixth trumpet set loose? Revelation 9:14

“The four _____ ... bound in the ... river Euphrates”.

Revelation 7:1 tells us that four angels are holding back the winds of war and strife from the earth. Doubtless, angels have controlled war through the centuries. Here they turn loose the Ottoman Empire to permit her to go to war successfully. In a secondary sense the four angels apply to the four leading Sultanies (kingdoms) of the empire. The Euphrates (water) is a symbol of the people of the empire (Revelation 17:15).

Study Question 15. For how long was the Ottoman empire to

continue? Revelation 9:15

An _____, day, _____, and year.
This is 391 years and 15 days prophetic time. The empire was established as of July 27, 1449. Adding the 391 years and 15 days would reach to August 11, 1840.

Based on this calculation, Josiah Litch, an American clergyman, predicted in 1838 that the Ottoman Empire would lose power on August 11, 1840. Egypt was threatening Turkey and was well able to conquer her. Hopeless and helpless, Turkey appealed to the European nations that agreed to protect her. The ultimatum they sent to Egypt arrived on the dot — August 11, 1840. Turkey was finished. From then on, Turkey was called ‘The sick man of the East’. Infidels who had laughed at Litch’s audacity were so impressed that over 1,000 of them wrote to him telling of their conversion to Christianity. The Turks, incidentally, brought the Eastern Roman Empire to an end. Islam, the Turkish religion, now numbers adherents in the hundreds of millions and its followers are among the most difficult to reach with the gospel.

Jesus is often called the Prince of Peace, yet, paradoxically, countless wars have been fought in His name during the past 2,000+ years. A silver star used to hang in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem over Jesus' supposed birthplace. If you visited this grotto while on a tour of the Bible lands, you may see a star inset on the floor under the manger. However, there is no silver star hanging above it. There had been a star there and it was removed 100 years before.

In 1853 this star became the focus of discord that led, in a short time, to the Crimean War. It all began when the clergy of the Eastern Orthodox Church decided to replace the star with a star of their own. The clergy of the Latin rite objected. The former were backed by Russia, the latter by France. When Turkey sided with France, Russia went to war with Turkey. France, Great Britain, and Sardinia in turn declared war on Russia. The war lasted three long years and resulted in the death and

wounding of scores of thousands of soldiers. In the end, the allies won.

But the ironic part of it is that, although two years after the war the center of contention, the silver star, was permanently removed, the war left a legacy of ill will that lasted for years.

Have you ever wondered why Christ has so often been linked with war and bloodshed when He is the Prince of Peace? Christ is not the one who causes these wars. They are caused by people who may profess to be His followers (James 4:1, 2), but apparently have never experienced, and therefore do not reveal by their actions, the peace of which Christ is prince (John 16:33).

Part 5: God's True Church Appears

As the 6th trumpet finished its message and the 7th began to sound, a special religious movement arose (See Study #16) called by God as His Remnant Church to give a positive three-fold message to all the world before Jesus returns (Revelation 14:6-14). Three times God repeats significant events to happen during the 7th trumpet which sounds until the end of the world (Revelation 11:15-17; 18; 19).

Part 6: Victory

Before the advent of the tape recorder, a man bought a machine that enabled him to cut his own records on discs. He'd listened to Winston Churchill's famous speech over the radio and recorded it. But the record cracked, and if you played it you would have heard Churchill saying, "Our aim is victory, victory, victory, victory!" When you read the Book of Revelation, you seem to hear the word, like the refrain of a great hymn, over and over in the background: "Victory! Victory! Victory!"

It seems only yesterday we began the "In the Footsteps of John" series and suddenly, it is almost over. We are now studying our final lesson together. We have received wonderful new views of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. And how thrilling to be reminded that God, the Father, also loves us more than words express. In Revelation, Jesus our

loving Saviour, has in special kindness and mercy given us the help and information we must have for these last days. Our only hope is to obey His counsel and accept His offer of assistance.

Jesus stated it clearly “Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book” (Revelation 22:7).

The New International Version translates Revelation 1:3 thus, “Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near”.

In Revelation, Jesus is lovingly calling His sheep to follow Him. He provides the map and promises to lead them safely through the harrowing, confusing crises of the last days. But it is imperative to *choose* to follow Him. He will not force the issue. He simply invites us to follow. He says, “*Whosoever will*, let him take of the water of life freely” (Revelation 22:17 - emphasis added).

Part 7: Salvation by Faith

Study Question 16. How is righteousness obtained?

Romans 3:22

“Even the _____ of God which is by _____ of Jesus _____.”

Study Question 17. Do my works contribute to salvation?

Ephesians 2:8, 9

“For by grace are ye _____ through _____ and that _____ of yourselves: it is the _____ of God: not of _____, lest any man should _____.”

Part 8: Justification by Faith

Salvation consists of three parts: Justification, Sanctification and Glorification.

Study Question 18. What does Justification accomplish for me? Romans 3:24, 25

“Being justified ... to declare His _____ for the _____ of sins that are _____”. Justification removes all the sins of the past (just as if we had never sinned).

Study Question 19. What must I do to receive justification or forgiveness for past sins? 1 John 1:9

“If we _____ our sins, He is faithful and just to _____ us our sins, and to cleanse us from all _____.”

When I confess, He forgives all my sins of the past and cleanses me from all unrighteousness. This miracle takes place instantly. He, at once, counts me righteous. In justification I am delivered from the penalty of sin on the spot. It is called the new birth or being born again in John 3:3 because when justified I have no past. I start all over again like a newborn baby (John 3:1-7).

Ray C. Stedman, in an article entitled ‘*Man of Faith*’ (Christianity Today, Vol.30, no.5) wrote, “If you want a wonderful experience, take your New Testament and use a concordance to look up the two little words, ‘but God.’ See how many times human resources have been brought to an utter end; despair has gripped the heart and pessimism and gloom has settled upon a people; and there is nothing that can be done. Then see how the Spirit of God writes in luminous letters, ‘But God,*’ and the whole situation changes into victory.”

(**25 times in the New Testament, 18 times in the Old Testament*)

Part 9: Sanctification by Faith

Study Question 20. What Is sanctification?

1 Thessalonians 4:3-12

(vs. 4) “That everyone of you _____ know how to
_____ his vessel in _____ and
_____.”

(vs. 7) “For God hath not _____ us unto
_____ but unto _____.”

This passage says that sanctification is right living, or holiness.

Author J. Alistair Brown makes this observation: “Walking through a park, I passed a massive oak tree. A vine had grown up along its trunk. The vine started small — nothing to bother about. But over the years the vine had gotten taller and taller. By the time I passed, the entire lower half of the tree was covered by the vine's creepers. The mass of tiny feelers was so thick that the tree looked as though it had innumerable birds' nests in it.

Now the tree was in danger. This huge, solid oak was quite literally being taken over; the life was being squeezed from it. But the gardeners in that park had seen the danger. They had taken a saw and severed the trunk of the vine — one neat cut across the middle. The tangled mass of the vine's branches still clung to the oak, but the vine was now dead. That would gradually become plain as weeks passed and the creepers began to die and fall away from the tree.”

How easy it is for sin, which begins so small and seemingly insignificant, to grow until it has a strangling grip on our lives. And yet, Christ's death has cut the power of sin. Yes, the ‘creepers’ of sin still cling and have some effect. But sin's power is severed by Christ, and gradually, sin's grip dries up and falls away. That is sanctification.

Study Question 21. Now long does it take for a person to become fully sanctified? Ephesians 4:13

“Till we _____ come in the _____ of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the _____ of the _____ of the _____ of _____.”

It is the work of a life-time. We keep maturing till we become fully like Christ. ‘Growth’ is another name for sanctification. To be born is a wonderful miracle, but it is not enough. We must also grow. Justification is birth. sanctification is growth. It is a great tragedy if a baby is born but never grows. It is a great spiritual tragedy if a person experiences the new birth (justification) but never grows (sanctification).

Study Question 22. How is sanctification accomplished? John 17:17

“_____ them through thy _____ thy _____ is truth”.

Sanctification takes place as we obey the word of God. 1 Peter 1:14-16, 22 points out that people become “holy” and “purified” by obeying the truth. This holiness is sanctification. Sin is breaking God’s law (1 John 3:4). In sanctification, God delivers me from the *power* of sin. Sanctification is victorious living (1 Corinthians 15:57; 2 Corinthians 2:14). And it is accomplished *in* me, by Jesus (1 Corinthians 1:30).

Study Question 23. Do I obey the word or does Jesus do it in me? Romans 8:3, 4

“God sending His own Son ... that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled _____ us.”

Jesus does it within me by His Holy Spirit (John 14:16, 17, 18, 26). Justification *counts* me righteous, I cannot do this on my own. Sanctification actually *makes* me righteous, I cannot do this on my own either. Both are miracles accomplished by Jesus for me and in me.

Study Question 24. What does God ultimately accomplish in me through sanctification? Romans 8:29; Colossians 3:8-10

“To be _____ to the _____ of His _____.”
We were made in God’s image in the beginning, Genesis 1:26, 27. God’s plan is to impart His righteousness to us until we are restored to that original image in which we were created. Acts 3:20, 21 makes it clear that everything that Adam and Eve lost will finally be restored to the redeemed, including their holy characters. Sanctification is the process of this character restoration. Reginald Wallis wrote, “The triumphant Christian does not fight for victory; he celebrates a victory already won. The victorious life is Christ's business, not yours.”

Part 10: Salvation: Past, Present & Future

Study Question 25. How does the Bible emphasize that salvation involves past, present and future?

2 Corinthians 1:10

“Who _____ us from so great a death, and doth _____ :
in whom we trust that he will _____ us”.

Here is how the Bible presents it:

- a. Justification is conversion. It delivers us from sin’s *penalty* (Romans 8:2-4).
- b. Sanctification is victorious living. It delivers daily from sin’s *power* (1 Corinthians 1:18; Acts 2:47 RSV).
- c. Glorification, by entering heaven, will deliver us from sin’s *presence* (Matthew 24:13; Revelation 2:10 last part).

Paul tells us that the gospel is the “power of God unto salvation” (Romans 1:16). The gospel includes God’s power to save us past, present and future from sin’s penalty, power and presence.

Any Gospel which does not include all of these is not the true gospel. And any salvation offered which ignores any of these is not salvation at all.

**Study Question 26. Is Jesus the sole basis for my salvation?
Acts 4:12**

“_____ is there _____ in any _____
for there is none other _____ under
_____ given among _____, whereby we
_____ be _____.”

Salvation is by Jesus, alone.

**Study Question 27. What part do I play in salvation?
2 Corinthians 8:12**

“If there be _____ a willing _____ it is _____
according to that a man _____, and not
_____ to _____ he hath _____.”

My part is to willingly follow Him. I must crown Him Lord and let Him call signals in my life. He will work the miracles but I must be willing for Him to do it.

The Bible says to “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12).

**Study Question 28. How do I accomplish this?
Philippians 2:13**

“For it is _____ which _____ in you _____ to _____ and to _____ of His good _____.”

I work out my own salvation by turning my life over to Jesus who makes me desire to do right, and then, miraculously works out right-doing within me by His indwelling Holy Spirit.

Part 11: Victory His; Victory Ours

Martin Luther wrote, “Christ's ... victory over sin, death and hell is greater than all heaven and earth ... far, far greater.”

Study Question 29. What is Jesus saying to all of us? Matthew 11:28-30

“_____ unto me, all ye that _____ and are heavy _____ and I will _____ you _____.”

He promises peace, release and rest from the stress, heartaches, fears, burdens and guilt of life.

Study Question 30. Will you accept that blessed peace and rest from His gracious hand?

_____.

Revelation starts and finishes with a benediction – a blessing upon the reader (Revelation 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14).

Study Question 31. What is the final benediction? Revelation 22:21

“The _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ _____ with _____ all. Amen.”

This is your lesson author’s benediction prayer for every reader.

In the Footsteps of John:

Walking through the Book of Revelation
with John the Revelator

1

www.lrhartley.com/john



Question 1

1. Jesus; 2. the angel; 3. John; 4. wrote; 5. churches

Question 2

heart; keep; read

Question 3

Jesus Himself

Question 4

Expounded; all; scriptures; Himself

Question 5

signified

Question 6

shew (show)

Question 7

seeing; see; hearing; understand

Meanings: 1. kingdom; 2. people; 3. year

Question 8

eyewitnesses; sure; prophecy

Question 9

prophecy; private; add to; take

Question 10

sealed; learned

Question 11

all

Question 12

our own destruction

Question 13

1. spiritually; 2. thirst; 3. study; test; beliefs;

4. do His will; know; doctrine; God

Question 14

1. hour; temptation; 2. tree; life; gates; city

Question 15

Your personal response

In the Footsteps of John:

Walking through the Book of Revelation
with John the Revelator

2

www.lrhartley.com/john



Question 1

Your personal response

Question 2

- a. foot
- b. girdle
- c. white, wool, snow
- d. flame, fire
- e. brass, burned, a furnace
- f. waters
- g. sun

Question 3

love, washed, sins

Question 4

priests, kings

Question 5

slain, redeemed

Question 6

foundation, world

Question 7

Jesus, Lamb

Question 8

- a. Life
- b. Lamb's, Life
- c. books, Book, Life

Question 9

existed, eternity

Question 10

Jesus

Question 11

Yes

Question 12

70 weeks

Question 13

490 years

Question 14

commandment, Jerusalem

Question 15

7th., Artaxerxes, king

Question 16

69, 483

Question 17

Yes, He came right on time.

Question 18

time, fulfilled

Question 19

cut off

Question 20

- a. 3½
- b. autumn, 34 AD

Question 21

Christ's, Abraham's, heirs, promise

Question 22

Your personal response

In the Footsteps of John:

Walking through the Book of Revelation
with John the Revelator

3

www.lrhartley.com/john



Question 1

- a. devil
- b. dragon
- c. Satan
- d. serpent
- e. accuser

Question 2 from heaven

Question 3 cast, sinned

Question 4 his angels

Question 5 one-third, angels, Heaven

Question 6 created, Jesus

Question 7 a. Lucifer b. cherub

Question 8 a. wisdom, beauty b. stone c. pipes d. perfect

Question 9 a. proud (or corrupted; or puffed up) b. most High (or most High God)

Question 10 a. persecutes b. deceives c. accuser, brethren d. prison e. kills, martyrs f. angry, remnant g. murderer, liar, father

Question 11 a. angel, light b. ministers, righteousness

Question 12 spirits, devils, miracles

Question 13 a. possible, deceive, elect b. saved, lost

Question 14 Jesus

Question 15 a. commandments, God b. testimony

Question 16 a. law, testimony b. Scriptures c. be, God d. truth

Question 17 roaring lion, short

Question 18 fire, brimstone

Question 19 a. ashes b. destroyed c. anymore

Question 20 a. blood, lamb b. word, testimony c. die

Question 21 Your personal response

In the Footsteps of John:

Walking through the Book of Revelation
with John the Revelator

4

www.lrhartley.com/john



Question 1
Gospel

Question 2
foundation, world

Question 3
a. death, men
b. all, sinned

Question 4
wages, death

Question 5
separates, God

Question 6
Washed, sins

Question 7
Jesus

Question 8
They love us

Question 9
Believe

Question 10
confess my sins

Question 11
Conversion

Question 12
a. born
b. (answer given in Study Guide)

Question 13
Jesus

Question 14
The Holy Spirit (or The Spirit of Truth)

Question 15
will, do

Question 16
begun, perform, Jesus Christ

Question 17
obey

Question 18
eye, arm

Question 19
image

Question 20
lie

Question 21
God

Question 22
a. love
b. different
c. commandments, please
d. will
e. great, done
f. prayer

Question 23
gift

Question 24
willing, obedient, refuse, rebel

Question 25
a. alive, keys, death, hell
b. slain, redeem
c. white
d. nation, kindred, tongue, people
e. water, life

Question 26
Your personal response

In the Footsteps of John:

Walking through the Book of Revelation
with John the Revelator

5

www.lrhartley.com/john



Question 1

- a. plagues
- b. Book, Life

Question 2

Asia

Question 3

- a. works
- b. overcometh (overcomes)
- c. Spirit

Question 4

lost, first

Question 5

tried, say, apostles, not

Question 6

Fear, faithful, death, crown, life

Question 7

overcometh, hurt, second

Question 8

- a. Baalam
- b. Nicolaitans

Question 9

Jezebel

Question 10

- a. tribulations (sufferings)
- b. kill, children, death

Question 11

Wycliff, Huss, Jerome, Luther, Zwingli, Calvin,
Knox, etc...

Question 12

die

Question 13

livest, dead

Question 14

synagogue, Satan

Question 15

door

Question 16

- a. lukewarm
- b. rich, nothing, wretched, miserable, poor,
blind, naked

Question 17

- a. gold
- b. raiment
- c. eye salve

Question 18

(Answers are given in the study guide)

Question 19

door, life (or heart)

In the Footsteps of John:

Walking through the Book of Revelation
with John the Revelator

6

www.lrhartley.com/john



Question 1
return, same

Question 2
with, clouds

Question 3
angels

Question 4
Every eye

Question 5
angels, Heaven

Question 6
elect

Question 7
7^{1/2}

Question 8
a. lightning
b. silence, tempestuous
c. roar, roar, shout, noise
d. blast, voice, shout

Question 9
raised, clouds, Lord

Question 10
changed, incorruptible, immortal, Lord, air

Question 11
a. Jesus
b. flesh, bones or hands, feet

Question 12
remains in, air

Question 13
impostor

Question 14
forth

Question 15
rocks, mountains

Question 16
brightness, breath

Question 17
believed, truth, pleasure, unrighteousness

Question 18
Father, Jesus or Son, angels

Question 19
Smite

Question 20
children or people

Question 21
a. Hope
b. love

Question 22
Father

Question 23
near, door

Question 24
every, according, work

Question 25
hour, not, cometh

Question 26
ready

Question 27
Your personal response

In the Footsteps of John:

Walking through the Book of Revelation
with John the Revelator

7

www.lrhartley.com/john



Question 1
resurrection

Question 2
righteous

Question 3
years, finished

Question 4
coming, Lord

Question 5
a. immortal
b. Jesus'
c. air

Question 6
consumed, mouth, destroyed, brightness,
coming,

Question 7
graves, finished

Question 8
Heaven

Question 9
slain, one end, other, lamented, gathered,
buried

Note: Scholars are somewhat divided regarding whether these are events occurring during the millennium.

Question 10
earthquake, hail

Question 11
a. light, black
b. man
c. form
d. spoiled
e. down

Question 12
form, black, man or person

Question 13

deceive, no more

Question 14
judgement (Judgment)

Question 15
a. wicked
b. Heaven

Question 16
New Jerusalem

Question 17
become, plain

Question 18
loosed

Question 19
deceive

Question 20
Fire, heaven, devours

Question 21
cast, lake, fire

Question 22
second death

Question 23
create, heavens, earth

Question 24
earth

Question 25
Book, Life

Question 26
whosoever will

Question 27
Your personal response

In the Footsteps of John:

Walking through the Book of Revelation
with John the Revelator

8

www.lrhartley.com/john



Question 1

city

Question 2

New Jerusalem

Question 3

down, earth

Question 4

Mount, Olives

Question 5

12,000 furlongs

Question 6

a. glory, God

b. 144

c. twelve, pearl

d. twelve foundations

e. gold

f. night there

Question 7

River, Life, Throne

Question 8

Tree, Life

Question 9

changes, month

Question 10

not worthy, compared

Question 11

fire

Question 12

pass away, burned up

Question 13

New Heavens, New Earth

Question 14

on earth

Question 15

Yes

Question 16

Jesus

Question 17

Yes

Question 18

build, inhabit, plant, eat

Question 19

hath not seen nor, heard

Question 20

not, remembered

Question 21

a. desert, blossom

b. inhabitants, not, sick

c. Violence, no more

Question 22

known

Question 23

Jesus

Question 24

a. confess

b. blood

Question 25

Your personal response

In the Footsteps of John:

Walking through the Book of Revelation
with John the Revelator

9

www.lrhartley.com/john



Question 1

- a. walk to and fro
- b. four spirits

Question 2 four beasts

Question 3

bow, crown, conquering, conquer

Question 4

peace, kill

Question 5

- a. darkness, light
- b. light, darkness

Question 6

balances (or scales)

Question 7

Death, Hell (Hades)

Question 8

- a. slain, Word, God
- b. blood

Question 9

- a. white robes
- b. little season

Question 10

- a. earthquake
- b. stars
- c. sun, black
- d. moon, blood

Question 11

Second Coming

Question 12

sealed, servants, God

Question 13

Jesus comes

Question 14

near, door

Question 15

half-an-hour

Question 16

Look, lift, heads

Question 17

exceeding joy

Homework (A more detailed study of the present-day signs of Jesus' return.)

Read Matthew chapter 24

Read Luke chapter 21

Question 18

Your personal response

In the Footsteps of John:

Walking through the Book of Revelation
with John the Revelator

10

www.lrhartley.com/john



Question 1
sealed, God, foreheads

Question 2
nation, kindred, tongue, people

Question 3
a. righteousness
b. servants, God
c. Holy Spirit

Question 4
A. Name
B. Title
C. Territory

Question 5
Lord, God, made heaven, earth

Question 6
Sabbath

Question 7
foreheads

Question 8
Lord, heaven, earth

Question 9
day

Question 10
blessed, sanctified

Question 11
forever

Question 12
for man

Question 13
Remember, keep, holy

Question 14
No

Question 15
Sabbath

Question 16
follow, example

Question 17
Yes

Question 18
Yes

Question 19
keep, commandments

Question 20
sin, wages, death

Question 21
trampling

Question 22
Sabbath

Question 23
If ye love me

Question 24
Remember, Sabbath, holy

Question 25
Son of man, Lord, Sabbath

Question 26
Your personal response

In the Footsteps of John:

Walking through the Book of Revelation
with John the Revelator

11

www.lrhartley.com/john



Question 1

No

Question 2

No

Question 3

No

Question 4

for fear

Question 5

a. No

b. No

Question 6

at home, lay aside some money

Question 7

a. No

b. No

c. No

Question 8

No

Question 9

offend, guilty, all

Question 10

Sabbath

Question 11

working day

Question 12

commandments, men

Question 13

Baptism

Question 14

No

Question 15

shadow, things, come

Question 16 (Summary)
is no, evidence.

Question 17

Yes

Question 18

transgress, tradition

Question 19

Your personal response

Question 20

Your personal response

In the Footsteps of John:

Walking through the Book of Revelation
with John the Revelator

12

www.lrhartley.com/john



Question 1

olive trees, candlesticks

Question 2

Forty-two months or 42 months

Question 3

538, 1798

Question 4

Fire

Question 5

beast

Question 6

Three-and-a-half

Question 7

Sodom, Egypt

Question 8

ascended

Question 9

the city, seven thousand

Question 10

little, whole

Question 11

every

Question 12

give glory, Him

Question 13

Babylon, fallen, Come out

Question 14

beast, mark

Question 15

keep, commandments

Question 16

Second Coming

Question 17

cut, short

Question 18

rejected knowledge

Question 19

follow Me

Question 20

my joy, remain, your joy, full

Question 21

victory

Question 22

Your personal response

Question 23

Your personal response

In the Footsteps of John:

Walking through the Book of Revelation
with John the Revelator

13

www.lrhartley.com/john



Question 1 keys

Question 2 first

Question 3 be, alive

Question 4 formed, dust, breathed, breath, life

Question 5 dust return

Question 6 a. spirit, return b. the spirit

Question 7 Yes; man

Question 8 Yes; shall die

Question 9 die, return, dust

Question 10 graves

Question 11 his thoughts perish

Question 12 knoweth, not, perceiveth, not

Question 13 dead know not

Question 14 second coming

Question 15 Lazarus sleepeth

Question 16 No, God

Question 17 Second Coming

Question 18 not, die

Question 19 deceive

Question 20 habitation

Question 21 a. all nations b. Gather, to, battle

Question 22 a. unto, God b. this word

Question 23 sorcerers

Question 24 Yes, unfruitful works, darkness

Question 25 rest

Question 26 cast into, fire

Question 27 resurrection

Question 28 resurrection

Question 29 *Your personal response*

Question 30 *Your personal response*

In the Footsteps of John:

Walking through the Book of Revelation
with John the Revelator

14

www.lrhartley.com/john



Question 1 Sanctuary

Question 2 Pattern

Question 3 heaven

Question 4 way, sanctuary

Question 5 veil, temple, twain (two)

Question 6 candlesticks, son

Question 7 a. not, gentiles b. sheep, Israel

**Question 8 necessary, word, first, you, from,
judge, unworthy, life, turn, Gentiles**

**Question 9 faith, Abraham, Christ's, seed,
heirs**

**Question 10 first, spoken, confirmed, them,
heard**

Question 11 No

Question 12 tradition

**Question 13 thousand, hundred, sanctuary,
cleansed**

Question 14 1844

Question 15 seen, ark

Question 16 God, glory, hour, judgement

Question 17 thousands

Question 18 not for Himself

Question 19 *Your personal response*

In the Footsteps of John:

Walking through the Book of Revelation
with John the Revelator

15

www.lrhartley.com/john



Question 1 all

Question 2 1844

Question 3 God, the Son

Question 4 a. loveth b. all men

Question 5 house, God, us

Question 6 Jesus Christ

Question 7 every work, secret thing, good, evil

Question 8 law, liberty

Question 9 the books, Book, Life

Question 10 Satan

Question 11 a. nations, angry b. destroy, earth

Question 12 No. knowest, hearts

Question 13 angels

Question 14 judgement, thousand

Question 15 saints, we

Question 16 God, God

Question 17 a. end b. wicked

Question 18 judgements, manifest

Question 19 well, him

Question 20 Repent

Question 21 True, righteous

Question 22 every, every, confess, Jesus, Lord

Question 23 *Your personal response*

In the Footsteps of John:

Walking through the Book of Revelation
with John the Revelator

16

www.lrhartley.com/john



Question 24 God

Question 25 *Your personal response*

Question 26 *Your personal response*

Question 1 teach, baptising

Question 2 believeth, baptised, saved, not, damned

Question 3 (Answers provided)

Question 4 Lord, faith, baptism

Question 5 dip, submerge, immerse

Question 6 Jesus

Question 7 immersion

Question 8 fulfill

Question 9 beloved Son, well pleased

Question 10 Because, much

Question 11 accursed

Question 12 immersion

Question 13 Except, born, water, Spirit, Kingdom, God

Question 14 teaching, doctrines, commandments, man

Question 15 No

Question 16 No

Question 17 figure, baptism, save

Question 18 baptised, Christ, Christ

Question 19 new creature

Question 20 baptised

Question 21 Spirit, baptised, body

Question 22 Yes

Question 23 At once

In the Footsteps of John:

Walking through the Book of Revelation
with John the Revelator

17

www.lrhartley.com/john



Question 1 a. Jesus b. Angel c. John d. Churches, us

Question 2 prophets

Question 3 men, spake, moved, Holy Ghost

Question 4 No

Question 5 Yes

Question 6 Yes

Question 7 apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers

Question 8 perfecting, work, edifying

Question 9 faith, knowledge, Son, perfect, stature, Christ

Question 10 tossed, carried, wind

Question 11 Christ

Question 12 Yes, commandments, testimony

Question 13 prophesyings, Prove, good

Question 14 speak, word, light

Question 15 *Answer given in study guide*

Question 16 Blind

Question 17 No, devils

Question 18 a. Visions b. Dreams c. Mouth, mouth

Question 19 *Answer given in study guide*

Question 20 prosper

Question 21 believe

Question 22 Jesus, spirit, prophecy

Question 23 false, prophets

Question 24 *Answer given in study guide*

Question 25 God

Question 26 *Your personal response*

In the Footsteps of John:

Walking through the Book of Revelation
with John the Revelator

18

www.lrhartley.com/john



Question 22 commandments, God, faith, Jesus.

Question 23 rest, easy, light

Question 24 *Your personal response*

Question 1 beast, kingdom

Question 2 peoples, multitudes, nations,
tongues

Question 3 Point 1: power, authority Point 2:
world-wide Point 3: months Point 4: blasphemy
Point 5: wound Point 6: 666 Point 7: worship
Point 8: saints

Question 4 *Answered in the guide by the
Papacy herself*

Question 5 think, laws

Question 6 stumble, partial

Question 7 strange

Question 8 hid, eyes, sabbaths

Question 9 a. add, diminish b. liar c. heaven,
earth, law

Question 10 *Answered in the guide*

Question 11 hand, foreheads

Question 12 no, buy, sell

Question 13 earth, sealed, servants, foreheads

Question 14 mark, beast

Question 15 servants, obey

Question 16 with, against

Question 17 USA *or* America *or* the United
States of America

Question 18 worship, mark

Question 19 deceiveth, miracles, power

Question 20 make, image, beast, wound, live

Question 21 God, men

In the Footsteps of John:

Walking through the Book of Revelation
with John the Revelator

19

www.lrhartley.com/john



Question 1 One

Question 2 one

Question 3 a. one b. they follow

Question 4 a. woman b. my

Question 5 a. heaven b. sun c. moon d. crown

Question 6 a. child b. throne

Question 7 Jesus

Question 8 a. Satan b. heaven

Question 9 a. third, stars b. devour

Question 10 a. down b. blood c. short

sun Question 11 persecuted, woman

Question 12 1260

Question 13 fled (or flew), wilderness

Question 14 God, made

Question 15 idols

Question 16 *Answered in the study guide*

Question 17 find

Question 18 One

Question 19 added, saved

Question 20 *Your personal response*

In the Footsteps of John:

Walking through the Book of Revelation
with John the Revelator

20

www.lrhartley.com/john



Question 1 throne

Question 2 earth

Question 3 fire, blood

Question 4 trees, burnt

Question 5 blood

Question 6 third

Question 7 star, lamp

Question 8 Wormwood

Question 9 sun, moon

Question 10 Papacy

Question 11 bottomless pit

Question 12 locusts

Question 13 five months

Question 14 angels

Question 15 hour, month

Question 16 righteousness, faith, Christ

**Question 17 saved, faith, not, gift, works,
boast**

Question 18 righteousness, remission, past

Question 19 confess, forgive, unrighteousness

**Question 20 vs. 4. should, possess, sanctifica-
tion, honour vs. 7. called, uncleanness, holines.**

**Question 21 all unity measure stature fulness
Christ**

Question 22 Sanctify, truth, word

Question 23 in

Question 24 conformed image Son

Question 25 delivered, deliver, yet deliver

**Question 26 Neither, salvation, other, name,
heaven, men, must, saved**

**Question 27 first, mind, accepted, hath, ac-
cording, that, not**

**Question 28 God, worketh, both, will, do,
pleasure**

Question 29 come, labour, laden, give, rest

Question 30 *Your personal response*

Question 31 grace, be, you

Template for the bookends
for table display in the
"In the Footsteps of John"
Seminar series

©2018
Dr Lionel Hartley



May be used if you choose also
to run the seminar
Available free from
www.lrhartley.com/john