

# *Revelation*

## *Part 4*

### *Leader Guide*

(NASB and ESV)

INTERPRETING REVELATION  
IN THE LIGHT OF  
BIBLICAL PROPHECY  
(CHAPTERS 4–22)

*Revelation Part 4 Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)*

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## USING LEADER GUIDES

Leader Guides are intended for you, the leader, to guide your Precept Upon Precept® and In & Out® discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the content of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from their study. The guides offer effective plans for leading discussions.

The Holy Spirit is your guide as you prepare. He is the one who knows what your group needs to apply to their lives. Pray for them as they study and for yourself as you prepare to lead the discussion.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV edition of the courses. ESV words follow the NASB after a slash / or are set off with parentheses.

### Leader Guides include the following:

- Lesson emphasis
- A logical order for the discussion
- Discussion questions
- Suggested visual aid(s)

### Practical tips for using the Leader Guide:

- **Don't simply "do" the lesson.**  
Stay with the lesson until you have a good understanding of it. This will give you a better grasp of how the Leader Guide takes you through the lesson.
- **You don't have to ask every question in the guide.**  
Often one question will be covered while discussing another question so there is no reason to ask it. Your goal is not to ask every question, but to ask enough questions to make sure your group understood the lesson and to help them apply the truths to their lives.

### Using the Leader Guide with In & Out


#### When your entire group uses In & Out

Compare an In & Out lesson with the Leader Guide. Use what relates to the In & Out lesson as a guide for the discussion. Don't teach what's not in In & Out lessons. Remember your goal in the discussion is for your group to discuss what they've learned, not for you to lecture on what you learned.

#### For groups studying both Precept Upon Precept and In & Out

Use the Leader Guides as designed for PUP, knowing that the In & Out assignments will be covered in the discussion. Make a note in the Leader Guide of what is not in the In & Out.

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**REVELATION PART 4**  
**LEADER GUIDE**  
**Lesson One**

**Lesson emphasis**

- Overview of Revelation

**REVELATION 1–5**

To begin this discussion, ask your group what they learned from Revelation 1:1-3. Tell them to look at their diagrams on the second page of the lesson.

God gave Jesus the revelation of things which must soon take place. Jesus communicated it (ESV—made it known) by an angel to John who was told to write what the angel showed him. It was so that His servants, the church, will know those things.

Revelation is a book of prophecy with blessing promised to those who read, hear, and heed / keep the things written in it.

According to Revelation 1:19, what was John to write?

The things John saw—the vision of Jesus in the midst of 7 lampstands, churches  
Revelation 1

The things / those which are—the 7 churches  
Revelation 2–3

The things which will take place after these things  
(ESV—Those that are to take place after this)  
Revelation 4–22

These are the three segments of Revelation.

What are Revelation 4 and 5 about?

There is worship before God's throne in heaven.

The Lion of Judah, the Root of David, the Lamb is worthy to open the book and break its seven seals.

Tell your group to look at their chart from the end of the lesson as a visual aid for this discussion.

## REVELATION 6

Ask about the seals broken / opened in this chapter.

### 1<sup>st</sup> seal

white horse  
rider had a bow  
crown given to him  
he went to conquer

### 2<sup>nd</sup> seal

red horse  
rider given to take peace from the earth  
given a sword

### 3<sup>rd</sup> seal

black horse  
rider had scales to weigh  
quart of wheat for denarius...  
don't harm oil, wine

### 4<sup>th</sup> seal

ashen / pale horse  
rider named Death  
Hades following  
given authority to kill ¼ of people on earth

### 5<sup>th</sup> seal

souls under the altar cry for judgment and vengeance for their blood  
told to wait until their number is complete

### 6<sup>th</sup> seal

great earthquake  
sun became black  
moon became like blood  
stars fell to earth  
sky split apart / vanished  
every island and mountain were moved out of their places  
men hid in caves and rocks of mountains

Men asked to be hidden from the presence / face of Him who sits on the throne  
and from the Lamb's wrath. They think at this time the great day of their wrath  
has come.

## REVELATION 7

What two groups of people is this chapter about?

God's servants are sealed on their foreheads with the seal of the living God.  
There are 12,000 sealed from each of the twelve tribes of Israel, totaling 144,000.

Then there is a great multitude from every nation standing before the throne in heaven.  
They come out of the great tribulation, washed in the Lamb's blood.

## REVELATION 8

What happens in this chapter, and how does it relate to the sequence of Revelation 6?

7<sup>th</sup> seal

silence in heaven for ½ hour  
7 angels are given 7 trumpets  
another earthquake on earth  
thunder and lightning

1<sup>st</sup> trumpet

hail and fire with blood thrown to earth  
1/3 earth burned up  
1/3 trees burned up and all green grass

2<sup>nd</sup> trumpet

great burning mountain thrown into the sea  
1/3 sea became blood  
1/3 sea creatures died  
1/3 ships destroyed

3<sup>rd</sup> trumpet

great burning star fell from heaven on 1/3 rivers and waters  
1/3 waters became bitter  
many men died

4<sup>th</sup> trumpet

1/3 sun, moon and stars struck dark  
1/3 day and night not shine

1<sup>st</sup> woe = 5<sup>th</sup> trumpet

2<sup>nd</sup> woe = 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet

3<sup>rd</sup> woe = 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet

## REVELATION 9

What happens at the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> trumpets?

5<sup>th</sup> trumpet, 1<sup>st</sup> woe  
locusts on the earth from the bottomless pit

The locusts were only allowed to harm the men who didn't have the seal of God on their foreheads—the 144,000 from Israel.

The locusts were only allowed to torment, not kill, for five months.  
Their king is Abaddon in Hebrew and his Greek name is Apollyon.

6<sup>th</sup> trumpet, 2<sup>nd</sup> woe  
1/3 of mankind killed

Four angels killed men on earth. Their army was 200,000,000 horsemen.  
They killed men by three plagues which came from the mouths of the horses—  
fire, smoke, and brimstone / sulfur.

The 2/3 of mankind left on the earth didn't repent.

## REVELATION 10

What is this chapter about?

In the days of the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet, the mystery of God is finished / fulfilled.

John was given a little book / scroll and told to eat it. He was to prophesy more.

## REVELATION 11

Ask about the specific verses on the chart.

Verse 3  
God's two witnesses will prophesy for 1,260 days.

*NOTE: On the chart, this is the line under the bold line close to the top. It goes from the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet back to the "?" at the 5<sup>th</sup> seal. The reason for the question mark on the chart is that Revelation does not say how far back into the trumpets and/or seals the 1,260 days go.*

Verses 12-14  
When the time of the two witnesses ends and they're taken to heaven, it's the end of the second woe—the 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet.



At that time, there is a great earthquake in which 1/10 of the city falls and 7,000 people there are killed. The rest are terrified and give glory to God of heaven.

Verse 15

7<sup>th</sup> trumpet, 3<sup>rd</sup> woe

the world's kingdom becomes God and Christ's kingdom  
He begins to reign

Verses 17-19

God Almighty begins to reign

The nations are enraged

God's wrath came

The time for the dead to be judged and saints to be rewarded

Time to destroy those who destroy the earth

Temple in heaven opened, ark of His covenant appeared

Lightning, thunder, earthquake, and a great hailstorm on earth

## **REVELATION 12**

Ask what your group put on the chart from this chapter.

Verses 6 and 14

The woman fled and is nourished in the wilderness for 1,260 days—(time, times, and half a time).

Verse 9

The devil is thrown to the earth.

Verse 10

Salvation, power, God's kingdom, Christ's authority have come

## **REVELATION 13**

What goes on the chart from this chapter?

Verse 5

The beast, empowered by the devil, is given authority to act for 42 months.

## **REVELATION 14**

Who is this chapter about? What goes on the chart?

144,000 of Israel in heaven with the Lamb

purchased / redeemed from the earth as first fruits to God

## REVELATION 15

What does this chapter describe?

The 7 plagues, bowls, are the last; in them God's wrath is finished.

## REVELATION 16

Ask about the bowls and what your group noted on their chart.

A loud voice from the heavenly temple told the seven angels to pour out their bowls of God's wrath on the earth.

1<sup>st</sup> bowl

Sores on the people who took the mark and worshiped the beast's image

2<sup>nd</sup> bowl

The sea becomes blood and all in it die

3<sup>rd</sup> bowl

Rivers and springs of water become blood

The people, those who dwell on the earth, who killed the prophets and saints deserve blood to drink. This is an example of God's true and just judgments.

4<sup>th</sup> bowl

Sun scorched men / people with fire, fierce heat  
The people curse God and don't repent.

5<sup>th</sup> bowl

The beast's kingdom became dark

The people still have the sores of the first bowl at the time of the 5<sup>th</sup> bowl.  
They still curse God and don't repent.

6<sup>th</sup> bowl

The Euphrates river dries up; it becomes blood at the 3<sup>rd</sup> bowl

Unclean spirits come out of the devil, beast, and false prophet. They perform signs and gather / assemble the kings of the earth to Har-Magedon / Armageddon to go against God in war.

7<sup>th</sup> bowl

Poured into the air; voice from heavenly temple says, "It is done"

Lightning, thunder, earthquake unlike any other

All islands and mountains removed

100 pound hailstones fall to earth

The great city split into three parts, cities of the nations fall

Babylon the great remembered in God's fierce wrath

## **REVELATION 17 AND 18**

Ask what these two chapters are about.

The judgment, fall, of Babylon

## **REVELATION 19**

Ask about the specific verses on the chart.

Verse 2

God judged the great harlot / prostitute who was corrupting the earth.

Verse 11

Heaven opens and a rider on a white horse is called Faithful and True.  
Jesus judges and wages war in righteousness.

Verse 19

The beast and kings of the earth assemble with their armies to war against Jesus  
and His army.

Verse 20

The beast and the false prophet are thrown into the lake of fire.

## **REVELATION 20**

Again, ask only about the specific verses on the chart.

Verses 2-3

The devil is bound and thrown into the abyss / pit for 1,000 years.  
He can't deceive the nations on earth during this time.

Verses 4-6

Seated on thrones are those with authority to judge.  
Those beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and the word of God, and for not  
taking the mark of the beast come to life and reign with Christ for 1,000 years.

Verse 7

Satan is released at the end of the 1,000 years.

Verse 8

He deceives the nations to gather them again for a battle against God.

Verse 10

At the end of the 1,000 years, the devil is thrown into the lake of fire.

Verses 11-15

One was seated on a great white throne  
Earth and sky fled away  
The dead are judged from books, then thrown into the lake of fire

Verses 14-15

Death and Hades are thrown into the lake of fire.  
Anyone who is not in the book of life is thrown into the lake of fire.

**REVELATION 21-22**

What are these chapters about?

John was shown the new heaven, new earth and the new Jerusalem.

Ask about this last verse on the chart, Revelation 21:6.

It is done.

Encourage your group that they'll understand more about these chapters as they continue their study of this course.

**REVELATION PART 4**  
**LEADER GUIDE**  
**Lesson Two**

**Lesson emphasis**

- Israel when the Lord returns

You can begin this discussion by asking your group which of the four schools of interpretation they agree with?

Futurism is the only view which interprets most of the events of prophecy as still future.

*NOTE: Don't spend too much time on this, however, since there is much to discuss from this lesson.*

Tell them to look at their chart on the seals, trumpets, and bowls from the previous lesson as a visual aid for this discussion. It can help them see the timing of events in this lesson. You might also use the time line with the list found at the end of this lesson's guide.

**ROMANS 11:1-29**

Ask about the main points regarding Israel in this chapter. You might remind your group that this was written to the church. According to this chapter, has the church replaced Israel?

God has not rejected His people Israel.

There is a present remnant of Israel, as in Paul's time. Although most Jews reject Jesus as their Messiah now, there are a few who believe. Those are part of the church—made up of Jew and Gentile in one body.

The religious people of Israel were trying to enter the kingdom of God by their works of the Law. But Paul reminded the believers in Rome that Israel didn't obtain the kingdom other than by grace, the grace of God's choice.

*NOTE: Don't let your group get into a discussion of God's choice, election, foreknowledge, etc. You can lose time. Tell them there's a great study on those subjects in the Romans Part 3 Precept Upon Precept course.*

The rest of Israel was and is hardened; they reject the Lord Jesus Christ.

Israel didn't stumble as to fall. In other words, their rejection was not permanent. God has not rejected His people Israel.

Their rejection was salvation for the Gentiles.

The Gentiles' salvation is to make Israel jealous, leading to their salvation.

Israel's fulfillment (ESV—full inclusion) and acceptance is life from the dead.

The illustration of the branches of an olive tree with branches broken off—unbelieving Israel—and wild ones—Gentiles—grafted in, and then broken ones—Jews—grafted back in implies God is not finished with Israel.

A partial hardening has happened to Israel. It will last only until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in—the fullness of the Gentiles' salvation.

Then all Israel will be saved.

The Deliverer will come from Zion

remove / banish ungodliness from Jacob or Israel

This is God's covenant with them

when He takes away their sins.

Although most Jews now seem to be enemies of the gospel, they're still God's chosen nation.

#### **MATTHEW 24:1-31**

Ask what they learned about Israel from this passage and how it relates to Romans 11.

Jesus told His disciples about the destruction of the temple in A.D. 70, but focused on the time of the end.

He gave the repeated warning not to be misled / led astray. Who would most likely be misled by a false Messiah? Jews.

Many false Christs, Messiahs, will arise and mislead many.

*NOTE: Since Israel became a nation again in 1948 (they were scattered between A.D. 70 and 1948), there continue to be those false, self-proclaimed Messiahs. And some people follow them.*

Many Jews will fall away and turn against each other.

And there will be false prophets to mislead them.

The reference to “lawlessness” in verse 12 probably refers to God's Law, His perfect law.

There will be those with no love, lawless, led astray by false prophets, but there will also be those who endure and are saved.

Preaching / proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom all over the world begins in Acts and continues until the end.

The end will come when “you,” Jews in Judea at that time, see the abomination of desolation standing in the holy place—inside the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem.

Daniel prophesied about it.

Those in Judea must flee to the mountains at that time. Relate this to the woman, Israel, fleeing into the wilderness in Revelation 12. She fled because the dragon was trying to destroy her; the dragon gives his authority to the beast of Revelation 13–19.

It would be a problem for a Jew to flee on the Sabbath, not a Gentile.

At that time there will be a great tribulation, beginning when the abomination of desolation stands in the holy place. That tribulation will be so bad nothing like it has ever happened.

Even in those days, there will be false Christs and prophets to mislead the Jews. There will even be great signs and wonders. Relate this to the false prophet of Revelation 13–19.

No one will have to go to an inner room or the wilderness to see the real Christ. His coming will be like the lightning flashing from the east to the west in the darkened sky.

Just as when one sees vultures, he knows there is a corpse, so there will be no mistaking Jesus' coming.

His coming will be immediately after the great tribulation—His return ends it.

#### **ZECHARIAH 12–14**

Ask about the main points of chapter 12 and how they relate to other passages they've studied.

“In that day” (ESV—“on that day”) is repeated.

There will be a siege against Jerusalem and Judah.

All the nations of the earth will gather against Jerusalem.

Relate this to the 6<sup>th</sup> bowl and the nations gathering at Har-Magedon / Armageddon.

God will take care of Judah, and they'll recognize He does it.

He'll save and defend them when the nations come against them.

Verse 9 says He'll destroy all those nations. Relate this to Revelation 19.

Why will there be mourning, according to verses 10-14?

They'll look on Him whom they pierced, Jesus, and mourn for Him.

Relate this to Revelation 1:7 and the cross-references in Acts 2, 3, and 4.

They'll all mourn by themselves.

When God pours out His Spirit on Israel, it's the fulfillment of the new covenant in Ezekiel. The ESV says He'll pour out on them a spirit of grace.

What is Zechariah 13 about?

This is about the Lord God cleansing His people Israel.

Prophets will be removed because there will no longer be a need for them.

Two-thirds of Israel will be cut off during the time of the great tribulation before the Lord's coming. Two-thirds of the people of Israel at that time will perish.

One-third of Israel will be left at the end of that time—those saved, refined, and tested. They'll call on His name and recognize Him as their God when He comes at the end of the tribulation.

It's when all Israel is saved according to Romans 11.

What are the main points of chapter 14?

It seems that this chapter fills in details of the battle in Zechariah 12.  
Verses 1-5 and 12-15 describe some details.

From verse 3 it seems that right after Jesus comes He will fight that battle—although there really won't be a battle.  
Compare this with the great supper of God in Revelation 19:17-19.

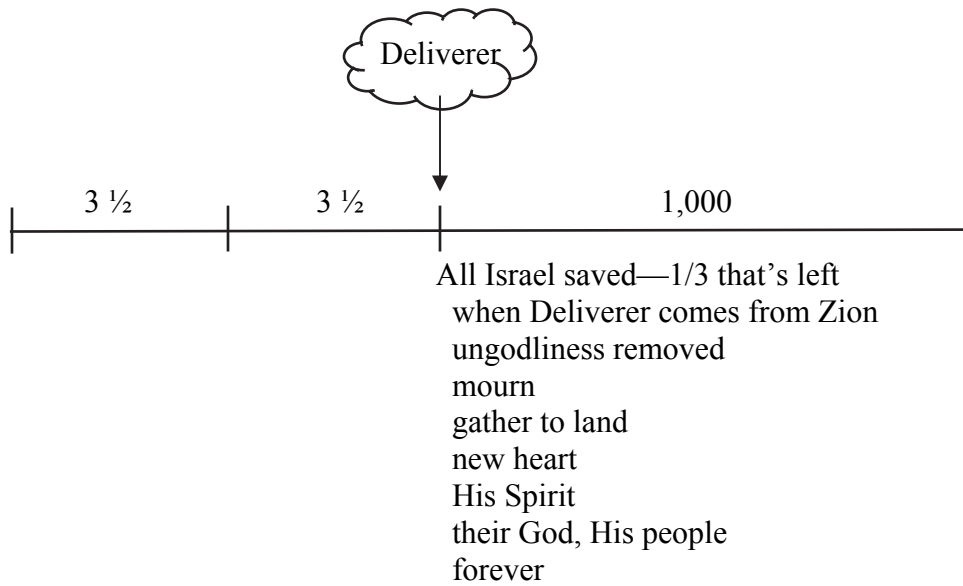
Verses 6-11 describe what it will be like for Israel after Jesus' return.  
This seems to be about the 1,000 years of Revelation 20.

Verses 16-21 also describe things that will happen during the 1,000 years reign of Christ on earth.

All the nations are to participate in the Feast of Booths or Tabernacles during that day. If they don't, there will be consequences. Revelation 12:5 says Jesus will rule the nations with a rod of iron. Some born of the righteous during that time won't be righteous.

In concluding, you could ask your group what they think about Israel and the future based on what they've studied. Is there a future for Israel? Has the church replaced Israel?







**REVELATION PART 4**  
**LEADER GUIDE**  
**Lesson Three**

**Lesson emphasis**

- The beast, the antichrist
- Revelation 14–19

**THE ANTICHRIST OF 1 AND 2 JOHN**

You might begin your discussion by asking if anyone knows who wrote 1 and 2 John.

John, the apostle, the same one who wrote Revelation

*NOTE: 1 John was written to those who knew the truth (2:21), to believers (5:13), concerning those trying to deceive them (2:26). It was written so believers know they have eternal life (5:13). John wrote it maybe as many as ten years before he wrote Revelation. He is the only New Testament writer who mentioned the “antichrist.”*

Tell your group to look at their chart “The Antichrist, the Beast, and His Kingdom,” as a visual aid for this discussion. You might also use a simple time line such as the one on the last page.

Ask what they learned from 1 and 2 John about the “antichrist.”

1 John 2:18-23

Antichrist is coming, but John said many antichrists have already appeared—even at the time when he wrote this.

Whoever denies Jesus is the Christ is the antichrist.

They, the antichrists, go out from true believers so that it’s shown who they really are.

Verse 20 gives a contrast between the antichrists and those who have the anointing of the Holy One—the Holy Spirit of God within true believers.

Antichrists evidently tried to deceive true believers of John’s time just as they do now.

1 John 4:1-6

Believers should test the spirits because of false prophets, those who have the spirit of antichrist.

Believers can recognize God’s Spirit within others—He testifies to Jesus.

Those John wrote to knew already that the antichrist was coming. But maybe they had not realized that false prophets were the antichrists already in the world—trying to deceive them.

This is what the false prophet of Revelation does to the whole world.  
He deceives them so that they worship the beast.

Verse 4 is a statement of fact which all believers should know.  
Believers overcome the antichrists, the spirits, the false prophets already in the world.

They overcome because the Holy Spirit who is in them is greater than the spirit of antichrist in the false prophets.

But the world listens to the antichrist.

### 2 John 1-9

Another warning for believers

- Many deceivers, antichrists, are in the world.
- Some might begin by sounding good, but they go too far and don't abide in Jesus' teachings.
- They don't acknowledge Jesus as coming in the flesh.
- Watch yourselves.

These are present warnings and commands about being deceived by the spirit of antichrist—even before “the Antichrist” comes.

Help your group to relate this kind of Bible study they are doing in this course as one way to “watch themselves” and to know how to “test the spirits,” how to recognize the “spirit of error.”

### **THE BEAST OF REVELATION**

Ask your group to discuss what they learned from looking again at the chapters from Revelation. What did they learn about the beast that compares with what John said in 1 and 2 John?

The antichrist is coming, and he'll deceive.  
The beast is connected with the devil and deceives the whole world.

The beast comes on the scene after the devil is thrown from heaven to earth at the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet. The devil empowers the beast for a rule of 42 months, the last 3 ½ years.

According to 11:7, at that time, the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet, the beast kills the two witnesses. No one is able to harm them during the 42 months of their prophesying, then the beast kills them and gains world power; maybe a result of being able to kill them.

The beast receives a fatal wound on one of his 7 heads, which is healed.

Compare this with Revelation 17:8.

The beast was and is not and is about to come.

The “is not” might refer to his fatal wound.

He has 7 heads and 10 horns.

Those are kings and symbolize his authority.

He’s like a leopard, which might symbolize speed—the speed with which he rises to power.

He has powerful feet like a bear to crush and tear those under his power.

His mouth is like a lion—loud and powerful.

He blasphemes God, speaks arrogant words

—the antichrist denies Jesus as coming in the flesh.

The beast might war with the saints during his whole 42-month reign, but at least part of that time. And he overcomes them. Since “saints” are contrasted with the other nations, this could be a reference to Israel. But there are people from the nations believing in God during this time, too.

Revelation 12–13 says the devil, in the form of the beast, will persecute / pursue the woman who flees and the rest of her offspring who keep God’s commands and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

Therefore, it seems he persecutes / pursues Israel and all other true believers, too.

If your group discusses all of the general information, as above, then you can ask a few specific questions to summarize all of the facts.

Is the beast a kingdom or a king?

Although the beast represents a kingdom, he’s a man; his number is that of a man.

You might ask who the beast associates with during his reign.

False prophet

Ten kings

Babylon the great city, economic center of the world

Since the two witnesses are killed in Jerusalem and Babylon is also mentioned, it seems the center of the beast’s kingdom is in the Middle East. Let your group discuss what area of the world always seems to be in the news and why.

How much authority will the beast have over the earth and why?

He'll be a world ruler.  
Although the devil will give him his authority and rule, it's all in God's plan.  
And God, through John, warns believers of what will happen during the beast's reign.

What will happen to the beast's kingdom?

The bowls will be poured out on it.  
The beast and/ or his kingdom are mentioned in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> bowls.

The King of kings will put an end to it when He comes.

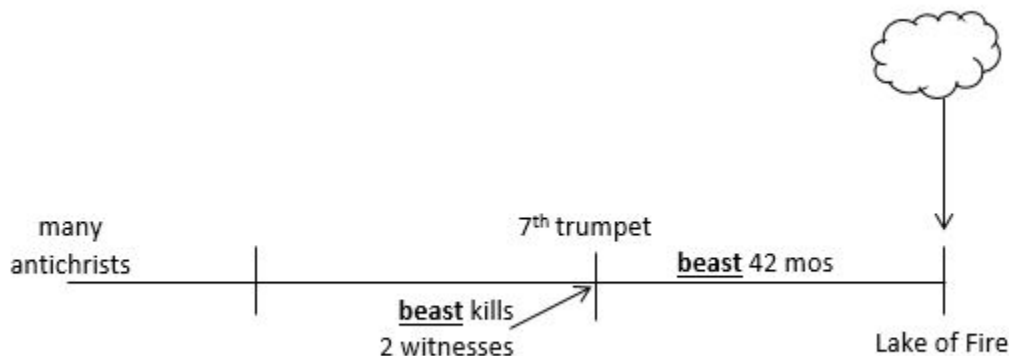
What will happen to the beast?

After the beast and false prophet gather the kings of the earth to war against God, they will be thrown into the lake of fire when the King comes.

You might ask your group if, based on their study in this lesson, there is any reason for them to fear the "antichrist."

Let them discuss what they have heard about him and how this lesson helps them better understand what is accurate and what is not.

Tell your group this lesson is the basis for the next one. They'll continue to study about this one who's called "the antichrist."



## REVELATION PART 4 LEADER GUIDE Lesson Four

### Lesson emphasis

- The beast, antichrist

### REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group what they remember from the previous lesson about the beast or antichrist. Tell them to look at their chart “The Antichrist, the Beast, and His Kingdom.” You can also use the simple timeline you began in the last discussion. See the last page of this lesson’s guide.

The spirit of antichrist is already in the world.  
False teachers are part of this spirit of antichrist.

One is coming who will be the antichrist. He is the beast of Revelation 11–19. He will come into power at the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet when he kills the two witnesses. Then he’ll rule the world for 3 ½ years, and all the world will be deceived into worshiping him for that time.

When Jesus returns, he’ll be thrown into the lake of fire.

*NOTE: Lead your group to discuss this lesson in Bible order. Daniel is the first text in the Bible about the beast or antichrist. Then Matthew and Mark wrote about “the abomination of desolation.” Paul wrote about “the man of lawlessness, the son of destruction.” Then John wrote about the antichrist and the beast to come.*

### DANIEL 7

Ask your group what they learned about this one in Daniel.

He’s called a “horn” in this chapter. The fourth beast is his kingdom.

He comes out of ten kings in the 4<sup>th</sup> kingdom, verse 24.  
That kingdom is dreadful, terrifying, and different from the others.  
It will devour the whole earth, tread / trample it down, and crush / break it.

He will make great boasts (ESV—speak great things) and speak out / words against God Most High.  
Compare to Revelation 13:5-6.

This king comes up among ten others in this last kingdom, but he is different from the other kings. Compare with Revelation 17:12-18.

This horn coming up among the ten causes three of them to fall.

He then becomes the primary king among the remaining eight.

Daniel also says he will war with and overpower / prevail over the saints for 3 ½ times, until the Ancient of Days sits for judgment. 3 ½ years equals 42 months.

Compare this with Revelation 13:5, 7.

Then his dominion will be taken away, destroyed forever / to the end.

The beast, kingdom, is destroyed and given to the burning fire at the time when One like a Son of Man comes and is presented before the Ancient of Days.

Then the kingdom is given to Him and His saints possess it forever.  
Relate to the events of Revelation.

Why was Daniel alarmed at this vision and interpretation?

At that time, Daniel's people Israel had been taken captive by the Babylonians because of Israel's sins against their holy God. He knew it was going to be worse for Israel during this last king's rule than at any other time. He also knew Israel would not inherit their promised kingdom until after these four other kingdoms had run their course.

#### **DANIEL 9:24-27**

Ask what your group learned about the "beast, antichrist" from their study of these verses. During this part of your discussion, tell your group to look at the time line in the lesson as a visual aid.

He is called the "prince who is to come" in verse 26 and "one who makes desolate" in verse 27.

He will be from the people who destroy Jerusalem and the sanctuary.  
That was Rome in A.D. 70.

He'll make a firm / strong covenant with many Jews, Daniel's people and holy city in verse 24, for one week. "Week" is literally "seven" and probably refers to seven years.

Compare that with the time of Revelation 11. The two witnesses prophesy for 3 ½ years and are then killed by the beast who rules for 3 ½ years. Jerusalem is where he kills the witnesses.

In the middle of the seven, 3 ½, he'll break the covenant with Israel.  
He'll stop their sacrifice and offerings.  
It seems like this is the time when he wars with and overpowers "the saints."

He'll make desolate. A complete / decreed destruction will be poured out on him.



### **DANIEL 11:36–12:13**

How does this text relate to Daniel 7 and 9? At appropriate points, compare with what they've learned in Revelation. The map in the lesson is a good visual aid for this part of the discussion.

This king of the last kingdom and of the last seven years will do as he pleases / wills.  
God said he'll be given authority for 42 months.  
The devil himself empowers this king.

Compare verse 36 with Revelation 13:5 and Daniel 7:8, 20, 25.

Daniel 7 says he'll be different from the other ten kings of that time.  
He doesn't have regard for any other gods; he only magnifies himself.

At this point, you could ask what your group learned from 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4.

He exalts himself as being God.  
The deceiver, Satan, is trying to call all to worship him, not God.

Direct the discussion back to Daniel 11 and ask what else they learned about "the king."

He honors a god of fortresses and a foreign god.  
This could possibly be a reference to the image made by the false prophet.

Verse 39 seems to be another reference to Jews—those who acknowledge him.

He'll have conflicts with Egypt, the South, and Syria, the North, and other countries.  
Edom, Moab, and Ammon—the area of modern Jordan—will be rescued from his hand.

The Beautiful / glorious Land is Israel.

Compare verse 44 with Revelation 12:12.

His center of activity is the Middle East.

Ask how Daniel 12 begins. What is the time reference?

At that time—the last 3 ½ years when the "king" has authority for 42 months

Michael is the one who guards Israel. Compare with Revelation 12:7-9.

This last period is a time of distress / trouble for Israel. Nothing like it has occurred since Israel became a nation. This is the time when the king wars and overcomes / prevails over the "saints." It's the time when the dragon persecutes / pursues the woman.

Michael guards Israel during this time, and those of Israel whose names are in the book of life will be rescued. Maybe they are the woman of Revelation 12.

Verses 2-10 tell about this time of distress / trouble and purifying.

Ask specifically about verse 11 and compare with Daniel 9:27.

“The abomination of desolation”: (ESV—“the abomination that makes desolate”) is set up as the regular sacrifice is abolished. Then there will be 1,290 days; an extra 30 days past 1,260 (3 ½ years).

The one who makes desolate breaks the covenant with Israel in the middle of the week and stops the sacrifices and offerings.

### **MATTHEW 24 AND MARK 13**

Now ask what your group learned from these chapters, especially about “the abomination of desolation.”

Jesus told the disciples when the abomination of desolation is seen standing in the holy place of the temple, those in Judea are to flee to the mountains.

This might be when the woman flees to the wilderness.

Between the abomination of desolation and Jesus’ coming is the time of the great tribulation—such as has never occurred.

### **2 THESSALONIANS 2**

How does this chapter explain the events of Daniel’s and Jesus’ prophecies?

The church at Thessalonica had gotten a false message that the day of the Lord had already come. Paul told them what had to happen before the day of the Lord.

The man of lawlessness, the son of destruction, must be revealed before the day.

He’ll be revealed by taking his seat in the temple and displaying / proclaiming himself as God. He opposes other gods.

He’s the one whose coming is in accord with Satan’s activity—power, signs, and false wonders, and deception for those who perish, those who dwell on the earth.

The “deluding influence” / “strong delusion” seems to refer to the influence of the false prophet.

He’ll be slain / killed with the Lord’s breath at His coming.

### **REVELATION 17:7-11, THE SEVEN HEADS OF THE BEAST**

Ask your group what they learned from this part of the lesson.  
Tell them to look at the list in the lesson as a visual aid.

7 heads = 7 mountains = 7 kings

5 kings, mountains, kingdoms have fallen.

Those might refer to Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Media-Persia, and Greece.  
All of those kingdoms ruled over Israel for a while.

1 is; during the time when John wrote Revelation  
Rome ruled over Israel then.

1 has not yet come

Some call it a “revived Roman Empire.”

Some think it might be a Muslim empire from the same area as part of the old  
Roman Empire, or something like that.

The beast is an 8<sup>th</sup>—10 kings, beast subdues 3, and the beast is the 8<sup>th</sup>—and 1 of the 7.  
He’s the antichrist whose fatal wound is healed.  
He’s the head of the last kingdom before God’s kingdom.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

Now ask your group for a few main points from their study in these two lessons.

Daniel prophesied a prince, king, who is to have authority over the world during the last  
3½ years before God’s kingdom is set up.

He’ll rise to power from among ten kings of the final kingdom.

He will make a 7-year covenant with Israel and break it in the middle of that time.  
He’ll declare himself as God when he takes his seat in the temple—the abomination of  
desolation.

Daniel and Jesus said that at that time there will be great tribulation for Israel until He  
comes again. This seems like the time of the day of the Lord.

When Jesus comes as King of kings, that king will be destroyed by His breath and then  
thrown into the lake of fire.

Ask for a comparison of 1 John 2:18-22; 4:1-6; 2 John 7-8; and 2 Thessalonians 2:1-7.

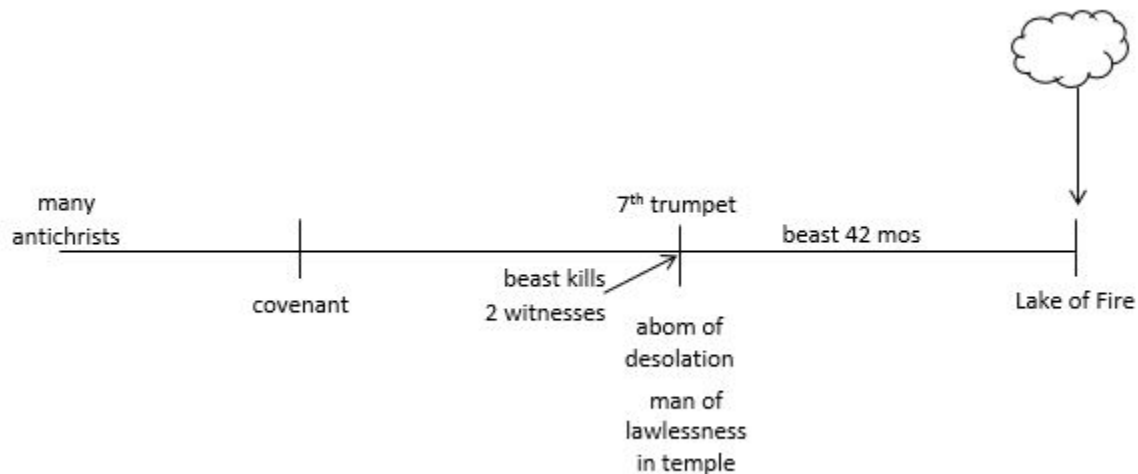
Even now many antichrists have appeared.  
They deny the Father and the Son.

Don't believe every spirit; test the spirits.  
False prophets are in the world.  
Spirit of antichrist doesn't confess Jesus as come in the flesh.  
Now already in the world.

Many deceivers, antichrist, have gone out into the world.  
Watch yourselves.

The mystery of lawlessness is already at work.  
Let no one in any way deceive you.

Remind them that this is why they should study the truth of God's Word for themselves—so that the spirit of antichrist does not deceive them in any way.



**REVELATION PART 4**  
**LEADER GUIDE**  
**Lesson Five**

**Lesson Emphasis**

- Babylon
- Revelation 17–18

**REVIEW**

To begin this discussion, you might ask what your group remembers from the previous lessons about the seals, trumpets, bowls, Israel’s future, and the beast of Revelation. Tell them to look at the timeline on the first page of the lesson as a visual aid. Don’t spend too much time, but let them share what they remember.

**BABYLON IN REVELATION**

Is Babylon a literal city in Revelation?

The text says it’s a city.

17:3-5, 18—the woman is Babylon, the great city

18:10—the great city Babylon, the strong city

18:16, 19, 21—Babylon the great city

You might suggest that your group look at the map in Lesson 4 to see where Babylon is located.

Tell them to look at the two charts in the lesson as visual aids for this discussion.

Ask what they learned about Babylon beginning with the first mention in Revelation.

Revelation 14:8

The first thing Revelation says about Babylon is “fallen, fallen.”

Although Babylon will be great, its fall is sure.

Babylon draws the nations to participate in her passions and immoralities.

There is some form of seduction toward the nations.

Those passions and immoralities are anti-God.

Babylon the great will lead the nations to fulfill their lusts with her and not turn to God.

In this text it seems that Babylon represents more than just a city; it’s a powerful influence on the world. It seems like the power center for the nations.

Revelation 16:19

When the 7<sup>th</sup> bowl of wrath is poured out, Babylon will receive God's wrath.

This tells the time of Revelation 17 and 18, at the 7<sup>th</sup> bowl.

Revelation 17–18

When John was “in the Spirit” this 3<sup>rd</sup> time, he saw the destruction of Babylon.

Chapters 17 and 18 give the detailed account of the city's fall.

For two chapters to be devoted to this event, it must have special significance.

Judgment of the great harlot / prostitute is how the angel describes this event to John.

Babylon has a close connection with the beast. The antichrist or beast will arise from among ten kings and become the prominent one. Since the harlot / prostitute rides on the beast, Babylon is carried by what he does as the world ruler.

Revelation 17:18 says the great city reigns / has dominion over the kings of the earth.

It appears that Babylon is the city of riches—perhaps the economic center of the beast's kingdom. Chapter 18 says Babylon draws the nations, kings, merchants of the earth.

But there is also an anti-God element to the city. She was drunk with the blood of the saints and Jesus' witnesses.

Chapter 18 also speaks of this spiritual element.

Verse 2 says Babylon is a dwelling place of demons, a prison / haunt for unclean spirits and birds.

Verses 20 and 24 tell that in her is found the blood of prophets, saints, and all who were slain on earth. Those in heaven are to rejoice because God judged for them against Babylon.

After or during the discussion of the above information, ask for conclusions about what Babylon represents at that point in time.

It's the economic center of the world—the world's rich and great city.  
But it's also a place where the demonic rules.

Ask about the specifics of Babylon's fall or judgment.

It is because of sins—martyrs' blood, leading the nations into immoralities, etc.

God will repay Babylon double for her sins and for the blood of His saints.

The beast and the ten kings will turn on the great city and burn it.  
That is God's judgment which He promised.

Revelation 18:8 says Babylon's plagues will come: pestilence / death, mourning, and famine. These plagues can be the result of a battle.

From the time the beast declares himself as God, taking his seat in the temple in Jerusalem, Babylon "rides on the beast" as the economic center of his kingdom.

The kings of the earth gather for war against God at the 6<sup>th</sup> bowl, and at the 7<sup>th</sup> bowl the beast and ten kings go against Babylon.

The beast says he's God, and the world worships him. But then God begins pouring out His wrath on the beast's kingdom, and he turns against Babylon to destroy it.

Revelation 17–18 say Babylon's fall takes place in one hour, one day.  
The smoke from its burning can be seen a long way off.

### **JERUSALEM IN REVELATION**

Is Jerusalem a literal city in Revelation?

The text says it is.

11:2—the holy city tread by the nations for 42 months, temple there

11:8—great city where 2 witnesses are killed and the Lord was crucified

11:13—1/10 of the city fell in an earthquake

The context shows this city is the same as in verses 2 and 8.

Now you can ask what your group learned from Revelation about Jerusalem and how it compares or contrasts with Babylon.

The beast first comes to his ultimate power in Jerusalem.

He kills the two witnesses who no one else can kill.

He takes his seat in the temple.

Jerusalem could be his "religious" headquarters.

Revelation 11:8 says the great city is mystically called Sodom and Egypt.

Sodom might represent great sin and God's judgment against it.  
And Egypt might represent the world as opposed to God.

Jerusalem is where the Lord was crucified.

The holy city will be trampled by the nations, Revelation 11:2.  
The holy place in the temple will be desecrated by the antichrist.

There will be nothing holy about it during those 42 months, except God's decree that it is His holy city.

When the two witnesses are taken to heaven from the streets of Jerusalem, there is a great earthquake and a tenth of the city falls. Seven thousand people are killed.

The rest who are in Jerusalem at the time and who are terrified and give glory to God could be some of those who are saved then.

This is at the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet and the beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet.

Revelation 14:20 is another reference to "the city."

This seems to be a reference to Jerusalem because of the wine press being trodden outside the city. According to the Old Testament, anything unclean was to be done outside of the holy city.

If this is accurate, then outside Jerusalem is the place where the great wine press of God's wrath will be tread.

Revelation 16:19 is a reference to "the great city."

Some think this refers to Babylon, but others consider it Jerusalem.

Since it is separate from the cities of the nations and Babylon is named, it seems to be a different city from them. And the only other city mentioned in Revelation is Jerusalem which is called "the great city" in 11:8.

At the 7<sup>th</sup> bowl, the city will split into three parts because of the great earthquake.

This earthquake will take place before the wine press is trod.

Revelation 20:9 speaks of the "beloved city."

After the 1,000 years, Satan will deceive the nations again and bring them against Jerusalem. They'll be devoured by fire from heaven.

Give time for your group to discuss any relevant application from this study.



**REVELATION PART 4**  
**LEADER GUIDE**  
**Lesson Six**

**Lesson emphasis**

- Babylon in the Old Testament

**REVIEW**

To begin this discussion, ask your group what they remember about Babylon from their study in Revelation in the previous lesson and discussion.

14:8—Its fall is announced.

16:19—At the 7<sup>th</sup> bowl, Babylon is given God’s wrath.

17:5—Babylon the great  
Mother of harlots / prostitutes  
and of abominations of the earth

Babylon is a literal city, but also an economic and religious center.  
It’s a city of riches and demonic influence.

The beast and ten kings burn the city.

18:21—Babylon, thrown down with violence, will not be found any longer.

**GENESIS 10 AND 11**

Ask what your group learned from Genesis 10 and 11 about Babylon’s beginning.  
Tell them to look at their chart in the lesson as a visual aid for this discussion.

Nimrod, a descendant of Noah’s son Ham, began his kingdom with Babel in Shinar.  
He was a mighty man on the earth at that time, but not in a good sense.

The people said they wanted to build a city to make a name for themselves so they would not be scattered / dispersed over the face of the whole earth.

*NOTE: In Genesis 9:7 God commanded Noah and his sons, when they came out of the ark, to populate / increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it.*

The Lord stopped the city and tower building. He confused the languages and scattered the people over the earth. The city was called Babel because He confused the languages. Its name has to do with confusion.

### **ISAIAH 13-14**

Ask what your group learned from these chapters about Babylon.

Isaiah 13 is an oracle about Babylon. An oracle is a burden.  
It's about executing God's anger.

Isaiah prophesied before the Babylonians began coming against Judah and Jerusalem.

Ask if anything sounds like Revelation.

Kingdoms in an uproar, nations gathering

God uses the nations as instruments of His indignation.

The day of the Lord

Verse 13, the heavens tremble, earth shaken from its place  
This is sounds like what will happen at the last bowl.

Verses 17-19 speak of the Medes who took the kingdom from Babylon. The Medes destroyed Babylon in 539 B.C.

This destruction of Babylon by the Medes might picture what will happen at the end.

Isaiah 14:1-3 seems like the end times of Revelation when the Lord settles Israel in their land again during the 1,000-year kingdom.

Who are verses 4-21 about? How does this compare with Revelation?

The future king of Babylon, maybe referring to the beast

Give time for your group to discuss what they see as similar to Revelation.

What are verses 22-23 about? How complete is the destruction?

The city of Babylon

God will cut off its name, and there will be nothing left of it.

This sounds like the destruction of Babylon in Revelation.

### **JEREMIAH 50-51**

What do these chapters teach about Babylon?

Jeremiah prophesied shortly before and during Jerusalem's fall to Babylon.  
He began to prophesy about 50 years after Isaiah.

God told him about Babylon in the future.

Verse 5 speaks of the time of Israel's everlasting covenant with God.

God warns judgment was coming on Babylon, through the Medes, and future nations at the time of the end.

God's vengeance will completely destroy the city.

Compare verse 46 with Revelation.

God continues in Jeremiah 51 telling of Babylon's future judgment.

He'll use other nations to destroy the city.

But there will also be the spirit of a destroyer in the day of her calamity, maybe the beast or the dragon.

Verses 6 and 45 compare with statements from Revelation 18.

Verse 49 tells that Babylon's fall is for the slain of Israel and all the earth.

Verse 58 tells of the consuming fire of the city's destruction.

Seraiah was taken captive to Babylon and was to read Jeremiah's prophecy there.

## **ZECHARIAH 5**

What was the time and setting of Zechariah's prophecy?

The people of Judah were in Babylon for 70 years.

Then the Medo-Persian kingdom overthrew the Babylon kingdom.

Afterward, many from Judah left Babylon to return to their own land and rebuild.

The Medes and Persians were the dominant world power.

Israel began work rebuilding the temple.

Ask what your group learned from this prophecy.

Zechariah had two visions.

- Flying scroll
- Woman in ephah, approximately 1 bushel

The scroll was the curse over the whole earth, curse for sin.

The woman, Wickedness, sat inside a bushel basket.

She was taken to the land of Shinar where a temple was to be built for her.

Babel was in the land of Shinar, Genesis 10:10.

When it's prepared, she'll be on a pedestal there.  
This is similar to the harlot / prostitute, Babylon, of Revelation.

To end your discussion, give your group time to discuss their conclusions about Babylon—its past, present and future. Also ask what it has to do with them.

**REVELATION PART 4**  
**LEADER GUIDE**  
**Lesson Seven**

**Lesson emphasis**

- The day of the Lord

**REVIEW**

Ask your group for a review of what they've learned in this course. They can use their charts from Lesson 1 as a visual aid.

After the 7 seals are broken on the book and the 7 trumpets sound the alarm, the 7 bowls of God's wrath will be poured on the earth.

The 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet is the most significant point in the seals, trumpets, and bowls. It marks the time for beginning the last 3 ½ years before Jesus' coming.

It's the time when the beast, antichrist, kills the two witnesses who've prophesied in Jerusalem for 3 ½ years. They will be speaking during the first half of Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week, or the last 7 years.

The king, beast, antichrist then takes his seat in the temple at the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet and displays / proclaims himself as being God. That is when he's revealed as being the man of lawlessness, the son of destruction.

He has authority to rule the earth for 3 ½ years. The devil empowers him, and the false prophet deceives the world to worship him.

None on earth can buy or sell without taking his number on their hands or foreheads during that time.

The woman, Israel, flees into the wilderness to be nourished by God during that time. But there will be some Jews still in Jerusalem, too.

Babylon will become the economic center of the world. The beast and ten kings will rule the world, in some way connected to Babylon.

**DAY OF THE LORD**

Ask what they learned about the day of the Lord, beginning with 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12. Tell them to look at their charts in the lesson as visual aids for this discussion.

The church received some kind of a message saying that the day of the Lord had already come.

Paul gave a clear list of things which happen “before” the day of the Lord comes.

An apostasy / rebellion comes first.

Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed when he takes his seat in the temple, displaying / proclaiming himself as God.

That puts the beginning of the day of the Lord at or shortly after the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet.

At the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet, the beast, the man of lawlessness, receives his power and is revealed.

#### Acts 2:15-21

Ask what your group learned from this passage.

Peter quoted Joel when he explained the Holy Spirit being poured out on God’s servants on the day of Pentecost.

This is the only other mention in Scripture of the moon being turned to blood other than Joel 2 and Revelation 6.

It seems Peter indicated a specific era beginning with the events of Acts 2 and going to the 6<sup>th</sup> seal, things that happen before the day of the Lord.

#### 1 Thessalonians 4:13–5:11

How does this text add information about the day of the Lord?

In chapter 4, Paul encouraged the believers about those who had fallen asleep in Jesus. All the saints, dead or alive, will all be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air and always be with Him.

Then he gave more information about the day of the Lord. The pronouns “we” and “they” are key to understand the transition from the end of 1 Thessalonians 4 to the beginning of chapter 5.

While “they” are saying “peace and safety / security,” destruction will come upon “them.” The day of the Lord will come on “them” like a thief.

The day of the Lord will be a time of sudden destruction and “they” will not escape.

But it will not take believers by surprise, because they are not destined for wrath.

#### 2 Peter 3:1-13

Ask what your group learned from Peter’s letter about the day of the Lord.

The day of the Lord will come like a thief; just like Paul also wrote. It’s compared to the time of the flood in verses 1-6, when God destroyed the earth the first time.

Verse 7 calls it the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.  
Verse 12 refers to the day of God.

The heavens will pass away. The earth will be burned up. This happens after the 1,000-year reign. It seems from this text that the day of the Lord extends through the millennium, the judgment of the dead and the destruction of the heavens and earth.

The new heavens and earth are also mentioned. Compare with Revelation 21.

### Joel

Ask how this prophecy adds to the others.

Joel told of a locust plague which devastated Israel, like an army invading the land as judgment from the Lord because of sin.

There had never been anything like it. So, he said, will be the day of the Lord.

He called God's people to repent and wail, to consecrate themselves, and cry out to the Lord because the day of the Lord is near.

It's a day of destruction from the Almighty.

Darkness and gloom

Clouds

A great and mighty people with fire consuming before and after them

Great and very awesome

Who can endure it?

Ask specifically about the timing of the day of the Lord from Joel 2:28-31.

After God pours forth of His Spirit

After wonders in the sky and on earth

Blood, fire, and smoke

The sun turned to darkness

The moon turned to blood

Compare with the 6<sup>th</sup> seal.

The day of the Lord will come after the 6<sup>th</sup> seal is broken.

This is the passage Peter quoted in Acts 2.

What does Joel 3:14 say about the day of the Lord?

It's the time when the nations will be gathered for judgment in the valley of decision.

Ask your group how that compares with their study of Revelation. Let them discuss it.

### Obadiah

Ask what they learned from this short book about the day of the Lord.

Obadiah prophesied against Edom, Esau's descendants.

The Lord told what will happen to Edom because of violence done to his brother Jacob, Israel. Verses 10-14 indicate violence done to Israel at the time of an enemy entering Jerusalem. It might have been Babylon.

The day of the Lord, he said, is coming on all the nations.  
As they have done, it will be done to them.

Compare this with the judgment of the nations in Joel.

### Amos 5

What does this text teach about the day of the Lord?

Amos 5 is a dirge / lamentation for Israel. They were facing judgment for their sins.

Although the day of the Lord will be a time when the nations will be judged for how they treated Israel, the sinful of Israel will also be judged.

God, through Amos, warned them about longing for / desiring the day of the Lord. For those in sin, idolatry, it will be a time of darkness and gloom instead of restoration.

It's described as when a man flees from a lion and a bear meets him, or goes home, leans his hand against the wall and a snake bites him. There is no escape from judgment.

### Isaiah 13

Ask about the day of the Lord as prophesied by Isaiah. What did he add to Amos's prophecy?

This chapter is an oracle, burden, concerning Babylon.

He said to wail for the day of the Lord will come on them as destruction from the Almighty. That fits with Babylon's fall mentioned in Revelation.

The description of the day of the Lord is similar to the others in this lesson.  
God will exterminate sinners. It's the day of His anger.

Ask your group to summarize the day of the Lord. Give time for them to discuss or share application they've seen.

A time of darkness and destruction for the ungodly; none of them will escape it.  
Believers don't need to fear it; they're saved from the coming time of wrath.



**REVELATION PART 4**  
**LEADER GUIDE**  
**Lesson Eight**

**Lesson emphasis**

- Day of the Lord
- Old Testament prophecies from Zephaniah, Ezekiel, Zechariah, and Malachi

**REVIEW**

Ask your group what they remember from the previous lesson on the day of the Lord.

Amos said it will be a time of darkness and gloom.

Isaiah told of Babylon's destruction from the Almighty.

Obadiah prophesied that the day of the Lord is coming on all the nations, specifically Edom. As they have done, especially to Israel, it will be done to them.

Joel said that there has never been anything like it, nor ever will be.  
It's a day of destruction from the Almighty.

Darkness and gloom

Clouds

Great army with fire consuming before and after them

Great and very awesome

Who can endure it?

It will come after God poured out His Spirit on His servants, Acts 2, and after wonders in the sky and on earth, the ones at the breaking of the 6<sup>th</sup> seal.

Second Thessalonians says that it won't come until the man of lawlessness is revealed by sitting in the temple, displaying himself as God, which will be at the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet.

Second Peter says it's also called the day of God, when the earth and its works are burned up.

Use the charts in the lesson as visual aids for this discussion.

**ZEPHANIAH**

Ask your group what they learned about the day of the Lord.

The Lord will remove (ESV—sweep away) all things from the face of the earth.

It's a time of punishment for the evil of Judah, those who are stagnant in spirit.

A time of war, trumpet, and battle cry

A day of wrath, trouble, distress, destruction, and desolation

1:18 indicates the day of the Lord's wrath extends through the destruction of this heaven and earth. Compare with 2 Peter 3.

God called Judah through Zephaniah to seek Him before they suffered His anger in the day of the Lord.

3:8 tells of the judgment of the nations. Relate to Joel 3.

Compare Zephaniah 3:9 with Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21 and Revelation 14:6-7.

Zephaniah 3 tells of the future restoration of Israel, specifically Jerusalem. That's the time when the King of Israel will be in their midst, the 1,000 years of Revelation 20.

### **EZEKIEL 30:3**

Ask your group what they learned from these verses.

The day of the Lord is near, a day of clouds and a time of doom for the nations.

The prophecy in chapter 30 is primarily against Egypt.

Since the future day of the Lord is mentioned, some of the prophecy is not yet fulfilled.

Part of it was fulfilled when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took Egypt.

Daniel mentions Egypt at the time of the king of the end, and Babylon is mentioned in Revelation during the same time.

### **ZECHARIAH 14**

Ask your group what they learned from this chapter and how it relates to all they've discussed so far about the day of the Lord.

Again a battle against Jerusalem is mentioned, but then the Lord will fight against those nations who went against Jerusalem.

This unique day is the time of His coming.

Verses 8-11 and 16-21 speak of the time when the Lord will be king over all the earth—1,000-year reign. "King" is used 3 times in this chapter referring to the Lord.

He will be worshiped in Jerusalem by those who survive, of Israel and of the nations.

### **MALACHI 3-4**

What do these chapters teach about the day of the Lord?

Malachi 4:5 says, “the great and terrible / awesome day of the LORD.”

Chapter 3 describes the coming of the Lord, and asks who can endure it.  
This was also said about the day of the Lord in Joel 2:11.

It’s a time of purifying Judah and Jerusalem. Those who return to Him will be spared.

Elijah the prophet has to come before the day of the Lord.  
Could he be one of the 2 witnesses? The next lesson will help with this question.

To end this discussion, ask your group to summarize the day of the Lord.

The 6<sup>th</sup> seal is broken before the day of the Lord.

Elijah must come before the day of the Lord.

The man of lawlessness will be revealed before the day of the Lord. He’ll take his seat in the temple displaying himself as god. That happens at the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet.

The bowls of wrath are the result of the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet sounding.  
God’s wrath is part of what happens in the day of the Lord.

It’s a time of refining for Israel.

There will be a battle against Jerusalem and then the judgment of the nations.

The Lord’s coming will be during the day of the Lord.

The 1,000-year reign of Jesus as King on earth is part of the day of the Lord.

It lasts until the heavens and earth are destroyed, Revelation 20.



**REVELATION PART 4**  
**LEADER GUIDE**  
**Lesson Nine**

**Lesson emphasis**

- 144,000 and the 2 witnesses
- The mystery of God

**REVIEW**

If you haven't reviewed the purpose, theme, and segments of Revelation for a few lessons, begin with those questions.

Ask for a short review of the main subjects studied in this last course of Revelation. Use the chart from the lesson as a visual aid.

- Israel's future
- The beast/ antichrist
- Babylon
- The day of the Lord

Proceed from the day of the Lord review to questions from this lesson.

**144,000—Revelation 7 and 14**

When are they on earth, and when are they in heaven—before or after the day of the Lord? Who are they? What is significant about them?

The first time they are mentioned is the “interlude” between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> seals. They're on earth in chapter 7.

They are God's servants from the 12 tribes of Israel, 12,000 from each tribe.

- Not defiled with women
- No lie
- Blameless

*NOTE: The tribe of Dan is missing from the list in Revelation 7, and Joseph is named as a tribe instead of Ephraim. With Levi named in this list, it still totals twelve.*

The trumpets don't sound until these are sealed on their foreheads with the living God's seal. The seal is the Lamb's name and the Father's name.

The seal protects them when the trees, earth, and sea are harmed. The trees, earth, and sea are harmed during the first four trumpets.

The locusts from the 5<sup>th</sup> trumpet were to hurt only those who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads (9:4), so the 144,000 are still on earth at this point.

In another “interlude,” chapter 14, before Revelation 15–16 when the bowls of wrath are poured on earth, these 144,000 are in heaven before God’s throne.

Purchased / redeemed from the earth  
Follow the Lamb wherever He goes  
Purchased / redeemed from men as first fruits to God and the Lamb  
First fruits indicate a harvest to come.

Are they the rest of the woman’s offspring who hold to the testimony of Jesus?

If so, then they’re persecuted by the dragon-empowered beast when he begins his rule.  
They might be killed by him.

They might be the saints in Revelation 13.

### **THE 2 WITNESSES—REVELATION 11**

Ask what your group learned about them.

They prophesy for 1,260 days before the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet sounds.

Clothed in sackcloth

Kill anyone who wants to harm them—fire from their mouths devours / consumes

No rain during their prophesying

Power over waters to turn to blood

Power to strike the earth with every plague

The beast kills them when they finish their testimony.

Dead bodies in Jerusalem street for 3 ½ days

Rejoicing by those who dwell on the earth

Then came to life and taken to heaven

How does Zechariah 4 relate to Revelation 11?

Revelation 11:4 says they are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of all the earth.

Zechariah 4 says two olive trees are the “anointed ones” who stand by the Lord of all the earth. Literally, it says that they’re “sons of fresh oil.”<sup>1</sup>

Who might these two witnesses be? Ask your group what they think (based on their study) about the views presented in the lesson.

Elijah is a good possibility, as is Enoch because, like Elijah, he didn’t die. He, Elijah, also has to come before the day of the Lord.

Enoch warned the ungodly of coming judgment.  
Elijah did miracles as well as spoke from God.

Another possibility is Moses. Through his writings, he warned the ungodly of coming judgment, and performed miracles. And the Old Testament is referred to by Jesus as the Law and the Prophets which Moses and Elijah would represent.

So the two witnesses prophesy before the day of the Lord. And the 144,000 of Israel are on earth part or all of the time the two witnesses testify; although the 144,000 might be on earth even longer than the two witnesses.

It’s possible that they will all be giving testimony during the first 3 ½ years to primarily Israel or Jerusalem.

### **THE MYSTERY OF GOD AND WRATH**

Ask your group what they learned about this.

Revelation 10:7

The mystery will be finished / fulfilled as the 7<sup>th</sup> angel is about to sound his trumpet (ESV—in days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the 7<sup>th</sup> angel).

A mystery previously hidden to be “revealed,” not discovered.

“Finished / fulfilled” means to bring to perfection or its destined goal.<sup>2</sup>

What was previously preached to the prophets as hidden is revealed.

At the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet the mystery will be delayed no longer; it will reach its goal or perfection.

Ask about the comparison with the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet in Revelation 11:15-19.

The kingdom of the world becomes Christ’s. He will reign.

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<sup>1</sup> *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*, marginal note (Zech 4:14) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

<sup>2</sup> Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary, New Testament* (electronic ed.) (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1992), Greek 5055.

The beginning of His reign seems to start at the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet.  
And the nations are enraged (ESV—nations raged).

His wrath comes.  
The time for judgment and rewards comes.  
The time to destroy comes.

Compare this with the day of the Lord and/ or God's wrath.

It's possible that all of the above refers to the day of the Lord.

Wrath  
Restoration and the kingdom  
Judgment

When does God's wrath begin?

The first mention of it in Revelation is in 6:16-17 at the 6<sup>th</sup> seal.  
The 7<sup>th</sup> seal brings forth the trumpets.  
The 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet begins the day of the Lord and brings forth the bowls of wrath.

Before the Lamb breaks the 7<sup>th</sup> seal, which opens the book / scroll and begins all of the judgments on the earth, men cry that the great day of God's and the Lamb's wrath has come.

It has in that once the seals are broken the sequence of events culminating in the bowls begins. In them, the wrath of God is finished.

Help your group to grasp the significance of the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet as they evaluate the chart from the lesson.

To end your discussion, you might ask if they have any questions about what's on the chart. They've studied all of it.



**REVELATION PART 4**  
**LEADER GUIDE**  
**Lesson Ten**

**Lesson emphasis**

- The nations gathered at Har-Magedon / Armageddon
- The battle
- The Lord's coming

**REVIEW**

You can begin your discussion of this lesson by asking your group what they learned from the review of Revelation 11–19 in the lesson.

**BATTLES AND BLOODSHED IN REVELATION**

Ask what they learned from chapters 14, 16, and 19. Tell them to look at the map.

Revelation 14:17-20

There will be blood on the earth when the clusters are reaped and thrown into God's wine press of wrath. The blood will be outside the city, Jerusalem, for about 200 miles / 1,600 stadia.

Revelation 16:12-16

This is at the 6<sup>th</sup> bowl when the Euphrates is dried up for the kings of the east to gather / assemble for war on the great day of God. They gather to Har-Magedon / Armageddon.

Evil spirits from the dragon, beast, and the false prophet go to perform signs to gather / assemble the kings.

Revelation 19:11-21

The King of kings and Lord of lords, Jesus, treads the wine press of God's wrath when He comes. This gives the time of Revelation 14:17-20.

The armies who gathered / assembled at the 6<sup>th</sup> bowl are killed by the sword from His mouth.

**NATIONS GO AGAINST JERUSALEM**

After the nations gather / assemble, where do they go? Who do they fight?  
Ask your group what they learned about Jerusalem from Zechariah 12–14.

All the nations of the earth will be gathered against Jerusalem and set a siege against the city and Judah.

The city will be captured.

Half of the people there will be exiled from it.

Houses will be plundered and spoil taken from the battle.

Then the Lord will defend Jerusalem's inhabitants, and set about to destroy the nations.

Zechariah 12:10 and 13:1 indicate that this will be the time of His second coming when all Israel is saved.

Is this the battle after the kings gather / assemble at Har-Magedon / Armageddon?

The 200 miles can be from where they gather, through Jerusalem and southeast into parts of modern Jordan where there is wilderness.

It's also possible that the kings look for "the woman" who will be somewhere in the wilderness protected by God during the time of the beast's rule.

### **THE LORD'S COMING**

Ask what your group learned from Isaiah and Habakkuk. What is a possible order of events? You can use the list at the end of this lesson's guide as a visual aid.

It might be that after taking Jerusalem, the armies of the nations go after "the woman," those Jews who are protected by God for the last 3 ½ years, who flees to the wilderness.

#### Isaiah 34

The Lord's wrath against the armies of the nations, especially Edom, is the subject of this passage.

His sword from heaven will descend on Edom to be filled with blood.  
Their land will be soaked with blood in the Lord's day of vengeance for Zion.

Edom will become a place of desolation.  
Compare this with Jeremiah 49:13-22.

Bozrah and all its cities will become perpetual ruins / wastes. That has not happened yet.

An envoy is sent among the nations to gather against Bozrah for battle.

The Lord has planned against Edom; Teman and Bozrah are in Edom.

#### Isaiah 35

After Edom's destruction by the Lord, He'll save Israel.

Verse 4 says that He'll come with vengeance to recompense those who are against Judah and Jerusalem, but to save Israel.

The redeemed and ransomed of the Lord will return to Zion with everlasting joy. It's possible these are those who fled to the wilderness and are returning to Zion after the Lord's return.

Isaiah 63

This passage seems to indicate that treading the wine press of God's wrath will begin at Bozrah in Edom. It's on the day of vengeance and against "the peoples," the nations.

Daniel 11:41

The king at the end who will enter Israel. Edom, Moab, and Ammon—the area of modern Jordan—will be rescued from His hand.

That might be because it's where the "woman" will flee to be protected by God. And if the woman is the remnant of Israel to be saved at Christ's return, the beast empowered by the devil will seek to destroy her.

How does Habakkuk 3:3-15 compare with Revelation and these other passages?

*NOTE: Scholars disagree as to whether this passage reviews the past when Israel came out of Egypt or the future when the Lord comes.*

God comes from Teman, from Mount Paran.

He tramples / threshes the nations and goes forth for the salvation of His people.

He strikes / crushes the head of the house of the evil / wicked to lay him open from thigh to neck.

Give time for them to discuss what they learn about the Lord from this passage.

How does Joel 2:30–3:21 fit with the other passages in the lesson?

Survivors from Jerusalem will call on the Lord's name.

The judgment of the nations takes place in the valley of Jehoshaphat, the valley of decision, outside Jerusalem. The sickle, harvest, and winepress are mentioned again.

Edom's judgment will have taken place.

God will avenge the blood of His people, Israel.

Ask your group about the possible order of events:

- The armies gather at or shortly after the 6<sup>th</sup> bowl.
- Jerusalem is captured by all or part of the nations.
- The Lord descends to Bozrah to protect His remnant.
- He treads the wine press going up toward Jerusalem.
- He arrives at Jerusalem, stands on the Mount of Olives, and it splits.
- Then Judah and Jerusalem are restored.

End by asking what all of this has to do with your group.

Possible order of events:

The armies gather at Har-Magedon (ESV—assemble at Armageddon)

Jerusalem is captured by all or part of the nations.

The Lord descends to protect His remnant.

He treads the wine press going from Bozrah up toward Jerusalem.

He arrives at Jerusalem and saves Israel.

**REVELATION PART 4**  
**LEADER GUIDE**  
**Lesson Eleven**

**Lesson emphasis**

- The rapture

**REVIEW**

You might begin this discussion with questions about Revelation from the beginning of Day Three through Day Five.

Who was Revelation written to or for?

The churches, Christ's bond-servants

Why?

To show what must soon take place

How does Revelation 1:19 lay out the segments of Revelation?

Things that John saw—chapter 1

Things which are—chapters 2 and 3

Things to take place after these things—chapters 4–22

**THE RAPTURE**

Ask what they learned from the three main passages connected with the “rapture.”  
Tell them to look at the chart in the lesson and the chart in the Appendix as visual aids.

John 14:1-3

*NOTE: This passage is part of what Jesus told the 11 disciples right after Judas left the last supper to betray Him. He had told them that He was going away, and they could not follow Him at that time but would later.*

They were troubled because Jesus was about to leave them.

Therefore, He told them that He was going to prepare a place for them.

The word “receive / take” of verse 3 literally means, “to take with someone.”<sup>1</sup>

A. T. Robertson says it is “and I shall take you along to My own home.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Cleon L. Rogers Jr. and Cleon L. Rogers III, *The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998), p. 216.

<sup>2</sup> A. T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament*. vol.V, c1932, renewal, 1960; by Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, 1997).

Jesus encouraged them by assuring them He was not leaving them permanently. He would return for them after He prepared the place.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Paul did not want the Thessalonian church to be uninformed about believers who had died. He didn't want them to grieve; he gave them hope concerning their friends and family who had believed in Jesus and then died. Verses 13-18 are words of hope for every believer, for the Church.

The comfort comes from knowing that the dead in Christ will rise and be with the Lord.

*NOTE: In case someone brings it up, 2 Corinthians 5:8 says that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord, speaking of the soul.*

According to verse 14, when Jesus comes, He'll bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Him, or the dead in Christ—the souls of believers who have died.

Ask for the order of events in these verses.

There is a diagram at the end of this lesson's guide which you might use as a visual aid.

The Lord will descend from heaven.

The dead in Christ will rise first—the bodies of those whose souls are with Christ.

Then believers living at that time will be “caught up” together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

Ask about the origin of the term “the rapture” at this point.

The term comes from the Latin word for “caught up.”

Although the actual word “rapture” is not in the Bible, the event is.

There should be no debate as to this fact. It's an actual event according to this passage.

Where is the meeting? Where does the Lord come to?

The clouds in the air.

1 Corinthians 15:51-54

Ask about the main point of these verses and event order. Compare with John and Thessalonians.

Whether believers die or not, their mortal bodies will be changed into immortal ones. The perishable bodies of those in the church will become imperishable ones.

Again, this passage says that not all believers will die before being with the Lord.

It's a mystery.

Order of events:

- Trumpet will sound
- Dead will be raised imperishable, immortal
- Alive will be changed, too

These events are in the same order as those of 1 Thessalonians.

Now that the facts of “the rapture” have been established from the New Testament, ask your group to discuss what they learned in the rest of the lesson about when it happens.

*NOTE: Remind your group that people can lovingly disagree with each other and have some understanding of why people hold different views of the rapture.*

### 1 Thessalonians

Paul encouraged the Christians at Thessalonica. They had turned from idols to serve God and wait for Jesus' return from heaven. When He does, He'll rescue believers from the wrath to come.

Paul's teaching on the “rapture” in chapter 4 precedes his teaching on the day of the Lord in chapter 5. This might indicate the order of those two events.

In chapter 5, when Paul wrote about the day of the Lord, he said believers are not destined for wrath, but salvation. Wrath takes place during the day of the Lord—when destruction comes upon the unbelieving. So, it seems the rapture takes place prior to the day of the Lord.

### 2 Thessalonians

Shortly after Paul took the gospel to Thessalonica and wrote the first letter to them, they received some kind of a message or letter saying the day of the Lord had come. It caused some to be shaken and disturbed.

Maybe they thought they had missed the “catching up” of the saints.

In chapter 2, Paul told of specific things to happen before the day of the Lord comes.

- Apostasy / rebellion
- He who restrains taken out of the way
- Man of lawlessness revealed

The man of lawlessness will be revealed at the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet.

*NOTE: Many think that the Holy Spirit within the body of Christ, the church, is the restraining influence in the world now. After the church is raptured (taken out of the way), then the man of lawlessness can be revealed.*

Those who believe the deluding influence, maybe referring to the false prophet, will be judged or condemned. But in contrast, the Thessalonians, as well as other believers, were chosen from the beginning for salvation, that they may gain the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

You might ask your group when they think the rapture takes place based on the context of 1 and 2 Thessalonians—before, during, or after the day of the Lord.

The day of the Lord is a time of wrath and deception.

Christians are not destined for wrath, but Jesus rescues them from it.

This is some of the foundation for a “pre-tribulation” and “mid-tribulation” rapture.

How do the references from Revelation in this lesson add to or fit with the main points?

Revelation 3:10

This is a promise that the Lord will keep the church, at Philadelphia, from (*ek*—out of) the hour of testing for (ESV—to try) those who dwell on the earth.

According to Revelation, the last 7 years or at least the last 3 ½ are for judgments on those who dwell on the earth—the ungodly.

Daniel teaches that the last 7 years, especially the last 3 ½, are for the purifying of Israel.

This is also some of the foundation for a “pre-tribulation” rapture (the tribulation being the last 3 ½ years).

Revelation 7:9-17

This reveals the multitude in heaven from every nation. They come out of the great tribulation (the last 3 ½ years), evidently martyred, coming to heaven out of that period.

They’re not the sheep of Matthew 25, because the sheep are alive at Jesus’ coming. This martyred multitude of the nations will be the ones who are resurrected at the beginning of the 1,000 years.

Revelation 17:14 and 19:14

Those with the Lamb are the called, chosen, and faithful.  
They are the armies in heaven who come with the Lord.  
They are the bride of Christ clothed / arrayed in fine linen.



Revelation 1:19

This gives the segments of the book. It can also be chronological order.

- The things John saw, Revelation 1—Jesus in the midst of the churches
- The things which (ESV—those that) are, chapters 2 and 3—the churches
- Things to take place “after these things” Revelation 4–22 (ESV—those that are to take place after this)

This verse might indicate that the events of chapters 4–22 happen after the churches. If so, where is the Church during those chapters? With the Lord

This is some of the foundation for a rapture before the 7 years of Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> week.

Some use Matthew 24 to support a “post-tribulation” rapture. Ask for explanation of the elect in Matthew 24.

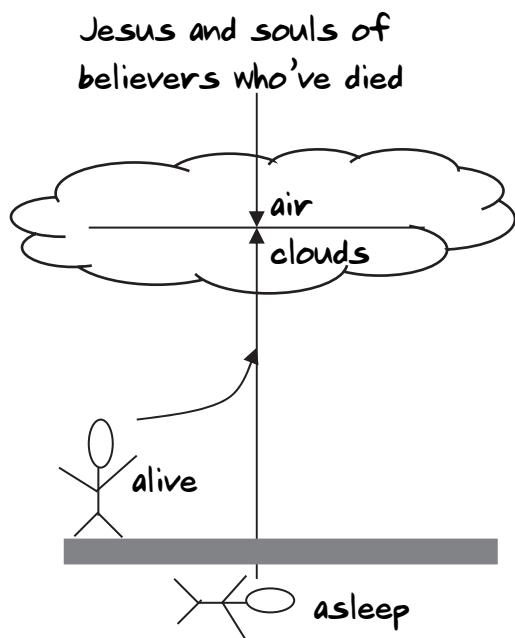
The elect who are gathered at Jesus’ coming might refer to the elect of Israel when He comes.

If the last trumpet of 1 Corinthians 15 has not been discussed yet, then ask for a possible explanation of it.

If the other passages indicate a rapture before the seals, trumpets, and bowls, then the last trumpet of 1 Corinthians is not the same as the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet of Revelation.

A trumpet was used to sound an alarm or an announcement or to gather Israel together. This reference to the last trumpet might mean that it’s the last trumpet for the church, to gather them together to the Lord in the air.

Whether or not all in your group agree about the time of the rapture, encourage them to hold to the Scripture rather than to a particular view on the rapture.



**REVELATION PART 4**  
**LEADER GUIDE**  
**Lesson Twelve**

**Lesson emphasis**

- The first resurrection and the second death

**REVELATION 20**

To begin this discussion, you can ask about the first resurrection. Tell your group to look at the charts in the lesson as visual aids. There is also a timeline at the end of this lesson's guide.

It will happen immediately preceding the 1,000-year reign of Christ.

The souls of those beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and God's Word who didn't take the mark of the beast come to life.

Compare with the multitude in Revelation 7.

Those who are part of it are blessed, holy, and priests who will reign with Christ for the 1,000 years.

The second death, lake of fire, has no power over those who are part of the first resurrection.

Ask your group if they think anyone else has a part in this first resurrection.

Daniel 12:13

Righteous Jews who die before Jesus came the first time will rise / stand at the end of the age. This first resurrection seems to be that time.

12:1 is about those Jews who are alive and rescued / delivered when Jesus comes.

Luke 16:19-31

Before the cross and Jesus' resurrection, He told about "Abraham's bosom / side."  
When Lazarus died, he went to be comforted in Abraham's bosom / side.

Compare "Abraham's bosom" / "side" with Ephesians 4:8.

After Jesus' resurrection and at His ascension, He "led captive a host of captives."

Many think that refers to those righteous dead souls in Abraham's bosom / side.

He led them to heaven at His ascension.

These also might be part of the first resurrection.

What does Revelation 20 say about the second death?

The lake of fire is the second death.  
The beast and false prophet will be thrown into it when Jesus returns to earth.  
The devil will also be thrown into it after the 1,000 years.

The dead will be judged and thrown into the lake of fire after the 1,000 years.  
All whose names are not in the book of life end up there.

Death and Hades are the last to be thrown into the lake of fire at the great white throne judgment of the dead after the 1,000-year reign of Christ on earth.

Ask your group what they learned about Hades and those who are there.

Luke 16:19-31

In this passage, Jesus described Hades as the place where the unbelieving souls go at death. It's a place of fire, agony, and torment.

It's "the region of departed spirits of the lost."<sup>1</sup>  
It's "literally *unseen place*."<sup>2</sup>

*NOTE: Some in your group might remember that Hades is also used in Revelation 1:18 and 6:8.*

Once an unbeliever is there, he cannot escape or be comforted.  
Then the unbelievers will face the judgment of the dead at the great white throne and be thrown into the lake of fire—the second death.

Lead your discussion back to Revelation 20. Who are verses 7-10 about?

Some from the nations will be deceived by Satan when he's released after the 1,000 years, and they will go against the beloved city Jerusalem.

Fire from heaven will devour them.

Where do these nations who try to war come from?

Matthew 24-25

What will happen to the sheep and the goats when Jesus comes?

When Jesus returns, He'll judge the nations who are alive at that time.

The goats, unrighteous, will go away into eternal punishment, fire.

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<sup>1</sup> Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000). G86.

<sup>2</sup> Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg, and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Baker's Greek New Testament Library (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000), p. 34.

The sheep will inherit the kingdom.  
The righteous of the nations enter the kingdom, the 1,000-year reign of Christ.

Although the nations are all righteous at the beginning of the millennium, the children born during that time are not all righteous. The nations who are deceived by the devil at the end of the millennium are the unrighteous born during the 1,000 years.

Isaiah 65:20 might also refer to the unrighteous born during this time.

Ask your group what they learned about the righteous of the nations from Revelation 21 and 22.

They will be in the new earth and walk by the light of the new Jerusalem.  
They can enter the city, because their names are in the Lamb's book of life.  
The leaves of the tree of life are for their healing.

## 1 CORINTHIANS 15

Ask for the basic chronology of resurrection from this passage as a summary of this discussion.

Christ's resurrection from the dead is called the "first fruits."  
First fruits indicate that there is a harvest to come.

Then those who are His at His coming will be resurrected—the harvest.

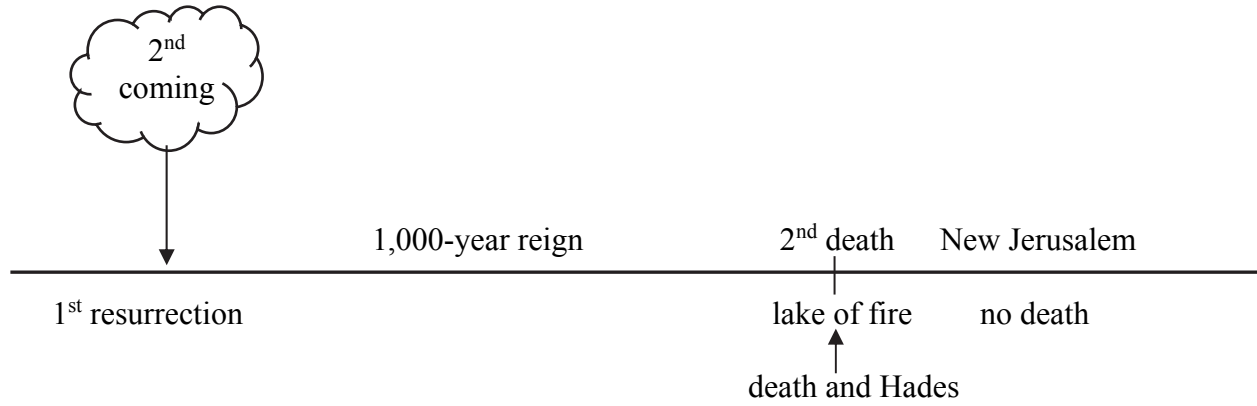
- For the church, that is His coming at the "rapture."
- For those of Revelation 20:4, it refers to His coming in Revelation 19.

Verse 25 says He'll reign until all enemies are under His feet, death being the last.

- At the beginning of the reign  
the beast and false prophet will be thrown into the lake of fire.
- During His reign  
He will abolish / destroy all rule, authority, and power
- At the end of the 1,000-year reign
  - those of the nations who gather against the beloved city will be devoured by fire from heaven
  - then the devil will be thrown into the lake of fire

According to Revelation 20, death is cast into the lake of fire after the 1,000-year reign.  
That is the "second" death for the "dead."

Then comes the end when Jesus delivers the kingdom to God the Father.



**REVELATION PART 4**  
**LEADER GUIDE**  
**Lesson Thirteen**

**Lesson emphasis**

- Marriage supper of the Lamb
- Christ's millennial reign

To begin this discussion you might ask your group about any personal application and/or encouragement they got from studying this lesson. After letting them share for a few minutes, discuss the main facts of each of the two events.

**MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB**

Ask what your group learned from Revelation 19 about the marriage.

After the harlot / prostitute is judged, then will come the marriage of the Lamb to His bride.

There is a contrast of the two—harlot / prostitute and bride.

The bride will have made herself ready before the time of the marriage.

She'll be clothed in fine linen—the righteous acts of the saints.

Therefore, the saints are the bride.

This marriage will be in heaven before Christ's second coming.

Ask what they learned about the marriage from the cross-references in this lesson.

Paul wrote in Corinthians and Ephesians that the bride of Christ is the church.

How important are the wedding garments?

Matthew 22:11-13

In the parable Jesus told, one wedding dinner guest was thrown out for not having on wedding clothes.

Righteousness is a result of salvation. Therefore, no one without righteous deeds is part of the bride, the church.

What is the main point of the parables in Matthew 25 and Luke 12?

Be ready for His return.

At this point, you might ask about the customs of Jewish weddings and feasts. Let them share what they remember from the lesson, but also if any have attended such a wedding.

Betrothal—the church is betrothed to Christ

Groom's procession to bride's home

She was brought to the place beside her husband where the vows were spoken.

This is the marriage. Relate it to Revelation 19.

Supper/ feast at groom's home—marriage supper in Revelation 19.

Ask what they learned about the marriage supper or feast from Revelation 19 and then from the cross-references in the lesson.

Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Those who are invited guests are not the bride. Therefore, they're not part of the church. Maybe some of them are the Old Testament believers who are not part of the church.

The parables of Matthew and Luke were told to Jewish people before the cross.

In Matthew 22, Jesus indicated that those who were invited to the wedding feast were the Jews. As a whole, they were unwilling to come. They would not come to Jesus as their Messiah. Their city Jerusalem was destroyed with burning in A.D. 70 by the Romans.

Jews who believe in Him from the time of His ascension forward until the rapture are part of the church, therefore, part of the bride.

Those invited might include the multitude from the nations who are saved out of the great tribulation.

The marriage supper will include the groom, the bride, and invited guests—all those in heaven prior to the second coming.

### **CHRIST'S MILLENNIAL REIGN**

Ask what your group learned about “the millennium” from Revelation 20.

Christ's coming as King of kings begins the 1,000-year reign on earth.

Satan will be bound during that time and released at the end of it.

Those who are resurrected will reign with Him during the 1,000 years.



What do the cross-references in the lesson say about Jesus as King?

Luke 1

Jesus will receive the throne of David and reign over Israel forever.

Revelation 12 and 19

He'll also rule the nations, the "sheep" of Matthew 25, and their offspring.

Daniel 7

One like a Son of Man will be given dominion, glory, and a kingdom. All nations will serve Him.

Isaiah 9:6-7

The Prince of Peace who will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom.

Zechariah 14

The Lord will be king over all the earth.

Jesus Himself said in Matthew 25 that He will come and sit on His glorious throne.

What do the cross-references teach about the kingdom?

It was promised to Israel.

It was promised as the kingdom of Israel on earth was ending, being judged by God for turning away from Him. The prophets spoke from God before, during, and shortly after the destruction of Jerusalem and the Babylonian exile.

God said Israel would endure. He keeps His Word.

What will the kingdom be like?

It will be an everlasting kingdom which will never be destroyed.

Jerusalem will be raised above the hills and from it will go forth God's Word.

All the nations, as well as Israel, will be part of it. The righteous of the nations and Israel will inherit the kingdom.

In Jerusalem, decisions will be made for the nations.

The nations will not war with one another during the kingdom. Jesus will rule with a rod of iron because of those born during the millennium who are not righteous, the ones who will gather for war against Jerusalem at the end of the 1,000 years.

Jerusalem will live in security and the nations will go up to it annually to celebrate the Feast of Booths and worship Jesus as the King. Those nations who don't go to the Feast will have no rain.

Jesus will rule wisely, with justice and righteousness in all the land of Israel. They will be God's people and He will be their God.

Ask what they think Isaiah 65:17-25 refers to. Is it about the millennium or not?  
If so, what will it be like during that time?

End your discussion by encouraging your group to be sure that they'll be part of the bride and the kingdom. For those who are sure, you might ask what they look forward to the most.

As a visual aid for this discussion, you can list a few main points about each of the two topics.

## REVELATION PART 4 LEADER GUIDE Lesson Fourteen

### Lesson emphasis

- Rewards
- Judgments

*NOTE: Try to leave some time at the end of this discussion for your group to share what studying the four courses on Revelation has meant to them. Some of this lesson is review of previous study; therefore, your group should be very familiar with those parts.*

There is a short time line at the end of this lesson which you can use as a visual aid.

### JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

Ask what your group learned about this and how it relates to their study of Revelation and to their lives.

#### 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

This passage begins with a longing for the believer's heavenly home. God Himself prepares Christians for this by giving us His Spirit as a pledge / guarantee while living here on earth. Walking by faith is the same as walking by His Spirit, and if we do that, we'll be pleasing the Lord. The result will be good deeds.

Then Paul reveals that all believers must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, the time when believers will be recompensed (ESV—receive what is due) for the deeds they've done in the body.

#### Romans 14:7-12

This is the other passage that mentions the judgment seat of God. Paul again precedes it with exhortation for believers to live for the Lord and not themselves.

The judgment seat is the time when believers will give an account of themselves to God.

Ask your group to think about what they've learned about God in this Revelation study. Has it encouraged them to be more pleasing to Him? Has it strengthened them to press on in their walk with Him? Remind them that they have His Spirit, and they know what's coming and who is coming.

Lead the discussion back to what they learned about believers' judgment and rewards.

#### 1 Corinthians 3

This passage gives the apostle's and teacher's responsibility to build on the foundation of Jesus Christ. The principles here can be applied to all believers in that they should be building the truth into others' lives.

Verses 12-15 speak of “the day” when each believer’s work on earth will become evident / manifest. If it is good for nothing: wood, hay, straw; it will be burned up. There is no reward for that.

But for the ones who build with gold, silver, and precious stones, the fire purifies. They’ll receive reward.

Ask your group when they think this judgment seat of Christ will take place, based on the above and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and Revelation 19:7-21.

It seems that the judgment seat of Christ will take place sometime after all the church is with the Lord.

It’s possible that it happens before Christ’s second coming to earth as the armies follow Him, including the church.

But if Revelation 22:12 means the second coming and not the rapture, then it must be after His return to earth.

Ask what they think the rewards might be, based on the other references from Day One in the lesson.

Jesus will be King over all the earth, but He will give authority to some in His kingdom to rule over others. Below are the possibilities based on Scripture:

- Jesus, King over all
- David ruling all of Israel
- Overcomers, believers, and those of the first resurrection in Revelation 20 ruling the nations, sheep, and their children

#### **JUDGMENT OF THE NATIONS**

This is one part of the lesson which is somewhat review. You don’t need to spend much time discussing this if your group already understands it.

Immediately following Jesus’ second coming, according to Matthew 25, He judges between the wicked and the righteous of the nations from the last 3 ½ years before His return to earth. How they treated the Jews during that time shows whether they are sheep or goats.

#### **RESURRECTION TO EVERLASTING LIFE OR JUDGMENT**

This is another part of the lesson which might have some review in it. Discuss what is needed for a clear understanding of the resurrection to judgment based on Daniel 12:1-2 and John 5:28-29.

Daniel said that at a time in the future some Jews (those not written in the book) who have died would “awake,” be resurrected, to disgrace and everlasting contempt.

Jesus said in John’s Gospel that an hour is coming when He will call all of the dead to come from their graves and face eternal life or judgment.

The basis of this judgment is deeds—good or evil.

One’s deeds come from his character; Christians have the Holy Spirit and produce good fruit whereas unbelievers do evil deeds.

This resurrection to judgment for the lost is after the 1,000-year reign; from Revelation 20, it’s called the great white throne judgment.

Does Daniel 7:9-11 relate to rewards for believers and the judgment for unbelievers?

“Thrones were set up / placed . . .  
thousands upon thousands were attending Him (ESV—a thousand thousands served him)  
myriads upon myriads were standing before Him;  
(ESV—ten thousand times ten thousand stood)  
the court sat (ESV—in judgment), and the books were opened.”

According to verse 11, the fourth beast (kingdom) is slain, thrown into the burning fire. This is the kingdom of the little horn, the beast of Revelation.

#### Revelation 20

This judgment is based on the things written in the books, according to their deeds.

Ask your group if they think the dead will suffer various levels of punishment according to the deeds they do on earth.

#### Matthew 10 and 11

In the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for some than for others. All unbelievers will go to Hades when they die and then into the lake of fire at the great white throne judgment. But the cities in Israel who saw Jesus and the things He did will suffer greater punishment than even those of Sodom and Gomorrah.

#### Mark 12 and Luke 20

The scribes of Jesus’ day will receive greater condemnation according to what He said.

#### John 19:10-11

Jesus said Judas’s sin of delivering Him to be killed was greater than Pilate’s sin.

#### Revelation 1:17:18; Luke 12:5

Jesus has the keys of death and Hades, and His judgment is just. God alone has authority to cast men into hell.

Ask about Hades and the lake of fire.

Hades is the present place of the unbelieving dead.

At the end of the 1,000-year reign at the judgment of the dead, Hades will be thrown into the lake of fire. At the same time, death will also be thrown into the lake of fire, the second death, along with those whose names are not written in the book of life.

The lake of fire was prepared for the devil and his angels.

Death is the last of Jesus' enemies to be abolished / destroyed, and then comes the end when He gives the kingdom to God the Father. And that's the time of the new heaven, earth, and Jerusalem.

To end your discussion, ask what your group learned from Revelation 22:6-21.

Save enough time for them to leave with the thoughts of what it will be like for those who heed the words of this book.

