

**The Revelation**

**of**

**Jesus Christ**

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

Revelation 1:8

**Why Study the Bible?**

The Bible is by far the most important book ever written. It is God’s Word and as such it is able to change your heart and transform your life. The Bible wasn’t written to be merely a historical reference book or piece of great literature. It is meant to be read and understood as the revelation of God’s will to man. It answers for us the most important questions in life: “Who is God?” “What is He like?” And, “How should I respond to Him?” In short, God wants us to know Him and to love Him with all our being! The Word of God tells us how.

**Reasons to Study God’s Word**

***To Know God*** - The Lord created the heavens and the earth and everyone in it so that we might seek Him and know Him. (Genesis 1-3; Acts 17:26-27)

***To Enjoy and Love God*** – We need to meditate on God’s truth and His promises; rejoice in His care and forgiveness. (Psalm 119:12-18, 160-162)

***To Know God’s Word*** – The Scriptures were inspired by God. They teach us God’s truth about life and godliness and show us how we need to change to become more like Christ (2 Tim. 3:16)

***To Know God’s Son*** – Jesus is called the Word because He is the ultimate communication of God to man. He existed in the beginning with God, He is God, He created everything and He is to have first place in everything. To know Him is to know the Father and to have eternal life!

(John 1:1-3; 10:30; 12:44-45; 14:7-9; 17:1-4; Col. 1:15-18)

***To Receive Direction for Life*** – The Word of God teaches us how to live! (Psalm 119:9-11)

***To Find Comfort and Hope*** – The Scriptures give us hope and encouragement. (Ps. 19:7; Romans 15:4)

***To Let God Expose Our Innermost Thoughts and Desires*** – The Word of God helps us see ourselves as we really are and convicts us of sin to that we repent and change. (Hebrews 4:12-16)

***To Make Us Pure and Holy*** – Jesus prayed that all believers would be sanctified (set apart to be holy for God) by the truth. Then, He said, “Your Word is truth”! (John 17:17)

***To Obey the Greatest Commandment*** – The more we know God, the more we will love Him. The Greatest Commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your being and the second is like it, to love your neighbor as Christ has loved you. (Matthew 22:37-39)

*We invite you to join us in a passionate pursuit to know and love the only true and living God – He is Jesus Christ our Lord!*

**How to Study the Bible**

**Step #1 PREPARE YOUR HEART**

**A. REMEMBER –** this is the **Word of God!**

**1.** We are seeking to understand the mind and will of our all-wise God.

*“THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND which HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."* ***10****For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.* ***11****For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.* ***12****Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,* ***13****which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.* ***14****But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.* ***15****But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one.* ***16****For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WIINSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.”* **1 Corinthians 2:9-16**

**2.** We want to be approved of God as those who rightly declare His truth.

*“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”* **2 Timothy 2:15**

**B. PRAY** – Purpose: to humble yourself before God!

**1.** Confess any sin and ask God to make your heart clean before Him.

*“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* **1 John 1:9**

**2.** Pray that the Holy Spirit would help you understand and apply God’s truth from His Word.

*“Open my eyes, that I may behold  
          Wonderful things from Your law.”* **Psalm 119:18**

**3.** Pray that you may grow in your knowledge of God and in intimacy with Him.

*“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”* **John 17:3**

**4.** Pray that you will be prepared to change.

*“I considered my ways and turned my feet to Your testimonies.   
     I hastened and did not delay to keep Your commandments.”* **Ps 119:59-60**

**Step #2 CHOOSE A BOOK OF THE BIBLE TO STUDY**

For this class we have chosen the book of Revelation–the final “chapter” of God’s Word!

**Step #3 MAKE A TIME TO STUDY**

It is going to be so very important that you take the time now to think this through and MAKE a time to study God’s Word. If you want to follow through (and receive the greatest blessing) you must be intentional. Ask yourself: “Is there really anything more important for me and my family to do than to treasure up the Word of God in our hearts?”

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**OBSERVATION**

**Step #4** We begin with **OBSERVATION** – seeing things as they really are.

**A. Get the Big Picture** – Our goal here is to gain an overview of the book in order to discover the author’s overall purpose for writing. We want to know the overall message the author wants to convey.

**Procedure**:

**1.** Unit Read – commit yourself to read and re-read the book. The more you read the book, the more familiar you will become with its content and context. To begin you want to read the book as an entire unit (at least once). Then, once you’ve read the book as a whole, you can start to break it down into smaller sections. For the book of Revelation this should be chapters 1-3, to begin with. (**See assignment for week #1**)

**2**. Make use of the “Summary of Revelation” chart.

**3.** Make Note of the Style – is it an epistle? a Psalm? an historical narrative? a prophecy? Record the style on your “Summary of Revelation” chart for the book.

**4.** Make Note of the Emotional Tone – is the author happy/ sad/complimentary/ angry/ encouraging/ exhorting, etc. Record this on the “Summary of Revelation” chart.

**5.** Make Note of the Background Material – who is the author? the recipients? what is the date of writing? what is the purpose for writing? where is the author? where are the recipients?

**6.** Make Note of Significant Words and Phrases – words that are repeated/ words that are unfamiliar/ words or phrases that are theological

**7.** Determine the Subject Matter – subdivide the book according to different topics or issues addressed. To help you in this task, look for words like, “Therefore,” “Now,” “Since,” “Finally,” and other expressions that introduce a new subject for discussion. Record on the chart your subdivision of the verses and include a brief description of the content for each section. (Hint: Key words and phrases reveal the subjects.)

**8.** Determine the Major Sub-Themes – as you consider the various subjects addressed, you should be able to see more clearly the main themes the author is concerned with.

**9.** Determine the Overall Theme of the Book – the overall theme of the book should flow out from determining the sub-themes and subject matter. You should eventually be able to write out a concise summary statement of the book.

**B. EXAMINE THE TEXT MORE CLOSELY –** Having completed what you can of the overview of the book, we now want to focus in on the details.

**Procedure**:

**1.** Remember always to pray asking the Lord for guidance.

**2.** Use your Observation Worksheets to ask the “5 W’s and an H” questions – One of the most important steps in inductive Bible study is to learn to ask questions about what we observe.

WHO? WHAT? WHERE? WHEN? WHY? and HOW?

WHO spoke this? About WHOM? WHO are the people mentioned?

WHAT is happening? WHAT do these words mean?

WHERE is the author? WHERE are his readers?

WHEN is something supposed to happen?

WHY was there a need for this to be written? WHY does he use this expression?

HOW is he speaking? HOW should they respond? HOW will they obey?

**3.** On your Observation Worksheet CIRCLE all significant or unusual words – use a RED pen to circle any words that you will want to look up later in the INTERPRETATION step of the process. Later, we will use study tools to discover the meanings of these words and how they were used in the original languages.

**4.** Look for CONTRASTS, COMPARISONS, TERMS OF CONCLUSION, TERMS OF EXPLANATION, and EXPRESSIONS OF TIME – use a BLUE pen to mark these words and phrases. Contrasting words and phrases include: “But,” “However,” “Darkness and Light” etc. Comparison words include: “And,” “Like,” “As,” and others. Terms of conclusion include: “Finally,” “Now,” “For,” “Therefore,” etc.

Terms of explanation include: “For,” “Because,” “So that,” “Since,” “In view of …” etc. Expressions of time include: “Then,” “After this,” “Until,” “When,” etc.

**5**. Look for Lists! Record in the margin of your Observation Worksheet any lists you find. These may be repetition of words or phrases, lists of commands to obey, or lists of things to avoid, etc.

**Consider 1 Peter 5:6-9** “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, **7**casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. **8**Be of sober spirit, be on the alert Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.  **9**But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.”

**6.** Record Doctrinal Themes – use a GREEN pen to mark all reference to doctrine. Here are some samples:

Bibliology: the doctrine of the Bible

Theology Proper: the doctrine of God – His existence; the Trinity; His attributes

Christology: the doctrine of Christ – His divine/ human nature; His work; prophecies concerning Him

Pneumatology - the doctrine of the Holy Spirit – His personality, deity, and work in relation to Christ, the believer, and the world

Soteriology - the doctrine of salvation – the death of Christ; substitution; grace; faith; forgiveness; election; security; preservation

Anthropology and Harmartiology - the doctrines of man and sin – origins; the sin nature of man; depravity

Ecclesiology: the doctrine of the church – descriptions of; ordinances; ministry

Eschatology: the doctrine of last things; - heaven; hell; the return and rule of Christ; resurrections; judgment; man’s eternal state

**Step #5** Now we are ready for **INTERPRETATION** – the search for meaning.

**HERMENEUTICS, AN ART AND A SCIENCE**

The study of Hermeneutics is referred to as “***the science and art of biblical interpretation***.”

It is an “**art**” because each person must determine what hermeneuticalprinciples should be applied and how to apply them to a given passage. It is a“**science**” because the principles of interpretation are fixed and defined. As you seek to applyhermeneutics (a process called exegesis) you may find studying the Scriptures to berigid and mechanical at first, but with practice, you will discover that applying theprinciples becomes natural and almost second nature. The key is to not give up butpersevere in teaching yourself to study correctly. Soon it will become a habit and youwill be able to discover for yourself the rich truths of God’s Word instead of onlyrelying on others.

**A Proper Approach to Interpretation**

1. Our study of God’s Word should be **INDUCTIVE**.

The “inductive” approach wants to hear what the text has to say for its self. Therefore, **it starts with the text** and draws its conclusion from the text. It is objective and safe. It elevates the context and the author’s intent in what he wrote.

The “deductive” approach …

- wants to prove a point.

- has predetermined conclusions.

- starts with conclusions and then looks for support.

- tends to be selective and biased.

ex. Jehovah’s Witnesses do this with the deity of Christ

2. Our study of God’s Word should be **CONTEXTUAL**.

In our study of the Word of God **CONTEXT IS KING**!!!

Every passage of Scripture was written for a reason. As the writer presents his material we must see it and understand it in the way he gave it. Context refers to that which goes before and that which follows after. Every passage of the Bible has a ***NEAR*** context and a ***FAR*** context.

a. How does the passage or verse relate to the material surrounding it?

*Examine Revelation 1:4-5, noting the phrase, “****from the seven Spirits****”. What can you learn about who or what this refers to just from vss. 4 & 5?*

b. How does the passage relate to the book in which it is found?

*Compare Revelation 3:1; 4:5; 5:6. What do these verses add to your understanding?*

c. How does the passage relate to the whole Bible?

*Compare Isaiah 11:2; Zechariah 3-4. What do these passages add to your understanding?*

d. The Correlation Principle

No part of the Bible contradicts any other part. It has one marvelous unity. The Holy Spirit does not disagree with Himself. Therefore, it is necessary to see what the whole Bible says concerning a topic.

**A Warning**: to take a verse out of context is to violate and undermine the authority of God’s Word!!!

4. Our study of God’s Word should be **LITERAL** .

a. A defense of the literal approach

i. Philosophically

- language was given by God for the purpose of being able to communicate with man. God desires to reveal truth, not conceal it. Scripture’s purpose then, demands a literal interpretation.

- The literal meaning of sentences is the normal approach in all languages.

- The meaning of Scripture makes perfectly good sense when interpreted literally.

- The “literal” method recognizes the use of figures of speech, symbols, allegories, etc. and interprets them accordingly. (But this is still the literal or normal sense! In other words, even when the Bible uses figurative language, there still remains a literal intended meaning behind the symbolic language.)

Consider Revelation 1:12-20. In this passage we hear of golden lampstands, stars and One who is adorned as a great judge. But these are not are mysteries, impossible to understand. Rather, they are pictures set out in figurative language, but clearly representing real things and people.

Some implications for our study:

- read the Bible in much the same way you would read a **LETTER.**

- don’t go looking for a deeper, “**SPIRITUAL**” meaning.

- start with the **CLEAR** and then move to the **UNCLEAR**.

- use **SCRIPTURE** to interpret **SCRIPTURE**.

ii. Biblically

- The literal method is the only one which is in agreement with the nature of inspiration. God is seeking to reveal truth not conceal the truth!

- The Old Testament prophecies that have been fulfilled have been fulfilled literally.

eg. - Messianic Prophecies: see charts on 1st and 2nd Comings!

- observe Daniel’s reading of Jeremiah’s prophecy of the 70 year captivity. Notice how he interpreted it. Compare Jeremiah 25:8-11 with Daniel 9:1-19.

(Note: numbers are almost always literal in Scripture especially when repeated in a context.)

*For example: Strictly from the Biblical text …*

*In Revelation 1 - how many churches are there; how many lampstands; how many stars?*

*In Rev. 4 how many thrones; how many elders; how many living creatures; how many wings do they have?*

*In Revelation 7 - how many bondservants are sealed; how many tribes of Israel are there; how many are sealed from each tribe? (what is the total number sealed?)*

*In Rev. 20 how long will satan be bound; how long will the saints reign with Christ?*

Note: Dr. Thomas of the Master’s Seminary has demonstrated that every # in Revelation can be taken literally!

iii. Logically - without the literal method there is no safe way to check on the use of the interpreter’s imagination. The inevitable end result could be as many interpretations as there are interpreters.

A principle to follow: when the plain **SENSE** makes good **SENSE**, seek no other **SENSE**, or you'll end up with **NONSENSE**!

b. The result of the literal approach

Every passage of Scripture has **only one** correct interpretation, though many applications.

i. The nature of language demands this.

ii. The doctrine of inspiration demands this.

\*\*\* God is not playing word games with us! He gave us His Word in a way which we can understand, so that we can all become what He wants us to be, namely, like Christ.

iii. Figurative language should be easily recognized.

ex. Revelation 1:12-16 (Take note of the word, “Like.”)

A General Principle: we can move away from a strict literal sense **only** if factors of context, or cross-reference, or word study, etc. give us a good reason (evidence) to see another idea that makes real and natural sense.

**Authorial intent is key**: what did the author intend to communicate to his original audience; how would his readers understand his words?

5. Our study of God’s Word should be **HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL**.

a. God’s Word was not produced in a vacuum! Every page, sentence, and word bears the marks of the world in which it was produced.

The Bible contains the records of actual persons and events. An understanding of Bible history and geography will help us place the people and events in their proper historical perspective.

b. In Bible study, we need to know as fully as possible, the author of the work being studied. And we should know as fully as possible the circumstances he faced, included when and where he lived. (Some study tools may be necessary).

*Where was John when he received these visions? (Give a reference – what verse?)(see map)*

*Why was John there? John says he was in this location, “Because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.” Does this mean that John was there as a missionary, teaching the Word of God and testifying about Jesus? How do you know what John means by these phrases? (compare 1:9 with Revelation 6:9; 12:17; 20:4)*

6. Our study of God’s Word should be **GRAMMATICAL**.

The Bible has been given to us in human language. Language is built upon a system of grammar. In order to understand the Bible, then, we must pay careful attention to:

a. The meaning of words

i. What would be the first century definition of the word?

ii. How would a first century Christian understand this word’s meaning? (A Bible dictionary is a necessary tool).

b. The relationship between words

What is the NOUN? What is the VERB?

What is the OBJECT?

Are there any DESCRIPTIVE PHRASES

Are there any CONNECTING WORDS that help you “see” the structure?

**Let’s do a little *grammar* exercise together!** *(Don’t panic over that word; it only seems sinful!)*

Let’s write out our memory verses for chapter 1, but we’ll use a different approach than normal.

*Sentence Diagramming Revelation 1:7-8*

7 “Behold,

He

is coming

with the clouds,

and

every eye

will see

Him,

even

those who

pierced

Him;

and

all the tribes of the earth

will mourn over

Him.

So

it is to be.

Amen.”

8 “I

am

the Alpha

and

the Omega,”

says

the Lord God,

“who is

and

who was

and

who is to come,

the Almighty.”

7. Our study of God’s Word should be **LITERARY**.

If we are going to understand God’s Word accurately, we must recognize various, “Artistic forms,” of literature

a. What is the difference between a proverb and a promise?

A Proverb is a normative statement of truth in a normal setting, but is not intended to be taken as a guarantee.

ex. Proverbs 16:7, “When a man’s ways are pleasing to the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.”

Jesus always pleased God. However, His enemies were hardly at peace with Him.

A Promise is a statement of fact; a guarantee.

ex. John 6:37, “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out."

b. What is the difference between an historical narrative and an epistle?

Historical Narrative - records what God did through the lives of people.

e.g. Jacob (Genesis 20 5:19-35:29); the book of Acts

Epistle - a letter expressing explicit teaching to a church or churches; task theology; it answers problems. e.g. 1 Cor. – “Now concerning …” (7:1; 8:1; 12:1)

c. What is the difference between a Psalm and a prophecy?

A Psalm is a legitimate expression of the heart of man to God

A Prophecy is an expression of God to man. “To prophesy,” literally means, “To speak forth for God.”

**Some Tips for our Study of Prophecy!**

#1*Take a literal interpretation of your passage unless there is a specific reason not to do so.*

As the saying goes, “If the literal meaning makes sense,seek no other sense.”

#2*Remember that some prophets were unable to fully explain in words what they saw in visions.*

They did their best to relay what they saw but often could notexplain details in words which satisfy our curiosities.

#3 *Focus on the big picture or main thought which the author is trying to convey*.

Ask yourself, “Is the author’s intent to teach a time sequence of prophetic events or something else?” Some of the common reasons for God giving us predictive prophecy are:

1. To encourage us about the future hope we have in Christ

2. To give us hope to persevere in trials

3. To motivate us to godly living knowing Jesus can come back at any moment

#4 *Don’t neglect prophecy!*

Some pastors and teachers would never even think about preaching or teaching through the book of Revelation because they are intimidated by the language and style of the book. We must not accept this because:

1. We are called to teach the whole counsel of God’s Word (Acts 20:26-27)

2. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable (II Tim. 3:15-17)

3. Revelation is the only book in the Bible which promises a blessing at the beginning and the end for those who read it (Rev. 1:3; 22:7)

#5 *Don’t try to force your theological system on prophetic passages.* Let them speak for themselves first, then, see how they fit into your doctrinal system of last things. Do exegesis (read out of) not eisegesis (read into) when you study prophetic texts. Many have come up with bizarre fanciful interpretations by reading things into the text which the author could not have had in mind.

**Fine Tuning Your Understanding of the Bible**

**Word Studies**

The Bible was originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, and then translated into English and other languages. Proper interpretation, therefore, requires that we bridge the language barriers we face. We need to learn the definitions of original words and discover, by comparing other passages, how a word or words are used. This is accomplished by doing **word studies**.

Some Necessary Tools:

**An Exhaustive Concordance **

An exhaustive concordance shows where each occurrence of a particular word in a particular translation is found throughout the Bible. It also has a dictionary section containing the Hebrew (Old Testament) and the Greek (New Testament) words and their definitions along with other valuable information.

You can purchase an exhaustive concordance at a Bible bookstore or you can access one by Internet. We recommend either Strong’s or the New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance, which is “Keyed” to the New American Standard Bible (which we use on Sundays). For Internet users, “**blueletterbible.org**” has a wealth of resources for free use, including concordances and Bible dictionaries. Another on-line resource is **www.e-sword.net.**

**An Expository Dictionary**

An expository dictionary gives expanded definitions and uses of Bible words. Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*; or W.E. *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, are recommended. Also, “blueletterbible.org” has a selection of Bible Dictionaries.

***A Word of Caution***: Remember that **CONTEXT** is what gives meaning to words, not concordances, dictionaries, lexicons, or word study books. Word study books and resources only give you the range of possible meanings but do not always tell you how the word you are studying should be translated in each specific passage. Therefore you should not just assume that the definition in the word study resource is the right definition for your text. Study the context and find what definition *best* fits the context.

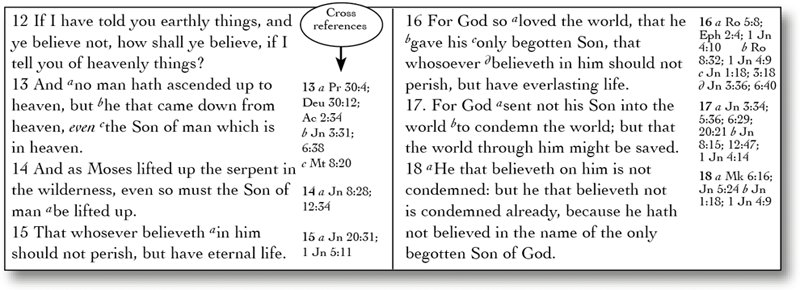
*Consider this humorous look at the meaning of a word:*

Consider the word **up**. It is easy to understand **up** toward the sky or **up** toward the top of a list. But when we waken, why do we wake **up**? At a meeting, why does a topic come **up**, why do participants speak **up**, and why are officers **up** for election? And why is it **up** to the secretary to write **up** a report? Often the little word isn't needed, but we use it anyway. We brighten **up** a room, polish **up** the silver, lock **up** the house, and fix **up** the old car. At other times, it has special meanings. People stir **up** trouble, line **up** for tickets, work **up** an appetite, think **up** excuses, and get tied **up** in traffic. To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed **up** is special. It may be confusing, but a drain must be opened **up** because it is stopped **up**. We open **up** a store in the morning and close it **up** at night. We seem to be mixed **up** about **up**. To be **up** on the proper use of **up,** look **up** the word in your dictionary. In one desk-size dictionary **up** takes **up** half a page, and listed definitions add **up** to about 40. If you are **up** to it, you might try building **up** a list of the many ways in which **up** is used. It will take **up** a lot of your time but, if you don't give **up**, you may wind **up** with a thousand.   --Frank S. Endicott

Perhaps now you can better understand why context is the Key to determine meaning!

**Cross Referencing**: Letting Scripture Interpret Scripture

A cross-reference is a referral to another passage in the Bible which supports, illumines, or amplifies the Scripture you are studying. It is the work of comparing Scripture with Scripture. Because the Bible never contradicts itself, the best interpreter of Scripture is Scripture itself. Therefore, if there is a discrepancy when you compare Scripture, check your interpretation, for somewhere *you* have gone wrong.



Along with your concordance, a Topical Bible can be a great resource here. A Topical Bible is just what it sounds like. It is a text which compiles a multitude of Scriptures according to topics. For example, if you wanted to compare a number of passages on prayer, you would simply look up the word, “Prayer” or “Pray” in your Topical Bible and there you would discover a host of passages which deal with the topic, “Prayer.” Again, blueletterbible.org has a couple to choose from, or you can purchase one (I would recommend, *Nave’s Topical Bible*, or, *The MacArthur Topical Bible)*. One of the most commonly used study tools for cross-referencing is the *Treasury of Scripture Knowledge*, tool found on blueletterbible.org.

***Another caution*:** Remember - just because a word or exact phrase may be found in more than one verse or passage, this does not automatically make it a valid cross reference for your text. You first need to examine the context and word meaning to see if both passages are speaking of the same topic. For example the word, “**World**,” refers to people in John 3:16, but in 1 John 2:15 it speaks of the evil, ordered system influenced by satan, which hates God and is not to be loved!

**Some Tips of Performing a Word Study**

1. Begin with numerous Bible translations and see how each translates words and verses.

2. Use your own recollection of various similar passages and compare them.

3. A good study Bible will have cross-references placed in the margins or at the bottom of the page. These often include some literal definitions of difficult or unfamiliar words. Also check the back of your study Bible for a partial concordance.

4. Refer to the various “tools” recommended: Concordance/ Dictionary/ Topical Bible

5. If you have Internet access, make “blueletterbible.org” one of your “Favorites” and use it often.

***An Example Word Study***

*In Revelation 1:8, we read, “****I am the Alpha and Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty****.”*

*Some observation questions we could ask about this verse are: “Who is this speaking of?” “Where else is this description used by John; where else in Scripture?” “What is the significance of this/these titles?” “Why are these descriptions found here / what difference would it make to John and his readers to have this information?” From the text it is not clear if this refers to God the Father or to Jesus Christ, the Son. We need more information to answer these questions. We need to do a Word Study!*

***Step 1****: Use a concordance to look up the main words and phrases to see what references are given. (use your Interpretation sheet)*

***Step 2****: Look up these references in your Bible and see what you can learn about these titles and expressions just by reading the other passages in their context. Record your findings*

***Step 3****: Look up the meaning of the main terms in this verse (use tools or Interpretation Sheet)*

***Step 4****: Compare: Revelation 22:12-13 with Revelation 1:17-18. What new information do you now have? Now consider Isaiah 44:6. Finally, read Revelation 22:12-16 … who is speaking?*

***Step 5****: Make your conclusions. Who is this speaking about? How are the Father and the Son related? How would the information you have gained encourage a persecuted believer like John? How might these passages challenge someone who denies Jesus is God?*

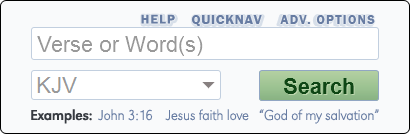
## What is in the Blue Letter Bible?

The Blue Letter Bible is an Internet site on the World Wide Web. Its address is [http://www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org/).

The Blue Letter Bible contains a suite of Bible study tools including more than 10 English Bibles, concordances, lexicons, cross-references, commentaries, and more.

### How to Use Blue Letter Bible

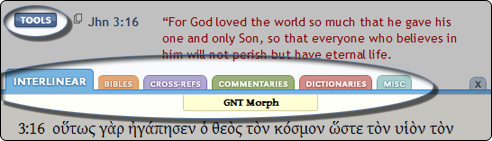
### The Home Page search feature:



When searching for a particular passage, type in the Scripture reference and select a preferred translation. Clicking SEARCH will navigate directly to the verse or chapter desired.

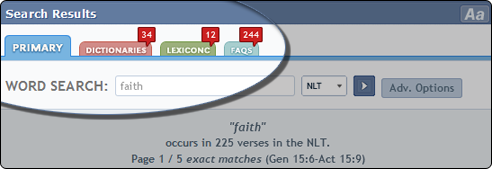
When searching for a word or phrase, enter those terms and selected the Bible translation you wish to search. Clicking SEARCH will navigate to a list of results that match your search criteria. Additionally, tabbed results will allow you to explore partial matches.

### Under "Tools" there are six tabs:



1. **Interlinear** contains original language tools, allowing for access of a range of resources designed to promote study of the terms from which our English Bible derives.
2. **Bibles** presents more than 10 translations of the selected verse, allowing comparison and prompting better understanding of the authors’ intent.
3. **Cross-Refs** contains the Treasury of Scripture Knowledge (TSK), a method for correlating a particular verse with others that may relate.
4. **Dictionaries** displays links to related entries in our several dictionaries, encyclopedias, and topical works. Results will come from:
   * Condensed Biblical Cyclopedia (CBC)
   * Easton's Bible Dictionary
   * Hitchcock's Bible Names Dictionary
   * International Standard Bible Encyclopedia (ISBE)
   * King James Dictionary (KJD)
   * Nave's Topical Bible
   * Smith's Bible Dictionary
   * Thematic Subject Guide
   * Torrey's New Topical Textbook
   * Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words
5. **Misc** collects maps, images, and music that to the selected verse. (This feature is not available for all verses.)

### The Word Search results display four main tabs:



1. **Primary** shows a list of all verses in which the searched word or words occur. A search for multiple words will also bring up the http://www.blueletterbible.org/assets/images/help/usingBLB_secondaryTab.pngresults tab, so that users can refine their search for more expansive results. If one performs a wildcard search (using an asterisk\* to search for any suffix to a term), you'll see the http://www.blueletterbible.org/assets/images/help/usingBLB_wildTab.pngresults tab.
2. **Dictionaries** provides results that match entries in our dictionaries, encyclopedias, and other topical reference materials.
3. **Lexicons** displays a list of Greek and Hebrew words whose translation in some cases matches your search terms.
4. **FAQs** links articles from our Frequently Asked Questions section that relate to your search terms.

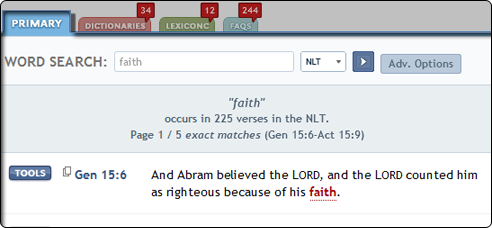
## How do you use all the above features?

All of the features described above are readily available on Bible pages through the Tools button adjacent to any verse reference. Clicking/tapping the Tools button makes these tabs available:

1. Click on the http://www.blueletterbible.org/assets/images/help/usingBLB_interlinearTab.pngTab under Tools or http://www.blueletterbible.org/assets/images/bible/btnC_a.pngbutton for Greek/Hebrew and concordance/lexicon. The verse will be re-displayed along with the Greek/Hebrew text. Click on any English word within the table to see search results. You will see how the English word is used in the KJV translation, as well as dictionary entries discussing that word. Or, click on the Strong's number next to the English word. It will give you a concordance of the usage of the original language word, and a lexicon entry including a pronunciation guide.
2. Click on the http://www.blueletterbible.org/assets/images/help/usingBLB_biblesTab.pngTab under Tools or http://www.blueletterbible.org/assets/images/bible/btnV_a.pngbutton for a comparison of different Bible translations.
3. Click on the http://www.blueletterbible.org/assets/images/help/usingBLB_crossRefsTab.pngTab under Tools or http://www.blueletterbible.org/assets/images/bible/btnK_a.pngbutton at the far left to see suggested scriptures that relate to the verse.
4. Click on the http://www.blueletterbible.org/assets/images/help/usingBLB_dictionariesTab.pngTab under Tools or http://www.blueletterbible.org/assets/images/bible/btnD_a.pngbutton for a list of all dictionary articles that relate to the selected verse.

### For doing a Word Search:

If you do a Word Search on one word you will receive results similar to this:



**Step #6** It’s time for **APPLICATION** – “What effect will this have on my life?

Application is the step in the process of Bible study where the truths that have been observed are incorporated into your everyday life and practice. God exhorts us to …

*“Prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does."* **James 1:22-25**

A. **Remember** …

*“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."* **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

1. **Teaching** (Doctrine) is the whole body of God's truth revealed in the pages of Scripture.

2. **Reproof** is the work of God's Word to expose your wrong behavior and wrong thinking (which leads to false teaching).

3. **Correction** then straightens you out and restores you to proper condition.

4. **Training in righteousness** is the process of bringing you up to maturity in the faith for the purpose of making you useful in God's service.

**B.** **Discover** the **PRINCIPLE** of the thing.

While there is only one correct interpretation of a given passage of Scripture, there are many applications. We need to discover the principles being taught.

A principle is a succinct statement of a universal truth.

Questions to ask of the text:

What is the principle I can derive from the text?

What does this passage teach me about God and His relationship to man?

What does this passage teach me about man and his relationship to God?

As a child of God, what should be my response?

**C.** The **STEPS** of application

Step 1: Find out what the word of God says on any and all subjects through accurate observation and correct interpretation of the text.

Step 2: Reject any false concept or teaching you may have held or been taught and embrace the truth revealed in God's Word.

Step 3: Once you understand what the Word of God teaches, you are obligated before God to accept that truth and to live by it.

**D.** A tool to help you apply God's Word.

“Put on the **SPECS!**” MCj01509250000[1]

Is there a …

**S**in to forsake?

**P**romise to claim?

**E**xample to follow?

**C**ommand to obey?

**S**tumbling block to avoid?

**Summary of REVELATION Chart**

**Theme:**

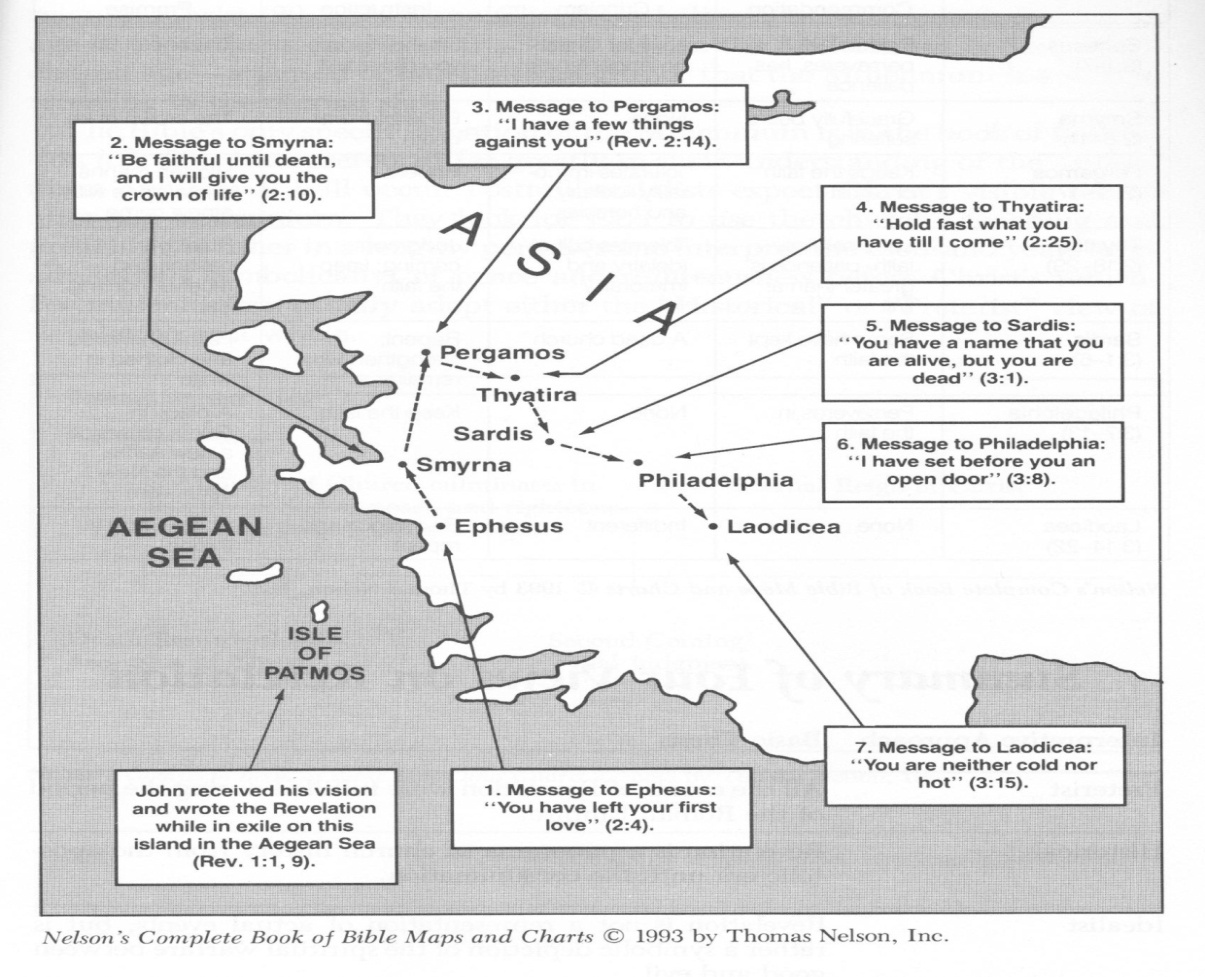
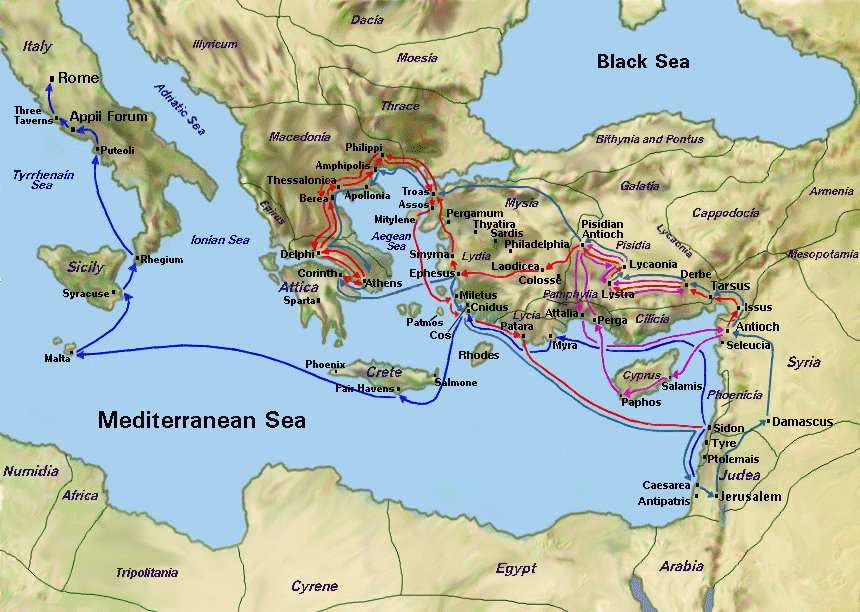
**Sub-Themes**:

**Segment Divisions**: 1.

2.

3.

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|  |  | **CHAPTER** | **CONTENTS** | **Style:** |
| 1. |  |  |  | **Emotional Tone:** |
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| 3. |  |  |  |  |
| 4. |  |  |  | **Author:** |
| 5. |  |  |  | **Recipients:** |
| 6. |  |  |  |  |
| 7. |  |  |  | **Date:** |
| 8. |  |  |  | **Key words & Phrases:** |
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| 20. |  |  |  | **Purpose:** |
| 21. |  |  |  |  |
| 22. |  |  |  |  |

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**Observation Worksheet**

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**Introduction (1:1-3)**

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

**2**  who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, *even* to all that he saw.

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

**Observation Questions**

**1:1**

**1:2**

**1:3**

**Observation Worksheet**

**Greetings to the Seven Churches (4-8)**

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

**5**  and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood—

**6** and He has made us *to be* a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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

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

**Observation Questions**

**4**

**5**

**6**

**7**

**8**

**Observation Worksheet**

**A Vision of the Lord Jesus Christ (9-20)**

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

**10**  I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like *the sound* of a trumpet,

**11** saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send *it* to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

**12** Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands;

**13**  and in the middle of the lampstands *I saw* one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash.

**14** His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire.

**15** His feet *were* like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice *was* like the sound of many waters.

**Observation Questions**

**9**

**10**

**11**

**12**

**13**

**14**

**15**

**Observation Worksheet**

**16**  In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

**17**  When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last,

**18**  and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

**19** "Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things.

**20** "As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

**Observation Questions**

**16**

**17**

**18**

**19**

**20**

**Observation Worksheet**

**Christ’s Message to Ephesus: the Loveless Church** (2:1-7)

**1** “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:

**2** ‘I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them *to be* false;

**3** and you have perseverance and have endured for My name’s sake, and have not grown weary.

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

**5** Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent.

**6** Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

**7** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.’”

**Observation Questions**

**2:1**

**2:2**

**2:3**

**2:4**

**2:5**

**2:6**

**2:7**

**Observation Worksheet**

**Christ’s Message to Smyrna: the Suffering Church** (2:8-11)

**8 “**And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this:

**9**'I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

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

**11**'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.’”

**Observation Questions**

**2:8**

**2:9**

**2:10**

**2:11**

**Observation Worksheet**

**Christ’s Message to Pergamum: the Compromising Church** (2:12-17)

**12**“And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this:

**13** 'I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is; and you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

**14** 'But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit *acts of* immorality.

**15** 'So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

**16** 'Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.

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

**Observation Questions**

**2:12**

**2:13**

**2:14**

**2:15**

**2:16**

**2:17**

**Observation Worksheet**

**Christ’s Message to Thyatira: the Sin Tolerating Church** (2:18-23)

**18 “**And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this:

**19** I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first.

**20** But I have *this* against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit *acts of* immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

**21** I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality.

**22** Behold, I will throw her on a bed *of sickness,* and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds.

**23** And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.”

**Observation Questions**

**2:18**

**2:19**

**2:20**

**2:21**

**2:22**

**2:23**

**Observation Worksheet**

**24** “But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them—I place no other burden on you.

**25** Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come.

**26** He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations;

**27** and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received *authority* from My Father;

**28** and I will give him the morning star.

**29** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’”

**Observation Questions**

**2:24**

**2:25**

**2:26**

**2:27**

**2:28**

**2:29**

**Text of Revelation**

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**Chapter 1**

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated *it* by His angel to His bond-servant John, 2 who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, *even* to all that he saw. 3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood— 6 and He has made us *to be* a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 7 Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.

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

9 I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance *which are* in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like *the sound* of a trumpet, 11 saying, “Write in a book what you see, and send *it* to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”

12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; 13 and in the middle of the lampstands *I saw* one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. 14 His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. 15 His feet *were* like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice *was* like the sound of many waters. 16 In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

17 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, “Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, 18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. 19 Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things. 20 As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches

**Chapter 2**

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:

2 ‘I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them *to be* false; 3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name’s sake, and have not grown weary. 4 But I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent. 6 Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.’

8 “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this:

9 ‘I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 10 Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. 11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.’

12 “And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this:

13 ‘I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is; and you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. 14 But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit *acts of* immorality. 15 So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. 16 Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth. 17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give *some* of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.’

18 “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this:

19 ‘I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first. 20 But I have *this* against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit *acts of* immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. 21 I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality. 22 Behold, I will throw her on a bed *of sickness*, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. 23 And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds. 24 But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them—I place no other burden on you. 25 Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come. 26 He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations; 27 and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received *authority* from My Father; 28 and I will give him the morning star. 29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

**Chapter 3**

“To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: ‘I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. 2 Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. 3 So remember what you have received and heard; and keep *it*, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. 4 But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. 5 He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. 6 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:

8 ‘I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name. 9 Behold, I will cause *those* of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and *make them* know that I have loved you. 10 Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. 11 I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown. 12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name. 13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

14 “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this:

15 ‘I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. 16 So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. 17 Because you say, “I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,” and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, 18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and *that* the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. 19 Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. 21 He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’”

**Chapter 4**

After these things I looked, and behold, a door *standing* open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like *the sound* of a trumpet speaking with me, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.” 2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne. 3 And He who was sitting *was* like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance; and *there was* a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance. 4 Around the throne *were* twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones *I saw* twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.

5 Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God; 6 and before the throne *there was something* like a sea of glass, like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind. 7 The first creature *was* like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth creature *was* like a flying eagle. 8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say,

“Holy, holy, holy *is* the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come.”

9 And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

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

**Chapter 5**

I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. 2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?” 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it. 4 Then I *began* to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it; 5 and one of the elders \*said to me, “Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.”

6 And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. 7 And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. 8 When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they \*sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

10 “You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”

11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.”

13 And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying,

“To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, *be* blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.”

14 And the four living creatures kept saying, “Amen.” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

**Chapter 6**

Then I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, “Come.” 2 I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

3 When He broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come.” 4 And another, a red horse, went out; and to him who sat on it, it was granted to take peace from the earth, and that *men* would slay one another; and a great sword was given to him.

5 When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, “Come.” I looked, and behold, a black horse; and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. 6 And I heard *something* like a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine.”

7 When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, “Come.” 8 I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

9 When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; 10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” 11 And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until *the number of* their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.

12 I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth *made* of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; 13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. 14 The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. 15 Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; 16 and they \*said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; 17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

**Chapter 7**

After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree. 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, 3 saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads.”

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

5 from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand *were* sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand, 6 from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand, 7 from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand, 8 from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand *were* sealed.

9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and *all* tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches *were* in their hands; 10 and they cry out with a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” 11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and *around* the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying,

“Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, *be* to our God forever and ever. Amen.”

13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?” 14 I said to him, “My lord, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. 16 They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; 17 for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.”

**Chapter 8**

When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. 2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

3 Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. 4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel’s hand. 5 Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

6 And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them.

7 The first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

8 The second angel sounded, and *something* like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea; and a third of the sea became blood, 9 and a third of the creatures which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed.

10 The third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters. 11 The name of the star is called Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter.

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

13 Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven, saying with a loud voice, “Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!”

**Chapter 9**

Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him. 2 He opened the bottomless pit, and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit. 3 Then out of the smoke came locusts upon the earth, and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. 5 And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man. 6 And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, and death flees from them.

7 The appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle; and on their heads appeared to be crowns like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. 8 They had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like *the teeth* of lions. 9 They had breastplates like breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots, of many horses rushing to battle. 10 They have tails like scorpions, and stings; and in their tails is their power to hurt men for five months. 11 They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon.

12 The first woe is past; behold, two woes are still coming after these things.

13 Then the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, 14 one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” 15 And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they would kill a third of mankind. 16 The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. 17 And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and those who sat on them: *the riders* had breastplates *the color* of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone. 18 A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which proceeded out of their mouths. 19 For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents and have heads, and with them they do harm.

20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; 21 and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.

**Chapter 10**

I saw another strong angel coming down out of heaven, clothed with a cloud; and the rainbow was upon his head, and his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire; 2 and he had in his hand a little book which was open. He placed his right foot on the sea and his left on the land; 3 and he cried out with a loud voice, as when a lion roars; and when he had cried out, the seven peals of thunder uttered their voices. 4 When the seven peals of thunder had spoken, I was about to write; and I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Seal up the things which the seven peals of thunder have spoken and do not write them.” 5 Then the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted up his right hand to heaven, 6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things in it, and the earth and the things in it, and the sea and the things in it, that there will be delay no longer, 7 but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets.

8 Then the voice which I heard from heaven, *I heard* again speaking with me, and saying, “Go, take the book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the land.” 9 So I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little book. And he \*said to me, “Take it and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey.” 10 I took the little book out of the angel’s hand and ate it, and in my mouth it was sweet as honey; and when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter. 11 And they \*said to me, “You must prophesy again concerning many peoples and nations and tongues and kings.”

**Chapter 11**

Then there was given me a measuring rod like a staff; and someone said, “Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship in it. 2 Leave out the court which is outside the temple and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and they will tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months. 3 And I will grant *authority* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.” 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. 5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire flows out of their mouth and devours their enemies; so if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way. 6 These have the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall during the days of their prophesying; and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire.

7 When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them. 8 And their dead bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. 9 Those from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations *will* look at their dead bodies for three and a half days, and will not permit their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb. 10 And those who dwell on the earth *will* rejoice over them and celebrate; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

11 But after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them. 12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” Then they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies watched them. 13 And in that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

14 The second woe is past; behold, the third woe is coming quickly.

15 Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying,

“The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.” 16 And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying,

“We give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and who were, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign. 18 And the nations were enraged, and Your wrath came, and the time *came* for the dead to be judged, and *the time* to reward Your bond-servants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth.”

19 And the temple of God which is in heaven was opened; and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple, and there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder and an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

**Chapter 12**

A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; 2 and she was with child; and she \*cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.

3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads *were* seven diadems. 4 And his tail \*swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.

5 And she gave birth to a son, a male *child*, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne. 6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she \*had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

7 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, 8 and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. 10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying,

“Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. 11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. 12 For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has *only* a short time.”

13 And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *child*. 14 But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she \*was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. 15 And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood. 16 But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth. 17 So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

**Chapter 13**

And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore.

Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns *were* ten diadems, and on his heads *were* blasphemous names. 2 And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like *those* of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority. 3 *I saw* one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed *and followed* after the beast; 4 they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?” 5 There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, *that is*, those who dwell in heaven.

7 It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. 8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, *everyone* whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain. 9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear. 10 If anyone *is destined* for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.

11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon. 12 He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. 13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who \*had the wound of the sword and has come to life. 15 And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed. 16 And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, 17 and *he provides* that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, *either* the name of the beast or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.

**Chapter 14**

Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb *was* standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard *was* like *the sound* of harpists playing on their harps. 3 And they \*sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth. 4 These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These *are* the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb. 5 And no lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless.

6 And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; 7 and he said with a loud voice, “Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters.”

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

9 Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.” 12 Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

13 And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, “Write, ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!’” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them.”

14 Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud *was* one like a son of man, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand. 15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying out with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, “Put in your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe.” 16 Then He who sat on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped.

17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle. 18 Then another angel, the one who has power over fire, came out from the altar; and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, “Put in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe.” 19 So the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered *the clusters from* the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God. 20 And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses’ bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles.

**Chapter 15**

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

2 And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God. 3 And they \*sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying,

“Great and marvelous are Your works,  
O Lord God, the Almighty;  
Righteous and true are Your ways,  
King of the nations!  
4 “Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name?  
For You alone are holy;  
For all the nations will come and worship before You,  
For Your righteous acts have been revealed.”

5 After these things I looked, and the temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was opened, 6 and the seven angels who had the seven plagues came out of the temple, clothed in linen, clean *and* bright, and girded around their chests with golden sashes. 7 Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever. 8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power; and no one was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

**Chapter 16**

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

2 So the first *angel* went and poured out his bowl on the earth; and it became a loathsome and malignant sore on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image.

3 The second *angel* poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became blood like *that* of a dead man; and every living thing in the sea died.

4 Then the third *angel* poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters; and they became blood. 5 And I heard the angel of the waters saying, “Righteous are You, who are and who were, O Holy One, because You judged these things; 6 for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. They deserve it.” 7 And I heard the altar saying, “Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.”

8 The fourth *angel* poured out his bowl upon the sun, and it was given to it to scorch men with fire. 9 Men were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues, and they did not repent so as to give Him glory.

10 Then the fifth *angel* poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became darkened; and they gnawed their tongues because of pain, 11 and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds.

12 The sixth *angel* poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east.

13 And I saw *coming* out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs; 14 for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty. 15 (“Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.”) 16 And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon.

17 Then the seventh *angel* poured out his bowl upon the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, “It is done.” 18 And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake *was it, and* so mighty. 19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath. 20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. 21 And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, \*came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague \*was extremely severe.

**Chapter 17**

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, 2 with whom the kings of the earth committed *acts of* immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality.” 3 And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, 5 and on her forehead a name *was* written, a mystery, “BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” 6 And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. When I saw her, I wondered greatly. 7 And the angel said to me, “Why do you wonder? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.

8 “The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come. 9 Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, 10 and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. 11 The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is *one* of the seven, and he goes to destruction. 12 The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. 13 These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast.

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

15 And he \*said to me, “The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. 16 And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire. 17 For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled. 18 The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.”

**Chapter 18**

After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with his glory. 2 And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird. 3 For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed *acts of* immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality.”

4 I heard another voice from heaven, saying, “Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues; 5 for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. 6 Pay her back even as she has paid, and give back *to her* double according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her. 7 To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, ‘I sit *as* a queen and I am not a widow, and will never see mourning.’ 8 For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong.

9 “And the kings of the earth, who committed *acts of* immorality and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning, 10 standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’

11 “And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargoes any more— 12 cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every *kind of* citron wood and every article of ivory and every article *made* from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble, 13 and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and *cargoes* of horses and chariots and slaves and human lives. 14 The fruit you long for has gone from you, and all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you and *men* will no longer find them. 15 The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning, 16 saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls; 17 for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!’ And every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and as many as make their living by the sea, stood at a distance, 18 and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What *city* is like the great city?’ 19 And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in one hour she has been laid waste!’ 20 Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her.”

21 Then a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “So will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer. 22 And the sound of harpists and musicians and flute-players and trumpeters will not be heard in you any longer; and no craftsman of any craft will be found in you any longer; and the sound of a mill will not be heard in you any longer; 23 and the light of a lamp will not shine in you any longer; and the voice of the bridegroom and bride will not be heard in you any longer; for your merchants were the great men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery. 24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth.”

**Chapter 19**

After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying,

“Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; 2 because His judgments are true and righteous; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and He has avenged the blood of His bond-servants on her.” 3 And a second time they said, “Hallelujah! Her smoke rises up forever and ever.” 4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, “Amen. Hallelujah!” 5 And a voice came from the throne, saying,

“Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great.” 6 Then I heard *something* like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying,

“Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.” 8 It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

9 Then he \*said to me, “Write, ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’” And he \*said to me, “These are true words of God.” 10 Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he \*said to me, “Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it *is* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 12 His eyes *are* a flame of fire, and on His head *are* many diadems; and He has a name written *on Him* which no one knows except Himself. 13 *He is* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white *and* clean, were following Him on white horses. 15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, “Come, assemble for the great supper of God, 18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great.”

19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

**Chapter 20**

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

4 Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I *saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

7 When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, 8 and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. 9 And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. 10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

**Chapter 21**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, 4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

5 And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He \*said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.” 6 Then He said to me, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. 7 He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. 8 But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.”

10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. 12 It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names *were* written on them, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. 13 *There were* three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them *were* the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

15 The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall. 16 The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal. 17 And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, *according to* human measurements, which are *also* angelic *measurements*. 18 The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. 19 The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald; 20 the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst. 21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

22 I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp *is* the Lamb. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. 25 In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; 26 and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; 27 and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

**Chapter 22**

Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, 2 in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve *kinds of* fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; 4 they will see His face, and His name *will be* on their foreheads. 5 And there will no longer be *any* night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.

6 And he said to me, “These words are faithful and true”; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must soon take place.

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

8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 But he \*said to me, “Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God.”

10 And he \*said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. 11 Let the one who does wrong, still do wrong; and the one who is filthy, still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness; and the one who is holy, still keep himself holy.”

12 “Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city. 15 Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.

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

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

18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

20 He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming quickly.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.