



Revelation

Seeing Jesus Today

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Introduction

I have friends that devote themselves to the study of prophecy. I tend to focus more upon my relationships with people, and how the church performs its ministry. Do not be mistaken. I firmly believe that everything in the Scriptures deserves my obedient attention and study. A large part of both the Old and New Testament concerns prophecy and its fulfillment. Prophets often linked their descriptions of the future with how we must act today because of the future. Prophecy also displays the grace, love, justice, majesty, and righteousness of God, among many other things.

Many fine commentaries have been written about the Book of Revelation. I did not intend to write a commentary, but rather a brief introduction to the Book of Revelation. Some of my friends will read a daily devotional, but nothing more. So, I hope some people may be interested in spending eighty days reading one passage per day and looking at the Book of Revelation from a distance, and not working through the details of each passage.

As always, I enjoyed the study and writing, and hope that the Lord Jesus will use this book to draw people to Himself by whetting their interest in further study of the Book of Revelation. Jesus promised blessings for everyone who will read and heed the words of the prophecy of the Book of Revelation.

I urge you to have **peace with God.**

May 2, 2018

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1

The Beginning

The Lord Jesus Christ dominates the last book of the Bible. Throughout its pages, we see Jesus described as a Lamb that was slain, as a King riding to battle, and the Alpha and Omega, and the One Risen from the Dead. As we travel around heaven guided by John, we hear and see the future in heaven and on earth.

John wrote what he saw happening around him in heaven. John has traveled into the future and stood in heaven. In contrast, many of the Old Testament prophets wrote about future events from the perspective of the past. John stood in the future. The Old Testament prophets looked at mountain ranges on the distant horizon and wrote about them viewed from afar. John wrote about the mountains while standing on the highest peak and looking around. He saw Jesus and the glories of heaven, with a time for pouring out the wrath of God upon the earth and its inhabitants, but also for revealing the glories of life in Christ for all eternity.

Day One

Seeing Jesus Christ Today

Revelation 1:1

(1) The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John,

I was sitting on my surfboard one day waiting for the right wave to come along. The water was dark and glassy, and I had all the waves to myself because no one was surfing near me. As I waited for the next set of waves, I was sitting about 100 yards off the beach. For Florida, the waves were fairly big. As I sat there, suddenly a giant blowing sound erupted just behind me. It sounded like it was only a foot behind me as I sat on my board with my legs dangling off each side. I pivoted my body to see what had startled me. I was looking at a dolphin that came up right behind my surfboard and exhaled to scare me half to death. I was very relieved to see it was only a dolphin, and not something with an appetite for me. Having seen, I no longer worried or feared the noise I heard. In the same way, we gain confidence, courage and strength for today by seeing the future. As we read through the Book of Revelation, we see the future, as revealed by God to us.

Seeing Jesus Today

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

1. **God Gave Revelation**. God gave the revelation to Jesus Christ, and the revelation was about Jesus Christ.
2. **Bond Servants**. God intended that Jesus would give that Revelation to His bond servants.
3. **Future**. The Revelation contained information about what would happen in the future.
4. **Angel**. God communicated the Revelation through an angel to John.
5. **Revealed to Us**. God intended that the Revelation would be revealed to John, and He would reveal it to us.
6. **Heaven Displayed**. As we read through the Book of Revelation, we will see the events that will soon take place. We will see creatures in heaven sing praise to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We will also observe the power and majesty of Jesus Christ triumph over all things.
7. **Triumph**. After God pours out His judgments and wrath upon the earth, Jesus will vanquish His enemies and reign for a thousand years. After a final rebellion on earth, Jesus will judge all unbelievers as He sits upon His great white throne. Finally, we see the New Jerusalem, the final abode of believers. We will behold great things as we go through the Revelation of Jesus Christ. He reigns forever, and we triumph in Him. Indeed, we will live with Him and will reign with Him.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we rely most upon His written revelation which He provided in the Bible.
- We are blessed when we recognize that God gave the revelation to provide promises about the future that give us hope, strength and courage for today.

Seeing Jesus Today

- We live for Jesus when we believe that God gave the entire Book of Revelation that we would know the future and understand God's judgments and His final triumph upon earth.
- We minister for Jesus when we serve by spreading the promises of the Book of Revelation to other believers so that they may believe the Word of God and live in joy for Him.

Application for Today

Today, I will ponder the future from the perspective of a bond-servant. I will be looking to Jesus for His near return. I will live the testimony of John concerning all that he saw concerning God and Jesus Christ. I will encourage my friends with news about the future, and the certainty of how God has already revealed many things in the Book of Revelation that will provide hope for today. What will you ponder about the future today?

Day Two

The Blessing of Revelation Today

Revelation 1:3

“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heeds the things which are written in it; for the time is near.”

I have met many people during my time at the beach. I try to visit a beach park in Florida every day at 4:00 p.m., where I read the Bible and pray with friends new and old. As you may imagine, a public beach in Florida draws many people. So, I see the young and the old, the energetic children bounding towards the water, and the elderly, taking steps carefully one by one. Virtually everyone seems happy to be there. Very few people notice the sign prominently displayed concerning the tsunami warning. A large siren sits on a pole in the park. Apparently, it will go off if a tsunami (a large wave caused by earthquakes in the water) threatens the beach. Everyone seems to have a good time at the beach. Virtually no one pays any attention to the tsunami warning signs. Another sign warns about rocks just below the surface, so swimmers should be careful not to hurt themselves on the submerged rocks. Very few people seem to notice that sign, but some people come back to shore with cuts and bruises from the submerged coquina shelves near the beach, but usually completely covered by the water. People tend to ignore written warnings. In some cases, the danger may be very remote, while in other cases the danger may be very near. God told us that He gave us the Book of Revelation, containing many

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warnings about the future, to bless us so that we may be happy in Him, even when judgments come upon the entire earth and its people. God promised that if we would heed the things He wrote in the Book of Revelation, then we would enjoy His blessings.

Blessed

1. **Blessings**. John relates a blessing for everyone concerning his prophecies contained in Revelation. He describes two parts of the blessing.
2. **Reading the Words**. The people who read the book will be blessed, individually. I really love reading the Word of God, including Revelation, because of the praise and worship of God. I enjoy reading about His mighty acts.
3. **Heed the Words**. The people who heed the words in the Book of Revelation will be blessed. Jesus talked about having ears to hear spiritual truth. Revelation contains nothing but spiritual truth. Jesus reveals the future and warns people to change today. Reading, without heeding, leads to trouble.
4. **Near**. Throughout Revelation, God emphasized that the time is near. Believers have been expecting Jesus to return for about 2,000 years. Jesus intended for us to live expecting His return at any moment.
5. **Jesus Returning**. One of the blessings of Revelation centers on our life of expectation of seeing Jesus return to rescue believers. We live in that hope every day.
6. **Heaven and Earth**. Another blessing of Revelation focuses upon seeing what happens in heaven and on earth in the future. Jesus will reign upon the earth, after His enemies suffer great tribulation. As believers, we will be with Him.
7. **Father, Son, Holy Spirit**. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit dominate Revelation. Jesus in particular plays a very large role in Revelation, from start

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to finish. We will see Him in heaven for sure, and perhaps some of us will be alive when He returns in the clouds to rescue believers before the tribulation begins.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we recognize the blessed promise of His return to rescue us.
- We are blessed when we live in hope of seeing Him soon.
- We live for Jesus when we hear the words of the Book of Revelation and heed the words of God contained in the Book of Revelation.
- We minister for Jesus when encourage our friends to hear the words and heed them in their lives every day.

Application for Today

Today I will see Jesus in the Bible. I will listen to the testimony of Jesus Christ and be blessed for reading and heeding the Word of God. I know the time is near and so I will live for Jesus, who loves me and released me from my sins by His blood. I will serve Jesus as a priest, giving Him glory and honor today by the way I live for Him. Will you listen to the testimony of Jesus today?

HALLELUJAH !

2

The Seven Churches

The Lord Jesus Christ provided special messages to the seven churches. Jesus reviewed the strengths of each church, and, for most of them, pointed out what He had against them. Although some people teach that the seven churches correspond to seven ages of the church, I find no support for such teaching in the text. Jesus emphasized the different spiritual atmosphere in each church, and the particular problems and triumphs at each location. Some people attended “church,” but were never born again and never a part of the church, composed of true believers. Others were faithful believers. Each church presented a snapshot of common problems faced all through church history. The church did not move from problem to problem over time; at one time, all the problems described in the letters to the seven churches existed spread across those churches. The rest of the New Testament followed this same pattern. The church at Corinth had some problems, while the church at Ephesus had some problems. They had some overlapping problems, but they also had some problems unique at that time to each church. Yet, with all their problems, Jesus has a great message of cleansing and hope for each church. Churches, composed of sinners saved by grace, can repent of their ways—even their most evil practices. After repentance and restoration, great blessing await them.

Day Three

The Messages to the Churches Today

Revelation 1:4

(4) John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

Before everything was posted online, I used to open envelopes coming by U.S. mail to see how a particular judge had ruled in a case. Often, I knew how the judge ruled in court, because at the end of trial the Court would direct the winning party to draft an order reflecting the Court's ruling. Many courts today simply post the order online and it suddenly appears in your email. Those court orders determine what will happen in the future, particularly concerning the payment of money and the future conduct of the parties involved. Those orders contain a judgment about the past conduct of the parties and the consequences of those actions for the present and future. As we read through God's messages to the seven churches of Asia Minor, we will see that God reviewed the conduct of the seven churches, and also provided warnings about future conduct. God laid out the facts very clearly and rendered judgments and issued warnings. We may learn many things from His words to those seven churches. While some people teach that those seven churches stand for seven successive periods of the history of the church, culminating in the present church age of Laodecia, the text does not support such claims. All the lessons of all the churches apply to us

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today, and we should be careful to learn and heed the Word of God. In doing so, we will be blessed, as God has already promised.

The Seven Churches

1. **Seven Churches**. John wrote to the seven churches of Asia (which we call Asia Minor today—the region of Turkey.)
2. **Grace and Peace**. John greeted them with grace and peace, a familiar greeting from the epistles of Paul in the New Testament.
3. **Greetings from God**. The greeting comes from God, and Jesus in particular, described as eternal, with the words “who is and who was and who is to come.” Jesus never fades from history or fails to appear in the future. We trust in Jesus to have always been there, to be here today, and to be in the future always. As God, Jesus always exists everywhere in time, location, and dimension. He also controls all things after the good counsel of His divine plans.
4. **Seven Spirits of God**. We also read about the seven Spirits of God, probably a reference to the Holy Spirit with His all-seeing, all-knowing powers searching out the world and the deep things of God (Zechariah 4:10; 1 Corinthians 2:10; Revelation 4:5; Revelation 5:6—notice that only God really provides grace and peace, not angels).
5. **Faithful Witness**. John further described Jesus Christ as the faithful witness and the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. We will read about many kings and kingdoms in Revelation, and we will see they all fall under the power of Jesus Christ. He will come to reign upon the earth, after He has poured out His righteous judgment upon the people and powers upon the earth.

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6. **The Blood of Jesus**. Jesus loves us and released us from our sins by His blood. Without the personal promises of Jesus to us as His beloved children, we would be lost and undone reading about the terrible judgments to come upon this earth. Jesus promised His love and salvation by His blood. He has already paid the price of redemption with His life's blood, and our salvation remains eternally secure in Him, no matter what comes upon the earth. Jesus loves to place great promises for believers in the middle of great judgments upon the unbelievers.

7. **The Kingdom of God**. Jesus has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Echoing the familiar themes of the New Testament, all believers belong to a holy priesthood of believers, where we offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ every day (1 Peter 2:5, Page 1895). All believers are also part of a holy priesthood, proclaiming the excellencies of God who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9, Page 1895). Amen.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we listen carefully to the words He uses to greet believers and describe Himself.
- We are blessed when we both read His words and heed the words of Jesus about Himself and the destiny of men on earth.
- We live for Jesus when we live as His blood-bought children, appointed as holy and royal priests, offering acceptable sacrifices daily with our lives, and proclaiming His excellencies to all the world.

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- We minister for Jesus when encourage our friends to live sacrificially to Jesus, released from our sins, to serve Him as a kingdom of priests today.

Application for Today

Today I will see Jesus talking about the future, and how I must live in His blessings today. I will read and heed His words, and live as a child of the King, serving Him by offering spiritual sacrifices and proclaiming His excellencies to everyone who will listen to me. I will look forward to serving Him in heaven, and living again on earth. At all times, I am part of His kingdom of priests, chosen to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. I will live in the glory of God, and reflect that loving glory to the people all around me today. Jesus will shine through me and my works for Him today. What Jesus be shining through you today?

HALLELUJAH !

Day Four

Jesus Comes with the Clouds Today

Revelation 1:7

“Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.”

Jesus will be coming with the clouds. Every eye will see Him. Notice that even those who pierced Jesus will see Him coming. The tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. It will happen just like this prophecy. As we ponder the future, God has specific plans for us as we read His word. He reveals the future to us, so that we will understand many things and also become transformed and renewed in our minds. God intends for us to share His thoughts, so that we share His ways. As God abides in us, He graciously shares images of the future, with explanations of what will happen and why. As we live daily, all of us with eyesight can see dangers, joys, and all kinds of things every day. The things we see often lift us up, bring us down, or make us angry, or revolted, or You get the idea that what we see affects our minds and emotions. In some ways, our minds are a spiritual gateway to our emotions and our entire spiritual lives. As Jesus taught us, although we have the mind of Christ, we must be constantly renewed in our minds. Our minds also communicate with our hearts. From our hearts we act, and so disclose through our words and actions who we are. So, when Jesus presents these dramatic images of Himself, the sight of Jesus will cause mourning in all the tribes of the earth.

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He Is Coming

1. **Coming of Jesus Christ**. We see the coming of Jesus Christ described briefly in this verse. John will give more details later. Here, John emphasized several points about Jesus' coming.
2. **Come with the Clouds**. Jesus will come with the clouds. You may recall that Jesus called believers to join Him in the clouds in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 where they will receive their resurrected bodies. Here, Jesus comes with the clouds.
3. **Every Eye**. Notice that every eye will see Jesus when He comes with the clouds. No such statement applies to 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.
4. **Jesus Pierced**. Notice too that those who pierced Jesus will also see Him when He comes in the clouds. In Zechariah 12:10, we see the same prophecy that those who pierced Jesus will see Jesus when He comes in the clouds. As a people chosen by God, the Jews alive on earth when Jesus comes with the clouds will repent and believe in Jesus, according to Zechariah. See also Hebrews 8:1-13, where the surviving Jews (from the least of them to the greatest of them) experience the blessings of the New Covenant when Jesus comes with the clouds.
5. **Mourn**. All the tribes will mourn because of the coming of Jesus with the clouds. This worldwide event signals the coming of Christ to reign upon the earth with His rod of iron. Psalm 2.
6. **Prophetic**. "So it is to be" emphasized the prophetic aspect. John quoted Daniel 7:13, a passage that describes the Son of Man (Jesus) receiving eternal dominion and His kingdom from the Ancient of Days. The Son of Man's kingdom will never pass away.

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7. **Amen**. "Amen." John confirmed the prophecy by longing for it to be fulfilled. In the same way, we should count upon the promises of Jesus to reign in power and establish His worldwide kingdom.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we see Jesus reveal Himself in the Bible.
- We are blessed when we see Jesus and act upon the revelation that He provided to us. When Jesus comes in the clouds, we know that all the tribes upon earth will mourn, because they pierced Him, the Messiah.
- We live for Jesus when we know that we will not mourn at His coming in the clouds, because we will already be with Him in heaven.
- We minister for Jesus when let the other people around us know that Jesus may come today. When He comes with the clouds, then all the tribes of the earth will mourn that they pierced Him and rejected Him.

Application for Today

Today I will be meditating upon the day that Jesus comes in the clouds and all the tribes on earth will mourn over Him. Jesus did not come to sacrifice Himself for only a few, but He came to provide Himself as the sacrifice for all sin and the only way of salvation for all men. I do not my friends to mourn when they see Jesus, but rejoice at His coming because they have received His forgiveness by faith alone. Jesus will certainly come one day to rule the earth, all the tribes will see Him, and they will mourn. Today, however, we can still

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share the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people and rejoice to see His day. What will you be thinking about those clouds today?

HALLELUJAH !

Day Five

The Alpha and Omega Today

Revelation 1:8

**““I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God,
“who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”**

I remember standing at the beach when I was seventeen years old and realizing that I was leaving surfing for many years. I looked out over the creamy sands, blue waves with foaming white water, and knew that I was going to college. My life was changing forever and I would really miss surfing. Change comes into our lives in different forms. When I turned sixty years of age, I recall thinking that I wanted to go surfing again. I never fully stopped surfing, but I rarely go surfing anymore. Change has come to my body, bring decreased stamina and strength. I am also clumsy with my surfboard. Time brings huge changes in my physical life.

In our verse for today, God made an “I am” statement, like the one He used in Exodus 3:14 (Page 91) to describe Himself as the “I AM WHO I AM” God of the Exodus, His covenant name with Israel (Exodus 3:6, Page 95). Time changes many things in my life, but time never brings change to God. When He proclaimed Himself as the Alpha (Α) and Omega (Ω), He used the first and last letters of Greek alphabet (A. He explained that He exists eternally, and He remains always present in all the affairs of earth and its inhabitants. Notice too that God emphasized that he was the Almighty God. In Exodus 6:3 (page 95), God explained that He revealed Himself to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob “as God Almighty” (“בֹּאֵל שֶׁדִּי”), but during the

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Exodus He now revealed Himself with the name “Yahweh” (יהוה). So in Revelation 1:8 we see combining significant names for God and applying those titles to Himself for the particular purpose of emphasizing His immediate, eternal, unchanging, all-powerful presence.

The Beginning and The End

1. **Alpha and Omega**. I love this Revelation verse. Jesus identified Himself as the Alpha and Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet.
2. **Lord God**. Jesus emphasized that He is the Lord God. I meet people who deny that Jesus is God, or that Jesus ever called Himself God. This verse alone shows that Jesus applied the terms “Lord God” and “Almighty” to Himself.
3. **Lordship**. The term “Lord God” declared the Lordship of Jesus Christ as God.
4. **Almighty**. The term Almighty emphasizes the supreme power of God over all people, all things, and all places.
5. **Jesus**. Taken together, Jesus spoke these words at the beginning of Revelation and they foretold the great power and authority that Jesus displayed throughout Revelation.
6. **Direct Revelation**. Jesus speaks directly to us. We listen directly to Him when we read Revelation.
7. **Broad Views**. As we go through Revelation, we see Jesus Christ portrayed in many different ways. He will always be Lord, God, and Almighty. Even now, those titles rightly belong to Jesus and He loves us and seeks to bless His children today who read and hear the words of His Revelation. We are blessed in Him today.

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Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we see that He never changes, for He is the eternal God.
- We are blessed when we appreciate the deep spiritual meaning of the titles Jesus used to describe Himself as “I AM,” “Lord God,” “Who Was, Who Is, and Who Is To Come,” and “the Almighty.”
- We live for Jesus when we have faith in the power and eternal purposes of Jesus Christ, and we receive His revelation through the Bible.
- We minister for Jesus when tell of the “I AM,” “Lord God,” “Who Was, Who Is, and Who Is To Come,” and “the Almighty” and let people know that Jesus really is God, Who has all power.

Application for Today

Today, I intend to live for Jesus Christ and proclaim Him as God Almighty. He never changes and remains forever faithful. He wanted me to know Who He is, and He is the same yesterday, today and forever. What will you be proclaiming today about Jesus?

HALLELUJAH !

Day Six

The Island of Patmos Today

Revelation 1:9

“I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.”

As I child, I traveled to the Bahamas in the backseat of my father's small plane. We would leave on a Friday afternoon, stop off at Ft. Lauderdale to file a special flight plan designating where we were going, pickup a life raft (required by law for such flights), and then head off across the blue waves to a string of white-sanded oases. I saw many beautiful sights looking out that window from the plane. I liked the Bahamas, especially some of the smaller out islands, because we would rent a boat, fish, snorkel, and enjoy the great beauty all around us. For our family, the Bahamas were places of fun and relaxation. We enjoyed getting away for a weekend now and then.

For the John writing Revelation, the Island of Patmos was a different kind of place. Based upon John's own description, He was on the Island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. I am sure the Island of Patmos may have been a beautiful island, and worthy vacation spot, Jon was not there to enjoy the beauty or to take a vacation. He was there because of his faithfulness to Jesus Christ. At times in our lives, Jesus will send us to places where others may be on vacation, but our mission requires us remain faithful, even if we live under government

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persecution or duress. Even so, on the Island of Patmos, Jesus provided a very broad revelation of the future for our benefit today.

Brother and Fellow Partaker

1. **The Island**. The Island of Patmos lies off the coast of Asia Minor (modern Turkey). John was on that island because of the word of God and testimony of Jesus. John was not incarcerated on the island because he had done something wrong. He was there because God wanted him there.
2. **Fellow Brother and Fellow Partaker of Tribulation**. John described himself as your fellow brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation. John experienced tough times, just like the other believers were experiencing tough times.
3. **Fellow Brother and Fellow Partaker of the Kingdom of God**. John also said he was a fellow brother and fellow partaker in the kingdom God. John became a partaker of the kingdom of God the moment he received eternal life as a free gift by faith that Jesus died for him on the cross and was resurrected from the dead. Although we will read about the kingdom of God in Revelation, we will see that in some believers enjoy the kingdom of God at the moment of salvation, and yet, the King will come to establish His physical reign upon the earth, bringing His saints from heaven with Him.
4. **Fellow Brother and Fellow Partaker in Perseverance**. John also disclosed that he was a fellow brother and fellow partaker in the perseverance which are in Jesus. God never abandons believers to hard times of tribulation, but rather God uses tribulations in our lives to build perseverance. In this case, John identified himself with a large group of believers, particularly the seven churches of Asia Minor, who are learning perseverance through faith in Christ every day.

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5. **Suffering Lessons**. Suffering in our lives teaches us many things. After John had become familiar with suffering, Jesus gave Him a great revelation of Himself and the future.

6. **Seeing the Future Today**. As we look at the future through the pages of Revelation, we will learn how we must live daily in our present world. The future of terrible tribulation will be unlike anything seen before.

7. **Jesus Holds Our Future**. We live today because Jesus died for our sins and was raised to live with us eternally. Jesus holds our future, and the future of the entire universe. He is our eternal Lord of Lord, King of Kings, Savior, Lamb, Alpha, Omega, God Almighty, Word of God, Truth and the list goes on and on. What a powerful, awesome God we serve.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we discern that Jesus directs our paths to all kinds of places, even beautiful islands, but not vacation spots for us.
- We are blessed when we recognize that Jesus calls us to suffer persecution for Him, and can send us into exile.
- We live for Jesus when we never give up, but remind others that we are fellow brothers and fellow partakers.
- We minister for Jesus when Jesus lifts us above our own afflictions to share His message of hope and perseverance in Him.

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Application for Today

Today, I intend to share with my fellow brothers and fellow partakers of the kingdom of God of the great plans that Jesus has for this world, and His great love for His children, and how He will rescue us from the wrath to come. What will you be sharing with your fellow brothers and fellow partakers today?

HALLELUJAH !

Day Seven

First Love Today

Revelation 1:9

"But I have this against you, that you have left your first love."

Jesus often spoke to people living the towns and cities of Israel. He preached in synagogues at Nazareth, Capernaum, Jerusalem and other cities. According to His custom, Jesus would enter the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read the Bible. He preached and healed in the synagogues, clearly identifying Himself as the Messiah of Israel, the Savior of the world.

During His physical ministry on earth, He never visited the seven churches of Asia Minor in Revelation: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodecia. These churches came from the ministry of the disciples of Jesus, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Gentile areas. Both gentiles and Jews became believers, and together they formed on church, spread all over the world. Paul the apostle wrote a letter to the Ephesians, calling them "the saints who are at Ephesus and who are faithful in Christ Jesus."

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The Church at Ephesus

1. **The Pattern.** The Lord Jesus delivered a message to the church at Ephesus. The message followed a familiar pattern. Jesus first described Himself in a particular way with particular attributes. Then He described the church with its particular positive points. Next He described the fault of the church and finally He described what they must do to set things right.
2. **Seven Stars, Seven Golden Lampstands.** Jesus described himself as the One who holds the seven stars in His right hand and the one who walks among the seven golden lampstands. We know from the last verse of first chapter that the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches and the seven lampstands are the seven churches. We can often understand the symbols in Revelation because Jesus explains them to us. Therefore we know that Jesus emphasized His power over the seven churches.
3. **Commendation.** Jesus commended the church at Ephesus for three things. First, they could not tolerate evil men. Second, they tested those who call themselves apostles and found them to be false apostles. Third, they have persevered and endured for the name of Christ and they have not grown weary. Every believer should strive for those three qualities. Remember that the Church of Ephesus was comprised only of believers who lived in that area and fellowshiped together.
4. **The Problem.** Jesus confronted the church with its problem: they have left their first love. Jesus does not define the phrase "first love," but He did tell them how to solve their sinful problem.
5. **Fixing the Problem.** Jesus commanded them to do three things to fix their problem. First, they must remember from where they have fallen. Second, they must repent. Third, they must do the deeds they did at first. If they do not, then Jesus will take away their church.

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6. **Jesus First, Always.** We should keep in mind that Jesus expects us to love Him and keep Him first in our lives. If not, we must repent and return to living for Him. He always loves us.

7. Love Jesus. Jesus has continual love for each of His children. He also has a great love for each local assembly of believers, and the church as a whole. He only has one body of believers, and they come from different lands and tribes and nations. They speak different languages and face different challenges to their faith. Yet, in all things, Jesus commands all of His children to stay with their love for Jesus, putting Him first in their hearts, their local assembly, and in everything.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we look for Him walking in the middle of His churches, examining every church carefully.
- We are blessed when we listen to Jesus commending us for our toil and perseverance, our rejection of evil men, and we put to the test false apostles.
- We live for Jesus when we persevere and endure for the Name of Jesus, and never grow weary. We must repent and do the deeds we did at first, so that Jesus does not discipline us.
- We minister for Jesus when fix our hope upon eating the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God, and live each day sharing that hope with other people.

Seeing Jesus Today

Application for Today

Today, I intend to do the deeds I did at first for Jesus Christ. I want to persevere for Jesus Christ, test the false prophets and reject them, and repent of my deeds that I do not face the discipline of Jesus Christ. I want to share the hope of eating of the fruit of the tree of life with my friends in Christ today.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Eight

Crown of Life Today

Revelation 2:10

"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation, 10 days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."

As believers, we are watching a rising tide across the world of persecution against believers, often coming from the government itself. In the name of religious tolerance, some governments have shut down businesses and entered judgments against believers who only want to practice business according to their Christian values. In other countries, the government has become an arm of the Islamic religion, and so imposes Islamic practices upon the population. When believers react to such attacks upon their faith, they will suffer. Jesus knew all about the suffering of His disciples and provided both warnings and encouragement for the believers facing such persecution.

The Church at Smyrna faced suffering. Jesus prepared them for such suffering. He identified the devil as the one using the government to cast some of them into prison, and warned that persecution would last ten days. Jesus also promised a crown of life for every believer who remained faithful until death.

Seeing Jesus Today

The Church at Smyrna

1. **Dead and Alive**. Jesus identified Himself as the One Who was dead and has come back to life. Jesus knows about the power of life and death because He has all authority over death.
2. **Synagogue of Satan**. Jesus also knows about the people falsely claiming to be Jews, but actually are the synagogue of Satan.
3. **Suffering and Death**. At times, Jesus delivers very difficult news to our lives. Here, Jesus predicted suffering and death for the believers at Smyrna. Some believers will go to prison and some to death.
4. **Faithful until Death**. Jesus urges all the believers to be faithful until death.
5. **Crown of Life**. Jesus will give the crown of life to the believers who are faithful to death.
6. **No Second Death**. Jesus also promised the overcomers that they will not be hurt by the second death.
7. **Lake of Fire**. The second death means eternal separation from God and endless torment in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:14, Page 1939). Jesus knows about every problem that will enter our lives. He will give us all the power we need to endure all suffering. As we stay faithful to Him, we will all be overcomers. All overcomers receive the crown of life and they have nothing to fear from the second death. We will live with Jesus forever. Amen.

Seeing Jesus Today

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we remember that He was dead and came back to life.
- We are blessed when we heed the words of Jesus as He warns us of persecution coming our way and trust Him to get us through it.
- We live for Jesus when we persevere until the end and never forsake our testimony for Jesus.
- We minister for Jesus when remind people that Jesus will give the crown of life to every overcomer. We have nothing to fear from the second death.

Application for Today

Today, I intend to listen to Jesus as He prepares all of us to face persecution. We rely upon Him to help us persevere, and count upon Him to make us overcomers. He promised us that we do not need to live in fear of the second death, because we will spend all eternity with Jesus. I will live as an overcomer today, expecting to receive the crown of life from Jesus.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Nine

The Hidden Mana, White Stone, and New Name Today

Revelation 2:17

""He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it."

As a child growing up, I spent time fishing from small boats in the ocean. We would often venture out of the sight of land to fish on reefs and troll for mahi, king mackerel, cobia, or other larger fish. Our boat often developed engine problems, leak problems, or other issues. We also had to deal with big thunderstorms in the afternoons, with strong winds, lightning, and other problems. I hated having water in the boat. I kept thinking the boat may sink and we would spend time drifting far from shore. As long as the hull kept the water out of the boat, I felt pretty safe. Lots of water in the boat always spelled big trouble to me.

The Church as Pergamum had problems with sin in the church. Like water in the boat, so the sins of immorality and idolatry had come into the church and caused problems for believers. Although they held fast to the name of Jesus Christ, they still had spiritual problems. Jesus always chose a particular description of Himself as part of His message to the church. In

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this case, He described Himself as having a two-edged sword in His hand. That would certainly get my attention. Jesus told the believers at Pergamum to repent of their deeds, or He will come and make war with them with the sword of His mouth. For every overcomer at Pergamum, Jesus will give them to eat of the hidden manna, a white stone, and name no one else knows.

The Church at Pergamum

1. **Sharp, Two-Edged Sword**. The Lord Jesus has the sharp two-edged sword and spoke to the church at Pergamum.
2. **Satan's Throne**. The saints at Pergamum dwelt at the place of Satan's throne. Yet, they held fast to the name of Jesus Christ.
3. **The Way of Balaam**. Jesus had a few things against them: they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed acts of immorality. They followed in the way of Balaam. In the Old Testament, the prophet Balaam caused the people of Israel to fall into idolatry, marry unbelievers and commit immorality.
4. **Nicolaitans**. Some of them held the teaching of the Nicolaitans. The Bible does not clearly identify the Nicolaitans, but God emphasized that their teachings promoted opposition to holy living for Jesus Christ.
5. **Repent**. Jesus commanded them to repent. Otherwise, He will come and make war against them with the sword of His mouth.
6. **The Hidden Manna, The White Stone, The New Name**. Jesus will give the overcomer three things. First, He will give them some of the hidden manna. Second, He will give them a white stone. Third, He will give them a new name, written on the stone, which no one knows, except the overcomer who receives it.
7. **List to the Holy Spirit**. Jesus commands us to listen to what the Holy Spirit tells us. The Holy Spirit moves us to recognize our sin and repent of it.

Seeing Jesus Today

Jesus always seeks close fellowship with us. We can praise God today for the wonderful ministries of Jesus and the Holy Spirit in our lives every day.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we remember that He holds a two-edged sword and knows how to use it.
- We are blessed when we heed the words of Jesus and leave behind all immorality and idolatry in our lives.
- We live for Jesus when we listen to the Holy Spirit, repent of our sins, and live by faith in Christ alone.
- We minister for Jesus when testify that Jesus will come and make war with people who no longer hold fast the name of Jesus, but turn aside to immorality and idolatry.

Application for Today

Today, I will dwell upon the blessings of repentance and holy living. I will focus upon living as an overcomer. I will look forward to seeing Jesus giving believers to eat of the hidden manna, a white stone, and a new name which no one knows. We all have a great future in Christ as overcomers, because every believer will be an overcomer.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Ten

Authority over the Nations Today

Revelation 2:25

""He who overcomes, and he who keeps my deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations."

Although God hates sin, He loves repentance. If you consider the life of King David in the Old Testament, David committed some terrible acts. He committed adultery with Bathsheba, murdered her husband, and drew other people into criminal acts. As bad as David acted, God loved repentance in David. Even so, some long-lasting effects remained in David's life. The sword never departed from his house, and his sons caused him tremendous problems. David remained the king, but the scars of his sin remained visible as lessons for all to observe and avoid.

Jesus described Himself as having eyes like a flame of fire. In the Bible, flames often speak of refining, and removing impurities in metals. Symbolically, God used fire to test faith, refine faith, and build faith. With the church at Thyatira, He also described His feet as burnished bronze. These images depict Jesus as ready to pass judgment at any moment upon the sinful, unrepentant people at the church of Thyatira. Their good deeds are increasing, but they tolerate evil, personified as Jezebel. She called herself a prophetess, but leads believers into immorality and to eat things sacrificed to idols. Jezebel refused to repent of her immorality. Jesus will throw her upon a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her

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into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. God will kill her children with pestilence, so that the churches will know that Jesus searches the minds and the hearts. But some believes in Thyatira do not hold the teaching of Jezebel the prophetess, and do not participate in the deep things of the devil. Those faithful believers are overcomers, and God will give them authority over the nations. Jesus will also give them the morning star.

The Church at Thyatira

1. **Flames of Fire and Burnished Bronze**. Jesus described Himself as the Son of God Who has eyes like a flame of fire and His feet are like burnished bronze. The symbols here indicate power and purification.
2. **Greater Deeds**. Jesus commended the church at Thyatira because their deeds were getting better over time and they were moving forward.
3. **Jezebel**. Jesus rebuked them for tolerating the woman Jezebel who called herself a prophetess. She led believers astray so they committed acts of immorality and ate things sacrificed to idols.
4. **Time To Repent**. Jesus gave Jezebel time to repent, but she did not want to repent of her immorality. When God gives time to repent, we should always use that time to repent.
5. **Destruction**. God said that he will destroy Jezebel and her children so that the entire church will know that God searches the minds and hearts and gives to each one according to his deeds.
6. **Hold Fast**. God knew that not everyone at Thyatira had fallen into the deep things of Satan. He commanded the believers to hold fast to His promises, no matter what other people were doing.

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7. **Reigning with Jesus**. Jesus promised that each overcomer will join Him in ruling over the nations. Believers will participate in the reign of Jesus ruling the nations with a rod of iron. Finally, Jesus promised every overcomer the morning star as a gift. Today we should delight in the plans and purposes of Jesus. He always gives us time to repent of our evil. He promises every overcomer that we will rule with Him. One day every overcomer will receive the Morning Star. Happy Day in Jesus!

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we see Him with eyes of flame and feet of burnished bronze, speaking of purity and judgment.
- We are blessed when we repent of our sins and turn away from our immorality and idolatry.
- We live for Jesus when we no longer listen to Jezebel, a false prophetess, who spreads the deep things of satan, lies from the pit.
- We minister for Jesus when we warn our friends to repent, and to then hold fast in Christ. We count upon reigning with Him and receiving the gift of the morning star.

Application for Today

Today, I will see Jesus and His eyes as flames of fire. I will repent of my evil ways, and hold fast to Jesus. Jezebel and deep lies will have no influence upon me. I will encourage my friends caught up in such lies to repent, because Jesus is looking with burning eyes. Together, we will reign with Christ and receive the gift of the morning star. We are overcomers today!

HALLELUJAH !

Day Eleven

White Garments Today

Revelation 3:5

"He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before my father and before his angels."

Jesus revealed Himself through very special word images in the messages to the seven churches of Asia Minor, which we are reviewing. In this case, He described Himself as the He Who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. In conjunction with Zechariah 4:1-10, Pages 1481-1482, the seven spirits of God apparently reference the omniscience of God, as He looks throughout the entire earth. Jesus knows all of the things happening at Sardis, and in each heart there.

As Jesus looks at the church at Sardis, Jesus contrasts the living and dead. Although the church has some people there who are dead spiritually, God still wants them to wake up, strengthen the remaining believers, so that they may complete their deeds in the sight of God. I picture a plague ravaging a city, with many people dead, but a perfect treatment arrives just before everyone dies. The medicine works, and the people return to health. The question arises: will they now turn to the Lord Jesus in obedience to do His will? At Sardis, a few people never even fell ill. They will walk with Jesus in white garments, for they are worthy. Jesus promised that He

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would not erase their names from the Book of Life, and He will confess their names before the Father and before His angels.

The Church at Sardis

1. **The Seven Spirits and Seven Angels.** Jesus described Himself as the One Who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. The seven spirits describe the omniscience of God, Who knows all things. Those spirits search out all things on earth. The seven stars were described in Revelation 1:20, Page 1915, as the seven angels of the seven churches.
2. **The Problems at Sardis.** Jesus knew three things about the church in Sardis. First, He knew their deeds. Second, that they had a name that they were alive. Third, that they were actually dead.
3. **The Dead Must Awake.** Although they were dead, Jesus commanded them to wake up and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die. Jesus told them that He had not yet found their deeds completed in the sight of God. We should notice that Jesus had a list of deeds He wants every church to perform.
4. **Repent before Jesus Comes.** Jesus commanded the church to repent, based upon what they had heard and received. Having heard it, they should keep it. If they do not repent, then Jesus will come like a thief and they will not know when He comes.
5. **White Garments for the Worthy.** Jesus identified a few people in Sardis who had not soiled their garments. He blessed them with the knowledge that they will walk with Him in white garments, for they were worthy.

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6. **Never Erased from the Book of Life**. We also read about more promises for all overcomers. First, all overcomers will be clothed in white garments. Second, Jesus promised that He would never erase the name of an overcomer from the book of life. Third, Jesus will confess the name of every overcomer before His Father and before His angels. For an introduction to the Books of Life in the Bible, see [Free Download--The Books of Life](#) .

7. **Ears To Hear**. Jesus reminds us that we need ears to hear what the Spirit says. Today we need to look at our lives and cut out the dead things. We need to repent of our evil and turn to God. Jesus has wonderful and specific plans for our lives. All true believers will be overcomers. All overcomers have very bright promises from God. I look forward to the day when I stand in heaven and Jesus confesses my name before the Father and His angels.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we see with the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars.
- We are blessed when we wake up, strengthen the things that remain, and complete the deeds prepared for the believers.
- We live for Jesus when remember what we have received and heard; we must keep it and repent. We also live for Jesus when we never soil our garments with sin, but walk worthy of Him every day.
- We minister for Jesus when we listen to the Holy Spirit telling us that Jesus will confess our names before the Father and His angels. We know that our names will never be erased from the Book of Life.

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Application for Today

Today, we will see Jesus encouraging us to wake and strengthen the things that remain; we must keep it and repent. We must also encourage the few people who have never soiled their garments; they will walk with Jesus in white garments, for they are worthy. Every overcomer will hear Jesus confess the name of each overcomer before His Father and His holy angels one day.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Twelve

A Pillar in the Temple Today

Revelation 3:12

""He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and He will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My god, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name."

Jesus wants to make you a pillar in the temple of His God. Consider for a moment the implications of that statement. In the Old Testament, David understood that He would dwell in the house of the Lord forever (Psalm 23:6, Page 976). In both cases, God intends for His children to live with Him, in His presence, for all eternity. This “being with Him” theme permeates the Bible. Jesus Himself promised that He will always be with us and that He would never leave us as orphans (John 14:18, Page 1685; compare John 14:1-6, Page 1684). Jesus promised we would never leave the temple of God. Jesus also promised that Jesus Himself will write upon us the name of His God, and the name of the city of His God, and the name of the city of His God, the New Jerusalem. As pillars in the temple of God, we will have been marked forever with central themes our spiritual life in Jesus Christ, for all eternity.

Seeing Jesus Today

The Church at Philadelphia

1. **The Key of David**. Jesus identified Himself as the One Who is holy and true and has the key of David. What He opens, no one shuts and what He shuts, no one opens.
2. **Threefold Commendation**. Jesus said He put an open door before them. He commended the church in Philadelphia for three things. First, they have a little power. Second, they have kept His word. Third, they have not denied His name.
3. **Synagogue of Satan**. Jesus's promised them that the synagogue of Satan will come and bow down at their feet and He will make them know that Jesus loved the church.
4. **Hour of Tribulation**. Because they have kept the word of His perseverance, Jesus also promised to keep that church from the hour of testing which is coming up on the whole world.
5. **Jesus Comes Quickly**. Jesus also promised that He is coming quickly. He commanded them to hold fast to what they have, so that no one would take their crown.
6. **Overcomer Promises**. We get some more overcomer promises. First, Jesus will give the overcomer a pillar in the temple of His God and the overcomer will never leave that temple. Second, Jesus will write on the overcomer the name of His God. Third, Jesus will write on the overcomer the name of the city of His God: the New Jerusalem. Fourth, Jesus will write on the overcomer the new name of Jesus.
7. **Listen to the Holy Spirit**. Jesus commands everyone to listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. We can rejoice today in the overcomer promises

Seeing Jesus Today

and the power of Jesus to deliver His children from the wrath that will come upon the entire world.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we see Him as holy and true, holding the key of David.
- We are blessed when we understand Jesus keeps believers from the hour of testing in tribulation coming upon the whole earth.
- We live for Jesus when remember what we will be pillars in the temple of God, and He will write upon us: (1) the name of the God of Jesus; and (2) the name of the city of the God of Jesus; and (3) the New Jerusalem; and (4) the new name of Jesus.
- We minister for Jesus when we listen to the Holy Spirit telling us that an open door remains before faithful believers, so that they will escape the testing coming upon the entire world. As we hold fast to Jesus, then we will never lose our crown. We will see the synagogue of satan bow down at the feet of believers, to make them know that Jesus has loved us.

Application for Today

Today, we will look into the future and see ourselves as pillars in the temple of God. We will be with Jesus forever, and we will have beautiful inscriptions upon us, to remind us of our relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Thirteen

With Me on My Throne Today

Revelation 3:21

"He who overcomes, I will grant him sit down with Me on My throne as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."

Some lukewarm people can pose problems to burning hot believers. If you tell your Christian friends that they care too much about other people, that they share their faith too often, or spend too much time in prayer, or visit the sick too often, then you may be a lukewarm without even knowing it. Jesus seeks disciples who will worship Him in spirit and in truth, learning all that Jesus had commanded. God spits out lukewarm people who think they are rich by worldly standards, but are known to Jesus as wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. They need to buy from Jesus gold refined by fire, so that they may become rich, with white garments. They also need eye salve to anoint their eyes, so that they may see. Jesus reproves and disciplines everyone He loves, so all believers should be zealous and repent. Jesus stands at the door today and knocks. You will make a decision about whether you hear Jesus knocking today, and you open your heart to Him. He will come into heart today, and you will sit down with Him on His throne. We must all listen to what the Spirit says today.

Seeing Jesus Today

The Church at Laodecia

1. **Amen, Faithful and True Witness**. Jesus described Himself to the last church, Laodicea, as the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the beginning of the creation of God. As God, Jesus was never created, but was the source of all creation.
2. **Lukewarm**. Jesus says that He knows the deeds of the church at Laodicea. The church there is neither hot nor cold, but rather lukewarm. Therefore, Jesus will spit it out of His mouth.
3. **Need Nothing?** The Laodecians said that they were rich and had become wealthy and had need of nothing. Jesus actually described them as wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. Self-deception can be a very powerful thing.
4. **Buy from Jesus**. Jesus invited them to buy from Him: (a) gold to become rich; and (b) white garments to clothe themselves; and (c) eye salve to see. What is on your spiritual shopping list?
5. **Reproof, Discipline, Repentance**. Jesus proclaimed that everyone He loves, He also reproves and disciplines, and urges them to repent.
6. **Jesus Knocking**. Jesus described Himself as standing at the door and knocking. He wanted to come in and dine with them and them with Him.
7. **Sit on the Throne**. Finally, some more great overcomer promises. Jesus will grant the overcomer to sit on His throne, just as Jesus overcame and sat down with His Father on His throne. Jesus commands us to listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. Do you look forward to sitting with Jesus on His throne?

Seeing Jesus Today

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we see Him as spitting out lukewarm people, and standing outside knocking on their doors.
- We are blessed when we repent, and accept the reproof and discipline of Jesus Christ.
- We live for Jesus when buy gold refined by fire, wear white garments, and anoint our eyes with His salve so that we may see.
- We minister for Jesus when we encourage lukewarm people to listen to the knocking of Jesus, open the door of their lives to Jesus, and allow Him to come in to dine with Him and He with them. We will sit together on His throne in heaven, because we are overcomers in Christ.

Application for Today

Today, I want to avoid being lukewarm. I want to burn with intensity for Jesus Christ and live for Him today, shining and bright. I will accept the reproof and discipline from Jesus as it may come. I will dine with Jesus today, as He lives in my heart and leads me daily.

HALLELUJAH !

3

The Door of Heaven

In Revelation 4:1, the scene shifts from the churches on earth to heaven. John sees a door standing open in heaven, and a trumpet-like voice commands him to come up to heaven and says “I will show you what must take place after these things.” In this case, the future “must” take place, because the future will not change. Some things are set in concrete, and God indicates this future has already been described in detail. John writes most of the Book of Revelation while standing in heaven and looking around at the events in heaven and looking down at the events happening on earth. Notice that God transports John to heaven and into the future. The events he witnesses appear to him to be happening in real time, as if they were unfolding at that exact time. John experiences the entire time-line of the Book of Revelation in what seems like real time to him, as he stands in heaven.

Day Fourteen

The Throne and Glory, Power and Honor Today

Revelation 4:11

"Worthy are you, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things and because of Your will they existed and were created."

My wife presented her research to a large audience at the University of Florida where she earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology. The audience listened and I could not have been more proud of her. I always knew she was very smart and hard-working, but I learned that day that she can deliver an excellent speech to many people unfamiliar with the details of scientific research. My wife shined on that day and many others. No matter how cool I thought the whole presentation was, it could not hold a candle to one day in heaven. Yet, it was a glory to God on earth.

John beheld a throne in heaven with flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. Seven lamps burned before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. Before the throne, a sea of glass; in the center of the throne and around it, and around and in the center of the throne, four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind. The first creature was like a lion, the second like a calf, the third had a face like a man, and the fourth

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like a flying eagle. Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was full of eyes, around and within. Each living creature, both day and night, never ceases to say: "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND IS AND WHO IS TO COME." And when the living creatures give glory and honor to Him who sits on the throne, to Him Who lives forever, the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him, and will worship Him, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: "Worth are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

The Throne and Glory, Power and Honor

1. **After These Things.** John is now standing in heaven after a door opened in heaven and a voice invited him to come up there to see what must take place after these things. The introduction to heaven and the messages to the seven churches have concluded. Now John sees a door open in heaven, and then He is transported through it to behold heaven's glories.
2. **The Person on the Throne.** In heaven, John first saw a throne, with a Person sitting on the throne. The Person had the appearance of a jasper stone and a sardius. This Person dominates the entire picture before John and receives the praise and worship of others in heaven. An emerald rainbow was around the throne.
3. **Twenty-Four Elders.** Twenty-four Elders, with white garments and golden crowns upon their heads, sat upon twenty-four other thrones around the first throne. The precise identity of these twenty-four elders is not revealed here.
4. **Four Living Creatures.** John also beheld four living creatures, full of eyes in front and in back. They cried out night and day, unceasingly, "HOLY,

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HOLY, HOLY, IS THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME."

6. **Casting Crowns**. When the the four living creatures give honor and glory and thanks to Him sitting on the throne, then the twenty-four elders cast their crowns before Him who sits on the throne, saying: "Worthy are you, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things and because of Your will they existed and were created."

7. **Creator**. Heaven presents the majestic splendor of God, wrapped in the praises of His creation. Jesus intended for us to see the glory He had before He left heaven to take flesh and be born of a virgin on earth. He exchanged praises for criticism, and glory for the shame of the cross. He left His crown of majesty to wear a crown of thorns for us. Jesus loves sinners like me, and came from heaven to save us from our sins, so that we might live with Jesus forever in glory.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we see Jesus revealing His Father upon His throne in heaven, with living creatures praising and worshiping Him.
- We are blessed when we understand Jesus keeps reveals the glories of heaven so that we will live for Him on earth.
- We live for Jesus when remember what the Father created all things, and He deserves all power, glory, and honor.
- We minister for Jesus when we act upon the revelations we have received from God through the Bible. We delight in doing His will, because we appreciate the glories of heaven.

Seeing Jesus Today

Application for Today

Today, we contemplate the glories of the throne, and the excellencies of God the Father Who sits upon the throne. As we meditate upon Him, we will see His work before us on earth, so that we will enter the harvest, that we make new friends in Christ who will join for eternity in heaven with God.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Fifteen

The Lion Comes Today

Revelation 5:5

"and one of the elders said to me, 'Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.'"

Big surf crashed into the beach one day. I took my board and walked down the beach. Young kids with their surfboards looked at me and said that they thought I could make it out past the big waves. They thought I had the ability and strength to make it outside the waves when they were not able to do so. It takes strength, stamina and skill to get through large waves. They keep coming and coming, pushing you back to the sand and under the water. Yet, if you practice and have strength, you can make your way out past the breakers. In my case, I had no intention of going all the way outside the last breakers. I just wanted to ride some of the waves up close to the beach. I loved to ride the shore break, without paddling way outside past the biggest waves. The kids did not know that I did not even like riding big waves way off shore. I had done it before, and never liked getting pounded by such big waves.

The Lion of the tribe of Judah, Jesus, never had any fears or doubts. In fact, He always had all confidence, because as God, He had all power and all knowledge. He even created the waves that I surfed and paddled through. Revelation presents many vivid images of heaven. As John was standing in

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heaven, he saw God sitting upon His throne, and a special book in His right hand. The book had seven seals. A strong angel cried out: "Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?" John began weeping because no one in heaven was found worthy to open the book and break the seals. As John wept, one of the elders told him to stop weeping, because the Lion from the tribe of Judah, from the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals. Jesus

The Lion of the Tribe of Judah, The Root of David

1. **The Book**. In Revelation 5:1, we see a book in the hand of Him sitting on the throne. The book was written inside and out, sealed with seven seals.
2. **Who Is Worthy?** John saw a strong angel proclaiming, "Who is worthy to open the book and break its seals?"
3. **No One Worthy**. No one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it.
4. **Weeping**. John began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or open it.
5. **Stop Weeping**. An elder tells John to stop weeping because someone can open the book and look into it. Who is worthy?
6. **The Lion of the Tribe of Judah Comes**. The Lion of the tribe of Judah is worthy. We know from Genesis that the Scepter will not depart from the tribe of Judah, meaning rulership rests in the tribe of Judah, the tribe of Jesus. This One is also the root of David. So the term "root" means that David also descended from Jesus, and He this One Who is able to open the book.
7. **The Overcomer**. Notice also this One has overcome. The Overcomer here has all authority to take the book from the hand of the One on the throne,

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break the seals, and look into the book because He overcame. We will see He is Jesus, the Lion, Root, and Overcomer.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we see Jesus as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the root of David, the Overcomer, worthy to do all things.
- We are blessed when we understand that Jesus has all the authority to open a special book with seven seals, held by His Father in heaven. on earth.
- We live for Jesus when we live in the strength and power of the Overcomer, Jesus Christ.
- We minister for Jesus when we share the great truths of Revelation with our friends and let them share the great glories of heaven with us. Nothing surpasses seeing Jesus in glory and the righteous acts He performs.

Application for Today

I intend to keep looking at Jesus in heaven all day today. I will see Him as a Lion, boldly approaching the throne of His Father to take the book of seven seals, and break those seals to the glory of God. Jesus alone is worthy today !
HALLELUJAH !

4

The Book of Seven Seals

John sees a book in the right hand of God the Father sitting on his heavenly throne. A call goes out through heaven for someone worthy to take the book and open its seven seals. After no one comes forward to open the Book of Seven Seals, the Lamb of God, appears and takes the Book of Seven seals out of the hand of God the Father and prepares to open the Book of Seven Seals by breaking the first seal. The Book of Seven Seals displays the sovereign power of Jesus Christ. Jesus alone is worthy to open the Book of Seven Seals, because He is the Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, and Jesus has overcome. As Jesus breaks each of the seven seals, different judgments take place of earth. With the breaking of the first seal, the tribulation predicted by Jesus and the prophets will come to earth. By the fourth seal, a quarter of the earth's population has died. Evil beings arise and armies wage war. At times, God reveals what happens between the breaking of seals. The inhabitants of the earth suffer, but even then God has a plan to seal one-hundred and forty four thousand people on earth destined to appear later on Mt. Zion with Jesus. We know that an innumerable multitude will also be saved during the tribulation and their number far exceeds the one hundred and forty four thousand. With the breaking of the seven and final seal, silence filled heaven for the space of half and hour. Then, seven trumpets are given to seven angels. So, the seven trumpet judgments follow the seven seal judgments.

Day Sixteen

Worthy Is The Lamb Today

Revelation 5:9

"And they sang a new song, saying, 'Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.'"

I put out bird seed for doves and other birds at my house. The Eurasian Collared Doves and the Mourning Doves love to eat at my house. Yet, they have enemies. Several hawks in the area eat birds. From time to time, I see the feathers of Mocking Birds outside my house. One day, a small Mourning Dove ate outside my house after all the other birds had left. He was smaller than the other birds. My wife and I began to call him Little Bit. One day a large hawk was sitting on the electrical wire to the street light. Little Bit flew up and landed about ten feet away from the hawk, seemingly unconcerned. The hawk immediately fastened all its attention upon Little Bit, because all other doves flew away long before the hawk came close. But Little Bit flew up near the hawk. Eventually, the hawk flew away, and Little Bit remained, apparently unconcerned about the danger. I suspect that the Hawk had mercy that day. Heaven flows with God's love, mercy, and grace. No one is worthy to go to heaven. Only by the love, mercy and grace of God can any human ever go to heaven. We are all Little Bits when it comes to God.

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As the strong angel sounds forth for someone worthy to open the Book of Seven Seals, John saw between the throne and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, with seven horns and seven eyes, depicting the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. The Lamb came and took the book out of the hand of God sitting upon the throne. The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped the Lamb, indicating He was God, for only God can righteously accept worship. Each of them held a harp and a golden bowl of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sang a new song:

"Worthy are You to take the book and break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

Purchased for God with Your Blood

1. **Seven Horns and Seven Eyes**. John saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God, sent out into the all the earth. The seven horns symbolize the complete power of God (Psalm 18:2, Page 869) (the Lamb is Jesus, God the Son) and the seven eyes symbolize the complete knowledge of God (Zechariah 3:9, Page 1481; Zechariah 4:10, Page 1482).
2. **The Lamb Takes The Book**. The Lamb came and took the book out of the right hand of Him Who sat on the throne. When no one else was worthy to approach the throne to take the Book of Seven Seals, the Lamb alone was worthy.
3. **Worship**. When the Lamb had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and

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golden bowls of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. God often explains symbols in Revelation.

4. **Worthy Is The Lamb**. They sang a new song, saying: "Worthy are You to take the book and break its seals." Notice here that only the Lamb was worthy and had the power and authority to open the book and break its seals. We also learn that Jesus is the Lamb, because Jesus was slain and the only One to purchase with His blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. Only Jesus washed away our sins by shedding His blood to buy us and redeem us from our sins.

5. **A Kingdom of Priests**. Jesus has made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God. Therefore, we know that God purposed to make all believers priests within His kingdom.

6. **Reigning with Jesus on Earth**. Jesus also said they will reign on the earth. As believers, we are not only priests, but also people who will reign on the earth.

7. **Plans for Eternal Life**. Heaven awaits all believers, and we will be with Jesus there. We will also reign with Christ on this earth in the future. God has great plans for your eternal life with Him.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we see Jesus walk up to the throne of God and take the Book of Seven Seals from the hand of God the Father sitting on the throne.
- We are blessed when we look forward to the day when we will be with Jesus in heaven, and reign with Him upon the earth, as a kingdom of priests.

Seeing Jesus Today

- We live for Jesus when we live looking forward to the future with bright hope knowing that Jesus alone is the Lamb and the Lion. He alone is worthy, for Jesus purchased us with His blood for God.
- We minister for Jesus when we pray for Jesus to use us to make more priests, who will reign with Him in His kingdom on earth. As we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, He will build His church.

Application for Today

Today will be a day to look forward to heaven. I want to hear the heavenly song about Jesus being worthy to do all things, including opening the Book of Seven Seals. Jesus bought us with His blood, and we come from every tongue, tribe, and nation on earth. I can share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with anyone today, because God loves the world.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Seventeen

Blessing, Honor, Glory and Dominion Today

Revelation 5:13

"And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, 'To Him Who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.'"

My wife wakes up happy almost every day. She likes to make jokes about everything. One morning she even joked about having strips of meatloaf for breakfast, as she dipped them in sauce. She never focuses upon all the problems with her body, or the way she gets tired so easily. She manages to work a half a day, but then must rest for hours in bed. Her attitude makes all the difference. She also loves to thank God for His blessings in her life and worship Him for all He has done for her. She loves God and God loves my wife. I praise God for my wife.

Praise and worship ring through heaven often. Many times in the Book of Revelation we read about some or all of the creatures in heaven worshiping God. As the Lamb prepares to open the Book of Seven Seals, the living creatures, the elders, and myriads and myriads of angels said: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing." And then every created thing in heaven and on earth, and under the earth, and the sea, and all things in them said:

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“To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.” As the scene closes, the four living creatures and the elders fell down worshiping. When I read such passages, I love the lavishing of praise and worship upon God the Father upon the throne and God the Son (the Lamb). I look forward to being there one day and offering my praise and worship in heaven. Until then, God seeks my worship on earth. Happy days !

The Worship from All Creation

1. **Worship**. Every created thing worships both the One on the throne and the Lamb. They equally deserve and equally accept worship. Therefore, we know they are both are God. The Trinity means three divine persons (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) eternally existing as one God.
2. **Power and Riches**. The term "power" means His strength to rule as sovereign of all creation. The term “riches” here means more than physical wealth, but the spiritual wealth of heavenly treasures, such as the trophies of the grace of God bringing humans into heaven who once were sinners, but now a kingdom of priests for God.
3. **Wisdom and Might**. The term “wisdom” means the ability to use knowledge according to God’s will. The term “might” means the strength and power.
4. **Honor and Glory**. The term "honor" means that we accord to God the highest respect. We recognize His great value and tell of His glory, works, attributes, character, love, mercy, loving-kindness, grace, patience, compassion, and power—and those things only start the worship list. The term "glory" means His shining spiritual perfection, with weight behind it.

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5. **Blessing.** The word "blessing" in this context means the praise and worship of God. It makes me happy to bless the Lord Jesus, the Father, and the Holy Spirit.

6. **Dominion.** The term "dominion" means the right and authority to exercise His perfect will over His domain. At spiritual birth, we are all rescued from the domain of darkness and transferred into the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

7. **Amen.** Amen means "So be it," or "Agree," but it confirms the speaker's agreement with the action. So when I say Amen, I not only end my prayer, but I also agree with what I or another has said. In this passage, after the bursts of worship from so many creatures, located in heaven and earth, the word "Amen" summarizes the four living creatures' agreement with the praise and worship of others. The elders fell down in worship too. How truly glorious heaven is today, and will be when we get there.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we see all the creatures of heaven worshipping Him.
- We are blessed when we bless the Lamb with and the God on the throne without praised and worship.
- We live for Jesus when set out minds on the things of heaven, and give attention to the splendors of heaven.
- We minister for Jesus when encourage other believers to lift their gaze toward Jesus, living in heaven, and waiting for just the right day to open the Book of Seven Seals.

Seeing Jesus Today

Application for Today

Today I will see Jesus high and lifted up. I will be listening to heavenly creatures ascribing glory, and honor, wisdom, power, might, worship, dominion and every good thing to the Lamb that gave His life to cover my sins, and make me a priest for Him.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Eighteen

The First Seal:

The Rider on the White Horse Today

Revelation 6:2

""I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and went out conquering and to conquer."

Jesus, the Lamb of God, had the right to break the seals and open the Book of Seven Seals. No one else was found worthy to open the Book of Seven Seals. As Jesus breaks the first seal, one of the four living creatures, with the voice of thunder, invited John to "Look." As John looked, he saw things taking place on earth. But what He saw appeared in spiritual form. John saw beyond the events themselves; he saw a rider going forth to conquer, riding upon a white horse. We need to understand that the Book of Revelation used symbols to convey truths. Was there really a white horse and a rider? Of course, yes. But did that rider symbolize something else also? Yes, again. The symbols of the Book of Revelation are often explained in the same text. So, we will see what the Rider on the White Horse did on earth as John looked on from heaven. We will always have to keep in mind

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that all these events take place in the future, but depicted as having already taken place. Oh, the omniscience and omnipotence of Jesus.

Conquering

1. **The Lamb Holds the Book of Seven Seals.** As we have seen, the Lamb held a book with seven seals. The time had come for the Lamb to break the first seal. As the Lamb broke each seal, further events took place. Here with the first seal being broken, a rider on a white horse went forth.
2. **Come.** One of the four living creatures, with a voice of thunder, invited John: “Come.” God intended for John to look carefully at what happened after the Lamb broke the first seal. John apparently was looking at events on earth, although He was still standing in heaven. Many things taking place on earth were viewed in this same way throughout the Book of Revelation.
3. **Special Revelations.** We should learn that God knows all things. Here God knew everything written in the Book of Seven Seals, even before the seals were broken. He broke the seals to provide a series of specific revelations. As Jesus broke each seal one at a time, different events took place. Each seal represented great powers being unleashed on earth.
4. **The Bow.** The rider on the white horse has a bow, an instrument of war and battle. Throughout the Book of Revelation, we will see many battles and conflicts. Each one is revealed in God's time.
5. **The Crown.** The rider also had a crown. The crown implies power, rulership, and authority. Therefore, this rider symbolized a government going forth with weapons of war.
6. **Conquering and To Conquer.** The rider went out from its home conquering and to conquer. The rider received such a mission as a gift or

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charge. The revelation here begins with war, conquering and conquest. All in God's time and all by His sovereign choice. We must learn to trust God for our future, knowing His sovereign power controls all of the world. One day, Jesus will return to reign on earth.

7. **The Power of Conquest**. A constant theme of the Bible centers around the sovereignty of God. He alone controls the rise of one government and the destruction of another government. He establishes one throne, while toppling another throne. John watched the First Rider rise to power through conquest, and then move forward conquering other dominions. As Jesus broke each seal in turn, He sovereignly set in motion, by His divine authority, the events that unfold in His timing.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we see Him breaking the first seal of the Book of Seven Seals.
- We are blessed when we worship Jesus for His worthiness to break the seals, and set in motion the events to follow.
- We live for Jesus when praise God for His ability to control all events, and to begin the judgment upon the evil on earth.
- We minister for Jesus when warn people of the judgment to come, and that they may be delivered by faith in Jesus Christ.

Application for Today

Today, I will worship Jesus because of His power to break the seals, and to control all events. I know nothing I will face today Jesus did not foresee, and allow to happen. I live only by His grace, and love Him because He first loved me. Serving Him today will be a high honor and a greatest pleasure.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Nineteen

The Second Seal:

The Rider on the Red Horse Today

Revelation 6:2

"And another, a red horse, went out; and to him who sat on it, it was granted to take peace from the earth, and that men would slay one another; and a great sword was given to him."

Wars plague the earth constantly. At any given time, the earth has some war in some place going on. Jesus prophesied that the future would be a time of wars and rumors of wars. We have seen two world wars. A third world war will not be the last, because we know from the Book of Revelation what will happen in the end and how the world will end. Until then, war will not destroy the earth or eliminate all humans on earth. Evil men may provoke world war, and great slaughter may come. Yet, God restrains even wars, so that some humans will always survive. Sin produces wars, because humans hate one another, and they majority of them hate Jesus. As sin rages in the hearts of man, so war rages in the earth.

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As the Lamb broke the second seal of the Book of Seven Seals, another horse went out. This red horse had a rider empowered to take peace from the earth. As he took away peace, men killed each other, as he wielded a great sword given to him. This horsemen must be connected to the first horseman. The first went forth conquering and to conquer. As a result of his conquests, we know that peace was taken from the earth, and great conflicts followed. Apparently, the sword he carried cut through the nations and caused men to go to war with one another, resulting in men slaying one another. We will see in other parts of Revelation that not only men kill one another, but great plagues will come upon the inhabitants of earth, so that many things other than men will kill large numbers of people. But, here, men kill men, in great slaughter.

Take Peace from the Earth

1. **The Red Horse**. The color of the four horses make a difference and relate directly to the powers displayed by the different horsemen. Because the horse here is red, it seems associated with blood, spilled by one man killing another man.
2. **Authority To Remove Peace**. If the conquest of the First Horseman led to some peace, it was not a lasting peace. The Second Horseman took peace from the earth. As the Second Horseman took peace from the earth, so also the blood of men flowed freely across the nations.
3. **Authority To Turn Men against Men**. The Second Horseman also received authority symbolized as a sword.
4. **A Great Sword**. In this case, God granted authority to take peace, that resulted in men killing men on a broad scale. The size of the sword indicates the extent of the killing around the world, with great force and skill required to wield such a large weapon.
5. **Two Seals Broken**. At this point, only two seals have been broken and five remain. Those seals each will contain further judgment to be poured out

Seeing Jesus Today

upon the earth and its inhabitants. With that sword, designed to kill men, men began to kill one another all over the world.

6. **Peace.** God grants peace, and also takes away peace. For the believer, we always have peace with God because of our justification by faith alone. We see here how valuable peace can truly be. When God sovereignly removes peace from the world, life on earth will suffer tremendously. This lack of peace will characterize the remainder of tribulation period. Before the tribulation period begins, with the breaking of the first seal, relative peace was upon the earth. As conquest continues, so the Second Horseman took peace from the earth.

7. **Salvation Today.** Before Jesus as the Lamb breaks these first two seals, we may all rejoice that today is the day of salvation. As believers, we have nothing to fear in the Book of Revelation, except God Himself, and He loves every one of His children for eternity.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we see Him directing the judgment upon the earth and its inhabitants. Jesus has both a plan of salvation and plan of judgment.
- We are blessed when we take heed of the warning that peace will be taken from the world. Things on earth will grow far worse in the future tribulation.
- We live for Jesus when warn people of the wrath of God and the judgment sure to come upon the earth. Just because people are saying peace and safety today does not mean that tomorrow God will not take peace away suddenly.
- We minister for Jesus when proclaim salvation from sins, and deliverance from the judgment to come. As believers, we never have to fear the judgment of God, because we have passed out judgment into life at the moment of salvation.

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Application for Today

Today, I will worship Jesus because He has given me eternal peace. I would like all the world to receive the Lord Jesus as Savior and have their sins forgiven by faith alone. I know Jesus will come to deliver believers from the earth before His judgment comes upon the world. So, today, I look forward to and hasten the day of His appearance in the clouds through living in holy conduct and Godliness.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Twenty

The Third Seal:

The Rider on the Black Horse Today

Revelation 6:5

"When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come." I looked, and behold, a black horse; and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand."

When the Lamb broke the third seal on the Book of Seven Seals, a third horseman went forth. He rode a black horse and held a pair of scales. A voice from the center of the four living creatures was saying: "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine." God set the global price for basic food items, but specifically withheld damage to the oil and wine. The sequence of the riders remains important. The third horseman followed the rider with the great sword. Famine frequently follows war. Shortly after the tribulation period begins, famine becomes a big issue in the world. The cost of food has risen quickly and some basic food items fall into short supply, causing rising prices.

Seeing Jesus Today

The Scales of Famine

1. **The Black Horseman**. As with previous riders, one of the four living creatures calls John to look at the third horseman. He rode a black horse.
2. **The Scales of Famine**. This third rider had a pair of scales in his hand. We learn the significance of those scales in the next verse. God uses symbols in the Book of Revelation and then frequently explains the meaning of that symbol in the following context.
3. **Food Prices Rise**. Something like a voice in the center of the four living creatures was saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine." Therefore, we know that the price of food had risen. A quart of wheat would provide one meal or so, but a denarius represented a day's wages (Matthew 20:1-16).
4. **Conquest, War, Famine**. The first three horsemen relate to one another. Conquest, war, and then famine, as it often follows war. The crops are destroyed and livestock killed. Normal food distribution chains no longer function properly. Certain commodities become limited, generating higher prices.
5. **Wine and Oil**. Notice also that the wine and oil are not damaged, yet. We will see God bring specific judgments upon the earth, affecting drinking water and large bodies of water. Likewise, green trees like olive trees producing olive oil, will also be subject to specific judgments. God breaks the seals, unleashing events on earth which bring His judgments upon mankind.
6. **Measured Judgment**. The seven year period of intense, but measured, judgment upon the inhabitants of earth has already begun with the breaking of the first seal of the Book of Seven Seals. In heaven, the Lamb will be worshiped and exalted. God vents His great wrath, and displays His power in the earth.

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7. **The Wrath To Come**. Jesus promised a blessing to the believers who read and heed the words of the prophecy. Because of the promise of God to deliver us from the wrath to come, and catch us up to the clouds so that we may be with Christ, we know that we are not destined for wrath. All believers will be in heaven when the first seal is broken. What a great time to be with Jesus in heaven, watching Jesus break the first seal..

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we see Him controlling the food supply of the entire world. He can change the price of food at His will.
- We are blessed when we know that Jesus opens His hand and satisfies the desire of every living thing for food. Today, the eyes of all look to Him for their daily food. Things will change in the Tribulation.
- We live for Jesus when we delight in God's provision of food and never take it for granted. One day, when He breaks the third seal, food shortages will start and prices will rise. As things grow worse on earth, so will the food supply and people will hunger more and more.
- We minister for Jesus when share Jesus as the Bread of Life, that gives eternal life to everyone who eats His flesh and drinks His blood today. In the future, great trouble will come upon the earth, and the rich will buy food, but the poor will suffer even more. Jesus emphasized preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the poor today. He promised to satisfy all those people who hunger and thirst after righteousness.

Seeing Jesus Today

Application for Today

Today, I want to remember that Jesus controls every price at the grocery store and can change the price of food at His sole discretion. He can bring conquest, war and famine. He promised in the future that He will subject the entire world to such a time of terrible tribulation. Unless He shortened those days, no flesh would have survived. Today, I will be speaking of Jesus who feeds everyone by opening His hand.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Twenty One

The Fourth Seal:

The Rider on the Ashen Horse Today

Revelation 6:8

"I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth."

When you die, two things happen. Your physical body begins to undergo decay, and your eternal person will either go to eternal life or eternal judgment. Throughout the Bible, born-again believers have nothing to fear from death, for everyone who has been born-again has passed out of judgment into life. With the rider on the fourth and final horse of the Apocalypse, we witness death sweeping over one-quarter of the world's population. Billions of people will die by the sword, famine, pestilence and wild beast of the earth. Notice the speed involved in this revelation from God. Four horsemen begin the judgment upon the earth, and within a few verses one-quarter of the entire population of the earth has died. All non-believers will be destined to death followed by Hades.

Seeing Jesus Today

Death and Hades Come

1. **The Fourth Seal**. When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, the fourth living creature was saying to John, "Come." The Book of Seven Seals now reveals that death and Hades play important parts in the judgment plan of God Almighty.
2. **Death Rides**. The rider on the ashen horse had the name Death. Some interpreters understand Death to picture the physical body dying, and Hades to be the place of the dead. After death, believers are immediately present with the Lord Jesus in Paradise, a place of rest with Christ. After death, unbelievers go to a place of torment, and later they appear at the Great White Throne for judgment where they are sentenced to eternity in the lake of fire.
3. **Authority To Kill**. The rider received authority, as the other riders had been granted limited authority previously. In this case, the rider had authority to kill a fourth of the earth. Satan has no power to take life without God determining the time and the place of death. In this case, we see clearly that death received authority from God, and without that authority, death cannot operate on its own. As believers face death, they rest with the confidence that God controls death, and brings each believer to Paradise to be with Him forever.
4. **The Weapons of Death**. The means of death also came with limits: sword, famine, pestilence, and wild beasts of the earth. God revealed to us that God can use the first three horsemen of the Apocalypse to bring about death, the inevitable result once God decreed the judgment of death. God intended to kill a fourth of the earth's population, and specified the means of such destruction. Notice too that God did not say that the destruction would be worldwide, but rather it may be confined to a particular continent or place.

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5. **The Sequence of Judgment**. Taken together in sequence, Jesus describes conquest, then a lack of peace brought about by the sword and the first rider, followed by famine. Throughout the Book of Revelation, we will see that God determines a sequence of events. We know that the entire sequence for the end of the world has already been determined and revealed in Scripture. We see people constantly worried about wars and rumors of war, but God has already established the entire sequence of events leading to the total destruction of the heavens and the earth, and new heavens and new earth prepared for the believers from this world.

6. **Death and Torment**. This final horseman brings both physical death and spiritual torment after death. For every person dying on earth, a certain terrifying expectation of judgment awaits them. They know that death will not be end, no matter how much they try to suppress the truth in unrighteousness. Torment awaits them in Hades, the place of the unsaved dead. The New Testament only records unbelievers as going to Hades. Only Jesus Christ has the keys to death and Hades, and they will be emptied at the Great White Throne judgment where Jesus Christ will judge everyone according to His Gospel. Only unbelievers appear at the Great White Throne judgment and so everyone in Hades will be sent to the lake of fire for eternity.

7. **God Controls Judgment**. God controls the means and manner of His judgments. God sovereignly limits the means and scope of every judgment, but they are fierce and deadly here. Praise God that He has not destined believers from the church to such wrath. We will be safe with Jesus.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we see comprehend the judgments to come upon the earth, according to His timing as He opens each seal of the Book of Seven Seals.

Seeing Jesus Today

- We are blessed when we know that Jesus never condemns believers, but rescues us from earth before He breaks the first seal of the Book of Seven Seals.
- We live for Jesus when we warn others of the terrible wrath to come upon all unbelievers. Death and Hades await every unbeliever, and their torment will be great and certain. Yet, today is the day of salvation and by faith alone each person may receive salvation.
- We minister for Jesus when live humbly before our God who will break those seals at the right time, and judgment will begin. Until then, knowing the fate of this world, we must love the world as the Father loved the world, and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, proclaiming that God has set a day where He will judge the world. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost, bound for ultimate eternity in the Lake of Fire.

Application for Today

Today, I want the truth of judgment to motivate me to proclaim the love of Jesus Christ for the entire world. He died for the sins of the entire world, so that everyone He has chosen may receive eternal life. The time is short and certainty to judgment, with four horsemen riding, will cause one-fourth of the earth's population to be destroyed. May I remember the truth of God today and speak of His love today to a doomed world. The only hope will always be Jesus.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Twenty Two

The Fifth Seal:

The Souls under the

Altar Today

Revelation 6:9

""When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained;"

God consistently teaches that all vengeance belongs to Him and men should never seek their own vengeance. Some people think that God never actually seeks vengeance, because He is loving, kind, gracious and holy. Because the ways of God are not the ways of man, we must be very careful to understand how God does things. We learn His ways by reading His word. In the Bible, God revealed how he will carry out His divine plans, and how He will fulfill all righteousness by bringing about judgment in vengeance.

How Long?

1. **The Fifth Seal**. When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, John saw souls under the altar in heaven. They had died on earth during the tribulation for two reasons.

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2. **Slain for the Word of God**. They were slain because of the word of God. Notice that John said he was on Patmos for similar reasons in Revelation 1:9. Standing up for the Word of God may mean you seal that testimony with your death for Christ.

3. **Slain for Their Testimony on Earth**. They were slain because of the testimony they had maintained on earth. Consistent testimony for Jesus Christ, even in the face of stiff persecution, remains extremely precious to Jesus Christ. He knows your every word.

4. **Judging and Avenging**. They cried out, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on earth?" If our enemies knew that we would be in heaven crying out for judgment and vengeance against our slayers, what rational person would slay any believer? The omnipotent God will certainly bring both justice and vengeance to every person outside of Christ. Notice that the Holy and True God will certainly act according to His nature.

5. **Entreating God**. Notice that we still have questions in heaven. Even there, we will not know all the plans of God and we will not know all the things we long to understand. God will still be God, but He does respond to our entreaties for Him to act. The souls under the altar ask God how long before He acts as the Holy and True God to bring justice and vengeance to the slayers? The entreaty itself builds upon the certain knowledge that God will act against the slayers, the only question is when God will act.

6. **Holy and True**. When the souls under the altar described the God they entreated, they described Him as Holy and True. The holiness of God speaks to His unique separation from sin, for He cannot be tempted by sin and He never tempts anyone to sin. Yet, as the God-Man, Jesus was tempted in all ways as we are, yet without sin. God knows all about sin, but never sins. His holiness means He lives forever without sin, yet Jesus became sin for us. Jesus took the

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wrath of God directed toward sin and sinners for us. The souls also applied the title True. God lives in truth, and He sanctifies believers in His word, because it is truth. God cannot lie and never lies. Because God described Himself as coming back cloaked in the mantle of vengeance, in the Day of Vengeance, the souls had an expectation that God would remain true to His word and act in judgment and vengeance upon the slayers.

7. **White Robes and Rest**. The souls under the alter were each given a white robe and told to rest for a little longer, until their brethren were also slain. God always acts justly. How would you like it if many people pleaded to God to avenge the blood you shed? Jesus stands as our payment for our sin. He shed His blood and died for me. He satisfied the justice and vengeance of God because He loves me and you. The souls now wear white robes, resting in God for God to pass judgment and avenge their deaths. We must all learn to rest in God and wait for His timing.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we behold Him as Holy and True God.
- We are blessed when we know that Jesus never forgets to fulfill His promises, and always listens when believers call upon Him for help in truth and holiness.
- We live for Jesus when we accept the answers that God gives us when we pray. Sometimes, He wants us to wait for His plans to be fulfilled, and other events to happen before He acts for us.
- We minister for Jesus when we ask our questions about His plans, accept His answers, and then rest in the promises He makes to us about when He plans to act. Jesus always works on His schedule of events, and He never misses a date or forgets an appointment. He never sleeps or slumbers when it comes to taking care of His children.

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Application for Today

Today, I want the rest in the answers God provides after I entreat Him to act in truth and holiness. I intend to trust Him to bring for His plans at the right time and to accomplish His perfect results. I serve Him, although He came to serve everyone as Savior giving His life a ransom for many so that we might live forever in Him.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Twenty Three

The Sixth Seal:

The Great Earthquake Today

Revelation 6:12

"I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood;"

I have lived through many hurricanes in Florida. Most of the storms never came near to my location, but I witnessed on television the tremendous destructive forces of wind, rain, waves and flooding, not to mention tornadoes. God has absolute control over every storm track, and the intensity when it makes landfall. People often scatter away from the storm, because they have fair warning of the destructive power of the storm. God has given everyone on earth a long-standing warning of all the judgments He will bring upon the earth, and He laid out His plans in the Book of Revelation. People take weather reports very seriously, but they often neglect the judgment report provided by God. God loves sinners, and sent Jesus to seek and to save the lost, and to give His life a ransom for many. Now is the time to repent, have faith, and trust Jesus Christ alone for salvation, believing in His death, burial and resurrection, all according to the Scriptures.

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Extreme Disasters on Earth

1. **Great Disasters**. As the sixth seal was broken, John saw great disasters on the earth. Each prior seal had brought trouble to the earth, but now changes in the earth and sky will bring new disasters.
2. **Sun and Moon**. The sun was blackened and the moon became like blood. The atmosphere on earth has been seriously clouded. In California, I witnessed wild fires spread so much smoke that the sun appeared darker and the moon was changed in color too.
3. **Stars Fell**. The stars fell from the sky to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe fruit when shaken by a great wind. The scene here includes many stars, or meteors, falling through the atmosphere, causing them to burn.
4. **Sky Split**. The sky itself split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their place. With our knowledge of tectonic plates, we know that giant plates move across the globe, riding upon deeper layers of rock. Plates collide with each other on one side, and separate from each other on the other side. Sea floors spread where plates separate. We know that islands actually can move, but in this judgment every island will move and every mountain will move, and the judgment will bring very noticeable changes. Perhaps the stars falling have impacted the plates so much that they plates themselves have moved, shifting mountains and islands.
5. **Hiding in Caves**. Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. Notice the sweep of judgment, catching up all people of all social stations in life.
6. **Fall on Us**. They said to the rocks and mountains, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of Their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

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Everyone knows that God on His throne and the Lamb have poured forth their wrath upon the earth, but they are unwilling to repent, even with such knowledge. They mistakenly think that death will be better than the present judgment. They do not appreciate that the lake of fire will be far worse, because it lasts forever.

7. **Death Instead of Repentance.** The sixth seal summarizes the attitude of stubborn and unrepentant man. People rightly discern the reason for judgment as coming from God and the Lamb of God, but they seek death instead of turning to God. As believers, we do not suppose that we are any better than they are, because we know that unless one repents and turns to Jesus for salvation, we all likewise perish. But for everyone in Jesus Christ and alive on earth before the tribulation starts, Jesus will rapture them away to Paradise so that they will not be destined to wrath. As believers, we share the Word of God today and warn people of the wrath to come so that they will be safe and secure in Jesus before great disasters fall upon the earth.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we appreciate His power over all His creation--earth, sky, the heavens above, mountains, islands, animals, and every living being on earth.
- We are blessed when we know that Jesus warns everyone of the fierce disasters to come, with stars falling, mountains moving, and islands shifting.
- We live for Jesus when we warn people about the great disasters coming upon the earth, causing all men to flee into caves and seek death there, because of the terrors outside the caves.
- We minister for Jesus when we share the good news of Jesus Christ today, but also let people know that God has set a day to judge the

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world in righteousness, according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Without Him as your Savior, you have not hope, but a certain promise of wrath to come.

Application for Today

Today, I will remember the warnings God provided in Revelation. Those revelations of wrath and disasters on earth will motivate me to share the love of Jesus Christ while it remains the acceptable year of the Lord, when He reaches out to everyone with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, so that men may be saved by faith alone.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Twenty Four

The Four Angels of the Four Winds Today

Revelation 7:1

"After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow upon the earth or on the sea or on any tree."

As I sit at the beach during the summer months, I especially appreciate the breeze coming off the ocean. It sweeps cool air off the water and spreads it across the tables in the pavilions. I make sure I sit at a table with good breeze. Just as Jesus controlled the winds on the sea during His trip with the disciples, so also Jesus controls the winds in the future. Today we will see how four angels hold back the four winds of the earth. Can you imagine no wind on the earth or sea, and not a single tree moving? I expect that many people would be greatly alarmed by the calm, just as the disciples became very afraid once they witnessed Jesus commanding the wind and sea to calm down, and they obeyed.

Seeing Jesus Today

The Calm before and after the Storm

1. **The Four Angels**. After the great devastation on earth of all the islands and mountains moving out of their places, John then recorded the message to the four angels holding the four winds of the earth.
2. **The Great Calm**. A great calm fell upon the face of the entire earth. By God's command, the winds no longer blew, because four angels standing on the four corners of the earth held them back.
3. **Another Angel Rises**. John then saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God. This angel cried out to the four angels to whom God granted to harm the earth. Notice that God has a very orderly pattern and timetable for pouring forth judgments upon the earth and its population.
4. **Bond-Servants of God Sealed First**. God commanded the four angels to withhold their harm until He sealed the bond-servants of Christ on their foreheads.
5. **Coming Judgment**. As we have seen, God has already killed more than one-quarter of the people on earth, and the remaining population cries out for the mountains to fall upon them to hide them from the wrath of the Lamb, Jesus Christ. They know more judgment awaits everyone on earth. The four angels have a purpose to harm the earth and the sea.
6. **The Seal of the Living God**. The fifth angel has the seal of the living God. As all the winds stop, restrained by the four angels, the population on earth must dread what comes next, as the Lamb proceeds with greater judgments upon unrepentant people. This fifth angel has the seal of the living God and he intended to use it the bond-servants of God on their foreheads.
7. **The 144,000**. The four angels must wait until the 144,000 people on earth have been sealed by the fifth angel. As always, we will expect that God means what He says, and that He will explain the symbols He uses. Next time, we will

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see these men sealed by God for salvation. God loves to save sinners from His wrath. He sent Jesus to die for our sins, so that each believer may be sealed by the Holy Spirit for the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:30). We stand in awe of God's divine wrath, but live under the seal of His eternal love as believers saved by grace alone.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we appreciate the four angels who have the power and authority to hold back the four winds of the earth. We see that Jesus can stop the wind by His command, and has done so in the past and will do so globally in the future.
- We are blessed when we Jesus has a plan and order to all that He does. The four angels will not stop the winds until the 144,000 have been sealed first.
- We live for Jesus when we trust Jesus to work His plans in our lives daily. He commands the angels and so we should gladly trust Him to help us face earthly disasters, but even more to trust Him to work His plans according to His timing in our lives every day.
- We minister for Jesus when we let others know about the awesome power of Jesus Christ over all the earth and all the people on the earth. Judgment comes as Jesus wills, but we now live in the relative calm before the judgment storm. We can share the Gospel of Jesus Christ before the big storms sweeps across the earth.

Application for Today

Today, I will feel the cool breeze and remember that one day no breeze will blow. Yet, I know that four angels in the future will be holding back all the

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winds of the earth, and great harm will be coming upon the sea, trees, people and the inhabitants of the earth. I will be thinking about the future and the power and grace of Jesus Christ as the wind rustles around me today.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Twenty Five

The Four Angels of the Four Winds Today

Revelation 7:4

"And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:"

I often hear people talk about the number 144,000. Some people even know that number describes the number of men sealed from the twelve tribes of Israel during the tribulation to come upon the earth. We have seen the four angels holding back the four winds of the earth. They are prepared to spread great harm the earth, the sea, and the trees. God held them back from action until these 144,000 were sealed. I notice that God often has special plans for special people. In His eyes, every believer is special because He paid the ultimate price to purchase every believer. God the Father gave God the Son to die for the sins of the entire world, so that every person who believes in God the Son, Jesus Christ, for salvation by faith alone will be saved. God has tremendous patience, and He patiently extends the time for salvation because He is not willing for any to perish, but for all

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to come to eternal life. Part of His plan means He entrusted the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the entire process of making disciples into the lives of born-again believers, who would follow Jesus in making disciples.

The One Hundred and Forty-Four Thousand

1. **Bond-Servants Sealed.** As we saw in the preceding passage, the bond-servants of God had to be sealed before the harm from the four angels fell upon the earth.

2. **12,000 from Each Tribe.** Now we learn more about the 144,000. They are 12,000 men taken from the tribes of Israel. Notice that the tribe of Dan is missing. God gave no reason for the missing tribe of Dan. We know that the tribe of Dan had severe problems with idolatry (Judges 18:1-31; 1 Kings 12:28-30) from the beginning of its occupation of its portion of the promised land. Even so, the tribe of Dan will receive a portion of the land in the millennial kingdom (Ezekiel 48:1). We may also note that the tribe of Levi was included in the list of 144,000, when it did not receive an inheritance in the land. Finally, the half-tribe of Ephraim, the son of Joseph, was not described as sealed, although the other half-tribe of Manasseh, also a son of Joseph, was sealed. The text itself does not provide a clear reason for the particular tribes sealed, although we will read more about 144,000 later.

3. **The First Fruits.** We will see a group of 144,000 in Revelation 14:1-5, purchased as "first fruits" to God and the Lamb.

4. **Evangelists?** Many people say that the 144,00 in Revelations 7 are evangelists who are sealed by God to protect them from harm. The argument often goes that they produce the "innumerable" group of believers in Revelation 7:9-17. Problema abound with these views. For example, the group in Revelation 7:9-17 appear in heaven, and they were saved during the tribulation. Only the proximity of one passage to the other passage suggests a

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direct connection, but that argument is very weak. Furthermore, the 144,000 labor on earth, but the “innumerable” multitude appears in heaven, during the same time period. Many interpreters have offered many views of this group, but the verses used to identify this group do not support any dogmatic assertions about the mission of the 144,000.

5. **God’s Program**. God certainly had some special plan for the 144,000, because of the four angels held back from their tasks until the 144,000 were sealed by the fifth angel. God has very deep plans, and He does not always reveal the full scope and depth of His plans. Israel plays a special role in the plans of God, especially in the prophecies concerning the future.

6. **The Remnant of Ethnic Israel**. Throughout the Old Testament, God promised a remnant in Israel would turn to Him. In this passage, notice that God takes the initiative to seal these Jewish believers. Anti-Christ will come, and the beast will impress an evil mark upon the bodies of many men. Before the beast begins issuing his mark, God has already sealed 144,000 Jewish men for Himself, and they apparently will render faithful service to God before sealing their testimony with their lives.

7. **Promise Fulfilled**. Notice that the 144,000 are sealed by tribe, and, therefore, the text indicated that ethnic Israel still has a future and a place in the program of God. God has very deep plans and always fulfills His purposes and His promises. He always remains faithful and keep all the promises He made to ethnic Israel in the Old and New Testaments. As believers, please recall that God has sealed you for the day of redemption.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when know that He always keeps His promises. Just as He made very specific promises to Israel in the Old Testament, so He fulfills them in the New Testament.

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- We are blessed when we remember that Jesus has special plans for each believer. Jesus sealed 144,000 from the tribes of ethnic Israel because He had special plans for them. Today, every believer has been sealed with the Holy Spirit for the day of redemption.
- We live for Jesus when know that He wants to use our lives today for His special plans. We must trust Him to reveal those plans as we go through the day.
- We minister for Jesus when we confidently follow Jesus through the day. He has sealed us for a purpose. Each believer has one or more spiritual gifts to bring the church to maturity. God has given each believer a mission and reveals it one moment at a t time.

Application for Today

Today, I will remember the seal of God upon my life. God sealed me with the Holy Spirit that I would be ready for the day of redemption. Until then, I will labor for Jesus, feeling His love, and following Him as He leads me through the day.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Twenty Six

Springs of Water of Eternal Life Today

Revelation 7:17

"For the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."

As believers, we often long to be in heaven with Jesus. We have known Jesus as our Shepherd, who guides us to the springs of the water of life. We have drunk of that spring, and that water has become a fountain of life within us. Yet, we still struggle on earth through various difficult times, and have tears fill our eyes from time to time. Only because of Jesus, we triumph through all things, because we have come to rely solely upon Him to help us through the really difficult times in life. We feel the power of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives, drawing us closer to Jesus, and calling out to Father God. For some saints, saved during the tribulation, the Lamb in the center of the throne will shepherd them and lead them out of their tears and turmoil, to the springs of the water of eternal life where God will wipe

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away every tear from their eyes. They will be truly blessed by God when they arrive in heaven to be with Jesus forever.

The Innumerable Multitude

1. **The Big Group**. In the previous passage, God specifically numbered a group of 144,000 Jewish men sealed by God. If we think that 144,000 is a very large number, a new group appears that John described as innumerable. This new group appears too large to number. They come from every nation, and all tribes, peoples and tongues. They wear white robes and hold palm branches, similar to the crowds holding palm branches when Jesus came into Jerusalem.
2. **Salvation**. They cry out: "Salvation to our God Who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." Imagine the volume and force of such unified worship and praise. We often picture God as bringing salvation, but here God IS salvation.
3. **The Worship**. The angels, the twenty-four elders, and the four living creatures fall before the throne and worship God: "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen." I love to read about the powerful worship in heaven and I love to use those same words to worship God now.
4. **Blood-Washed, White Robes**. We learn that multitude came from the great tribulation taking place on earth. They have made their robes white by washing them in the blood of the Lamb.
5. **Serving God Night and Day**. God will spread His tabernacle over them, as they serve Him night and day.
6. **No Troubles**. They will not hunger or thirst anymore, nor will the sun beat down upon them, nor heat fall upon them.
7. **Shepherd**. Jesus, pictured as the Lamb in the center of the throne, will be their Shepherd. He will guide them to springs of the water of eternal life; and

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God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. What an awesome, loving, gentle and powerful God we serve and worship today.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when gaze upon Him as the Shepherd of glory, leading His saints to springs of water of eternal life, and delivering them from hunger, thirst, and the sun's heat beating down upon them; He wipes away every tear.
- We are blessed when we know that Jesus loves to comfort the distressed and afflicted, and to put them into His service.
- We live for Jesus when know that heaven awaits us, and that while still on earth, we can serve Him night and day.
- We minister for Jesus when we serve without fear, knowing our eternity remains safe with Jesus. Living for Jesus allows us to walk in joy with Him on earth, knowing that our Shepherd Jesus leads us for all eternity.

Application for Today

Today, I will meditate upon the innumerable multitude and the Shepherd leading them. No more hunger, thirst, or perils from the sun. He will wipe away every tear, and we can serve Him night and day forever.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Twenty Seven

Silence in Heaven Today

Revelation 8:1

"When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour."

Heaven knows silence. I am always amazed at the multitude of activities in heaven, with all kinds of beings doing all kinds of things. Heaven seems very busy as we read through the Book of Revelation. Angels announcing events, saints crying out for vengeance, words and songs of worship, the Lord Jesus speaking, and many other glories filling heaven. Even so, silence fell upon heaven for the span of about a half hour. What triggered such an event? Why was heaven silent? Silence came because the Lamb had broken the seventh and last seal on the Book of Seven Seals. The seven angels, who stand before God, received seven trumpets. We will see with each sound of the trumpet, a new judgment issues forth.

Silence in Heaven

1. **Half an Hour**. We have seen six seals broken one at a time. As Jesus broke each seal, so a new judgment came upon the earth and its

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inhabitants. Now, when Jesus breaks the seventh and last seal, silence fills heaven for about half an hour.

2. **Seven Angels and Seven Trumpets**. John beheld seven angels who stand before God given seven trumpets. Just as we saw that each seal brought new judgment, so also will each trumpet sound bring new judgment.

3. **A Golden Censer and a Golden Altar**. John also saw another angel holding a golden censer. A censer is a vessel for holding incense. Much incense was given to the angel, so that the angel might add the incense to the prayers of the saints on the golden altar before the throne of God.

4. **The Angel's Hand**. Out of the angel's hand, the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God. What a beautiful and wonderful image of sweet-smelling prayers rising in glory before God. Heaven is so wonderful.

5. **Fire from the Altar**. The angel then filled the censer with fire from the golden altar, and threw it to the earth. Peals of thunder, sounds and flashes of lightning, and an earthquake followed.

6. **Preparing to Sound the Trumpets**. The seven angels prepared to sound their trumpets.

7. **Measured, Ordered Judgments**. God will pour out His judgments upon the earth with great order and precision. From earth, it must seem like one terror followed by another disaster, but in heaven we see God measure out each judgment upon earth. Angels carry out His bidding, and signal the orderly succession of each judgment. In judgment, God delivers the beginning of perfect justice for the acts of wicked men, with eternal suffering to follow. Today, we see in America and all over the world people both great and small murdering unborn children, killing Christians, blaspheming God, and walking in darkness. We must warn them of God's coming judgment, and His desire for

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all men to repent now, by turning to the Lord Jesus, who loves all people and rescues believers from the wrath to come.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when appreciate the future silence in heaven. God will bring judgment after judgment upon the earth, and the earth and its inhabitants will suffer greatly.
- We are blessed when we remember that God acts with righteousness and perfect judgment. He will never ignore evil and let it continue forever. An angel will one day fill his golden censer with fire from the golden altar and fling it upon the earth in judgment. Peals of thunder, sounds, flashes of lightning and an earthquake are coming upon the earth.
- We live for Jesus when love people today, knowing that in the future wrath will be poured upon this earth. Seven seals will be broken, and the last seal will begin the seven trumpet judgments. Before that first trumpet blows, fire from the golden altar will strike the earth. More and more judgments come and we should be careful to love people today in the name of Jesus Christ.
- We minister for Jesus when we appreciate the silence before the sounding of trumpets. Jesus has entrusted us with the message of the Book of Revelation to motivate us to spread His loving message of delivery and salvation from judgment to come. We can live with Him, freed from the bondage and penalty of sin forever, and with no condemnation today. Jesus has entrusted us with the ministry of reconciliation, as ambassadors of God Himself.

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Application for Today

Today, I will think about coming silence in heaven. Sometimes silence really says a lot. In this case, I will be thinking about a half hour of silence, followed by an angel casting fire upon the earth from the golden altar. Just before the angel flings the fire, I will remember the smoke rising from his hand, which is the incense he will add to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which is before the throne. I know where my payers are going today.

HALLELUJAH !

4

The Trumpet Judgments

The Lord Jesus Christ dominates the last book of the Bible. Throughout its pages, we see Jesus described as a Lamb that was slain, as a King riding to battle, and the Alpha and Omega, and the One Risen from the Dead. As we travel around heaven guided by John, we hear and see the future in heaven and on earth.

John wrote what he saw happening around him in heaven. John has traveled into the future and stood in heaven. In contrast, many of the Old Testament prophets wrote about future events from the perspective of the past. John stood in the future. The Old Testament prophets looked at mountain ranges on the distant horizon and wrote about them viewed from afar. John wrote about the mountains while standing on the highest peak and looking around. He saw Jesus and the glories of heaven, with a time for pouring out the wrath of God upon the earth and its inhabitants, but also for revealing the glories of life in Christ for all eternity.

Day Twenty Eight

The Trumpet Judgments

Begin Today

Revelation 8:7

"The first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up."When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour."

With the breaking of the seventh and last seal, seven angels holding seven trumpets begin to sound. With each blast of the trumpet, a blast of judgment blows upon the earth and its inhabitants. This pattern of seven judgments will be repeated throughout the Book of Revelation. With each individual judgment, God has prepared a measured outpouring of His wrath upon the earth for its evil.

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The First Three Trumpet Judgments

1. **The First Trumpet**. With the sounding of the first angel, the judgment of hail and fire, mixed with blood, will fall upon the earth. A third of the earth and trees will be burned up. All the green grass will be burned up. God not only created the heavens and the earth, but He will judge the earth in steps.
2. **The Second Trumpet**. The second angel will sound and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, will be thrown into the sea. A third of the sea will become blood. First, the land will be burned and then the sea will suffer judgment. A third of the living sea creatures will die and a third of the shipping will be destroyed. God will send judgment upon the seas, with terrible effects upon commerce and air and water quality. People tend to overlook the absolute power of God to destroy the earth and all it contains. Real global warming is coming from God.
3. **The Third Trumpet**. The third angel will sound and more judgment from heaven will fall upon the earth. This time a great star (or comet or asteroid) will collide with the earth. It will burn with fire, and torch a third of the rivers and springs of waters. Drinking water and water for agriculture will suffer. The name of the star will be called Wormwood, and a third of the waters will become wormwood. So, if the star impacts in one continent, that continent's entire water supply, amounting to one third of the total water supply on earth, would become toxic Wormwood. Many men will die from those waters, because they will become bitter.
4. **One-Third**. Notice the one-third pattern of judgment with each trumpet. A third of the earth, a third of the sea and a third of the water. All of this judgment may be localized, destroying everyone in a particular region or continent.
5. **Falling from Skies**. Notice all these judgments fall from the sky upon the earth, bringing enormous destruction. God has a particular means for

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emphasizing that these judgments come from above, although they are linked to some sort of physical events.

6. **The Scope of Destruction**. God created the heavens and earth and pronounced all His creation good. He called the creation of man very good. Yet, with the trumpet judgments, God pours forth tremendous destruction upon the world He created. He will destroy trees, grass, seas, rivers and springs. Many men will die in the future.

7. **Repentance Today**. God takes no pleasure in the destruction of the wicked, but invites sinners to repent. God always seeks repentance from sinners who turn to Him for forgiveness by faith alone in the work of Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when know that He will destroy the entire planet at the appropriate time by fire. Before then, during the tribulation, He will pour out measured judgments upon the earth, including the trumpet judgments that start with judgment literally falling from above.
- We are blessed when we read the words of the Book of Revelation and gain insight into the character of God Almighty. We see that the Lamb of God breaks each seal, because He alone is worthy. With the seventh seal, the seven trumpets sound in order, each bringing great judgment upon the earth.
- We live for Jesus when what we know about the future impacts how we live today. Knowing all about the future judgment should move us to love people even more today, and warn them of the judgment to come.
- We minister for Jesus when we reach out to all of our friends living on death row. They may not know that at any moment the tribulation

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may start, and the judgment of God may pour forth upon the world. Now is the day of salvation. We must spread the good news of Jesus Christ during the favorable year of the Lord before the time shifts to the day of vengeance of our God.

Application for Today

Today, I will be thinking about trumpets sounding and a third of the earth suffering in judgment from God. Knowing the certain future will encourage me today to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, so that my friends may be saved from the coming wrath.

Day Twenty Nine

The Fourth Trumpet Today

Revelation 8:12

"The fourth angel sounded and the third of the sun and the third of the moon and the third of the stars were struck, so that a third of them would be darkened and the day would not shine for a third of it and the night in the same way."

God made the heavens and the earth. Genesis provided the complete description of the creation and demonstrated God's absolute sovereignty over both heaven and earth. At times, people tend to ignore the power of God over all the earth and the heaven above. At His word, He can change everything on earth and above the earth. Everything lies in His power. Astronomers may study the skies, but they observe, without controlling. As we will see today, God controls and changes according to the good pleasure of His will.

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The Fourth Trumpet

1. **Things from above.** John continued to describe the trumpet judgments following Jesus breaking the seventh seal. We have seen the first three trumpets concerned things coming down from above.
2. **Sun, Moon and Stars Struck.** With the fourth trumpet, we see that a third of the sun, moon and stars were struck, so that they would not shine for a third of their time, day or night. Darkness has increased on the earth. Either the rotational speed of the earth has changed, or the orbit of the earth has changed, or a cloud layer has hidden the sun for a period each day.
3. **Woe, Woe, Woe.** Then John looked and heard an angel flying through mid-heaven. The angel cried out: "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell upon the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound."
4. **Judgment Comes.** As we have seen with all these judgments, great destruction of the earth and its resources display the judgment of God upon sin and sinful people.
5. **Three More Trumpet Judgments.** As bad as the first four trumpets will be, the remaining three trumpets will bring forth three more woes focused particularly upon the people who dwell on earth.
6. **Angelic Ministries.** In passing, we also notice the ministry of angels carrying out the plans of God. Good angels sound trumpets at just the right time, and other good angels proclaim the messages given to them by God. In some cases, the pronouncements of woe should shake the souls of every person without Christ on earth.
7. **Never Boring.** Heaven will never be a boring ride on a cloud. Instead, God uses John, standing in heaven, to reveal Jesus and the great judgments upon the earth and the people on earth. We also learn about the justice and indignation of God, and also His glorious plans for believers. Jesus loves to

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display all of His divine attributes, and we bend our knees today and confess Him as Lord, to the glory of the Father.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when look up and meditate upon the skies above, knowing that Jesus will bring great changes to the heavens above.
- We are blessed when we believe all that God wrote in the Book of Revelation about the great judgments coming upon the earth, which demonstrate the power of God over heavens and earth.
- We live for Jesus when we humble ourselves in reverential awe of the power of God over all things, especially over His power to change things that we know little about and have no power to change.
- We minister for Jesus when we encourage our friends that God controls all things, even if we do not see Him exercising control over all things right now. His plans march forward, and nothing strays from His ultimate plans. We know how things will turn out in the Book of Revelations, and heaven and earth will indeed pass away rather than one word of God to fail.

Application for Today

Today, I will be meditating upon the sky and thinking about one-third less light from the sun, moon and stars. Darkness will increase upon the face of the earth. During that dark time, great judgment will come directly from God, and more divine judgment will follow. I remain safe and secure in Christ and His great love, and I will be sure to thank Him for showing me the future, so that I may act according to His will today.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Thirty

The Fifth Trumpet Today

Revelation 9:5

"and they were not permitted to kill anyone but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man."

We have seen many things in the Book of Revelation that expand our knowledge of God's creation. Today we will look at the abyss, and the creatures that come out of it. These creatures, like locusts, rise from the smoking abyss and come forth for judgment. They will not kill, but torment for five months. They will sting like scorpions and their king will lead them. Yet, those sealed by God will not be harmed.

The Fifth Trumpet

1. **The Fifth Trumpet**. In the future, at just the right time, the fifth angel sounded the fifth trumpet. A star fell from heaven, and the key to the bottomless pit was given to him. Notice that the star was apparently some being, ready to act. When he opened the bottomless pit, smoke like from a

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great furnace rose up. Out of the smoke rose locusts, empowered to hurt men who did not have the seal of God upon them. The locusts targeted evil people who were not sealed by God.

2. **Five Months of Torment**. The locusts tormented men for five months, like a scorpion stings. Men will seek death, but not find it.

3. **The Locusts**. The locusts appeared like horses ready for battle, with crowns on their heads and faces like men. They had hair like women and teeth like lions. They had breastplates like iron. Their wings sounded like chariots and horses running to battle.

4. **The Locusts' Tails**. With their tails, they stung like scorpions, and hurt men for five months. God very specifically detailed that their tails stung men like scorpions.

5. **The Locust's King**. The king of the locusts, the angel of the abyss, is named Abaddon in Hebrew and Apollyon in Greek. Notice that he apparently remains restrained until the angel opens the lock on the abyss, where he has been held captive for a long time.

6. **The Seal of Protection**. These locusts have special power to torment certain men, but not the men sealed by God. Jesus protects His own from the locusts and their torment.

7. **Limited Power**. Jesus has power far greater than I generally appreciate. The Book of Revelation reminds me of the huge power of evil angels, but they have no power to hinder the plans of Jesus.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when recognize that great evil, led by very evil angels, will bring tremendous torment and suffering to this earth. Jesus sets the time and the place for each new judgment. As I thin

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about things in the future, I know that Jesus will bring great changes to the heavens above. One day the fifth trumpet will sound, the abyss will be opened by an angel, who opens the abyss, and Apollyon goes forward, king of the locusts which will torment men.

- We are blessed when we trust Jesus today knowing that we will be saved from the locusts coming in the future. Jesus has no interest in punishing His children, because all of the wrath they deserve He took for them at the cross.
- We live for Jesus because we have seen His great power, and the sealing He did to save His own from the torment of the locusts. Jesus loves to seek and to save the lost today. He never changes.
- We minister for Jesus when we study the future, and then act upon what God has revealed to us about the future. We worship God for the entire Book of Revelation, because God brings justice and judgment to the entire earth. We share the truths of the Word of God that will change the lives of everyone who believes what He has said.

Application for Today

Today, I understand great evil will come to this earth, bringing destruction and torment. Yet, Jesus will call me home to be with Him before the tribulation begins with the breaking of that first seal on the Book only Jesus, the Lamb, could open. I intend to warn people of the wrath to come, and proclaim the love of Jesus for sinners.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Thirty

The Sixth Trumpet Today

Revelation 9:15

"And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they would kill a third of mankind."

Can you imagine an army of two hundred million coming against you? Four angels will be released from their bondage at the Euphrates river. They bring an army of two hundred million to kill a third of all mankind. The horsemen in that army bring three plagues: fire, smoke and brimstone proceed from their mouths. Their tails resemble serpents and their heads bring harm. I have seen many missiles launch from Cape Canaveral in Florida. As they ascend through the atmosphere, they leave a tail behind them, curving back and forth like a serpent as the winds move them. Military missiles can carry a payload in the front of the missile that brings great destruction. Even after all the destruction God brings through that great army, the remaining inhabitants of the earth do no repent of their murders, sorceries, immoralities, and thefts.

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The Sixth Trumpet

1. **The Sixth Trumpet**. The sixth angel sounded, and a voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God said to the sixth angel sounding the trumpet: “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” Notice that God bound angels that prevented them from acting before their release. We see God binding satan and his angels in different passages in the Bible.
2. **One Third of Mankind Killed**. The four angels had been prepared for the hour, day, month, and year, and they were prepared to kill a third of mankind. They numbered two hundred million horsemen in the army. The riders had breastplates of fire and hyacinth and of brimstone; their heads were like the heads of horses and lions; their mouths produced fire, smoke and brimstone.
3. **The Three Plagues**. They killed a third of mankind with three plagues: fire, smoke and brimstone proceeding from their mouths. The power of their horses is in their mouths and tails; their tails are like serpents and they harm with their heads. These horses remind me of rockets lifting off from earth, with serpent-like, white contrails left in the sky behind them, carrying explosive warheads to their destinations.
4. **No Repentance**. The rest of mankind did not repent, even after watching one third of mankind die. They continued to worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which do not see or walk.
5. **Murders, Sorceries, Immoralities and Theft**. The rest of mankind did not repent of their murders, nor their sorceries nor their immoralities nor their theft. They persisted in their sin.

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6. **Hard Heart.** The hard heart of humans, unrepentant and stubborn, shows how evil human nature can be. Even when faced with the certain and sweeping judgment from God, men prefer their own evil and idolatries.

7. **Seeing Is Not Always Believing.** As a third of mankind dies because of four angels bringing three plagues, people know that great judgment has fallen upon the earth again. Instead of repentance, they continue in their hardened evil, adamantly opposed to repentance. God lovingly offers repentance, but people refuse to believe what they see as the work of God stirring them to forsake sin and turn to Him. Judgment on earth has begun and will continue.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when know that four angels have been bound at the Great River Euphrates and one day He will command their release. In the future, they will bring an army of 200 million horsemen, who will bring three plagues of death upon the world.
- We are blessed when we worship Jesus for His grace which caused us to repent and turn to Him for salvation. When we read the Book of Revelation as believers, we bow before the majestic judgments of God upon the unbelieving and unrepentant earth. We deserve to be judged also, but God by grace through faith has saved us from such terrible times and eternal punishment to follow.
- We live for Jesus because we know about the angels bound at the Euphrates. Only time saves the world from those plagues today. God sovereignly controls the future. Only God can bring repentance, and He grants it freely.
- We minister for Jesus when the future changes our lives today. We encourage believers to trust God, to know that things actually will get very bad upon the earth, but not yet. Today Christ lives in us so that

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we have been crucified with Him, but we live by faith in the Son of God, who loves me and gave Himself for me.

Application for Today

Today, I will be thinking about four angels, bound at the river Euphrates. They will be released, kill a third of mankind with great plagues, and still people will not repent. I will not be surprised today when people hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ, reject it, and continue in their sin. I pray that these people will have more opportunities to repent, before the four angels at the Euphrates river bring forth their plagues. I intend to talk about Jesus today.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Thirty One

The Voice of the Seventh Angel Today

Revelation 10:7

"but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets."

I have seen some very beautiful rainbows, some stacked next to each other. I have never seen anyone with a rainbow upon his head, and his face shining like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. God described just such an angel descending from heaven. He held a little book, which was open. He placed his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land. Like a lion roaring, so he cried out, and the seven peals of thunder uttered their voices. A voice from heaven forbade John from disclosing what the seven peals of thunder had uttered. Then the angel standing on the sea and land lifted his right hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, that there will be no more delay. When the seventh angel speaks, and is about to sound the seventh trumpet, the mystery of God will be finished, which He preached to His prophets.

Seeing Jesus Today

The Mystery of God Is Finished

1. **The Rainbow Angel.** John saw a strong angel coming down out of heaven. He was clothed with a cloud, with a rainbow on his head, his face like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. He held a little book, which was open.
2. **The Seven Peals of Thunder.** The Rainbow Angel cried with a loud voice, like a roaring lion, and the seven peals of thunder uttered their voices. A voice commanded John to seal up what they said. Clearly God controls all revelation and only provides specific revelations at appropriate times. Some things God keeps hidden until the wisdom of God deems it the right time to reveal them.
3. **The Oath.** The Rainbow Angel then lifted up his right hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, "WHO CREATED HEAVEN AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE EARTH AND THINGS IN IT, AND THE SEA, AND THE THINGS IN IT (Exodus 20:11, Page 121).
4. **No Delay.** The Rainbow angle swore that there will be no delay no longer. God always reveals His plans and purposes according to His own timeline, and using His own wisdom. God predestines the proper time for the speaking of His wisdom and the mysteries hidden from past ages (1 Corinthians 2:7, Page 1784).
5. **The Voice of the Seventh Angel.** We have seen the seventh angel speak with a lion's voice. Now we know that God designated a specific time to bring the mystery of God to a conclusion. That time God described as the "days of the voice of the seventh angel." When those days arrive, then the mystery of God is finished, indicating a final point of completion.
6. **The Mystery of God.** In the days of the voice of the seventh angel, however, "when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets." You may recall that a mystery means something not well known in the past, but now revealed through the

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prophets and apostles. Notice God preached the mystery to His servants the prophets. In the New Testament, we have many [mysteries](#) revealed. God described the mystery of the Gentiles as being revealed to “His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit” (Ephesians 3:5, Page 1829).

7. **The Finish.** Notice that finish takes place during the “days” of the voice of the seventh angel, and not just one hour or one day, but a period of time composed of days. We have many more chapters of the Book of Revelation to cover before things will come to a final and complete end. It will take “days” for the entire program of God to reach its final conclusion.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when ponder the Rainbow Angel, ready to blow the seventh trumpet, and the seven peals of thunder ready to speak, and the mystery of God about to end, all according to the plan of Jesus Christ, which He has already detailed in the Book of Revelation.
- We are blessed when we worship Jesus for His vast and intricate plan for the ages that He fulfills every day. All things work to His glory, and no one can withstand His power. Just as the seventh angel prepares to sound, we see the angels and other creatures fulfilling His divine will.
- We live for Jesus because we remember Him as the Creator of heaven and earth and the things in it, and the sea and the things in it. Because of His total power as Creator, we know that He alone holds the future and so we trust Him for our lives today.
- We minister for Jesus when the revelation of Jesus controls our action and thoughts. We become consumed with His ways and His desires, knowing that the entire future, revealed in great detail in the

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Bible, all center around the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world today.

Application for Today

Today, I will be thinking about the Rainbow Angel, and Seven Peals of Thunder, and the Creator who will finish the mystery of God at just the right time.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Thirty Two

The Little Book Today

Revelation 10:10

"I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and in my mouth it was sweet as honey; and when I had eaten it, my stomach was bitter."

In the Book of Revelation, we often see a person holding something. What they hold often turns out to be very important. In this case, the Rainbow Angel was holding a little book. The Rainbow Angel gave the little book to John, with the warning that it would be sweet as honey in his mouth, and bitter in his stomach. After he ate it, "they" said to John, you must prophesy again concerning many peoples, nations, tongues and kings. The little book symbolizes the further revelation of God to be given to John so that he would prophesy about many more world-wide events, including many people, nations, kingdoms and tongues.

Sweet as Honey

1. **The Rainbow Angel**. John saw a strong angel coming down out of heaven. He was clothed with a cloud, with a rainbow on his head, his face

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like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. He held a little book, which was open.

2. **The Seven Peals of Thunder.** The Rainbow Angel cried with a loud voice, like a roaring lion, and the seven peals of thunder uttered their voices. A voice commanded John to seal up what they said. Clearly God controls all revelation and only provides specific revelations at appropriate times. Some things God keeps hidden until the wisdom of God deems it the right time to reveal them.

3. **The Oath.** The Rainbow Angel then lifted up his right hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, "WHO CREATED HEAVEN AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE EARTH AND THINGS IN IT, AND THE SEA, AND THE THINGS IN IT (Exodus 20:11, page 121).

4. **No Delay.** The Rainbow angel swore that there will be no delay no longer. God always reveals His plans and purposes according to His own timeline, and using His own wisdom. God predestines the proper time for the speaking of His wisdom and the mysteries hidden from past ages (1 Corinthians 2:7, Page 1784).

5. **The Voice of the Seventh Angel.** We have seen the seventh angel speak with a lion's voice. Now we know that God designated a specific time to bring the mystery of God to a conclusion. That time God described as the "days of the voice of the seventh angel." When those days arrive, then the mystery of God is finished, indicating a final point of completion.

6. **The Mystery of God.** In the days of the voice of the seventh angel, however, "when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets." You may recall that a mystery means something not well known in the past, but now revealed through the prophets and apostles. Notice God preached the mystery to His servants the prophets. In the New Testament, we have many [mysteries](#) revealed. God

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described the mystery of the Gentiles as being revealed to “His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit” (Ephesians 3:5, Page 1829).

7. **The Finish.** Notice that finish takes place during the “days” of the voice of the seventh angel, and not just one hour or one day, but a period of time composed of days. We have many more chapters of the Book of Revelation to cover before things will come to a final and complete end. It will take “days” for the entire program of God to reach its final conclusion.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we ponder the Rainbow Angel, ready to blow the seventh trumpet, and the seven peals of thunder ready to speak, and the mystery of God about to end, all according to the plan of Jesus Christ, which He has already detailed in the Book of Revelation.
- We are blessed when we worship Jesus for His vast and intricate plan for the ages that He fulfills every day. All things work to His glory, and no one can withstand His power. Just as the seventh angel prepares to sound, we see the angels and other creatures fulfilling His divine will.
- We live for Jesus because we remember Him as the Creator of heaven and earth and the things in it, and the sea and the things in it. Because of His total power as Creator, we know that He alone holds the future and so we trust Him for our lives today.
- We minister for Jesus when the revelation of Jesus controls our action and thoughts. We become consumed with His ways and His desires, knowing that the entire future, revealed in great detail in the

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Bible, all center around the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world today.

Application for Today

Today we look forward to the Rainbow Angel proclaiming the finish of the mystery of God. We know that God has a plan for all ages, and His plans always come to pass. With great detail and absolute precision God has described the future, but has kept somethings still secret from us. In His wisdom, God has told us all we need to know and believe as we minister for Him today.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Thirty Three

The Two Witnesses Today

Revelation 10:10

"and I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

Many people have heard about the two witnesses that appear in the Book of Revelation. People have many different ideas about the identity of these two witnesses, but the text focused upon their ministries, not their names. These two witnesses appear after the first six seals have been broken and before the beast from the sea appears. These witnesses minister during a transition period in the Book of Revelation. God has already poured out terrible judgment upon the earth, but greater judgment awaits and comes soon. These two witnesses oppose evil and testify for twelve hundred sixty days. Their clothing will be sackcloth, indicating sorrow and repentance over sin. In contrast to most of the inhabitants of the earth who care nothing about their idolatry, murders, and robberies, these two witnesses rebuke sin and testify to the power of God. The beast will come up from the abyss, make war with them, and kill them. Their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city, and many people will rejoice over their death. After

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three days, their dead bodies will come back to life, and they will be summoned and caught up to heaven. A great earthquake levels a tenth of the city. The second woe (Revelation 8:13, Page 1923) has passed, but more woes come.

The Ministry of the Two Witnesses

1. **The Temple of God**. John provides important timing details in this chapter. He measures the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship in it. The outer court and the holy city have been given to the gentiles for 42 months (3.5 years).
2. **1260 Days of Testimony**. God authorizes His two witnesses to prophesy for 1260 days (3.5 years at 360 days per year). The witnesses are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.
3. **Fire, Drought, Blood and Plagues**. Fire from mouth of the witnesses devours their enemies. They also have the power to withhold rain, to turn water into blood, and to strike the earth with plagues, as they desire.
4. **The Beast from the Abyss**. At the end of their testimony, the beast from the abyss makes war with them and kills them. The death of the two witnesses seems to coincide with Daniel 9:27, where the coming prince puts a stop to offerings in the temple in the middle of the week of years (seven years) described by Daniel.
5. **Evil People Rejoice**. With the death of the two witnesses, the inhabitants of Jerusalem (mystically Sodom and Egypt) and peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will view their dead bodies in the street for three and one half days, and prohibit anyone from laying their bodies in a tomb. The people of earth rejoice and send gifts to one another in celebration, because the torment of the prophets has stopped.

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6. **Ascension.** After the three and one half days, the breath of life from God will come into them, and they will stand on their feet. Great fear will fall upon the watchers. A loud voice from heaven will call them up, and they will go to heaven. A great earthquake will topple a tenth of the city, and seven thousand people will die. The second woe has passed and the third comes quickly.

7. **The Innumerable Multitude.** During the tribulation, an innumerable group will repent and become believers, apparently related, at least in part, to the ministry of the two witnesses.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better as we consider the two witnesses prophesy and display powers and bring plagues, all according to the plan of God. God can use His servants to bring all manner of signs and plagues.
- We are blessed because Jesus always provides a witness to His plans and purposes, even when people do not want to hear from Him.
- We live for Jesus because we rely upon the power of God to bear testimony for God. Only through the Word of God can we function as ministers of God to bring testimony for Him.
- We minister for Jesus even when the response seems fierce and persecution arises. We rely upon God to perform His will within us, so that we might value serving Him more than our own lives.

Application for Today

Today, I will consider the ministry of the two witnesses. Boldly they proclaim the prophecies of God, and even after their death, God raises them and takes them up to heaven. Death never means defeat for believers.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Thirty Four

The Seventh Trumpet Today

Revelation 11:15

"Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven saying: 'The kingdom of the whole world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.'"

Jesus broke the seals of the Book of Seven Seals one at a time, with each break bringing a new judgment upon the earth and inhabitants. With the seventh seal, seven angels prepared to sound their trumpets. As the seventh angel prepared to sound the seventh trumpet, loud voices ring out: "The kingdom of the whole world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever." At that moment, however, the Lord had not yet set His feet upon the Mt. of Olives and begun His earthly reign, but with the pronouncement comes the certainty that things will shortly culminate in the reign of Christ upon earth. So the pronouncement from the loud voices signals the last events as the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ comes to earth. The final acts have begun.

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The Seventh Trumpet

1. **The Seventh Trumpet**. With the last trumpet sound, the kingdom of God occupies all attention. Notice that the kingdom of the world has existed separately from the kingdom of God until that time. In the future, the kingdom of the world will become the kingdom of our Lord and His Christ. You may recall that God anointed Jesus (Who is God) as the one and only Messiah (the Christ).
2. **The Twenty-Four Elders**. The twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones, fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, Who are and Who were, because You have taken your great power and have begun to reign."
3. **The Nations Enraged**. Notice the nations were enraged when Jesus begins to use His power to remove them from power. The wrath of Jesus came and will bring the dead to judgment. At the moment a person receives Jesus as Savior by faith alone, the believer passes out of judgment into life, and never comes in the judgment concerning eternal life because that matter has been resolved on earth. Unbelievers go to a resurrection of judgment, while believers go to a resurrection of life. The bondservants of Jesus, His bond servants the prophets and the saints (all believers) and those who fear His name, the small and the great, will receive their reward when Jesus returns to earth to set up His kingdom. Those evil people who destroy the earth will also be destroyed with eternal torment.
4. **The Temple of God in Heaven**. John also saw the temple of God which is in heaven opened. The ark of the covenant appeared in the temple, with flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder and an earthquake and a great hailstorm.
5. **Trumpets and Woes**. With each trumpet sounding, great woes befall the earth. Here, the Lord Jesus begins to wield His divine power, as He prepares to

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bring His kingdom to earth. Many trumpets sound in Scripture, and this seven trumpets should not be confused with the trumpet blown when Christ descends from the clouds to resurrect believers fallen asleep in Him and others still alive when He appears in the clouds. Remember, in the Book of Revelation, seven trumpets sound, and after the seventh trumpet sounds, many more events will take place before Jesus sets His feet upon the Mount of Olives and begins His earthly reign. The believers, however, alive on earth were rescued from the wrath to come before the first seal of the Book of Seven Seals was broken in the Book of Revelation.

6. **Unbelief and Destruction**. So often today we see nations ignore the Word of God and the power of God. They think that Jesus will permit their evil ways forever. How wrong they are today and soon Jesus will reign, destroying the evil powers on earth.

7. **Rewards Are Coming**. One of the many benefits for believers will be the rewards that Jesus brings with Him when He establishes His kingdom upon the earth. As believers, we look forward to seeing Jesus appear at any moment, because we will be with Him for eternity, and also He will reward us for our service to Him.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we see Him coming to establish His kingdom on the earth. Jesus revealed the future so that we would live today with that knowledge encouraging us today.
- We are blessed because Jesus really will return, bringing His rewards with Him. We will live eternally with Jesus, and also serve Him in His earthly kingdom for a thousand years.

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- We live for Jesus because we love Jesus and cannot wait to see Him return in power and glory. But until that day, we will look to the future, read and believe the Book of Revelation, and long for His return, while serving Him today.
- We minister for Jesus when we act upon what we believe. We live by faith when we put into loving practice all the things that Jesus has commanded us to do. Jesus really will establish His kingdom, a great time for believers, and absolute misery for unbelievers who have perished. Today we can speak up for Jesus, and let others know He really will be King over the entire earth, so they must receive Him as Savior today.

Application for Today

Today, I will be meditating upon the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to reign upon the earth, forever and ever. I will thinking about that seventh trumpet sounding, the great proclamation of His reign, and the power and glory of Christ setting up His kingdom.

HALLELUJAH!

Day Thirty Five

The Woman, The Dragon and The Male Child Today

Revelation 12:5

"And she gave birth to a Son, a male child, Who is to rule the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne."

Satan has battled against God's plan since the day satan sinned. In the Book of Revelation, we read about the doom of satan. Throughout the Bible, satan has had access to stand before God's throne and accuse believers. Every believer, however, has an advocate with the God the Father, named Jesus Christ the Righteous. Because Jesus Christ took all the penalty due to me for my sins, I am free from all condemnation. On the cross Jesus took all the condemnation I deserve for a lifetime of sins. He paid for all my sins, and left nothing unpaid. Satan knew that Christ would come through the people of Israel, for salvation is of the Jews. The Old Testament prophets had detailed the birth of Jesus Christ and satan intended to oppose Jesus and God's plans. In Revelation 12, we read about satan's attempts to spoil God's plan, but God intervenes on behalf of the woman about to bring forth a child. As we read through this passage, we will see how God always

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triumphs in all His plans. No one can oppose God, and He has all power to fulfill all His plans. Jesus will come and rule with a rod of iron, triumphing over all His foes.

The Woman, The Dragon, and the Male Child

1. **The Woman**. John saw a great sign appear in heaven. A woman appeared, clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet, and a crown of twelve stars on her head. She was with child, and she cried out, being in labor with pain. This woman is Israel, and the twelve stars represent the twelve tribes of Israel.
2. **The Dragon and Some Stars**. Another sign appeared in heaven: a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, with seven diadems on his heads. With his tail, he swept away a third of the stars of heaven. We have seen that stars at times represent angels (Revelation 1:20). We also know that the dragon is satan (Revelation 12:9). Therefore, we see that satan sweeps away a third of the angels in his evil.
3. **The Male Child**. The woman gave birth to a male child. Because He will reign with a rod of iron, He must be Christ Jesus (Revelation 2:25-27). He was caught up to heaven, having ascended after His resurrection.
4. **Israel**. The woman must be Israel, because Christ Jesus was born of the tribe of Judah, who was one of the twelve tribes of Israel. Notice that she would be nourished for 1260 days, which equals 42 months (30 days per month) which equals 3.5 years (360 days per year) which equals times (2 years), time (1 year) and half a time (1/2 year) (total 3.5 years). Therefore, the woman will be nourished for 3.5 years, which equals 1/2 of the seven year tribulation period.
5. **Prophetic Time**. As we will see, Revelation 12 provides great help in understanding periods of prophetic time, often built around a seven year period.

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6. **Satan's Covenant of Peace**. Satan will move to destroy Israel after first making a peace covenant with Israel. In the middle of the week (7 years), satan will break the covenant (Daniel 9:27).

7. **Jesus Rules**. Ultimately, Jesus will rule the nations with a rod of iron. Satan and his angels will be defeated by God. Jesus alone will fulfill the prophecy of Psalm 2.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we see Him as the fulfillment of prophecy. Satan stood ready to devour the child (Jesus) of the woman (the nation of Israel), but her child was caught up to God and to His throne.
- We are blessed because Jesus will one day rule upon this earth with a rod of iron; until then, we eagerly await for Him to summon us to the clouds, where we will receive glorified bodies.
- We live for Jesus today because we know about the plans of God. Satan tried to destroy Jesus, but Jesus triumphed over death on the cross, and arose from the dead to sit in heaven at the right hand of God. Jesus promised to come back and satan cannot stop Jesus.
- We minister for Jesus when we spread the great news that Jesus loves sinners. Today is the favorable year of the Lord, and Jesus seeks to save the lost. The day of vengeance is coming, and Jesus will pour out great judgment upon the earth and its inhabitants. Today we spread His loving message of eternal salvation, because we love Him and know that the future looks very dark for every unbeliever.

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Application for Today

Today, I will be thinking about Jesus triumphing over satan. No one is ever a match for Jesus, because He created all things and exercises absolute power over all things. Although satan schemes against the plans of God and His people, God always triumphs and always wins. We have much to tell about the Risen Savior Jesus.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Thirty Six

Satan Thrown Down from Heaven Today

Revelation 12:10

"Then I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, 'Now the salvation, and the power, and the Kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of the brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.'"

Many people pray before they go to sleep at night. Did you know that your adversary, the devil, day and night accuses every believer before God? In the future, a day is coming where the accuser of the saints will be thrown down from heaven to earth. In that day, salvation, and the Kingdom of God and the authority of His Christ will have come. This point in the Book of Revelation marks a turning point in the activity of the devil. The Devil will focus upon asserting his power upon the earth. The earth will undergo an intense period of tribulation, such as the earth and its inhabitants have never seen before. Yet, believers will triumph in the Lamb of God.

Seeing Jesus Today

Satan and His Angels Thrown out of Heaven

1. **Satan Lost the War in Heaven**. Michael and his angels waged war in heaven against the devil and his angels. Michael won and satan and his angels were thrown down to earth.
2. **The Names of Satan**. Notice that satan is called the dragon, the serpent of old, and the devil. He deceives the whole world.
3. **The Accuser Thrown Down**. Then, John heard, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the Kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of the brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night."
4. **No More Access**. In the future, satan no longer will have access to stand in heaven to accuse believers night and day. Remember even in the days of Job that satan accused Job before God (Job 1:6-12, Page 803)
5. **Overcomers**. The brethren overcame satan: (a) by the blood of the Lamb; and (b) by the word of their testimony; and (c) because they did not love their life when facing death. They were willing to die a martyr for Christ.
6. **Rejoicing and Woe**. For this reason, everyone dwelling in heaven and heaven itself should rejoice over satan being cast out of heaven. But woe to the earth, because satan has only a short time left on earth, and he is very angry.
7. **No Condemnation**. As believers we know that right now satan accuses believers of all their sins night and day before God in heaven. Yet, Jesus Christ the righteous pleads His shed blood as the payment in full for the penalty of our sins. Believers have no condemnation because Jesus took all our condemnation on the cross. One day in the future satan will no longer accuse us in heaven. By faith we know that Jesus always keeps us safe in Himself for all eternity, no matter what satan says or does.

Seeing Jesus Today

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we see Him as the all powerful God who removes satan from heaven through His angels. God created satan, without sin, and God retains all power over all created things. As God, Jesus loves believers and advocates for them daily, but a day will come when Satan will no longer accuse the brethren before God night and day. God let us read the Book of Revelation to see that day of rejoicing for everyone in heaven.
- We are blessed because Jesus will exercise His authority to throw satan down to earth. Believers will overcome satan by: (1) the blood of the Lamb; (2) because of the word of their testimony for Christ; and (3) because they did not love their lives even when faced with death.
- We live for Jesus today and rejoice even now in the absolute authority of Jesus Christ in our lives. Even today, the evil one does not touch us. God never allows us to be tempted beyond what we are able to bear, and God always provides a way of escape, so that we may endure temptation. Satan's days are limited by God's plans, and God has great, eternal plans for born-again believers.
- We minister for Jesus when we encourage believers to rely upon the blood of the Lamb and keep a bright testimony for Christ, even if it means we lay down our lives to serve Jesus.

Seeing Jesus Today

Application for Today

Today, I will focus upon the Lamb of God and His blood shed for me and applied to my heart by faith alone. The blood of the Lamb provides many benefits for me every day, but one day the devil will no longer be accusing believers before God, because His days are numbered by God and the devil will be thrown down to earth. I will be rejoicing in heaven on that day, but woe to those people on earth when the devil brings great fury to the earth.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Thirty Seven

Satan Thrown Down from Heaven Today

Revelation 12:13

"And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child."Then I heard a loud voice in heaven saying,"

Have you ever seen people get really angry and then take out their anger upon anyone they find? The devil acts just like that. After the devil loses the war in heaven, he is thrown down to earth, and comes with a major attitude. He intends to vent his wrath upon the woman who gave birth to the male child. The woman is the nation of Israel and the male child is Jesus Christ. So, we will see just how much evil the devil will unleash upon the earth. Remember, satan, the devil, and the dragon all refer to the same person in the Book of Revelation.

The Angry Dragon

1. **Persecution**. When the dragon saw that he was cast down to earth, he persecuted the woman. We saw before that the woman was Israel and her

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male child was Jesus. So, the dragon, satan, will make war against Israel after he is cast out of heaven.

2. **Two Wings of Escape**. Israel will be given two wings to escape into the wilderness where she will be nourished for a time (1 year), times (2 years), and half a time (1/2 year), which equals 3 1/2 years. This same period equals 1260 days described in Revelation 12:6.

3. **Protection**. Therefore, we also know that a prophetic year equals 360 days. So, God protects Israel for 3 1/2 years during the seven year tribulation.

3. **Earth Opened Up**. Satan, the serpent, becomes enraged with the woman and spews water out of his mouth after the woman, but God helped the woman by opening the earth's mouth to drink up the water. You may remember the earth opening its mouth to swallow up Korah in Numbers 16:30-35.

4. **Earth Swallows Evil Army**. In this case, satan sends an evil army to destroy Israel, but Israel escapes and the earth swallows the army sent by satan to destroy Israel.

5. **War on the Christian Children**. So the dragon, satan, was enraged and went to make war with rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. We know that these believers appear to be Jewish ethnically (offspring of the woman). They are believers because they keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

6. **The Believing Remnant**. Satan hates Israel and every believer, because believers keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. God always has plans to help Israel and preserve a believing remnant of ethnic Jews. God will finish His program for the salvation of Israel and the fulfillment of His promises to Israel.

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7. **God Protects.** God always keeps His promises. No one can overcome His plans. Believers must have faith in God and His plans. God can use the earth to swallow the biggest army and so thwart the plans of satan at any time.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we read Scripture to know about the future. Satan exercises immense power upon the earth, and without Jesus, people languish under his control.
- We are blessed because Jesus never loses. If satan persecutes the children of God, then Jesus has the power to make the earth swallow the entire army satan sent to destroy. Jesus never fears satan and neither should be we, because Jesus lives in us.
- We live for Jesus today without the physical army of satan chasing us. Yet, satan seeks to control the lives of everyone, but only Jesus can help you overcome the power of satan and stop his plans for your life.
- We minister for Jesus as we trust Jesus to deliver us from the schemes of the devil, who seeks to devour us. In Jesus, we encourage others to trust in the strength of Jesus, resist the devil, and we know the devil will flee from us.

Application for Today

Today, I will meditating upon the safety and freedom I enjoy in Florida, USA. I am not being chased by satan's army on earth, although we do war every day against all kinds of spiritual forces and authorities both on earth and in heaven every day. Yet, I have read about the future and I know that Jesus

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wins and will defeat the devil. We live in victory today by the power of Jesus Christ.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Thirty Eight

The Beast from the Sea Today

Revelation 13:5

"There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him."

I spend time at the beach almost every day. When it comes to explaining Revelation 13 and the appearance of the beast, I use the ocean before me to illustrate how the beast appears from the ocean. The devil has been thrown out of heaven in the previous passage and now appears as standing on the seashore. Next, the beast comes out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on his horns, and blasphemous names on his head. The dragon gave the beast great power, a great throne, and great authority. He amazed the whole world because one his heads was as if slain, and then came back to life. Many people worshiped the dragon because he gave authority to the beast. The beast spoke arrogant things from forty-two months (one half of the Tribulation). The beast blasphemed God, the Name of God, the Tabernacle of God (those who dwell in heaven). The beast has a

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very limited time to work on earth, and the beast will cause great destruction during that limited time.

The Beast Receives Power from the Dragon

1. **The Dragon on the Seashore**. As the dragon stood on the seashore, a beast came up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his head were ten diadems, with blasphemous names on his heads. This picture of great power spread across a group of rulers and lands shows the plans of the dragon. This union of nations stands in open defiance of God.
2. **The Character of the Beast**. This beast had parts from a leopard (body), bear (feet), and a lion (mouth). These parts describe the physical prowess of the beast and his armies. They also describe his use of the media to proclaim his message to the world. The dragon gave him power and a throne and great authority. He had one head fatally wounded, but the wound was healed. The whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast.
3. **The Worship of the Dragon**. The earth worshiped the dragon because he gave authority to the beast. They said that no one could wage war with the beast.
4. **The Blasphemous Words of the Beast**. The beast spoke arrogant and blasphemous words. He had forty-two months (3 1/2 years) to act with authority. The power of the dragon ends abruptly when Christ rides to victory (Revelation 19) and satan will be bound (Revelation 20:1-3).
5. **The Targets of Blasphemy**. The beast opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name, and His tabernacle, including those who dwell in heaven. The blasphemy displays the desire of the beast to bring God down and exalt the dragon and himself above God.

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6. **The Rule of the Beast**. The dragon appoints the beast to carry out his evil plans. The beast has authority as a government with multiple rulers, with supernatural strength. It also is a man, arrogantly blaspheming the name and Person of God. Remember, at this time, satan has been cast down to earth, and he has limited time.

7. **The Restraining Power of God**. While the world seems very evil today, the power of God restrains the devil to some degree (2 Thessalonians 2:6). In the future, the dragon will bring great evil to earth. Believers will be rescued from this great wrath when Jesus comes in the clouds to resurrect believers (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) before the Tribulation begins. Today is the day of salvation for everyone who hears and believes the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have so many things to thank the Lord Jesus for doing in this world and in our lives!

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we ponder the powers aligned against Him. He throws the dragon out of heaven, and for forty-two months the dragon wages spiritual and physical war on earth. Jesus returns suddenly and wins immediately. No contest.
- We are blessed because Jesus triumphs always, no matter the foe and its great powers. No one has greater power, and even the dragon only has a limited, pre-defined period to act, forty-two months.
- We live for Jesus today fighting satan and his schemes against us. In Jesus, we stand firm, wear the armor of God, resist the devil and he will flee from us.

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- We minister for Jesus as we never let our guard down against satan and we understand see some of the depths of his power to do evil. We do not fear satan, but we do fear God and His awesome power. Jesus loves us, and in Him we see the future coming to ultimate glory in Him and His plans.

Application for Today

Today, I am thinking about the Beast rising from the ocean, with satan standing on the seashore. His power works today, but in the future he will bring great destruction to the earth. When satan rules with his government, then things will get even worse on earth for forty-two months. Happily, I live today, in the favorable year of the Lord Jesus, and not the day of vengeance. I intend to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and encourage His disciples to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Thirty Nine

The Beast from the Sea Today

Revelation 13:12

"He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed."

Satan seeks to counterfeit God and His purposes. During the Tribulation, the devil counterfeits the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The devil sets up a three person system of evil: the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. They work together to do evil upon the earth. They only have a short time, and they act swiftly to dominate the world and achieve their wicked purposes.

The Rise of the False Prophet

1. **The False Prophet Comes**. We see a second beast rising to power, and it comes from the earth. We learn in Revelation 19:20 that this second beast mentioned in Revelation 13:11-18 is also called the false prophet.

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2. **Worship the Beast**. The false prophet has two horns and speaks like a dragon. He exercises his power in the presence of the first beast. He makes the earth worship the first beast. He performs great signs and deceives people on earth and makes fire come from down from heaven to earth. He commands people on earth to build an image to the beast whose fatal wound from the sword was healed and he came to life.

3. **The Image Lives and Speaks**. The false prophet gave breath to the image, and caused the image to speak and kill everyone who did not worship the image of the beast.

4. **The Mark of the Beast**. The false prophet also makes everyone receive the mark of the beast, on their forehead or their right hand, without which mark no one can buy or sell; they must have name of the beast or the number of the beast.

5. **The Number of the Beast**. The number of the beast is the number of a man; his number is six hundred sixty six (666). Wisdom can calculate the number of the beast.

6. **Counterfeit**. During the seven year period of tribulation, the dragon will create a false trinity to persecute and kill Jews and believing Gentiles; the dragon, the beast and the false prophet form that counterfeit trinity.

7. **Jesus Wins**. Jesus has all things under His ultimate control, but has not yet subjected all things to His divine power. The false trinity will take control of this world, but Jesus will destroy them upon His return to rule upon earth as absolute King of kings and God on earth.

Seeing Jesus Today

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we understand the future He reveals to us, particularly about the evil powers opposing the plans of God. Jesus knows the future, reveals the future, and controls the future.
- We are blessed because Jesus has warned us of the wrath to come, and knowing about the future promotes our faith in Jesus today. Terrible evil will come upon the earth, and the righteous judgment of God will be poured out upon that evil and those evil creatures.
- We live for Jesus today as we share our faith, make disciples, and oppose the schemes of the devil by standing firm in Christ. The beast and the mark of the beast will come, but believers at the rapture will be lifted to Jesus and our bodies resurrected to glory.
- We minister for Jesus as we see the world system moving toward a unified global government and integrated global commerce. As we watch people struggle to live without God, we minister to them by sharing the great love of God for them. We share the Gospel of Jesus Christ as we go into all the world, making disciples, and baptizing them, and instructing them to observe all that Jesus commanded.

Application for Today

Today, I am watching the devil pave the way for the mark of the beast and global system of commerce he will control one day. Jesus has revealed the future, so that I may follow Him today. I resist the devil and his plans today, but I can only do so by placing my faith in Jesus today, so that by His power, the Holy Spirit will strengthen me, so that Christ dwells richly in my heart.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Forty

The 144,000 in Heaven Today

Revelation 14:1

"Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb standing on Mt. Zion, and with Him one hundred forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads."

The numbers in the Bible make a difference, and God precisely recorded numbers. Mt. Zion indicated the place where God made His abode, and the one hundred-forty thousand have two names written on their foreheads: the name of the Lamb and the name of the Lamb's Father. This Mt. Zion appears to be the heavenly Mt. Zion. The 144,000 have gathered there with the Lamb, having been sealed on their foreheads by God. The timing here shows they have suffered and died on earth; therefore, Mr. Zion here may refer to the earthly Mt. Zion when Christ returns. In any case, the 144,000 are now safely with the Lamb, and they sing a new song in heaven.

Seeing Jesus Today

The 144,000 in Heaven

1. **144,000 Sealed**. In Revelation 7:1-8, we read about God sealing 12,000 Jewish men from the tribes of Israel. Now, we see them on heavenly Mt. Zion with Jesus, with both the name of Jesus and the name of God the Father written on their foreheads. They were sealed with God's mark, but they still gave their lives for God during the Great Tribulation on earth.
2. **Voice from Heaven**. John then heard a voice from heaven sounding like many waters; thunder; and like harpists playing on their harps. Heaven has many sounds, many songs, and many musical instruments. God loves music in many forms. Here, the voice from heaven had a musical, thundering quality.
3. **The Song of the 144,000**. The 144,000 sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; no one could learn the song except the 144,000 purchased from the earth. The purchase price remains the same always: the precious blood of the Lamb of God (1 Corinthians 6:20, page 1788; 1 Peter 1:18-19; page 1894). God paid the death penalty to satisfy the justice of God.
4. **The Character of the 144,000**. The 144,000 had not been defiled with women, they follow the Lamb wherever He goes, and they have been purchased from men as first fruits to God and the Lamb. Regarding the defilement with women, Paul wrote that believers should never be joined with unbelievers, because such unions defile both flesh and spirit (2 Corinthians 7:1, page 1810). God also described the 144,000 as "chaste," indicating they were never had sex outside of marriage, probably referring to virgins (1 Corinthians 7:34, page 1790—unmarried distinguished from virgins). Just as the sheep follow the Shepherd and know His voice, so also the 144,000 follow the Lamb of God (John 10:3-5, page 1675). The doctrine of first fruits stems from the Feast of Harvest in the Old Testament where God commanded the

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people of Israel to assemble in Jerusalem to celebrate a feast at the time at the time of first fruits from what they had sowed in the field. God commanded the people to present the choice first fruits of the harvest before the LORD (Exodus 23:14-19, page 126).

5. **No Lies.** No lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless. Isaiah the prophet described Jesus as a man without deceit in His mouth (Isaiah 53:9, page 1155). Through the blood of Jesus Christ, faith makes every believer holy and blameless before God (Colossians 1:22, page 1842).

6. **Sealed.** God sealed the 144,000 as one special group for special service to God. They will sing a special song and follow Jesus wherever He goes. Many people claim that the 144,000 were evangelists on earth. Such claims do not rest upon Scripture. The 144,000 first appear on earth to be sealed in Revelation 7:4-9, page 1922. That passage contains no record of their works. The only other passage concerning the 144,000 by name is Revelation 14:1-5, pages 1929-1930, where they are already in heaven with Christ, and they are not evangelizing anyone there. Nothing in the those two passages presents evidence they served as evangelists on earth. They certainly had a special purpose in God's plan, but that purpose seems centered upon preserving a holy remnant from the tribes of Israel for His own purposes and for display in heaven.

7. **The Song of Praise.** The 144,000 depict the joys of righteous living during tribulation. They did not defile themselves sexually, and never told lies or practiced any deceit. They were blameless. All believers likewise stand as holy and blameless before God, because of the power of the blood of Jesus Christ..

Summary for Today

Seeing Jesus Today

- We see Jesus better when we look to the future to see how saints triumphed under great tribulation. God saved and sealed 144,000 men from the tribes of Israel for Himself.
- We are blessed because God recorded His desire to set aside the 144,000 as first fruits for Himself. The 144,000 remind us that they have lived without sexual defilement and were blameless before God. They did not lie and never practiced deceit.
- We live for Jesus today as we live follow Jesus wherever He goes and listen to His voice leading us. One day in glory, the 144,000 will be following Him in heaven, after giving their lives on earth during the Tribulation.
- We minister for Jesus as we follow Jesus wherever He goes. We have been sealed by the Holy Spirit for the day of redemption, and remain eternally secure in Him (Ephesians 4:1:13-14, page 1827).

Application for Today

Today, I feel the seal and see the seal. In my life, I know that God has sealed me for the day of redemption, by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in my life. I also see the seal of the 144,000 and the blessings they enjoy as they follow Jesus in heaven. No matter what happens today, I know I have been sealed, and called holy and blameless because Jesus has cleansed me by His blood.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Forty One

Babylon the Great, Fallen, Fallen Today

Revelation 14:8

"And another angel, a second one, followed, saying, 'Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality.'"

Hollywood as an industry has many scandals. Some involve infidelity in marriage, others involve alcoholism, drug addiction, fornication, sexual harassment, and all kinds of idolatry. The movie industry in America promotes many kinds of evil. While Hollywood may be an easy example of how evil may influence cultures, likewise church institutions may have the same evil effect. Evil corrupts powerful church institutions, such as the Roman Catholic Church, as witnessed by many scandals with priests and its hierarchy with child abuse. Yet, many protestant preachers on television have been exposed as frauds. Even religious people and religious institutions succumb to evil influences. Finally, we know that governments

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also fall pray to very evil behavior. We see it when politicians appear in sex videos or have to resign in disgrace for their behavior. While we all know that evil behavior causes many problems, God links evil behavior on a global scale to “Babylon.” We will see the global influence of “Babylon” and how she seduced the entire world with her immorality.

Babylon Fallen

1. **Eternal Gospel**. John saw another angel flying in mid-heaven, having an eternal Gospel to preach to the people on earth, including every nation, tribe, tongue, and people. This verse lets us know that God actively seeks and saves the lost during the Tribulation.
2. **Hour of His Judgment**. The angel said with a loud voice, "Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters."
3. **Fear and Worship**. Please notice here that not only does the angel bring the Gospel, but He also commands the fear of God and the worship of God.
4. **Babylon Has Fallen**. A second angel cries out and announces that Babylon has fallen. Babylon caused the nations to commit immorality with her. Some commentators have identified the city of Rome, or the Roman empire, as Babylon, based in part upon 2 Peter 5:13, where Rome is called Babylon.
5. **Evil System**. We know that Babylon represents a worldwide, evil system causing the nations to commit immorality in the eyes of God. In the context, the Gospel comes with the angel, and the command to fear God and worship only God. Therefore, the context indicates that Babylon commits spiritual immorality by seducing people to false worship and to lack the fear of God.
6. **Revelation 17**. In Revelation 17, God provides a detailed description of the destruction of Babylon. We will see there that Babylon represents a world-wide system of evil, a physical city, and also a spiritual monster of evil.

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7. **False Religions**. As believers, today we see false religions leading billions of people to forsake the Gospel, to ignore God, and follow religious teachings that do not promote salvation, the fear of God, or true worship in spirit and in truth. The Roman Catholic Church (a cult) fits the prophecy of Babylon. One day in the future, many people in the Tribulation shall hear the Gospel, and people shall be born again from every nation, tribe, tongue and people.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we know that Babylon will fall one day, at the time of her judgment by Jesus Christ.
- We are blessed because God revealed that Gospel of Jesus Christ will be preached one day to the entire world. An angel will bring the eternal gospel to be preached to every nation, tongue, tribe and people.
- We live for Jesus today as we look at the glory of tomorrow. While the eternal gospel is being preached all over the world today, the eternal gospel has not yet penetrated everywhere on earth. One day in the future, during the Tribulation, that will change.
- We minister for Jesus today as we participate in sharing the eternal gospel and oppose Babylon and all its evil influences.

Application for Today

Today, I will be focused upon living for Jesus in a world filled with immorality and under the control of evil religious systems. Babylon the great is alive and evil today. We know that today is the day of salvation, but the whole world lies under the control of the evil one. Even so, God rescues believers from the

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wrath to come and transfers us out of the domain of darkness into the kingdom of His beloved Son.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Forty Two

The Torment of the Beast Today

Revelation 14:11

"And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

People talk about the mark of the beast very frequently today. Today we will focus upon the torment of people who receive the mark of the beast. We will see that they receive special suffering for their evil behavior. God will cause everyone who has received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image to suffer without rest night and day. God revealed these things to us today so that we may be more diligent to walk with Jesus today and spread His words of salvation to all men before it is too late.

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The Torment of the Beast People

1. **The Third Angel Continues To Speak.** A third angel followed the two previous angels. He too pronounced judgment upon people who worship the beast and his image and receive the mark of the beast. Please recall that the third angel speaks in the future and talks about events that will take place in the future Tribulation.
2. **Torment of the Beast.** The beast will drink the wine of the wrath of God, mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger. The beast will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. The beast had full authority to perform supernatural acts and destroy his enemies; yet, no creature is a match for God. God always wins and here God pours out His anger upon the beast.
3. **Torment of the Worshipers of the Beast.** The smoke of the torment of the beast rises forever. All who worshiped the beast and his image and received the mark of the beast suffer the same destiny of eternal torment. Although compelled to worship the beast, people who worship the beast will still pay an eternal price for such idolatry and sinfulness.
4. **The Perseverance of the Saints.** The saints (every born-again believer is a saint) persevere because they keep the commandments of God and have faith in Jesus. Even during the darkest times of the Tribulation, some people will hold fast to their faith in Jesus and reject the mark of the beast. They are blessed because they die in the Lord. They rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them.
5. **Eternal Security of the Saints.** Born-again believers never lose their faith in Jesus. Even if they die for their faith, the devil has no more power over them after death. Believers join Jesus in Paradise at the moment of death.

Seeing Jesus Today

6. **True Believers Always Persevere.** Born-again believers always persevere in their faith. They always keep the commandments of God. If you never keep the commandments of God, then you have reason to doubt your salvation.

7. **Dark Times, True Faith.** During the Tribulation, God will pour out His wrath upon the earth. Many people all over the world will die, with great suffering. For them, they will suffer more after they die. The Tribulation will be worse than anything that has happened upon the earth before that time. Yet, during the darkest of times, born-again believers always persevere in Christ, and never stop obeying the commandments of God.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we understand that the darkest of days will come with the Tribulation. People will worship the beast and his image. Even during that time, Jesus will bring His saints through that time so that they join Him in Paradise.
- We are blessed because understand the absolute justice of God. God never ignores sin, but always requires that the wages of sin must be paid in full, to satisfy His justice. Jesus paid our sin debt in full, by giving His life for ours. For all unbelievers, they will be tormented day and night for their actions and unbelief.
- We live for Jesus today by relying upon the perseverance of the saints. As true believers, we know that whatever comes our way, we will always be safe in Christ and our faith in Him. Nothing can separate us from His love and nothing can undo our faith.

Seeing Jesus Today

- We minister for Jesus today because we know that eternal torment awaits everyone who rejects the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Their torment awaits them, but God is not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance.

Application for Today

Today, I will be thinking about the eternal torment that awaits all unbelievers, especially those who worship the beast to come and his image. Because of Jesus, I will never face such torment, for I have passed out of judgment into eternal life at the moment of salvation.

HALLELUJAH !

5

The Seven Bowl Judgments

The seven bowl judgments bring swift and terrible final judgments upon the earth and its inhabitants. These bowl judgments include the campaign of Armageddon and the doom of Babylon the Great, which rules of the kings of the earth. According to the very orderly plan of God, destruction will come upon the major evil powers upon the earth. Evil powers will be moved by demons to draw together for a great invasion of Israel, where they will be destroyed. Likewise, the Great Harlot will face its destruction at the hands of

Day Forty Three

Seven Angels and Seven

Plagues Today

Revelation 15:1

"Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels who had seven plagues, which are the last, because in them the wrath of God is finished."

My friend told me how much he loved to hear a particular female singer perform "How Great Thou Art." I said I had heard of the singer, but it seemed like putting a gold ring in a pig's nose when she sang a song about God. This singer had sold herself into sin for fame and fortune. When she sang a gospel song, I cringed. She often paraded herself in scanty outfits, and made improper gestures for audiences. I recall another woman posing nude for a magazine, and then claiming that it was easier to ask God for forgiveness rather than ask for His permission. People who ignore God

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forget that God never ignores them. On earth, people may seek their own desires, gain power and wealth, but they overlook the righteousness of God. One day, God will send plagues upon the earth, because of the wickedness practiced by all kinds of people.

In Genesis, we read about plagues that God brought upon Egypt because Pharaoh would not release the people of Israel from their captivity. God brought a measured series of plagues, each announced by Moses to Pharaoh before the plague began. In the Book of Revelation, God also brings plagues upon the earth. God called them the last plagues, because God finished His wrath with those plagues. God never leaves unpunished the wickedness of this world. At the right time and at the right place, God metes out His righteous judgment. As He brings His judgments upon earth, heaven rings with the song of the victors, standing upon a sea of glass, mixed with fire, holding harps of God.

Seven Angels and Seven Plagues

1. The Victors' Sign. John saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous. We have seen many great and marvelous events as we have journeyed through Revelation. These seven angels bring seven last plagues upon the earth.

2. The Victors' Stand. John also saw a sea mixed with fire, and those victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name. Even though the beast exercised global power, people were still victorious over him. The victors stood on the sea of glass, holding harps of God.

3. The Victors' Song. The victors sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of the God, and the Song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of

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nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For you alone are holy; FOR ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED."

4. **The Victors' Strength**. The victors remembered the song of Moses. Moses described the strength of God in destroying the Egyptian army pursuing the people of God (Exodus 15:1-18, pages 112-113). Moses proclaimed that the LORD will reign forever and ever. The victors sang of the Almighty God, righteous and true in all His ways. He alone reigns as King of the Nations.

5. **The Victors' Salute**. With their song and music, the victors saluted God, paying respect to the LORD God. The victors feared God and glorified His name. They declared that Lord alone is holy.

6. **The Victors' Sweep**. The victors sang of the worldwide scope and sweep of God's power. All nations will come and worship before Him, because His righteous acts have been revealed.

7. **The Victors' Standard**. As the victors stood in heaven on the sea of glass mixed with fire, they sang, holding and playing harps of God. Every nation on earth must come before Him, because His righteous acts have been revealed. Temporary victory on earth does not mean eternal victory in heaven. The dragon, the beast, and the false prophet had temporary victories on earth, but those victories did not last long. Many believers died defying the beast, and suffered death on earth under the beast's temporary reign. In heaven they stand eternally victorious with Jesus. In our lives today, as believers, we already know that Jesus is king of all nations. In the future, Jesus will perform righteous acts before and upon all nations, who must come before Him. Then everyone will know Jesus has always been God, the Righteous King of all nations. But after death, unbelievers will be condemned by Jesus. Today, we can share the Gospel to all the nations so they can confess Jesus as Savior and King today.

Seeing Jesus Today

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we look into heaven and see the victors from the Tribulation standing upon the sea of glass, mixed with fire, holding harps of God.
- We are blessed when we hear the song of the victors proclaiming the strength of God, and His righteous and true ways. He is king of the nations, and all must fear the Lord, and glorify His name.
- We live for Jesus today by meditating upon the glories of heaven and living spotless and blameless lives today upon earth. We take great encouragement from the song of the victors, proclaiming the strength, power and majesty of God.
- We minister for Jesus today because we have seen the future. The victors song shall swell in heaven on day, but until then, we shall praise the works of God from one generation to another and speak of the glory of the majesty of His kingdom.

Application for Today

Today, I will consider the song of the victors and look forward to hearing them sing it in heave one day. They will remind everyone with their song and harp of the true and righteous works of God, and how all nations one day will gather before Him and worship Him. One day, His righteous acts will be revealed.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Forty Four

Seven Golden Bowls

Revelation 15:7

"Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever."

I know a woman who gets extremely angry. She has been known to taunt strangers, and challenges them to physical confrontations. She loses her temper and flies completely under the control of her flesh. She brings disgrace upon herself and she does not present a good testimony for Christ Jesus. We all have our problems, and God never condemns the righteous. But, God never loses control over His anger, and never acts unrighteously. As a righteous judge, God knows indignation every day. In fact, every person who disbelieves and disobeys the Son of God has the wrath of God already abiding upon them. When God acts to pour out His divine wrath upon the earth, He will send forth seven angels bearing seven bowls of the wrath of God.

Seven Golden Bowls of Wrath

1. Seven Angels of Wrath. In heaven, John saw the temple of the tabernacle of testimony. Seven angels came out the temple. They carried the seven plagues of God and were clothed in linen, bright and clean, girded around their chests with golden sashes. In the Book of Revelation, God frequently uses angles to carry out His judgments. Notice the splendor of the angels with their golden sashes, just as Jesus had a golden sash (Revelation 1:13, page 1914).

2. Seven Golden Bowls. Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God. God has carefully measured out the wrath to be poured out in sequence upon unbelievers on earth.

3. The Glory of God. The glory of God accompanies the wrath of God. The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power. No one was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

4. The Pattern of Seven Judgments. These final bowl judgments continue the pattern of the judgments of the seven seals and seven trumpets. God has stored up His wrath to be dispensed upon the earth. He always acts in truth and righteousness, even in His wrath. Notice how God measured and controlled His wrath by placing it in seven bowls, carried by seven angels. The order and progression is not dispassionate, but full of the controlled indignation of divine wrath.

5. The Final Judgments. The seven bowl judgments will be the final measures of judgment upon all unbelievers before Jesus returns as Victor to rule the earth after crushing His earthly enemies. Remembers the victors from the tribulation singing as a prelude the song of the Lamb just before the seven angels bring forth the seven bowls of divine wrath.

Seeing Jesus Today

6. The Smoke of Glory and Power. Notice that wrath of God comes from the temple in heaven. Inside the temple, the glory of God and the power of God fill the temple with smoke. No one was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

7. The Holy God. We will see each bowl of wrath poured out. God never loses control of His anger, but smoke, glory and power fill the temple as God fills the seven bowls with His perfect wrath. As believers, we know God takes no delight in the destruction of the wicked. Now is the day we share the Gospel with unbelievers, knowing that judgment awaits all unbelievers. Being on earth after the believers meet Christ in the clouds will be a time of great wrath and suffering. Believers will be in heaven, safe with Jesus.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we ponder the wrath of God. In the heavenly temple of God, He measures out seven bowls of His wrath. His angels bring forth the seven bowls and His glory and power fill the temple with smoke. During that time, no one was able to enter the temple.
- We are blessed because Jesus has taken the full wrath of God which once rested upon each of us as unbelieving sinners. We see that Jesus removed from each of us the anger of God.
- We live for Jesus today by remembering the smoke in the heavenly temple of God. We consider the power and glory of God in that temple, and time coming when the seven angels will bring forth the wrath of God in seven bowls, ready to be poured out upon the earth and its inhabitants.

Seeing Jesus Today

- We minister for Jesus today because we love God and thrive on the power of God in our lives. He has entrusted us with a vision of His wrath so that we may live and share His great love today.

Application for Today

Today, I will think about the temple of the tabernacle of God. One day seven angels will go forth from that temple with seven golden bowls of the wrath of God. Even now, righteous indignation abides upon unbelievers. They disobey the Son of God and the wrath of God abides upon them. Yet, the fields are white for harvest, because God is not willing for any to perish. Today, we go forth as harvesters in the white fields, ready to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Forty Five

The Bowl Judgments Begin Today

Revelation 16:1

"Then I heard a loud voice from the temple, saying to the seven angels, 'Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God.'"

When I used to surf, I noticed that waves came in sets of waves. Some sets of waves have bigger waves than others. We called the sets of the biggest waves a "Clean-Up Set." As I sat past the breakers waiting for the best wave, I often looked for sets of waves. You could see them coming and paddle towards the best parts of the wave. So, when the best wave came, I rode it and had a great time. The troubles starts when you have to paddle back out. If I rode any wave other than the last wave of the set, I had to endure the pounding from the waves coming at me. So if I caught the first wave of a six wave set, I had five more waves to get through as paddled back out. Some waves could really pound me. At times, though, the biggest waves of the day would come. Those waves came in a clean-up set. They cleaned up everyone in the line up waiting on waves. These were much bigger waves, and often

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broke out farther than all the other waves. When the clean-up set came, the line up surfers would start padding out to get over that set of waves. The clean up waves often pounded me because I could not get past them in time. The lip of wave pitches forward and crashes on the flat water in front of the wave. You never wanted the lip to land on you. It would really smash you under the water, and hold you under for a long time. At times, I realized I would never get past the clean up set, and so I decided at least to avoid having the lip land on me. Even so, I got caught by the lip many times and blasted under water. By the grace of God, I lived. I surfed growing up in Florida. Florida has relatively small waves, but storm and hurricane waves in Florida can still pack a lot of power.

In the Book of Revelation, the Bowl Judgments come as the last group of seven plagues. The earth and its inhabitants have already been devastated, and a large part of the population has been killed. With the bowl judgments, God sends a clean-up set of plagues. If you lived on the earth, then you were about to get pounded by the righteous bowl judgments of God.

The First Three Bowls

1. The Loud Voice. A loud voice from the temple commanded the seven angels to go and pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath upon the earth. God now begins the final plagues upon the earth. As usual in the Book of Revelation, angels serve as the instruments of God to accomplish His will.

2. The First Bowl. The first angel poured his bowl on earth and it became a loathsome and malignant sore on everyone with the mark of the beast. People all over the earth had to accept the mark of the beast in order to buy or sell. Now that mark of the beast serves as a target for sores from God. The sores were loathsome (causing disgust and hate) and malignant (invasive and incurable).

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3. The Second Bowl. The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, so it became like the blood of a dead man. Blood congeals after death, getting thicker and stickier. God killed every living thing in the sea.

4. The Third Bowl. The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and springs of water and they became blood. God had turned waters into blood before, but this time God judges multiple rivers and multiple springs of water. Without a supply of clean water, life will be very hard to sustain, especially if you have sores on you from the first plague.

5. The Angel of the Waters. The angel of the waters said: "Righteous are You, Who are and Who were, O Holy One, because You judged these things; for they poured out the blood saints and prophets, and You gave them blood to drink. They deserve it." As a righteous and faithful judge, God fits the punishment to meet crime. Because the people with the mark of the beast poured out the blood of the saints and prophets, so God will turn the waters of the rivers and springs into blood. In this case, the spiritual crimes against God and His people received a perfect and fitting judgment on earth. But the greater and eternal judgment, followed by an eternity of weeping and gnashing of teeth, awaits every unbeliever after they die.

6. The Altar Speaks. The altar then said: "Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are your Judgments." I was surprised to hear that an altar speaks, but the rivers clap their hands and the mountains sing, as they anticipate the LORD coming to judge the earth (Psalm 98:8, page 952).

7. They Deserve it. We see here the perfect justice of God. Blood to drink for everyone who shed the blood of the saints and prophets. We can thank God He has delivered us from such terrible judgment. People tend to ignore God, but God never ignores people. They may think that His silence means He is just like them, but they are mistaken. Sinners get what they deserve, unless they turn to Jesus, the LORD, and accept His gracious forgiveness as their Savior.

Seeing Jesus Today

In His death, Jesus took all the condemnation, punishment, and wrath that I deserved. God loves me and gave Jesus, the Son of God, to save me from His eternal judgment.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we understand the nature of God's righteous and His perfect judgment. When God pours out His wrath upon the earth, He measures it out carefully and repays evil with appropriate judgment.
- We are blessed because God has great mercy. Reading through the Book of Revelation often leaves believers with a greater sense of the majesty and power of God. When He acts, evil people begin to see His power.
- We live for Jesus today by gaining insight into the coming judgments upon this earth. God will afflict people with the mark of the beast with sores, and turn the sea and the springs into blood, just as they shed the blood of the prophets and saints.
- We minister for Jesus today with a better understanding of the judgments awaiting every unbeliever. For some unbelievers, during the Tribulation, they will be recompensed for taking the mark of the beast. God revealed the future that we would be more diligent to live holy and blameless lives today and warn people of the wrath to come.

Application for Today

Today, I will think about the sores and blood in the water today. I must remember the graphic pictures of judgment in the future so that I will be diligent today. For me, however, all condemnation resulting from the

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sinfulness has already fallen upon Jesus at the cross. No judgment or condemnation awaits me, because I have been washed clean and justified by God at the moment of salvation.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Forty Six

The Bowl Judgments Continue Today

Revelation 16:9

"Men were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues, and they did not repent so as to give Him the glory."

My sister at times asked me to show my back to her friends. My back had a very dark tan from lots of surfing. I tanned easily and never really had problems with sun burn, except my lips. I have a large lower lip and it burned frequently. When I had to see the orthodontist or a dentist, and they moved my sunburned lip, it really hurt. I tried to wear zinc oxide on it, but at times it still burned. Decades later I remember having sunburned lips, with cracks and bleeding. One day I came back from living in Texas. I could not wait to go surfing. I had lost my tan in Texas. After surfing for a while, I noticed my shoulders began to hurt. Not long afterwards, large blisters formed on my white shoulders. They too hurt, because the intense sun truly burned me. I remember too those blisters decades later. I am familiar with how the sun can cause skin damage.

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The earth has a shield in the atmosphere that protects us from many harmful rays of the sun. Yet, it allows some rays through, so that plants will grow and the oceans will thrive. The sun also goes through cycles of activity and intensity. It grows more and less intense, and even causes solar wind and solar storms that affect the earth. People tend to forget that God controls everything, even things as large as our sun and so far away from us. In the future God will cause the sun to scorch men, because of changes brought about by God with the sun. I can see lots of burnt lips and blisters on the skin of people. Even so, God said people would not repent. God will also darken the kingdom of the beast, and people will gnaw their tongues. They too blasphemed God because of their pains and sores. The great river Euphrates will also be dried up, preparing the way for the armies of the east to pour into the land of Israel and be gathered with other armies for the final campaign of war.

The Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Bowls

1. The Fourth Bowl. The fourth angel poured his bowl upon the sun, and it was given to scorch men with fire. Notice that the sun changed because the bowl was poured out upon it. God used these seven angels coming out of the temple of the tabernacle in heaven to produce great judgment upon earth. A single bowl produced great effects upon the earth.

2. Scorched. The fourth bowl produced a change in the sun that caused great trouble upon the earth. The sun now scorched men. Yet, the scorched men refused to repent, but they blasphemed the name of God. Instead of giving God glory, because He had power over the plagues, they abused His name. They continued in their sin against God.

3. The Fifth Bowl. The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast. At times, earthly rulers think they have absolute power. In the case of

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the devil, he knows he has a limited time. He aspires to great glory, but God constrains His evil.

4. Darkened. The sixth bowl pours forth upon the throne of the beast. Notice how these judgments focus upon the beast and his worshipers, who have taken the mark of the beast. God can strike at the throne of the beast whenever He pleases. So, with the sixth bowl, God pours out darkness upon the throne of the beast. With the throne of the beast darkened, everyone bearing the mark of the beast must have known that God Almighty has far more power than the beast. Even so, they would not repent even as they gnawed their tongues because of pain. They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores. They did not repent of their evil deeds. People on earth suffer under the plagues from God, but they adamantly refuse to repent and glorify God. They blasphemed because of the plagues. God often brings problems into people's lives to cause them to consider their evil ways, repent of them, and turn to God.

5. The Sixth Bowl. The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the Euphrates river, the great river. God controls the seas, the springs, and now the great river, Euphrates. God brings these judgments not only for their immediate effects, but also to move His overall plan of judgment forward.

6. Dried. The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the Euphrates river, the great river, drying up its waters. The kings of the east now have their way prepared to invade Israel. Although the kingdom of the beast has been darkened, it is only a sign of impending doom. The end of that kingdom is not yet. He still must face the Lord Jesus when He returns as the Warrior King to earth, wielding a sword from His mouth that strikes down His enemies. The beast has established himself in Jerusalem, displaying himself as God in the temple (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).

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7. Armageddon. The campaign of Armageddon lies in the next verses. Notice that Armageddon is not just a single battle, but a series of battles spread over multiple battlefields. We see the hearts of men refusing to bow before God, preferring instead to blaspheme God. We will see the awesome power of God over all armies and all rulers. Jesus will vanquish His enemies, after allowing them time to repent, which they ignore. Today, we know God has all power and calls people to repentance and salvation. Time remains for salvation and believers should spread the good news before the plagues begin. Even so come, Lord Jesus.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we slow down and think clearly about the future. Times of great suffering are coming upon the people left on earth after we as believers have been taken up into the clouds to be with Jesus. For everyone left on earth, Jesus will bring judgment after judgment, with each judgment perfect in its timing, content and duration. He seeks repentance and faith in God from those people suffering on earth, but they blaspheme God instead.
- We are blessed to know the future from the Book of Revelation. God said that blessings come upon everyone who reads the Book of Revelation and heeds the things in it, for the time is near. As we read, we must also take heed to the great judgments coming, and God's present desire for all men to be saved today, before it is too late.
- We live for Jesus today because we do not want to see our unsaved friends receive the mark of the beast, and then undergo the judgment of God with sores and gnawing of tongues. They will blaspheme, and not turn to God.
- We minister for Jesus today because we know that armies of the east will one day cross the Euphrates river on dry land. God will prepare

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the way for them by drying up the river. The nations of the world will be gathered to Jerusalem for the final battle. Before then, the beast will exercise world-wide dominion, but always subject to the unfolding judgments of God raining down upon the earth, his throne, the people with his mark, and finally upon himself.

Application for Today

Today, I will think about the people on earth scorched by the sun, with the kingdom of the beast darkened, and the Euphrates river dried up. God Almighty brings judgment upon men before He appears as King ready to trample His enemies and establish His physical reign upon the earth.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Forty Seven

The Bowl Judgments Continue Today

Revelation 16:14

""for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty."

When I was growing up, I saw some kids follow other kids. Some kids also influenced other kids to get into all kinds of trouble. They started shoplifting in the stores, trying out different kinds of drugs, and finding many ways to get into trouble. By sixth grade, one of my friends had already discovered his father's liquor cabinet and started drinking. One kid could influence many other kids to get into trouble. A group of evil kids could suck more kids into following their own evil ways. As my friends grew up, some of them continued their evil ways.

Did you know that supernatural beings work in the hearts of kings, rulers and other people to tempt them to do evil things? Many people I know discount the truth that the devil and his angels constantly strive to oppose

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the will of God and to drive men into great evil. The devil has a plan to destroy Israel and the people of God. After Jesus returns to the clouds of earth and calls up His children from all over the world to join Him in the clouds, the devil begins sets his final evil plans in motion. The devil intends to crush all humans, and drive them into death and destruction. Yet, the plans of God always triumph over the plans of the devil. The Lord Jesus shortened those days of evil upon the earth, and the devil knew his time was short. Part of the devil's plans included demons going out to the kings of the earth to gather them for war, a campaign of destruction known as Armageddon.

Gathering the Kings for War

1. Three Unclean Spirits. John saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. Notice that all three of the unholy trinity (dragon, beast and false prophet) sent forth a demon, totaling three demons.

2. Signs. Those spirits of demons performed signs, which go out to the kings of whole world, to gather them together for war. The demons had a purpose and used their signs to further their evil purpose. The unclean spirits intended to gather together the kings for war. Who would be foolish enough to fight against the Almighty God? Kings beguiled by the spirits of demons will try to fight against God Almighty and they will be slain by God Almighty.

3. Jesus Coming. In the middle of this prophecy about demons and kings, God warns each of us to remember that Jesus is coming like a thief. Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame. Jesus often applies prophecies about the future to how we must live today in light of that future.

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4. Har-Megedon. And they gathered the kings together to the place in Hebrew called Har-Megedon (Mount Megiddo). Not only will the end times include a campaign of Armageddon involving multiple battlefields, but a special battle will take place at Mount Megiddo in the land of Israel.

5. Kings Gathered. The unclean spirits now fulfill their mission of deception. The demons have gathered the kings for war. This war spells doom for everyone opposed to Almighty God.

6. The Time. The Bible specifically names a time as “the war of the great day of God, the Almighty.” This war will take place over a day. A war normally means more than one battle. In this case, multiple battles will take place on multiple battlefields. At times, we do not focus upon the absolute sovereign power of God Almighty. One reason I love reading the Book of Revelation is that I see the power of God displayed against all evil. One day, appointed by God already, God will gather His enemies and destroy them. In this case, destruction will mean defeat on earth, and later eternal torment in the lake of fire.

7. God, Almighty. The titles God uses to describe Himself disclose important information. In this case, when God calls Himself “God, the Almighty,” then we know that God has more “might” than anyone or anything opposing Him. Because of His unequaled might, God will always triumph. If you tend to fear human leaders and evil men, remember God will prevail in the end. No creature can stand against the power of God Almighty. Blessedly, Jesus loves to use His power in our lives today.

Seeing Jesus Today

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we understand that He is God, the Almighty. No one can triumph over Him. He always brings His plans to completion.
- We are blessed to see that God, the Almighty will win in the end. The day of reckoning will come when the kings assemble for the war of great day of God, the Almighty.
- We live for Jesus today knowing that great evil already deceives men today, and demons influence people to do very evil deeds. We do not fight against flesh and blood, but against evil spiritual forces on earth and in heavenly places.
- We minister for Jesus today because we serve the Victorious King, not the doomed. We proclaim salvation in His name. The Lord Jesus Christ will come in the glory of His Father, and slay the wicked, assembled for war.

Application for Today

Today, I will think about the war of the great day of God, the Almighty. His power will prevail over all evil humans and spirits. Demons gather the kings for destruction, because they have chosen to rebel against God and strive against God, the Almighty. Jesus will return and reign upon this earth, subduing all His foes before Him. All hail King Jesus today !

HALLELUJAH !

Day Forty Eight

It Is Done Today

Revelation 16:17

"Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl upon the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, 'It is done.'"

I remember my first earthquake in California. I was sitting in Hebrew class, watching the professor write Hebrew on the chalk board. He would write the Hebrew consonants first, and then add the vowels second. It sounded like a soft machine gun when he added the vowels, because he wrote the dots and dashes very fast and the chalk made a loud noise hitting the chalk board. One day he was writing the vowels and the lights hanging from the ceiling started swaying back and forth. As a Florida boy, I had no idea what was happening. I figured out it was an earthquake because I could feel and see everything moving. The Hebrews professor had lived in California for many years and never stopped the machine-gun writing of the vowels. He

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never missed a lick. I learned that California had a lot of earthquakes, and many of them are just small tremors. Nothing to get too excited about. People say, however, that the big one is coming.

In the Book of Revelation, the big earthquake will certainly come. God will cause the earth to move and quake as never before. The city of Babylon the Great will be split into three parts. The islands will flee, the cities of the nations will fall, and the mountains will not be found. One-hundred-pound hailstones will fall from the sky. Even with such great judgment poured upon them, the inhabitants of the earth will still blaspheme and not repent. Such a sad tale of destruction, loss of life, and eternal judgment coming upon all sinners who do not repent, but continue in sin.

The Seventh Bowl Judgment

1. The Last Bowl Judgment. When the seventh angel poured out his bowl, a voice came out of the temple from the throne and loudly proclaimed: "It is done."

2. Lightning, Thunder, Earthquake. Flashes of lightning, sounds and peals of thunder and a great earthquake followed. The earthquake was unlike any previous quake experienced by men, because of its great and mighty power.

3. Falling Cities. The city, Babylon the Great, was remembered before God. In this case, remembered means that God has taken note of that city's great evils, and now passes judgment upon it. Babylon the Great was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. The great cities of the world today boast buildings reaching hundreds of feet into the air. Some skyscrapers even rise above a thousand feet. Some of those buildings were designed to withstand earthquakes. In the future, with the seventh bowl, God will flatten the cities of

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the nations, no matter what precautions man has taken. God shakes the earth with a simple command, and the bowl of the seventh angel.

4. The Wine of God's Fierce Wrath. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of God's fierce wrath. Jesus said that the wrath of God abides upon everyone who disobeys Him. Now that wrath in all its fierceness will be poured out upon the earth, with a particular focus upon Babylon the Great. Notice how God can use a single, worldwide earthquake to destroy so much, so quickly. The tectonic plates of the earth will move as never before.

5. Island and Mountains Fled Away. Every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. With the fourth seal judgment previously, the islands moved out of their places. Now they fled away, just as the earth itself later in the Book of Revelation will flee away, and no place will be found for it. Also, imagine an earth without mountains. As the tectonic plates collide with each other over long periods of time, one of the plates may buckle upwards, causing mountains. In other cases, volcanoes can cause mountains. Here, all the mountains are leveled as this enormous earthquake moves their foundations. Even if theories of plate tectonics may not be completely accurate, this great earthquake will flatten the mountains in a geological instant.

6. Hailstones. Huge hailstones, weighing about a hundred pounds each, came down from heaven upon men who survived the earthquake. The men blasphemed God, because of the plague of hail and its extreme severity.

7. Blasphemy. The conclusion of the bowl judgments brings the end of all islands, the destruction of all cities, and the mountains were not found. Babylon gets special judgment. The reaction of the survivors will be to blaspheme God, particularly for the huge hail falling and destroying property, vegetation, humans, and any animals without cover. The survivors of the

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earthquake must then suffer through the hail. Even so, they refuse to repent and turn to God, seeking salvation and forgiveness.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we look at every island, every mountain, every city and the sky above us. One day, God will cause an earthquake that will change everything we see today. The city, Babylon the Great, will be split into three parts, signaling the destruction of both the city and its evil empire.
- We are blessed to read and take heed of this revelation of ground-shaking judgment. We know what the future holds, and act now to live like Noah, preaching salvation from the wrath to come.
- We live for Jesus today understanding the great justice of God. He remembers the evil cities and empires of this earth, and will bring swift judgment upon them at just the proper time. Grace alone provides the only way of salvation, and it works through faith only in Jesus Christ for salvation.
- We minister for Jesus today because we know that every island will flee away, every mountain will be leveled, and the cities of nations will fall. The survivors will then face one-hundred-pound hailstones falling upon them and plaguing the entire earth. This earth only awaits a coming judgment, unlike anything before it. Without Christ, all is lost. With Christ, all is saved and blessed forever. We preach His salvation while it is still today.

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Application for Today

Today, I sit by the ocean with waves gently breaking off the beach. I am on a narrow barrier island, heavily populated with people and their dwellings. In future, this island will be swept away, but I will be in heaven, having been caught up to be forever with Jesus. I hope everyone on every island, and on every mountain, and on every plain, receives Jesus as Savior before Jesus returns to the clouds.

HALLELUJAH !

6

The Fall of Babylon the Great

Babylon the Great dominated the world system of evil for thousands of years. She caused the kings of the earth to commit spiritual immorality with her, and she thrived upon global commerce. She made many kings of the earth rich. Her power and influence spanned the world, and she was also a religious system, with a central shadow government. Babylon the great was a dwelling place of every kind of demon and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird. She had become drunk with the blood of saints and the blood of the witnesses for Jesus. Her sins piled up to heaven and God remembered her iniquities. She sat upon a multitude of peoples, nations and tongues.

With rise of the beast, and his ten nation confederacy, God brings judgment upon the Great Harlot by their hands. In one hour, Babylon the Great will be destroyed, and the smoke of her burning will rise, as her consorts look on from a distance, weeping and lamenting her as the smoke of destruction rises.

Day Forty Nine

The Great Harlot Today

Revelation 17:1

"Then one of the seven angels who had one of the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, 'Come here, and I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,'"

All kinds of people believe all kinds of things. For example, some people claim that the Illuminati, or the Rothschilds, or the Council on Foreign Relations, or multi-national corporations, or some combination of the above and others control the world. Others believe some shadow government controls the world. Still others maintain that aliens have abducted people, mixed their alien DNA with human DNA, and produced their own instruments to influence events. Have you been abducted by aliens and never known it? It is far more likely you do not realize that, indeed, a world-wide system of evil, personified as the Great Harlot, causes great evil all over the world today. No, the Great Harlot is not another conspiracy theory, but what the Bible described in the Book of Revelation. We must learn more to understand the Great Harlot and the judgment coming upon the Great Harlot in the future.

Seeing Jesus Today

In the Book of Revelation, we have read that God remembered Babylon the Great, and the city of Babylon was split into three parts. In order to understand Babylon the Great, and the Great Harlot, God provided far more detail about those subjects. Having introduced the judgment upon Babylon the Great in Revelation 16:17-21, page 1933, God then expanded upon the destruction of Babylon the Great and the Great Harlot in Revelation 17:1-18:24, pages 1933-1936. On the timeline of the Book of Revelation, chapters 17 and 18 do not present movement on the timeline going forward, but rather an exposition of the history and spiritual character of the Babylon the Great and the Great Harlot. With Revelation 19:1, we read about the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven crying out their Hallelujah. The worship of God continues with praise of God and His divine judgment upon the great harlot and ends with praise for the reign of God, the Almighty.

The Judgment of the Great Harlot

- 1. The Great Harlot.** After the seven bowls had been poured out, one of the angels which previously had a bowl invited John to come and see the judgment of the great harlot. She sat upon many waters. In Revelation 17:15, page 1934, we learn the waters are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.
- 2. The Kings of the Earth.** The kings of the earth committed immorality with her and the people dwelling on earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality. God likens all forms of idolatry to immorality. In this case, the people have excluded God and given themselves to drinking the wine of Babylon the Great.
- 3. The Harlot on the Scarlet Beast.** John was then carried away in the Spirit to the wilderness, where John saw the Harlot sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.

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4. The Woman Attired. The woman was clothed with purple and scarlet, adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls. In her hand, she held a gold cup full of abominations and the unclean things of her immorality. By earthly standards of wealth, this woman exuded wealth. Yet, spiritually, she was all about immorality and seducing others to join her in immorality.

5. The Mystery of Babylon the Great. On her forehead was written a mystery: "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." We see that Babylon the Great was not only a city, but also a web of immorality and abominations seducing the entire world, who gave themselves to her evil pleasures.

6. The Drunk Woman. And John saw the woman drunk with the blood of saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. John wondered greatly. Despite her wealthy appearance, the Babylon the Great killed the saints, and the witnesses of Jesus, and became drunk with their blood.

7. The Angel Promises Interpretation. The angel speaking with John promised to explain the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, with its seven heads and ten horns. Frequently in Revelation, God interprets the images. Here God will reveal the mystery. We can understand great prophecies because God wants us to learn and live according to knowledge from Him. Next time we will see the interpretation. Jesus will judge the beast and the great harlot in righteousness.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we look at His adversaries and understand their evil nature and works. Upon Babylon the Great, the mother of

Seeing Jesus Today

harlots and all abominations of the earth, Jesus will bring judgment upon her one day.

- We are blessed to know how Jesus will repay the Great Harlot for her attacks upon the saints and the witnesses of Jesus. Today, the Great Harlot plans and schemes against all believers and seduces the world to her immoralities and abominations.
- We live for Jesus today by opposing all schemes of idolatry, immorality, and persecution of believers. Until judgment comes, evil will flourish upon this world.
- We minister for Jesus today because we have read the revelation of the Great Harlot, and we know about her evils. Yet, we do not fear her or shrink back for her aggressions. Jesus demands that we fear only Him, and follow only Him, keeping ourselves unstained by the world and its immoralities and abominations.

Application for Today

Today, I know about the Great Harlot, and her final judgment that will come upon her in the future. Until then, she seeks out people and nations she may devour with her immoralities and abominations. By the power of Jesus Christ, I intend to join others in sharing the Gospel of Salvation, which will make every believer an overcomer in Jesus Christ.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Fifty

The Mystery of the Great

Harlot Today

Revelation 17:8

"The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come."

Practically every day I spend time at Bicentennial Park in Indian Harbour Beach, Florida. Sometimes, I visit other parks. I like to meet friends there to read the Bible and also to make new friends from all over the world. I love to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and make disciples. That park, however, has changed considerably over the years. The hurricanes of 2004 removed some of the park structures, and took away a lot of sand from the dune line.

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Since then, portable toilets have been removed and then replaced with new bathrooms. The park has seen many changes, with some things enduring, others leaving, and some others coming back, but in different forms.

In the Book of Revelation, we not only see the future of this world and learn of some events in heaven, but we also see the history behind some future events. You may recall that John, the writer, has been transported into the future and then looks around at what is taking place. In particular, in our passage today, we will see the beast, and learn that it was (existed in the past), is not now (does not exist at some present time), and will come up later from the abyss (in the future, during the Tribulation). As believers, we need to know about the beast and its different forms at different times.

The Beast and the Kings

1. The History and Future of the Beast. John received the beginning of the explanation about the beast. John learned that the beast was, but is not now. In the future, the beast will come up out of the abyss and go to destruction.

2. Wonder. The people on earth at that time in the future will wonder when they see the beast, if their names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world.

3. The Mind of Wisdom. The mind of wisdom provides insight. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits and they are also seven kings. Five kings have fallen, one is, and other king is yet to come. When the seventh king comes, he must remain a little while. We see that the woman rides upon a beast, and that beast depicts seven kings, and the seventh king will come and remain a little while. The beast symbolizes the empire of the woman and her evil.

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4. The Eighth King. The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth king and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction. This succession of kings helps us understand the history of the evil empire. The beast carries the woman along and she drives it where she wishes. The eighth king, who reembodies a previous king who has passed away, now gains power for a short time during the Tribulation.

5. The Ten Kings. The beast also has ten horns. The ten horns are ten kings who have not received a kingdom, but they will receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. During the Tribulation, a new ten-king confederacy will be born, and that confederacy takes orders from the woman.

6. Power and Authority. The ten kings have a common purpose. They give their power and authority to the beast.

7. The Rise of Ten Kings and Their Confederacy. God gives very clear descriptions of the rise of the kings and kingdoms. Ultimately, the ten-king confederacy will support the beast and his work, but they will all go to destruction after a short reign. Notice that believers have their names written in the book of life and will not wonder or bow down to the beast. God lets us see the future so that we may live for Him today. Rulers may rise, but God is always King of kings and Lord of lords. Jesus will triumph over all His enemies and all people who persecute His children.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we gain insight into the breadth and scope of His knowledge about His enemies. At one time or another, Jesus created all of the beings that later became His enemies. The devil and all his minions sinned; they were not created as evil beings. Jesus knows the future, and which kings will rise, and what actions they will take. Nothing takes God by surprise.

Seeing Jesus Today

- We are blessed to know how Jesus will prevail over the beast and every one of His enemies. He has already fixed the future, and the end of the woman and the beast will occur at the time God appointed.
- We live for Jesus today by recognizing the power and scope of evil creatures opposed to God, and bent upon oppressing believers. We live wearing the armor of God, so that we might stand strong in Jesus.
- We minister for Jesus today because we know that Jesus may call believers up to the clouds at any moment. Then the Tribulation will start, and the evil will increase dramatically, exactly as outlined already in the Book of Revelation. Until that day of the Rapture arrives, we labor for Jesus, sharing His Good News of Salvation, and begging unbelievers to escape the wrath to come. We preach the love of Jesus Christ, and enter the fields white for harvest.

Application for Today

Today, I know about the beast that will arise during the Tribulation. He has roots in the past, and has a long association with evil upon the earth. In the future, the beast will arise and the woman will ride that beast. Jesus promised that who read and heed the words of Revelation will be blessed. We are blessed because we know that evil will grow stronger and exercise greater control over the earth during the Tribulation. People may think things are bad now, but they will grow much worse. Jesus has provided insight into the past and the future so that we know He wins, although His enemies will always be our enemies as well. He triumphs and we triumph in Him.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Fifty One

The Triumph of the Lamb Today

Revelation 17:14

"These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful."

As Jesus walked through Israel, He cast out many demons and exercised great spiritual power, demonstrating His eternal, divine power over all things (omnipotence). He did not permit the demons to speak, although they often recognized Him as God. They never disputed His power, but feared His righteous judgment upon them. Even so, many believers over the centuries have died as martyrs for the sake of Jesus Christ. The day will come when Jesus, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, will overcome the

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beast, the dragon, the false prophet, and all His enemies. Those people who are with Jesus are the called, the chosen and the faithful.

The War against the Lamb

1. **The Ten Kings**. The scarlet beast upon which the woman rode had ten horns. Those ten horns represent ten kings. The ten kings with the beast wage war against the Lamb, who is Jesus Christ. Of course, being God, the Lamb wins, because He is King of kings and Lord of lords. The called and chosen and faithful of God are with the Lamb. Consider 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

2. **The Waters**. The angel then explained that the waters where the harlot sits are peoples and multitudes and nation and tongues. The woman, also called the great harlot, exercises evil power over great multitudes and influences them to sin. So often in the Book of Revelation God explains what the symbols mean, so that we do not have to wonder about the interpretation.

3. **The Beast and the Ten Horns Hate the Harlot**. The angel also explained that the ten horns and the beast will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire. Although she rides the beast, the beast and the ten horns (the ten kings with their empires) rise up against the woman and destroy her.

4. **Utter Destruction**. Notice that the beast with his kings cannot tolerate another religious and economic system. They will utterly destroy the harlot.

5. **God's Purpose**. Please notice too that God put His purpose into the hearts of the ten kings, and the beast, so that they have a common purpose: to give their kingdoms to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. God used the evil beast, with the support of the ten kings, to destroy the evil woman. At times, God uses evil beings to destroy evil beings and their evil systems.

Seeing Jesus Today

Throughout the history of the world, one evil ruler destroys the empire of another evil ruler. Each ruler lusts for greater wealth and power.

6. **The Great City.** The woman John saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth. Therefore, we know that the woman is both a city, and a shadow, evil system that wields economic, religious, and political might over the entire world. God has revealed the overthrow and destruction of the existing world system of evil by the beast and his subordinate, ten-king confederacy.

7. **God Triumphs.** As these ten kings join forces with the beast, they also make war with the Lamb. The Lamb will overcome them, because He is the Lord of lords and the King of kings. No person, nation, being, or entity in heaven or on earth can stand against Him. When Jesus comes to earth as King and Lord, He fulfills His great plans and purposes. He causes His enemies to destroy one another, because each of them strives for evil power and dominance. Yet, they all ultimately fall at the time and place decreed by God for their destruction. Jesus will always be King of kings and Lord of lords. As Jesus overcomes the forces of evil on earth, and destroys their kingdom and armies, those who are with Jesus (the born again believers) are the called, chosen and faithful.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we appreciate His knowledge of the future and His control over His enemies. During the Tribulation, the ten kings give their power to the beast until they accomplish the purpose of God in destroying the great harlot.
- We are blessed to know that Jesus will bring justice to the earth and the evil powers that control the world now. In the future, the ten

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kings will join forces and do the bidding of the beast, until they fulfill the purpose of God.

- We live for Jesus today by remembering the sovereign plans of God. Evil rulers now may dominate the entire world system, and a beast will come to overthrow the woman and her evil empire. Yet, at the right time and the right place, God will set one evil group against another evil group to accomplish His ends.
- We minister for Jesus today because we have seen the triumph of Jesus over all His enemies. We will be with Jesus when He reveals Himself to His enemies on earth as the King of kings and Lord of lords, the Lamb of God. Spiritual forces of evil in heaven and on earth persecute believers today, but we know that the evil one cannot touch believers, even if he kills their bodies. We have eternal life in Jesus Christ, and no one can separate us from Jesus and His great love for us. We will be with Jesus when He comes to destroy His foes, because we are the called, chosen and faithful. We have been born again to eternal life with Jesus.

Application for Today

Today, I know have no fear of the future, although I know that believers will suffer greatly in the coming days, even more than they suffer today. Yet, the day will come when Jesus reveals Himself on earth as the King of kings and Lord of lords, displaying His awesome might, greater than all (omnipotence). We will be with Him, because we are the called, chosen and faithful. We will come with the Lamb in His triumph.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Fifty Two

Fallen, Fallen, Babylon the

Great Today

Revelation 18:2

"And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, 'Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird.'"

About a thousand years before Jesus was born of a virgin, the empire of King David and King Solomon, David's son, spanned a great area in the Middle East. Both kings had great military success and subdued many enemies. Yet, King Solomon's son saw his own nation divided by rebellion,

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so that ten tribes from the north became a separate kingdom with a separate leader and a separate religious built upon idolatry. In fact, idolatry came to flourish in both kingdoms. Over time, God brought great judgment upon both the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom. God utterly destroyed even Jerusalem, and the great temple built there by King Solomon. God, after many warnings, did not spare His own people from devastating judgment. We will see that, in the Tribulation, God will also pour out great judgment upon Babylon the Great, the mother of all harlots.

Babylon the Great Fallen

1. **The Glorious Angel**. John saw another angel coming down from heaven. The angel had great authority and the earth was illumined with his glory.
2. **Fallen, Fallen**. "The angel cried out with a mighty voice, saying, 'Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird.'" This city will be a dwelling place of demons. The spiritual dimensions of Babylon are plainly seen here. She is more than a physical city. She will also be a spiritual prison of every unclean spirit, and every evil bird.
3. **Immorality**. Notice too the world-wide influence of Babylon. All the nations of the world have drunk the wine of her immorality. Furthermore, the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her. Likewise, the merchants have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality. The Lord likened Babylon to a seductress, drawing in nations, kings and merchants to partake of her immorality.
4. **Kings and Merchants**. Today, we see sinful nations, kings and merchants opposing the ways of Jesus Christ. They promote the murder of babies in the womb, homosexual activity and marriage, and immorality of all kinds. They grow rich at the expense of the poor.

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5. **Judgment.** God will judge all nations, kings and merchants for their evil and rebellious acts. People often mistake the patience of God for a lack of concern about evil. Although one day is like a thousand years to God, He exercises His patience in bringing judgment upon the world, because He is not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance. He has already fixed a day when He will judge all men through Jesus Christ, a man appointed for just such a time. The responsibility for sin remains for every human. By His grace, some people turn to Him for salvation and so escape the final judgment upon the unrepentant who have rejected Jesus Christ as Savior.

6. **God Knows.** God has detailed the acts of the Babylon, and all those who committed immorality with her. They have drunk the wine of the passion of her immorality. Judgment will come swiftly upon Babylon for her evil and her spread of immorality around the world.

7. **Riches.** The merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality. Riches have their own power to seduce people, both great and small, all over the world to join in the immorality of Babylon. She controls the wealth and the people who participate in her wickedness. God will bring appropriate judgment.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we understand He warns His people of His judgment coming. Throughout the Bible, Jesus warns against living in evil, and urges His people to separate themselves from evil.
- We are blessed to know that God keeps detailed accounts of the evil done upon the world, and particularly the evil done against His

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people. When evil systems make war upon believers, they are persecuting the Lord Jesus Himself. Jesus always cares.

- We live for Jesus today by urging people living in sin, believing the evil lies taught by an evil system of powerful world rules, to repent of their evil, separate themselves from those terrible evil systems, and follow Jesus. He alone provides eternal life and salvation.
- We minister for Jesus today because we know that we are looking at the immorality of an evil system. We have read about Babylon fallen, and how great her fall will be. We do not rejoice in such events, but rather use them as warnings to get out and stay of evil.

Application for Today

Today, we know about the future of Babylon. She has already fallen in the pages of the Bible, and her destiny has been decreed by God. No can change the outcome, but God loves to call His own children to salvation. Because we know the future, we live today to the glory of God, serving Him with joy and confidence that Jesus, the Lamb of God, will triumph over all evil and judge the world and its inhabitants in righteousness.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Fifty Three

Come out of Babylon Today

Revelation 18:4

"I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues;"

When I used to surf in Florida, I could see thunderstorms coming long before they hit the beach. They came from different directions, and the lightning killed some surfers on the beach. I have a lot of respect for the deadly power of lightning. I also have seen afternoon thunderstorms bring flooding rain, and at times, damaging winds. Now and again a tornado would sweep through, and they could level buildings. When I lived in Texas, I remember watching live radar reports with doppler tracking of tornadoes. I lived on an open prairie, in a mobile home. Through all these things, I survived without real problems. Others did not survive, through no fault of their own. I always appreciated the warnings. Today we get warnings about

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hurricanes coming our way days before they come near. The weather service does not always get it exactly right, but the warnings help people get ready for the storm and to move out the way. Warnings of great danger and destruction can literally save your life. The questions will always be: do I stay in place and ride out the storm, or do I flee to safer location?

Come Out of Babylon

1. **Come out of Babylon, My People.** John heard another voice from heaven, saying, "Come out of Babylon, My people." Notice here that judgment will fall soon upon a particular place occupied by Babylon. God. God commands His people to come out to avoid judgment. God often warns people to flee the destruction before He unleashes it.
2. **Plagues Coming.** The sins of Babylon cause God to send plagues upon Babylon. God specifically remembers the iniquity of Babylon.
3. **Sins Piled High as Heaven.** The sins of Babylon have piled as high as heaven. After God created man, He looked upon man, and observed violence and evil everywhere. God then sent the flood, but not without saving some people in an ark. As sin piles up on earth, God notices and will take appropriate action with appropriate judgment.
4. **Double Pay Back.** God intends to pay back Babylon double for her wicked deeds. She mixed a cup of evil for others, but God mixed a double portion of judgment for her to drink.
5. **Queenly Torment and Mourning.** To the degree that Babylon glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree God will give her torment and mourning. Babylon says in her heart that she sits as a queen and she will not be a widow, and will never see mourning.

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6. **Queenly Delusions**. So often, people delude themselves about their own wicked behavior. Except for faith in Christ alone for forgiveness, we would all perish under the wrath of God.

7. **Come Out, Stay Out**. As we read about the judgment upon Babylon, we see that God punishes the wicked, both small and great. All born-again believers know that God has laid all of our sin burden upon Christ at the cross. In contrast to Babylon, we have no condemnation in Christ and nothing to fear. We must resolve to come out of Babylon and stay out of Babylon. By faith, we serve only Jesus.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we realize that He will bring appropriate judgment upon Babylon the Great, the mother of all harlots and the seductress of the world. Evil not always hold sway upon the earth. God will judge the world, and Babylon will fall. John has seen her fall, and recorded it for our blessing.
- We are blessed to know that God does not take lightly the evil of the kings and merchants of this world. Many of them have a love for Babylon and her passions. They respond with their own passion of immorality and idolatry. This world has an organized system of evil working in nations across the world. In the Tribulation, Babylon the Great will face judgment and will fall underneath the power of the Lamb (Jesus).
- We live for Jesus today by understanding the evil spiritual dimensions of the world and its leaders around us. Babylon has not fallen yet, and now exercises great evil power. As born-again believers, we see fields of people white unto harvest, needing the Gospel of Jesus Christ for salvation.

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- We minister for Jesus today because we understand the power of Babylon the Great to influence human lives and governments for great evil. Only by the saving power of Jesus Christ can anyone avoid entanglement and slavery to evil. By the grace of God we overcome evil by the power of Jesus Christ.

Application for Today

Today, we read about the future of judgment. God specifically recorded the words of destruction pertaining to Babylon. God commands believers to leave Babylon and her evil behind and avoid her judgment. Where are you living today?

HALLELUJAH !

Day Fifty Four

Weeping for Babylon Today

Revelation 18:9

"And the kings of the earth, who committed acts of immorality and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning,"

People love evil, and the kings of the earth love Babylon. They commit immorality with her and bask in her power and glory. When Babylon falls, they weep, because they know their days of sensuous living and acts of immorality with her are forever over. Indeed, they know their own destruction cannot be far away. They weep and lament over the smoke of her burning. I have seen fires burn through homes, and drive humans and animals before the rushing flames. Those flames destroyed houses, and any living thing that was not able to escape those flames sweeping across the hills, rushing before the winds. In the future, God will destroy Babylon, and

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use the Beast and his minions to accomplish the divine purpose. God wrote down the destruction of Babylon so that all who read about it will benefit. Those kings and leaders who love Babylon and the evil system will have a very bad day in the future, full of weeping and lamentation.

Mourning for Babylon

1. **Many Weep and Lament**. The kings of the earth will weep over the destruction of Babylon. We know that the Lord God Who judges Babylon is strong. As the immoral kings see the smoke of Babylon's burning, they will weep and lament.
2. **Fearing Torment**. The kings will stand at a distance, fearing the torment of Babylon. Judgment and woe has come upon Babylon in one hour. The merchants weep, because no one buys their precious merchandise, including human lives. All their splendid and luxurious things have passed away.
3. **The Rich Merchants**. The merchants made rich by Babylon will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and mourning. They lament that Babylon, once clothed in linen, purple, scarlet, and precious jewels, in one hour has been laid waste. All those who make their living from the sea also stand at a distance mourning over Babylon and the loss of their wealth.
4. **Rejoicing in Heaven**. In contrast, heaven shall rejoice with the saints, apostles, and prophets because God has pronounced judgment against Babylon.
5. **Evil People**. In this passage, we see the bright contrast between the emotions of evil people and believers. Evil people base their lives upon immorality, sensuality and riches obtained by evil commerce. They weep and lament, with powerful emotions.

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6. **Rejoicing.** God commands the righteous to rejoice in His judgment of Babylon. With all her evil works, she deserves judgment by the strong Lord God.

7. **Judgment Coming.** As believers today, we see evil flourishing all around us. We must rejoice in the judgments God righteously pronounces upon evil. Even so, God does not desire any person to perish today, but for all people to come repentance before judgment falls.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we realize that mourning will come upon this world, and its evil, sensuous, immoral systems and the city of Babylon.
- We are blessed to know that God records the emotions of those people who committed evil acts with Babylon. When Babylon falls, they will weep and lament. Evil people have strong emotional responses to God's judgment upon Babylon.
- We live for Jesus today by understanding the nature of evil relationships. People can have very strong emotional ties to evil, just as the people had strong emotional ties to Babylon.
- We minister for Jesus today when we understand the strong ties between evil acts and evil emotions. We must expect that people committing evil acts will have very strong emotional ties to their evil behavior. Only Jesus can help them overcome such evil through His power of salvation and grace.

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Application for Today

Today, we read about the emotions of evil people seeing Babylon fall before their eyes. Her torment becomes their emotional pain and suffering, with mourning and lamenting. Judgment will come upon every evil person at the Great White Throne Judgment. Until then, we must understand the emotional ties of evil and share how God's love changed our lives and gave us new joy in Jesus, greater than human emotional ties to evil.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Fifty Five

Babylon Thrown Down

Revelation 18:21

"Then a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, 'So will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer.'"

At times, a lion may attack a fully-grown elephant. The lion may weigh hundreds of pounds, but an adult elephant may weigh thousands of pounds. I have seen videos of elephants using its tusks to toss a lion high into the air. Elephants also trample enemies with their great weight. The strength and size of the elephants can be very impressive. Yet, with all their strength, they cannot stop bullets from killing them. Poachers value their ivory tusks and so commit crimes for money. In Revelation today, we will read that one single angel threw a stone into the sea to symbolize the great fall of Babylon the great city, thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer.

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The Strong Angel

1. **Great Stone**. A strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "So will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer."
2. **Violence**. Babylon will be thrown down with violence. She will not be found any longer. We have already read that the beast with its confederates throw down Babylon. The Strong Angel merely announces the destruction.
3. **Silent and Dark**. The sound of musicians, harpists, flute-players and trumpeters will no longer be heard in Babylon. No craftsmen will work there. The mill will no longer be heard. No lamp will shine there. The voice of the bride and bridegroom will no longer be heard there. The silence of destruction lingers in Babylon.
4. **Sorcery of Babylon**. The merchants of Babylon were the great men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by the sorcery of Babylon. Notice that supernatural evil forces created and controlled an economic and religious system which deceived the world. Today we read about many conspiracy theories. In fact, God revealed that Babylon operated through sorcery, with supernatural evil forces at work to deceive the world, and especially the great men of the world.
5. **Blood of the Slain**. In Babylon all the blood of the prophets and of the saints and of all who have been slain on earth was found. God knows all things, and here He knows where every prophet, saint, and every person was slain on earth.
6. **World Deception**. Today, Babylon lives and deceives the world. We have read about her evil forces at work and how such great blood has been found in her.

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7. **Destruction**. Today, we see great evil deceiving the world, the blood of the saints shed, and evil rising all around us. The world system remains deceived by Babylon, and evil forces, yet the destruction of Babylon has been revealed and we know how it fall. One day the strong angel will proclaim that Babylon will be thrown down. Even so come Lord Jesus.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we see beyond the deception of evil around us. Sorcery remains very real today, and evil beings use it to deceive the world. Jesus has all power, and no one very deceives Jesus or frustrates His plans.
- We are blessed to know that God proclaims the fall of Babylon, and the means of her destruction with violence. Just as she has shed the blood of many prophets and saints, so also she will be hurled down and destroyed violently.
- We live for Jesus today by trusting Him alone for strength to live in a very evil world system, using sorcery to control people. Great spiritual powers attack the saints. In Jesus, we triumph over evil and encourage others to stand firm and wear the armor of God. We will need that armor every day.
- We minister for Jesus today wearing the armor of God. As soldiers we stand in Christ, clothed with His righteousness, and carrying the sword of the Lord, which is the Word of God. We fear only God, and spread His love in a world caught up in evil sorcery and living in sensuality. In Jesus, we read and believe His words in Revelation, and we prosper with out Hope in Jesus, Who will come soon.

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Application for Today

Today, we read about the emotions of evil people seeing Babylon fall before their eyes. Her torment becomes their emotional pain and suffering, with mourning and lamenting. Judgment will come upon every evil person at the Great White Throne Judgment. Until then, we must understand the emotional ties of evil and share how God's love changed our lives and gave us new joy in Jesus, greater than human emotional ties to evil.

HALLELUJAH !

7

The Triumph of Jesus

Jesus always triumphs, even if we do not see Him triumph in all things today. One day, Jesus will come and end the reign of anti-Christ and throw the beast and the false prophet into the Lake of Fire. Jesus will set His feet upon the Mount of Olives and vanquish His enemies. After the seven years of tribulation upon the earth, the words will ring: “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.”

Day Fifty Six

Salvation, Glory and Power Today

Revelation 19:1

"After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, 'Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God;'"

Have you ever built a sand castle at the beach? I have watched people build very elaborate castles, and spend hours building them. They even bring special tools to make spires, walls, and the different parts of the castle. As they build the castle, they must remember two things: time and tide. In Florida, we get four tides per day. When the water comes in, then the castle will fall because it is made of sand. We may build the greatest sand castle, but when the tide rises, the sand will crumble. During the future seven years of Tribulation upon the earth, the devil will build a great, world-wide empire and destroy Babylon. Even so, the devil's time will end abruptly

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with the appearing of Jesus Christ to reign on earth in glory. Just as the tide rises, and the castle falls, so also Jesus will bring swift destruction upon all evil forces arrayed against Him. He will rule from Jerusalem, having crushed His enemies world-wide. His coming to earth to reign sounds forth with four hallelujahs.

Four Hallelujahs

1. **The First Hallelujah—The Harlot's Judgment.** The voice as a great multitude proclaims the first hallelujah: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; because God's judgments are true and righteous; for God judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and God has avenged His bond-servants on her." Please notice that praise rings out in heaven because salvation and glory and power belong to God. With His great power, He avenged the blood of His saints by judging the great harlot.
2. **The Second Hallelujah—Babylon's Smoke Rises.** The second hallelujah concerns Babylon also: "Hallelujah! Her smoke rises up forever." Even the smoking destruction of the harlot evokes praise of Yahweh.
3. **The Third Hallelujah—The Worship of God.** The third hallelujah comes from the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures who fell down and worshipped God who sits on the throne, saying: "Amen. Hallelujah!" As God acts in vengeance, bringing smoking destruction, the words "Amen! Hallelujah" perfectly express the worship of God for His powerful acts of judgment.
4. **The Fourth Hallelujah—The Great Multitude.** The fourth hallelujah comes from a great multitude, like the sound of many waters, and like mighty peals of thunder. The command of the voice from the throne prompts the multitude: "Give praise to God, all you His bond servants, you who fear Him,

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the small and the great." The multitude responds: "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns."

5. **Praise for Judgment**. Some believers have a difficult time understanding how the judgmental acts of God deserve a multitude of praise. He sets the course, He metes out vengeance in perfect measure. At times our sense of justice can be very skewed. We think in human terms, but God acts with divine wisdom and perfection. When He avenges and brings judgment, He does so as a perfect expression on His will. We love to praise God for His love and grace, but we must learn to praise God for all His acts, for they are all perfect.

6. **Lifting Our Voices**. When is the last time you shouted in praise to God, or even raised your voice at all to praise God? In the Bible, we see people so moved by God's acts that they praise God with full emotion. They are not out of control, but the Holy Spirit moves them to praise God with a loud voice, and with strong emotion. The Bible does not teach us to deny our emotions, but to let God command our emotions.

7. **Doom of Darkness**. As I watch the world today extol the darkness, I know God will act righteously. The world loves sand castles of evil, and the immorality of Babylon, but God remains silent and people think He is just like them. Nothing could be farther from the truth. God hates evil and opposes evil. He will bring judgment upon this world at just the right time and no one can stand against Him. Yet, God has a plan of salvation for people today, if they will turn away from evil and accept the free gift of salvation from Jesus Christ, the King of Glory.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we praise God for all of His acts. We praise God for His grace and love in our lives, but we must understand that

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God acts in perfect righteousness always. Even His judgments upon evil deserve our praise and worship.

- We are blessed to know that God seeks to control our emotions, and the Holy Spirit will bring forth praise for all that God does. In the future, when Babylon will fall, we will be in heaven, having been raptured into new, resurrected bodies, praising God for all of His righteous works.
- We live for Jesus today by knowing that all the evil around us will be brought to perfect justice one day. Until then, we bring the message of grace and love, with the warning of judgment to come, to all those people upon the earth.
- We minister for Jesus today looking toward the future. As evil swells around us, we know that all evil human institutions are nothing more than sand castles, with a rising tide of Jesus coming to judge the world and reign from Jerusalem.

Application for Today

Today, we understand the difference between: (a) the evil people on earth lamenting the fall of Babylon; and (b) the beings in heaven, including born-again believers, praising God as they witness the same events, with the smoke rising from Babylon. When we love God and all of His works, we praise God for all that He does.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Fifty Seven

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb Today

Revelation 19:7

"Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."

I have been married more than forty years, but I still remember getting married. I really looked forward to being married, but I did not look forward to the ceremony of marriage. Standing in front of a lot of people and talking in front of people was not my idea of fun. Still, for the joy of marriage to my wife, I knew it was all worth it, without doubt. When the day came, I truly enjoyed the ceremony and the following reception. Everything worked out very well. Jesus was truly in charge. My wife, however, really looked great. In her white dress with blond hair, she was

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beautiful. She had made herself ready for the big wedding day by preparing carefully. Her wedding dress was perfect, her hair was perfect, and she never worries about public meetings and events. She dazzles people with her looks and smile, not to mention her Ph.D. in biochemistry intelligence. I am very grateful for my wife and her love for Jesus, who gives her love for me. In the Book of Revelation, the bride of Christ has prepared herself for marriage with the Lamb, Jesus. As we will see, the church is the Bride of Christ.

The Bride Made Ready

1. **Rejoice and Be Glad**. The voice of something like a great multitude turned its attention to the marriage of the Lamb and His bride made ready. The first thing they say is: “Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him,” the Lord our God, Who reigns. The focus shall be upon Jesus and His bride in the future, filling many beings with great joy and gladness. They will give glory to God for the Lamb has come and the bride has made herself ready.
2. **Fine Linen**. The bride wore fine linen, which was a gift to her. The fine linen, was bright and clean. The fine linen symbolized the righteous acts of the saints. Every born-again believer is a saint, and so every member of the church is a saint. The church is not a building people attend on Sundays. No, in the Bible, born-again believers compose the church. In other words, the saints compose the church.
3. **The Wedding Supper Invitation**. A voice from the throne of God in heaven said to John: “Write, ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’” Not everyone was invited to the marriage supper, but it was a great blessing to be invited. The voice also said that “These are the true words of God.” Every revelation from God is the true words of God. God uses words to communicate His revelation, and the words He chooses to record in the Bible really matter. Verbal inspiration (God inspired the exact words) really matters and Scripture, as here, reflects the importance of God’s words.

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4. **Worship Only God**. When John heard the words and saw the great things before Him, John fell at the feet of him speaking. John heard: “Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” The fellow-servant of John told him stop his worship, and worship only God.

5. **The Testimony of Jesus**. John held to the testimony of Jesus and proclaimed it to all the world. He believed that Jesus was telling the truth and was the truth Himself. All who believe in Jesus must believe the testimony of Jesus. John also held to the testimony of Jesus in the sense that He endured persecution because of that testimony and his proclamation of Jesus.

6. **The Spirit of Prophecy**. The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. Notice that the angle further explains the reason John should not worship anyone but God alone. Only God, namely God the Son (Jesus), gives true prophecy and only therefore only God should be worshipped. Jesus stands behind every prophecy in Revelation as its author. Of course, God the Father and God the Holy Spirit also participate in revelation to people.

7. **The Worship of God Only**. God used the name “Jealous” to describe Himself in Exodus 34:14, page 146, because the LORD is a jealous God. God never changes and so He is just as jealous today as He was in the days of Moses. Furthermore, He will be just as jealous in the Book of Revelation. We should never worship any one except God alone.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we see Him as worthy of all worship, because the testimony of Jesus is the testimony of prophecy.

Seeing Jesus Today

- We are blessed to know that Jesus seeks our worship and has revealed the future to us. One day we will join Jesus as His bride, adorned in fine linen, which are the righteous deeds of the saints.
- We live for Jesus today by walking worthy of our calling in Jesus Christ. We should look to the future, knowing that one day we will be with Jesus forever. We worship Him today because we have believed the spirit of prophecy.
- We minister for Jesus today proclaiming the spirit of prophecy and holding to the testimony of Jesus Christ. We believe what Jesus said and speak of Jesus, and especially of His salvation.

Application for Today

Today, we proclaim Jesus and stand firm in His testimony. We read and believe His prophecies. We look forward to the wedding supper of the Lamb and being His bride for all eternity. We will live with Jesus, worshipping Him forever.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Fifty Eight

Jesus Judges and Wages War Today

Revelation 19:11

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He Who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and He judges and wages war."

As a child, I rode a horse around a flat, sandy area, punctuated by pines and palmettos. The horses followed a leader on a very leisurely walk around a circular trail about half a mile long. I loved that ride because it was easy and fun to sit on a horse. The horse ride was designed for inexperienced rides like me. The horses were very docile, and seemed very experienced with children. I had a great time. I also gained some understanding about the size and strength of horses. They moved much faster than I could move, and carrying a human, even an adult, did not seem difficult for them. They also seemed to know their regular riders, and had a bond with them. As I grew older, I also learned that horses also played a major role in many

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battles, both in the ancient world and through more modern times. Their strength and size can make a difference. The rider also makes a big difference. A rider and a horse can have a strong connection. Just the sight of an army on horses can be very impressive. When Jesus goes forth to conquer evil upon the earth, He will ride a white horse, and Jesus will have names upon Him. The armies in heaven will follow Him.

Jesus Rides

1. **Faithful and True**. John saw heaven opened. He witnessed a white horse ridden by One called Faithful and True. We will see from the titles applied and the powerful deeds that Jesus rides that white horse. He rides to wage war. The Suffering Servant is now revealed as the Faithful and True Warrior. Consider that Jesus is “faithful” in bringing judgment, just as God promised. Consider too that Jesus is “true” in riding to war, because while others have been deceived, Jesus always knows and practices the truth.
2. **Fire and Diadems**. The eyes of Jesus are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems. The flaming eyes of Jesus indicate the incinerating purity of Jesus when dealing with sin. A diadem is a crown or band around the head displaying the authority to rule and manifests His ultimate sovereignty over all things in heaven and earth.
3. **The Hidden Name**. Throughout the Book of Revelation, Jesus reveals many things to us about Himself and the future. Yet, when Jesus rides, He also has a name no one knows except Himself. While God has revealed many things to us, He has not chosen to reveal all things.
4. **The Word of God**. Jesus wears a robe dipped in blood. He has another name: The Word of God. We see a close association here, as elsewhere in the Bible, between the Word of God and blood. Through blood, and only through the blood of Jesus, can sins be taken away forever. Because Jesus has already suffered, shed His blood, and died, He now has every right to wear a robe

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dipped in blood. Through that blood He has atoned for sin, and paid the price of redemption for the entire human population, from Adam forward. Because He has made a complete atonement, He now will judge men who have rejected that atonement, and have chosen to face the consequence of sin. Furthermore, Jesus will also demonstrate His absolute sovereignty over all beings, human and otherwise. The evil forces of the devil and his minions have exercised great influence over men, but that influence will stop right here, with the victory of Jesus over the devil and his forces on earth.

5. **The Armies of Heaven.** The armies in heaven, clothed with fine linen, white and clean, followed Jesus on white horses. In contrast to the blood-dipped robe of Jesus, the armies behind Him appear white and clean in their fine linen. The effect of the blood of Jesus applied to any sinner produces a pure whiteness, free from all spots, blemishes and other defects associated with sin. In Revelation 19:8, page 1937, we saw that the Bride of Christ was given to attire herself in white linen, which is the righteous acts of the saints. Furthermore, the armies of heaven may also contain non-human beings, and they too are pure.

6. **The Sharp Sword of Jesus.** From the mouth of Jesus comes a sharp sword, so that with it, He may strike down the nations and rule them with a rod of iron. Jesus treads out the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.

7. **King of Kings and Lord of Lords.** On the robe of Jesus, He has the name written, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Although the world has known many kings and many lords, Jesus has always been and will always be the King of kings and Lord of lords. No one will ever be like Him in power, majesty and glory. Although they may pretend to be Him, and dominate the earth, their day of judgment will come, with Jesus bringing His sharp sword with Him. So, the names of Jesus include: Faithful, True, Unknown Name, The Word of God,

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King of Kings, Lord of Lords. Those names deserve our meditation today as we worship Jesus. He comes to wage war and establish His millennial kingdom.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we see Him riding the white horse, with the armies of heaven following Him. He will come to judge and make war with His enemies. No one can stand before Him.
- We are blessed to know that Jesus is Faithful and True, and He has an Unknown Name. He is The Word of God lives forever as King of kings and Lord of lords.
- We live for Jesus today by looking forward to the day Jesus rides with His army to judge and make war upon His evil enemies. He will win, and He will reign upon the earth.
- We minister for Jesus today in the power of His glory. Though evil forces oppose the work of Jesus and all those people who labor for Him, one day Jesus will reign on earth and vanquish all His enemies. We spread the Good News of Jesus Christ, and warn that Jesus the Warrior Judge will be coming back. Today people must seek Jesus the Savior, before it is too late.

Application for Today

Today, we look forward to Jesus returning to earth to judge and make war. He will show His great power and subdue all evil systems upon the earth. He will reign and He will be the only one, King of kings, and Lord of lords, and our eternal Savior and Friend.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Fifty Nine

The Evil Armies Today

Revelation 19:19

"And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him Who sat on the horse and against His army,"

In the Bible, you can read about many armies arrayed against each other as they prepare for battle. You may remember the armies the Philistines facing off against the armies of Israel, separated by a large valley. Young David would go forth and slay Goliath, the giant champion of the Philistines. After Goliath fell, the army of Israel chased down and slaughtered the Philistines. In the future, the beast and his armies will overthrow Babylon, the great harlot. Now, then they will assemble to make war on Him Who sat on the white horse and against His army. When the power of God goes forth, no being anywhere at any time can stand against God. He does not need an

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army, but brings one with Him. The beast and the kings of the earth, with their armies, have been deceived by their own lies and thirst for power. They cannot possibly stand against the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. And so, their doom will swirl upon them in an instant, with the a word from the Lamb.

The Summons of the Sun Angel

1. **The Sun Angel**. John saw an angel standing in the sun who cried out with a loud voice. He said to all the birds which fly in mid-heaven, "Come, assemble for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great." The Sun Angel will summon a massive assembly of the birds of heaven to a great fest. The bodies of the fallen kings and armies will be bird food.
2. **The Call First**. Please notice that the call to eat the flesh of the opposing armies goes out before anything happens. God has all power and knows that all flesh opposing Him will be consumed by the birds.
3. **The Armies and Kings**. John also saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. These kings and their armies serve the beast, with his authority granted to him by the devil, the serpent of old.
4. **War against The Lamb**. In this passage, all the armies of the beast and the kings of the earth will assemble to make war against Christ and His army. The bible tells us today that we do not struggle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, the powers, the world forces of the darkness, and the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. As John saw, one day they will unite to oppose the Lamb, and they will lose the battle on earth, with eternal consequences of punishment for them.

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5. **The Supernatural Forces**. Notice the evil, supernatural forces at work among the kings and armies of earth. The beast deceives the earth to rise up against Jesus. The devil has been cast to earth for a short while, and he knows his time is short. In his final move before Jesus begins His reign on earth, the beast gathers his kings and their armies in one last futile gesture to oppose Jesus, the Lamb of God. Even with the great evil powers of darkness, they are no match for the eternal God, Jesus, the light of the world and all things.

6. **Jesus Appears**. As we will see, Jesus will utterly destroy those armies with His absolute power. The birds of the air will eat the flesh of those vast armies lying beneath the skies of heaven.

7. **No Chance**. Men and all evil beings never have even the slightest chance of defeating Jesus, because Jesus is God and always has been God. He has all the power of God, which no one may overcome. The beast and his armies will lose just as surely as they set forth to oppose Jesus. At one time, we were all enemies of Jesus, but by His grace, He saved us. Blessedly, Jesus offers salvation to all people today. We rejoice in His love and power today as believers. We confess Jesus as King and Lord today.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we see the Sun Angel summoning the birds of heaven to eat the flesh of kings and armies before the battle even begins. No one wins against Jesus when He goes forth to fight.
- We are blessed to know that Jesus makes bird food of the armies of the kings allied with the beast. While we wrestle against strong spiritual forces today, we wear the armor of God today, knowing that one day that Jesus will go forth with zeal to conquer the beast and his armies on earth.

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- We live for Jesus today by taking courage in the unlimited power of Jesus Christ, clothed in love for His children. We trust Him today, knowing that ultimate victory belongs only to Him. We know how things will turn out and we know the Lamb of God triumphs.
- We minister for Jesus today as servants of the Eternal Victor, the Lamb of God. Although the devil may exercise great power over people, he cannot touch the believer. We live in the palm of Jesus, covered over by the hand of the Father.

Application for Today

Today, we look forward to the Sun Angle crying out, summoning the birds to eat the great carnage on earth after Jesus subdues all of His earthly foes. All hail the Lamb! All hail the Victor! All bow before Jesus, worshipping the Lamb of God with hallelujahs.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Sixty

The Lake of Fire Today

Revelation 19:20

"And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worship his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone."

Have you ever burned yourself on something without knowing it was really hot? In just an instant, you can create a lasting scar. The fire may go away, but the scar can remain for a lifetime. On my body, I have several burns from different things at different times. Some of my scars are bigger than others, but most of them are not visible when I wear normal clothing. Others have faded some into my tan skin. I have a healthy respect for fire

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based on experience. In the Book of Revelation, we read about a lake of fire. This lake of fire has some unique properties. First, God designed it to hold the devil and his evil angels. Second, beings suffer eternal, great torment there, without being consumed. God warns everyone to avoid the lake of fire, because of the great suffering that takes place there.

The beast and false prophet Seized

1. **Seized**. In the future, after Jesus rides to earth on His white horse followed by the armies of heaven on their white horses, the beast and the false prophet are seized. Their brutal power and deceit will end in an instant. First they exercise great power over all the world, but then they are seized and they have no power to resist that seizure. God stopped them and their deceptions abruptly. They are thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.
2. **Armies Destroyed**. Having summarily disposed of the beast and the false prophet, God now kills all the armies of the world gathered to make war against Him. He killed them with a sword that came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. We know that one day Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of lords, will return and ride upon the white horse with His armies of heaven behind Him. At that time, the beast and the false prophet will be seized by God.
3. **No Struggle, but Slaughter**. Please notice that no struggle ensued. The beast and false prophet were simply thrown alive into the lake of fire. The armies simply died by the sword from the mouth of Christ. The birds ate their flesh, just as we saw the invitation for them to assemble and eat kings of all kinds of people.
4. **The devil, the beast, the false prophet**. The devil, the beast, and the false prophet rise to power during the Tribulation. They use dark forces to conquer the world with their great powers and the ability to work signs and

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wonders. They deceive the world and use threats of death to cause people to worship the image of the beast and take his evil mark.

5. **Short Time.** The devil, the beast and the false prophet have very short leashes and very little time. They have been cast from heaven to earth and vent their wrath quickly. The Bible, in both the Old Testament and the New Testament, describe the rise and fall of evil during the Tribulation. God has limited the time of anti-Christ, and his doom will be swift, time certain, and sure.

6. **Absolute, Sovereign Authority.** As believers, we should never forget the absolute power of God to crush and kill His enemies, and throw strong beings into the lake of fire where they will suffer eternal torment. Because God has set forth a program of destruction for His enemies, and that time will be in the future, people tend to think that God is slow about His promises. In fact, they mistake the patience of God for a lack of concern. God withholds judgment upon evil that all may be saved.

7. **The Right Time.** Jesus has already revealed the time of destruction of the devil, the beast and the false prophet. Until that day arrives, the devil will be working toward that goal of global domination. His days of greatest influence are yet future from today, but His downfall will come at the appointed time. God, at just the right time, will deal with the devil and his minions. As we bow before God, He has revealed His plans for the destruction of all His enemies. No one will withstand His power. The future has already been written in the Book of Revelation.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we see the lake of fire, burning with brimstone. One day, the beast and the false prophet will be thrown into it. Later, Satan and unbelievers will be thrown into that same lake of fire. God takes no pleasure in the destruction of the wicked.

Seeing Jesus Today

- We are blessed to know that Jesus will triumph over all His enemies. The beast, false prophet and the devil are no match for Jesus. They will gain great power upon the earth, but only for a short time called the Tribulation. Until then, the devil seeks to devour people today. Yet, Jesus wins in our lives, even today, as we live by faith in Him.
- We live for Jesus today by never fearing the devil or his followers. We know that the devil's power will become greater in time, and he loves to attack the children of Jesus Christ.
- We minister for Jesus today by spreading the news that Jesus saves people from the power of the devil and his evil followers. We proclaim the victory of Jesus over all things, when He returns to reign upon this earth. We serve Invincible Jesus and enjoy His love each day.

Application for Today

Today, we look know that Jesus returns, Jesus wins, and the beast and the false prophet are thrown into the lake of fire, burning with brimstone. Jesus wants believers to know and remember the destruction of evil forces. Although the devil attacks us today, and his power on earth will grow in the Tribulation, we know that God has a plan for all things, and God wins. Jesus is the Lord of Glory, and He is coming back soon.

HALLELUJAH !

8

The Reign of Jesus

Jesus really will fulfill all the promises of the Old and New Testaments concerning Messiah. One day, Jesus will come on a white horse, with the armies of heaven behind Him. He will slay His enemies with the breath of His lips and sharp sword from His mouth. He display Himself as KING OF KING AND LORDS OF LORDS. No enemy will be able to withstand His power and He will tread the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.

Jesus will reign upon the earth for a thousand years. During that time, the devil will be bound with a great chain and thrown into the abyss, sealed over him, so that he will no longer deceive the nations. The dead will be raised, and rule with Jesus for a thousand years.

At the conclusion of the thousand years, the devil will be freed, deceive the nations, and foment a final rebellion. Fire from heaven will consume the enemies of Jesus, lead by the devil. The devil will be thrown into the Lake of Fire, joining there the beast and false prophet.

Jesus will sit upon a Great White Throne for judgment of every person who never accepted the free gift of salvation. Believers never come into the judgment of eternal life, for they passed out of judgment into eternal life at the moment of salvation. After judgment, those unbelievers standing before the Great White Throne shall be condemned to the Lake of Fire.

Day Sixty One

The Beheaded Martyrs Today

Revelation 20:4

"Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of them who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those would not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years."

Hollywood often presents its view of theology in the television programs and movies it produces. You may not realize what they are doing, but they are telling you about their views of God, the after-life and heaven and hell. Of course, most of those programs have been written by unbelievers and present very evil views of right and wrong, marriage, and the values for living. For example, I watched a program with two people near death. They

Seeing Jesus Today

began talking about death and what happens after death. They had no idea what happened after death and had never thought much about it. Finally, they relied upon what a parent had said about life and death and ended the discussion in hopeless despair. In contrast to the Hollywood approach to life and death, God provides clear pictures of the future. One day thrones will be set up and judgment given to them sitting on those thrones. All the souls of the people from the Tribulation who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and the word of God, and who would not worship the beast or his image, and had not received the mark of the beast in their forehead and on their hand, came to life and reigned with Jesus for a thousand years. By reading the Bible, Jesus will show us what happens to all people after they die. Unbelievers appear before the Great White Throne for judgment, and believers never come into the judgment of eternal life or eternal death. At the moment of salvation on earth, believers pass from death and judgment into eternal life.

Satan Bound and Martyrs Reign

1. **The Great Chain Angel**. John saw an angel coming down from heaven with a great chain in his hand.
2. **Laid Hold of Satan**. The Great Chain Angel laid hold of satan. Notice the various names of satan: the serpent of old, the dragon, and the devil. You may remember that the beast and false prophet have already been thrown into the lake of fire.
3. **The Abyss**. The angel bound satan and threw him into the abyss. Satan cannot resist the angel, sent by God to chain satan. Having thrown satan into the abyss, the angel shut it and sealed it, so that satan would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were complete. After the thousand years were completed, then he would be released for a short time.

Seeing Jesus Today

4. **The Beheaded Martyrs**. After satan has been thrown into the abyss and sealed in, we see judgment from certain thrones. The souls of the martyrs from the Tribulation now come to life and reign with Christ.

5. **The Character of the Martyrs**. Notice the character of the martyrs. They died because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God. They refused to worship the beast or his image and paid with their lives. They also refused the mark of the beast. They testified to the salvation of Jesus Christ, even when it cost them their lives.

6. **No Worship, No Mark**. The beheaded martyrs refused to worship the beast. Throughout the Bible, only God deserves worship. We worship God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Three divine Persons, one Holy God. In every age, some faithful believers will never worship anyone except God alone. Likewise, even upon pain of death, faithful believers will not accept the mark of the beast. Because they refused that mark, they were beheaded. Yet, they live in heaven and will return to earth to reign with Jesus for a thousand years.

7. **The Millennial Reign of Christ**. Some people say the thousand years are just a symbol or a number. Yet, when the literal sense of one thousand years makes sense, I accept that literal sense. Here we see the one-thousand year reign of Christ. The beheaded martyrs return to earth and reign with Jesus for a thousand years.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we take note of the beheaded martyrs. They died for Jesus and refused to go along with the crowd. They stood unshakably upon their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God. They laid down their lives for Jesus.

Seeing Jesus Today

- We are blessed to know that some believers will never worship the beast or his image and never receive the mark of the beast. Despite threats of death and intense pressure, the beheaded martyrs remained firm in their faith, and sealed their lives on earth with love for Jesus Christ.
- We live for Jesus today by learning from the beheaded martyrs that we never have to succumb to peer pressure, government pressure, satanic pressure, or any other pressure to worship anyone except God alone.
- We minister for Jesus today as we remember that one day Jesus will return to earth, vanquish His enemies, and we will reign with Him for a thousand years along with the martyrs.

Application for Today

Today, we take courage from the beheaded martyrs and their unflinching testimony for Jesus Christ and their rock-solid determination to never forsake Him. As they, we look forward to reigning with Jesus during His thousand year reign upon the earth.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Sixty Two

The First Resurrection Today

Revelation 20:6

"Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over those the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years."

Have you ever thought about the question: as a born-again believer, I have eternal life; why would I need resurrection, if I already have eternal life? Jesus explained that answer to Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus of Bethany. Resurrection refers to bodily resurrection. Spiritually, at the moment of death, we are with Jesus when we become absent from the body. So resurrection means that our bodies are changed in the twinkling of an eye, at the moment Jesus brings with Him all the dead in Christ. The dead in Christ will receive their resurrected bodies first, and then we who are

Seeing Jesus Today

alive on earth when Jesus appears in the clouds will receive our resurrected bodies. Those new bodies will be immortal, incorruptible, glorified, and wonderful.

Reigning with Jesus During the Millennium

1. **The Thousand Year Reign of Christ—The Millennium**. At the beginning of the 1,000 year reign of Christ, we saw the martyrs from the tribulation given resurrection bodies. You may recall that other believers received their resurrected bodies before the tribulation began, when they met Jesus in the clouds.

2. **The First Resurrection**. The rest of the dead will be raised at the conclusion of the thousand year reign of Christ. So, we see different resurrections of different groups of people in the Bible, all according to God's plans and His timing.

3. **Believers Resurrected**. The believers participating in first resurrection are blessed and holy. The second death has no power over them. You may recall that Jesus commanded that His followers fear no one, except God who has the power to destroy both soul and body in hell (Matthew 10:28). The second death happens at the Great White Throne Judgment, where only unbelievers appear to be judged and then thrown into the Lake of Fire.

4. **All Believers Resurrected and Reign with Christ**. In 2 Timothy 2:12, we know that all believers will reign with Christ. Your future looks very bright in Christ. In 1 Corinthians 6:3, believers will also judge angels.

5. **The Priesthood of All Believers**. Today, all believers are also members of a holy priesthood and a royal priesthood, who offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:5, 9). During the Millennium, when Christ reigns upon earth for a thousand years, born-again believers will reign with Christ.

Seeing Jesus Today

6. **The Order of Resurrection**. At the Rapture, Jesus comes with believers who have died in Christ, and then they get their resurrected bodies. In the next instant, believers on earth at that time will be resurrected. Then comes the seven-year Tribulation. At the end of the Tribulation, Jesus eliminates all His enemies, and sets foot on the Mount of Olives near Jerusalem, and begins His Millennial Reign on earth. At the beginning of the Millennium, the martyrs from the Tribulation are resurrected and join all believers in reigning with Christ on earth. At the end of the Millennium, a final rebellion ensues. Christ wins and the earth and heaven are destroyed. At this point, all unbelievers are gathered together for the Great White Throne Judgment, just for unbelievers. They are judged and cast into the Lake of Fire, where the devil, the beast, and the false prophet have already been incarcerated.

7. **Comfort**. We have seen God pour out His wrath upon evil people on earth during the tribulation. Afterwards, Jesus will reign upon earth, and we will be with Him in glorious service. All joy in Jesus.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we understand the promise and reality of resurrection in the Bible. Real resurrection means we receive glorified bodies from God.
- We are blessed to know that God has a plan for us to reign with Him in the Millennium. We will use our glorified bodies to serve Him as kings and priests.
- We live for Jesus today by living like the holy priests we are in Christ, part of His royal priesthood. We do not fear death, and look forward to being with Jesus for all eternity.

Seeing Jesus Today

- We minister for Jesus today as priests of God, but we know in the future that we will return to earth to reign with Jesus in the Millennium. We have no fear of death today, but we do fear God alone, who has the power to destroy the body and the soul.

Application for Today

Today, we enjoy the knowledge that Jesus has a plan for our lives that encourages us to serve Him today. Jesus has revealed a broad outline, with some details, of the future of this planet, through its final destruction. Until it is destroyed by fire, Jesus will exercise His perfect will and bring all things to their appointed ends. At all times, believers remain safe in the love of Jesus Christ. When our mortal bodies perish (and we will all die), then we will receive new immortal, incorruptible, glorified bodies and reign with Jesus on earth.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Sixty Three

The Final Rebellion Today

**"When the thousand years are completed,
satan will be released from his prison."**

Revelation 20:7

I read the Bible and prayed with a friend virtually every day at the beach for several years. He told me about his son, who had spent most of his life in prison. We prayed for his son, because we knew that one day he would be released. The son was released from prison, and came to visit us at the beach. We prayed with him and encouraged him to walk with Jesus. Within a few days, I heard from his father that the son was back to his old habits, with illegal drugs, sensuality, and other evils. Within about ten days of his release from prison, he was arrested and headed back to prison. His father sorrowed, but seemed to understand his son and the difficult life that child had. He knew more about living in prison than living outside prison. His father had gone through many difficulties in life also, but by the grace of God, his life had profoundly changed for good, and he had received salvation as a free gift. In the future, Jesus will return and imprison the devil in the abyss for a thousand years. Jesus will reign on earth, and things

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will be good. At the end of that thousand years, the devil will be released from the abyss. He too will go right back to his evil ways, fomenting rebellion and bringing doom upon himself and others.

The Devil Deceives the Nations

1. **The Millennium**. Revelation 20:1-7, page 1938, contains six references referring to a thousand year period referred to as the Millennium. During that time various events transpire, and they are described in that passage. Many Old Testament prophets foresaw the future reign of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Likewise, New Testament prophets also described the reign of Jesus Christ. Some people think the thousand years just means some period of time, not necessarily a thousand years. In contrast to those people, the text speaks for itself and repeatedly mentions a thousand years.
2. **Satan Released**. God always has a plan and history always follows God's plans. Here, long before any of these events take place, God has outlined the future of events on this planet called Earth. After the Millennium, the devil will be released from his prison, the abyss.
3. **Satan Deceives**. The devil will come to deceive the nations in the four corners of the world, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to make war. The number of them will be like the sand of the seashore. The devil loves for men to kill themselves and then go to hell and finally to the lake of fire. This final rebellion can be distinguished from the events described in Ezekiel 39 where Gog and Magog and others oppose God. One key distinction concerns the timing of the events in Ezekiel 39:1-24, which occur before Jesus begins His millennial reign; in Ezekiel 39:25-29, the people of Israel return to their land, ready for the millennial reign of Christ. The final rebellion involving God and Magog occurs after the millennial reign of Christ.

Seeing Jesus Today

4. **The Battle of the Broad Plain**. After the Millennium, the evil armies, deceived by the devil, will surround Jerusalem, the beloved city, and fill the broad plain of the earth. God will send fire down from heaven and devour them. Notice again that no real battle occurs, except that God incinerates the entire army of evil nations.

5. **The Devil and the Lake of Fire**. The devil will be thrown into the Lake of Fire, burning with brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet were delivered previously.

6. **Eternal Torment**. The devil, the beast and the false prophet wielded great power of earth. They killed lots of people. They motivated armies and nations to rebel against God. Yet, even with all their power, they find themselves tormented in the Lake of Fire, day and night, forever and ever.

7. **Know Your Enemy**. God described in detail the future of kingdoms, nations and rulers. He wants us to know our enemies and their demise and torment. Some of them were in heaven and some on earth. All of them must yield ultimately to the destiny God has described in the Book of Revelation. The unsaved and the wicked will suffer day and night forever and ever in the Lake of Fire. In contrast, the believers will live in glory with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit forever.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we know His power over the devil and all who follow the devil. They must face a final reckoning for their sin. They will be placed into the Lake of Fire, burning with brimstone, to be tormented for ever and ever, day and night.
- We are blessed to know that God is not willing for a single human to suffer in the Lake of Fire, but for every person to come to repentance and eternal life through the free gift of salvation in only Jesus Christ.

Seeing Jesus Today

- We live for Jesus today with the heavy knowledge of torment awaiting every person we love who rejects Jesus Christ as Savior. We love people by warning them of the wrath to come, and inviting them to receive the love of Jesus Christ as Savior of this entire world, but especially their own personal Savior who will save them from the wrath to come.
- We minister for Jesus today to share the news to believers that Jesus will reign for a thousand years on this earth. Even then, after the thousand years, the devil will deceive the nations and mass their armies against Jerusalem. God will destroy them, and throw the devil into the Lake of Fire. As we ponder the power of the devil to deceive the world, we know that he deceives people today. As we minister today, we remain keenly aware of the deceptions of the devil. Only God brings spiritual life and clarity to our lives, so that today we know the truth and live the truth in Jesus Christ.

Application for Today

Today, we have already seen the future, the final rebellion, and the Lake of Fire, with many beings tormented there, day and night, forever and ever. God revealed that to us to let us know of His supreme power, and great love for people. He warns of death, destruction and eternal punishment as only God can warn people based upon absolute future certainties. We must share His love today, speaking the Gospel of Salvation in Christ, and warning people to flee from the wrath to come.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Sixty Four

The Great White Throne Today

Revelation 20:11

"Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from Whose presence earth and heaven fled away and no place was found for them."

Thrones symbolize great power. They also display for all who stand before them the authority of royalty. In heaven, the great white throne belongs to God, and from that throne He reigns supreme and renders judgment. I read about an old term to describe the last judgment: "The Final Assize." In this case, heaven and earth have fled away. They no longer exist. So, all humans have been removed from earth. The devil, the beast, and the false prophet have all been cast into the Lake of Fire. As I read passages about the final judgment, I know that I will never be there. Jesus said at the moment of salvation, we pass out of salvation into eternal life, and will never face judgment regarding eternal life. The only people who appear before the Great White Throne are unbelievers. Everyone who appears before the

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Great White Throne will be sentenced to the Lake of Fire, because their deeds were evil and they never received eternal life and forgiveness for their sins while they lived on earth.

The Great White Throne Judgment

1. **The Great White Throne**. The Great White Throne should terrify every non-believer, because judgment shall fall upon all of them from Jesus Who sits on that throne. At this point, the devil, the beast and the false prophet have already been judged and thrown into the Lake of Fire.
2. **Heaven and Earth Have Fled Away**. After the final rebellion on earth, led by the devil deceiving the nations, heaven and earth are no more. So, the Great White Throne judgment takes place in eternity. The non-believers will be judged there after the final rebellion on earth.
3. **Judgment according to The Books**. The dead, both great and small, shall stand for judgment before that throne. Several different [books](#) shall be opened, and the dead will be judged according to the things written in the books.
4. **The Sea, Death and Hades**. The sea, death and [Hades](#) shall all give up the dead in them. In Revelation 6:8, page 1921, death and Hades followed the Fourth Horseman of the Apocalypse. Death and Hades operate as places kept under lock and key, and Jesus holds the keys (Revelation 1:18, page 1905).
5. **The Lake of Fire**. Afterwards, death and Hades shall be thrown into the Lake of Fire. That event will be the second death. Non-believers die first in their earthly bodies, and then die eternally with punishment in the Lake of Fire (the second death).
6. **The Book of Life**. [The Book of Life](#) was searched for the name of each person standing before the Great White Throne. If the name was not found in the Book of Life, then he was thrown into the Lake of Fire.

Seeing Jesus Today

7. **Only Unserved**. No born-again believer appears before the Great White Throne, because every born-again believer goes to a resurrection of life, and never a resurrection of judgment (John 5:24-29, pages 1662-1663). As believers, we praise Jesus for His grace that saved us from the second death, which we each deserve. Thank you Jesus.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we know that we, as born-again believers, will never stand before the Great White Throne for judgment. But how many of our friends and loved ones will be there?
- We are blessed to know that one day heaven and earth will flee away and no place will be found for them. God terminates heaven and earth by an act of His divine will. God alone controls the destiny of both heaven and earth.
- We live for Jesus today knowing that the name of every born-again believer has been written in the Book of Life. We live with assurance that we will spend eternity with Jesus, experiencing the fullness of His love and the power God working in our lives today and for eternity.
- We minister for Jesus today as we warn people of the wrath to come. Our hope rests only in Jesus, the Savior of the world. We proclaim Jesus and His excellencies, because God the Father has delivered us from the domain of darkness into the kingdom of His beloved Son.

Seeing Jesus Today

Application for Today

Today, we know that heaven and earth will pass away. All unbelievers will stand for condemnation at the Great White Throne with the Lake of Fire to follow. One day, death and Hades will be thrown into the Lake of Fire, along with all unbelievers who have never received eternal life as a free gift from Jesus. As we proclaim Jesus to this world, we know the judgment and the Lake of Fire await all unbelievers. With urgency we must proclaim His love today, and warn of the wrath to come.

HALLELUJAH !

9

The New Jerusalem

After Jesus vanquishes His enemies, heaven and earth are burned up. Then God creates a new heaven and a new earth. The New Jerusalem will descend and the people of God will live there with Jesus. The water of life will flow from the throne of God, and there will be no temple there. Jesus will lead believers and they will listen to His voice. His bondservants shall serve Him for all eternity. There will be no night, nor will anyone need a lamp or the light of the sun; because the Lord God will illumine them and they will reign forever and ever.

Day Sixty Five

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:2

"And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband."

I remember the day that I married my wife. Now we have been married for more than forty years, and I still remember how beautiful my wife looked at our wedding. Her hair was perfect, her smile infectious, and her joy beaming. I have been blessed by God to have such a wonderful wife. As I look back at our wedding photographs, I see my young wife radiating love for me and happiness. During our marriage, I have come to love the way my wife thinks, acts, jokes, worships, prays, and lives for Jesus. I still remember our wedding where she looked fantastic in that white wedding dress, which her sister had worn many years before at her marriage. That dress still looked great, and I would never have known it was not brand new. It had a marvelous, timeless quality to it and held great memories for

Seeing Jesus Today

my wife. In the future, the New Jerusalem will come down out of heaven, adorned as a wife for her husband.

The Holy City

1. **New Heaven and New Earth**. John saw a new heaven and a new earth, because the first heaven and first earth had passed away. See 2 Peter 3:10. There was no sea.
2. **The New Jerusalem**. John then saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven, made ready as a bride for her husband.
3. **The Tabernacle of God**. John heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they be His people, and God Himself will be among them."
4. **God Wipes Away Tears**. God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will be no longer any death, and no more mourning, crying, or pain. What a wonderful day for all believers. The first things have passed away.
5. **All Things New**. He Who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Then He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."
6. **The Love of God**. In this heart-warming passage, we see God make all things new. All believers will live in the new Jerusalem, without tears, mourning, crying, or pain. God will not only wipe away every tear, but He will always be with us and we will be His people. God delights in making new things and demonstrating His love for His children.
7. **Faithful and True**. God said we could rely upon these words because they are faithful and true. We can look forward to a great eternity with God in the new Jerusalem.

Seeing Jesus Today

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we look forward to the New Jerusalem, the final abode of all believers. Jesus dwells there with His children. We will live with Jesus in a new heaven and a new earth.
- We are blessed to know that one day God will wipe away every tear. No more mourning, no more fears—eternity with Jesus.
- We live for Jesus today knowing that His abiding presence is with us today, and tomorrow He will abide with us in the New Jerusalem.
- We minister for Jesus today as we encourage believers to look forward to the New Jerusalem. After this earth and heaven have passed away, we will spend eternity with Jesus in the New Jerusalem with Him.

Application for Today

Today, we look forward the New Jerusalem. Our hope stands upon the faithful and true words of God. In that place, we will no longer have tears or mourning, but rather the fullness of Christ indwelling us and His glorious presence among us.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Sixty Six

The Alpha and Omega Today

"Then He said to me, 'It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.'"

Revelation 21:6

God loves to demonstrate His great qualities by using analogies we can grasp. He perfectly expresses the infinite in finite terms, so that we can have some understanding. God wants us to know Him, and to love Him. Of course, to know Him is to love Him. Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet and Omega is the last letter of the Greek alphabet. God used that analogy to declare that He is the beginning and the end. Furthermore, God ties His quality of being the beginning and the end to an invitation to the thirsty to drink from the spring of the water of life without cost. God loves to provide what we need most at no cost to us. He calls that grace, a free gift we never deserved.

Seeing Jesus Today

The Spring of the Water of Life

1. **Alpha and Omega**. God describes Himself as the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet (Alpha and Omega), the beginning and the end. God spans all eternity and created eternity. God always existed and exists always. He sustains Himself.
2. **The Spring of the Water of Life**. This theme of a spring, fountain, or river of life flows through the Bible. Jesus Himself talked with a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well near Sychar. He described to her a well of water springing up to eternal life. Jesus declared that whoever drinks of the water that He gives to people would never thirst again. Throughout the Bible, Jesus loves people and offers salvation and eternal life in Him. He uses many symbols to communicate truth.
3. **Without Cost**. He also promised to provide water from the spring of life without cost to everyone who thirsts. Jesus, as Alpha and Omega, offers this water without cost. He paid the greatest cost, by laying down His own life, with great suffering and shame. Then, having triumphed over the grave and death, He took up His own life again, and God raised Him from the dead with an incorruptible, glorified body. Because the cost of condemnation for sins fell upon Jesus, and He paid it all, we have no condemnation because all the condemnation we deserve was taken away, once and for all, by Jesus.
4. **Overcomers**. He who overcomes will inherit these things. God proclaims: "I will be his God, and he will be My son." How comforting are the family promises of God.
5. **Inherit**. As we have seen so often in Revelation, God powerfully reveals the rewards for overcomers (all believers), and the eternal punishment of the wicked. God speaks of inheritance in many places in the Bible. God calls

Seeing Jesus Today

Himself our inheritance. God also provides that we share a divine inheritance with Jesus as fellow-heirs with Jesus, the heir of all things.

6. **The Lake of Fire**. The cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, immoral people, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars will have their part in The Lake of Fire, which burns with fire and brimstone. Remember the Great White Throne Judgment facing all unbelievers.

7. **The Second Death**. Take note of the evil people today, who hate God and oppose His plans for salvation. Their eternity of fire and death awaits them. Jesus spoke of having no fear of the devil, because the devil is powerless to do anything after your physical death. God, however, has the power to sentence a person to eternal death, after physical death, in The Lake of Fire. Jesus said we should fear only God.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we look today upon the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, immoral people, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars. Such were some of us, before Jesus saved us by His blood.
- We are blessed to know that God is our inheritance and that we overcome in Him. By His power, we triumph in Him. Our future shines with all the glory of God, because we will be with Him.
- We live for Jesus today by learning to take the long view, and understand the eternally persistent love, grace, peace, and provision of God for us, His family. In contrast, people we love today, but have never received salvation by faith alone, face an eternity in The Lake of Fire.

Seeing Jesus Today

- We minister for Jesus today knowing our eternal future remains secure and incorruptible in Jesus. Because of the Alpha and Omega, we know that God our Father and God the Son will keep us safely in for all eternity.

Application for Today

Today, we may picture ourselves as believers receiving water from the spring of the water of life. Remember that Jesus promised that He gives water that will become in us a well of water springing up to eternal life. Everyone who drinks the water from Jesus will never thirst. Jesus invites every thirsty soul to never thirst again, because He gave us a well of water springing up to eternal life.

HALLELUJAH!

Day Sixty Seven

The Mountain-Top View Today

Revelation 21:10

"And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God."

I remember going to seminary back in 1977. The seminary had an orientation meeting at a conference center in the mountains above Los Angeles, California. Several hundred men and a few women gathered together in a large conference room with a glass wall overlooking the city below. The black night sky, punctuated by twinkling stars and shining planets, stood above the glowing lights of the spreading cities below. That mountain top view sticks in mind, but it even became better when hundreds of voices, mostly male, began to sign hymns with one voice. I had never heard a large male choir like that before, giving glory to God. I was happy to hear both men and women signing, but it was new to me to hear a multitude of mostly male voices signing on the mountain top. In the closing

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chapters of the Book of Revelation, we get a view of the New Jerusalem from the mountain top as it comes down from God.

The New Jerusalem Descending

1. **Come Here**. One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke to John. The angel said, "Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."
2. **Great Mountain**. The angel carried John away in the Holy Spirit to a great mountain (new earth with new geography), and showed him the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. Consider this magnificent sight of a city descending out of heaven from God.
3. **The Glory of God**. The city had the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone of crystal-clear Jasper (brilliant, glittering, and clear as crystal).
4. **The High Wall**. The city had a high wall, with twelve gates. The names of the twelve tribes of Israel were written on the gates. Although the old heavens and the old earth had passed away, consumed by fire, the people of Israel continue to hold prominence in the New Jerusalem.
5. **The Four Gates**. North, south, east and west each had three gates. The gates imply that people will be going in and out of the city.
6. **The Twelve Foundation Stones**. The wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. The twelve apostles also have a place of prominence in the New Jerusalem.
7. **Eternal Dwelling**. As we look upon the New Jerusalem, we learn about the place God has prepared for believers to dwell with God for eternity. As we

Seeing Jesus Today

move forward in the text, we will see more of this glorious city. What a great and eternal home.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we join John on the mountain top looking at the New Jerusalem descending from heaven. God has already fashioned the city to be an eternal home for believers.
- We are blessed to know that the New Jerusalem will have gates named for the twelve tribes of Israel and the foundation bearing the names of the twelve apostles. God memorializes His love and blessings upon His chosen people who once inhabited the old earth.
- We live for Jesus today by remembering the mountain-top view. We see the New Jerusalem, descending from heaven. We know the future today, and gaze upon glory before that glory even appears on the new earth.
- We minister for Jesus today with confidence in the plans of God Almighty. In the palm of His hand He holds us, and leads us. We will be with God in the New Jerusalem, and we comfort our friends in Christ with that knowledge and we invite others to saving friendship in Christ.

Application for Today

Today, we live for Jesus and hold a memory of the New Jerusalem in our minds. Imagine that. We remember what has not yet occurred. Yet, with

Seeing Jesus Today

certainly we know it to be true, because God revealed it to us. Today we will have greater faith in the eternal, loving plans of God and share our faith in Him with others.

HALLELUJAH!

Day Sixty Eight

The Measuring Rod of Gold Today

Revelation 21:15

"The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall."

Can you imagine a really big city? In the future, God will destroy our present earth and heavens and create a new earth and new heavens. Then a new city will descend to earth. It will be huge. Imagine a city 1,500 miles high, wide and long. It will also have a wall around it, and twelve gates. Today we will see the precision that God brings to creating the New Jerusalem. God wants us to know its dimensions and furnishings. Today many people long to build their dream home on earth, but God will bring His perfect city to the new earth one day.

Seeing Jesus Today

The Design of the New Jerusalem

1. **The God Measuring Rod**. As John stood in the future, he watched the New Jerusalem descend to the New Earth. The angel speaking to John had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall. Even the measuring rod was very unusual.
2. **The City and The Wall**. The city was laid out as a cube, 1500 miles each on length, width and height. Its wall was 72 yards. Angelic measurements equal human measurements here.
3. **Jasper and Gold**. The wall was jasper, and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. What a beautiful place we will inhabit.
4. **The Foundations of the Wall**. The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with precious stones: jasper, sapphire, chalcedony, emerald, sardonyx, chrysolite, beryl, topaz, chrysoprase, jacinth, amethyst.
5. **The Twelve Gates**. The twelve gates were twelve pearls. Each gate was a single pearl.
6. **Pure Gold, Transparent Glass**. The street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.
7. **Divine Design**. God designed the new Jerusalem to reflect His wonderful decorative and design skills, and to manifest His eternal attributes. We see His designs all around us daily, in the beautiful clouds, colorful birds, intricate anatomies of His varied creatures, and in everything He does. God designs with magnificent beauty and splendor. What a home awaits all believers. How beautiful are the works of God Almighty.

Seeing Jesus Today

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we understand the beauty and perfection of the designs of the New Jerusalem. Our home with Jesus has already been designed and will one day come to the new earth.
- We are blessed to know that the New Jerusalem will be huge, a cube of 1500 miles. God measured it so that we would know about our future home.
- We live for Jesus today by resting in the knowledge that the New Jerusalem will always be safe and secure. Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, hail, fire and other disasters may obliterate our earthly homes, but the New Jerusalem will be on a new earth.
- We minister for Jesus today knowing what our future home will look like. Nothing on earth today really compares to it. God created the New Jerusalem and fashioned it with us in mind. We will live there with Jesus.

Application for Today

Today, we will see buildings of all types. We may even see a city today, or many cities today. Using technology, we could even view all the cities of the world on the internet. Yet, though we may look long and hard, the only place to see the New Jerusalem is through the pages of the Bible. God revealed the New Jerusalem so that we may learn about His great plans for our future. Nothing on earth today really compares to the marvels of the New Jerusalem. We have a great future in Jesus.

HALLELUJAH!

Day Sixty Nine

No Temple Today

Revelation 21:22

"I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple."

Have you ever walked in to a building and expected to see something that was not there? I know a home where the builder did not use overhead lights in most bedrooms, but put them in the wall just above the closet. Those rooms were always dark, and made reading things in those rooms very difficult. I like lots of light in a room. I like to read things and I work with papers all the time. I am sure that with advancing technology, paper will become less and less important. But light will always be important to me, because I enjoy seeing many things light illuminates. In the future, God said the New Jerusalem will not have a temple in it. Instead, God Almighty and the Lamb (Jesus) will be in the New Jerusalem. The Lamb will be the Light of the New Jerusalem, shining continuously.

The Light of the New Jerusalem

1. **No Temple**. Ezekiel, an Old Testament prophet, described in great detail the temple used in the Millennium. Now that the Millennium has ended, and the new heavens and the new earth have come, replacing the old ones, we read about the New Jerusalem. John saw no temple in the new Jerusalem, because the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. Instead of having a building to worship God, the believers have God Almighty and the Lamb actually present there.
2. **The Glory of God Shines**. The new Jerusalem has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, because the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.
3. **The Kings Come**. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.
4. **No Night**. In the daytime (there will be no night) its gates will never be closed.
5. **Glory and Honor**. They will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.
6. **Only Believers**. Nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the [Lamb's Book of Life](#).
7. **Not Heaven**. The new Jerusalem, not heaven, will be the final home described in the Bible for believers. What a brilliant and glorious place it will be. Filled with light and the very presence of God Almighty and the Lamb.

Seeing Jesus Today

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we realize that the New Jerusalem does not contain a temple. Instead of a temple, God Almighty and the Lamb dwell with men in the New Jerusalem. The Lamb provides all the illumination needed in the New Jerusalem.
- We are blessed to know that the kings of the nations will bring their glory into the New Jerusalem. No evil person will enter its gates.
- We live for Jesus today as we look forward to the New Jerusalem where we will live with Jesus all the time. The New Jerusalem shall be a wonderful, glorious place to spend eternity with God.
- We minister for Jesus today knowing only believers will enter the New Jerusalem. We encourage our believing friends to remain strong and take courage, knowing that eternity with Jesus in the New Jerusalem awaits us. We also share the love of Jesus with our unsaved friends, because their eternity lies in the Lake of Fire.

Application for Today

Today, we may meditate upon the New Jerusalem. God provides these word pictures of the New Jerusalem so that we will know our future today. We can in walk in future knowledge. It builds our faith today, knowing about eternity with Jesus and God Almighty in the New Jerusalem.

HALLELUJAH!

Day Seventy

The River of the Water of Life Today

Revelation 22:1

"Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb,"

Water plays an important part in sustaining physical life. As we drink water, it helps with our thirst. Our bodies use water to remove waste from our bodies and to help us maintain many vital functions. Without water, we suffer and may even die physically. In the Bible, God frequently used the illustration of water to make points about spiritual life. In fact, God flooded the entire, evil world by water and destroyed all life not on the ark. Later, God used water to destroy an evil army chasing His people. More frequently, however, God used water to describe how eternal life works in us. The Holy Spirit brings life into us, and sustains us spiritually all time. As God, the Holy Spirit indwells every believer and sanctifies believers. Indeed, the Holy Spirit performs a variety of ministries in our lives every day, springing up within us, like a flowing fountain of life.

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Flowing from the Throne

1. **The Last Looks**. John received revelation from God and wrote it down, just as Jesus told His disciples that some of them would not taste death before they had seen Jesus coming in His glory. John, and others, fulfilled that prophecy as they wrote down what God revealed to them.
2. **The River of the Water of Life**. The angel showed John a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and the Lamb, in the middle of its street.
3. **The Tree of Life**. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. This special water brought healing all over the earth. Nations had been separated and dispersed since the Tower of Babel, and often fought against one another. Now the time of healing has come for all of them, including the spiritual wounds they had suffered in standing up for Jesus Christ.
4. **The Curse Lifted**. When Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden, God placed man and woman the earth under His divine curse. That curse, with its various parts, enforced God's justice in the earth for the sin of Adam and Eve. In the New Jerusalem, that curse will not exist. Instead of a curse, the throne of God will be in it. The bond-servants of the Lamb will serve Him. They will see His face, and His name will be written on their foreheads.
5. **The Glorious Illumination**. The Lord God will illumine them, and there will be no night and they will not need the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun. They will reign forever and ever.
6. **Faithful and True Words**. The angel then said, "These words are faithful and true;" and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show His bond-servants the things which must soon take place. Notice here

Seeing Jesus Today

how this prophecy works. God initiates the process of prophecy by sending His angel to His prophets. The angel shows the prophets things to take place soon. God guides the spirits of the prophets to write down the prophecies, so that we may receive the revelation from God through the written Bible.

7. **Praise.** Praise God for His plan of revelation which is always faithful and true. God tells us the truth and His words are always faithful.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we the crystal clear water of life flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb in the New Jerusalem.
- We are blessed to know that in the New Jerusalem, the water of life will provide healing for the nations, the curse will be lifted, and the Lamb will illumine the entire world.
- We live for Jesus today as long to dwell with Jesus in the New Jerusalem. Healing water, no more curse, and the glorious presence of God dwelling among us.
- We minister for Jesus today knowing the words of God are always faithful and true. We rejoice as God builds our lives upon His words, always faithful and true.

Application for Today

Today, we will live by faithful and true words, the words of God. He has revealed the future to us so that we may praise Him for His plans and purposes, which are active today, to bring us to glory tomorrow.

HALLELUJAH!

Day Seventy One

Jesus: I Am Coming Quickly Today

Revelation 22:7

"And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book."

In my line of work, I make appointments at specific times to see people. I keep a calendar of times and places for such appointments. If I tell someone I will meet them at a certain time and place, I try my best to be there. In some cases, events beyond my control may cause me to be late or even miss an appointment altogether. In contrast to my human calendar, subject to events and forces beyond my control, consider the calendar of God described in the Bible, and specifically described in the Book of Revelation. God has laid out a long series of events which must take place in the future. When Jesus describes His coming, no events are ever beyond His control. Nothing can prevent Him from appearing at the time and place He chose. His schedule always follows His will. So, we can count upon Jesus to appear at

Seeing Jesus Today

the place at the time He said He would be there. When it comes to coming quickly, count upon Jesus to come quickly. We will be blessed if we heed the words of the prophecy of the Book of Revelation.

Blessed: Heed the Words of This Prophecy

1. **I Am Coming Quickly**. Jesus Himself declared: "I am coming quickly." We must remember that quickly here means nearly two thousand years already, but Jesus emphasized His unexpected return, without delay. Furthermore, one day with the Lord is like a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The term "I am coming" ("ἔρχομαι") leaves no doubt about the promise of Jesus: He is coming. The term ("ταχὺ") clarifies that we need to heed the words of Jesus now, because He is coming soon.
2. **Blessing of Heeding**. Jesus also promised a blessing to everyone who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book. You may recall the Book of Revelation opened with these same words.
3. **The Letters to the Churches**. In the early chapters of Revelation, we have seen all the commands and promises to believers in those churches of Asia Minor. Those commands and promises to those specific churches, coupled with warnings, blaze the path to the judgments awaiting the earth and its inhabitants. They teach us too how to glorify God.
4. **The Measured and Ordered Judgments**. In the Book of Revelation, God provides a view of His divine calendar for the earth and its inhabitants. With seven seals, seven trumpets and seven seals, God's calendar displays His plans and purposes for the future.
5. **The Steadfast Saints**. We have also seen the faithful saints overcome the devil through their steadfast testimony for Jesus, their rejection of the mark of

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the beast, their redemption through the blood of the Lamb, and that they did not love their life even when faced with death.

6. **The Splendors of Heaven**. We have also seen the saints enjoy the splendors of heaven, the New Jerusalem, and fellowship with God.

7. **The Good Life of Eternity with God**. We have so many good things in our future as believers. God will be forever faithful, kind, and full of mercy and grace. Yet, God remains just and righteous in all things. He always loves us, for eternity. Even so come Lord Jesus.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we see Him reminding us that He is coming quickly. Therefore, we should be very careful to heed the words of the Book of Revelation today.
- We are blessed to know that God wrote the Book of Revelation to be a blessing to believers who will heed the words of that Book today. We miss the message of the Book of Revelation if we do not see and implement its teachings for today.
- We live for Jesus today because His coming quickly. Today we must heed the words of the prophecy of the Book of Revelation, and all the Bible. While the Book of Revelation describes future dates and events of God's calendar, God specifically intended for us to heed His words today.
- We minister for Jesus today knowing the words of God are always faithful and true. We rejoice as God builds our lives upon His words, always faithful and true.

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Application for Today

Today, we must heed the words of the prophecy of the Book of Revelation. If we do so, we can count upon the blessing of God upon our lives. He will lift us up, power us forward, and carry us upon His shoulders. We follow Jesus today and He leads us into His future.

HALLELUJAH !

10

Conclusion

Throughout the Book of Revelation, John received specific instructions about writing down what He saw. As the Book of Revelation closes, John testified to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of the Book of Revelation: if anyone adds to the words of the Book of Revelation, then God will add the plagues of the Book of Revelation to him; if anyone takes away from the words of the Book of Revelation, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city. Jesus then proclaimed that He is coming quickly and John agrees: “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.”

John offers a blessing in closing: “The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.”

Day Seventy Two

Worship God Only Today

Revelation 22:9

"But he said to me, 'Do not do that. I am a fellow-servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God.'"

Have you ever noticed that some people worship angels, pastors, priests, popes, Mary, or other people? They worship the human creation, rather than God the creator. John was so overwhelmed by the things revealed to him that he fell down at the feet of the angel and began to worship the angel. Even in heaven John had made a serious mistake. It would have been even worse if the angel accepted the worship of John. But, the angel did not accept the worship of John, but stopped that worship and immediately directed all worship to God. If you see other humans accepting the worship of anyone, then you that two people are sinning at the same time. We must never worship anyone except God alone: one God, three Divine Persons—Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

Seeing Jesus Today

Worship God, Not Angels

1. **Authorship**. John claimed to write the Book of Revelation (and he did), but He further claimed that He wrote down in the Book of Revelation only what God commanded Him to write—no more and no less. He also told us that God did not allow Him to write down everything He saw in heaven. John witnessed many great things in heaven, and at times, he was deeply moved.
2. **Angels**. The Book of Revelation shows many angels at work in heaven following the commands of God. It also shows fallen angels, no longer obeying God in all things. John received some revelations from the angels. John was overwhelmed by the revelation one angel presented to him. Notice that the angel identified himself as a fellow-servant of John and the brethren of John, the prophets. Like them, the angel provided revelation for those other servants to deliver to world. How blessed we are that God revealed so many things to us.
3. **Angel Worship?** John fell down at the feet of the angel standing before him to worship the angel. Perhaps like Peter with Jesus, Moses, and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration, John did not fully comprehend what he was doing in that moment.
4. **No Angel Worship**. The angel immediately stopped John from worshiping him. The angel explained that the angel serves John, his fellow prophets, and everyone who heeds the words of this book.
5. **Worship Only God**. Finally the angel issued a very direct and clear command: "Worship God." Throughout the history of mankind, people tended to worship the creation, rather than the Creator (God). Some humans and some angels not only seek and accept worship, but they demand it. Never forget what God said: worship only God.

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6. **Evil Worship.** Today we see groups of people worship good and bad angels, but all worship of angels is evil. We also see people worship humans, but such worship is also evil. Anyone who worships Mary, or any other human being, violates the word of God in the Bible.

7. **God Seeks Worshipers.** God seeks believers to worship Him, and no one else can be worshiped in truth. God used this angel to command worship. You may know people who worship Mary or angels or pastors or some other human. Tell them to stop and worship only God. We have seen great worship of God in Revelation from humans and other creatures. We will join them in worshipping God both in heaven and in the new Jerusalem one day—even so come Lord Jesus.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we remember to worship only God, no matter how overwhelmed we may feel at any moment. God uses people and angels to do great things, but we must never worship anyone except God.
- We are blessed to know that God seeks our worship, but we must worship Him in spirit and in truth. We ascribe to God His true worth, and extol Him for His great works, His nature, His attributes, and everything He is and does. God alone deserves our worship.
- We live for Jesus today because we know the glories of God and enjoy worshipping the Creator of all things. As part of our relationship with God, we worship God, especially for all the love He has for us and pours out upon us for all eternity.
- We minister for Jesus today by following Jesus as He seeks out people to worship God in spirit and in truth. We avoid worshipping

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anyone except God, no matter how great they act, how much they know, how they make us feel, or for any other reason. We never let our emotions get the best of us, where we lose our senses and start worshiping anyone but God alone. Be we really love to worship God, all the time.

Application for Today

Today, we must be humble, Godly, and obedient to direct all worship only to God. We cannot subtly or overtly promote any worship not directed to God alone. As we walk in the Holy Spirit today, He will lead us to worship God, and God seeks our worship today. Ready to worship God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day Seventy Three

The Time Is Near Today

Revelation 22:10

"And he said to me, 'Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.'"

I heard a sermon once about two New Testament Greek words: “kairos” (“καιρος”) and chronos (“χρονος”). Both words are frequently translated “time.” The preacher was a surfer and used a surfing analogy to describe the difference between those two words for time. When you sit in the water waiting for a good wave to come, you are just passing time—chronos time. But then, you see the wave you were waiting on, and move into position to catch the wave. In a single moment of time (kairos), you must make the decision about paddling some more and catching that wave. In some places in the New Testament, that distinction between kairos and chronos may not apply. In the Book of Revelation, the distinction between a regular period of time (“chronos”) and a special moment in time, especially a time of decision or decisive action, seems to always hold true. So, when John mentions a

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kairos of time, God means to communicate a time of special significance, not just a regular period of time. John that the “kairos” is near in our passage today. He means that the moment for decision and decisive action is near. The special wave is coming, and it is not far away, to put things in surfer lingo.

Do Not Seal

1. **Some Prophecies Hidden for a Time.** In some instances, God commands a prophecy to be hidden or sealed up for a time. In Revelation 10:1-7, a voice told John not to write what the seven peals of thunder have spoken and to seal them up. Likewise, in Daniel 12:9, Daniel was told that certain events regarding the outcome of great judgment upon the earth were deliberately sealed up and concealed until a future time. You may recall the New Testament mysteries follow this same pattern of revelation at the right time, determined by God in His wisdom.
2. **Revelation Known.** In Revelation 22:10, we see that God intended to make the prophecy of Revelation known, so that we would be blessed by heeding the words of this Book of Revelation. God specifically instructed John not to seal up the words of the prophecy of the Book of Revelation, for the time is near.
3. **The Time Is Near.** The time (“kairos”) is near shows again the doctrine that at any moment Christ may return to the clouds. Furthermore, the many specific events revealed by God display His plans and purposes for the earth, and its inhabitants.
4. **Specific Prophecies.** In light of the near coming of Christ, God provided specific instructions. The one doing wrong will still do wrong. The filthy one shall remain filthy. The righteous one shall still practice righteousness. The holy one shall continue to keep himself holy.

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5. **Persevere.** God intends for believers to persevere in their righteous and holy behavior, just as unbelievers will continue in wrong and filthy behavior. Because of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, He produces holy behavior consistent with our holy standing in Christ.

6. **Unbelievers.** We should always expect unbelievers to act like unbelievers, full of wrong and filth. Jesus has made us righteous and holy, by grace through faith. We glory in the love, grace and power of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

7. **Timeline.** God created a plan with a timeline. Nothing happens by chance alone. Nothing happens in our lives without God's care and compassion. We know the future because God revealed it to us, so we may enjoy His blessings today.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we know and keep in mind that Jesus will return soon. The kairos is near.
- We are blessed because while unbelievers continue to do wrong and are filthy, the righteous in contrast persevere in practicing righteousness and the holy keep themselves holy.
- We live for Jesus today as holy and righteous followers of Christ, washed in His blood, and filled with His love. Unbelievers around us persist in doing wrong and being filthy. By God's grace, we no longer act like unbelievers, but like servants of God.
- We minister for Jesus today by living holy lives in the midst of multitudes living in filth and doing wrong. If you follow the crowd around you, you will not be following Jesus. He is the way, the truth and life, and no one comes to God the Father except through Jesus, God the Son.

Seeing Jesus Today

Application for Today

Today, we will continue to live righteous and holy lives in Christ. All the events in the Book of Revelation will soon be take place. Jesus is coming, Jesus is coming, Jesus is coming. He will not delay. All the words of the prophecy of Revelation will bless us today as we look forward to seeing Christ appear in glory. As we focus upon Jesus, we take courage to face today and spread His words of life and salvation far and wide, and also at home.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Seventy Four

I Am Coming Quickly Today

Revelation 22:12

"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with me, to render to every man according to what he has done."

Many people want to go law school, but law schools often reject more students than they accept. Once accepted, only then you attend law school. In law school, most classes only had a final exam. You could study all semester, or you could loaf all semester. Either way, the final exam was coming for everyone in the class. That final exam, in theory, tested your comprehension of key legal concept and your ability to apply those key concepts to a group of facts. In some cases, the exams also covered your knowledge of a subject, focusing more upon theoretical knowledge. I graduated law school with honors, and I never thought the material was very difficult. I entered law school after I had earned other graduate degrees, which were more challenging. In our lives as believers, we face a final exam with Jesus sitting on the Bema, the judgment seat of God. But to go before the Bema, you first must have received by faith alone the free gift of salvation during your life on earth. Our salvation begins on earth, never

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in heaven. As a famous preacher said: where death leaves you, judgment finds you, and eternity keeps you. Only believers will appear before the judgment seat of Christ. Unbelievers appear before the white throne judgment. For believers, Jesus will test all of our works in life with fire. Some of those works will be consumed; even if all of them are consumed, we will be saved, because we are not saved by works, but by faith in Christ alone. As believers, our works determine our rewards, but our faith determines our salvation. Formal education on earth can be beneficial, but what matters will be your fidelity to Jesus Christ, the Father, and the Holy Spirit. Did you live to please God and glorify Him forever? Jesus said He will bring His reward with Him.

Rewards with Jesus

1. **The Jesus Promises**. Jesus makes several related promises. He promised: (a) to return quickly; and (b) to bring His reward with Him; and (c) to reward every man according to his deeds.
2. **Actions Count**. Jesus rewards on the basis of actions, not empty words or missed opportunities. Remember, even your thoughts and attitudes constitute actions, because you can submit every thought captive to Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit can focus and control your mind, down to every thought.
3. **Jesus Rewards**. Jesus rewards believers when He arrives. Believers will have their works tried with fire and rewarded according to their works at the judgment seat of Christ (1 Corinthians 3:10-15). Also, when Jesus returns, the sheep (believers) shall be separated from the goats (unbelievers) and the tares (unbelievers) separated from the wheat (believers).
4. **Eternal Jesus**. Jesus also proclaimed Himself to be the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Jesus was never created, but exists as God eternally.

Seeing Jesus Today

5. **Divine Jesus.** Jesus declared His deity (Jesus is God) by using the titles of God and claiming the qualities of God.

6. **Alpha and Omega.** Jesus claimed the same title in Revelation 1:8. He said He was the Alpha and the Omega, the Lord God, Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty. So many cults deny that Jesus is God, but they must ignore the clear teaching of the Book of Revelation that presents Jesus as God in many different ways and with many wonderful titles.

7. **Jesus Lives.** The Book of Revelation should shape every believer's understanding of Jesus and eternity. If you want to know what heaven is like, read the Book of Revelation. In great detail, and in massive strokes, God revealed the future. We know the future because God wants us to know the future. God wins the future. He never fails. He never forgets. He always rewards. Jesus comes soon, bringing His reward with Him. We must be ready and faithful.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we labor for Jesus today knowing that we will be rewarded by Jesus at His appearing.
- We are blessed because we look forward to seeing Jesus return to earth. He will call up believers to the clouds and we will be rewarded. Later, we will return to earth to reign with Him. Believers have a glorious future of reward. Each believer will receive praise from Christ.
- We live for Jesus today knowing that we will be rewarded for our service to Christ. God looks not only upon our actions, but our hearts. He sees the entire truth about us, inside and out. He loves us always.

Seeing Jesus Today

- We minister for Jesus today because we love Jesus and long to see Him. What we do today reflects our interest in seeing Him tomorrow. Because we love Jesus, we keep His commandments and serve Him today.

Application for Today

Today, we will be ready to see Jesus. He promised to come quickly and bring His reward with Him. He wanted us to associate His loving return with His loving rewards for faithful service to Him. He never forgets our works and never fails to reward them in proper measure. By grace we live before Him and serve Him, and we love Him more and more as we know Him better.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Seventy Five

The Tree of Life Today

Revelation 22:14

"Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city."

In Genesis, God revealed that whoever ate from the Tree of Life would live forever. Because Adam and Eve sinned, God prevented them from eating of the Tree of Life and sent them out of the Garden of Eden. As the revelation of God comes to a close in the Bible, God declared that some people wash their robes and have the right to eat the tree of life, and enter through the gates of the New Jerusalem. God stressed that only some people may eat of the Tree of Life. To qualify for the eternal life, people must first wash their robes. In Revelation 7:14, page 1922, we saw the innumerable multitude from the Tribulation wearing white robes washed in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, a person washed in the blood of the Lamb (Jesus) becomes holy and blameless before God. The eternal white clothes, washed in the blood of the Lamb, adorn every believer entering the New Jerusalem. We have a great wardrobe ready for us in heaven.

Seeing Jesus Today

The White Robes

1. **Washed**. God pronounced a blessing upon all people who wash their robes. They have the right to the tree of life. They also enter the new Jerusalem.
2. **Outside**. Outside of the city are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral people and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.
3. **Properly Attired**. Only people who have washed their robes are clean and properly attired. Only those people enter the new Jerusalem.
4. **Denied**. We see a list of people denied entrance: dogs, sorcerers, immoral persons, murderers, idolaters, and people who love and practice lying.
5. **Eternal Life**. This theme of believers and unbelievers characterizes Revelation. The believers live in the new Jerusalem forever. The unbelievers are outside. Notice I did not say live outside, because eternal death holds them.
6. **Such Were Some of Us**. As believers, we were once dogs, sorcerers, etc. Such were some of us, but we have been washed and sanctified and justified in the name of Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God (1 Corinthians 6:11).
7. **Not Yet**. We all have friends and relatives who have not washed their robes yet, and perhaps never will. God revealed the destiny of everyone who does not have robes washed in the blood of the Lamb. Death and destruction awaits them outside the New Jerusalem. Now is the time to spread the word of Jesus, because He alone can make the robes white with His blood. Jesus promised to come quickly.

Seeing Jesus Today

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we see ourselves wearing white robes, and entering the New Jerusalem to spend eternity with Jesus there. Before our death on earth, we must be sure we have washed our robes in the blood of Jesus Christ.
- We are blessed because Jesus has an unchangeable plan for the future, and that future looks great for every born-again believer. Wearing our white robes, cleansed by Christ, we have the right to eat of the Tree of Life and enter by the gates of the New Jerusalem, to live with Jesus forever.
- We live for Jesus today, setting our minds on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. We no longer dwell upon our earthly problems and pains.
- We minister for Jesus today because we know about the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral people and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying. They will not enter the New Jerusalem, but such were some of us, until Christ changed us by saving us and making us new creatures in Him.

Application for Today

Today, we can spend time looking forward and up, instead of looking around at the here and now. Our perspective about the future can make such huge changes in our lives today. I will spend time thinking about Jesus today, and being with Him in my white robes, washed clean and pure in His blood. One day I will eat of the Tree of Life.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Seventy Six

The Root and The Descendant of David Today

Revelation 22:16

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

As God concluded the Book of Revelation, Jesus emphasized His personal role in providing the revelation. Jesus disclosed He sent His angel to testify to the you (plural) these things for the churches. Jesus clearly intended to designate John as God's choice to spread the message to the churches provided through the angelic messengers, but originating with Jesus. By the time John wrote the Book of Revelation, near the close of the first century after the birth of Jesus, not many people were still alive who had witnessed Jesus first-hand. Other false prophets had arisen and deceived many, as we read about in the letters to the churches in the opening chapters of the Book

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of Revelation. Jesus declared his relationship to David, King of Israel, and God's covenant with David that Messiah would come through the physical line of David. Jesus described Himself as both the root of David, meaning Jesus gave rise to David as the God of David. Jesus also stated that He was the descendant of David. Jesus had posed this same duality of Jesus as the God of David and the Descendant of David to the religious leaders of His days walking in Jerusalem. Finally, Jesus harkened back to the star of the tribe of Judah prophesied by Balaam. Jesus was that star, that coming into the world signaled the arrival of the Messiah and His readiness to inaugurate the reign of God upon the earth. Jesus here adds the word "bright" to describe the morning star that shines with greater strength than other stars just before the sun rises in all its glory.

The Bright Morning Star

1. **I, Jesus**. In the entire New Testament, Jesus only here describes Himself with the terms "I, Jesus." Jesus emphatically identified Himself as the One who sent His angel to testify. Today, so many people pay way too much attention to angels, when they should devote their attention, prayers, worship, and praise to Jesus alone. He sends the angel with His message.
2. **The Churches**. Please notice that Jesus wrote to the churches. Revelation was not written primarily to unbelievers, but to believers. Jesus meant born-again saints when He said He wrote to the churches. Jesus always made prophecy important for real people, and pronounced a blessing upon every believer who heeded the words of the Book of Revelation.
3. **The Root of David**. Jesus next identified Himself as the root of David. In this case, Jesus created Adam who was the father of all men, including King David. You may recall Matthew 22:41-46 where Jesus posed the question to

Seeing Jesus Today

the Pharisees about David in the Spirit speaking about the LORD talking to My LORD. Jesus asked how can David say that the LORD is both His LORD and His Son? The same issue arises here in Revelation. Jesus has always been the LORD of all creation, including David, from eternity past. Jesus was also born in the flesh as a descendant of David, and so a son of David.

4. **The Descendant of David**. Jesus was the promised offspring of David, by being born of the virgin Mary. Jesus has the physical birthright as a descendant of David to sit on the throne of King David.

5. **The Bright Morning Star**. Jesus also referred to Himself as the bright morning star. Compare 2 Peter 1:19 and Revelation 2:28. As the morning star shines before the sun rises in its full glory, so also Jesus provided this Book of Revelation, concerning Himself and the events leading up to His return as The Ruling King, prophesied by Balaam.

6. **The Personal Seal of Authority**. In a world with few remaining eyewitnesses of Jesus, John faced many false prophets providing many false visions of the future. Many people were being deceived. In contrast to the false prophets, John presented the Book of Revelation, sealed with the words “I, Jesus.” Jesus symbolically placed His seal of authority on the Book of Revelation.

7. **Believers Today**. Jesus wrote to the churches--including us as believers today. We will be blessed to follow His words. I love the titles of authority and Divinity Jesus applies to Himself throughout the Bible; the Book of Revelation provides special insight into the majestic power and love of Jesus, the Lamb of God.

Seeing Jesus Today

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we “I, Jesus” speaking to us through the pages of the Book of Revelation. Jesus added His personal seal to the revelations made to the churches of Asia Minor, and also to us today.
- We are blessed because Jesus is the bright morning star. He shines in His glory through the last darkness before the dawn. Jesus will come very soon, and shine upon the earth as the Messiah, The Ruling King, the Root and Descendant of David.
- We live for Jesus today as we see the gathering darkness around us. Through that darkness, we do not despair, but rejoice as we look upon and heed the promises of Jesus. We will all reign with Jesus one day, but first He must appear in all His glory and set His feet upon the Mount of Olives.
- We minister for Jesus today looking for the Bright Morning Star. Jesus shines daily in our hearts, revealing His truths to us so that we will love Him more each day. We long to see Him, but we already know Him, because we have received the gift of eternal life by faith alone.

Application for Today

Today, we rely upon the root and descendant of David, Jesus Christ, the King of Kings. He will come back and bring His reward with Him. He will rule upon this earth with a rod of iron. We will rule with Him and bask in His glory. We see Jesus today, as we walk on the path of the righteous, which is like the light of dawn, that shines brighter and brighter until the full day.

HALLELUJAH!

Day Seventy Seven

The Water of Life Today

Revelation 22:17

"The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost."

Water plays a critical role in God's plans throughout the Bible. God used water to sustain life and take life, flooding the entire evil world to death. Later, as the people of Israel traveled through the wilderness, God provided water for them. Moses incurred the anger of God for not sanctifying God before the people; Moses struck the rock, so that it produced water by God's power. Jesus also talked about the water of life. He explained to the Samaritan woman about the well of water springing up to eternal life that He would give to her, if she asked Him. In the Book of Revelation, Jesus promised to lead His own as a shepherd, guiding them to springs of the water of life. By drinking of the water of life, we enjoy the blessings of God for eternity.

Seeing Jesus Today

Without Cost

1. **The Trinity of God**. In the Bible, including Revelation, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit take action. They are three divine Persons, existing as one God.
2. **The Holy Spirit**. Here, God the Holy Spirit invites believers to come. The Holy Spirit always plays a strong role in the believer's life, both before and after salvation. As believers, God commanded us to walk in the Holy Spirit and to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
3. **The Bride**. In the Book of Revelation, the Bride refers to the church, the people who have had their The Holy Spirit and the bride invite the Bride, composed of all believers (Revelation 19:7; 21:9) to drink of the water of life.
4. **The Thirsty**. Jesus talks directly to John, who brings the revelation of God to the churches. Therefore, the invitation to drink issued by the Holy Spirit and the bride may be directed to the ministry of the church sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with a thirsty world. At the moment of salvation, Jesus gives the believer a well of water springing up to eternal life. The Holy Spirit and the bride spread this message to all the world, and some thirsty people will receive the message and receive the free gift of eternal life, and drink of the water springing up to eternal life.
5. **The Wishers**. Everyone who wishes may take the water of life. The invitation to take of the water describes the nature of the free gift. The thirsty shall be satisfied, just as those who hunger and thirst after righteousness shall be satisfied.
6. **Without Cost**. God offers the water without cost to us. All good gifts today come down from the Father of lights (James 1:17). God paid the infinite price

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(the suffering and death of Jesus) for every believer to drink of the water of life at great cost to God, but of no cost to each thirsty believer.

7. **Thirsty Today.** Jesus explained the water of life to thirsty unbelievers on earth. In Revelation, Jesus provides further insight into the thirst of people for the water of life. Only the thirsty people drink, although the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be preached to everyone. In Revelation 7:17, Jesus will be the Shepherd of the great multitude from the Great Tribulation, and lead them and they will not thirst anymore. Jesus will guide them to springs of the water of life (compare John 4:14 about the well of water springing up to eternal life in every believer); and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. So, we learn that believers before the Great Tribulation drink of the water of life on earth, and Jesus will guide believers from the Great Tribulation to the springs of the water of eternal life (those saints from the Great Tribulation may have drunk of the water of life on earth previously). The water of life proceeds from the throne of God in the New Jerusalem, which has no temple in it (see also Ezekiel 47:1-12 and Zechariah 14 regarding the water flowing from the temple in the Millennium). As Revelation concludes, we see the command and invitation to come and drink of the free gift of the water of life. God knows our thirst today (John 4:13-14) and also how to give the water of life to every thirsty soul. We have a wonderful, loving God who satisfies all our needs for eternity.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we meditate upon the Holy Spirit and the bride inviting thirsty believers to drink of the water of life.
- We are blessed because Jesus paid the price for us to drink the water of life without cost. The theme of God's grace runs through the entire Bible, from the opening pages to the closing words. God gives people

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what they never deserve, without any cost to them. His grace flows from His great love.

- We live for Jesus today as we, the bride of Christ, invite people to drink of the water of life offered by Jesus Christ alone. The Holy Spirit moves in the hearts of people to come to Jesus and invites people to drink of this wonderful water of life.
- We minister for Jesus today having drunk freely of the water of life at the moment of salvation. The Holy Spirit and the bride (the church) today invite thirsty people all over the world to drink of the water of life. We know Jesus, Who gave each believer the well of water springing up to eternal life in our lives. We did not deserve such a gift, but God loves us and gave the gift at great expense to God, but no expense to us. His loving grace changed us forever, and we have no more thirst. Everyone who drinks of that water shall never thirst again.

Application for Today

Today, I will be looking for the thirsty people and invite them to drink of the water of eternal life offered by Jesus. I know the Holy Spirit will be inviting people to drink of that water, as a free gift of God. I look forward to sharing His grace with thirsty people today, because my thirst has been quenched eternally in Jesus.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Seventy Eight

Adds or Takes Away Today

Revelation 22:18

"I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book."

Many people recognized as Bible scholars today completely undermine the truths of Scripture by their view of inspiration. Let me explain what I mean. Inspiration means that God breathed His divine words into men so that the Holy Spirit would move them to write what God intended. As they wrote, they produced the inspired Scriptures, which I call the Old Testament and the New Testament. Those men who wrote the Bible did not present myths or clever tales and never substituted their opinions or interpretations for God 's revelations. According to Jesus, God worked miraculously to bring

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all that He said back to the memories of His disciples who wrote the Bible (John 14:26). Jesus claimed that the disciples wrote revelation from God. Furthermore, what they wrote perfectly corresponded to what actually happened. Many so-called scholars, and pastors and preachers, actually believe that we do not have the very words of Jesus recorded in the Bible, but rather the gist of what Jesus said. At times, the Bible does present summaries of what Jesus said, but at other times, the Bible text claims explicitly that Jesus said many things recorded in the Bible. Many so-called scholars and teachers claim that the men writing the Bible wrote just like their contemporaries, and did not have the ability or the inclination to write down all the very words of Jesus (or anyone else) as Jesus talked frequently and for days at a time. According to the so-called scholars, at times the writers may have claimed to use the very words of Jesus, but they did not actually use His words. According to the so-called scholars, inspiration only means that God guarantees that the writer communicated God's message, whether it actually happened that way or not. Such a view of inspiration fails to understand the nature of revelation. God reveals the truth, and He never lies. Lying in the Bible means a failure to tell the truth. Anyone who adds to or takes away from the revelation of God shall be guilty of false teaching and should ponder the warning from the closing words from God in the Book of Revelation. If the Bible records the words of Jesus, God was not lying. Jesus actually said the words, did the deeds, and all that the Bible records actually happened, just the way God said it happened. God did not follow the lying habits of ancient historians, or incorporate propaganda from the victors into the account of great men. On the contrary, God inspired the writers of the Bible to communicate His message in their language, with each writer's vocabulary and syntax, but all the time God revealed the truth to them so that only truth would be communicated in Scripture, because the Scriptures sanctify people, and the word of God is always true. John warned about plagues coming upon everyone

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who adds to or changes the revelation from God. That warning should be heeded by all. The Book of Revelation presents many direct quotes from all kinds of beings and from God Himself. Despite what so-called scholars and many others teach, we have the very words of God and the truth revealed in the Book of Revelation. All people must heed the warnings of God about His revelation.

Plagues for Adding and Taking Away

1. **Warning**. God takes the books of the Bible very seriously. In this case, God warned people hearing the words contained in the Book of Revelation.
2. **No Adding**. God first warned the hearers not to add anything to what He has written in this prophecy. People often seek to add words to make clearer to them the things they do not understand. God said the Scriptures were clear as written. Although some things in Scripture may be hard to understand, we do not have the license from God to change a single word of Scripture.
3. **Punishment for Adding**. God will punish everyone who adds to the prophecy. God will add all the plagues in Revelation to that person. Those plagues include all kinds of tremendous suffering. So many people today treat the Bible without respect. God commands people to respect His words and avoid adding to them. Just as people add words to the Bible, other people take away from the Bible by claiming that parts of it are just myths or fabrications of the writers, influenced by contemporary culture, religion, and historiography (the writing of history).
4. **No Taking Away**. God also warns people not to take away words from the Revelation. If anyone takes away from the words of the Book of Revelation, then God will punish him. The words of the Bible count and are chosen by God. Verbal inspiration means God inspired the very words in the Book of

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Revelation and the rest of Scripture. Plenary inspiration means that God inspired all the words in Book of Revelation and the rest of Scripture (Old and New Testaments only).

5. **Punishment for Taking Away**. God will punish everyone who takes away from His words. In turn, God takes away from him his part in the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

6. **Sin and Judgment**. God perfectly matches the sin with the judgment penalty. If you add to His words, He adds plagues to your life. If you take away from His words, He takes away your part from the tree of life and the holy city. Perfect justice.

7. **Light and Life**. As believers, we love the word of God and His words reveal God and His ways to us. He loves us for all eternity. The Scriptures are a light upon the path and, as His disciples proclaimed, no one but Jesus has the words of life.

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we consider the stern warnings He used to close the Book of Revelation. God takes the Scriptures, and especially their content, very seriously and wants no one to change that inspired content in any way.
- We are blessed because Jesus took care to preserve His revelation without changes. God provided great detail about future events, and also presented a chronology of events spanning long periods of time. At times, we see pictures of eternity. God warns everyone to keep His word or face plagues.

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- We live for Jesus today because we value what God values, and seek to obey God. Part of that obedience includes warning people about taking the Book of Revelation lightly, or talking about everything “panning out” later. God revealed specifics in the Book of Revelation and we must honor the Word of God, without adding to it, or taking away from it.
- We minister for Jesus today as we proclaim the future, having read about the future from the Book of Revelation. People often crave to know the future, but they refuse to read the Bible. As ministers of reconciliation and ambassadors for Christ, we speak of the future and the glories of heaven. We minister warning to the unsaved, and hope and glory to believers, eternally secure in the love of Jesus Christ.

Application for Today

Today, I will keep in mind the severe warning of Jesus about adding to or taking away from the Book of Revelation. Jesus meant that all of the revelations from God should be held in highest esteem and we should never do anything to undermine the integrity of the word of God. His words provide life and light, because we see Jesus and He is the way, the truth and life. No one comes to the Father but through Jesus. We must heed His words today and enjoy Him forever.

HALLELUJAH!

Day Seventy Nine

I Am Coming Quickly Today

Revelation 22:20

"He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming quickly.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."

John has witnessed and testified about many events in the future. Jesus revealed to him great plagues coming upon the earth and its inhabitants, but Jesus also promised great blessings for everyone who heeds the words of the Book of Revelation. A recurring theme in the Book of Revelation concerns the desire of believers for Jesus to come quickly. Notwithstanding all the troubles of the Tribulation, believers long for the coming of Jesus. He will return and vanquish His enemies and establish His millennial reign. Believers will reign with Him and, after Jesus ends the final rebellion, the present heavens and earth will be destroyed. Believers will move to the New Jerusalem, where they will live with Jesus. The images of the Book of Revelation compel strong emotions, and give rise to the longing of being with Jesus forever, far beyond this present time and place. All things will become new. Jesus ends the Book of Revelation with His promise to come quickly. John responds with Amen, and expresses his own

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agreement with the promise of Jesus to come quickly. He calls Jesus Lord, because He will reign and Lord of all the earth.

Come Lord Jesus

1. **Jesus Testified**. I have observed many people testify to many things. What people say about themselves often speaks volumes. When Jesus speaks, we should always listen carefully.
2. **Jesus testified to truth**. In this verse, Jesus emphasized He comes quickly. Jesus always spoke the truth.
3. **Any Moment**. As we have seen before, Jesus used this language of coming quickly so that we would expect Him at any moment.
4. **Amen**. Notice the word "Amen." Scholars indicate the original Hebrew word means yes, truth, truly, agreement, so be it. In this context, we see that it highlights agreement and longing for the Lord to come quickly.
5. **Agreement and Confirmation**. We see in the words "Come, Lord Jesus" that agreement and confirmation. John agreed with the words of the Lord Jesus.
6. **Lord**. Notice also the word "Lord." When Jesus returns, He first comes to the clouds of earth to rescue saints from the tribulation (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). Later, He sets His feet on the Mount of Olives, just as He left (Zechariah 14:4ff.). He will establish His millennial reign by first slaying all of His enemies upon earth.
7. **Closing**. As we close the pages of Revelation, I truly love the way the Lord Jesus closed the Book. We see Him in heaven, saying to all believers of all generations as they read this Book, "Yes, I am coming quickly." All His children will rejoice to see Him, and everyone else alive at that time will be

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slain by the breath of His lips at He comes to reign upon earth (Isaiah 11:4; Revelation 19:15). Looking forward !

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we look for Him to appear today. He may come at any moment. He promised He was coming quickly.
- We are blessed because we say “Amen.” We confirm that our desire matches His promise. We want Jesus to come quickly, so that His will shall be done on earth and we will be with Him forever.
- We live for Jesus today as we meditate upon the words “Come, Lord Jesus.” While Jesus first appeared as the Suffering Servant to secure our salvation, He will come again, after the Tribulation, in the glory He had with His Father before the world was. He will come as the Iron Rod Ruler, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Who holds the Scepter of the kingdom of God and righteousness.
- We minister for Jesus today to people who do not know the future and believe many lies about the future. They fear global warming, or religious oppression, or terrorism, or many other things. They live in spiritual darkness, because they do evil deeds and so do not come to the Light of Jesus. Evens so, Jesus sent us to proclaim His Gospel to all the world.

Application for Today

Today, I will be thinking about “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.” Those few words bring great hope and motivation for living today. Maybe today Jesus will come

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and all the world will see Him as Lord of All. With all my heart, I want to focus upon Jesus and His great love for the world. As I think about Him, I pray that God will use me to encourage believers to think and act: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.” Because I know consequences of unbelief, I also know about all the plagues coming and the need for immediate salvation today. Without Jesus, people will plunge into plagues, and many will die, only to face the second death in the Lake of Fire. I see Jesus as Savior, but the unsaved will see Him and the Judge, condemning them by their own deeds and their rejection of the free gift of salvation. I look forward to sharing Jesus today, with all who have ears to hear.

HALLELUJAH!

Day Eighty

Amen Today

Revelation 22:21

**"The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all.
Amen."**

How many times have you heard someone say in ordinary conversation among believers: "The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all?" In my life, I intend to use this phrase more to say good-bye to friends in Christ. We all have our own phrases: "See you later," "Take Care," and so on. As John closed the Book of Revelation, the grace of the Lord Jesus was on His mind. Having seen so many plagues coming upon the earth and its inhabitants, John must have had a greater appreciation of grace—unmerited favor from God. Because God loves us, He gave us precious gifts we never deserved. Those great gifts provide benefits for eternity. Eternal life consists in knowing God, and Jesus Christ Whom God sent to seek and to save the lost, and save them from eternal death. I would like to be a sanctifying influence in the lives of people, as someone that quotes the Scriptures more often and encourages others with the power of God's Word and the love of the Lord Jesus.

Seeing Jesus Today

The Grace of the Lord Jesus

1. **Conclusion**. In some ways, it seems strange to conclude something that has not happened yet. Even so, the Book of Revelation comes to a wonderful, awesome end. God sealed it with a blessing. God focused our attention upon the grace of the Lord Jesus.
2. **Grace with You**. Notice here that grace is something that can be with you, similar to Jesus being with you.
3. **Free Gift to Me**. Remember that the basic idea of grace is that I receive a free gift. I do not earn grace or deserve grace. Grace is a loving gift from God.
4. **Mercy**. In contrast, mercy means that God withholds the punishment I deserve. Because we are all sinners, we deserve the punishment of eternal death. By mercy, God sent Jesus to die in my place, for all my sins. Because Jesus died for me, God now withholds punishment in mercy.
5. **By Grace through Faith**. You may also recall that we are saved by grace through faith. Without faith, we do not have the benefit of eternal life by grace. By faith, we receive the grace of God.
6. **Lord Jesus**. John linked grace with the Lord Jesus. Having received the revelation from God, John knew far more about what the title “Lord” meant when applied to Jesus. John knew Jesus as the suffering servant, but now John had seen Jesus coming in His kingdom, before John tasted death, just as Jesus has promised.
7. **Abounding Grace**. John bids us to have the grace of the Lord Jesus with us. We can expect that God's grace through the Lord Jesus will abound in our lives to glorify God in all that we do. Amen to the Lord Jesus and His abiding, eternal grace with us.

Seeing Jesus Today

Summary for Today

- We see Jesus better when we remember the Book of Revelation. It brings the grace of the Lord Jesus into clear focus, and shines with the glory of God.
- We are blessed as we give heed to the Book of Revelation. Jesus promised a blessing to everyone who “hears the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.”
- We live for Jesus today with both joy and concern over what we have read in the Book of Revelation. We rejoice that Jesus will come quickly, and bring His reward with Him as He comes to earth to establish His millennial kingdom upon the earth. Yet, we know that Jesus will first bring great and perfect judgment upon the earth and its inhabitants, such as the world has never seen. By the grace of the Lord Jesus, we escape that wrath, but others will not.
- We minister for Jesus today because He is not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance. While one day may be like a thousand years to God when it comes to patience and repentance, in the Book of Revelation God, gives precise pictures of the future, with attention to order and detail. He sent His children, believers, into the world to share His Gospel so that as many as received Him by faith through grace would not perish, but have eternal life. We remind believers of the grace of the Lord Jesus and invite unbelievers to receive eternal life by faith alone, confessing Jesus as Lord and believing in their hearts that God has raised Him from the dead.

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Application for Today

Today, I am enjoying the blessing of reading and heeding the words of the prophecy of the Book of Revelation. I see Jesus today, coming in all His glory and bringing His reward with Him, and setting up His throne on earth. I look farther and see the New Jerusalem, the city of God filled with the light of the Lamb. I enjoy the gift of Jesus, a well of water springing up to eternal life, so that I see Jesus today.

HALLELUJAH !