

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU'LL EVER STUDY

A SURVEY OF THE BIBLE

VOLUME 4:
THE NEW TESTAMENT

starr meade

 **CROSSWAY**
WHEATON, ILLINOIS

The Most Important Thing You'll Ever Study: A Survey of the Bible, vol. 4: The New Testament

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Published by Crossway

1300 Crescent Street
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

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Cover design:

Cover illustration:

Typesetting: Lakeside Design Plus

First printing 2010

Printed in the United States of America

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Full Set:

Trade paperback ISBN: 978-1-4335-1182-0

PDF ISBN: 978-1-4335-1183-7

Mobipocket ISBN: 978-1-4335-1184-4

EPub ISBN: 978-1-4335-2397-7

Old Testament Set vols. 1 & 2:

Trade paperback ISBN: 978-1-4335-2024-2

PDF ISBN: 978-1-4335-2025-9

Mobipocket ISBN: 978-1-4335-2026-6

EPub ISBN: 978-1-4335-2027-3

Old Testament Set with Answer Key vols. 1, 2, & 5

Trade paperback ISBN: 978-1-4335-2028-0

PDF ISBN: 978-1-4335-2029-7

Mobipocket ISBN: 978-1-4335-2030-3

EPub ISBN: 978-1-4335-2031-0

New Testament Set vols. 3 & 4

Trade paperback ISBN: 978-1-4335-2032-7

PDF ISBN: 978-1-4335-2042-6

Mobipocket ISBN: 978-1-4335-2043-3

EPub ISBN: 978-1-4335-2044-0

New Testament Set with Answer Key vols. 3, 4, & 5

Trade paperback ISBN: 978-1-4335-2045-7

PDF ISBN: 978-1-4335-2046-4

Mobipocket ISBN: 978-1-4335-2047-1

EPub ISBN: 978-1-4335-2048-8

Crossway is a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

XX 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10
14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

To all parents who are diligent in giving their children
a thorough knowledge of God's Word.

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Revelation

Read Revelation 1:1–9.

Revelation was probably the last of the New Testament books to be written. It says it was written by John (1:2), and most people understand that to mean John the apostle, the one who wrote the New Testament books with “John” in their titles. Tradition has it that John was the last of the apostles to die, and that he lived to be an old man. In 1:4, to whom did John address this book? ❶ _____

Find the location of these seven churches on a Bible map: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea.

The book of Revelation is an example of a kind of literature called apocalyptic literature. The second half of the book of Daniel, in the Old Testament, is another example of apocalyptic literature. Apocalyptic literature has a number of characteristics. First, it tends to divide all angels and humans into two (and only two) camps, either good or evil, with no middle ground. Secondly, it deals with future events, often those all the way at the end of time. Finally, apocalyptic literature speaks in language that is highly symbolic, so much so that it's impossible to be certain *exactly* what all of the many symbols represent. That doesn't mean that the book cannot be read or understood; principles behind the symbols are quite clear and the book itself calls on people to read and hear it (Rev. 1:3). It just means that it's foolish to claim to know exactly which specific person and event every symbol stands for.

Revelation was written at a time when Christians were being persecuted and persecution would soon become much worse. Where was John when God gave him this vision, and why was he there (1:9)? ❷ _____



Revelation
1–5

John himself had been exiled to this little island because he wouldn't stop preaching the gospel and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ. Not only was there persecution, but false teachers were infiltrating the churches, as we've seen in some of the New Testament epistles we've studied. Another challenge to the churches was the comfort and prosperity of the Roman world in which these churches existed, which could easily lure them into idolatry and sin. The purpose of Revelation was to encourage these churches to stand strong and to resist all these temptations. The book's title comes from the Greek word for "apocalypse," which means "unveiling." In Revelation, it is as though God pulls back a stage curtain to show his people that all the world events they've been seeing onstage in front of them have behind-the-scene causes. He shows them what is behind the persecution, the false teaching, and the temptations they endure. He also shows them how it will become worse, but how, finally, he and his people will triumph. The whole purpose of the book is meant to encourage tempted, persecuted Christians and to strengthen them to continue holding firm to the end. That is why, although there are many different interpretations of this book and people don't agree on which interpretation is the best, there is one interpretation we can reject at once. That is the interpretation that treats this book simply as a schedule of specific events that will happen right before the end of the world. Such a schedule would have had no meaning for the people to whom John wrote it. However we interpret the book, it must be in keeping with the author's intention, which was to comfort and encourage first century struggling, often persecuted believers.

One interpretation of Revelation understands most of its prophecies to have been fulfilled at the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. Another interpretation understands the events described as events that have been occurring through history, beginning in the time the book was written and continuing until the end of time. Another interpretation sees most of the events as happening at the very end of time. And a fourth interpretation sees the events as symbols only, explaining general principles in the war between Satan and the people of God. It's safe to assume that this book, like books of prophecy in the Old Testament, makes prophecies that have more than one fulfillment. As in Old Testament prophecy, it seems likely that these prophecies would be fulfilled in a big, dramatic way after having had one, two, or many smaller

fulfillments in the history of the church. Whether or not specific events were intended, and whether or not we know for sure what those events were, the principles of the spiritual warfare this book reveals are important for all believers to know.

In Revelation 1:1-3, what did John call this book? “the ③ _____

which ④ _____

gave him.” What did John say this revelation would show, and to whom?

⑤ _____

On whom did John pronounce a blessing? On the one who ⑥ _____

on those who ⑦ _____

and on those who ⑧ _____

Fill in the blanks to complete the titles for God and for Jesus Christ which John chose in the opening verses of this book. 1:8: “I am the ⑨ _____

and the ⑩ _____”

(these are the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet, and they stand for the beginning and the end of everything), “who ⑪ _____

who ⑫ _____

and who ⑬ _____.”

These two titles for God would encourage harassed believers by reminding them that, before their present troubles and their powerful enemies had existed, there was God. After their troubles had ended and after their enemies had perished, there would still be God. End of verse 8: “The ¹⁴ _____

_____.”

Strong as their enemies—even the whole Roman empire!—were, believers could know that their God was stronger, possessing *all* power. 1:5 “Jesus Christ, the

¹⁵ _____

witness.” These believers would be called upon to witness to Christ, often under circumstances where it would be difficult to be faithful; yet Christ himself had done the same before them. Also in verse 5: “The firstborn of ¹⁶ _____

_____.

These Christians might even have to die for their faithful witness, but Christ’s resurrection assured them that they, too, would rise from the dead. End of verse 5: “The

¹⁷ _____

of kings on earth.” First century Christians were often from the poorer, lower classes. They may have felt helpless before the power of their Roman rulers, yet their Lord ruled those rulers.



Read Revelation 1:10–20.

No doubt, as John was alone on his island on the Lord’s Day, he was startled when he heard a voice behind him. What was the voice like? ¹⁸ _____

When he turned to see who was speaking, he saw Christ. Where was he standing?

¹⁹ _____

What did the seven lampstands represent (1:20)? ²⁰ _____

The Greek word translated “angel” means “messenger.” Maybe the stars represented angels that ministered to and protected each church; maybe they represented the churches’ pastors; maybe they stood for the churches themselves. The point is that, standing among the churches (lampstands), holding their stars in his hand, the Lord Jesus Christ is intimately involved with his church, and with each local church.

What came from Christ’s mouth? 27 _____

What was his face like? 28 _____

What did John do when he saw Christ? 29 _____

What did Christ do to reassure him (besides speak to him)? 30 _____

What did Christ tell him *not* to do? 31 _____

Sooner or later, John and these Christians would have to die, maybe for their faith. What did Jesus say he was (1:18)?

“The 32 _____

_____”

What had he done? 33 _____

Even so, he said, “and behold I am 34 _____

_____.”

And to what does he have the keys? 35 _____

and 36 _____

Jesus is the one who determines when someone goes in, and he is the one who lets his people out again! John—and persecuted Christians then and now—could be free from fear because Christ went through death and came out again alive. He will go through death with each of his people, and will raise them again to life.

Revelation 2–3 contains seven letters, one for each of the churches in Asia to whom John addressed this book. As you read each of the seven letters, fill in the information asked for below. Each of these letters is just as relevant for Christians today as it was at the time John wrote it. That’s why, at the end of each short letter, we find the statement, “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Read Revelation 2:1–7.



CHURCH: 37 _____

Jesus is the one who (2:1) 38 _____

Jesus commended the church for (2:2–3, 6) 39 _____

Jesus rebuked them for (2:4) 40 _____

Jesus warned this church to repent, or he would remove this church. To the one who conquered Jesus would (2:7) 41 _____



Read Revelation 2: 8-11.

CHURCH 42 _____

Jesus is the (2:8) 43 _____

Jesus commended this church for (2:9) 44 _____

Jesus rebuked them for 45 _____

Jesus warned these faithful believers that some of them would be imprisoned, but he encouraged them to be faithful unto death, and said he would give them the crown of life.

The one who conquered would (2:11) 46 _____

Read Revelation 2:12–17.



CHURCH: 47 _____

Jesus is the one who (2:12) 48 _____

Jesus commended this church for (2:13) 49 _____

Jesus rebuked them because (2:14–15) 50 _____

Jesus warned this church to repent. If they didn't, he said he would come and wage war against them with the sword from his mouth. To the one who conquered Jesus would (2:17) 51 _____

Read Revelation 2:18–29.



CHURCH: 52 _____

Jesus is the one who (2:18) 53 _____

Jesus commended this church for (2:19) ⁵⁴ _____

Jesus rebuked them for (2:20) ⁵⁵ _____

Jesus warned that he would punish this prophetess and those who were immoral with her. To the rest, he said they should hold fast what they had until he came. To the one who conquered Jesus would (2:26–28) ⁵⁶ _____



Read Revelation 3:1–6.

CHURCH: ⁵⁷ _____

Jesus is the one who (3:1) ⁵⁸ _____

Jesus commended a few of them because they (3:4) ⁵⁹ _____

Jesus rebuked the rest of them because (3:1) ⁶⁰ _____

To these, Jesus said that their works weren't complete; they must wake up and repent, or he would come like a thief. The one who conquered, Jesus would (3:5)

61 _____

Read Revelation 3:7–13.



CHURCH: 62 _____

Jesus is the one who (3:7) 63 _____

Jesus commended this church for (3:8) 64 _____

Jesus rebuked them for 65 _____

Jesus promised to humble their enemies. He said he would keep them from a trial that was coming on the rest of the earth, and he encouraged them to hold fast what they had. The one who conquered, Jesus would (3:12) 66 _____



Read Revelation 3:14–22.

CHURCH: ⁶⁷ _____

Jesus is the (3:14) ⁶⁸ _____

Jesus commended this church for ⁶⁹ _____

Jesus rebuked them for (3:15–17) ⁷⁰ _____

Jesus called on the people of this church to come to him for what they needed. If they didn't, he would spit them out. He said he reproves those whom he loves, so they must be zealous to repent. He said he was knocking at the door, demanding that they respond. If they did, they would have fellowship with him. To the one who conquered, Jesus would (3:21) ⁷¹ _____



Read Revelation 4–5.

What did John see in the very beginning of chapter 4 (4:1)? ⁷² _____

Before any visions of what would happen in the future, God gave John a vision of God in heaven. That's because what will comfort and encourage struggling believers is not particular events, but God himself. Like the rest of the Bible, Revelation is, first of all, about God. Where was God in this vision (4:2)? ⁷³ _____

In this vision that comes before any information about what happens on earth, John saw God on his throne, ruling over all things in all places. He appeared as great and majestic, receiving worship that never stops. What did the four living creatures especially emphasize in the praise they gave to God (4:8)? ⁷⁴ _____

What do the twenty-four elders (who probably represent God's Old and New Testament people) do with their crowns (4:10)? ⁷⁵ _____

In their praise, what do they say that God is worthy of, and why (4:11)?

⁷⁶ _____

In the vision John saw, what did God hold in his hand (5:1)? ⁷⁷ _____

What problem was there with this scroll (5:2-3)? ⁷⁸ _____

We aren't told exactly what was written on the scroll. It may have been God's judgments on his enemies (which we see carried out in this book). It may have been God's covenant or God's law which only Jesus could keep perfectly. It may have been God's promises to his people. The scroll may have represented God's plans for his creation and especially for his people, or it may have stood for a combination of all these things. Whatever the scroll said, it would be a disaster if it remained unopened. If the scroll contained the judgments of God, evil would never be punished and would just continue. If the scroll contained God's law or his covenant, these would never be kept and God's people could never be rightly related to him. If the scroll represented the plans of God and remained unopened, God would never have a people for himself and his will would never be done. No wonder John wept when he saw that there was no one, in heaven or on earth, worthy to open the scroll! Who did one of the elders say was able to open the scroll, and why (5:5)? ⁷⁹ _____

But when John looked for this Lion, what did he actually see, and how was it standing (5:6)? ⁸⁰ _____

It was through Christ's death that he conquered all the enemies of God that stood in the way of God's purposes being accomplished. For believers too, Revelation will say, it would be through suffering and possibly martyrdom that they would conquer. When the Lamb took the scroll, a song of praise to him began. Who began the song (5:8)? ⁸¹ _____

and ⁸² _____

Their song praised the Lamb for being worthy to open the scroll because of what he had done. What had he done (5:9-10)? He was ⁸³ _____

and by his ⁸⁴ _____

he had ⁸⁵ _____

for God people from every ⁸⁶ _____

and ⁸⁷ _____

and ⁸⁸ _____

and ⁸⁹ _____

and had made them ⁹⁰ _____

and 91 _____
to our God, and they shall 92 _____
on the earth forever. Then who joined the song of praise, and how many of them
(5:11)? 93 _____
Then whom did John hear praising the Lamb (5:13)? 94 _____

The Seven Seals.



Read Revelation 6-7.

After John had seen heaven in his vision, with all creatures worshipping the Lamb, what did he see next (6:1a)? 1 _____

Most of the seals unleashed judgments of God against a rebellious world. When the first seal was opened, what did John see? 2 _____

Some believe that this rider was the Lord Jesus Christ, because later in Revelation we do see the Lord Jesus Christ riding a white horse and going to do battle with his enemies. Another common understanding of this rider is that he represented military conquest, one of the judgments God uses against nations. What did John see when the second seal was opened? 3 _____

What would its rider take away, and what would be the result? ④ _____

What was this rider given? ⑤ _____

This rider represented war. What color was the horse John saw when the Lamb opened the third seal? ⑥ _____

What did its rider carry? ⑦ _____

This was for weighing out food in the market, and the prices John heard a voice cry out were extremely high prices for very basic food. This rider represented famine. What was the horse of the fourth seal like, what was its rider's name? What followed the rider? ⑧ _____

⑨ _____

What were these two given authority to do, and what four things did they use to do it? ⑩ _____

These figures are commonly referred to as “the four horsemen of the apocalypse.” All these things—military conquest, war, famine, disease and death—occurred in the first century. They have continued to happen all during the course of history since they were written, sometimes on a larger scale, sometimes on a smaller. These things still occur today, and will continue until the end of time. These four terrible riders and the horrors they bring represent the natural consequences of sin. These things are always occurring in a fallen world. At the same time, they also represent God’s judgment on sin. When you think about it, these things can also be considered as acts of God’s mercy, since they cause unbelievers to stop and consider life and death, and whether or not they are ready to stand before God. Until such judgments are actually the final judgments, they can be construed as warnings to call people to repent. However, as we will see as we go on in the book and as actually happens in everyday life, as warnings, they go generally unheeded.

With the opening of the fifth seal, the scene changed. What did John see in heaven, and what was under it? ⑪ _____

What did these people call God (6:10)? ⑫ _____

For what were they crying out? ¹³ _____

They were told to rest; what were they told to wait for (10:11)? ¹⁴ _____

God is sovereign, even over the martyrdom of his people.

The other seals had brought limited judgments. The sixth seal fast-forwarded to the final judgment at the end of the world and showed all the earth being judged. There was an earthquake, the sun became black, the stars fell, the sky was rolled up, and mountains and islands were removed. List the types of people named in 6:15. ¹⁵ _____

John saw judgment coming for all. How did they react? ¹⁶ _____

These people finally understood that nothing would be as bad as having to face God and the wrath of the Lamb on the day of their wrath. These people asked in despair, “Who can stand in the day of God’s wrath?”

Chapter 7 is a pause in the story, a pause that answered that question! What did the angels do to the servants of God? ¹⁷ _____

and what was the number of those servants? 18 _____

The specific number indicates that God knows exactly who are his and will save them all. Does this mean these people won't have to face war or famine or death? No, it means they will not have to face the wrath of God and of the Lamb in the final judgment. These are the people who *will* be able to stand in the day of God's wrath.

Then, once again, the book of Revelation pulled back the curtain to show what goes on in heaven. What did John see? 19 _____

How big was it (7:9)? 20 _____

How did one of the elders describe these people (7:14)? "They have washed their robes and made them white in 21 _____

From what nation were these people? 22 _____

Not only that, but they came from all languages and tribes as well. The same elder went on to describe the life and the future of these people (7:15-17). Where are they, and what do they do day and night? 23 _____

What will shelter them? ²⁴ _____

What will they not do anymore? ²⁵ _____

or ²⁶ _____

What will not strike them? ²⁷ _____

What will the Lamb in the midst of the throne be to them? ²⁸ _____

Where will he guide them? ²⁹ _____

What will God do for them? ³⁰ _____

Having answered the question of who can stand in the day of God’s wrath, John’s vision continued, with the opening of the seventh seal. One interpretation of Revelation sees the book as a series of judgment stories that keep repeating. Each retelling becomes more intense as it shows us that the conflicts and calamities we see on earth are the manifestation of the conflict between God and his enemies. Each retelling reaches its climax in a final judgment, followed by a scene of God’s people praising him in heaven. If that interpretation is correct, when the seventh seal issues in the seven trumpets, we “rewind” and go back to the beginning.

The Seven Trumpets.



Read Revelation 8.

When the seventh seal was opened, there was first silence, and then seven angels appeared and were each given a trumpet. Before the first trumpet blew, a censer of incense was thrown to the earth. What had been offered to God that then mixed with the smoke from the incense? _____

God answered the prayers of his people, and the judgments began. What did the first trumpet produce? ³² _____

These were thrown to earth, resulting in a third of the earth, a third of the trees and a third of the grass being burned up. What happened when the second trumpet blew, and what was the result? ³³ _____

When the third trumpet blew, what happened to a third of the rivers and springs (fresh water), and what was the result? ³⁴ _____

What happened when the fourth trumpet blew? ³⁵ _____

Read Revelation 9.



When the fifth angel blew his trumpet, what was opened? 36 _____

Smoke rose out of this; what came from the smoke? 37 _____

These were quite unusual and horrible. Describe their appearance. They had (9:7)

38 _____

on their heads, (9:8) 39 _____

hair, (9:7) 40 _____

faces with teeth (9:8) like 41 _____,

very noisy (9:9) 42 _____,

and tails and stings 9:10) like 43 _____.

Who were the only people the locusts were allowed to harm (9:4)? 44 _____

A normal locust plague would last a few days; how long would these locusts torment

people (9:5)? 45 _____

How bad would that torment be (9:6)? ⁴⁶ _____

At the sixth trumpet, John saw an invading army. How many troops were in this army (9:16)? ⁴⁷ _____

The horses of this army were just as horrible as the locusts of the fifth trumpet. How much of mankind did this army kill (9:18)? ⁴⁸ _____

What was the response of the survivors of mankind (9:20–21)? ⁴⁹ _____



Read Revelation 10–11.

Once again, before John saw a vision of final judgment falling, there was a pause. Earlier, between the sixth and seventh seals, John saw martyred saints in heaven. Now, between the sixth and seven trumpets, John saw a vision of saints being martyred on earth. Martyrdom was what many of the original readers of this book faced daily. Before the account of what would happen, John heard God tell what would happen, and how long it would last. What did God say the nations would do, and for how long (11:2)? ⁵⁰ _____

Down to the day and the hour, all things—including persecution and the triumph of evil—happen according to God’s plan.

Then John saw two witnesses, powerful prophets, who had the power to bring down judgments with their prophecies. When would the beast from the bottomless pit make war on them and kill them (11:7)? ⁵¹ _____

In other words, when they had completed all the ministry God had for them to do. What was the reaction to the deaths of these faithful witnesses for God (11:9–10)?

⁵² _____

It may be that these two very good and powerful martyrs represent all the people of God, who faithfully bear witness to him throughout the ages, and who are hated by his enemies. This is what God promised all the way back in Genesis 3:15. There would always be enmity between the offspring of the woman and the offspring of the serpent. The people who celebrate the deaths of the two witnesses, then, would represent everyone else—the offspring of the serpent. Remember that Revelation is apocalyptic literature. It pulls back the curtain to show us the hearts of even “nice” unbelievers and reminds us that, even though it isn’t obvious to us right now, there are two and only two types of people: God’s people and God’s enemies.

The witnesses were then raised and taken up to heaven, while an earthquake came, killing many of their enemies. Finally, John heard the seventh trumpet, which resulted in another view into heaven at the end of time. John heard voices announcing what the kingdom of the world had become; what was it (11:15)? ⁵³ _____

How long would the Lord reign? ⁵⁴ _____

The twenty-four elders worshiped God for beginning to reign. Fill in these blanks from the praise of the elders. The nations ⁵⁵ _____

but God's ⁵⁶ _____

came, with the time for ⁵⁷ _____

and for ⁵⁸ _____

God's servants, the prophets and the saints, and those who ⁵⁹ _____

God's name, and for ⁶⁰ _____

the destroyers of the earth.



One way of seeing what happens next is that the curtain is drawn back to show us what all the fuss is really about: who's really at war with whom? In chapter 12, we find the answer to the question of why the people of God have been persecuted all through history.

Read Revelation 12.

John saw a woman who was pregnant and about to give birth. What stood before the woman, and why was it standing there? ¹ _____

Who was this (12:9)? ² _____

Behind all the conflict between the people of God and their enemies, from the Garden of Eden until the end of time, is this basic conflict between God and Satan. Satan would love to kill God if he could. He would have loved to prevent the birth of the Messiah and so, in this vision, he crouched in front of the woman, hoping to devour her child. God had first promised this child, who would crush the serpent's head, right after Adam and Eve's sin. Think of all the times it looked like this promise would not be kept. First, Cain killed Abel. Then the world grew so wicked that God destroyed it with a flood. Next, Isaac, the only son of Abraham, from whom the promised child was to come, was to be offered as a sacrifice. Later, famine threatened to wipe out all of Abraham's descendants. Egyptians enslaved the Israelites and began to kill all the baby boys. Pharaoh's army trapped the Israelites at the Red Sea. Time and again, God's people had no food and no water in the wilderness. Time and again, God's people sinned so greatly that God threatened to destroy them all. Enemy nations harassed and fought them. The people sank into deeper and deeper godlessness and idolatry. Assyria conquered Israel and Babylon conquered Judah.

And yet, none of these things hindered the promise of God. Just as God had said, the baby was born. How did John describe the child who was born in the vision he saw (12:5)? ③ _____

The dragon did not succeed in destroying the baby, and the woman fled. Who lost the war that followed in John's vision? ④ _____

As a result of Satan's defeat, the people of God also conquer. They do this by means of what two things (12:11)? ⑤ _____

—although this may mean that, in conquering, they will lose their own lives. Once Satan was thrown down to earth, what was his state of mind, and why (12:12)?

⑥ _____

Then the dragon became furious; what did he go off to do (12:17a)? 7 _____

How are the offspring of the woman described (12:17b)? 8 _____

This is why Christians are persecuted and suffer. This is why the seven churches had (and all churches have) evil mixed in with good. Satan knows he is defeated; angry about that, and hating God, he also hates God's people, and does all he can to destroy them, by temptation, deception and persecution.



Read Revelation 13.

John saw a beast rise from the sea, with seven heads and ten horns with crowns and blasphemous names. What did the dragon (Satan) give to this beast (13:2)?

9 _____

What was this beast "allowed" to do, and for how long? (13:5)? 10 _____

What else was it “allowed” to do (13:7a)? 11 _____

Over what was the beast given authority (13:7b)? 12 _____

The beast may represent world powers that seek to crush the people of God, who “conquer” God’s people by killing them if they refuse to deny Christ. Nonetheless, these powers can do only what they are “allowed,” and only for as long as God allows it. Who were the only ones John saw who *didn’t* worship this beast (13:8)?

13 _____

Like Paul and Peter, as John wrote to persecuted Christians, he called them to realize that persecution is to be expected and endured; God is in charge, and this is part of his plan (13:9–10).

Then John saw another beast rise from the earth. This one seems to specialize in deceiving people into giving obedience and worship where it shouldn’t be given. What are this beast’s horns like (13:11)? 14 _____

But what does it speak like? 15 _____

By what does this beast deceive those who dwell on the earth (13:14)?

16 _____

What does it seek to make people worship (13:12)? ¹⁷ _____

What did the second beast do to those who wouldn't worship the image of the first beast (13:15)? ¹⁸ _____

This beast required all to receive a mark showing loyalty to the first beast; what could people not do, without this mark? ¹⁹ _____



Read Revelation 14.

John's next vision was of the Lamb in heaven with those who had been redeemed from mankind, who would not experience God's judgment. Then John saw three angels. The first had an eternal gospel to proclaim to every nation, tribe, language, and people. What did this angel call on people to do (14:7)?

²⁰ _____

God, give him ²¹ _____,

and ²² _____

him. What did the second angel announce (14:8)? ²³ _____

the great had ²⁴ _____.

This city had seduced all the nations with immorality. In John's day, this would probably have meant Rome, the world's capital, and highly immoral. Since then, there have been many cities that have risen to prominence and have been filled with sinful behavior and attitudes. What did the third angel say about any who received the beast's mark or worshiped the beast (14:9)? 25 _____

John's next vision was of two harvests, representing Christ's return. The first harvest may refer to God's people being gathered to him from out of the world. The grape harvest seems to refer to the gathering of unbelievers for judgment, since they were thrown into the winepress of the wrath of God and crushed.

The Seven Bowls.

Read Revelation 15.

John saw angels preparing the next set of seven, seven plagues or seven bowls of the wrath of God. What did John say about these plagues, and why was that so (15:1)?

1 _____



Revelation
15-18

Before those judgments were poured out, though, John saw another scene of praise in heaven. Who were singing praise in this vision (15:2)? ② _____

This song of praise calls God the ③ _____

and the ④ _____

of the ⑤ _____.

Its says his deeds are ⑥ _____

and ⑦ _____,

and his ways are ⑧ _____

and ⑨ _____.

It asks who will not ⑩ _____ and

⑪ _____

God's name, because he alone is ⑫ _____.

It sings that all nations will ⑬ _____ and

⑭ _____ him.



Read Revelation 16.

When the first angel poured out his bowl, what happened to those who bore the mark of the beast? ⑮ _____

What did the second angel's bowl cause? ⑯ _____

What happened when the third angel poured out his bowl on the fresh water (rivers and springs)? 17 _____

On what did the fourth angel pour out his bowl, and what did it do? 18 _____

How did people respond (16:9)? 19 _____

On what did the fifth angel pour out his bowl, and what happened? 20 _____

Besides gnawing their tongues in anguish, how did people respond (16:10-11)?

21 _____

The bowl of the sixth angel caused a river to dry up. What did that prepare?

22 _____

From the mouth of the dragon, the beast and the false prophet, demonic spirits who could perform signs went out to gather the kings of the whole world. For what reason were they gathering them (16:14)? ²³ _____

When the seventh angel poured out his bowl, there was a great earthquake. What happened to the great city, Babylon (16:19)? ²⁴ _____

What happened to the cities of the nations? ²⁵ _____

How heavy were the hailstones that fell on people (16:21)? ²⁶ _____

How did the people respond? ²⁷ _____



Read Revelation 17–18.

An angel offered to show John the judgment of the great prostitute. John saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast. How was she dressed (17:4)? ²⁸ _____

What was in the golden cup in her hand? 29 _____

What had the kings of the earth and the dwellers on earth done with the “wine” in this cup (17:2)? 30 _____

What was the name on this woman’s forehead (17:5)? 31 _____

The woman represents a great civilization opposed to God. On what was this woman drunk (17:6a)? 32 _____

The angel went on to tell John that the very nations, people, and rulers who had enjoyed her luxurious living and her immorality would rise up against her and destroy her. Why would they do that (17:17)? 33 _____

John heard voices describing Babylon’s fall and her sins that had caused it (chapter 18). She had caused people on all the earth to be sexually immoral; kings and merchants had grown rich off her luxurious living. She had glorified herself, living in luxury and pride. She had thought she was invincible, but how quickly would God bring plagues on her (18:8)? 34 _____

Revelation
19–22

Why? Because the Lord God who judges her is 35 _____

How quickly would her judgment come (18:10)? 36 _____

Read Revelation 19–20.

In chapter 19, the scene switched back to heaven again, and John heard a multitude in heaven praising God and rejoicing, first (19:1–2) because God had

1 _____

the great prostitute, then because (19:6–8) God reigns and the 2 _____

had come, and 3 _____

had made herself ready.

Then John saw heaven opened and a white horse came out. What was the horse's rider called? 4 _____

What would he do in righteousness? 5 _____

What was on this rider's head? 6 _____

Describe his robe. ⑦ _____

What does verse 13 give as the name he would be called? ⑧ _____

What followed this rider? ⑨ _____

What would the rider do with the sword that came from his mouth?

⑩ _____

What name was written on his robe and thigh? ⑪ _____

This was the Lord Jesus Christ, coming in judgment. John heard an angel invite all the birds to come for a feast of the flesh of God's enemies. Who gathered to make war against the rider on the white horse and his armies (19:19)? ⑫ _____

What happened to the beast and the false prophet? ⑬ _____

What happened to their armies? ⑭ _____

What did an angel do to the dragon, and what else is that dragon called (20:1–3)?

15 _____

How long would the dragon be left there, and what would be the result of the dragon being in there (20:3)? 16 _____

This thousand year period in which Satan's activity would be restrained has come to be known as the millennium, and Christians don't agree on what it represents. Some Christians believe the millennium will be a literal period of a thousand years that will occur in the future; others believe it isn't a literal, exact one thousand years; rather, the millennium symbolizes a period of time when Satan's power is limited. Three main positions about the millennium are premillennialism, postmillennialism, and amillennialism. The pre-millennialist believes that Jesus will return "pre"—before—the millennium. Typically, this view expects things to become worse and worse on earth, until Jesus returns and sets up a thousand year reign on earth. Postmillennialists believe that Jesus will return "post—" after—the millennium. They believe that, as the gospel goes forth, the church will grow and will become increasingly holy and strong. Of course, that means that things on earth will get better and better, finally ushering in the thousand-year reign of Christ from heaven, through his people. After that time, Christ will return to judge his enemies and establish a new heaven and earth. Amillennialists believe that there will be "a—" no—literal thousand year reign of Christ. Rather, they believe, Satan was bound when Jesus defeated him on the cross. The millennium is the entire period of time from Christ's resurrection until his return. During this time, according to amillennialists, the church struggles and suffers persecution, but Satan is bound in the sense that he is unable to stop its witness and the advance of the gospel. He is unable to keep those whom God has chosen

to be his people from repenting and believing. At the time God has appointed, this period of time will end with Jesus' return to judge those who never turned to him, and to bring his people safely to be with him in heaven forever.

At the end of the thousand-year period, John saw Satan released. What did Satan do with the nations then (20:8)? ¹⁷ _____

them and ¹⁸ _____

them for ¹⁹ _____.

How many people were there (20:8)? ²⁰ _____

These enemies of God and his people surrounded the holy city, but then what happened (20:9)? ²¹ _____

What happened to devil, and who was already there? ²² _____

How long would the devil be there? ²³ _____

John's next vision was of the judgment. He saw God on a throne, with everyone trying to run away, but there was no place to go. All who had ever died were raised to face judgment. They were judged by what was written in books; what was the basis for judging (20:12b)? ²⁴ _____

The actions of all were such that all were thrown into the lake of fire, *unless* their names were written in another book. What book was that? ²⁵ _____

(In Revelation 21:27, this book is called “the Lamb’s book of life.”)



Read Revelation 21–22.

Once evil had been defeated and destroyed, the way was clear for the new heavens and the new earth to appear. In these final visions of the joy and glory of heaven, the people of God (the church), and their future dwelling in heaven blend together. When John saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven, what was it prepared as (21:2)? ²⁶ _____

John heard a loud voice from heaven make an important announcement. What was it (21:2–3)? “The dwelling place of ²⁷ _____ is with ²⁸ _____. He will ²⁹ _____ with them and be ³⁰ _____, and they will be ³¹ _____.”

This was the goal God had all along. Long ago, he walked with Adam and Eve in the garden, but then they listened to Satan, sinned, and were cast out of the garden, away from the presence of God. God promised to send a child to undo what Satan and sin had done—here we see that finally completed.

An angel invited John to see the Bride, the wife of the Lamb. When John looked, what did he see (21:9–11)? ³² _____ coming down out of heaven, having ³³ _____ its radiance like ³⁴ _____.

A number of things will *not* be in heaven. List them.

21:4. No 35 _____

because God will wipe them all away; no 36 _____,

no 37 _____,

nor 38 _____,

nor 39 _____.

21:22. No 40 _____,

because this city's 41 _____

is the Lord God and the Lamb.

21:23. No 42 _____

or 43 _____

because the glory of God is its 44 _____,

and its 45 _____ is the Lamb.

21:25. No 46 _____

21:27. Nothing 47 _____;

no one who does what is 48 _____

or 49 _____.

22:3. Nothing 50 _____.

22:15. No evildoers of any kind.

Make another list of what *will* be in heaven.

21:26. 51 _____

22:1. 52 _____

that flows from 53 _____

22:2. 54 _____

with its leaves for 55 _____

Remember Eden? Adam and Eve had to leave the garden, so they wouldn't eat of the tree of life after they'd sinned.

22:3. 56 _____

22:4 God himself will be there, and his people will 57 _____

his 58 _____.

Part of John's conclusion of the book included words of Jesus (22:7). He said that he was 59 _____

and that any who 60 _____

were 61 _____.

Again, Jesus said he was coming soon (22:12), and would bring 62 _____

with him, to 63 _____

everyone for what he had done. On whom did John pronounce a blessing (22:14)?

64 _____

This, of course, is a metaphor for being cleansed of our sins by Jesus' blood. What right would such people have? 65 _____

Jesus has earned for his people the right to eat from the tree God drove them away from, way back in the Garden of Eden. Remember the cherubim who guarded the garden with a flaming sword, to keep Adam and Eve out? Remember God's promise to Adam and Eve, that a child would undo what they had done by their sin? In John's apocalypse—unveiling—the curtain over the future is pulled back and we see that God will, indeed, bring all his promises to pass.

John closed the book with a warning; what did he say no one must do (22:18–19)?

66 _____

John's response to the revelation Jesus had given him, and to Jesus' promise, "Surely I am coming soon," was the prayer all believers should have when they've read this strange but wonderful book. Copy John's words here (the last four words of 22:20). _

67

One last, short test over Revelation, and you'll have made it! It's on the next page. But even after you've taken it, don't stop reading your Bible – after all, it's the most important thing you'll ever study!