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**SERIES 1: KNOWING JESUS AS MESSIAH**  
**BOOK 6: Jesus Messiah in Revelation**  
***Revelation 1-22***

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**Book 6: Jesus Messiah in Revelation**  
**Introduction**

The “Revelation of Jesus Christ” is one of the most misunderstood books in the Biblical canon, yet its goal is clearly stated up-front: God gives this book as a “gift” from Jesus Messiah to His servants, for the events of the books, which will impact not only their lives but the entire world, are things which *must* soon take place. So, this brief devotional guide seeks to give you an overview of this important book, but remember these key points before you read: First, remember that this book is a gift *for the servants* of Jesus Messiah. Read this if you are intent on serving Jesus to advance His purposes. If you cling to your own fleshly, human self-interest, you will shirk from and try to deny its message. Second, be encouraged! This is not a book of *disaster* and impending doom, for the word *apocalypsis* simply means the “revealing,” the full disclosure of Jesus as earth’s coming Messiah and King. His revealing changes all who see Him. First, His Church. Then, Israel. Finally, the world. As He is revealed, His Kingdom comes. So, read this book as a spiritual *revelation* from God, a work of *prophecy* rather than an ordinary letter. Because it is a prophetic *work*, this book will unsettle our earth-bound,

fleshly need for normalcy, so you may be *tested by its* disruptive message: Jesus Messiah comes to overturn this world's darkness by his very presence! Revealed to the seven churches, Jesus overturns their fleshly religion; breaking the seven seals, Jesus overturns Jewish unbelief; releasing the seven trumpets, Jesus overturns the world's love of the darkness; and, pouring out the seven bowls, Jesus overturns Godless human rule forever! See how Jesus is revealed to bring His Kingdom!

### STEPS of a *Devoted Disciple*:

Your *Devotion* matters to the Lord. For, there is only one Lord and God, and He deserves creation's highest honor and praise. So, you were made to give yourself to the Lord God in loving devotion of heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30). In this same devotion to the Lord, Jesus Christ calls you to follow Him as His disciple. These short devotionals guide you in the Word to cultivate a heart devotion to the Lord as His disciple.

- First, **discover** what His life-giving Word has to say to you personally, being careful to write down your insights to share with others.
- Then, **discuss** His Word with those closest to you: your family, your friends, and in your home fellowship group (your spiritual family).
- Next, **dialogue** to compare views on key passages with a partner—either another disciple, or an older mentor or younger mentee.
- Finally, **develop** key skills as you abide in the Word by applying it to your life as you read the devotional, notes, and footnotes.

### **START HERE:** *Humble Yourself in Prayer:*

*Devote yourself to the Lord to hear and do His Will for you.*

☐ *Do I want to humble myself under the Lordship of God by faith?*

☐ *Or, will I live as my own Lord, relying on my own understanding?*

### **PRAYER OF DEVOTION**

Lord God, I devote my life to you today. I offer you my soul to live humbly under your Lordship; my mind to seek your will and Spirit; my heart to love you and others; and, my strength to obey your Word and Will!  
Amen.

## Chapter 1: JESUS REVEALED TO SERVANTS: *Revelation 1*

**Step 1. Discover:** *Preview and View God's Word* for yourself then **Write** *Insights to Share* with others.

### a. Preview **Revelation 1**

**Jesus Revealed to Servants: Faithful Firstborn.** Servants of Jesus Christ, read this book as a precious gift as Jesus Christ is revealed to you! God entrusts this book to you to bless and guide you as “the time” draws “near” (1-3). John testifies of Jesus Christ so you may trust this prophecy as the Word of God (2). First, read this first chapter of Revelation to find your place in the Father’s Family and the Kingdom of Jesus Christ (4-6), for Jesus is the Firstborn to inherit this resurrected world freed from death (5). And, notice that His Kingdom comes as Jesus is *revealed*. First to the Jewish people who *pierced* him, then *all the tribes of the earth* (7). Though Jesus comes one day in the *clouds with power*, we must partner now in *tribulation* for the kingdom, testifying of Jesus as His fiery bright churches in this dark world! (12, 16)

**b. Prayerfully Read Revelation 1 and Write your insights to share**

<b>SEEING</b> What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
<b>LEARNING</b> What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
<b>DOING</b> What lesson can I apply to my life?	

**Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints.** *Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.*

Q1. Why is important for us as disciples of Jesus Christ to know His plan to bring the Kingdom of God to Earth by revealing Himself to the world?

Q2: How can we devote ourselves to advance the Kingdom of Jesus Mashiach until he returns for us?

**Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples.** *Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.*

Q1. Why does God reveal Jesus Christ to his servants? (Rev. 1:1-3)

**1. Jesus Revealed: Kingdom Timing.** God reveals Jesus Christ to His servants to show them *the things that must soon take place* (Rev. 1:1). For, Jesus Christ is the embodiment of God's Kingdom future for heaven and earth, and his *revealing* first to His Churches, then to Israel, and then to the nation's speeds all of history toward the Day when Jesus brings all in heaven and earth under the Father's rule.

Q2. How has God worked and will continue to work in His Kingdom people? (Rev. 1:4-8)

**2. Gracious Work: Kingdom People.** God's eternal purpose is to *come* and dwell forever with His people (Rev. 21:3), sharing His *life* with His people by the Spirit poured out across the seven ages of the Church (Rev. 21:3). But, it is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who redeemed God's people home to the Kingdom. For, Jesus was the first *martyr*, giving His life to testify as God's *faithful witness* (5), rising as the *firstborn Son* of many sons to rise from the dead, and eventually to *rule* as the Lord of all earth's kings. By his blood sacrifice, He redeems us to be a Kingdom family of priest to serve our Father (6). This Almighty Son returns to bring the Kingdom (7).

Q3. What is the Kingdom work of the servants of Jesus on earth, and how does the Lord support them in this work? (Rev. 1:9-20)

3. **Present Lord:** Kingdom Testimony of Church. Following our Lord's *faithful witness*, we also testify of the Lord's Gospel and coming Kingdom to this hostile world, as *witnesses (marturos)* *proclaiming with our lives and words the salvation of Jesus Christ and forgiveness in His blood* (9). We are not alone in our testimony, but Jesus Christ himself walks among us as the One having defeated *Death* to overpower the grip of Hell (18). Having the Lord's support, we boldly endure *tribulation* for the sake of Jesus and His coming Kingdom (9).

**Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply God's Word as a Growing Disciple to *read* Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.**

**Revealing Jesus: God's Kingdom Plan.** If you are a servant of Jesus Christ, God wants you to be prepared, for *the time is near* (Rev. 1:1) for God transform the world through Jesus and His coming Kingdom. And, God knows you play a vital role in that Kingdom future!

Because you play a vital role in God's Kingdom future, the family Godhead of Father, Son, and Spirit prepare you with His *grace and peace* (1:4). The *eternal Father* shapes all history to the day of reunion, when he *comes* to dwell with man (21:3); the *fiery Spirit* indwells us through the *seven ages of the Church*; and, Jesus Christ, the one to inherit the Kingdom as its *firstborn of the resurrected dead* (1:5), has made us by his *freeing blood* (6) a Kingdom and priests to serve our Father.

Because you are a servant of Jesus Christ, God shows you how the *revealing of Jesus* brings the Kingdom—first to us, His Church; then to Israel, the ones who pierced him; and finally to a rebellious world in darkness (7).

So, let us together as His family suffer and endure *tribulation* for His sake and to advance His coming Kingdom (1:9)! For, the Son of Man dwells with us in His resurrected glory to guide our service! (13).

<b>Respond to Devotional:</b> (mark passage above)	
✓ Agree	? Question ! Differ
<b>SUPPORT: Agree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>add</b> ?	
<b>QUESTION: Modify</b> What to <b>question</b> or change?	
<b>DIFFER: Disagree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>differ</b> ?	



**Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:**

Write and share notes with your partner/ mentor/ mentee.

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What is the *big idea* of this passage?

- key verse:

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What is a key idea?

- key verse:

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What is a key idea?

**Teaching Preparation Notes: Sharing the Passage:**

Share lesson with partner, family, or group.

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What is the *big lesson* to learn in this passage?

- verse:

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Key lesson to learn?

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(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

- verse:

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Key lesson to learn?

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(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

**Notes<sup>1</sup>: Testimony** (Rev. 12:1). When our Lord shared human flesh with us, He testified of Himself as the first *faithful witness*, (literally *martyr*, one who sacrifices all for his true message). In this way, we *witness* by our words and lives to prove the truth of Jesus and His Gospel, enduring testing, affliction, and persecution to show that we uphold the truth of Jesus regardless the high cost. In this way, we defeat the devil *by the blood of the Lamb* and the *word of our testimony*, for we love not our lives even to death (Rev. 12:11).

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<sup>1</sup> **Footnotes: Every Eye (1:7).** Jesus Christ, exalted as Lord over heaven and earth by his resurrection (Matt. 28:18), reveals Himself by His coming so that *every eye* sees him. In joyful reunion, He is seen by His Awaiting Church (1 Thess. 4:17). In heart-rending recognition, He is seen by His Jewish people, who crucified him (Zech. 12:10). And, in horrible regret, He is seen by all nations as He comes with His heavenly armies (Rev. 19:13-14, 21).

## Chapter 2: JESUS REVEALED TO HIS CHURCHES:

### *Revelation 2-3*

**Step 1. Discover:** *Preview and View God's Word* for yourself then **Write Insights** to Share with others.

#### **a. Preview Revelation 2-3**

**Jesus Revealed to Churches:** Faithful Witness: Jesus sends His seven churches as the first to testify of His Kingdom Lordship, seven lamps witnessing in a dark world. Hear what Jesus says you in Revelation 2 and 3.

First, Jesus reminds you of what really matters to him—your “first love” (2:4) and that you be “faithful unto death” to Him (10). Read of Ephesus and Smyrna for this reminder.

Then, Jesus warns us of how our earthly, fleshly nature threatens our spiritual life together with him. Discover how fleshly teaching (Pergamum), fleshly leadership (Thyatira), and a fleshly religious life which is spiritually dead (Sardis) all turn hearts from the Lord. Sadly, when a fleshly church loves the world, it shuts Jesus out as in Laodicea (20). But, the church of Philadelphia is weak but faithful in testimony (8).

#### **b. Prayerfully Read Revelation 2-3 and Write your insights to share**

<b>SEEING</b>  What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
<b>LEARNING</b>  What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
<b>DOING</b>  What lesson can I apply to my life?	

**Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints.** *Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.*

Q1. Why did the Lord Jesus prioritize *love* and *faith*, especially for the early churches which faced great opposition?

Q2. How are we called to serve Jesus Christ as members of His church?

**Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples.** *Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.*

Q1. What are signs of faith and fleshly behavior in the First Churches? (Rev. 2:1-20)

**1. First Churches:** First Faith and Fleshly Temptation. Jesus reminds His first Church, Ephesus, that our faith must always center on Him, for He must always remain our first love (2:4). Even when we *labor tirelessly* by faith, we must always hold to Jesus as our loving Lord. For, if we make Him our *life*, we have rich and abundant life (Jn. 10:10) even in the midst of tribulation and poverty (1:9). But, the first churches were also tempted in their flesh to *love* the religious things of Christianity and the Church—what Jesus called *sexual immorality*—that is, spiritual unfaithfulness (1:14, 20). Jesus warns of the danger of *religious-looking things* that entice us from His Lordship, such as *human teachings* (14) or religious figure or institutions (20).

Q2. What are signs of faith and fleshly behavior in the modern churches? (Rev. 3:1-13)

**2. Modern Churches: Fleshly Sleep and Faithful Service.** In the modern age, the Churches of Jesus Christ were tempted to abandon the spiritual life vital for their relationship with Jesus. Holding to the *fleshly* ways of the world, the spiritual life of some was *about to die* (2) as they became *sleepy* and *deadened* (2-3) to the Lord and His life. In the modern age, we can easily hold to an earthly and fleshly faith—seeking mere success or good in this life only. Even our teachings can become *lifeless doctrines*, the mere “teachings of man” (Matt. 15:9). As Paul warned, an earth-bound faith is a *pitiable faith* (1 Cor. 15:19), abandoning the riches of Christ for religious traditions, rituals, and doctrines. However, some in the modern church remained faithful to Christ, staying *loyal to His name* and *keeping His Word* (2:8,10). To these weak but faithful disciples, Jesus opens a door for ministry (7) and promises them escape from earth’s coming tribulation (10). Because the “hour of trial” comes upon the “whole world,” the Lord’s promise to “keep us from” this trial means to evacuate us out of the world, which He promised as a great “taking” (Matt. 24:38-42) as He returns to meet His people in the air (1 Thess. 4:1-18) before the great time of testing.

Q3. Why does Jesus reject this final church? (Rev. 3:14-22)

**3. Faithless Church: Fleshly Focus and Worldly Riches.** As we saw in the first churches, a church is defined by its faith-relationship and loyalty to Jesus Christ as her Lord. When this final church builds a religious life rich in an earthly prosperity, Self-satisfaction, and human teachings (3:17) but ignores Jesus, locking him outside the church (3:20), then they have an unrecognizable, lukewarm faith (16). All churches through the Ages testify and Jesus agrees as the *Amen* (14) that any church which does not know the Lord Jesus as its Head has no place in the Body of Christ (16). So, this church is “spit out” of Christ’s body at His return, as He rescues those belonging to His true church but leaves behind those who are false (Rev. 3:16).

**Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply God's Word as a Growing Disciple to *read* Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.**

**Seven Churches: Knowing Jesus as Lord.** When the Church age has run its seven-staged course, it will leave the legacy of being first to know Jesus Christ as Lord. As a member of the Church, you are honored with this distinction forever! Together, we have learned to walk by faith and resist the temptations of the flesh.

In our first churches, starting with the Jewish Church of Jerusalem and ending with the Catholic Church of Rome, we learned that our labor of faith must never abandon our *faithful love*, even unto *death* (Rev. 2:4, 10). For, no teaching, religious practice (14), or authority (20) should entice us to give our devotion to anything but our Lord Jesus.

In our modern churches, we learned that when we had *little power* but walked faithfully with the Lord (8), the Lord worked powerfully in us to *open doors for service* (3:7), but we must never abandon His spiritual life for *fleshly* but *dead* religion (3:2) based on human wisdom and understanding.

Tragically, we saw the Lord reject an entirely *fleshly focused* church *rich* in the human things of this world (3:17) but without Jesus Christ in a pitiful blindness (17-18).

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(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

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(write a question for people to discover this lesson)



**Notes<sup>2</sup>: Worldly and Lukewarm.** The last, apostate church had lapsed into a Christ-less and wretched limbo. Neither *cold*—not knowing Christ or the truth of His Word, nor *hot*—afame with the passion of a love and faithful devotion for him, this wretched *church* was simply a convenient worldly assembly which had shut Christ out (3:17, 20). To these rejected imposters, Jesus appealed to individual hearts to open to him, even if the Church itself had shut him out (20).

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<sup>2</sup> **Footnotes: Key of David.** Positioned as the final faithful church, the Philadelphia Church had an evangelical zeal to advance the Kingdom through the doors opened to them by their Lord (3:7). One of these doors was to bear witness to the errant Jewish nation (9), testifying to them that Jesus is indeed their long-awaited Mashiach (Christ- Messiah). Through their witness, Jesus opens their locked hearts with the realization, the key of David (7), that God promised David to raise up by the laws of duty (Gen. 38:8) and redemption (Ruth 4:10) Mashaich as David's Seed (zera) as the Son of David (2 Sam. 7:12) and the Son of God (14). Thus, Jesus was indeed the Son of David and rightful heir to David's rule as Mashiach. For, the Holy Spirit used David's own bodily material (12) to conceive Jesus.

## Chapter 3: JESUS REVEALED IN HEAVEN:

### *Revelation 4:1-5:14*

**Step 1. Discover:** *Preview and View God's Word* for yourself then **Write** *Insights to Share* with others.

**a. Preview *Revelation 4:1-5:14***

**Perfected Messiah:** Lion of Judah and Lamb: In your ever-shifting world, God reveals to you the Heavenly Perfection of your Lord Jesus as Messiah! Family, you will see Jesus one day as you surround him in heavenly glory!

Starting in Revelation 4, discover your *eternal home* in heavenly glory! Gaze upon God's *throne*, the center of all life and reality (2) and the Spirit burning as fire before him (5). Also, notice our place in His family, with our *family elders* before him (4) and our hosts like a *sea of glass* (6). Read Revelation 5 to see the mystery of his *eternal purpose* for heaven and earth (1), sealed up and unavailable to flesh. Finally, read on to see that the mystery of God's kingdom future is fully revealed by the *eternal Messiah*, the Lion (5) and the Lamb (6) who unleashes God's Kingdom purpose (9).

**b. Prayerfully *Read Revelation 4:1-5:14* and *Write* your insights to share**

<b>SEEING</b>  What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
<b>LEARNING</b>  What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
<b>DOING</b>  What lesson can I apply to my life?	

**Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints.** *Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.*

Q1. Why does all of heaven gather around and before the throne of God? What place do we have in heaven?

Q2. Why is Jesus Christ honored as the *lion* and the *lamb* of God's family, and which of His works do we all celebrate?

**Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples.** *Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.*

Q1. What will you see when you are welcomed home to God? (Rev. 4:1-6, 11)

**1. Eternal Home: Family around Throne.** As the Church Age concludes, John is shown what must take place *after this*—after the Church has completed its wandering on earth only to come to its forever home in *heaven* (4:1). Passing through a *door* into the spiritual realm (1), John sees the true *heart* and center of heaven, our *enthroned* Creator God. As the source of all life, He has a *blood-red appearance* (3). Surrounding him as His Word promising peace is a rainbow (3) in a life-giving green. Honored in His presence sit our twenty-four family elders (4), now glorified in garments white with Christ's righteousness worked out as deeds of faith (Rev. 19:8) and crowned to rule (5:10).

Q2. Why is the Lion/ Lamb the only one to open the scroll of God's future plan? (5:5-10)

**2. Eternal Purpose:** From the beginning, the Lord created man to bear His family resemblance (Gen. 1:26), choosing our family line of Adam and Eve the line in which He would *raise up* Messiah as a human "Seed" (Gen. 3:15). However, when our line was enslaved by sin and death, only our family's Firstborn Son, the Seed, had the right as Kinsman-Redeemer to redeem us. So, the promised Son of David, the "Lion of Judah" (Gen. 49:10) was also the Lamb to be disciplined for our sin (2 Sam. 7:14) to free us to be the Lord's Kings and Priests (Is. 53:6-7; Rev. 5:10).

Q3. What is the Lamb worthy to receive? Why? (5:11-14)

**3. Worthy Lamb:** Receiving Kingdom. Jesus as Messiah not only possessed the *birthright* to rule the Kingdom as the *Lion* of Judah (5:5; Gen. 49:9-10) but paid the blood offering to atone for the family's salvation as the *Lamb of God* (5:9-10). Thus, the Lamb's death and resurrection into the new life of the Kingdom make him worthy to receive the future Kingdom's *power, wealth, wisdom, might, honor, glory, and blessing!* (5:12).

**Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply God's Word as a Growing Disciple to *read* Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.**

**Kingdom Family: Home with God and Lamb.** When you are finally safely home with God, you will see God's future as a Kingdom future rooted in our Family. At the center of our family sits our Father, enthroned in his heavenly glory (4:2). Around him are our family leaders who have shepherded us through the years, twenty-four enthroned family Elders (4). And, the accompanying Spirit illuminates us all, as we stand together as a holy family, like a clear sea of glass before him (5-6).

Our family and its Kingdom future depend on the Firstborn of our Family, our Head, Jesus Christ. As the *Lion of Judah*, He alone as its Heir brings us into this coming Kingdom (5:5). Not simply by the power and force of His birthright, but His humble subjection to the Father's will as our sacrificing Lamb, our family Redeemer. This sacrifice perfects our Lamb to have the perfect insight (eyes) and power (horns) to rule over our eternal Kingdom. The Lamb alone is worthy to rule forever, for He *ransoms us by His blood for God* to be a holy Kingdom family. You, with all of us, will serve and rule on behalf of our Father forever! (10).

<b>Respond to Devotional:</b> (mark passage above)	
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<b>SUPPORT: Agree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>add</b> ?	
<b>QUESTION: Modify</b> What to <b>question</b> or change?	
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**Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:**

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What is a key idea?

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**Teaching Preparation Notes: Sharing the Passage:**

Share lesson with partner, family, or group.

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What is the *big lesson* to learn in this passage?

- verse:

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Key lesson to learn?

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(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

- verse:

---

Key lesson to learn?

---

(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

**Notes<sup>3</sup>: Worthy is Lamb.** God's Kingdom purpose not only culminates all of human history but it directs reality forward to a glorious future in which God himself dwells with man forever (21:3) in a world in which God is *all in all* (1 Cor. 15:28). But, only one person, Jesus, the *Lamb of God* (5:9) is *worthy* to bring this Kingdom purpose into reality. Why? Only Jesus is the *Lion of Judah*, the rightful Heir of the Kingdom which spans *heaven* (the Son of God—Ps. 2:8; 2 Sam. 7:14-16) and *earth* (the Son of David—Ps. 8:6; 2 Sam. 7:9, 12-13); Only Jesus is the *Lamb* who reconciles God and man (Rev. 5:6) by shedding His blood to redeem a family household for God (5:9). Such sacrifice perfects the Lamb to receive all power and wisdom (5:6), proving His subjection to the Father. The Kingdom and its Rule belongs to the preeminent Lamb (Col. 1:15-19).

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<sup>3</sup> **Footnotes: Kingdom Family:** Elders and Sea. God's *glorified people* embody the *holy life of God* in heavenly glory in two ways. Their family leaders are enthroned as *twenty-four elders* (4:4), splendidly crowned to embody the *family's rule as kings of the Kingdom* (5:10). The glorified family itself is like a sea embodying the water of life, at rest like a vast and crystal sea (4:6); in war like terrible clouds of judgment (1:7), having been reborn as the dew of the morning (Ps. 110:3) accompanying Messiah in holy garments in His Day (3).

## Chapter 4: JESUS REVEALED TO ISRAEL: *Revelation 6:1-7:17 (Zechariah 12:10)*

**Step 1. Discover:** *Preview and View God's Word* for yourself  
then *Write Insights to Share* with others.

**a. Preview *Revelation 6:1-7:17 (Zechariah 12:10)***

**Revealed to Israel:** Day of the Lord. Jesus is the rightful Messiah (*that is, Mashiach*) of Israel, raised up as the Son of David to rule forever (2 Sam. 7:12-16). With a righteous jealousy, His heart longs for his people whose hearts will break as they recognize him as their long-lost Son (Zech. 12:10). So, read Revelation 6 and 7 to witness the Day of the Lord and its aftermath, when Jesus is revealed to Israel!

First, see how Jesus rebukes Israel's waywardness with the false Christ (6:2), warfare (4), economic turmoil (6), and world-wide death (8). And, faithful witnesses testify of Jesus and His coming, some even to the point of shedding blood (9). Then, the "Day" comes when Jesus reveals himself to Israel in power (15). In Revelation 7, discover how Israel repents and believes to now testify of Jesus as Messiah!

**b. Prayerfully *Read Revelation 6:1-7:17 (Zechariah 12:10)* and  
Write your insights to share**

<b>SEEING</b>  What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
<b>LEARNING</b>  What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
<b>DOING</b>  What lesson can I apply to my life?	



**Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints.** *Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.*

Q1. How does the Lord God work through his unsealed judgments to turn Israel from its waywardness to faith in Jesus as her Mashiach?

Q2. What happens after Israel repents and turns to Jesus Mashiach on the Day of the Lord?

**Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples.** *Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.*

Q1. How does God rebuke Israel's hardness against Jesus as their Messiah? (Rev. 6. 1-8)

**1. Birth Pains:** Judging Israel's Unbelief. When Jesus, the *Lamb* of God unseals the first four seals (6:1-8), he unleashes what he had previously called the *birth pains* upon Israel—God's painful rebuke of Israel's hardness against her Messiah (Mt. 24:8). Israel rejected Jesus as Christ, the Lamb who shed his own blood for them, so God unleashes upon them bloodthirsty Antichrist (6:2); Israel *bought peace for herself by her unfaithfulness*, so God gives them the *sword* of violence and bloodshed (4). Abandoning her Messiah, Israel sought protection in worldly wealth, so God gives her *famine and economic collapse* (6:6). And, rejecting her Messiah, Israel venerated the Jewish life, *so God brings world-wide death* (6:8). For there is no life apart from Messiah.

Q2. How does Israel turn to Jesus as its Messiah to be reborn spiritually? (6:9-17)

**2. Witness and Day of Lord: Lamb Revealed.** Before the *birth pains begin*, Jesus Christ shows Israel that He has indeed loved His Church and their faithful witness (Rev. 3:9; 1 Thess. 4:15-16). This sign and the series of birth pains draws a remnant of Jews to believe in Jesus as Messiah, and these Jewish witnesses are quickly martyred for their testimony (6:9). When Jesus Messiah opens the sixth seal to commence the Day of the Lord, He reveals Himself to Israel even as He saves her from destruction (6:14-15). Finally, Israel looks upon the face of Jesus as her saving Messiah, and the entire repents in prayer and weeping (6:16; Zech. 12:10). At this point, the entire Jewish nation is saved!

Q3 How does a repentant Israel now respond to Jesus as their Messiah? (7:1-17)

**3. Sealing Servants: Salvation Harvest.** With the terrible realization that Jesus is indeed the Messiah, Her Firstborn Son cast off as a stranger, Israel repents with a national time of mourning, prayer, and consecration (Zech. 12:11-14). As a newly born nation presents itself to the Lord and His Messiah, Israel consecrates 144,000 sons to serve Messiah from the twelve tribes. Bringing the Gospel of Jesus to all the world, they reap a great harvest of martyrs for the King Jesus and His coming Kingdom! (7:9-10)

**Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply** God's Word as a Growing Disciple to **read** Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.

**Israel's Spiritual Birth: Day of the Lord.** As the Head of our Kingdom Family, Jesus is pained by the rejection of His Jewish people that has divided God's household. Sharing his pain, we hope in the day of their spiritual rebirth when the Lord reveals Himself to Israel to bring them home (Zech. 12:10, Rev. 6:17).

Preparing Israel for this day, the Lord judges with birth pains the deep roots of Jewish unbelief. Rejecting their Christ, the Jews are met with the Antichrist, whose unbelief has deceived them (6:2). Hoping for peaceful *shalom*, they find only the *sword* (4); pursuing *earthly wealth*, they suffer famine (6); and, venerating *Jewish life* as they cry, "L'chaim!" they are met by Death's pale horse (8).

In their pain, Jesus sends them His witnesses, a *remnant* from their own sons and daughters (10), whom Israel will reject (Mt. 22-23).

But, Israel will then see the Lamb with their own eyes and recognize Jesus as their long-lost *son* (Rev. 6:17, Zech. 12:10).

Repenting with weeping (Zech. 12:11-14), Israel is reborn by the Spirit (Ezek. 37:9-10, 14) sealed for service as the Lamb's *great army* (Ez.10; Rev.7:4). On that day, our family is made whole in the Lamb!

<b>Respond to Devotional:</b> (mark passage above)	
✓ Agree	? Question ! Differ
<b>SUPPORT: Agree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>add</b> ?	
<b>QUESTION: Modify</b> What to <b>question</b> or change?	
<b>DIFFER: Disagree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>differ</b> ?	

**Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:**

Write and share notes with your partner/ mentor/ mentee.

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What is the *big idea* of this passage?

- key verse:

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What is a key idea?

- key verse:

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What is a key idea?

**Teaching Preparation Notes: Sharing the Passage:**

Share lesson with partner, family, or group.

---

What is the *big lesson* to learn in this passage?

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Key lesson to learn?

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(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

- verse:

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Key lesson to learn?

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(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

**Notes<sup>4</sup>: Day of the Lord.** Confronting lofty human pride, the great day of the Lord's judgment reveals the power of God and the *wrath* of the Lamb (Rev. 6:17). Once blinded by their unchecked ambition, Israel and the nations are shocked into reality by the Lord's presence. Israel weeps and repents (Zech:12:11-14), forgetting for all time their *irreverent blasphemy against their Mashiach*. The nations grovel in the dirt, terrified by the Lord's face (Rev. 6:16).

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<sup>4</sup> **Footnotes: Anointed for Service.** As Ezekiel had predicted, when Israel is revived, they are brought to life *entirely* and *in their fullness*, a *great and formidable army for the Lord Mashiach* (Ezek. 37:9-10). Yes, their national weeping will be deep, but this *grief* will accompany repentance and they will then *consecrate* 144,000 sons from every tribe to the Lamb's service (Rev. 7:4). These devoted servants will bring the *gospel to the whole earth*, bringing about the end of the world's Godless age and ushering in the Kingdom (Mt. 24:14). Thus, the Lamb will finally be satisfied as His redemption finally reaches Israel!

## Chapter 5: JESUS REVEALS JUDGEMENT to Nations:

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

**Step 1. Discover:** *Preview and View* God's Word for yourself then **Write** Insights to Share with others.

#### **a. Preview *Revelation 8:1-9:21***

**Jesus Reveals Judgment:** Spiritual Realization. Ever since the Serpent cast doubt on God's Word in the garden (Gen. 3:1), humanity has lived in a spiritual uncertainty. In Revelation 8 and 9, we see the Lord Jesus unmask the spiritual darkness of this world by trumpeting judgments! In response to Israel's prayers rising as "incense" (3), God unleashes his judgments through his trumpeting angels.

First, see the earth's people experience the poisonous reality of spiritual darkness, as Satan's fallen hosts (8) and then Satan himself (10) defile the world with their toxicity (11). Then, people are directly *tormented* by these fallen, demonic forces (9:10). These bloodthirsty demons even stirred humans into a murderous frenzy (18-19). Knowing the *horror* of Satan's malevolence, people still do not repent to glorify God (20).

**b. Prayerfully *Read Revelation 8:1-9:21* and **Write** your insights to share**

<b>SEEING</b> What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
<b>LEARNING</b> What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
<b>DOING</b> What lesson can I apply to my life?	

**Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints.** *Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.*

Q1. How does Israel finally testify of Jesus Mashiach to the world?

Q2. What trumpeting judgments does the Lord God unleash on the world to affirm Israel's testimony of Jesus as the world's Messiah? What does the Lord reveal about the true nature of Satan and his dark world?

**Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples.** *Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.*

Q1. What does Israel do to prepare for the Lord's judgment on the earth? (Rev. 8:1-5)

**1. Worshipful Prayer: Israel Witnesses in Judgment.** Once Israel consecrates 144,000 witnesses for the Lamb (Rev. 7:4), it offers to the Lord God holy prayers from its rebuilt Temple as its two national prophets testify against the world's sin (8:3; 11:1-3). Finally, the ancient promise is fulfilled, and the Chosen Seed of Messiah has multiplied into a countless nation of worshippers in Israel. So, the Lord and His Messiah, with all of heaven, listen in silence for half an hour as Israel presents its prayers (1). In response, the Lord prepares seven trumpets (2) and thunders as His judgment breaks out upon the earth (5).

Q2. How does the Lord trumpet His judgment on the earth?  
(8:6-13)

**2. Trumpet Blasts:** Judging Darkness. When earth's people are enticed and indulge in the world's darkness, they also share in the guilt and wrath God pours out against these Satanic powers. Trumpeting judgment, the Lord announces the defeat of Satan's dark powers in the heavenlies (Rev. 12:9), and their fiery and bloody demise burns the earth (8:7); then, he trumpets the downfall of Satan's dark angels, and their toxic corruption poisons a third of the seas (9); then Satan's own judgment (10) as he poisons the world's water. As humanity shares in the painful fallout of spiritual judgment, its people realize that sin and darkness lead only to judgment and suffering.



Q3. How does the Lord's trumpet judgment reveal the true nature of Satan's darkness? (9:1-21)

**3. Fallen Star: Evil Unmasked.** Ever since Satan advised our first parents to go our own way, humanity has embraced the Serpent's lies, assuming that Satan, not God, was committed to man's best interests. However, the true evil of Satan is revealed as he gathers fallen angels to *torture earth's people with painful affliction* (9:2,5). Then, his demons convince a murderous horde to *kill a third of mankind* (9:15). Yet, even as the spiritual reality of Satan's darkness is uncovered, people will insist on *worshipping demons* and this world's *idolatrous powers that rebel against the true god* (20).

**Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply God's Word as a Growing Disciple to *read* Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.**

**Israel Testifies of Jesus: Signaling Judgment.** Reborn by the Holy Spirit into the name of Jesus Mashiah, Israel now consecrates itself to the Lord in the newly rebuilt Temple (Rev. 11:1). Presenting its 144,000 sons from every tribe as the Lamb's witnesses and anointing its two national *prophets*, the saints offer their prayers to the Lord for the world's salvation. As the Lamb breaks the seventh seal, the Lord God silently listens to Israel's holy prayers for half an hour (8:1), then unleashes thunderous judgment by his angels (5).

With each *trumpet*, the Lord God unmasks the *poisonous* evil of Satan's dark power. Satan's dark rule is *destructive* (8:7), *toxic* (8:9), and *bitterly poisonous* (11). Rather than benign spirit-guides, Satan's demons are *sadistic* (9:5) and *murderous* (9:15).

Yet, like drug-addled slaves, the people of earth persist in their idolatrous worship of Satan's darkness (20) yet refuse the true God's healing life.

In our family's generational war against this world's Satanic darkness, we must remember our enemy's persistent depravity and seek nothing from him but his total defeat, that his captives may one day find release!

<b>Respond to Devotional:</b> (mark passage above)	
✓ Agree	? Question ! Differ
<b>SUPPORT: Agree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>add</b> ?	
<b>QUESTION: Modify</b> What to <b>question</b> or change?	
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**Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:**

Write and share notes with your partner/ mentor/ mentee.

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What is the *big idea* of this passage?

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What is a key idea?

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What is a key idea?

**Teaching Preparation Notes: Sharing the Passage:**

Share lesson with partner, family, or group.

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What is the *big lesson* to learn in this passage?

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Key lesson to learn?

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(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

- verse:

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Key lesson to learn?

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(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

**Notes<sup>5</sup>: Evil Kingdom: Fallen Star and Mountain.** Trumpets of angelic judgment (Rev. 8:6) actually signal judgment against Satan's dark powers, and the suffering humans endure are *fallout* from the downfall of this darkness. Yet, God's judgment rightly afflicts humans, for choosing to side with this world's darkness is to embrace its judgment and inevitable downfall.

Thus, when Satan is defeated in heavenly battle and he and his angels are thrown to earth (Rev. 12:9), their destruction is seen on earth as the *great and burning mountain* falling into the sea (8:8) and the devil himself falling as a *great star blazing like a torch* (10).

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<sup>5</sup> **Footnotes: Worshipping Demons and Idols.** Mankind has held to a popular myth that denying the true God His rightful worship and simply pursuing human works claims a spiritual neutrality, a willful ignorance that neither honors nor insults God. However, the Lord's judgments on this dark world show that all who reject God and His Messiah's Kingdom rule already participate in an idolatry deserving God's wrath. To ignore God and pursue the flesh is to *worship demons, idols of earth—gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood* (20).

## Chapter 6: JESUS REVEALED AS TRUE KING:

### ***Revelation 11:1- 12:17; Mt. 24:15-20***

**Step 1. Discover:** *Preview and View God's Word for yourself then Write Insights to Share with others.*

#### ***a. Preview Revelation 11:1- 12:17; Mt. 24:15-20***

**True King:** Overthrowing Dragon. Ever since our first parents have aspired to be “like God” to rule in His place (Gen. 3:5), human rulers have aspired to usurp God’s rule for their own. Read Revelation 11-12 to see how the truth of Jesus Messiah’s rule prevails over human rebellion. In Revelation 11, see the ultimate clash between Godless human rule and the rightful rule of Jesus Christ! As Israel’s two prophetic *witnesses* proclaim the Gospel in the temple of God for 3.5 years (11:1-3), the Beast, who embodies Godless human rule, kills them (7). With this rebellion, Jesus Christ claims the earth for the Lord God and His Kingdom (15). Then, Chapt. 12 shows how Christ’s claim of earth leads to Satan’s heavenly downfall (12:7). As the “Kingdom of God” and Christ’s rule comes, Satan desperately clings to earth (10).

#### ***b. Prayerfully Read Revelation 11:1- 12:17; Mt. 24:15-20 and Write your insights to share***

<b>SEEING</b>  What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
<b>LEARNING</b>  What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
<b>DOING</b>  What lesson can I apply to my life?	

**Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints.** *Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.*

Q1. From God's Temple in Jerusalem, how do the Lord's prophets testify of Jesus Mashiach to a dark world? What is the world's response to their message?

Q2. How does the Lord God finally respond when Satan and his dark forces attack God's people? Why does He wait until He choose to act decisively?

**Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples.** *Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.*

Q1. How does Israel testify of Jesus Messiah to a darkening world? (Rev. 11:1-14)

**1. Prophetic Witness: Heavenly Judgment.** Once the House of Jacob embraces Jesus as her Messiah, the Kingdom of God is *established* in the land of Israel, planting spiritual reality in earthly soil. For three and a half years, God's people offer holy sacrifices at the altar of God's temple (11:1-2) and God's chosen *witnesses'* prophecy (3) with powerful signs confirming God's proclamation to the people of earth (6). In these three and a half years, the Gospel of Jesus is preached to all the earth (Mt. 24:14) and then the Antichrist defeats God's prophets and defiles God's Temple (15). But God raises His prophets to life, for He alone is the Lord of life!

Q2. After Israel's defeat, why does Heaven celebrate the Kingdom's victory? (11:15-19)

**2. Claiming Kingdom:** Heavenly Judgment Falls. Once Satan and his Antichrist defile God's temple (11:7), their declaration of open war seals their certain doom, for now *the kingdoms of the world* becomes *the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ* (11:15). Finally, the time has come for the Lord to reveal His power to defeat Satan and His dark world, to judge the people of earth, and to reward His *prophets and saints* (18).

Q3. How do the stories of both the nation Israel and the Satanic dragon both converge at this point of the Antichrist's defilement of the Temple and the start of His 3.5-year reign and the start of the time of *great tribulation*? (12:1-17; Matt. 24:15-20)

**3. Heavenly Battle: Satan Unseated and Israel in Hiding.** When the Antichrist inaugurates His 3.5-year rule on earth, he gives Satan complete control over the nations to demand their worship. Now, the age of darkness enters its final season as Godless humanity enters *great tribulation* (Matt. 24:15-20). A spiritually reborn Israel, having secured a place for her sons to rule on Messiah's throne, now flees the Beast's wrath for the 3.5 years of terror (12:6). Thrown down from the heavens in total defeat, Satan now finds himself banished to earth (12:12) and persecutes Israel and her children (13, 17).



**Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply** *God's Word as a Growing Disciple to read Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.*

**Kingdom Battle: Satan Cast Down.** You may be unaware, but Satan's dark kingdom has ruled unopposed through most of our human history. But, on the day Israel regains its place and its spiritual inheritance by national spiritual rebirth, the Kingdom of God secures the land as a beach-head of light for the Kingdom of God. For three and a half years, the Antichrist's dark kingdom encircles Israel in an uneasy truce.

But, when this *beastly ruler* defiles God's temple and kills his two prophets, he declares open war against God's Kingdom (11:7). At that moment, God's final trumpet sounds the battle cry, announcing *the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ* (11:15). Now, the Lamb can wage *righteous war* against Satan to retake Earth and unleash the Lord God's wrath against the usurping darkness (11:18).

For, Satan has already lost the *heavenly battle*, waged in *heaven* (12:7) and perfected on earth. Do you realize, saint, that your hand has helped vanquish our age-old enemy? Even as the angels waged cosmic, world-shaking warfare (8), on earth, we ourselves have *overcome Satan by the blood of the Lamb, by the Word of our testimony*

<b>Respond to Devotional:</b> (mark passage above)	
✓ Agree	? Question ! Differ
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**Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:**

Write and share notes with your partner/ mentor/ mentee.

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**Teaching Preparation Notes: Sharing the Passage:**

Share lesson with partner, family, or group.

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What is the *big lesson* to learn in this passage?

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Key lesson to learn?

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(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

- verse:

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Key lesson to learn?

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(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

**Notes<sup>6</sup>: Overcoming Satan.** Our Kingdom Family spans heaven and earth. Even though Satan has long held a place of power in the heavenlies, accusing God's people before the throne *night and day* (11:10), we also fight against the darkness *on earth*.

In order retain his power, Satan seeks to prove that God's word and work in the Gospel of Jesus are untrue. So, when you test and approve the truth of God's promises in your life, you conquer the enemy! For, even your sin is cleansed by His blood, *proving God's grace* (Rev. 11:11).

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<sup>6</sup> **Footnotes: The Woman, her Seed, and the Serpent.** (Gen. 3:15). Created to be heirs of God, our family line of Adam and Eve lost everything when they died in Sin and thrust us as *spiritually dead flesh* into this world of sin and death (Gen. 3). However, the Lord God promised that the Messiah, the chosen Seed, would redeem our family and restore us to our inheritance in the house of God. So, the Seed of Abraham inherits a land and people (Gen. 17:7-8; 22:17); of David redeems a royal house and Kingdom (2 Sm. 7:12-16); and, the Seed of the Woman crushes the Serpent's head. So, the Serpent fears the Seed.

## Chapter 7: JESUS REVEALS POWER: *Revelation 13, 15-17*

**Step 1. Discover:** *Preview and View God’s Word* for yourself then **Write** *Insights to Share* with others.

**a. Preview Revelation 13, 15-17**

**Lord’s Power: Judgment Poured Out.** Incredibly, fleshly powers think they can resist the Lord Jesus because He has until now restrained His power. So, read Revelation 13, 15-17 to see how even the Antichrist’s height of human power melts before the Lord Jesus! Read in Revelation 13 to discover why Satan’s antichrist appeals to people of the flesh. Notice that in this dark time, earth’s people willingly *worship* Satan for his Beast’s irresistible power (13:4). But, God’s people show true power as they endure both *captivity* and *sword* for their Lamb’s sake (10). But, in Revelation 15, see the heavenly reality that it is the “Lord,” the “King of the nations” (15:3) who unleashes holy power, shaking earth’s very foundations (16:18). Finally, the Lord judges false religion, “Babylon,” (17:6), guilty of the “blood of the martyrs of Jesus” (17:6).

**b. Prayerfully Read Revelation 13, 15-17 and Write** your insights to share

<b>SEEING</b>  What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
<b>LEARNING</b>  What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
<b>DOING</b>  What lesson can I apply to my life?	

**Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints.** *Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.*

Q1. How does Antichrist, earth's final Godless ruler, culminate the world and flesh's desire to live entirely without God?

Q2. What do the martyrs of Jesus Mashiah know that prompts them to reject Antichrist and accept whatever persecution awaits them?

**Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples.** *Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.*

Q1. How do the Beast and his false prophet embody human rebellion against God? (Rev. 13:4-10, 15-18)

**1. Beastly Antichrist: Helped by False Prophet.** We are mistaken if we think that Antichrist will be unrecognizably evil. Rather, Antichrist will be familiar to all of us who know the flesh's corruption. Dead flesh always seeks to steal worship from God to lavish on our Selves. Antichrist simply lives out all our fleshly desire to raise our human lives above God (13:4) and to speak and act lawlessly (5). Furthermore, Satan has always enticed humanity to love the world and ignore God, so now the False Prophet enforces this Godless way of life (17) so that those who love God become enemies of the world. The rule of the Beast is the natural outcome of a Godless humanity that has turned its back on the Lord its Creator!

Q2. How are God's people called to live in this time of great tribulation? (14:12-15:4)

**2. Harvest of Earth: God's Wrathful Response.** During the horrible rule of the Antichrist, God's people are called to *endure* in their faith in Jesus (14:12). For, God calls them to be willing to go to *captivity* or *even the sword* for their enduring faith in Jesus (13:10). For, God warns the people of the earth that those who take on the Beast's mark (14:9) to save their momentary lives on earth will suffer *eternal torment in fire* (14:10). Now, in the *great tribulation*, the Lord blesses those who *suffer captivity and even death* for His name (13). As a result, the earth yields an amazing *harvest of souls* (19) whose shed *blood fuels God's coming winepress of judgment* (20). For their suffering, these tribulation saints are brought immediately before the throne, singing with the martyred witnesses the praises of the Lamb! (15:2-4).

Q3. How does the Lord pour out His wrath on the Beast and His worshippers? (15:5-17:6)

**3. God's Wrath:** Judging Beast, Godless, and Prostituting False Religion. Now that humanity's Godless rebellion has reached its horrible conclusion, the Lord God pours out His full wrath as painful *bowls of judgment* (15:7). The Lord God answers the Beast and his followers according to their own hearts and actions— *they indulged the flesh so now reap corruption, as painful sores breakout* (16:2); spilling the blood of the innocent, they now have only blood to drink (3-4); scorning God's light and loving darkness, they are now scorched by sun and engulfed in darkness (9-10). Living by the sword, all nations now gather to slaughter one another (16). But, mankind's worst betrayal is judged last, as *humanity's spiritual unfaithfulness in all its fleshly and pious self-righteousness* is unclothed as a cheap prostitution (19). Babylon, embodying humanity's noblest religious aspirations apart from God, is shown to be a *blood-thirsty* harlot (18:24).

**Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply God's Word as a Growing Disciple to read Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.**

**Great Testing: Holy Harvest or Painful Wrath:** One day, people will face the *greatest test* in human history. But, it is not incomprehensible but one you have already faced, and passed, if you are a disciple of Jesus Christ.

In this Godless age, we all know the impulses of *dead flesh*, the Godless part of us that ignores God to indulge its selfish cravings. If you have not *repented* of your *dead flesh* to live by faith in God, then the *enslavement* of rebellious flesh will only reach its high point in the beastly rule of Antichrist.

Further, disciples are called to love God as their Lord, more than all this world offers, more than even their own self-interest and life itself. But, if you are already ignoring God to cling to this material world and its passing comfort and convenience, then the Beast's coming tyranny will ensure that you choose life on earth by rejecting God forever.

The choices are the same, but the stakes are higher, for people in the last days will know unmistakably that they reject God for Satan, they cling to a passing life of Antichrist by choosing eternal torment in fire. Disciples of Jesus Christ will be heaven's heroes when they endure this testing by faith in the Lamb of God. Laying down their lives is the harvest which fuels the winepress of God's wrath and His world-changing judgment.

<b>Respond to Devotional:</b> (mark passage above)	
✓ Agree	? Question ! Differ
<b>SUPPORT: Agree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>add</b> ?	
<b>QUESTION: Modify</b> What to <b>question</b> or change?	
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**Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:**

Write and share notes with your partner/ mentor/ mentee.

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What is the *big idea* of this passage?

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What is a key idea?

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What is a key idea?

**Teaching Preparation Notes: Sharing the Passage:**

Share lesson with partner, family, or group.

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(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

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Key lesson to learn?

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**Notes<sup>7</sup>: Prostituting Religion.** Because spiritually dead flesh seeks to be God, controlling life as its Lord, *fleshly people* love both lawless sin and man-made, lawful religion. Such pious and Self-righteous religion is a mere prostitute in the Lord's eyes (17:1), for *worship's original purpose is to* honor the true God by its sacrificial service. But, human religion is devoted to human ideals and indulgence. Such religion is earthly (James 3:15) and demonic (Rev.18:1), being so bold as to *cling to piety* while *forsaking God as dead in shameless widowhood* (18:7). Such *defiled religion* is stained red by the blood of the martyrs of Jesus Christ (24).

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<sup>7</sup> **Footnotes: Harvest & Winepress:** Salvation and Judgment. For three and a half years (Rev. 11:3), Israel has witnessed to Jesus Mashiach and His Gospel. And, the Lord raises up a world harvest of faithful believers. Immediately hated by Satan's worldwide government, these believers are quickly martyred. When this harvest is reaped, their martyred blood fuels the very winepress of God's wrath against Satan and his earthly followers (14:19).

## Chapter 8: JESUS REVEALED AS FAITHFUL KING:

### *Revelation 18-19*

**Step 1. Discover:** *Preview and View God's Word* for yourself  
then *Write Insights* to Share with others.

#### **a. Preview Revelation 18-19**

**Faithful King:** Rewards Devotion. Imagine your heart devotion to Jesus as your Faithful King and the *righteous deeds* you've done for him. Now, multiply this devotion by the host of *saints*, and you have the *Bridal Devotion* that we see in Revelation 19:7-8. Then, shift this devotion to *Self*, and you get *Babylon*, ages of *fleshly religion* indulging in "passion" and prostituting itself for worldly power (18:3). Read Revelation 18 to know first the end result of Babylon, all earthly religion that *exalts human tradition and interests* over the true God—a spiritual *immorality* (3). Unmasked, see how such religion is *indulgent* (7), *exploitive* (13), and bloodthirsty (24). Then, read Revelation 19 as all our devotion culminates as the "Lamb" and His "Bride," his devoted people, are united in joyful praise (7) and then in victorious battle array (14)! As His devoted people, we are the "clouds of heaven" (1:7), the "armies of heaven" clothed in His *white and pure* garments which return with Him in glory (19:14).

#### **b. Prayerfully Revelation 18-19 and Write your insights to share**

<b>SEEING</b>  What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
<b>LEARNING</b>  What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
<b>DOING</b>  What lesson can I apply to my life?	

**Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints. Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.**

Q1. How does Jesus Mashiach return in power to rule the world?

Q2: How can we reject faithless religion in order to devote ourselves faithfully to Jesus Mashiach as His people, the bride?

**Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples. Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.**

Q1. What is the true nature of man-made religion, depicted by the unfaithful city *Babylon*? (Rev. 18:1-19:4)

**1. Unfaithful Human Religion: Judged by God.** Man-made religion purports to access a *pure, spiritual reality* by its own efforts, fashioned in its own man-made image. However, the reality is that such false religion is *a dwelling place for demons* (18:1). At its heart, such religion is driven by *fleshly passions* for anything but God—a spiritual *immorality* (3). Full of contradictions, such false worshippers go so far as to *claim* “There is no God” while also denying being *widowed* (18:7), that is, stripped of power without God, the legitimate source of power. Because the *faithfulness of prophets and saints* amplifies her own wretched unfaithfulness, false religion’s *Babylon* proves its *harlotry* by spilling the blood of Christ’s martyrs (24).

Q2. How do the Lord God and his people celebrate their mutually faithful relationship? (19:6-10)

**2. Faithful Bride: Devoted to Lamb.** The people of the Lamb are called the *Bride because like a Bride*, they forever trust Him by faith as their Lord (19:6), seeking to please and honor him by their obedient deeds (8). Like a husband giving His life for a wife, the *Lamb* has proven His sacrificial love to redeem His bride from death and worldly enslavement. Now, the Lamb and His Bride enter a glorious new life of joy and exultation (7).

Q3. How is Jesus revealed in glory at His return to establish the Kingdom of God? (19:11-21).

**3. Lord and King of Kingdom:** Word and His Armies. Having come in the flesh to atone for sins, Jesus now returns to earth in spiritual all-power. No longer a solitary *Seed* but multiplied and accompanied by *armies of heaven, made pure by His atoning blood which now clothe him in garments of blood-reddened salvation* (13-14; Is. 63:1-3). Having redeemed for himself a Kingdom people, he is now crowned with all authority (12) as earth's King of kings and Lord of lords (16). And he is unstoppable.

**Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply** God's Word as a Growing Disciple to **read** Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.

**Return of the King: Rebuking Rebellion.** When Jesus Christ reveals himself, we see two responses. One is the *prostitute's secret rebellion*, saying "I sit as a queen, I am now widow," living as if the Lord is dead to her (Rev. 18:7). The other, the *bride's faithful devotion*, saying, "Halleluiah, for the Lord our God the Almighty reigns... and his Bride has made herself ready" (19:6-7b).

Be faithful and devote yourself to your coming Lord and King, for He will clothe you in *righteous deeds* fitting His precious saints (8). Then, He will open your eyes to see him who is *Faithful and True* (11), victorious on his *white horse* with his *fiery eyes* set on earth and his head *honored with many crowns* (12). You will accompany your King and Lord in the *armies of heaven* (15), descending to bring His Kingdom like a *storm cloud breaking upon the land* (1:7).

Before the rightful King of Kings, all the world's rebellion is a mere breath, with its fleshly power mere food for birds. There is only one rightful power on earth, so honor only this Word of God!

<b>Respond to Devotional:</b> (mark passage above)	
✓ Agree	? Question ! Differ
<b>SUPPORT: Agree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>add</b> ?	
<b>QUESTION: Modify</b> What to <b>question</b> or change?	
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**Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:**

Write and share notes with your partner/ mentor/ mentee.

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What is the *big idea* of this passage?

- key verse:

---

What is a key idea?

- key verse:

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What is a key idea?

**Teaching Preparation Notes: Sharing the Passage:**

Share lesson with partner, family, or group.

---

What is the *big lesson* to learn in this passage?

- verse:

---

Key lesson to learn?

---

(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

- verse:

---

Key lesson to learn?

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(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

**Notes<sup>8</sup>: King of Kings, Lord of Lords:** Jesus Christ is not merely Lord and King, he is *the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords!* (16). That is, Jesus does not simply *share* His authority with other peers. He is the *source, the Head, and the ruler of all other powers in heaven and on earth!*

So, we see at His coming the miserable fate of any who dare raise themselves up in idolatrous Self-honor. The *great prostitute*, giving herself to selfish indulgence and worldly honor, is brought to nothing. The epitome of Godless humanity, the Beast, is simply cast into a *Godless* state of *destruction, the lake of fire* (19:20).

Thus, when the *saints rule on earth* in the Kingdom of God, *each king* wields only a derived power, *in the name of Jesus* (5:10).

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<sup>8</sup> **Footnotes: Alive into Lake of Fire.** The *Lake of Fire* (Rev. 19:20) is the final place of judgment for the guilty. Notably, Satan's two *beasts*, the Antichrist and the false prophet, who lived as the antithesis of God's creation, who blasphemed most boldly, and who shed the blood of a generation of God's saints as servants of Satan, are most guilty and condemned. So, they are thrown *alive* into the Lake of Fire, as are their followers (Mt. 25:45-46). At the final judgment, God condemns the *Dead* to go into this fire (Rev. 20:12-15), for they have clung to the world but have lost their *souls* (Matt. 16:26).



## Chapter 9: RISEN LORD: Faithful Service

### Revelation 20

**Step 1. Discover:** *Preview and View God's Word* for yourself then **Write Insights** to Share with others.

#### **a. Preview Revelation 20**

**Ruling Christ:** Thousand Year Reign. After generations of awaiting and seeking to advance the Lamb's promised Kingdom, we will finally see Jesus Christ begin His Kingdom Rule in Revelation 20! Notice first how the Lord Christ establishes His throne in the resurrection! We the resurrected are joined by the resurrected tribulation saints (4). Together, we "reign" with Christ on earth as priests for "a thousand years."

Then, see how earth's people are deceived one last time by "Satan" to rebel against the Lord God of heaven, only to be judged by God's "fire... from heaven" (9).

As you finish Revelation 20, you will see that the Father's "great white throne" (11) ends the age of death and begins the age of resurrection (14-15) as Christ rules forever in an eternal kingdom on His forever throne (2 Sam. 7:16).

#### **b. Prayerfully Read Revelation 20 and Write your insights to share**

<b>SEEING</b>  What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
<b>LEARNING</b>  What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
<b>DOING</b>  What lesson can I apply to my life?	

**Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints.** *Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.*

Q1. How should we live on earth, knowing the imminent reality of the Lord's final judgment?

Q2. What do you think you will enjoy most about the Kingdom Rule of Jesus Mashiach on earth? How will your earthly desires be satisfied then?

**Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples.** *Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.*

Q1. What will the earthly rule of Jesus Christ in His Kingdom look like, and what aspect does Revelation focus on? (Rev.20:1-6; cf. Is. 2:1-5; 4; 25;)

**1. Earthly Rule: Thousand Years of Kingdom.** The thousand-year rule of Jesus Messiah in His Kingdom was promised by the Old Testament prophets to be a time of global Godliness (Is. 2), glorious peace (Is. 4), and rewarding life (25). But, Revelation describes this thousand-year rule as a new beginning, a foretaste of a world free from Satan's insidious deception (20:2-3) and a preview of the life rewarded to those who overcame Satan's temptations, especially the ones emerging from earth's final testing (20:4). These overcomers know only *life* with no *threat of death* (5), and they are *blessed as God's precious people* (6). Now, these victorious saints rule as servants of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Q2. Does the perfect rule of Jesus Christ in an earthly paradise guarantee human righteousness? (Rev. 20:7-10).

**2. Final Rebellion. Fiery Judgment.** Even in the perfect environment of the thousand-year earthly paradise, God's people still live by faith, relying only on Jesus Christ's *gift of righteousness* by His atoning sacrifice of blood to be righteous before God. For, Jesus Christ is forever the righteous life of His people, and his people forever live by faith in Him as their Lord and Lamb. Even in the millennium, humans do not achieve a perfect righteousness not requiring faith. For, even with the knowledge of God, humans born in the flesh still *are deceived by Satan and rebel* (20:8-9).

Q3. What does the Lord call those who have never known His life, and what is their final fate? (20:11-15)

**3. Final Judgment: Death or Life.** Due to our first parents' sin, we are all born as *dead flesh* without spiritual life, so our souls starve for God's life. When a person dies without ever having received new spiritual life from God, this starvation ends in *soul death*, so God calls them *the dead*. These dead have lost everything—their flesh has perished. And, as *dead*, they stand before God in judgment. But, how can the *dead* truly stand in judgment when *earth* and *heaven* have already fled his presence (20:11)? Before the Lord of Life, the *dead* have no place in heaven or earth, so they are abandoned to the fiery darkness (15). As the dead depart to their condemnation, they leave having lost everything—all that is good has been taken from them (Mark 8:36). How horrible, then those who like the Antichrist and false prophet are thrown alive, *with guilty souls, into the lake of fire* (Rev. 14:9-11; Mt. 25:41, 46<sup>o</sup>).

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**Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply** God's Word as a Growing Disciple to **read** Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.

**Kingdom of God: Rule, Reward, Judgment.** Throughout our human history, we have been ruled by the Serpent's kingdom of death and darkness (Is. 9:2; Eph. 2:2). But, Jesus Christ shines the light of God's Kingdom! Now, the world is ruled by a Lord who *loves righteousness and hates wickedness* (Ps. 45:7) to bring a global *shabbat* (rest) and *shalom* (peace). This world is now the Lord's, and we share it with him!

Once rejected by the world, we now *rule on thrones*, judging the world's people (20:4) like *sheep* and *goats* (Mt. 25:32).

Shamed for our testimony, we now are lifted up as the *house of the Lord* (Is. 2:3) to whom the nations stream to learn Godliness.

Deprived of *good* in the world, we now bear *fruit as branches of our glorious and beautiful Branch, the Messiah* (Is. 4:2).

Accustomed to hunger, loss, and sacrifice in your service to the Lord, He now gathers you to himself for a *feast of rich food, of well-aged wine, as he swallows up death forever* (Is. 25:6-8).

Outcast on the earth, you will come home to our eternal Jerusalem, sheltered by the Lord's cloud by day and fiery canopy by night (Is. 4:5).

<b>Respond to Devotional:</b> (mark passage above)	
✓ Agree	? Question ! Differ
<b>SUPPORT: Agree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>add</b> ?	
<b>QUESTION: Modify</b> What to <b>question</b> or change?	
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**Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:**

Write and share notes with your partner/ mentor/ mentee.

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What is the *big idea* of this passage?

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**Teaching Preparation Notes: Sharing the Passage:**

Share lesson with partner, family, or group.

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What is the *big lesson* to learn in this passage?

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Key lesson to learn?

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(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

- verse:

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Key lesson to learn?

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(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

**Notes<sup>10</sup>: Rebellion and Judgment.** Though Jesus Christ establishes His Kingdom on earth, the fleshly rebellion of humanity will still persist even in this righteous world. So, enticed by Satan, Godless rebels will once more resist God's rule only to lose their lives in judgment (20:9). If Satan's dark rule over earth led to his thousand-year punishment, then his direct attack against God's Kingdom secures his eternal damnation in the *lake of fire* (20:10).

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<sup>10</sup> **Footnotes: Great White Throne/ Lake of Fire.** The judgment of God uncovers the true state of heaven and earth, of spiritual and material reality. In the human-centered old age, God was someone to either honor or ignore. However, judgment reveals God as *the* inescapable reality, before whose presence even *heaven and earth flee!* (20:11). With God, there is life, so those who chose life without the true God, hiding in fleshly sin, Godless ignorance, or man-made religion, have only known *death*. So, this Godless reality becomes their permanent reality. Living without God in the former reality, there is no place in the new reality without God (20:15).

**Judgment and Escape:** Clearly, the *Beast and the False Prophet* are thrown *alive* into the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20). The only other humans who are similarly thrown *alive* into the lake of fire are the worshippers of the Beast who have received his mark. Yet, even in the midst of the most terrible judgment, some who help God's people are still saved by *faith in Jesus to become righteous* (Mt. 25:37-40).

## Chapter 10: JESUS REVEALED IN GLORY:

### *Revelation 21-22*

**Step 1. Discover:** *Preview and View God's Word* for yourself  
then **Write** *Insights to Share* with others.

#### **a. Preview Revelation 21-22**

**Glorious Lamp: Radiating God's Life.** When you read Revelation 21 and 22, the Lord's response to your ordinary acts of devotion may seem a bit overblown! So, let's discover how the Lord values your devotion in His coming fullness!

Consider first how God creates an entirely "new" reality in the heavens and the earth to be a place where there is no more "death, mourning, crying, nor pain" (4). This is for you, for you have come near to Him as "Father" and told him of your *tears* and *hunger* (4, 6). Then, see how your Lord Jesus builds an entire city to showcase your devotion to Himself (10) and your precious faith in its streets of gold (18). And, how the Spirit now *inundates* you in a river of abundant life (22:1).

So, *keep these words of prophecy* as your Lord draws near (6).

We say together, "Amen, Come, Lord Jesus" (20).

#### **b. Prayerfully Read Revelation 21-22 and Write your insights to share**

<b>SEEING</b>  What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
<b>LEARNING</b>  What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
<b>DOING</b>  What lesson can I apply to my life?	



**Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints.** Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.

Q1. What are you looking forward to about dwelling forever with God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ?

Q2: How did the Lord prepare a perfect place for us to live with him forever?

**Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples.** Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.

Q1. What will God create the New Heaven and the new earth to be? (Rev. 21:1-8; Is. 60; 65:17-25)

**1. New Heaven and Earth: Our Eternal State.** The first age of heaven and earth was marked by sorrow, separation, and tears. It was the age of death, for man and God lived apart. But, when the Lord God creates the new heaven and new earth (21:1), He makes the *dwelling place of God* with *man* (3). So, the new world, centered around God's eternal dwelling with man in their city, the New Jerusalem, is designed for *joy* and her people to be a *gladness* (Is. 65:18). Joined by the bonds of *family*, God is *glad* in his people (19) as he banishes forever *pain* and *death* (Rev. 21:4).

Q2. How has God worked and will continue to work in His Kingdom people? (Rev. 1:4-8)

**2. New Jerusalem: Eternal People.** God's new future is built on the foundation of His everlasting love for His eternal people, the sons of Israel. For, the Lamb and His Bride, His people of faith from all families of the earth, trace their redemption to God's steadfast love for Abraham and His household (Gen. 22:16-18). For, the Lamb's family *passed through the gates of Israel, drawn by the testimony of the Hebrew prophets*. And, His holy people all have a faith grounded in Christ, a foundation laid by the Gospel testimony of the twelve apostles of the Lamb (14). So, as our new city memorializes the family of the Lamb as a *light* of salvation to the world (Is. 60:1), we gratefully remember their sacrifice to bring all the families of man home to God.

Q3. How will the Lord and His people live together in their new home? (22:1-12)

**3. New Life Together:** Eternal Joy in Jesus. As with any family, the forever family of God and His Lamb share a life together. As God and His Lamb sit at the head of all things, their Holy Spirit is an endless *river of the water of life* (22:1), shimmering with the Holy Life of the Lord given to His people. God's people serve him (3-4) as dear children bringing Father his favorite dishes. And, God's life radiates from this family center outwards, bringing *healing to the nations* (2) and ruling over the *kings of the earth* (24). Since there is no longer *sea*—space separating God and man, then perhaps the kings *of* the earth are kings who rule *from* the earth.

**Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply God's Word as a Growing Disciple to *read* Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.**

**Eternity: Dwelling with God and Our Lamb.** In this current age of *life apart*, you have chosen to know God through your Lord Jesus Christ, by faith. Now, your faith becomes glorious sight! In the old age of *separation*, the world was filled with *dark and even cursed* places chilled by a Godless vacuum. You may have felt lonely and out-of-place in this old world. Now, your *city Jerusalem* is *holy* and precious to the Lord, designed entirely in *steadfast love* and marital commitment to the Lamb (21:2).

To earthly goodness there is always scarcity and limit, but your city is *limitless in the grace and pleasure of God*—imagine a city more than 1300 miles long, and wide, and high! (21:16).

On earth, you often felt forgotten and unseen by God. But now, your very city shows how precious you are—your purified faith shown in the crystalline streets of gold (21:21), your sacrificial service the jewels laying the city's very foundations! (21:19-20).

And, every point of the city, you are bathed in the satisfying presence of your God and His Lamb (22:5), with His Spirit a river of eternal delight (22:1). Your future is glorious!

<b>Respond to Devotional:</b> (mark passage above)	
✓ Agree	? Question ! Differ
<b>SUPPORT: Agree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>add</b> ?	
<b>QUESTION: Modify</b> What to <b>question</b> or change?	
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**Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:**

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Key lesson to learn?

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(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

**Notes<sup>11</sup>: New Heavens and New Earth.** By faith, we have glimpses of the new world in *eternity*. Enthroned at the center of a continent-sized city is our God and Father, surrounded by His holy family like a family's patriarch draws together the generations. Now as visible as a smile and as close as a warm touch brushing away little tears (22:4), the Father dwells with his people. Earth's kings, ruling over the new heavens, bring their glory to God. For, without the distancing *seas*—*the heavenly "waters over there"*—*the entirety of heaven is now within reach*.

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<sup>11</sup> **Footnotes: Bride, wife of the Lamb.** Eternal Lordship and Honor. In the same way that a bride forever honors her husband and a husband forever loves and protects His wife, so the Lord Jesus lives forever with His people in steadfast love. We will forever honor him as our Lord, and he will forever shepherd us as His precious people!

**Prayer Requests:**

Prayer Request/ Date	Answered Prayer/ Thanks

**Journaling:**

What is God teaching you?	How are you growing?



**Sermon Notes:**

Sermon Notes/ Date	Applying it to my life

**Notes:**