

# **Triumph of the Lamb**

**Part B: Overview and Message of Revelation**

# Overview

- 1:1-20 • prologue and John's vision of the risen Christ
- 2:1-3:22 • the messages to the seven churches
- 4:1-5:14 • the heavenly throne room
- 6:1-8:1 • seven seals
- 8:2-11:19 • seven trumpets
- 12:1-14:20 • the cosmic conflict
- 15:1-16:21 • seven bowls of God's final wrath
- 17:1-19:10 • fall of Babylon the prostitute
- 19:11-20:15 • the final defeat and destruction of evil
- 21:1-22:5 • the new creation
- 22:6-21 • closing exhortations

# Outline

**1:1-20 Prologue and John's vision of the risen Christ**

**1:1-8 Prologue**

**1:1-3 the revelation from Jesus  
Christ; promise**

**1:4-8 Greetings and doxology**

**1:9-20 John's vision of the risen Lord**

# Prologue and John's vision of the risen Christ (Rev 1:1-20)

## 1:1-8 Prologue

- “revelation” from Christ about what is soon to take place (1-2)
- a blessing on “*the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy*” and “*those who hear, and who take to heart what is written in it*” (3)
- Blessings are from the Triune God (4-5)
- “*To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen*” (5b-6).

A glowing figure with a halo, possibly representing Jesus, stands on a large, billowing white cloud. The background is a dark, starry night sky. The figure is wearing a white robe with a red sash. The overall scene is ethereal and divine.

**“I am the Alpha and the Omega,  
who is, and who was, and who is  
to come, the Almighty” (8).**

# Prologue and John's vision of the risen Christ (Rev 1:1-20)

## 1:9-20 John's vision of the risen Lord

- Christ appears in overwhelming glory (12-16)
- John falls at his feet like a dead man (17)
- Christ is the First and the Last. As the risen Lord, he holds the keys of death and Hades (18).
- The majestic imagery of the Triune God in 1:12-20 and 4:1-5:14 forms a foundation for the book of Revelation

Awesome in  
power, majesty  
and glory;  
**“the First and  
the Last”**

As the risen  
Lord, he **“holds  
the keys of  
death and  
Hades”** (18)



# Outline

**2:1-3:22 the messages to the seven churches**

**2:1-7 the letter to Ephesus**

**2:8-11 the letter to Smyrna**

**2:12-17 the letter to Pergamum**

**2:18-29 the letter to Thyatira**

**3:1-6 the letter to Sardis**

**3:7-13 the letter to Philadelphia**

**3:14-22 the letter to Laodicea**



# The messages to the seven churches (2:1-3:22)

- The exalted, sovereign Lord knows the situations of his churches and cares about them
- Each message has the pattern:
  - Address: *“To the angel of the church in (Ephesus) write”*
  - Identification of Christ: *“These are the words of him...”*
  - Christ’s detailed knowledge: *“I know...”*
  - Evaluation of the church: commendations and/or rebuke
  - Promise or warning: *“I will...”*
  - *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”*
  - Promise to *“the one who overcomes...”*

# The messages to the seven churches (2:1-3:22)

- Each message is distinctive
- *How is Christ described? Which churches are commended, which ones are rebuked? What displeases him? What pleases him?*

## CHRIST'S SELF-DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES

CHURCH	CHRIST'S SELF-DESCRIPTION	CHRIST'S EVALUATION
Ephesus (2:1-7)	holds the seven stars, walks among the lampstands	<i>Mixed:</i> Sound doctrine and endurance; lost first love
Smyrna (2:8-11)	the First and the Last, who died and came to life again	<i>Positive:</i> Afflicted and poor but spiritually rich
Pergamum (2:12-17)	has the sharp two-edged sword	<i>Mixed:</i> Endurance through persecution; tolerates false teaching
Thyatira (2:18-29)	has eyes like blazing fire, feet like burnished bronze	<i>Mixed:</i> Commendable deeds and perseverance; tolerates false teaching
Sardis (3:1-6)	has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars	<i>Negative:</i> unfinished deeds, spiritually asleep
Philadelphia (3:7-13)	holy and true, holds the key of David	<i>Positive:</i> Persecuted and weak, but faithful to Christ's name
Laodicea (3:14-22)	the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation	<i>Negative:</i> lukewarm, spiritually blind and wretched

# Outline

4:1-5:14 The heavenly throne room

4:1-11 throne vision

5:1-14 the Lamb

5:1-7 the Lamb takes the scroll

5:8-14 Worthy is the Lamb

*As you read chapters 4 and 5, let God transport you to his throne room. Please read it out loud.*

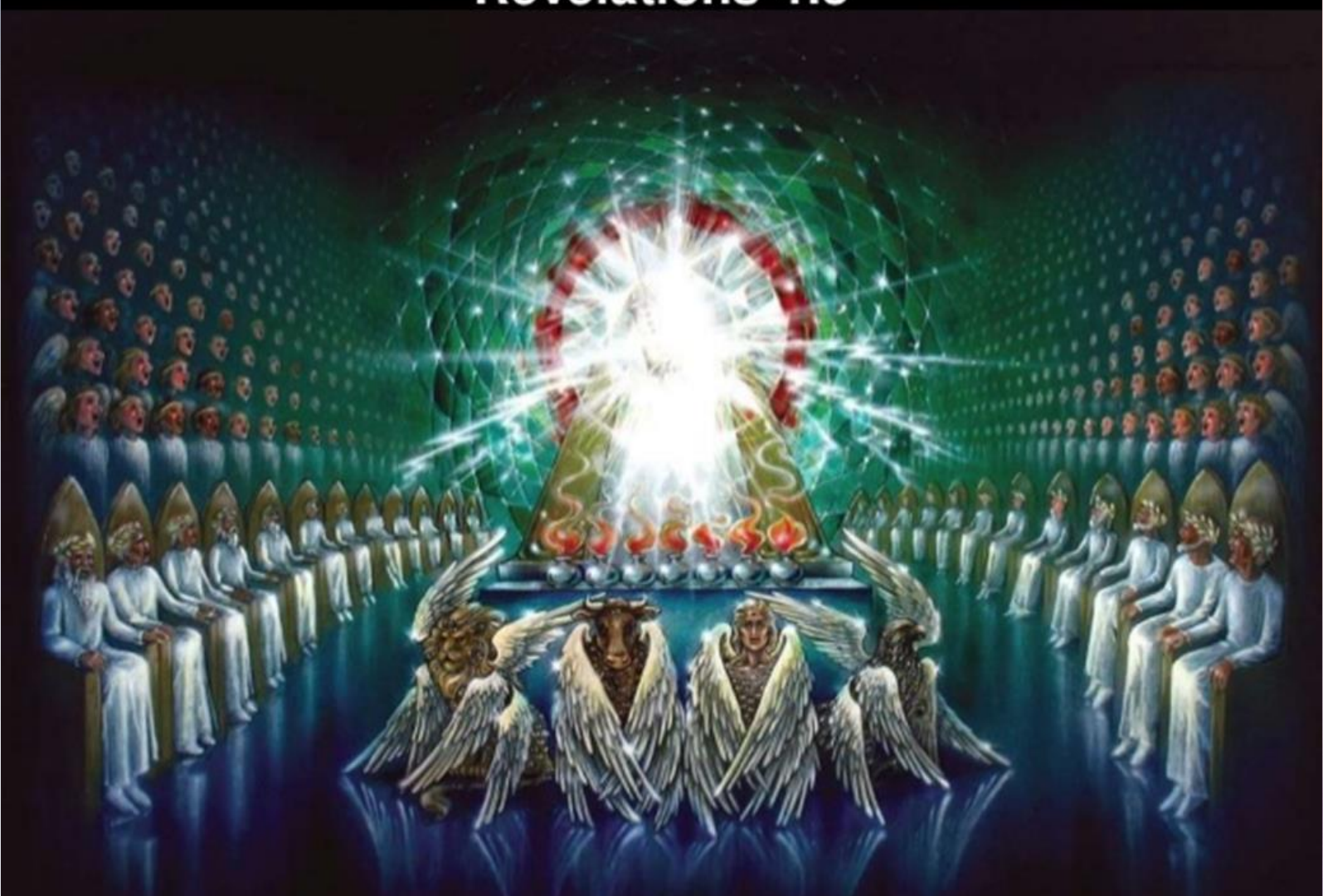


# 4:1-5:14 The heavenly throne room

- Revelation 4 and 5 are two parts of a single magnificent vision of God's glory.
- These visions are essentially an introduction to the actions in chapters 6-20.
- Here, we are given the heavenly perspective, from which we are to see the terrible situation on earth.

# 4:1-11 throne vision

- John is shown first the incomparable and eternal majesty of God the Creator.
- *What impressions does Rev 4:1-11 give you of God?*
- **Throne in heaven (2)** represents God's authority to rule and judge
- God's glory, radiance and awesomeness





# 4:1-11 throne vision

- *For what reason is God worthy of praise and worship?*
- *“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!” (8)*
- *“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.” (11)*

4:1-5:14 The heavenly throne room

5:1-14 the Lamb

- The focus shifts from creation to redemption and re-creation
- *“Who is worthy to break the seals and to open the scroll?” (2)*
- The scroll: a heavenly book containing God’s plan and the destiny of this world



“Do not weep! See, **the Lion of the tribe of Judah**, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals” (5).



“Then I saw a **Lamb**, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders.” (6)



“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.” (9-10)





# Outline

## 6:1-8:1 Seven seals

6:1-2 the first seal

6:3-4 the second seal

6:5-6 the third seal

6:7-8 the fourth seal

6:9-11 the fifth seal

6:12-17 the sixth seal

7:1-17 interlude

7:1-8 the 144,000 sealed of Israel

7:9-17 the multitude

8:1 the seventh seal

## 6:1-8:1 Seven seals: (“the Lamb, our Shepherd”)

- This section reveals God’s sovereign plan for history
- This section presents the first of the seven cycles of judgments, each of which leads up to the Second Coming of Christ.





# The First Seal

*the white horse of conquest*



# The Second Seal

*the red horse of war that takes  
peace away*





# The Third Seal

*the black horse of famine*



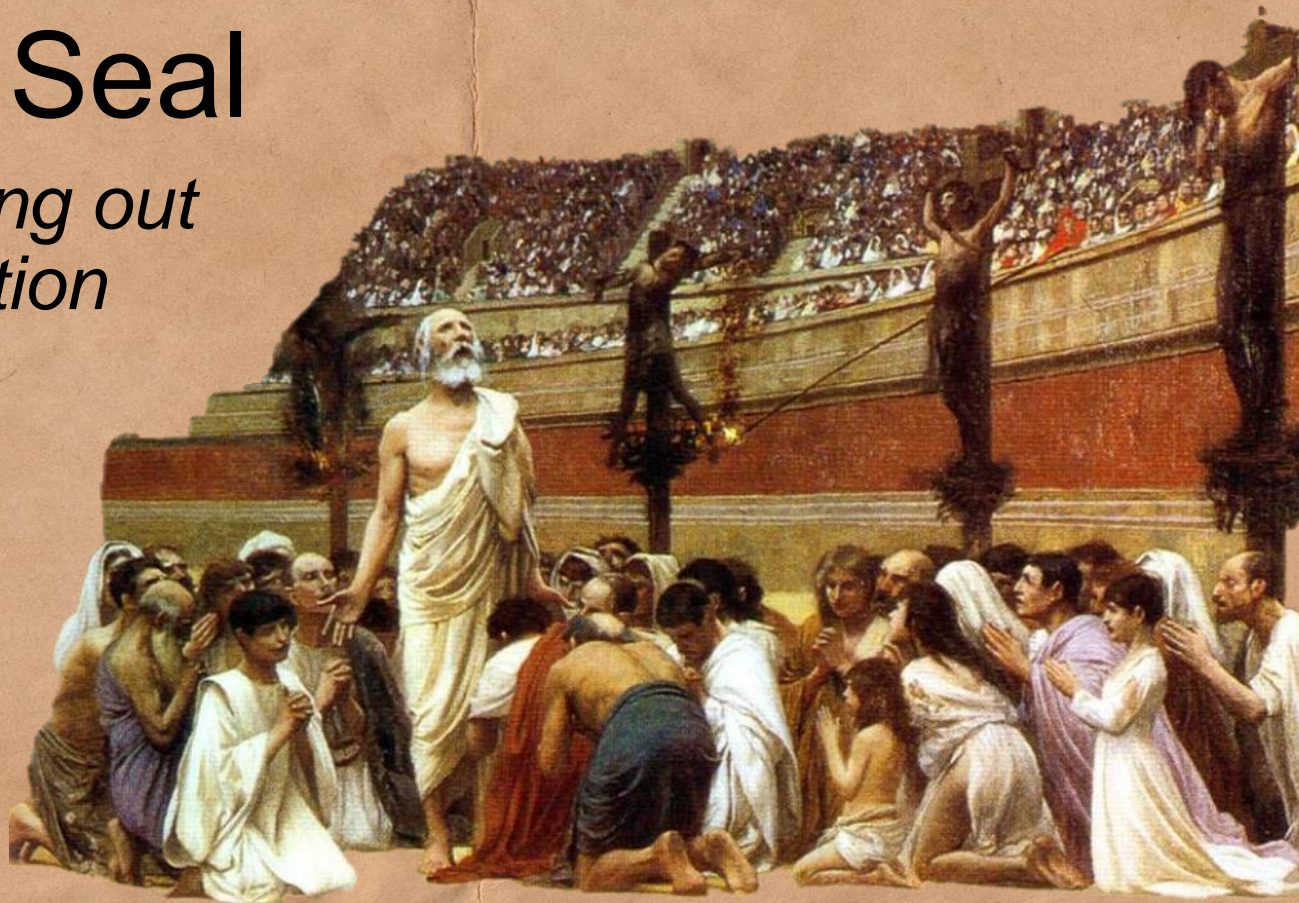
# The Fourth Seal

*the pale horse of death  
(plagues)*



# The Fifth Seal

*Martyrs –crying out  
for vindication*





# The Sixth Seal

*Cosmic judgments;  
Jesus' Second Coming is  
at hand*

*Rev 7 (interlude):* The 144,000 represent the people of God – those who are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb



*“Washed their robes and made them white  
in **the blood of the Lamb**” (14)*

*“For the **Lamb** at the center of the throne  
will be their **shepherd**; ‘he will lead them to  
springs of living water.’ ‘And God will wipe  
away every tear from their eyes.’” (17)*





# The Seventh Seal

*silence in heaven;  
introduces seven trumpets*



# Outline

**8:2-11:19 Seven trumpets**

8:2-6 seven angels and the golden censer

8:7-8 the first trumpet

8:8-9 the second trumpet

8:10-11 the third trumpet

8:12-13 the fourth trumpet

9:1-12 the fifth trumpet

9:13-21 the sixth trumpet

10:1-11:19 interlude (promise for the church)

10:1-11 the mighty angel and the little scroll

11:1-14 the two witnesses

11:15-17 the seventh trumpet

## 8:2-11:19 Seven trumpets: (“Christ shall reign forever and ever”)

- The seven trumpets lead to the fall of the kingdom of the world (second cycle of judgments)
- The cycles parallel each other, covering the same period
- Compared to the seven seals, the seven trumpets increased the intensity of judgments
- Yet less severe, compared to the later judgement with seven bowls

# Difference between Seals, Trumpets and Bowls

## Intensification of Judgments

<b>Seals (6:8)</b>	<b>Death and Hades given authority over one <i>fourth</i> of the earth</b>
<b>Trumpets (8:7-12)</b>	<b>one <i>third</i> of all affected</b>
<b>Bowls (16:3)</b>	<b><i>every</i> living creature</b>



# The First Trumpet

*...and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up...*

# The Second Trumpet

*...and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood....*





# The Third Trempet

*...and a great star, blazing  
like  
a torch, fell from the sky on a  
third of the rivers and on the  
springs of water...*



# The Fourth Trumpet

*...and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark...*



# The Fifth Trumpet

*...and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth... And out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth... During those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.*





# The Sixth Trumpet

*...and I heard a voice ...*

*“Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.”*

*...A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths.*

**“The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, .... Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.” (Rev 9:20-21)**

# The Seventh Trumpet

*God's Final Victory*



“Then the seventh angel  
blew his trumpet, and  
there were loud voices  
in heaven, saying,

‘The kingdom of the  
world has become the  
kingdom of our Lord and  
of his Christ, and he  
shall reign forever and  
ever.’” Rev 11:15



# Restrained judgments from heaven sent in response to the saints' prayers

<b>Trumpet</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Result</b>
<b>Trumpet 1</b>	<b>8:7</b>	<b>hail, fire, and blood cast on land—one-third burned</b>
<b>Trumpet 2</b>	<b>8:8–9</b>	<b>burning mountain cast into sea—one-third bloodied</b>
<b>Trumpet 3</b>	<b>8:10–11</b>	<b>burning stars fall on fresh waters— one-third embittered</b>
<b>Trumpet 4</b>	<b>8:12</b>	<b>sun, moon, and stars—one-third darkened</b>
<b>Trumpet 5 (1<sup>st</sup> Woe)</b>	<b>9:1–11</b>	<b>demons from the Abyss</b>
<b>Trumpet 6 (2<sup>nd</sup> Woe)</b>	<b>9:13–21</b>	<b>invasion from the east—one-third of mankind killed</b>
<b>Trumpet 7 (3<sup>rd</sup> Woe)</b>	<b>11:15–19</b>	<b>kingdom of world becomes kingdom of God</b>

# Outline

**12:1-14:20 the cosmic conflict between Christ and Satan**

**12:1-6 the woman, the child, and the dragon**

**12:7-17 the dragon defeated, and the woman persecuted**

**13:1-10 the beast from the sea**

**13:11-18 the beast from the earth**

**14:1-5 the Lamb and his 144,000 sealed**

**14:6-13 angelic announcements of judgement**

**14:14-20 harvests of earth and vine**

## 12:1-14:20 The Cosmic Conflict: (“Triumph by the blood of the Lamb”)

- Rev 12 is the pivotal section of the book, revealing the spiritual reality behind the conflict
- The enemies are Satan and his agents, the Beast and the false prophet (13)
- Christ is the victor
- This section forms the third cycle of judgments.
- 7 histories of key symbolic characters: the dragon, the woman, the beast, the false prophet, the 144,000 redeemed, angelic announcers, the Son of Man.





The woman,  
the child, the  
dragon (12:1-6)

*“She gave birth to a son who was to rule all nations with an iron rod. And her child was snatched away from the dragon and was caught up to God and to his throne.” (12:5)*





War broke  
out in  
heaven  
(12:7-12)

***“They triumphed over him  
by the blood of the Lamb  
and by the word of their  
testimony; they did not  
love their lives so much as  
to shrink from death.”*** (Rev  
12:11)





The Beast  
from the sea  
(13:1-10)

The Beast from  
the earth: the  
false prophet  
(13:11-18)



*“This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God’s people.” (13:10b)*

*“This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, ...” (13:18)*

# The Lamb and the Redeemed (14:1-5)






The new song celebrates God's triumph over sin and death through the Lamb(14:3)



# Angelic announcements (14:8-13)

- The **1<sup>st</sup>** angel: “Fear God and give him glory”(7)
- The **2<sup>nd</sup>** angel pronounces the fall of Babylon (8)
- The **3<sup>rd</sup>** angel warns against worshiping the beast (9-11).



A photograph of a golden wheat field under a bright sky, with the text 'The Harvest of the Earth (14:14-20)' overlaid in the upper center. The wheat is in full bloom, and the sky is a pale, hazy yellow. The text is in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

# The Harvest of the Earth

(14:14-20)

# Outline

- 15:1-16:21 Seven bowls of God's final wrath
  - 15:1-8 the seven angels with seven plagues
  - 16:1-21 Seven angels pour out seven bowls
    - 16:1-2 the first bowl
    - 16:3 the second bowl
    - 16:4-7 the third bowl
    - 16:8-9 the fourth bowl
    - 16:10-11 the fifth bowl
    - 16:12-16 the sixth bowl
    - 16:17-21 the seventh bowl

## **15:1-16:21 Seven bowls of God's final wrath ("True and just are your judgments")**

- Revelation 15-16 presents the seven bowls, which is the last major cycle of seven
- The bowls represent the cup of God's wrath, that is, his judgments against evil doers
- Unrestrained, comprehensive judgments of God

# Intensification of Judgments

## Intensification of Judgments

<b>Seals (6:8)</b>	<b>Death and Hades given authority over one <i>fourth</i> of the earth</b>
<b>Trumpets (8:7-12)</b>	<b>one <i>third</i> of all affected</b>
<b>Bowls (16:3)</b>	<b><i>every</i> living creature</b>

God's people sing: *"Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. **Just and true are your ways, King of the nations**"* (15:3)



*“Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests.”* (15:6)

*True and just are Your judgments* (16:7)





# The First Bowl

*Ugly, Festering Sores*



# The Second Bowl

*Seas of Blood*



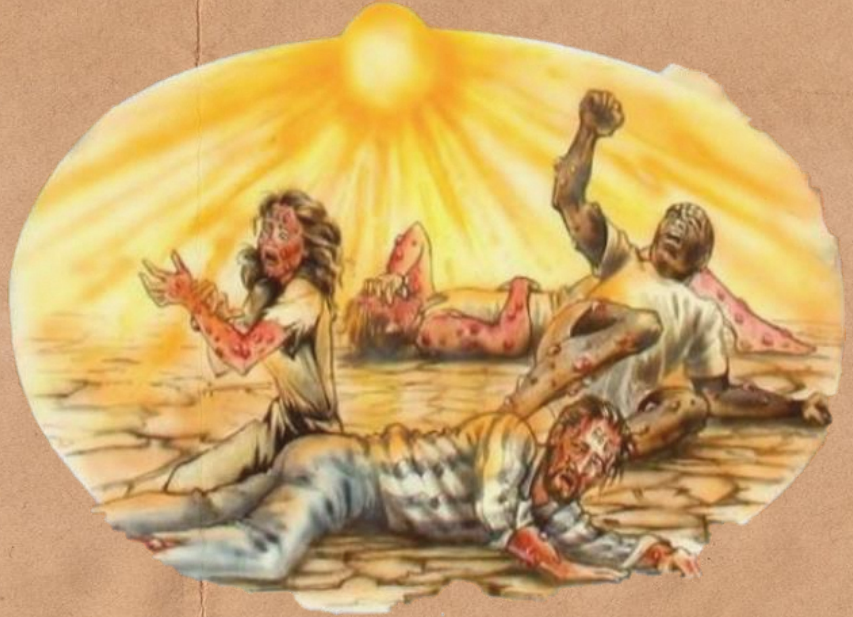
# The Third Bowl

*Rivers and Spring  
Become Blood*



# The Fourth Bowl

*The Sun Scorched  
People with Fire*



# The Fifth Bowl

*Darkness*



# The Sixth Bowl

*Prepares the Way for the  
Final Battle in Armageddon*



# The Seventh Bowl

*The Final Destruction of  
the Whole World*



# “It is done!” (16:17)

- Compare the seventh bowl (16:17-21) with the sixth seal (6:12-17) and the seventh trumpet (11:19)
- The seventh bowl is a climactic picture of God’s final judgment upon the sinful world



# Outline

**17:1-19:10 Fall of Babylon the prostitute**

**17:1-18 Babylon the prostitute**

**18:1-24 Babylon's fall lamented**


**19:1-10 Babylon's fall celebrated**

## 17:1-19:10 Fall of Babylon the prostitute

- This section is the fifth major cycle of judgments
- extensively deals with the fall of Babylon.
- Babylon is portrayed as the “great prostitute” (17:1-18)
- Babylon’s fall is lamented (18:1-24)
- Babylon’s fall is celebrated (19:1-10)
- The destruction of Babylon thematically parallels the destruction of the Beast and the false prophet (19:11-21) and of Satan (20:7-10)



- Babylon, the “great prostitute” (5), “great city” (18),
- Promoted idolatry and sexual immorality
- Cup filled with abominable things (4)
- Drunk with the blood of God’s people (6)
- The beast (17:8) represents the power of godless states



***“Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!”  
(18:2)***

*“Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants.” (19:1-2)*

# Outline

19:11-20:15 the final defeat and destruction of evil

19:11-21 the heavenly warrior defeats the beast

20:1-6 the thousand years (interlude)

20:7-10 Satan's final defeat

20:7-15 Judgement before the great white throne

## **19:11-20:15 the final defeat and destruction of evil**

19:11-21 the heavenly warrior defeats the beast

- The sixth cycle of judgement, leading up to the Second Coming.
- Christ as the heavenly warrior (riding on a white horse) fights the final battle against all God's enemies including the beast and the false prophet.
- This final battle will fully manifest the victory of Christ that he has already won on the cross.

## **19:11-20:15 the final defeat and destruction of evil**

*The seventh cycle of judgment* includes  
the one-thousand-year reign of the saint (20:1-6),  
Satan's final defeat (20:7-10),  
the last judgment (20:11-15).



# 19:11-20:15 the final destruction of evil

20:1-6 “the thousand years” (*interlude*)

- *Premillennial view*: literally a future, earthly reign of Christ?
- *Amillennial view*:
  - a symbol of the present reign of Christ and of the saints in heaven, not on earth (cf. 6:9-10)
  - the souls (20:4), killed by earthly authorities, are victorious and reign now in heaven

20:7-10 The destruction of Satan

- Satan will be finally and completely defeated; God takes care of the believers and enables them to participate in Christ’s victorious rule.

# 19:11-20:15 the final defeat and destruction of evil

## 20:7-15 Judgement before the great white throne

- it depicts universal judgment before the great white throne of God
- judged by what was written in the books;
- The “book of life” (12)
- *“Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire”* (14).

# Outline

**21:1-22:5 The new creation**

**21:1-8 the new heaven and earth**

**21;9-27 the new Jerusalem**

**22:1-5 the river of life**

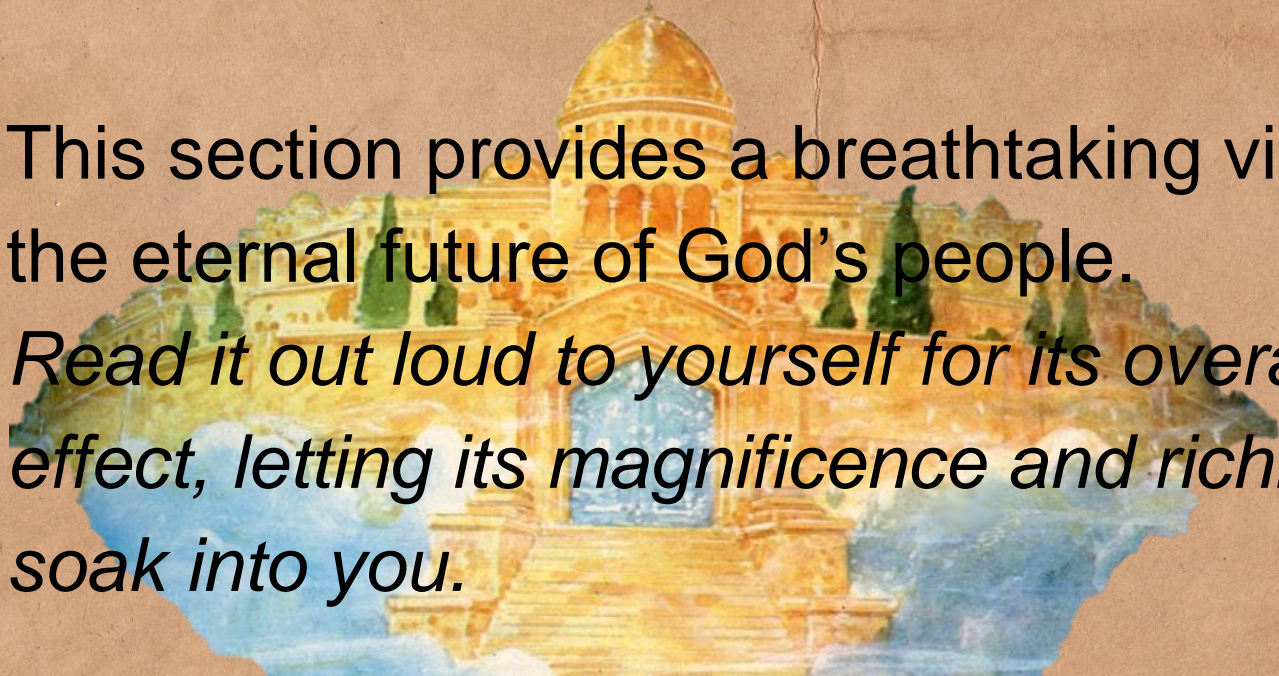
Worship: *“Is He Worthy”*



# The New Creation: “Look! GOD’s Dwelling Place!”

REVELATION 21:1-22:5

- ✓ This section provides a breathtaking view of the eternal future of God’s people.
- ✓ *Read it out loud to yourself for its overall effect, letting its magnificence and richness soak into you.*





*“Then I saw ‘a new heaven and a new earth,’ for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away....” (21:1a)*

# New Jerusalem

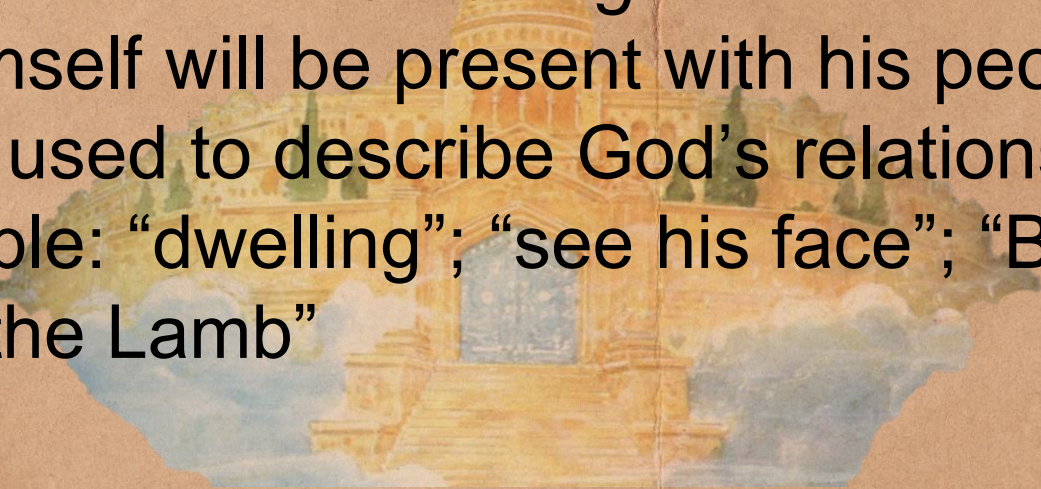
(21:9-22:5)

The most terrible things in life will be gone forever (21:4); the safety and protection (21:12); precious jewels everywhere (21:18-21); eternal life (22:1-2)



*What is the main reason the new creation is amazing?*

- God himself will be present with his people.
- images used to describe God's relationship with his people: "dwelling"; "see his face"; "Bride, the wife of the Lamb"





**“Then the angel showed  
me the river of the water  
of life, as clear as crystal,  
flowing from the throne  
of God and of the Lamb...”  
(22:1)**



# Outline

22:6-21 Concluding Exhortations

22:6-11 John and the angel

22:12-17 Invitation and promise

22:18-21 Warning, final assurance and benediction

The epilogue section emphasizes that Revelation is completely trustworthy and those who hear and keep it are truly blessed.

**“These words are trustworthy and true.”  
(22:6)**





**“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.”**

**Rev 22:12**

## SEVEN BLESSINGS IN REVELATION

BLESSED IS/ARE ...	REFERENCE
The one who reads, hears, and takes to heart this prophecy	1:3
The dead who die in the Lord	14:13
The one who stays awake and remains clothed	16:15
Those invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb	19:9
Those who share in the first resurrection	20:6
The one who keeps the words of the prophecy	22:7
Those who wash their robes	22:14