

***Week 41 Psalm 80 1Peter 4-5, 2Peter 1-3, 1John 1-5, 2John 3John, Jude, Revelation 1***

**Psalm 80** – This psalm is a prayer for restoration calling upon the God of Heaven’s Armies. There are two glaring omissions in this psalm. ***What is the author not telling us about the cause of these events?***

**I Peter 4**— Peter wrote this epistle to prepare Christians for the suffering they would endure at the hands of the unbelievers and the Roman officials. Suffering does the work of transforming us into the image of Christ and prepares us for eternity. The world is surprised that we don’t participate with them in wild living, and they will someday be justly judged for their ungodly lifestyle (vv. 1-6). How can we bring glory to God? By showing our intense love to each other, practicing hospitality, and serving one another through the use of our spiritual gifts (vv. 7-11). The last eight verses of this chapter put the suffering of Christians in perspective. First, we shouldn’t be surprised by suffering but we must understand that the final outcome of that suffering will be the great joy that we experience when Christ returns. Second, it is a shame to suffer for doing evil but an immense privilege to undergo fiery trials for the name of Jesus Christ. If God allows Christians who sin to be severely disciplined in this life, you can surely believe that the ungodly who reject the gospel will receive eternal judgment in the next life. No matter what suffering you might endure in this life, you need to learn to entrust yourselves to the faithful Creator (vv. 12-19). ***Do you recognize that every Christian suffers in this life one way or another (II Timothy 3:12)? How best can you prepare yourself for the suffering that will come? For anyone who has already gone through great suffering, what advice can you give the rest of us?***

**I Peter 5**— First, Peter exhorts the elders and pastors (shepherds) of the churches to be faithful in their calling by not by seeking money or power but by leading through a godly example. Humility is the most important ingredient needed in our relationships with each other. Since we know that God really cares for us, we can be free from cares and anxiety. We should never be caught off guard by the schemes of the Devil who can overpower us if we are caught sleeping. Remember that God never allows anything in our lives to get out of His control, and His dominion over everything is forever. ***What do we need to do to prepare ourselves from being devoured by the Devil? After we have gone through a period of suffering, what will God do for us?***

**II Peter**— Peter’s first epistle speaks of the enemy that is outside the church persecuting believers, but this second epistle tells of the false teachers that are within the church who distorting the true message of the gospel as well as other apostolic teachings. Peter wrote this book about 67 A.D. from Rome to the churches scattered around Asia Minor just before his martyrdom at the hands of the emperor Nero. The purpose of II Peter is to encourage the believers to grow in their Christian character and holiness, to prepare them with the truth in order to warn them about false teachers, and for them to live in the reality of the coming of Christ and the Day of Judgment.

**II Peter 1**— After coming to know God, we now have the power to live a godly life. Through His very great and precious promises, we are able to share in His divine nature and escape the world that is corrupted by sinful lusts. Now we can grow in eight character qualities that will allow us to live useful and fruitful lives and will deepen our knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. When we follow through on the development of these graces, we show evidence that we are truly God’s called children, and some day will make a grand entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ (vv. 1-11). The believers have known and been taught the truth, but Peter wants them to remember these words even

after his death (vv. 12-15). Peter was not making up a story but actually was an eyewitness of the majesty and power of Christ on the holy mountain when the Father honored His Son. The Holy Scriptures have not come from human initiative, but “men spoke from God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (v. 21 HCSB).” **1. Amplify the meaning of each of the eight character qualities of verses 5 to 7. Of these eight, which is one that you need to grow in? 2. What do we mean when we say that scriptures are inspired by God? See verses 20 to 21.**

**II Peter 2**— Don’t be surprised when false teachers secretly come in with destructive heresies just like the false prophets of Israel did before them. Their lives will be filled with immorality, greed, and deception, but you can be sure that God will condemn them to destruction. For examples of God’s judgment, look at the fallen angels, the ancient world before the flood, and the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. On the other hand, God saved Noah, his family, and Lot because “the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials (v. 9 ESV).” These bold arrogant people blaspheme supernatural beings. These men are irrational animals and immoral. They delight in deceptions at the love feasts and are greedy just like Balaam who was rebuked by a donkey. Through their boastful empty words, they draw others into their own evil ways by promising them freedom, but in reality they become slaves to sin and evil. They escaped the world’s corruption by a superficial commitment to Christ but then returned to the old life and are now worse off than before since they knew the way of righteousness and have turned back to their sin. **After reading this chapter, describe these false teachers’ lifestyle, teaching, and how God will judge them.**

**II Peter 3**— Peter warns the believers that scoffers will come in these last days saying that from the beginning all things continue as they always have, and that the physical universe is a natural phenomenon with no evidence of the existence of a God who will judge humankind for their sins. These scoffers are willingly ignorant that God judged the world one time with the flood. God’s Word called for the total destruction of the human race by water (except for Noah and his family) and will someday judge the world and destroy it by fire (vv. 1-7). The Lord is on a different time table than we are and has not yet come to judge the world because of His desire that no one perish, but that all come to repentance. Someday, however, God’s judgment will come unexpectedly, and the “heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with a fervent heat (v. 12b NKJV).” The Lord will create the new heavens and a new earth. This future event should be an incentive for us to be holy in our conduct (vv. 8-14). “The Lord’s patience gives time for people to get saved (v. 15a NLT).” Peter says that Paul’s writings are inspired like the rest of the scriptures. He closes his book by urging the believers to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (15-18). **Why does Christ delay His coming? See verses 9 and 15**

**Jude**— Jude, the half-brother of Jesus, writes an urgent message to “contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints (v. 3).” Written about 65 AD, Jude (or Judas) wants to write about the blessings of our common salvation but is urged by the Holy Spirit to write about the apostasy that had come because of false teachers and Gnostics who were infiltrating the churches. At this same time Christianity was also reeling from the persecution of Nero. Jude stresses the importance of contending for biblical truth, since those who seek to pervert the truth have crept into the church. The first sin of these apostates (those who have departed from biblical faith) is that they have redefined grace into allowing promiscuity and immorality and thus denying Jesus Christ (vv. 1-4). The Israelites who died in the wilderness, fallen angels, and the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah are all examples of unbelief and perversion (vv. 5-7). These evil dreamers defiled their bodies with sinful immorality, have rejected God-

ordained authority, and have slandered spiritual beings (vv. 8-11). These grumblers and malcontents are really only concerned with their own needs. Therefore, as Enoch said, God will execute judgment on them (vv. 12-16). Jude encourages us to build each other up in the most holy faith and to help strengthen those who are wavering. The author concludes with a most stirring benediction (vv. 20-25). ***What were the sins of Cain, Balaam and Korah (v. 11)? Extra Question: Amplify the meaning of the commands given by Jude in verses 20-21, (1) “Build yourselves up in your most holy faith, (2) pray in the Holy Spirit, and (3) keep yourselves in the love of God.”***

**Revelation**— The apostle John wrote the book of Revelation to the seven churches in Asia Minor when he was in exile on the island of Patmos about 95 A.D. The word “Revelation” is the Greek word “apokalupsis” (apocalypse) which means unveiling, disclosure, or revelation. This is the revelation of the true identity of Christ in person, power, glory, and majesty as well as the unveiling of God’s judgments, rule, and eternal blessings. In chapters two and three, Christ speaks to seven churches in Asia Minor directly addressing their present spiritual state, giving them words of commendation, condemnation, warning, and the offer of a reward for their faithfulness. John is then taken to heaven in the spirit and sees the Father on His throne, the glorified Christ, 24 elders, four living creatures, angels, and thousands of saints. The scroll that describes God’s judgments on the world is revealed and only the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, is worthy to open the scroll. Chapters 6 to 19 give us three seven-part judgments that are disclosed as each seal of the scroll is opened. The succession of judgments are the Seven Seals (Chapters 6-8:5), Seven Trumpets (8:6-15:8), and the Seven Bowls (16-18). Christ returns at the end of the judgments to rule on the Earth (19). Chapter 20 describes the reign of Christ on the earth for a thousand years and the Great White Throne Judgment. Chapters 21-22 speak of the amazing blessings of the New Heaven and New earth.

**Revelation 1**— At the beginning, the Lord gives a blessing for those who read, hear, and obey the words of this prophecy about the final judgment of the world, the reign of Christ on earth, and the glorious New Heaven and New Earth. Jesus Christ is presented as the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, the returning King to rule on the earth, and the Alpha and the Omega (vv. 1-11). In the next verses Jesus Christ is portrayed in His magnificence and majesty revealing Himself as the mighty Son of Man with white hair (wisdom), blazing eyes (righteous judgment on evil), a gold sash (High Priest), and a voice like the roar of many waters (authority). John’s reaction to the awesome glory of Jesus was to fall at His feet as though he were dead. Jesus assures John of who He is (verse 17-18), and then gives the outline of the book of Revelation (v. 19). Verse 19 says, ***“Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are, and those that are to take place after this (ESV).”*** Give the breakdown of the chapters of this simple outline of the book of Revelation. ***“The things you have seen”*** chapter \_\_\_\_\_, ***“those that are”*** chapters \_\_\_\_\_, ***“those thing that are to take place after this”*** chapters \_\_\_\_\_. Hints: 1:12, 17, and 4:1.

**Psalms 81** — This psalm is a celebration of Israel’s past history with the Lord giving certain promises if they obey Him and follow His ways. ***What promises (from this chapter) does God give us if we obey Him?***

**WEEK 42 Psalm 82, Revelation 2-6, Psalm 83**

**Psalm 82** — This chapter is an admonition to Israel's priesthood who had been granted authority to pass judgments on God's behalf but have not acted justly. ***What does it mean when God says "you are gods" in verse 6?***

**Revelation 2**— In chapter two and three, Jesus speaks directly to seven churches of Asia Minor using the same pattern with each church. After clearly noting the church addressed, Christ then describes Himself using one of the descriptive phrases given in chapter one. Jesus usually gives commendations and criticism to each church closing with an exhortation to repent and change. He then promises eternal rewards to the conquering saints. What was written to these churches had an actual historical application to what was happening in these churches at that very time. Also, they represent various types of churches that have existed during the last 2000 years. Futurists also believe that the seven churches represent the history of the church age from the Apostolic Church all the way down to the end of the church age. The first church to be addressed was the church of Ephesus that was started by the Apostle Paul and then shepherded by the Apostle John for many years. Although the people of this church were lauded for their hard work, endurance, and doctrinal and moral purity, they had abandoned their fervent love for the Lord (vv. 1-7). The church at Smyrna was experiencing great persecution, suffering, and poverty, but Jesus promises them that if they remain faithful to Him they will receive a crown of life. There is no criticism for this church (vv. 8-11). The Lord commended some of the believers in the church of Pergamum for their remaining true and not denying the faith, yet many, because of the great pressure to compromise and conform, practiced immorality and participated in idolatrous feasts. If the unfaithful ones didn't repent, Christ would war against them with the sword of this mouth (vv. 12-17). Christ commended some in the church of Thyatira for their growing love evidenced in their acts of service, but a woman prophetess named Jezebel was condemned for her immorality and for seducing His servants. Not only was this woman strongly condemned, but also all those who lacked discernment and tolerated her vile wickedness. The Lord gave great promises to those who remained faithful (vv. 18-29). ***What do we need to do to keep a fervent love for Christ? Extra question: What are the works and teaching of the Nicolaitans given in verses 6 and 15?***

**Revelation 3**— The fifth church addressed by Christ is the church at Sardis that looked good on the outside, but in reality it was dead. This church was filled with unregenerate people who were in all actuality spiritually dead, but there were a few who were redeemed, unstained with sin, and faithful. The church was commanded to repent and obey what they had received and heard, or He would come as a thief to judge them (vv. 1-6). The church of Philadelphia is the second church that received no condemnation from Jesus, but only praise for keeping His word and not denying His name. Because of their faithfulness, Christ has given them an open door of opportunities for service and would protect them from the hour of testing that will come on the whole world. Many believe that the Philadelphia church represents the faithful church in the end times that will escape the Great Tribulation period by means of the rapture. The promise is given to those who hold on and persevere to receive a whole new citizenship and a new name in the eternal New Jerusalem (vv. 7-13). The seventh and last church, the church of Laodicea, was lukewarm, spiritually blind, poor, and naked, even though they said they were wealthy and needed nothing. Their pride and complacency needed to be exchanged for true gold, the white garments of Christ's righteousness, and ointment to give them real spiritual eyesight. Christ stands outside the church and knocks so that the door will be opened by them to let Him in. To the ones who

are victors a promise is given to sit with Him on His throne (vv. 14-22). ***In this chapter, what church made Christ vomit and why? What church pleased Christ, and why?***

**Revelation 4**— John looks and sees an open door into heaven and is invited by Christ to come up so that he can see what will take place afterward. John then enters heaven and gets a glimpse of the glory and majesty of the Father and the Son and sees the Lord's sovereign hand controlling all the events on earth. In the best way he could explain, John talks about the radiance of precious stones and the brilliance of the rainbow around the throne. Included in the scene are the 24 elders dressed in white and the four living creatures that were similarly mentioned in Ezekiel 1. Both the living creatures and the elders are continually worshipping the One on the throne who is holy and worthy to receive glory and honor since all created things exist because He desired them. Your ability to worship and give God continual thanksgiving from your heart will give you an idea of where you are in your spiritual life. Worship causes us to meditate on God and appreciate His character and attributes. ***On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being the greatest), what is your worship quotient? What can you do to move it up a notch? This is a personal question.***

**Revelation 5**— The Father, who is seated on His throne, has a scroll in His right hand which is the Title deed to the earth. The mighty angel asks, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break the seals?" Only the Lamb of God, the Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David is worthy to take the scroll and break the seals to reveal the future judgments on the earth and the final triumph of the One on the throne and of the Lamb. Just as the One on the throne was worshipped because of His marvelous creation (chapter 4), the Lamb of God is worshipped and honored for His finished salvation paid for by His own shed blood (chapter 5). There is a great crescendo of praise and worship to the Lamb by countless myriads of angels, the elders, the four living creatures, and every creature in heaven, on earth, and under the earth. ***Explain what the scroll and the seals are, and how different it is from the books of our day. Extra question: What similarities and differences do you see between Revelation 4-5 and Daniel 7:9-14 which was written more than 600 years earlier?***

**Revelation 6**— In this chapter the Lamb of God opens the first Six Seals of the scroll. The first Four Seals reveal what has been called the four horsemen of the apocalypse. These varied colored horses and their riders represent events and judgments that will take place in the first part of the tribulation period (vv. 1-8). In the Fifth Seal, the scene shifts to heaven where there is a loud crying out to God from the martyred souls who are under the altar, who were slain by the forces of evil on the earth (vv. 9-11). As the Sixth Seal is broken, there are great cosmic disturbances including a cataclysmic global earthquake and falling stars which now bring to the world the direct judgment by God on all of the inhabitants of the earth who rejected Him. For the first time the whole world will recognize that the source of this horrific day of judgment is the wrath of the One seated on the throne and of the Lamb (vv. 12-17). ***Give the colors of the horses in verses 1 to 8, and explain what each colored horse represents as far as the events and/or judgments that will take place in the world.***

**Psalms 83** — This is a song demanding protection from the destruction of a coalition that had come to drive Israel out of Canaan. This psalm appears to be written before the victory mentioned in 2 Chronicles 20. ***What does this psalm teach us about placing our faith in God instead of our own craftiness?***

**WEEK 43 Psalm 84 Revelation 7-13, Psalm 85**

**Psalm 84** — The Psalmist describes his exuberant longing to worship God in the temple. ***What are some of the verbs that the author uses to describe his passion for God?***

**Revelation 7**— This chapter is parenthetical showing what God is doing by preparing, sealing, and protecting the 144,000 Jewish evangelists who will preach the gospel of the kingdom throughout the whole earth. Instead of the mark of the beast (13:16), these Jews will receive from God a mark or seal on their forehead protecting them from death until their mission is accomplished (vv. 1-8). The scene shifts from earth to heaven where a vast multitude from every nation and people group will be gathered crying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb (v. 10 ESV).” These redeemed ones are those who have come out of the Great Tribulation and have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb. Now the great Shepherd tenderly cares for His sheep as He brings them to the springs of life-giving water and wipes away every tear from their eyes (vv. 9-17). Jesus is here described as a Shepherd. ***List the various things that He will do for us as the Good Shepherd. See verses 17, John 10:11, Luke 15:1-7, Hebrews 13:20-21, Isaiah 40:11, and Psalm 23.***

**Revelation 8**— In verse one the Seventh Seal is broken and the succeeding judgments will be of such magnitude that there will be a half an hour of silence in heaven. This last Seal reveals the Seven Trumpets which will be more severe than the Seal judgments but not as devastating as the Bowl judgments to come (chapter 16). The four angels will blow the first four Trumpets announcing unparalleled destruction of the earth’s ecology. The last three Trumpet judgments will be even much more intense than the first four, and therefore an eagle will cry out “Woe, Woe, Woe” (doom, terror) to all on the earth. ***Give the causes and effects of the first four Trumpet judgments (verses 7-12).***

**Revelation 9**— The Fifth Trumpet sounds and Satan, a star that falls from heaven, receives the key to the bottomless pit (abyss), and a great hoard of demons, who take on the form of locusts, will be liberated from the abyss to torment with physical pain those who do not have God’s seal on their foreheads. This judgment will last five months. Since the pain will be intense like the sting of a scorpion, people will seek death but will not find it (vv. 1-12). When the Sixth Trumpet is blown, four demonic angels that are bound at the Euphrates River are released to kill a third of the people on the earth. John said, “I heard the size of their army, which was 200 million mounted troops (v. 16 NLT).” The power to kill is in the mouth and tails of the horses so that the people died from fire, smoke, and sulfur. Yet after all this has happened, those that are still alive did not repent of their idolatry, murders, magic arts (drugs, Gk. “pharmakon”), sexual immorality, or thefts (vv. 13-21). Verse 1 says, “A star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss (NIV).” Verse 15 says, “And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind (NIV).” ***What do these two verses teach us about God?***

**Revelation 10**— This chapter is a brief interlude before the final judgments of the Great Tribulation. A mighty angel announces that the time has come for God to judge the world for its evil and that there will no longer be a delay. Because of the description and details about the mighty angel, some commentators believe this is Jesus Christ Himself. John is urged to take the little scroll and eat it. The scroll tastes as sweet as honey in his mouth, but his stomach becomes bitter. The angel said to John, “It (the scroll) will be sweet as honey in your mouth, but it will turn sour in your stomach (v. 9 NLT).” ***Why did the little scroll taste sweet as honey in his mouth but turn sour in his stomach? How is the judgment on the ungodly a bittersweet experience for us?***

**Revelation 11**— This chapter speaks of the Lord’s two witnesses who preach in sackcloth for 1260 days declaring the truth about the wickedness of the people on earth, the judgment to come, and the coming kingdom of Christ. The Lord gave the two witnesses special protection while on the earth until their testimony and work were finished. The beast from the abyss will finally be allowed to conquer and kill them which causes great rejoicing on the earth since these two enemies have finally been vanquished. After 3 ½ days while their bodies are laid exposed in Jerusalem, the two witnesses will be resurrected and then will ascend to heaven in full view of everyone. Their ascension will be followed by the death of 7000 people in Jerusalem who die in an immense earthquake. Those who survive the earthquake recognize that this is the hand of God (vv. 1-14). The Seventh Trumpet is blown by the angel to announce the soon coming kingdom of the Lord and His Messiah. The nations are furious, but now the time has come for God to judge the death of the righteous who have been martyred and reward the prophets. The chapter begins with God’s sanctuary on earth and ends with the appearing of the ark of His covenant in God’s sanctuary in heaven (vv. 15-19). ***Who might the two witnesses described in this chapter be?***

**Revelation 12**— Chapters 12 and 13 introduces us to the Satanic trinity; the Red Dragon (Satan), the Beast from the sea (Anti Christ), and the Beast from the earth (the False Prophet). The first six verses address the age-old struggle between God and Satan. The red dragon (Satan) wanted to devour the baby that the woman was about to give birth to, but after His birth, this child was caught up to God and His throne (vv.1-6). At this mid-point of the Tribulation, Satan and his angels are thrown out of heaven by Michael and his angels. After the accuser of God’s people was hurled down to the earth, the loud voice cried, “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ (v. 10 NIV).” Knowing his time is short, the dragon tries to annihilate Israel, but the Lord protects her for 1260 days (a time, times, and half a time, or 3 ½ years) in the wilderness. Being unable to destroy Israel, Satan goes after anyone who keeps God’s commands and maintains the testimony of Jesus (vv. 7-12). ***1. What are the different names of Satan given in this chapter? 2. What are three ways that followers of Christ conquered Satan?***

**Psalm 85** — The Lord’s unfailing love and faithfulness are remembered by the psalmist in the midst of exile. ***What does verses 10-11 tell us about our proper response to God?***

**WEEK 44 Psalm 86 Revelation 13-22, Psalm 87**

**Psalm 86** — This psalm is a prayer of David containing both praises and petitions for God to act on his behalf. Notable in this Psalm are what David asks for, and what he does not. ***What does this tell you about David's heart?***

**Revelation 13**— In this chapter two of the Satan's accomplices, the Beast out of the sea (Antichrist) and the Beast from the earth (False Prophet), appear on the scene and take the world by storm. The Beast from the sea arose as the leader of a 10 nation confederation and received his power from Satan to rule, to have power, and great authority. This Beast will be killed, but then come alive again, which causes the whole world to be amazed and give him their full allegiance. He speaks great boasts and blasphemies against God. He is given authority for 42 months to war against the saints and conquer them. During this time God's people must endure persecution faithfully (vv. 1-10). Next the Beast from the earth (False Prophet, 16:13) appears who will come as a master deceiver by being like a lamb and performing great miracles, and thus will compel the people of the earth to worship the first beast. He will kill all those who will not worship the image of the beast. "He required everyone – small and great, rich and poor, free and slave – to be given a mark on the right hand or on the forehead (v. 16, NLT)." The number of this unholy trinity is "666" (vv. 11-18). ***Who are the persons in the "unholy trinity", and what role does each play in order to achieve world domination?***

**Revelation 14**— This chapter prophetically envisions what will happen during and at the end of the Great Tribulation. The Lamb and the 144,000 faithful witnesses stand at Mount Zion (Jerusalem) singing a new song. These are those who have been redeemed from the earth and are found pure and blameless (vv. 1-5). Then follows the proclamation of the three angels. The saints are encouraged to persevere under great duress by keeping His commands and maintaining their faith in Jesus (vv. 6-13). The Son of Man is seated on a white cloud with a sharp sickle in His hand to reap the harvest of God's judgment since the iniquity of the world is fully ripe (vv. 14-16). The angel with the sharp sickle is told to use it to gather the grapes from earth's vineyard, and then he loaded the grapes into the winepress of God's wrath "and the blood flowed out of the press up to the horses' bridles for about 180 miles (v. 20, HCSB)" (vv. 17-20). ***What is the content of the three angel's proclamation? See verses 6-12.***

**Revelation 15**— God's holy and perfect character demands that He judge the world for their sin if they refuse His grace and mercy. To complete God's wrath on the world for its wickedness, seven angels are given seven gold Bowls filled with the wrath of God. The song of Moses and of the Lamb is sung declaring the awe-inspiring works of the Lord, and that His righteous acts have been revealed. The sanctuary in heaven is filled with smoke from God's glory, and no one can enter until the seven Bowl judgments are completed. ***What does this chapter say about the person, character, and attributes of God?***

**Revelation 16**— the seven angels pour out the seven Bowls of God's wrath on the earth. The First Bowl is poured out on the earth, and severe painful sores break out on the people who have the mark of the beast. The Second Bowl is poured out into the sea, and it turns into blood causing all life in the sea to die. The Third Bowl is poured out and the fresh waters (rivers and springs) turn to blood. The Fourth Bowl is poured out causing the sun to scorch everyone with fire, but instead of reopening they blaspheme the name of God. The Fifth Bowl is poured out on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom is plunged into darkness like the ninth plague of Egypt with Moses. Again they curse God for their pains and sores instead of reopening. The Sixth Bowl is poured out on the Euphrates River, and the river dries



up allowing the kings of the east to march on toward Israel without hindrance. The demonic spirits deceived the leaders of the world through miracles and gathered them from all of the nations to a place called Armageddon. The Seventh Bowl is poured out into the air, and the most severe earthquake takes place causing Jerusalem to split in three places, the cities of the nations to fall in heaps of rubble, the islands to disappear, and the mountains to be flattened. As 100 pound hailstones fall from the sky, people will curse God due to this very severe plague. Verses 9 and 11 said these people did not repent of their actions or give God the glory. ***How receptive are you to admitting your guilt and reopening when you sin?***

rule of the Antichrist. A woman called Babylon the Great, the mother of prostitutes, has committed spiritual adultery with the kings of the world. She united or aligned herself with a scarlet Beast (Antichrist) to war against and kill the saints. John speaks of seven mountains who are seven kings and 10 horns who are 10 kings. The 10 kings will receive authority with the beast for a brief period of time to rule and make war with the Lamb, but the Lamb will conquer. The beast and his 10 allied nations will turn on the woman (prostitute) who is identified as the great city that rules over the kings of the world (v. 18). The beast wants all of the power to himself. ***Who are the 7 king's mentioned in verse 10 and the 10 kings (horns) mentioned in verse 12?***

**Revelation 18**— Chapter 17 speaks of the destruction of the religious system of Babylon the Great, and chapter 18 announces the annihilation of commercial and political Babylon. The angel comes down from heaven and cries out that Babylon the Great is fallen and exposes the demonic activity, the sexual immorality, and the wealthy merchants who profited by her excessive luxury. The call is made to the people of the earth to separate themselves from this evil world system that is headed up by the Antichrist so that they don't participate in her sins and suffer her divine judgment. The world's merchants (v. 11) and the transportation industry (v. 17) will mourn and weep because of the products and commodities that are no longer available because of the extermination of Babylon the Great. Verses 1, 16, and 19 say that all this destruction happens in a single hour (short time) because her sins are piled up to heaven. Because of the unimaginable atrocities perpetrated by Babylon the Great against the prophets and the saints, there will no longer be a music industry, artisan contractors, the joy of weddings, or the wealth of merchants which is under the control of the satanic world system. "Babylon the great city will be thrown down violently and never will be found again (v. 21, HCSB)." ***What or who is "Babylon the Great"?***

**Revelation 19**— we finally arrive at the consummation of history to which many prophets have foretold when Christ will come back to the earth and rule with a rod of iron as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The vast multitudes in heaven, the 24 elders, and the four living creatures fall down and worship God because salvation, glory, and power belong to Him. The voices of a vast multitude cry out that our Lord God Almighty reigns. The wedding feast of the Lamb has come, and His Bride has prepared herself (vv. 1-10). Jesus, the Faithful and True, comes forth to earth on a white horse to judge and make war in righteousness. The armies that were in heaven also followed Him on white horses to rule and reign with Him. "From His mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations (v. 15a ESV)." The birds are called to eat the bodies of the dead who are gathered to war against God at the battle of Armageddon. The beast (Anti christ) and the false prophet are seized and thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, and the rest of the army is killed by the sharp sword that came from the mouth of rider on the horse (vv. 11-21). After reading this chapter that describes the glorious victory of Christ and His armies, how does this great triumph over Satan's forces affect your hopes, trials, and fears that you

***have now in your daily lives as you strive to serve Christ? How has this living Christ been your deliverer in the last year?***

**Revelation 20**— an angel comes down from heaven and seizes Satan, chains him, and throws him into the abyss for 1000 years so that he will no longer will be able to deceive the nations. Those that followed Christ from heaven were given authority to judge and reign on earth while those who were martyred during the Tribulation were resurrected and became priests of God and will reign with Him a 1000 years (vv. 1-6). At the end of the millennium Satan will be loosed from his prison to go out and will deceive the nations from every corner of the earth. When the massive army comes to do battle and surrounds the encampment of saints and the beloved city, fire will come out of heaven and consumes all of them. The Devil will be thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur and be tormented day and night forever. All of the dead, whether small or great, will stand before the Great White Throne to be judged by God from the books that were opened, including the book of life. The dead are judged according to their works that are written in the books. John closes the chapter with these sober words, “And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire (v. 15, ESV).” This last sentence expresses the grave reality that each person whose name is not written in the book of life will suffer eternal punishment for his or her sins, and everlasting separation from the presence of God. ***Is your name written in the book of life? On what do you base your answer? How does this verse change the way you deal with your lost family members, friends, and co-workers?***

**Revelation 21**— This old world of sin and suffering comes to an end. As Peter said, “The heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up (II Peter 3:10b, NKJV).” Now John allows us to view a breathtaking look into the future to see a new and perfect world established and ruled by God the Father and His son Jesus. As the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, comes down out of heaven, the redeemed of all time enjoy the very presence of God in a place where death, grief, or pain will have forever passed away. God on the throne declares that the victorious will inherit the wonderful things that are described in this chapter, “but the cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars— their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death (v. 8, NLT).” Now an angel describes the radiance, the beauty, the building materials, and the massive size of this city. He gives the details about the 12 gates of pearl, the twelve foundations made up of precious stones, the high thick walls, the size and shape of the city, and the pure transparent gold of the streets. This city has no temple since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. List the former things that will pass away and not be a part the new heaven and new earth as given in this chapter. ***What new things do we anticipate in this new creation?***

**Revelation 22**— God amazingly ends the last chapter of the 66 books speaking of a glorious future for those whose robes have been washed in the blood of the Lamb, who will reign with Him forever and ever. The angel shows the Apostle John a river of living water flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb with a tree of life on both sides of the river. Three times Jesus gives the words, “I am coming soon,” thus emphasizing the fact of His imminent return for His bride, the church. Christ makes it clear that He will reward each person according to what he or she has done. Finally, all are invited to come. Anyone who is thirsty and desires to drink of the free water of life can come to Jesus and be washed clean of their sins. A final warning is given to those who add or take away from the words of this prophetic book. Jesus says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” We respond, “Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!” ***How***

***prepared are you for the coming of Christ? What are ways that Christians can prepare themselves for His coming?***

**Psalm 87** — The psalmist gives a joyous song celebrating the majesty of Jerusalem, the city of God. Consider verses 5 and 6, where God registers the inhabitants of Zion. ***Explain whether you think this is prophetic or historical?***