

# The One Who Kills Death

A Revelation Devotional



O Death, where is your victory?



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**"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."**

**Revelation 12:11**



# Introduction

Welcome to the revelation of Jesus Christ! No other book of the Bible has such a reputation as Revelation. When you think of Revelation, you may consider it to be a book of confusion, mystery, awe, and bewilderment. These thoughts are so prevalent that many Christians outright avoid the book. This avoidance is unfortunate, for every book of the Bible is inspired by the Holy Spirit to be edifying for every Christian. All of Scripture is for all of the people of God.

Revelation itself declares this truth, for it states, “Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.” (Rev. 1:3, ESV) Through the mystery and bewilderment, through the confusion and the difficulty, there is blessing.

Why are we studying Revelation? The short answer is that we believe that these words are true. We believe that we will be blessed in proclaiming and hearing these words.

This study is an invitation to dive into one of the most infamous, yet least understood, books of Bible believing that there is a clear and tangible blessing awaiting us. So, join us as we rediscover the story that declares Jesus’ victory. The story that has brought hope and comfort to Christians throughout the last 2,000 years. The story of the One who kills death.

## How to Read Revelation

### What is Revelation?

So what is Revelation? Revelation is a letter written by John to seven churches in Asia.

These seven churches are the churches of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Laodicea, and Philadelphia (the **ancient** Philadelphia located in modern-day Turkey, **not** the home of the Eagles). Revelation’s status as a letter is deeply important to remember.

Underneath all the confusing and dense statements to be found in this Scripture, at its core, Revelation is a real letter, which was written to real Christians, facing real problems.

Revelation was designed to speak to these Christians and address the issues they faced.

To those who were depressed or hopeless, Revelation sought to bring encouragement. To those who were losing their faith, Revelation sought to reignite their trust in Jesus. To those who experienced persecution or felt incredible frustration with the governments which ruled over them, Revelation sought to remind them of their citizenship in the Kingdom of God. To those who had begun to believe the lies of heresy and false doctrine, Revelation sought to bring them back to the truth. To those who felt like they had been defeated, Revelation sought to remind them that Jesus is victorious over their enemies, even death itself.

So how did Revelation seek to speak into these Christians' lives? Well unlike the other letters of the New Testament, Revelation's strategy of encouragement is not one of clear and direct teaching. Whereas the letters of Paul, Peter, James, etc. utilize straightforward teaching and instruction to convey their points, Revelation takes a different approach. In order to proclaim its message of hope, Revelation utilizes Apocalyptic Literature as its primary method of communication.

### **What is Apocalyptic Literature?**

Apocalyptic literature is a specific genre of writing which was popular for Hebrew people between 500 B.C. and 100 A.D.

It is important to note that the word "apocalypse" does not mean the end of the world.

Though we often use this word today to refer to potential universe shattering catastrophes, the word "apocalypse" originally meant "to reveal" or "to uncover." Apocalyptic literature can be understood to be stories in which something grand has been revealed to the primary character. This is why we call Revelation "Revelation." The good news of Jesus has been revealed to John in a grand and majestic manner.

Revelation is not the only apocalyptic literature to be found in the Bible. There are many "apocalyptic moments" throughout the Bible such as when Jesus reveals His glory to Saul on the road to Damascus, or when the angel Gabriel reveals Jesus' conception to the virgin Mary.

And we even have two other books of the Bible which fully fit the apocalyptic genre: Daniel and Ezekiel. Both Daniel and Ezekiel have a focus

on revealing mysteries through the interpretation of visions and dreams. These books lay the foundation for much of what Revelation has to say.

While apocalyptic literature may seem foreign and strange to us today, there is a practical purpose behind it. Below are some of the primary characteristics of apocalyptic literature, and the practical purposes behind these characteristics:

## **Common Features of Apocalyptic Literature**

### **Strange Visions and Dreams**

Apocalyptic literature often depicts visions and dreams which can be frightening or confusing. These events are designed to help us see that there is more to this world than meets the eye. God, angels, demons, etc. are real and active. Our conflicts are not only physical, but they are also spiritual.

### **Prophetic Statements**

Prophetic statements have a past, present, and future focus. When prophetic messages are given, they often explain what has been happening, what is occurring now, and what will happen in the future. These messages often help the hearer to understand their current situation, what happened in the past to bring them to this situation, and how God will respond.

### **Large Amounts of Symbolism**

Apocalyptic literature is filled with symbolism, but the symbols are not random. Revelation's symbols are connections to the Old Testament, primarily Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Daniel, Zechariah, and Ezekiel. Encountering these symbols invites us to go back to the Old Testament and see how the Bible is one unified story centered on Jesus.

### **Cosmic Judgment**

Apocalyptic literature often depicts God's judgment against sin and evil. Apocalyptic literature was often written by and for people experiencing oppression or injustice from the ruling government. These pictures of judgment reassure the hearer that God will bring justice and that evil will be defeated. While the hearer is powerless to bring justice, they can put their trust in the God of the universe who is far more powerful than the government.

## **Cosmic Restoration**

Apocalyptic literature does not end in justice; restoration is the final picture. Just as justice will come from God, so too will redemption and restoration. God's ultimate desire is to have mercy and heal. God wants to do more than bring vengeance upon evil; God will heal the universe from the wounds which evil has inflicted. This brings hope to the one who is suffering, for they can look toward the day when the broken world they live in will be healed.

## **For the Common Christian**

### **Written to Real Churches Full of Ordinary Christians**

Revelation was written for ordinary Christians, most of which could not even read. You do not need a seminary degree to read Revelation. While Revelation can be intimidating and confusing, it should not be avoided. For 2,000 years Revelation has brought hope, peace, and encouragement to Christians who felt crushed by the world, attacked by anxiety, and exhausted by evil's prevalence on the earth. Revelation can help you to place your hope in Jesus, even when you feel like chaos surrounds you.

### **Revelation Was Not Meant to be Isolated**

Revelation does not exist in a bubble, and it should not be read as such. Revelation is filled with numerous references to the Old Testament; there are at least 500 Old Testament references and mentions. You don't need to have a Ph.D. in Old Testament studies to understand what is going on, but you do need to be looking for these connections. Helpful tools such as the footnotes in your Bible and commentaries will help point out these connections, references, and repeated symbols.

### **Focus on the Main Themes**

Despite the dense symbolism, there are clear themes which shine brightly throughout Revelation. As you read, keep these in mind:

#### **The Risen Jesus**

Jesus is alive! The lamb who was slain is alive and active. Jesus is at the center of Revelation.

#### **Life vs. Death**

Life and death are presented as opposing forces in Revelation, and everyone will end up being on one team or the other. Revelation is a call for those who are dead to place their trust in Christ and be made alive again.

## **Healthy and Unhealthy Congregations**

Revelation was written to seven specific churches, some of which were healthy, and some of which who were deeply unhealthy. John wants these churches, especially those which had fallen away, to rediscover their faith in Jesus Christ.

## **Perseverance During Persecution**

Revelation was written to Christians who were facing persecution, oppression, and hardship. Revelation does not shy away from the pain and hardships we may face in this life, especially the hardships we may face precisely because we are Christian. Rather, Revelation shows us both the pain of taking up our cross and the victory we will experience in the end.

## **Human Governments and the Kingdom of God**

Human governments are depicted in Revelation as beasts which ravage the earth and destroy lives. We must recognize the need to humble ourselves, surrender our need for power and control, and place our trust in King Jesus who rules over a completely different kind of kingdom. As Christians, we are made citizens of a new kind of government, one which does not oppress, but instead heals.

## **The Defeat of Sin and Death**

Christ our King has come to defeat sin and kill death itself. Throughout our lives we will have many enemies come and go, but no human being has been able to overcome the enemies of sin and death. Sin and death are perpetual enemies to the generations of man, but Jesus has come to put an end to them once and for all. Revelation reminds us that death has no sting, for our destiny is that of new life in Christ Jesus forevermore.

## **New Creation**

Just as we will overcome death through Jesus, the entire universe will be made new. Revelation promises us that we will return to an Eden-like reality. The new life we have in the resurrection will be free from sin, death, pain, tears, anxiety, violence, etc. Every single aspect of the world will be made new and will be made right.

## **Read with Baptized Imagination**

Revelation is designed to evoke all kinds of visuals and emotions within the hearer. Even if it seems confusing, do your best to immerse yourself in the scenes of Revelation. Try to picture the majestic court of thrones,

visualize the Lamb of God who was slain, hear the chorus of the elders and the angels singing to God, see the crystal sea of glass, comprehend the terror of the dragon and the beasts, imagine Christ's victory against these enemies. There is a grandness to Revelation's words which should lead us into a state of awe.

Our God, who knows us and loves us, is beyond anything we can comprehend or imagine. The ultimate place Revelation should lead us to is a state of awe and wonder and confidence in Christ's resurrection power.

**"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."**

**Revelation 3:20**

# How to Use this Devotional

Every week will contain the following entries:

## **The Weekly Text**

This is the Scripture which is to be read and meditated on throughout the week. Read the passage in full at the beginning of the week, and ponder it in your mind as you drive to school, are at work, do your dishes, take a shower, etc. It is helpful to read this passage multiple times and allow your mind to focus on a different section each time you read it.

## **What's Going On?**

This section will contain an explanation of what is going on in the Scripture.

Important references to the Old Testament will be pointed out, and scenes will be explained to help provide clarity.

## **Why Does This Matter?**

This section will contain an application of the passage. Underneath all the symbolism, Revelation is deeply practical and speaks to our lives today. This section will help point out how we should respond to each passage of Revelation.

## **Daily Scripture Meditation**

This section will contain a few verses for you to meditate on throughout your day. Psalm 1:1-2 says, "Blessed is the person who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the Law of the Lord, and on His Law he meditates day and night."

What does it mean to meditate on God's Word? To meditate on the Scriptures is to dwell on them, ponder them, and keep them on your mind. Each weekday will have a different selection from the week's text for you to dwell on throughout your day.

## Morning/Noon/Night Prayers

This section will contain three written prayers based on the weekly text. The first prayer is meant for the morning, the second prayer is meant for the middle of the day, and the third is meant for the evening. Psalm 55:17 says, "Morning, noon, and night I cry out in my distress, and the Lord hears my voice." These prayers are an opportunity for you to reflect on Revelation at the beginning, middle, and end of each day. When we turn our attention to Jesus regularly, we are reminded that our God is always with us and always hears us. It is encouraged for you to dwell on these prayers each day throughout the week.

## Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

This section will contain one or two songs which tie into the weekly text.

Colossians 3:16 says, "Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God." The people of God have always been a singing people. We cannot help but sing the praises of our God who has worked to save us.

Some of these songs are psalms (or are heavily inspired by them) from the Bible. Some of these songs are hymns, songs which were written for the purpose of corporate worship. And some of these songs are spiritual songs, songs which are about God but not necessarily intended for corporate singing. Spiritual songs tend to be more personal, meditative, or artistic.

This section will share lyrics from the songs to highlight how they tie into the weekly text. Feel free to listen to these songs throughout the week as part of your dwelling on the Scripture.

# The Lamb of God





# The Apocalypse

*“Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One;  
And I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore”*

**Scripture: Revelation 1:1-20**

## What is Happening?

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ” – What does that mean?

The word “revelation” comes from the Greek word “apokalypsis” which is commonly translated as “apocalypse.” If you have an older Bible, you may find that it uses the word “Apocalypse” as the title of this book instead of “Revelation.” Revelation is already a daunting Scripture to many, and when people hear about “the apocalypse,” they can become even more intimidated by it.

If this is you, fret not! While we may use the word “apocalypse” today to refer to cataclysmic world ending scenarios, that was not the original meaning of the word. When the Bible uses the word “apocalypse” or “revelation” it has nothing to do with the end of the world. The Greek word “apokalypsis” simply means “to uncover” or “to reveal.”

This word is used to refer to moments in the Bible when something true has been revealed to someone. There are plenty of “apocalypse moments” throughout the Bible such as when the angel reveals the truth to Mary about who her immaculate child is, or when Jesus reveals Himself to Paul on the road to Damascus.

At its core, Revelation is a revealing of who Jesus is, what Jesus has done, and what Jesus will do.

In this first chapter, we learn what the purpose of Revelation is and who it was written for.

John wrote this letter to seven churches in Asia after he experienced strange and awe-inducing visions of the risen Jesus. These churches in Asia were struggling. They faced persecution from governments, con-

tempt from their peers, and false teaching within their own congregations. Some of these churches were barely holding on, and some of these churches appeared to have abandoned the faith in pursuit of other desires.

In verses 9-20, we see that Jesus appeared to John and called him to write a letter to these churches. Jesus, through His messenger John, is speaking a message to these churches that are on the brink of death. This letter is designed to reveal to these churches the truth of Jesus in a new way. For those who have forgotten the faith, this letter reminds them of the gospel. For those who are depressed and hopeless, this letter reveals the victory which Jesus will accomplish. For those who have been lured away by temptation or false doctrine, this letter will call them back to the true faith in the risen Savior.

## Why Does This Matter?

Whether you have been a Christian for seventy years or seven days, Revelation is designed to bless you. How is Revelation a blessing? This letter blesses all who hear its words by displaying the wondrous glory of our Savior and the victory He achieves over sin and death.

Jesus is far more than anything we can comprehend or imagine.

And yet, Revelation encourages us to imagine the splendor of our King. As we live in a depressed world, broken by sin, we must remember the glory, splendor, and majesty of the risen Savior who is set on making all things new.

If you feel beaten down, if you feel broken by the heaviness of the world, if you feel exhausted or overwhelmed, if you feel full of doubt or worry - may the beauty and the strangeness and the glory of Jesus redirect your heart back towards Him. Jesus has come to us, the down beaten and broken-hearted. Jesus comes and says, "I am the living One; I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore."

Jesus is alive forevermore, and He reaches out His hand to us, inviting us to experience His life eternal.

## Daily Scripture Meditation

### Monday

*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, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, everything that he saw. Blessed is the one who reads, and those who hear the words of the prophecy and keep the things which are written in it; for the time is near. (Rev. 1:1-3)*

### Tuesday

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

*“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” (Rev. 1:4-8)*

### Wednesday

*I, John, your brother and fellow participant in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet, saying, “Write on a scroll what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.” (Rev. 1:9-11)*

### Thursday

*Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And after turning I saw seven golden lampstands; and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and wrapped around the chest with a golden sash. His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. His feet were like burnished bronze when it has been heated to a glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. 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. (Rev. 1:12-16)*

## **Friday**

*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, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things. 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. (Rev. 1:17-20)*

## **Morning Prayer**

*"Lord, I thank you that you are a God who reveals Himself to His people. May you continue to show me who you are, that I may know you, and seek you, and love you for all my days. In the name of your Son, who has shown us your glory, amen."*

## **Noon Prayer**

*"Lord, thank you for your faithful love toward us. Thank you for sending your Son, through whose blood we are released from our sins. May you be glorified through my life this day. Amen."*

## **Evening Prayer**

*"Lord, you are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. As this day comes to an end, may I rest knowing that you are good, knowing that you are in control, and knowing that you are victorious over all evil. Amen."*

## **Hymn — Behold the King by Abbie Gamboa & Aodhán King**

*You are the hope that leads me through the night  
My daily bread, the substance of my life  
Jesus, Messiah, Redeemer of my heart  
My great Defender, my Savior from the start*

*Behold the King of Glory, isn't He beautiful?  
Behold the Lamb of Heaven seated on the highest throne  
The Lord in all His splendor, He is magnificent  
I searched the world but never found another like Him*

# Letters of Life, Death, and Love

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him and he with me. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on His throne.

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

**Scripture: Revelation 2:1-3:22**

## What is Happening?

In chapters 2 and 3, John writes a specific message to each of the seven churches. While each church is a unique congregation facing unique circumstances, the messages to each of these churches contain a similar structure and purpose. To each church you will find:

### **A statement saying that God knows the church's heart and deeds.**

- A statement regarding how healthy (or unhealthy) the church is.
- A statement regarding the challenges and temptations that the church faces.
- A statement calling the church to repent from sin, abide in God, and persevere through the temptations and tribulations they face.

These messages are not designed to discourage or cast out these churches. Rather, these messages are a “wake-up call.” God loves these churches. God wants these congregations to hold fast to Christ, to live out the faith, and to walk in Christlike love and righteousness.

In these messages, God is revealing what is healthy and what is unhealthy. Like a doctor giving a diagnosis, God is showing these congregations what their true state of health is.

Some are alive but need care in certain areas. Some need serious recovery and strengthening. Some are dead and need to be resurrected.

God calls each congregation to turn back to Him, to hear Him clearly, and to follow His Word that they may be churches who are fully alive and healthy.

## Why Does This Matter?

We are not always the best judges of our own health.

Why do we need to visit a doctor regularly? We need regular and consistent evaluation to be aware of the state of our bodies and to be able to make decisions to care for them.

While some of the congregations in Asia may know they are struggling, others are blissfully unaware of their unhealth. One clear example is the church in Sardis; This church had a reputation for being alive and well, yet God knew they were spiritually dead.

There are plenty of Christians and plenty of churches that may appear to be vibrant, alive, and faithful, yet are spiritually dead, deceived, and far from the God they claim to follow.

Just as a garden needs careful attention and pruning, our lives and our churches need careful attention and pruning. It is so easy to believe that we are alive and well, when in fact we are decaying on the inside. A life that is abiding in Christ and faithfully following Jesus is going to be a life of consistent and humble examination.

As Christians, we must submit ourselves to God, ask that he examine our hearts, and depend on His leadership to guide us and encourage us to live a faithful and healthy life of perseverance.

## Daily Scripture Meditation

### Monday

*"I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death." (Rev. 2:9-11)*

## **Tuesday**

*I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.*

*The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, 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 from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. (Rev. 3:11-12)*

## **Wednesday**

*"I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. (Rev. 3:15-20)*

## **Thursday**

*"I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first (Rev. 2:2-5a)*

## **Friday**

*He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. (Rev. 3:22)*

## **Morning Prayer**

*"Lord, I thank you for this new day. Your mercies are new every morning. As I begin this day, may I arise with a fresh faith, a renewed spirit, and a heart set on Christ. Amen."*

## **Noon Prayer**

*"Lord, as I go throughout my day, may my faith not be hidden or weakened, but may it grow in abundance. May my faith in Jesus be evident to all those who see me this day – my family, my coworkers, my neighbors, and my friends. May the light of Jesus shine brightly in me. Amen."*

## **Evening Prayer**

*"Lord, I thank you that you know me. May you reveal my sin, that I may confess it and turn to your love. May you continue to reveal your call upon my life – that I may live, and work, and rest according to your sovereign will. Lord, I thank you that you know me. Amen."*

## **Hymn – Awake (Arise) by the Jordan Howerton Band**

*I once was dead. I had no life. But You have risen, now I'm alive.  
I once was dead. I had no life. But You have risen, now I'm alive.  
Awake, awake, o sleeper. Arise and Christ will shine on you.  
Awake, awake, o sleeper. Arise and Christ will shine on you.*

## **Spiritual Song – Zombies by Weak Sheep**

*I worship at the altar of my ego and my intellect  
Then I wave my fists at God and wonder why it is my life's a wreck  
I mock the ones who seem so silly, loyal to a simple kind of faith  
Because I've found ways to complicate it, force it to fit into my own way*

*Shame, shame, shame  
We've washed our brains  
Because we fear the names of dead men walking, of dead men walking*

*Just close your eyes and shut your ears and shut your mouth out of fear  
Don't ever stand on what you know keep shallow faith don't ever grow  
Make foolish men into your gods and just pretend you're not their pawn  
It's easy it's easy*

*But we are not all asleep  
We see the dead for what they are  
We've put to bed the fear inside of dead men walking  
Of dead men walking*

# The Court of Thrones

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

**Scripture: Revelation 4:1-11**

## What is Happening?

After penning the messages to each of the seven churches in Asia, John is given a vision by the Holy Spirit of a heavenly throne room filled with marvelous images of gold, gems, crystal, and a rainbow. We find that this throne room contains other smaller thrones, where humans are seated wearing crowns and garments of pure white. While the scene is full of splendor and beauty, it also contains strange and disturbing images such as the four creatures surrounding the throne of God - creatures with six wings, covered in eyes, and beast-like appearances (a reference to the strange creatures in Ezekiel 1:4-14!).

This throne room scene is a depiction of God's glory being proclaimed by those who belong to Him and are safe in His court. It is important to keep in mind that verse 1 describes this scene as “what must take place after this,” meaning, “what must take place after the churches receive and fulfill their messages.” This scene of a heavenly court filled with spiritual beings and faithful humans proclaiming God's glory is a direct result of the churches' response to the messages they received.

To those who are faithful, who abide in Christ, who keep the faith, who overcome, whose lampstand is not removed, they will find themselves in the presence of God in the court of thrones. Jesus said earlier in Rev. 3:21, “To the one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on His throne.” The twenty-four elders represent the entirety of the people of God, from both before and after Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. The number twelve is used throughout the whole Bible to refer to the people of God. For example, the people of Israel are divided into twelve tribes, Jesus selects twelve apostles to lead the Church, etc. This “two sets of twelve” is a symbol representing every person who has belonged to God past, present, and future.

These elders represent those who were saved by God across all time, and now they join in the heavenly court to worship the King of the universe.

## Why Does This Matter?

Revelation 4 cannot be detached from chapters 2 and 3. These churches that John is writing to are being persecuted by their governments, facing temptation, and trying to discern what is true and what is false teaching. They are weary, and in some cases, wandering, and in other cases, on the brink of spiritual death.

This heavenly court room is a picture of the end of that struggle.

Your faith today may be filled with challenges. With voices all around you, it may be hard to know what to believe. With temptation all around you, it may be easy to give in. With violence, hatred, and chaos all around you, it may be easy to be filled with hopelessness and despair.

But do not lose sight of the end, for Christ reigns. Do not fail to put your trust in Him. Jesus is seated on the throne with His Father, and all who belong to Him will be brought into His throne room – each given their own throne. Jesus' victory over sin, death, violence, hatred, despair, and anxiety will be made evident to the entire universe, and His victory includes us, His people.

Our trials today are only for a time. Yet our eternal future is set in the glory and majesty of God, a glory and majesty that we cannot fully comprehend or imagine.

## Daily Scripture Meditation

### Monday

*At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. (Rev. 4:2-6a)*



## **Tuesday**

*And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,*

*“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!” (Rev. 4:6b-8)*

## **Wednesday**

*And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne (Rev. 4:9-10)*

## **Thursday**

*“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.” (Rev. 4:11)*

## **Friday**

*“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!” (Rev. 4:8b)*

## **Morning Prayer**

*"Our Father who is in heaven, holy be your name. May I live this day in view of what is to come. As I work, may I remember that you rule. You are in control. May I live this day in accordance to your will. Amen."*

## **Noon Prayer**

*"Lord, you are more majestic and glorious than I can even imagine. When life feels so mundane or dull, may I remember how wonderful you truly are how, and may I be amazed by your love for me. Amen."*

## **Evening Prayer**

*"Lord, as the day comes to an end, may I cast my crown before you. Whatever I have achieved this day, whatever I have earned, whatever I have done, may it be laid before you as an offering of worship. My life belongs to you, for you made me and saved me. As I sleep this evening, may Christ rule in my heart. Amen."*

## **Hymn – There is a Higher Throne by Keith and Kristyn Getty / Kings Kaleidoscope**

*There is a higher throne  
Than all this world has known  
Where faithful ones from every tongue will one day come  
Before the Son we'll stand  
Made faultless through the Lamb  
Believing hearts find promised grace  
Salvation comes*

*Hear heaven's voices sing;  
Their thunderous anthem rings  
Through emerald courts and sapphire skies.  
Their praises rise.  
All glory, wisdom, power,  
Strength, thanks, and honor are  
To God our King, who reigns on high  
Forevermore.*

## **Hymn – Holy, Holy, Holy by Reginald Heber / Norton Hall Band**

*Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea.  
Cherubim and seraphim, falling down before thee,  
Who was and is and evermore shall be.*

# Who is Worthy?

“Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?”

**Scripture: Revelation 5:1-14**

## What is Happening?

In Revelation 5, we see that the One who was seated on the throne is holding a scroll that is sealed not by one, but seven seals. A mighty angel appears and loudly asks, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” Verse 3 tells us that no one in heaven, on earth, or even under the earth is worthy enough to approach the throne of God and open the scroll.

There is not a single creature in the universe that is worthy and righteous and powerful enough to approach God and open the scroll which He holds.

But then the Lamb of God appears, and this is no ordinary lamb. The Lamb is described as having seven horns and seven eyes and is drenched in blood as if it had been slaughtered.

Anytime we come across the number 7 in the Bible, we must remember that it symbolizes perfection or completeness. While the thought of having seven horns and seven eyes may be strange or disturbing to us today, we need to recognize that the Bible is using this imagery to communicate that the Lamb of God is perfect. The Lamb of God contains the fullness of God and is the only one who is worthy to open the scroll.

As the Lamb takes the scroll, the creatures and elders begin to sing a new song to the Lamb which describes how Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross saved His people from all over the world.

And as they sing, countless angels join in proclaiming the glory of the Lamb who was slain.

And after the angels join in song, John hears the voice of every creature throughout the universe begin to glorify the Lamb.

This scene is that of pure worship, and the entire universe turns its attention to the Lamb of God.

## Why Does This Matter?

The Lamb of God is clearly presented to be the person of Jesus, the one who was slain for our redemption and salvation. The prophet Isaiah spoke about the coming Savior and described His work of salvation being accomplished through His slaughtering. We find in Isaiah 53, that Isaiah describes the Savior as a lamb that is led to the slaughter.

Yet the Lamb of God who was slain is not dead. Though He is drenched in blood and has the appearance of great wounding, the Lamb of God is alive. For Jesus rose from the dead.

Just as He said to John in the beginning of Revelation, "I am the living One; I was dead, and behold, I am now alive forevermore." The Lamb's wounds do not bring about shame or embarrassment. The Lamb's wounds are the very reason why the universe declares the Lamb to be worthy.

Jesus' glory and authority over creation comes through His humility. While Jesus will judge and enact justice (as we will see later in Revelation), He does not do so as a cruel, power-hungry leader. Jesus rules and judges from a place of ultimate humility and love. We now must live in light of the Lamb's worthiness, not placing our trust in human power or influence, but in the perfect humble worthiness of Christ.

## Daily Scripture Meditation

### Monday

*And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. (Rev. 5:5-7)*

### Tuesday

*And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God*



*from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.” (Rev. 5:9-10)*

### **Wednesday**

*Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. (Isaiah 53:4-7)*

### **Thursday**

*Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,*

*“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” (Rev. 5:11-12)*

### **Friday**

*And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,*

*“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”*

And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped. (Rev. 5:13-14)

### **Morning Prayer**

"Lord, as I begin this day, may I lay down my pride. May I humble myself before you, for only the Lamb of God is worthy. May I work this day not relying on my own strength and skill, but on the humble strength of Jesus who laid down His life. Amen."

### **Noon Prayer**

"Lord, may I remember that the blood of your Son was to ransom people from every tribe and language and people and nation. May my work this day be a light to show others that they may join the people of God through the blood of the Lamb. Amen."

### **Evening Prayer**

"Lord, as evening comes, I thank you that Jesus has won victory over sin and death. I can trust that the troubles and worries of this day are in your hands, and all will be made new through the power of Jesus' resurrection. Amen."

### **Hymn — Is He Worthy? by Andrew Peterson**

*Do you feel the world is broken? (We do)*

*Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do)*

*But do you know that all the dark won't*

*Stop the light from getting through? (We do)*

*Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (We do)*

*Is all creation groaning? (It is)*

*Is a new creation coming? (It is)*

*Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? (It is)*

*Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (It is)*

*Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?*

*Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?*

*The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave*

*He was David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave*

*Is He worthy? Is He worthy?*

*Of all blessing and honor and glory*

*Is He worthy of this?*

*He is*

# The Seals

"Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, 'Come!'"

**Scripture: Revelation 6:1-7:17**

## What is Happening?

In Revelation 6 and 7, we see the Lamb begin to open the seals of the scroll He received.

There are seven seals in total, but in these chapters the Lamb only opens six of the seven seals (seal #7 will be opened in chapter 8).

As each seal is opened by the Lamb, John looks to earth and sees the chaotic and violent consequences of humanity's sin. In response to each seal, John sees a particular aspect of sin's destruction:

- In response to Seal #1, John sees a violent conqueror defeating and oppressing other nations and people groups.
- In response to Seal #2, John sees internal violence occurring within nations, such as injustice, corruption, civil wars, etc.
- In response to Seal #3, John sees economic disparity and scarcity of food.
- In response to Seal #4, John sees a wide range of death and destruction occurring from natural events such as famines, animal violence, etc.
- In response to Seal #5, John sees the souls of martyrs who had been killed for following Jesus.
- In response to Seal #6, John sees creation unraveling. A great earthquake occurs, the sun becomes black, the moon becomes red like blood, the stars begin to fall, etc. All the people of the earth, especially the kings, generals, and wealthy who were responsible for all the violence and destruction try to hide themselves from God.

After witnessing all these cataclysmic events, John then sees angels come to the earth to give a "mark" or "seal" to the people who belong to God.

Again, we see the number 12 being used here to refer to the totality of the people who have been saved and belong to Jesus. While the kings, generals, wealthy, and everyone else who is apart from God hides away in fear, those who belong to Jesus are saved and set apart for eternity.

Then John sees a multitude, people from all over the earth, all who have been saved throughout all time, gather together to worship God. They have been healed, purified, and revived. And they are standing before their God who will never let sin and its destruction touch them again.

## **Why Does This Matter?**

The scenes depicted in Revelation 6 and 7 are scenes of great violence, destruction, and chaos, but also of great salvation. We must remember that Revelation was written to churches who were facing great persecution and injustice. These Christians were living in circumstances that mirrored the violent scenes John describes.

Chapter 6 reminds Christians that God is always sovereign and always in control. Even when sin is abundant, God still rules. The violence and destruction we see in chapter six is not authored by God, but God does maintain His rule as this violence continues to occur.

The prolonged existence of evil and suffering has always been difficult for Christians to understand. If God rules and is good, why does He allow evil to exist? The souls of the martyrs in Revelation 6:10 ask a question just like this. "How long, O Lord, before you will judge?" "How long will you allow evil to continue?"

What we see in Revelation 7 is the response. God will not allow evil to exist forever. There will be a day when justice is enacted once and for all. There will be a day where violence is put to an end. Every single person who belongs to the Lamb and has been sealed to God will be kept safe for all eternity.

This scene is given to us today to remind us that evil and chaos will not last forever. This scene is given to us to rekindle our hope that we will be kept safe for all eternity, and that the wounds we experience in this life will be healed. Regardless of what we face in this life, our destiny in Christ is to be healed and purified, given clean white robes, standing before the perfect throne of God. There will be no more hunger, no more thirst. Every tear will be wiped away.

## Daily Scripture Meditation

### Monday

Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, "Come!" And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer. (Rev. 6:1-2)

### Tuesday

When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth. (Rev. 6:7-8)

### Wednesday

They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" (Rev. 6:10)

### Thursday

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Rev. 7:9-10)

### Friday

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (Rev. 7:16-17)

### Morning Prayer

"Lord, I arise this day recognizing that the world around me is broken. As I go throughout my day, may I remember that you are in control. You are always sovereign. Even when I do not understand why you allow certain things to occur, may I trust you. Amen."

## **Noon Prayer**

*"Lord, as I live and work, may I not contribute to the brokenness of this world. May I strive to be a faithful follower of Jesus. Teach me to live as Christ, that I may love and serve as He loves and serves. Amen."*

## **Evening Prayer**

*"Lord, as evening comes, let me rest knowing that you are good and in control. May I sleep in peace, knowing that all wrongs will be made right. May I rest knowing that salvation belongs to the Lamb. Amen."*

## **Spiritual Song — Pale White Horse by The Oh Hellos**

*Down they fell like the children of Eden  
Down they fell like the tower as the land relinquished her ghost*

*Heed the sirens, take shelter, my lover  
Flee the fire that devours  
But the sight held me fixed like a bayonet against my throat*

*Neither plague or famine tempered my courage, nor did raids make me  
cower But his translucent skin made me shiver deep within my bones*

*It was a pale white horse/  
With a crooked smile  
And I knew it was my time*

*It was the raging storm of a foreign war  
And a face I'd seen before*

## **Spiritual Song — Where is Your Rider? by The Oh Hellos**

*He has thrown down the cavalry as gravel sinks  
And as the stone founders underneath the sundered sea of red and reed  
The shadow of Hades is fading  
For he has cast down Leviathan, the tyrant, and the horse and rider*

*Where is your rider?  
Where is your rider?*

*He will hold with all of his might the armies of night  
Still as boulders laid to the side 'til we pass by  
He has hoisted out of the mire every child  
So lift your voice with timbrel and lyre  
We will abide, we will abide, we will abide*

# The Trumpets

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

**Scripture: Revelation 8:1-9:21**

## What is Happening?

In Revelation 8 and 9, we see the response to the seventh seal: silence. It is as if the universe stands still waiting to see what will happen next. And what happens next is another section of seven events. While the last set of seven events were revealed by seals on a scroll, these seven events are revealed via trumpet blasts.

Whereas the events associated with the seven seals depicted the chaos and violence caused by sin, the events associated with the trumpets depict a cosmic judgment directed towards those who brought about the aforementioned violence and chaos. Remember how the sixth seal revealed the earth collapsing onto itself? The trumpet section takes that scene and describes it in greater detail.

As each trumpet is blown, the universe unravels bit by bit. But this unraveling is not an uncontrolled unraveling. God remains in complete control throughout the entire process and is working through the unraveling of creation to bring about judgment and vengeance against those who murdered the martyrs in chapter six.

Now the depiction of the unraveling universe is not random. The scenes displayed here mirror another judgment – that against Egypt in Exodus. The scenes of hail, water becoming blood, darkness, locusts, and judgment via angels, are all intentionally designed to remind us of how God judged the great empire of Egypt when she had oppressed the people of God. The judgments are not the only event here which mirrors the plague narrative in Egypt, so is the mentioning of the hardness of the peoples' hearts.

Just as Pharaoh's heart hardened with each plague, Revelation 9:20-21 describes how those who survive this new set of plagues harden their

hearts as well. Instead of repenting, crying out for mercy, and turning to God, these people double down on their sin and remain steadfastly opposed to the God who saves sinners.

## Why Does This Matter?

Revelation 8 and 9 remind us of the effects of sin and God's sovereign salvation through sin's consequences. Sin always ultimately leads to chaos and an unraveling of creation. We see this unraveling in the flood narrative in Genesis, the plagues in Exodus, and the words spoken through the prophets of the Old Testament.

While the imagery of Revelation can be frightening, its purpose is to be encouraging. First, even when it looks like the world is collapsing all around us, we can know that God is in control. Second, when we see chaos and violence, we can know that every moment is in accordance to God's wisdom and purposes. His ways are higher than our ways, and He works all things for good. Third, we see through this passage that God is patient with the sinful world. He does not bring about the world's end all in one moment. He gives sinners the opportunity to turn to Him. Even in judgment, God is patient and works in mercy.

Finally, we see in this passage that those who have been marked by God belong to Him and are set apart. No matter what has happened or what will happen, those who belong to the Lamb are safe with the Lamb. This passage in Revelation 8 and 9 is strictly speaking about those who willingly choose to place their trust and love in something other than God: things like demons, idols, power, sex, and money.

If you belong to the Lamb, you can know that you are safe and will be forevermore. No matter what may come, those who trust in God's hands are safe in God's hands.

## Daily Scripture Meditation

### Monday

*When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the*

throne, and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. (Rev. 8:1-4)

## **Tuesday**

Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to blow them.

The first angel blew his trumpet, and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up. The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. (Rev. 8:6-9)

## **Wednesday**

The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night.

Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!" (Rev. 8:12-13)

## **Thursday**

The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshipping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts. (Rev. 9:20-21)

## **Friday**

They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" (Rev. 6:10)

## **Morning Prayer**

"Lord, I know that I cannot control what may occur this day. There may be peace, there may be chaos. But whatever may come this day, help me to trust you. May I place my trust in the One who can calm the raging storm and sea. Amen."

## Noon Prayer

*"Lord, teach me to live a quiet, humble, peaceful life. Vengeance belongs to you. Justice belongs to you. May I not attempt to place the weight of the world on my own shoulders, but may I live in such a way that I day-by-day trust in your wisdom and goodness. Amen."*

## Evening Prayer

*"Lord, as the day comes to an end, may I lay everything that has been done and has been left undone at your feet. Please give me wisdom for tomorrow that I may live as a faithful servant of Christ, knowing that He is the prince of peace. Amen."*

## Spiritual Song — I Am Living in a Land of Death by Citizens

*I'm living in a land of death, the trees are burning grey  
There's a smoldering smoke overhead, and the night looks the same as  
the day It seems a miracle that I can stand, when everyone I've known  
Drifts up in the air with the ash, every time that the wind starts to blow*

*But I feel alive with a life that's not mine  
Your law is a stream in this wasteland, my lifeline*

*So much more than precious gold are Your promises my Lord  
By them is Your servant warned in keeping them great reward  
Your direction is marked in light, your law secures my wounds  
I will meditate day and night, and in season you'll harvest Your fruit*

*Though a poison should threaten to kill, I know my Savior reigns  
And when the breezes of death leave a chill, I've got Jesus' blood in my veins*

*The kingdoms of man have all decayed, the ruins of progress turn to waste  
The gods of greed lay in their graves, darkness is everywhere  
But there's a path in the dark that has emerged, I can see a great light  
beyond this curse A brilliant blaze that is Your word, a beacon of hope  
that burns*

*And I focus my captivated gaze, on the radiant light from Jesus' face  
The water of life is all I crave, only Your word remains*

*So much more than precious gold, is the beauty I behold  
Give me the glorious reward, of knowing You, my King, my Lord*

# The Kingdom

“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ and he shall reign forever and ever.”

**Scripture: Revelation 10:1-11:19**

## What is Happening?

In Revelation 10 and 11 we see three distinct sections.

In the first section, we are introduced to yet another set of seven events and responses, this time being announced by seven roars of thunder. But instead of being told what the seven thunders announce, we find that John was specifically instructed not to write down what the thunders declared. Instead, John is given a little scroll, and he is commanded to eat it. The scroll tasted sweet but made his stomach bitter. Alongside this strange to command eat the scroll, John is called to again prophesy about nations and kingdoms and rulers.

In the second section, we see that John is told to measure the temple of God, but not the court outside the temple for it will be given over to the nations. The nations invade the outer court and turn this space which was designed for worship and sacrifice into a space for sin. While the outer court is defiled, the inside of the temple remains completely safe and protected.

As the nations (appear to) prevail, God sends two witnesses to the nations to share with them the truth of God. These witnesses are blessed, given power and authority, and are protected while they testify. When their testimony is completed, a beast rises and kills them. The nations rejoice at the deaths of the witnesses, for they refused to accept their testimony. But after three and a half days, the witnesses rise from the dead, and through their resurrection declare testimony about God. This scene ends with some being judged and others repenting and giving glory to God.

In the third section, the seventh trumpet is finally sounded. When this trumpet is blown, the voices of heaven declare that the kingdom of the world has now become the kingdom of Christ. Jesus rules over the universe, and the temple of God is reopened. The message which was

spoken to the defiant nations has now proven to be true. The death of the witnesses was not their defeat; death was used as a tool to bring about salvation and rescue.

## **Why Does This Matter?**

Like the rest of Revelation, chapters 10 and 11 are filled to the brim with references to the Old Testament. The numbers of 1,260 days / 42 months / three and a half years, eating the scroll, measuring the temple, the witnesses, the beast, are all references to what had been said hundreds of years prior through Daniel, Ezekiel, and Zechariah. These are not random esoteric images; what we read in this passage are clear connections to prior times when God comforted His people, judged sin, preserved His people through great calamity, gave hope to a future salvation, and worked through persecution to declare His good news to the world.

There are three simple and clear applications from these seemingly strange and bizarre scenes. The first is that we need not only hear the Word of God but ingest it. It is not enough to be hearers of the Word; we must be doers. The scene of John eating the scroll is a picture of receiving God's Word and having it dwell inside of us. We must receive both the portions that are sweet and simple and the portions that are bitter and hard to digest.

The second is that we are called to be witnesses to the world around us. Even when it seems like the Enemy is prevailing, we are called to be a shining light of gospel truth. Even when it seems like no one is listening or when remaining faithful to Jesus comes with a real cost, we must boldly declare the Word of God. The witnesses' efforts are not in vain. After their death and resurrection there are those who declare God's glory.

The third application is that we must trust that God will keep His people safe and that His Kingdom will prevail – no matter what. Even when the nations seem to rule the world and trample the courtyard, the inside of the temple remains completely safe and protected.

Even when the witnesses are murdered, they are resurrected. Our suffering in this life is a tool to share the light of the gospel, and our suffering is not unrestrained. God cares for His people, protects His people, heals His people, resurrects His people, and calls them into His Kingdom which will reign forever.

## Daily Scripture Meditation

### Monday

*I saw another strong angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud; and the rainbow was on his head, and his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire; and he had in his hand a little scroll, which was open. He placed his right foot on the sea and his left on the land; 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. 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." (Rev. 10:1-4)*

### Tuesday

*Then the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, WHO CREATED HEAVEN AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE EARTH AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE SEA AND THE THINGS IN IT, that there will no longer be a delay, 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 announced to His servants the prophets. (Rev. 10:5-7)*

### Wednesday

*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. And their dead bodies will lie on the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. Those from the peoples, tribes, languages, and nations will look at their dead bodies for three and a half days, and will not allow their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb. And those who live on the earth will rejoice over them and celebrate; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who live on the earth. And 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. (Rev. 11:7-12)*

## **Thursday**

*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." And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God (Rev. 11:15-16)*

## **Friday**

*We give You thanks, Lord God, the Almighty, the One who is and who was, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign. 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." 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. (Rev. 11:17-19)*

## **Morning Prayer**

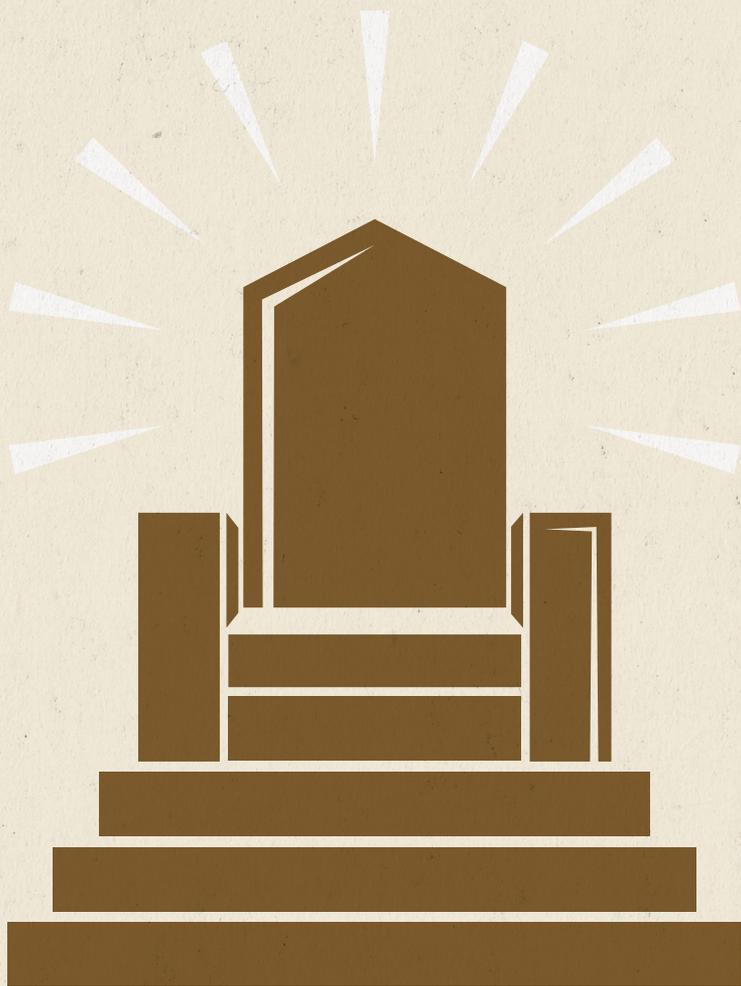
*"Lord, may I be a doer of your Word this . May your words of life and grace dwell richly in me, that I may live as Christ in all that I do. Amen."*

## **Noon Prayer**

*"Lord, may whatever happen to me this day be used to proclaim your glory. May my fortune and unfortune both be vehicles for the gospel. That those who do not know you may see your love and mercy in my life. Amen."*

## **Evening Prayer**

*"Lord, as the night comes and darkness falls, may I be reminded that darkness is not the end. Your light will not be defeated, and the darkness is only for a time. May you give me strength to take on each day, that I may walk in all your ways. Amen."*



**"Worthy are You, our Lord  
and our God, to receive  
glory and honor and power"**

**Revelation 4:11**

## **Hymn — It Is Well With My Soul by Horatio Spafford**

*When peace like a river, attendeth my way  
When sorrows like sea billows roll  
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say  
It is well, it is well, with my soul*

*Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come  
Let this blest assurance control  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate  
And hath shed His own blood for my soul*

*My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
My sin, not in part but the whole  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o my soul!*

*O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;  
even so, it is well with my soul.*



# The Great War





# The Promised Child

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; and she was pregnant and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.

**Scripture: Revelation 12:1-17**

## What is Happening?

Revelation 12 is a distillation of the entire story of the Bible which presents the story through a series of signs depicting a great divine war.

First, we are introduced to a sign of a woman. The woman is described as wearing the sun, moon, and stars (a reference to Joseph's dream in Genesis 37) and is in the process of giving birth. The picture of this woman is connected to Eve in Genesis 3, the people of Israel, and Mary in Matthew 1/Luke 1 & 2.

Next, we are introduced to the sign of the great dragon. The dragon is a connection to the serpent in Genesis 3 and all the other dragon/beast imagery which is used throughout the Old Testament. John describes the dragon as being ready to devour the child that the woman is about to give birth to. But when the woman gives birth, the dragon is unable to devour the son (representing Jesus). Instead, the child is caught up to the heavens, and the woman flees into the wilderness where she is protected by God.

Then, John describes a war between God's angels and the dragon and his demons. This war begins in the heavens but moves to the earth. When it becomes clear to the dragon that he is unable to defeat God in the heavens, the dragon turns his attention to trying to persecute the woman who had given birth. When he is unable to persecute the woman, the dragon turns his attention to the woman's other children, those who belong to God and keep the testimony of Jesus.

## Why Does This Matter?

Revelation 12 is designed to help us remember that the universe is at war.

*Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:11-12)*

The enemy has been waging war against God before we were ever born, and God has already proven to the enemy that He cannot be defeated. So, the enemy has turned his attention to corrupting and fighting against God's people.

The enemy was successful in luring humanity into sin and rebellion against God, but that is not the end of the story. After Adam and Eve listened to the lies of the serpent, God made a promise that a child would come who would defeat the serpent. This promise is an undercurrent for the whole story of the Bible, and John sees it brought to life in a grand cosmological scale. The woman who wears the sun and moon and stars gives birth to a child who will kill the dragon.

The enemy failed to defeat God, and the enemy has failed to defeat Jesus, for He has risen from the grave and ascended to heaven. So where is the enemy's attention now? On us.

John describes the other children, those who belong to God and are following Jesus, as the targets of the enemy's attacks. We live in the wilderness and are called to share the testimony of Jesus with those who live here. The enemy will try to attack us, hurt us, and do everything he can to silence our testimony. But this scene which John describes should embolden us to remain steadfast in this difficult place that we may boldly proclaim the good news of Jesus. It is through our testimony in the wilderness that others can be saved and not perish with the enemy. And God has promised to nourish us and provide for us in the wilderness. We need not fear the wilderness nor the dragon.

So, when times are difficult, remember that you are called to a great purpose. You are called to boldly share the testimony of Jesus in the wilderness right now, and God will provide for you. He will not leave you, nor abandon you as you journey through this wild life.

## Daily Scripture Meditation

### Monday

*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; and she was pregnant and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth. (Rev. 12:1-2)*

### Tuesday

*Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven crowns. And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and hurled 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. (Rev. 12:3-4)*

### Wednesday

*And she gave birth to a Son, a male, who is going to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her Child was caught up to God and to His throne. Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for 1,260 days. (Rev. 12:5-6)*

### Thursday

*And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they did not prevail, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. 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. 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 brothers and sisters has been thrown down, the one who accuses them before our God day and night. 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. For this reason, rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you with great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time." (Rev. 12:7-12)*

## **Friday**

And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. 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, times, and half a time, away from the presence of the serpent. And the serpent hurled water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon had hurled out of his mouth. 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. (Rev. 12:13-17)

## **Morning Prayer**

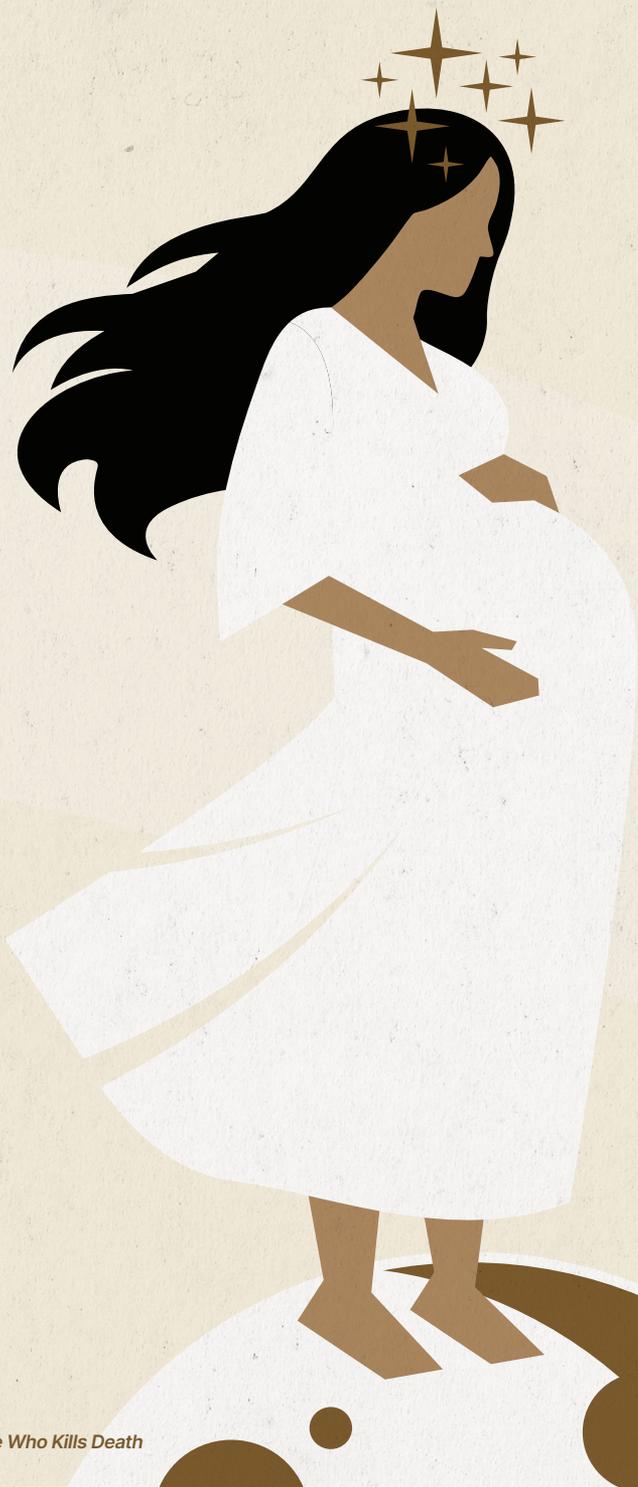
*"Lord, I arise today knowing that I am in the wilderness. As I live in between Jesus' resurrection and His return, may you give me the strength to live the life you have called me to. May I walk not by my own strength, but on yours O God. Amen."*

## **Noon Prayer**

*"Lord, between the consequences of sin and the attacks of the enemy, I face many challenges and hardships. Please grant me your wisdom, that I may navigate the difficulties of life in a way that is pleasing to you. May I reflect the goodness of Christ so that I may be a blessing to those all around me. Amen."*

## **Evening Prayer**

*"Lord, though there are many threats which may surround me, help me to trust in your safe shelter. May you provide all that I need, and may you protect me from the enemy's fiery arrows. I will take shelter underneath your wings. Amen."*



## **Hymn — A Mighty Fortress is Our God by Martin Luther / Heartsong**

*A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe;  
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal*

*Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,  
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.  
You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;  
The Lord of Hosts His name, from age to age the same;  
And he must win the battle*

*And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God has willed his truth to triumph through us  
And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God has willed his truth to triumph through us*

*A mighty fortress is our God, His Kingdom is forever  
A mighty fortress is our God, His Kingdom is forever*

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

**Revelation 12:5**

# The Two Beasts

Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.

**Scripture: Revelation 13:1-18**

## What is Happening?

In Revelation 13, John sees the great dragon standing on the seashore. Rising up out the sea is a mighty beast who has come to partner with the dragon in waging war against the people of God. This beast is so strong, mighty, and alluring that the people of earth worship the beast. They believe the beast to be unconquerable and that his strength is the ultimate way of life. This beast even mimics the power of Jesus in receiving a fatal wound and being healed from it.

This beast wages war against the people of God and appears to be victorious against them, but John reassures us that the saints will persevere.

Then, John describes a second beast. This beast arises not from the sea, but from the earth. Like the prior beast, this beast displays great power and mimics the signs and power of Jesus. The beast joins the war against the people of God and convinces the people of earth to worship him in addition to the dragon and the beast of the sea. This beast of the earth rules over the kingdoms and controls them, especially through its control of the marketplace.

Just as the people who belong to the Lamb had been marked and sealed (Rev. 7), this beast marks his people. While the beast mimics the Lamb, he is far from the Lamb, for his mark is not the symbol of perfection (7), but just short (6). This mark is a revealing of the deception that the people of the earth have fallen for. In worshiping the beast, they think they are worshiping a powerful savior, but they are worshiping a vile counterfeit.

## Why Does This Matter?

Revelation 13 describes the great persecution that the church has experienced throughout history and reveals how human powers align with the

great dragon in opposition to God.

The dragon and the beast of the sea display the great powers of spiritual darkness held by the enemy and his demons. These spiritual forces reveal themselves to the people of earth and amaze them through their strength.

The beast of the earth reveals to us how human powers such as governments, organizations, and even religious institutions can become beasts aligned with the dragon and the beast of the sea. These enemies of God convince people to worship them through the power and riches they offer. The beast of the earth particularly uses power in creating an idol and controlling the marketplace. In the end, everyone will declare allegiance to someone. People will either bear the mark of the Lamb or the mark of the beast.

Revelation 13 helps reveal the persecution that the church faces but also calls us to examine the leaders and institutions we follow, especially those that try to mimic or co-opt the name of Jesus. There are many leaders and institutions which on the surface may bear some resemblance to the resurrection power of Jesus, but in reality, they use the tools of power, violence, and oppression to maintain their rule.

As Christians, we must know the Lamb intimately. The more we know the Lamb's humility, peace, and self-sacrifice, the more apparent the pride, disorder, and selfishness of the beast become. The power that the beast displays and offers may be tempting and enchanting, but we must be more enchanted by the Lamb who alone is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

## Daily Scripture Meditation

### Monday

*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 crowns, and on his heads were blasphemous names. And the beast that 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. I saw one of his heads as if it had been fatally wounded, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast; 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?" (Rev. 13:1-4)*

## **Tuesday**

*A mouth was given to him speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven. (Rev. 13:5-6)*

## **Wednesday**

*It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority was given to him over every tribe, people, language, and nation. All who live on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written since the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slaughtered. If anyone has an ear, let him hear. 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. (Rev. 13:7-10)*

## **Thursday**

*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. He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who live on it worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of the sky to the earth in the presence of people. And he deceives those who live on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who live on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life. 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 all who do not worship the image of the beast to be killed. (Rev. 13:11-15)*

## **Friday**

*And he causes all, the small and the great, the rich and the poor, and the free and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, and he decrees 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. 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. (Rev. 13:16-18)*

## **Morning Prayer**

*"Lord, as I enter into today, may I bear the mark of the Lamb. May I walk in Christlike humility, peace, and love in all that I do. Amen."*

## **Noon Prayer**

*"Lord, there are many voices which surround me. The world seems to never have been noisier than it is today. May you grant me wisdom and discernment to see what voices proclaim your truth and which ones are nothing but dark deception. Amen."*

## **Evening Prayer**

*"Lord, may you fashion me to be a saint which is willing to cling to the testimony of Jesus no matter what the cost. May you remind me of the victory Christ has when the power of the beasts seems to be so strong and prevalent. Amen."*

## **Psalm – Psalm 27 by Jonathan Ogden**

*Hear me oh Lord when I cry aloud, be gracious and answer  
You have said, "Seek my face" and my heart responds  
Your face I will seek, your face I will seek*

*Oh Lord You are the one thing I desire  
One thing that I long for God, to be with You And Lord,  
You are my light and my salvation  
No reason to be afraid, when I'm with You*

*He will hide me in His shelter, in the day of trouble  
He will lift me high upon a rock, He will hide me in His shelter  
In the day of trouble He will lift me high upon a rock*

*My head shall be lifted up over my enemies  
My head shall be lifted up over my enemies*

*And I believe I will see the goodness of the Lord  
In the land of the living  
And I believe I will see the goodness of the Lord  
In the land of the living*

# The Marks

And they sang a new song before the throne...

**Scripture: Revelation 14:1-20**

## What is Happening?

In Revelation 14, John sees the Lamb standing on Mount Zion with the 144,000 saints who bear the mark of the Lamb and whose names are written in the book of life. Remember, this number of 144,000 is intentionally chosen to represent all those who belong to Jesus. The number 12 is used throughout the Bible to refer to the people of God, and anytime these “Bible numbers” are used in multiplication it communicates an “all-encompassing” mentality.

(Just as when Jesus says we must forgive 7 times 70 times. He is not saying we should forgive people 490 times; He is saying we should forgive people an infinite number of times)

Whereas the number of elders were 12 times 2 representing the people of God before and after Jesus, the 144,000 number is 12 times 12 times 1,000 representing every single person throughout all time who belongs to God. This picture of all the people of God being kept safe on Mount Zion with the Lamb is in stark contrast to the scene right before it: the beasts ravaging the earth and waging war against the people of God.

This mountaintop scene is preceded by a series of angels declaring messages of good news for the people of the Lamb and messages of judgment for the people of the beast. Those who belong to the Lamb, even if they die, achieve victory, purification, resurrection, and peace forevermore on Mount Zion with the Lamb. Those who belong to the beast will experience the exact opposite: defeat, defilement, death, and unrest.

## Why Does This Matter?

Revelation 14 is designed to encourage Christians to continue to hold fast to Jesus and His ways. Then ways of the beast’s world may be enticing: it

will appear to be easy, pleasurable, and successful. After all, what do you think sounds better? To take up your cross or to bathe in pleasure, riches, and self-gratification?

The self-sacrificial life of the Lamb is actually the Way to life abundant, while the self-gratifying life of the beast is a trap which leads people into chaos and destruction. The pleasure and power gained by sin only lasts a short while and never actually brings true rest and satisfaction. Sin always leaves us empty and wanting more. But those who lay down their lives via faith in the Lamb receive an eternal rest which produces true satisfaction.

There will be moments where the Christian life seems too difficult or not worth all the sacrifice. There will be moments where the temptation of sin appears to give us what we need or crave. Revelation 14 is designed to encourage Christians to run the race with endurance, keeping their eyes locked on the Lamb who is the author and perfecter of their faith. Revelation 14 reveals what the end of the race looks like.

## Daily Scripture Meditation

### Monday

*Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 who had His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads. 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. And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one was able to learn the song except the 144,000 who had been purchased from the earth. (Rev. 14:1-3)*

### Tuesday

*And I saw another angel flying in midheaven with an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation, tribe, language, and people; 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."*

*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 sexual immorality." (Rev. 14:6-8)*



### **Wednesday**

*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, 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. And the smoke of their torment ascends 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." Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. (Rev. 14:9-12)*

### **Thursday**

*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." (Rev. 14:13)*

### **Friday**

*Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud was one like a son of man, with a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand. And another angel came out of the temple, calling 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." Then He who sat on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped. (Rev. 14:14-16)*

## **Morning Prayer**

*"Lord, may you grant me wisdom to defend against temptation. As I go throughout my day, may I be reminded that the Way of the Lamb leads to life, and the ways of this world lead to death. May you deliver me from evil. Amen."*

## **Noon Prayer**

*"Lord, may you grant me encouragement to the run the race with perseverance. When the Way of the Lamb seems too difficult or too exhausting, may I hear the Lamb's words that His yoke is easy and His burden is light. May I be reminded of what lies at the end, and may I work in light of that eternal destiny. Amen."*

## **Evening Prayer**

*"Lord, may you grant me rest. The brokenness of this world is exhausting, but you provide true rest for my soul. May I rest in you knowing that the Lamb holds victory and authority over everything. For yours is the Kingdom and the power and glory forever and ever. Amen."*

## **Hymn — Revelation Song by Jennie Lee Riddle // Gateway Worship (feat. Anna Byrd)**

*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain Holy, holy is He  
We sing a new song to Him who sits on Heaven's mercy seat*

*Holy, holy, holy  
Is the Lord, God Almighty  
Who was and is and is to come  
With all creation I sing, praise to the King of Kings  
You are my everything  
And I will adore You*

*Clothed in rainbows of living color  
Flashes of lighting, rolls of thunder  
Blessing and honor, strength and glory and power be  
To You, the only wise King*

# The Bowls

Who will not fear You, 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.

**Scripture: Revelation 15:1-16:21**

## What is Happening?

In Revelation 15 and 16, we find another depiction of plagues (referencing Exodus) just as we saw in Revelation 8 and 9 in response to the trumpets. These plagues are not in response to the blowing of trumpets, but rather the pouring of bowls.

Those who are victorious over the beast and who hold fast to their faith in the Lamb are placed upon a sea of glass and fire (referencing the sea of glass we saw in Revelation 4). These saints play harps and sing the song of Moses, declaring the works of God to be great, wonderful, and righteous. Upon the sea of glass and fire, these saints do not endure the plagues which are to come. Those who belong to the beast and are nowhere near the sea of glass and fire, are those who fall victim to the plagues.

Just like the previous set of plagues, we see that those who belong to the beast do not repent and turn to God. Instead, their hearts are hardened (just like Pharaoh). This hardening of their hearts leads the people of the beast to gather together and amass all of their might and power to war against God Himself. Of course, the might and power of the beast and its kings is nothing compared to the might of the Almighty Creator who is Lord over the heavens and the earth. As the people of the beast gather together to wage war against God, they crumble and fall under His power.

## Why Does This Matter?

Like the Exodus story and the revelation of the trumpets, the scene of the bowls of wrath depicts God responding in judgment against those who

murdered His people. We must always remember that Revelation was written to Christians who were actively facing persecution from the kingdoms they lived under. These Christians needed to hear what God's response would be toward this persecution of His people. This scene of judgment should lead to two applications for us today.

First, this scene reminds us that God is a God of perfect justice. While there is much sin and injustice in the world we live in, God will act in perfect and complete righteousness when He responds to the world's brokenness. God is not an uncaring or absent God; He works in accordance with His perfect timing and perfect will to bring about perfect mercy and perfect justice. So, we must live accordingly today knowing that our actions matter.

Nothing we do is meaningless. We will give an account for what we do and do not do. God cares about His creation, He cares about you, and He cares about the people around you.

Second, we must remember that justice and vengeance belong to the Lord. While we follow Jesus and should be concerned about justice in the world we live in, we cannot place ourselves in the seat of the ultimate judge. We should strive to cultivate peaceful and just societies. We should strive to help the poor and oppressed. After all, it was our Lord who declared to His people, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice," and "do justice, love kindness" and "learn to do good, seek justice, and correct oppression." (Hosea 6:6, Micah 6:8, and Isaiah 1:17)

Christian justice is performed with wisdom and humility, recognizing that God alone can judge perfectly. There will be many moments in your life where you must work to bring about justice in this life. There will also be many moments where you must not respond in vengeance. Rather, you must trust that God will make all things right in His timing. This is especially the case when we are powerless to change our circumstances.

The early Christians who received John's letter of Revelation were powerless to stop the persecution they faced. They did not wield weapons to fight against those who oppressed them, but rather, in Christlike humility, trusted that God would respond to the evil done against them.

## Daily Scripture Meditation

### Monday

*I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying,*

*“Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty!  
Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations!  
Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name?  
For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you,  
for your righteous acts have been revealed.” (Rev. 15:2-4)*

### Tuesday

*After this I looked, and the sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven was opened, and out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues, clothed in pure, bright linen, with golden sashes around their chests. And 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, and the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished. (Rev. 15:5-8)*

### Wednesday

*The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood. And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say,*

*“Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for you brought these judgments. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!”*

*And I heard the altar saying, “Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are your judgments!” (Rev. 16:4-7)*

### Thursday

*The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire. They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.*

The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds. (Rev. 16:8-11)

## **Friday**

The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake. The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath. And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found. (Rev. 16:17-20)

## **Morning Prayer**

"Lord, you are a God of righteousness and justice. May I live this day in accordance to your ways. Cultivate in me a heart that longs to do good, seek justice, and correct oppression through the life and work you have called me to. Amen."

## **Noon Prayer**

"Lord, when others sin against me, may I respond with forgiveness. May I remember that you will judge and you will make all things right. May I trust in your ways and your plans. You have forgiven me, may I forgive others. Amen."

## **Evening Prayer**

"Lord, as the sun sets, may I remember that you hold the universe together. Every wrong and every injustice will be corrected as you work to make all things new again. May I live day-by-day trusting in your plan of redemption brought about through Jesus, the Lamb. Amen."

## **Hymn — Song of Moses by Isaac Tarter**

*Awesome and mighty*

*Oh Lord, sovereign, strong Righteous and true*

*The things You have done*

*King of the ages*

*Most holy our God Who will not fear You*

*And bow down in awe?*

*Hallelujah, hallelujah*

*For the Lord God almighty reigns Yes He reigns, oh He reigns*

**"And I heard the altar  
saying, "Yes, Lord God, the  
Almighty, true and righteous  
are Your judgments."**

**Revelation 16:7**



# Babylon

They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.

**Scripture: Revelation 17:1-18:24**

## What is Happening?

In Revelation 17 and 18, we are introduced to the great prostitute and another beast. The great prostitute rides this beast which represents various kings and kingdoms of the earth, and the two despise God and work to slay His people. The prostitute bears the name “Babylon” connecting her with the archetype of evil used throughout the Old Testament.

The union of Babylon and the beast represents the destructive results of human beings not only embracing sin but fully giving in to its alluring promises of power and pleasure. This picture is that of systemic institutional sin – sin that has corrupted an entire city, kingdom, organization, etc. Babylon is not only a place where sin occurs, it is a sin factory producing nothing but opposition to God and His people.

Babylon is used as an archetype throughout the Old Testament to refer to cities and kingdoms which function as these “sin factories.” The first time Babylon is mentioned is in the Tower of Babel, a city which was set on dethroning God. This archetype is used to refer to kingdoms which oppress Israel such as Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Rome, etc. and there are moments when Israel itself becomes like Babylon.

Babylon and the beast wage war against the Lamb, but they are not victorious. The Lamb, the Lord of lords and King of kings, overcomes the kings and empires which oppose Him. Babylon’s defeat brings great sadness to the kings, merchants, and artists of the earth who belong to the beast. These kings gained power through sin, these merchants gained wealth through sin, and the artists gained pleasure through sin. Now that their sin is being defeated, the source of their power, wealth, and pleasure is gone.

## Why Does This Matter?

We exist within institutions. We live under governments, we participate in economies, and we experience cultures. We are not totally independent creatures – we were designed by God to live with and work alongside others. We are both shaped by the institutions we are a part of and play a role in shaping the institutions which we are a part of.

Over and over again, the Scriptures highlight how sin from individuals can infect entire institutions. There are times when God judges a particular individual for their individual sin. There are many other times where entire communities are judged for their institutional sin. These judgments against entire cities and empires are often severe, for the sin that they produce is often far more destructive than what any one individual can accomplish.

As Christians, we have a complicated relationship with the kingdoms, economies, and cultures that we are a part of. God calls us to be in the world, but not of it. We cannot abandon these institutions and isolate ourselves, and we must be careful not to dance with the great prostitute.

This scene in Revelation 17 and 18 helps us to understand how institutions can become so sinful and destructive, calls us to cling to the Lamb and its way of life, and encourages us by promising that Babylon will fall. We must not put our trust in power, wealth, or pleasure. We must hold fast to the Lamb who is the Lord of lords and King of kings.

## Daily Scripture Meditation

### Monday

*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 prostitute who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of sexual immorality, and those who live on the earth became drunk with the wine of her sexual immorality." (Rev. 17:1-2)*

### Tuesday

*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. 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."*



*"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 live on the earth, whose names have 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. (Rev. 17:6-8)*

### **Wednesday**

*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." (Rev. 17:14)*

### **Thursday**

*After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated from his glory. 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. (Rev. 18:1-2)*

### **Friday**

*Then a strong angel picked 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 never be found again. And the sound of harpists, musicians, flute players, and trumpeters will never be heard in you again; and*

no craftsman of any craft will ever be found in you again; and the sound of a mill will never be heard in you again; and the light of a lamp will never shine in you again; and the voice of the groom and bride will never be heard in you again; (Rev. 18:21-23)

### **Morning Prayer**

*"Lord, as I begin this day, may you lead me not into temptation. Deliver me from the evil which surrounds. May I walk according to your ways, the ways of eternal life. Amen."*

### **Noon Prayer**

*"Lord, grant me wisdom to live as Christ. Jesus perfectly lived in the world but never fell to temptation. Grant me wisdom and clarity to know what is good and what is evil, that my life may be a light to those who are lost in darkness. Amen."*

### **Evening Prayer**

*"Lord, the Lamb reigns victorious. As I rest this evening, may I remember that the strength of men is fleeting. Jesus is the King over all kings and the Lord over all lords. May I forever place my allegiance to Christ alone. Amen."*

### **Psalm – Psalm 46 (Lord of Hosts) by Shane & Shane**

*O come behold the works of God, the nations at His feet  
He breaks the bow and bends the spear and tells the wars to cease  
O mighty one of Israel You are on our side*

*We walk by faith in God who burns the chariots with fire*

*Lord of Hosts, You're with us  
With us in the fire  
With us as a shelter  
With us in the storm  
You will lead us  
Through the fiercest battle  
Oh, where else would we go?  
With the Lord of Hosts*

*Though oceans roar, You are the Lord of all  
The one who calms the wind and waves and makes my heart be still  
Though the Earth gives way, the mountains move into the sea  
The nations rage, I know my God is in control*

# The Marriage of the Lamb

Let's rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has prepared herself.

**Scripture: Revelation 19:1-21**

## What is Happening?

In Revelation 19, we see the response of praise made by those who belong to the Lamb. What is this praise in response to? The declaration that Babylon is doomed!

Throughout Revelation we have the following cycle play over and over again: the enemies of God wage war against Him and His people, God's glory is revealed, the enemies of God are defeated, and the Lamb of God rules with Him as King over the universe. As we near the end of Revelation, we reach the final and ultimate picture of this cycle.

In Revelation 18, the fall of Babylon was declared. Now in Revelation 19, we see the people of God declare His praises as they anticipate Babylon's imminent demise. Along with this shout of praise, we find two scenes: a wedding and a royal arrival.

In the wedding scene, we see that the Church is presented as a bride to the Lamb, and she is clothed in the righteous acts of the saints. The bride is pure and made perfect for her groom. This picture reminds us of the destiny which awaits those who overcome the temptations and tribulations from Babylon. These "righteous acts" are the everyday decisions by followers of Jesus to hold fast to their allegiance to Christ instead of giving in to the pressures of Babylon.

We see Jesus appear as a conquering king in somewhat of a similar fashion to the horsemen of destruction back in Revelation 6. While the overall presentation is similar, there are huge differences between Jesus' arrival on the white horse and the arrival of the horsemen destruction.

First, while Jesus does come to judge and wage war, He acts in accordance with perfect justice to bring about righteousness and peace. When Jesus wages war, there is no senseless violence, there is no injustice, and the world is left better than it was before.

Second, Jesus arrives to the war already covered in blood. Just as the Lamb was depicted as already slain and bloodied in Revelation 5, Jesus arrives on His white horse wearing a robe that is bloodied. This obviously should remind us of Jesus' death on the cross which should then lead us to remember how Jesus conquers His enemies: through the laying down of His life. Jesus' arrival as a victorious conquering king is one that is born through ultimate humility.

Third, Jesus' weapon of choice is that of a sword. He does not wield this sword in his hands; He wields it in His mouth. As the incarnate Word of God, Jesus acts with the very powers of creation which spoke the heavens and the earth into being. The power which made the universe is now the power that will put an end to the forces of chaos and destruction so that the universe may be made new once and for all.

## **Why Does This Matter?**

In a world filled with brokenness and evil, we must remember that there will be a day when evil is dealt with. Evil will not last forever. Christ will come to end sin once and for all. This is what we look forward to as we endure the pains and tribulations of this life. For even though we ourselves have contributed to the evil and brokenness in this world, we are rescued from that destruction:

Those who belong to the Lamb are purified and made to be a spotless bride. We are united with the One who is at work to defeat evil and put an end to injustice and suffering. While we live today working to respond in a Christlike manner to the brokenness around us, we keep our eyes fixed on the ultimate work accomplished by Christ alone which will end sin and its effects once and for all.

So we should strive to emulate Christ's justice and mercy in our lives today, for in doing so we share the good news of Jesus with those around us. And we should be encouraged when the weights of this world seem to heavy and the state of the world feels too broken for our hope is found in a coming Savior who will fix things once and for all.



## Daily Scripture Meditation

### Monday

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

*"Hallelujah! Salvation, glory, and power belong to our God, BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENTS ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS; for He has judged the great prostitute who was corrupting the earth with her sexual immorality, and HE HAS AVENGED THE BLOOD OF HIS BOND-SERVANTS ON HER." (Rev. 19:1-2)*

### Tuesday

*Let's rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has prepared herself." 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.*

*Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are the true words of God." (Rev. 19:7-9)*

## Wednesday

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. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many crowns; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. 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. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written: "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." (Rev. 19:11-16)

## Thursday

Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in midheaven, "Come, assemble for the great feast of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, both free and slaves, and small and great." 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. (Rev. 19:17-19)

## Friday

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. 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. (Rev. 19:20-21)

## **Morning Prayer**

*"Lord, may your name be praised this day! Whatever may come, may I remember that Jesus is victorious and will make all things right. Amen."*

## **Noon Prayer**

*"Lord, may I remember that as one who was ransomed by the blood of the Lamb, I am now united with the Lamb. May I reflect the Way of Jesus in my work this day, and may I be reminded that I belong to Christ. Amen."*

## **Evening Prayer**

*"Lord, may the brokenness of this world and the temptations of Babylon not sway me from your loving care. May I remain steadfast and cling to you through this life, that I may one day see with my own eyes your glory and the new creation. Amen."*

## **Hymn – King of Kings by Hillsong Worship & Brooke Ligertwood**

*In the darkness we were waiting without hope, without light  
'Til from Heaven You came running there was mercy in Your eyes  
To fulfill the law and prophets to a virgin came the word  
From a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt*

*To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation, you did not despise the cross  
For even in your suffering, you saw to the other side  
Knowing this was our salvation Jesus for our sake you died  
And the morning that You rose all of Heaven held its breath*

*'Til that stone was moved for good for the Lamb had conquered death  
And the dead rose from their tombs and the angels stood in awe*

*For the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored  
And the church of Christ was born then the Spirit lit the flame  
Now this gospel truth of old shall not kneel, shall not faint  
By His blood and in His name in His freedom I am free*

*For the love of Jesus Christ who has resurrected me  
Praise the Father, praise the Son Praise the Spirit, three in one  
God of glory, Majesty  
Praise forever to the King of Kings*



# The Death of Death

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.

This is the second death, the lake of fire.

**Scripture: Revelation 20:1-15**

## What is Happening?

Revelation 20 is perhaps one of the most debated passages of the Bible in all of Christian history. From differing views on Jesus' return in relation to the millennium, to different understandings regarding the eternity of the soul and the lake of fire, orthodox Christians have taken a wide variety of stances in understanding this passage.

In the most simplistic sense, Revelation 20 is all about the final defeat of sin, death, and the enemy who deceived humanity in the first place.

In Revelation 20, we see that the dragon, Satan, is bound by the forces of God. He is bound for a millennium, and during this time, Christ and His Kingdom reigns. During this period those who were martyred for their faith are resurrected and display Jesus' resurrection power to the world. When all that is to occur has found its fulfillment at the end of this 1,000 year reign of Christ, Satan is released from bondage so that he may experience a once and for all final judgment.

In this final judgment, we see that Satan is thrown in the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and false prophet were also sent. It is here that the enemies of God will never be able to deceive or torment another soul. Here they experience the final judgment for the evil they have wrought throughout the history of the world.

Then we see that all who have lived throughout history are brought before the throne of God. Those whose names are in the book of life, those who bear the mark of the Lamb, those who are a part of the Bride of Christ, those whose allegiance is to Jesus, the King of Kings - these people are preserved and will experience death no more. But those whose name is not found in the book of life, those who bear the mark of the beast, those

who despise the Bride of Christ, those who allegiance is to Satan, or Babylon, or anyone other than Jesus – these people follow the dragon to the lake of fire.

## Why Does This Matter?

Throughout Revelation we have seen declarations that sin, death, and the enemies of God will be defeated. This scene in Revelation 20 is the ultimate fulfillment of all those prior declarations.

Jesus' victory over death will bring an end to death. This is certain.

And while it may be a difficult passage to understand, there is a message that is clear as day. Everyone will follow the one whom their allegiance belongs to. For those whose allegiance is to Jesus who rose from the dead, they will follow Him in receiving resurrection.

For those whose allegiance is to Satan and the beast, they will follow them into destruction.

This is the most intense picture of God's justice and mercy throughout the entire Bible. It is here that we see God's justice at hand: those who align themselves with the ones who cause death receive death. And it is also here where we see God's mercy at hand: those who have been ransomed by the blood the Lamb and have received a new name in Christ Jesus follow Him into life.

As Christians we should respond to this scene with pure praise. For Jesus has saved us. Jesus has defeated death. Jesus will in perfect justice and mercy make all things right again.

## Daily Scripture Meditation

### Monday

*Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he took hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 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. (Rev. 20:1-3)*

## **Tuesday**

*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 foreheads and on their hands; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. 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. (Rev. 20:4-6)*

## **Wednesday**

*When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, 8 and will come out to deceive the nations which are at 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. (Rev. 20:7-10)*

## **Thursday**

*Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled, and no place was found for them. 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. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them; and they were judged, each one of them according to their deeds. (Rev. 20:11-13)*

## **Friday**

*Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:14)*

## **Morning Prayer**

*"Lord, on the cross Jesus was crowned King. In His resurrection, He was victorious. May I enter into this day knowing that Jesus who has overcome death, and since I belong to Him, I will live as well. Amen."*

## **Noon Prayer**

*"Lord, may I live in such a way as to show the world who Jesus is. Guide me to share the good news of Jesus that more may be saved. May the gospel flow through my thoughts, and my words, and my deeds. Amen."*

## **Evening Prayer**

*"Lord, as this day comes to an end, may I remember that death will come to an end. May I rest this evening knowing that sin, death, decay, mourning, and all matters of brokenness will be erased once and for all by the resurrecting power of Jesus Christ. Amen."*

## **Hymn – Death in His Grave by John Mark McMillan**

*Though the earth cried out for blood satisfied her hunger was  
Billows calmed on raging seas for the souls of men she craved  
Sun and moon from balcony turned their head in disbelief  
Precious love would taste the sting disfigured and disdained*

*So three days in darkness slept the morning sun of righteousness  
But rose to shame the throes of death and overturn his rule  
Now daughters and the sons of men would pay not their dues again  
The debt of blood they owed was rent when the day rolled anew*

*On Friday a thief, on Sunday a king  
Laid down in grief but woke with the keys  
Of hell on that day, the first born of the slain  
The man Jesus Christ laid death in his grave*

*He has cheated hell  
And seated us above the fall  
In desperate places he paid our wages  
One time, once and for all*

# The New Beginning



# The Bride Made New

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

**Scripture: Revelation 21:1-27**

## What is Happening?

In Revelation 21, we see the world made new. Now that sin, death, Satan, and every enemy of God is no more, creation is made new. There is no more death, pain, sorrow, or sin forevermore. Creation is restored and will become abundant with life everlasting.

In this new creation, a city referred to as the new Jerusalem descends from the heavens. This city is described as a new Eden: a place filled with the people of God in perfect relationship with God. In this city, God Himself will dwell with His people just as He dwelt with Adam and Eve in the garden. There is no need for a temple in this city, for every person has direct access to God Himself.

In describing the details of this city, we find two particular themes. The first theme is found in the usage of the number twelve (representing the whole people of God). The second theme is that of beauty and abundance.

The New Jerusalem is a city that is designed to fit every single person who belongs to the Lamb. This is not a city that will run out of room. Every person who belongs to Jesus will live in this city. This statement is communicated through the repeated usage of the number twelve. We see that the city has twelve gates, twelve angels, and twelve foundation stones. The city is twelve thousand units long, twelve thousand units wide, and twelve thousand units tall. The wall surrounding the city is 144 cubits (twelve times twelve) tall. This number is used over and over again to communicate that the New Jerusalem is a city which will contain the entire people of God. There is not a single person who belongs to Jesus who is left outside the city. It has room for everyone.

And this city will not be overcrowded, run down, or lacking in any way. This city is overabundant in its beauty and splendor. The streets are paved with gold; the buildings and walls are adorned with all kinds of beautiful gemstones. Wherever God is, there is nothing but beauty and abundance for all who are with Him.

## **Why Does This Matter?**

In Revelation 21, we see the end of the story of the Bible. The entire Bible points us to a New Eden. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus humanity can be restored to its initial purpose. Because of the blood of the Lamb, we are washed clean of our sin.

Because of Jesus' victory over sin and death, we can experience eternal life free from brokenness. Because God entered into our broken world, we look forward to spending eternity in a perfect world with Him.

This Edenic picture is what we must remember as we face the difficulties of this life. When we are impacted by sin and chaos, we must remember that our destiny is to be made new. When natural disasters strike and the world appears to be falling apart, we must remember that creation will be made new. When death strikes, we must remember that we will rise again by the same power that rose Jesus from the grave. And when we feel far from God, we must remember that our eternity will be spent in His presence. We will be reunited with our Creator.

This passage should give us encouragement and hope in times of difficulty. But this passage also helps to give us clarity in this life regarding what is actually important. When we encounter Revelation 21, we ought to remember Jesus' words to "store treasures up in heaven." The things of this life are temporary and will fade away. But everything we find in the New Heavens and New Earth will last forever. We ought to live today with a missional mindset in light of the new creation. How can we live today to prepare for and invest in the new creation to come?

## Daily Scripture Meditation

### Monday

*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. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (Rev. 21:1-2)*

### Tuesday

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among the people, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, 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." (Rev. 21:3-4)*

### Wednesday

*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." Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give water to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life, without cost. The one who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. (Rev. 21:5-7)*

### Thursday

*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, having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very valuable stone, like a stone of crystal-clear jasper. It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on the gates, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. (Rev. 21:10-12)*

### Friday

*I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illuminated it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; 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. (Rev. 21:22-27)

### **Morning Prayer**

*"Lord, I thank you that your mercies are new every morning. May I live this day in light of the new creation. May I work with a missional mindset, storing up treasures in heaven. May I remember that what I do this day matters, for this life is in preparation for eternity. Amen."*

### **Noon Prayer**

*"Lord, when I am tired, may I look to the peace that will come in the new creation. When I feel exhausted or far from you, may I remember that I will be with you. Your desire is to be near to me; may I desire to be close to you. Amen."*

### **Evening Prayer**

*"Lord, as night falls, may I remember that there will be no darkness in the new creation. Your light will shine throughout the entire universe. May I rest knowing you are at work making all things new. May your light shine into the darkest places of my life that I may be made new by the power which rose Jesus from the grave. Amen."*

### **Spiritual Song — All Things New by Steven Curtis Chapman**

*You spoke and made the sun rise to light up the very first day  
You breathed across the water and started the very first wave...  
It was You*

*You introduced Your glory to every living creature on earth  
And they started singing the first song to ever be heard...  
They sang for You*

*And then the world was broken fallen and battered and scarred  
You took the hopeless, the life wasted, ruined and marred...  
And made it new*

*You make all things new  
You make all things new*

## **Spiritual Song – Deathbed by My Epic**

*Someday when you come bringing down the sky  
The whole earth will be exposed before your light  
And there will never again be darkness  
When your will is done*

*Lord if you already stand outside of time  
And keep the corners of the universe aligned  
Then I have nothing to fear  
Cause you're already here  
Your kingdom's come*

*The darkness has no substance  
The darkness has no substance  
The darkness has no substance of its own*

*Oh, the true light has shown  
And we're already home*

**"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."**

**Revelation 21:4**



# Come, Lord Jesus

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 desires, take the water of life without cost.

**Scripture: Revelation 22:1-22**

## What is Happening?

In the final chapter, we see the tree of life connected with the river of life which brings life and healing to everyone and everything. The curse which came with sin in Genesis 3 is done away with, and the light of God shines throughout the new creation.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ ends with a simple call, a call for Jesus to return. Those who belong to Him long to be united with Him. Those who suffer long to be eased of their suffering. Those who are weighed down by the brokenness of the world long to be relieved. Those who experience violence and chaos long to be at peace. Those who face persecution long for freedom. Those who are exhausted long for rest. Those who hunger and thirst long to be satisfied.

Jesus is the one who brings about the new creation. Jesus is the one who defeats death. Our hope is not in our own striving, but in calling upon the Lamb who is able to accomplish more than we can possibly imagine.

## Why Does This Matter?

Revelation exists to be a blessing and encouragement to the Christian who is struggling. Whether you are facing persecution or simply exhausted by the brokenness of the world, Revelation is a shining light on the peace and goodness that is to come.

Our suffering and difficulty are only for a time. Sin and death are only for a time. Every negative experience we may face is only for a time. For the Christian, these hardships will barely be a blip in our memories in comparison to the eternity we face with our God and Savior.

So take on each day, knowing that this life with all its hardships is only for a time.

And be encouraged knowing that life, goodness, and peace is what we look toward for all eternity in Jesus Christ.

## Daily Scripture Meditation

### Monday

*And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, 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. (Rev. 22:1-2)*

### Tuesday

*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; they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. 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 illuminate them; and they will reign forever and ever.*

*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 His bond-servants the things which must soon take place.*

*"And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." (Rev. 22:3-7)*

### Wednesday

*Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to reward each one as his work deserves. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."*

*Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life, and may enter the city by the gates. (Rev. 22:12-14)*

## **Thursday**

*I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you of these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." 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 desires, take the water of life without cost. (Rev. 22:16-17)*

## **Friday**

*Come, Lord Jesus. (Rev. 22:20b)*

## **Morning Prayer**

*"Come, Lord Jesus. Amen."*

## **Noon Prayer**

*"Come, Lord Jesus Amen."*

## **Evening Prayer**

*"Come, Lord Jesus. Amen."*

**"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to reward each one as his work deserves. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."**

**Revelation 22:12-13**

## **Spiritual Song – The Revelation of Jesus Christ by Ghost Ship**

*I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first had passed away  
I saw a new city, Jerusalem; a bride on her wedding day  
I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
"look at the dwelling place of God"  
He will dwell with them, they will be his people, and He will be their God*

*Wipe away every tear from our eyes  
Death will be no more*

*And he who is seated on the throne, said "I am making all things new"  
He said "It is finished, hear these words, they are trustworthy and true"  
He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end  
And to the thirsty he will give water, from a river with no end*

*Wipe away every tear from our eyes  
Death will be no more*

*All this mourning, all this crying  
All this death we've seen, all these broken things...  
...will end, all our pain  
All this death we've seen, all the former things  
...will end*

*And I saw no the temple in this new city  
It's temple is Jesus Christ our Lord  
And this bright city has no need for sun  
Only the glory of our God*

## Appendix A – Old Testament Parallel References

By Phillip G. Kayser

Revelation	Old Testament
1:1	Daniel 2:28–29
1:4	Isaiah 11:2
1:5	Genesis 49:11; Psalm 89:27
1:6	Exodus 19:6; Isaiah 61:6
1:7	Daniel 7:13; Zechariah 12:10–14
1:8	Isaiah 41:4
1:12	Exodus 25:37; 37:23
1:13	Daniel 7:13; 10:5, 16
1:14	Daniel 7:9; 10:6
1:15	Ezekiel 1:7, 24; 43:2; Daniel 10:6
1:16	Judges 5:31; Isaiah 49:2
1:17	Isaiah 41:4; 44:6; 48:12; Daniel 8:17–18; 10:9, 10, 12, 15, 19
1:18	Job 3:17; Hosea 13:14
2:4	Jeremiah 2:2
2:7	Genesis 2:9; 3:22–24; Proverbs 11:30; 13:12; Ezekiel 31:8 (LXX)
2:12	Isaiah 49:2
2:14	Numbers 25:1–3
2:17	Exodus 16:33–34; Isaiah 62:2; 65:15
2:18	Daniel 10:6
2:20	I Kings 16:31–32; II Kings 9:7, 22
2:23	Psalms 7:9; 26:2; 28:4; Jeremiah 11:20; 17:10
2:27	Psalms 2:7–9; Isaiah 30:14; Jeremiah 19:11
3:4	Ecclesiastes 9:8
3:5	Exodus 32:32–33
3:7	Isaiah 22:22
3:9	Isaiah 43:4; 49:23; 60:14
3:12	Isaiah 62:2; Ezekiel 48:35
3:14	Genesis 49:3; Deuteronomy 21:17
3:18	Isaiah 55:1

Revelation	Old Testament
3:19	Proverbs 3:12
4:1	Ezekiel 1:1
4:2	Isaiah 6:1; Ezekiel 1:26–28; Daniel 7:9
4:3	Ezekiel 1:26, 28; 10:1
4:5	Exodus 19:16; 25:37; Isaiah 11:2; Ezekiel 1:13
4:6	Ezekiel 1:5, 18, 22, 26; 10:1, 12
4:7	Ezekiel 1:10; 10:14
4:8	Isaiah 6:2–3; Ezekiel 1:18; 10:12
4:9	Deuteronomy 32:40; Daniel 4:34; 6:26; 12:7
4:11	Genesis 1:1
5:1	Ezekiel 2:9–10; Daniel 12:4
5:5	Genesis 49:9–10; Isaiah 11:1, 10
5:6	Isaiah 11:2; Zechariah 3:8–9; 4:10
5:8	Psalms 111:2
5:9	Psalms 40:3; 98:1; 144:9; 149:1; Isaiah 42:10; Daniel 5:19
5:10	Exodus 19:6; Isaiah 61:6
5:11	Daniel 7:10
6:2	Zechariah 1:8; 6:3
6:4	Zechariah 1:8; 6:2
6:5	Zechariah 6:2
6:8	Jeremiah 15:2–3; 24:10; 29:17; Ezekiel 14:21; Hosea 13:14; Zechariah 6:3
6:12	Isaiah 50:3; Joel 2:10
6:13	Isaiah 34:4
6:14	Isaiah 34:4; Nahum 1:5
6:15	Psalms 48:4–6; Isaiah 2:10–12, 19
6:16	Hosea 10:8
6:17	Psalms 76:7; Jeremiah 30:7; Nahum 1:6; Zephaniah 1:14–18; Malachi 3:2
7:1	Isaiah 11:2; Jeremiah 49:36; Ezekiel 7:2; 37:9; Daniel 7:2; Zechariah 6:5
7:3	Ezekiel 9:4–6

Revelation	Old Testament
7:4	Genesis 49:1-28
7:9	Leviticus 23:40
7:10	Psalms 3:8
7:14	Genesis 49:11
7:15	Leviticus 26:11
7:16	Psalms 121:5-6; Isaiah 49:10
7:17	Psalms 23:1-2; Ezekiel 34:23
8:3	Psalms 141:2
8:4	Psalms 141:2
8:5	Ezekiel 10:2
8:5-6	Exodus 19:16
8:7	Exodus 9:23-24; Psalms 18:13; Isaiah 28:2
8:8	Exodus 7:17-19
8:10	Isaiah 14:12
8:11	Jeremiah 9:15; 23:15
8:12	Isaiah 13:10
9:1	Isaiah 14:12-14
9:2	Genesis 19:28; Exodus 19:8
9:3	Exodus 10:12-15
9:4	Ezekiel 9:4
9:6	Job 3:21
9:8	Joel 1:6
9:9	Joel 2:5
9:11	Job 26:6; 28:22; 31:12; Psalms 88:11; Proverbs 15:11
9:14	Genesis 15:18; Deuteronomy 1:7; Joshua 1:4
10:1	Ezekiel 1:26-28
10:4	Daniel 8:26; 12:4-9
10:5	Deuteronomy 32:40; Daniel 12:7
10:6	Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 32:40; Nehemiah 9:6; Daniel 12:17
10:7	Amos 3:7
10:9	Jeremiah 15:16; Ezekiel 2:8-3:3
10:11	Ezekiel 37:4, 9

Revelation	Old Testament
11:1	Ezekiel 40:3-4; Zechariah 2:1-2
11:2	Ezekiel 40:17-20
11:4	Zechariah 4:1-3, 11-14
11:5	Numbers 16:35; II Kings 1:10-12
11:6	Exodus 7:19-25; I Kings 17:1
11:7	Exodus 7:3, 7, 8, 21
11:8	Isaiah 1:9-10; 3:9; Jeremiah 23:14; Ezekiel 16:49; 23:3, 8, 19, 27
11:9	Psalms 79:2-3
11:11	Ezekiel 37:9-10
11:15	Exodus 15:18; Daniel 2:44-45; 7:13-14, 27
11:18	Psalms 2:1-3; 46:6; 115:13
12:1	Genesis 37:9-11
12:2	Isaiah 26:17; 66:7; Micah 4:9-10
12:3	Isaiah 27:1; Daniel 7:7, 20, 24
12:4	Daniel 8:10
12:5	Psalms 2:8-9; Isaiah 66:7
12:7	Daniel 10:13, 21; 12:1
12:9	Genesis 3:1; Job 1:6; 2:1; Zechariah 3:1
12:10	Job 1:9-11; 2:4-5; Zechariah 3:1
12:14	Exodus 19:4; Deuteronomy 32:11; Isaiah 40:31; Daniel 7:25; 12:7; Hosea 2:14-15
12:15	Hosea 15:10
12:17	Genesis 3:15
13:1	Daniel 7:3, 7, 8
13:2	Daniel 7:4-6, 8
13:3	Daniel 7:8
13:4	Daniel 8:24
13:5	Daniel 7:8, 11, 20, 25; 11:36
13:7	Daniel 7:21
13:8	Daniel 12:1
13:10	Jeremiah 15:2; 43:11
13:11	Daniel 8:3

Revelation	Old Testament
13:13	I Kings 1:9–12
14:1	Psalms 2:6; Ezekiel 9:4
14:2	Ezekiel 1:24; 43:2
14:3	Psalms 144:9
14:7	Exodus 20:11
14:8	Isaiah 21:9; Jeremiah 51:7–8
14:10	Genesis 19:24; Psalm 75:8; Isaiah 51:17
14:11	Isaiah 34:10; 66:24
14:14	Daniel 7:13
14:18	Joel 3:13
14:19	Isaiah 63:1–6
14:20	Joel 3:13
15:1	Leviticus 26:21
15:3	Exodus 15:1–18; Deuteronomy 31:30–32:44; Psalms 92:5; 111:2; 139:14
15:4	Psalms 86:9; Isaiah 66:23; Jeremiah 10:7
15:5	Exodus 38:21
15:6	Leviticus 26:21
15:7	Jeremiah 25:15
15:8	Exodus 40:34–35; Leviticus 26:21; I Kings 8:10–11; II Chronicles 5:13–14; Isaiah 6:1–4
16:1	Psalms 79:6; Jeremiah 10:25; Ezekiel 22:31
16:2	Exodus 9:9–11; Deuteronomy 28:35
16:3	Exodus 7:17–25
16:4	Exodus 7:17–21; Psalm 78:44
16:5	Psalms 145:17
16:6	Isaiah 49:26
16:7	Psalms 19:9; 145:17
16:10	Exodus 10:21–23
16:12	Isaiah 11:15–16; 41:2, 25; 46:11; Jeremiah 51:36
16:13	Exodus 8:6
16:14	I Kings 22:21–23

Revelation	Old Testament
16:16	Judges 5:19; II Kings 23:29–30; II Chronicles 35:22; Zechariah 12:11
16:19	Jeremiah 25:15
16:21	Exodus 9:18–25
17:1	Jeremiah 51:13; Nahum 3:4
17:2	Isaiah 23:17
17:3	Daniel 7:7
17:4	Jeremiah 51:7; Ezekiel 28:13
17:8	Exodus 32:32–33; Daniel 12:1
17:12	Daniel 7:24–25
17:16	Leviticus 21:9
18:1	Ezekiel 43:2
18:2	Isaiah 21:9; 34:13–15; Jeremiah 50:30; 51:37
18:3	Jeremiah 51:7
18:4	Isaiah 52:11; Jeremiah 50:8; 51:6, 45
18:5	Jeremiah 41:9
18:6	Psalms 137:8; Jeremiah 50:15, 29
18:7	Isaiah 47:7–8; Zephaniah 2:15
18:8	Isaiah 47:9; Jeremiah 50:31–32
18:9–19	Ezekiel 26:16–18; 27:26–31
18:9	Jeremiah 50:46
18:10	Isaiah 13:1
18:12	Ezekiel 27:12–25
18:20	Jeremiah 51:48
18:21	Jeremiah 51:63–64
18:22	Isaiah 24:8; Jeremiah 25:10; Ezekiel 26:13
18:23	Jeremiah 7:34; 16:9; 25:10; Nahum 3:4
19:2	Deuteronomy 32:43; Psalm 119:137; Jeremiah 51:48
19:3	Isaiah 34:9–10; Jeremiah 51:48
19:5	Psalms 22:23; 134:1; 135:1
19:6	Psalms 93:1; 97:1; Ezekiel 1:24; 43:2; Daniel 10:6
19:11	Psalms 18:10; 45:3–4; Isaiah 11:4–5; Ezekiel 1:1

Revelation	Old Testament
19:13	Isaiah 63:3
19:15	Psalms 2:8-9; Isaiah 11:4; 63:3-6
19:16	Deuteronomy 10:17
19:17	Isaiah 34:6-7; Ezekiel 39:17
19:18	Isaiah 34:6-7; Ezekiel 39:18
19:19	Psalms 2:2; Joel 3:9-11
19:20	Isaiah 30:33; Daniel 7:11
19:21	Ezekiel 39:19-20
20:2	Genesis 3:1, 13-14; Isaiah 24:21-22
20:4	Daniel 7:9, 22, 27; 12:2
20:5	Isaiah 26:14
20:6	Exodus 19:6; Isaiah 26:19
20:8	Ezekiel 38:2; 39:1, 6
20:9	Deuteronomy 23:14; II Kings 1:9-12; Ezekiel 38:22; 39:6
20:11	Daniel 2:35
20:12	Exodus 32:32-33; Psalm 62:12; 69:28; Daniel 7:10
20:15	Exodus 32:32-33; Daniel 12:1
21:1	Isaiah 65:17; 66:22
21:3	Leviticus 26:11-12; Ezekiel 37:27
21:4	Isaiah 25:8; 35:10; 51:11; 65:19
21:9	Leviticus 26:21
21:10	Ezekiel 40:2
21:11	Isaiah 60:1-2; Ezekiel 43:2
21:12-13	Ezekiel 48:31-34
21:15	Ezekiel 40:3, 5
21:19-20	Exodus 28:17-20; Isaiah 54:11-12
21:23	Isaiah 60:19-20
21:24	Isaiah 60:3-5, 16
21:25	Isaiah 60:11; Zechariah 14:7
21:26	Isaiah 60:5, 16
21:27	Isaiah 52:1; Ezekiel 44:9; Zechariah 14:21
22:1	Psalms 46:4; Ezekiel 47:1; Zechariah 14:8

Revelation	Old Testament
22:2	Genesis 2:9; 3:22–24; Ezekiel 47:12
22:3	Genesis 3:17–19; Zechariah 14:11
22:4	Psalms 17:15; Ezekiel 9:4
22:5	Isaiah 60:19; Daniel 7:18, 22, 27; Zechariah 14:7
22:10	Daniel 8:26; 12:4, 9
22:11	Ezekiel 3:27; Daniel 12:10
22:12	Psalms 62:12; Isaiah 40:10; 62:11
22:13	Isaiah 44:6
22:14	Genesis 2:9; 3:22–24; Proverbs 11:30
22:15	Deuteronomy 23:18
22:18–19	Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32
22:19	Deuteronomy 29:19–20

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

**Revelation 1:18**

## Appendix B—Series Songlist

A list of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to listen to, dwell on, and proclaim in song and prayer.

- *Behold the King* by Abbie Gamboa & Aodhán King
- *Awake (Arise)* by The Jordan Howerton Band
- *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* by Charles Wesley // performed by Kings Kaleidoscope
- *Deathbed* by My Epic
- *Is He Worthy?* By Andrew Peterson
- *Jesus Paid It All* by Elvina M. Hall // performed by Kings Kaleidoscope
- *Holy, Holy, Holy* by Reginald Heber // performed by Norton Hall Band
- *There is a Higher Throne* by Keith and Kristyn Getty // performed by Kings Kaleidoscope
- *It Is Well With My Soul* by Horatio Gates Spafford // performed by Nathan Drake
- *Pale White Horse* by The Oh Hellos
- *Psalm 91* by Poor Bishop Hooper
- *Where is Your Rider?* by The Oh Hellos
- *Matchless King* by Allie Paige
- *I Am Living in a Land of Death* by Citizens

**"Let's rejoice and be glad  
and give the glory to Him,  
because the marriage of  
the Lamb has come, and His  
bride has prepared herself."**

**Revelation 19:7**

- *Lamb of God* by Twila Paris // performed by Kings Kaleidoscope
- *Death in His Grave* by John Mark McMillan
- *Psalm 27* by Jonathan Ogden
- *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* by Martin Luther // performed by Heartsong
- *Revelation Song* by Jennie Lee Riddle // performed by Gateway Worship (feat. Anna Byrd)
- *Who is Like Our God* by Rivers and Robots
- *Awake, and Sing the Song* by William Hammond
- *Song of Moses* by Isaac Tarter
- *Psalm 25* by Poor Bishop Hooper
- *Creature* by half alive
- *Behold the Lamb of God* by Ghost Ship
- *Zombies* by Weak Sheep
- *Dead Church* by Weak Sheep
- *Fools* by Seeker & Servant
- *Psalm 46 (Lord of Hosts)* by Shane & Shane
- *Psalm 150* by Poor Bishop Hooper
- *King of Kings* by Hillsong Worship and Brooke Ligertwood
- *In Your Midst* by Allie Paige
- *All Things New* by Steven Curtis Chapman
- *The Revelation of Jesus Christ* by Ghost Ship







