Boys and Girls:

 Welcome to the next quarter of your journey through the Bible. This will be the last quarter in the New Testament. What we have left to study are 4 books written by the Apostle John.

 There are three epistles of faithful love. And the final Book of Revelation. These will be the study of the last words that were revealed to us to bring us back to God.

 There are some key verses that we will be learning to understand the importance of a relationship with God through His Son.

I am looking forward to being your teacher.

Lesson 1

**Introduction**

 It is hard to look at these closing letters from the Apostle John without first looking at John and his relationship to Jesus Christ.

* He and his brother James were fishermen. Luke 5:1-11
* He leaves his livelihood to follow after Jesus. Matt. 4:21, 22
* He was called to be an apostle. Matt. 10:2
* He was one in the inner circle of Jesus’ companions. Matt. 17:1
* He was with Jesus on the Mountain and witnessed the transfiguration. Matt. 17:1-13
* He was close to Jesus at the last supper. John 13:23-25
* He went with Jesus to Gethsemane. Matt. 26:36-56
* While on the cross, Jesus entrusted his mother to John’s care. John 19:26, 27
* He ran to the tomb. John 20:2-8
* He witnessed Christ’s ascension into heaven. Acts 1:9-13
* He stood with Peter and the other Apostles at the first gospel sermon. Acts 2:14
* He traveled with Peter and preached boldly in the 1st half of the book of Acts.
* He encouraged Paul. Gal. 2:9
* He was exiled to Patmos. Rev. 1:9 (which we will study at the end of this quarter)

John had many different characteristics.

* Uneducated Acts 4:13
* Bold Acts 4:13
* Intolerant Mark 9:38
* Ambitious Mark 10:35-37
* Trustworthy John 19:26,27
* Humble Rev. 19:10
* Beloved of Jesus John 21:20

Lesson 2

1 John 1

**Memorize 1 John 5:3**

*“Loving God means obeying His commandments. And God’s commandments are not too hard for us.”*

 John certainly had a unique relationship with our Lord and Savior. There was no one on this earth who was closer. He received love and forgiveness from the Lord. Being the Lord’s beloved friend, who better to write the letters of love? The letters were not addressed to any one group or person. They were intended for a wide distribution, to be read by many people in many places. They were not meant for that generation alone, but for all generations to come. That is clearly why these letters are in the Holy Scriptures and worthy of study and consideration.

 He opens the first letter with personal notes on Christ. He recognized that Christ was the one who existed at the beginning of all things. He opened the Gospel according to John, John 1:1, with the same words. This was God come to earth. We were privileged to see Jesus, his nature and his character. This was the same nature and character as God. Therefore, to see Jesus Christ and to know Jesus Christ was to see and know God Himself. By sending Jesus Christ to dwell with us was God sharing Himself with us. Now we write these things that we might share this life with you. (And all of us)

 The message that was declared is this: God is light and in Him there is no darkness. If you say you walk with God, but walk in the darkness of sin, then you are a liar. But if you walk in the light, Jesus is the light John 8:12, then we share with one another and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from our sins.

 We must confess our sins. If we say we have not sinned, then we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we do confess our sins, God will be faithful to keep His promise to forgive us. God is faithful and righteous: He will forgive us. If we say we have not sinned, then we make God a liar, and His word does not dwell in us. Romans 3:23

Lesson 2

1. Can you see how the special relation that Jesus and John had might make John the one Apostle to share Christ with us?

2. How do you know that Christ loved John? Could you say that John was Jesus’s best friend?

3. John explains here, how do we see the Father, God? Jesus explained it in John 14:8, 9

4. What or who is “light”?

In 1 John 1:7, list two things that happen when we live in the light.

5. What or who is “darkness”?

6. What cleanses us from our sins?

7. What does it mean to deceive? How do we deceive ourselves?

8. How do we make God a liar?

9. What does Romans 3:23 say? (This is what God said)

10. What does Romans 6:23 say?

Lesson 3

1 John 2

 John states here in the very beginning that he writing to them to encourage them not to sin. But if we do sin we have a helper. Jesus came to earth to die for our sins. He will stand before God and take our cause before His Father. The righteous Jesus Christ was the sacrifice that atoned for our sins, and not our only, and for the whole world.

 But to have the help of Jesus we must love Him. And the Father knows we love Jesus if we keep His commandments. His commandments reveal all divine truth. One who claims to have a close relationship with God must walk in the light. Jesus is the light and we must walk as He walked.

 In John 3:16, it says, *“That God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son.”* God loves us. Jesus loves us. So to be like Jesus we must love each other, our fellow men. If we walk in the light we must love our brother.

 God says that if we walk in the light and hate our brother than we are a liar. We cannot say we walk in light and hate our brother, that makes us a liar and the truth is not in us. The one who loves his brother remains in the light and leads no one to do wrong. God will know if we love our brother by the way we treat him. We must show our love.

 We have all been blessed who through Jesus Christ has overcome Satan. Satan is of the world. The world is in darkness. John begs that we do not turn back to the world of sin and darkness. Do not love the world and the things of the world. If you do, the love of the Father is not in you.

 If you are walking in the world you are led by three things:

1. The lust of the flesh
2. The lust of the eye
3. The pride of life

These are not from the Father. These three things will lead you into every kind of evil and sin. These things are short lived, but he who does God’s will remains forever.

 John could already see that many had left the “light” and followed after “darkness”. If they shared the same love and feelings, they would not have left. Men have come among them opposed to Christ. They drew many back into the world. He is a liar who opposes Christ and denies the Father. They have both denied the Father and the Son. To believe in the Son is to Believe in the Father. To believe in the Father is to believe in the Son. To deny either is to deny both, Father and Son.

 As for you, let that which you have heard and believed, from the beginning, remain in you. Do not be led astray. You have the true anointing from God. If you know that He is righteous and you practice righteousness, then you are a child of God. No one should tell you different. Let His anointing teach you, and see that you remain in that teaching.

**GOD IS LIGHT. SO WALK IN THE LIGHT**

**AS HE IS IN THE LIGHT.**

Lesson 3

Who helps us when we sin?

What did He do for us?

How can we walk in the light?

What is one commandment that God wants us to obey?

How does God know if we love our brother?

We are to turn away from what?

What two things did John say in vs. 15 not to love?

What three things will lead us to sin and evil behavior?

Which things are everlasting? The things of the world or the things of God

How will you know if you are a child of God?

**WE SHOULD ALWAYS REMAIN IN THE TEACHING OF GOD!**

Lesson 4

1 John 3

 What a privilege to be born of God! If we are partakers of His righteousness then we are children of God. Look at the love that God showed that enables us to be His children, [*(How Deep the Father’s Love For Us) The lyrics of this song tells just why we should love Him.]* the giving of His only Son.

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
And make a wretch His treasure

How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One,
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon the cross,
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice,
Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom.
(REPEAT)

Lesson 4

Look at the words of this song. See how many ways you can see the Love of God and the Love of Jesus. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 5

1 John 3

 This is the hope of our faith. Everyone who has this hope will:

* Keep themselves pure like Christ
* Not continue in sin
* Love one another

 When we obey the Lord in baptism, our sins are washed away. We are clean, fresh pure. We should strive to keep ourselves pure and unspotted from the world.

 He who goes on sinning, doing what is outside God’s law, has not seen God. One cannot say, “God is my Father,” and continue sinning. He demonstrates his father is the devil. It is the difference between right and wrong. RIGHT is doing what is right, being righteous following after our Lord. This is how we distinguish between the children of God and the children of the devil. Wrong is not doing right, following after the ways of the world and the devil.

 We must love one another. We are not to be like Cain, who did not love his brother and murdered his brother. He killed his brother Abel because his works were evil and his brother’s works were righteous. Eternal life does not abide in one who hates his brother.

 But we know what real love looks like. God is love, and Christ Jesus laid down His life for us that we might see love in action. Therefore we must lay down our lives for others. Being a child of God is not about us, *IT IS ALL ABOUT OTHERS*. How do we show love? If we know that a brother is in need, we should share in any way that we can. We cannot just talk about loving. We demonstrate love by doing. We must do to be loving. Love in words and in deeds.

 When God abides in us we know it by the Spirit He gives us. The spirit of love is a fruit of the Spirit living in us. In Matthew 22:40, Jesus says that all the laws and the prophets hang on just two commandments. The two commandments are found in Mark 13:

1. “29Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments *is:* ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This *is* the first commandment.
2. 31And the second, like *it, is* this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

But here in 1 John 3:23, John says that to love God is to believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and to love one another. And finally in vs.24 John says, “24Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.”

 John so wants the brethren, then and now, to remain in the love of God. He wants them to achieve eternal life. But is all depends on our belief in Jesus Christ, the grace extended to us, our obedience and loving God and our fellow man.

Lesson 5

**Who? How? What? When?**

Who are the children of God?

How great was the Father’s love for us?

What do we do to become a child of God? Mark 16:16

When someone becomes a child of God, what three things will they do?

If one continues sinning, who is his real father?

Did Cain love his brother? How do you know?

And what were his works?

How do we know what real love of the brethren looks like?

How do we demonstrate true love?

What are the 1st and 2nd commandments?

Talk about all other laws would hang on these.

Lesson 6

1 John 4

 John, as some of the other writers, warns the brethren not to believe everyone who comes with some new teaching. This was just 30 to 40 years after the death of Christ. Already false teachers abound. Examine and test everyone to see if they are from God. This is how you know if they are from God:

1. They have the disposition of God’s Spirit.
2. They acknowledge that Christ has come in the flesh.
3. If they confess Jesus Christ.
4. Those who are anti-Christ (against Christ)

We are from God. Those who listen to us are from God; those who refuse to listen are not from God.

 This book is written by John, a disciple of Jesus Christ, chosen and beloved of Jesus Christ. Who would be better to tell us first hand that God is love? The words of a timely song come from 1 John 4:7 and following:

***“Love one another, for love is of God. He who loves is born of God and knows God…. He, who does not love, does not know God. For God is love, God is love.”***

John saw firsthand the love of God. He saw Jesus, whom God sent to earth to die for our sins, God’s only Son. John walked with Him and talked with Him. They were close. Real love comes from God, so much so, that we ought to love God and each other.

 God abides in those who:

* Confess that Jesus is the Son of God
* Loves

Therefore, we can have confidence in the day of judgment. Love is perfected in us. Love casts out fear. The man who lives in fear of the day of judgment has not perfected love in his life.

 We love God because He first loved us. In the beginning, God formed us in His image. When we sinned, He loved us enough to make a plan by which we could be restored to God’s favor. So if God loved us so much, how much more we should love Him. God says we cannot say we love Him if we hate our brother. How can we love God that we have not seen and hate our brother that we have seen? God says this ought not to be.

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER!!!!!!**

Lesson 6

Why should we examine and test everyone who comes teaching some new teaching?

Tell why John should know so much about love from Jesus.

Read 1 John 4:16-21

And fill in the blanks

“God is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

“Where God’s love is there is no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, because

God’s perfect \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ takes away \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

“We love God because God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us.”

Whoever loves \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ must also

Love his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

Lesson 7

1 John 5

 The lesson in the 1st letter by John is all about the same thing. He just thinks and the Spirit has guided him to make it known to all that the love of God, from God and for God is best seen when we love one another. If we have been born of God and our brother has been born of God, then we should love each other. True love is that we love one another, love God and keep His commandments. If we have true love, then His commandments are not a burden.

 The one who is begotten of God has power to overcome the world. A line from a favorite song of the brethren says,

***“Faith is the victory that overcomes the world.”***

Faith in what, you may ask. Faith that: Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that through Him we can have eternal life. How can we have faith in this? Because God testifies that He has given us eternal life. Three bear witness that Jesus is the Christ: The Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit bear witness in heaven.

Three bear witness that Jesus is the Christ: The Spirit, the water and the blood bear witness on earth. We must have “faith” that these all agree and that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God who has the power to redeem us from our sins. There is no other way but Jesus. He said, *“I am the way, the true and the life. No man comes to the Father except through Me.”* Only the one who has the Son has life. He who does not have the Son, he has not life.

 I have written these things that you may know that you have eternal life. You can go to God boldly in prayer knowing that He will answer. We know that God hears us and grants our prayers. We can pray for our brethren. We can pray for those lost in sin. God can and will forgive all manner of sins. There is one sin that cannot be forgiven. If a man alienates himself completely from and does not acknowledge Jesus as God’s Son, He cannot be forgiven for there is no other means by which anyone can be saved.

 John says we know these things:

1. One born of God does not keep on sinning.
2. We are in God’ hands.
3. The world is in the grip of Satan.
4. Jesus Christ gives us understanding.
5. We can have a relationship with God.
6. We can have eternal life.

Remember from Exodus, God said He was a jealous God. John leaves them with one last warning. My dear children, guard yourselves from idols.

***The one who claims to be a child of God must behave as His child.***

Lesson 7

Loving God means we will obey His commandments.

God’s commandments are:

A. too hard to obey

B. not hard to obey

What helps us overcome the world?

What do we have faith in?

Who bears witness in heaven that Christ is the Son of God?

Who is the “word”? John 1:1

Who bears witness on earth that Christ is the Son of God?

With all this great witnesses, can we believe and have faith that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God?

If we can believe that, can we believe that He has the power to save us by His blood?

Then can we have faith that we can have eternal life?

What 5 things do we know?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Lesson 8

**What was 1st John about?**

**Review Questions**

Fill in the correct word from the box below in each sentence.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Know | Light | the Word |
| False teachers | Everlasting | Love |
| Brother | Commandments | Faith |

1. John describes Jesus as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that gives life.

2. Being a child of God means that we can have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ life.

3. The theme of this epistle is: God is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4. John wrote this epistle because some \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ denied that Jesus is the Son of God.

5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ helps us win the victory against the world.

6. Loving God means we keep His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

7. John used the word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about 38 times in this epistle.

8. Whoever loves God must love his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

9. Since God is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ we should walk in it.

**GOD IS LOVE, GOD IS LOVE!**

Lesson 9

2 John

 We are not sure when the book of 2nd John is written. It seems to be similar to 1st John and even 3rd John. The three letters are more than likely written around the same time 80-85AD.

 The letter is written to an elect lady. It is not clear whether it is written to a particular lady, or a particular congregation. As we look at the text, we may come to the conclusion that it was mean for a particular congregation. Nevertheless, it is written for Christians living in Asia Minor.

 It is someone or group that John loved very much and so did many others who knew the truth. He was so glad to see that they were walking in truth at the Lord commanded. So why did he write to them if they were doing so well. This was a reminder of what they had known from the beginning: love each other. True love is to walk in God’s commandments.

 John had known of the good report about them. They were standing strong against the false teachers who were deceivers. And they were walking in truth. Look after yourselves, so that you do not lose what you have worked so hard for, to receive a full reward. Do not even wish well those who would pervert the truth of God. One who wishes them well is a partaker in his evil works.

 This is the encouragement to all to:

* Keep God’s commandments
* Continue to follow the teachings of Christ
* Avoid teachings of false teachers
* Finally, love one another

 John had much more that he wished to say. But he hoped to see them face to face. He sends greetings from the others with him, also the elect.

Lesson 9

**Do not give help and support to false teachers!!**

1. If the letter is written to an individual, elect lady, what does that say about this person?

2. In the same way, if the letter is written to a congregation, elect lady, what does that say about this congregation?

3. When you read verses 1-4, what two words form the theme for this short letter?

4. John encourages them to continue to work hard so that they might receive their reward. Does this mean that once we are one of the elect, we could lose our reward?

How do you think that this would happen?

5. Is the command to love each other a New Testament rule only? Lev. 19:18

6. Peter says that Satan is as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.1 Peter 5:8

7. False teachers are instruments of Satan seeking whom they may \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (trick question-there are many answers)

Lesson 10

3 John

 John writes his final letter. John is older. He had been with Jesus at the beginning of His ministry. Now that was some 40-50 years ago.

 This is a personal letter to a man named Gaius. John called him the beloved. They had a close connection in the “truth”. He was thankful and happy for many things that Gaius had done. He was

|  |
| --- |
| **The good deeds of Gaius** |

* prosperous
* enjoyed good health
* his soul prospered
* walked in truth
* faithful works for the brethren
* faithful works for strangers
* good words are spread about you
* your help to those who spread the gospel

Gaius truly was a faithful servant of the Lord’s. He encouraged all that he came in contact with. He freely showed hospitality for the sake of the name of Jesus Christ.

 John writes this letter to Gaius to warn him of the discord that is being cause by a brother named Diotrephes. He was behaving unruly.

**The evil deeds of Diotrephes**

He would not listen

to John and the things

he was saying. He loved to be the prominent one and have his way. He lied and said evil things about John and others. He refused to help those who came preaching the word. He would not let the brethren help them either and if they did he cast them out of the church. When I come, I will confront him.

 Demetrius has been a witness to all I have said. Help and encourage the faithful. Do not imitate the bad examples.

***Imitate the good examples!***

Lesson 10

The letter of 3rd John is clearly written to an individual named \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Who was this man Gaius?

Name some things that he had done.

Vs.3-4 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Vs.5 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Vs.6 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 How important was hospitality in those days?

Is hospitality needed today?

Tell of this evil man named Diotrephes.

John was hoping to come to them soon.

What was he going to do about Diotrephes?

**Review Questions**

**True or False**

1. The theme of 2nd John is hope and obedience.

2. John wrote this short letter to warn about false teachers.

3. John also commanded that they love one another.

4. The epistle of 3rd John is similar to 1st John.

5. John wrote to warn them about the trouble that Gaius was causing the church.

6. John said he would never see them again.

7. The theme of 3rd John is continuing in truth.

Lesson 11

Introduction to Revelation

**Remember this verse**

Revelation 21:4

*“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, sadness, crying or pain.*

*All the old ways are gone.”*

 The Book of Revelation is without a doubt one of the most glorious books in all of scripture. (The following is my opinion on the subject of Revelation June W. Guyton). The 1st century was a difficult time for the New Church established in Acts 2 by the Apostles of the Lord. First the Jews rose up against the church. Jesus, in His death, had destroyed their way of life that had existed for centuries under The Law of Moses. They were God’s people. It was difficult for them to except the Christ who had come. He was not who they were looking for. They wanted a king, like David, to fight the Romans and bring them back to power. This was not Jesus. From the foundation of the world, this was not the plan. Many followed Jesus, but on the days before the Passover feast the mob said crucify Him.

 Next the Romans, that had power over the land of Israel, brought pain and persecution, evil and destruction. They had first persecuted the Jews. Now the Jews blamed that rebellious sect of “the way” for the unrest in Judea. Rome came down hard. Roman had Emperors and Caesars who placed themselves as gods over all the conquered people. They required worship or death. It was indeed a terrible time for God’s people, the early church.

 It was important that the early Christians hold on to their faith. Paul, Peter, James and other all wrote to the brethren until the end. John alone is left to write this book, the book of Revelation. It was just what these brethren needed. It was just what John needed. It is just what the church needs today. God has made a promise that He through His Son, Jesus Christ, has overcome the world. And “faith is the victory”. Let us look to the word of the Lord for strength and encouragement.

Lesson 11

**True or False**

1. The 1st century was an easy time for the church.

2. The Law of Moses was done away with at the death of Jesus.

3. The Jews were looking for a “King” like Jesus.

4. The plan for Jesus was planned before the foundation of the world.

5. The Jews were not affected by Jesus.

6. The Jews never had any trouble with the Romans.

7. The Jews blamed the Christians for all the problems of unrest in Judea.

8. The Romans now troubled the Christians, even to death.

9. The Romans had gods ruling over them.

10. The Emperors and Caesars required worship from its subjects.

11. It was ok to worship God and man.

12. Paul, Peter and James wrote the Book of Revelation.

13. The Book of Revelation was written for us today.

14. Faith in Jesus Christ is the victory that overcomes the world.

**“faith is the victory”**

Lesson 12

Revelation 1

**Important Words to Know**

Emperor: the supreme ruler of an empire

Prophecy: “the foretelling or prediction of what is to come”

Persecution: to treat someone badly because of their

 beliefs

Symbolic: something that represents something else

Figurative: using words outside of their literal meaning to

 Create a mental picture

Victory: to triumph or overcome something

Exile: to be sent away from your home country to

 Live somewhere else

Vision: the experience of seeing things with the mind-

 Typically while in a trance

**During the study of Revelation, it will be helpful if you understand these words.**

 The Revelation letter was written by John the apostle. He was in ***exile*** on the island of Patmos. There were ***emperors*** in Roman that were very cruel men. They wanted the people to worship him as Lord. They ***persecuted*** Christian who would not worship them. Some were ***exiled***, tortured or killed. Others had their property taken away. John wrote to these Christians to encourage them to remain faith until death.

 The letter was written to the seven church of Asia. He wrote in ***symbolic*** and ***figurative*** language to hide his message from some and to reveal the true meaning to those who would understand. God wanted them to know things that would soon take place and to give them comfort knowing what awaited them in heaven if they remained faithful. Remember “faith is the victory that overcomes the world”. The letter is easily divided into three sections.

Section One: Spiritual battle between good and evil as it involves people on earth (chapters1-11)

 *1:1**The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,****2****who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.****3****Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this* ***prophecy****, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.*

 These are the opening verses. Then John saw a ***vision***. The vision portrays Jesus as the Head over all things pertaining to the church (Eph. 1:22). He rules over the churches, and they stand or fall at His pleasure. Jesus is the Alpha and Omega. He says to John to write what he sees and hears and send them to the seven churches of Asia and calls them by name.

1:12-20

 **12**Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, **13**and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. **14**His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; **15**His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; **16**He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance *was* like the sun shining in its strength. **17**And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. **18**I *am* He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.**19**Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. **20**The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

Lesson 12

1. Who wrote this epistle (letter)?

2. To whom did he write this epistle?

3. Who revealed the message to him?

4. Who bore witness to the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ?

5. Where was John when he wrote this letter?

6. Who did the Lord say was blessed?

7. What day did he see the ***vision***?

8. Name the seven churches.

1. 2.

3. 4.

5. 6.

7.

9. In 1:12-20, what did John see?

Tell it or draw it to help us see what he saw.

Lesson 13

Revelation

2: 1-7 and 2: 8-11

 The letters to the individual congregation follow in Chapters 2 and 3. These churches were established in the first century. The Lord describes conditions and attitudes that existed in that day. The letters were written personally to each church that they might see their successes, their failures and to encourage them to make changes while there was time.

 Over the next three lessons, we will take a look at each church. We will make note of what God says to them. They represent churches and conditions that exist in churches today. These too are difficult times. By looking at the advice to these churches, we too can find way to improve and to remain faithful till the end.

**The Loveless Church**

**2**“To the angel of the church of Ephesus write,

‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: **2**“I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; **3**and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary. **4**Nevertheless, I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.**5**Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent. **6**But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

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

**The Persecuted Church**

**8**“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write,

‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: **9**“I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and *I know* the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but *are* a synagogue of Satan. **10**Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw *some* of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

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

Lesson 14

Revelation

2: 12-17 and 2:18-29

**The Compromising Church**

**12**“And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write,

‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: **13**“I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne *is.* And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas *was* My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. **14**But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. **15**Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.**[**[**a**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%202&version=NKJV&utm_expid=13466113-5&utm_referrer=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.biblegateway.com%2Fquicksearch%2F%3Fquicksearch%3DRevelation%26qs_version%3DNKJV#fen-NKJV-30733a)**]** **16**Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

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

**The Corrupt Church**

**18**“And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write,

‘These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: **19**“I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and *as* for your works, the last *are* more than the first. **20**Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that womanJezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. **21**And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. **22**Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. **23**I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

**24**“Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. **25**But hold fast what you have till I come. **26**And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—

**27**‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron;
They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’—

as I also have received from My Father; **28**and I will give him the morning star.

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

Lesson 15

Revelation

3: 1-6 and 3: 7-13 3: 14-22

**The Dead Church**

**3**“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write,

‘These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. **2**Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. **3**Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. **4**You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. **5**He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

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

**The Faithful Church**

**7**“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write,

‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, “He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”: **8**“I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. **9**Indeed I will make *those* of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. **10**Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. **11**Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. **12**He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And *I will write on him* My new name.

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

Lesson 16

 Revelation 3: 14-22

**The Lukewarm Church**

**14**“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write,

‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:**15**“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. **16**So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. **17**Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— **18**I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. **19**As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. **20**Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. **21**To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

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

 Churches may be faithful, or weak, or strong, of tired, or dead. Churches may be facing persecution, false teachers, unrest or divisions. Whatever the church faced in the first century, whatever the church faces in this century and the ones to come, it must overcome. The advice given here in Revelation, when all seemed lost is to remind us that we are victors through Christ.

**Review of the Seven Churches**

Churches Description

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Ephesus **A**. “I know what you do. I know about

 your love, your faith, your service and

 your patience.”

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Smyrna **B**. “I know what you do. You are not hot

 or cold! I wish you were hot or cold! But

 you are only warm. So I am ready to spit

 you out of my mouth.”

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Pergamum **C**. “I know what you do. People say that

 you are alive, but really you are dead.

 Wake up! Make yourselves stronger while you still have something left and

 you die completely.”

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Thyatira **D**. “I know what you do. You work hard,

 and you never give up. But you tolerate

 Jezebel.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Sardis **E**. “I know what you do. I have put an

 open door before you and no one can

 close it. I know you have a little strength.

 But you have followed my teaching.”

\_\_\_\_\_ Philadelphia **F**. “I know where you live. You live

 where Satan has his throne. But you are

 true to me.”

\_\_\_\_\_ Laodicea G. “I know your troubles. I know that you

 are poor but really you are rich.

 It is important to understand why the book of Revelation begins with these letters. Most of the book deals with the eternal foes of the church, chief of which is Satan. The saints face persecution of many kinds; they face suffering and death; they face conflict from pagan religions. The point of these letters is that before the church can be ready to face external foes, it must overcome its internal obstacles. It is the faithful churches, the ones whose lampstands are still in place at the end, that can expect the help of the Lord. The first concern, then, of each church is to be faithful to her calling.

 Bob and Sandra Waldron

Lesson 17

Revelation 4-5

 In chapter 4, John said the door to heaven open. A voice called his to come up. A beautiful song was written about these verses:

*“I was standing in heaven with tears in my eyes, saying “tell me this isn’t so.” There was no one in heaven and no one on earth worthy to open the scrolls. Then one of the elders said, “John don’t you cry, it’s all part of the plan.” Then there in the middle of God’s glorious throne, halleluiah, there stood a lamb. And they sang, worthy, worthy of honor and praise. They were casting down crowns and praising his name. When they cried who is worthy, I could hear Jesus saying “I AM”. Oh praise God forever there stood a Lamb. Oh praise God forever there stood a Lamb.”*

 John was in the Spirit. He was here in the presence of the throne in heaven. God was sitting on his throne. A rainbow was arced over the throne. Elders were sitting on 24 thrones, ranged around the Throne of God. They all wore robes of white and crowns of gold. They represented the elders of the past, 12 tribes of Judah and the 12 Apostles of Jesus Christ.

 This was a glorious scene, a vision of the Power on High. From the throne lightning flashed and thunder rumbled. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne. These were the seven Spirits of God. A sea of glass lay before the throne. There appeared 4 living creatures surrounding the throne. They cried,

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

 In chapter 5, John sees a scroll in the hand of God. A scroll sealed with seven seals. John realized that there was no one worthy to open the scroll. Then one of the elders said,

“Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loosen its seven seals.”

The Lion of the tribe of Judah was Jesus the Christ. He had been slain, but He was alive. He had overcome the powers of Satan and was worthy to open the scroll. At this point, all of heaven worshiped Him and ascribed Him honor and glory:

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
To receive power and riches and wisdom,
And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

Lesson 17

Who was sitting on the **Throne**?

What was arched over the **Throne**?

Who was sitting on the thrones on either side of **God**?

What were they wearing?

Who possibly were these 24 men?

What did **God** have in His hand?

Who was the only one worthy to open the scroll?

Why was He worthy?

John is privileged to see this. This is the coronation of the Lamb, the “other side” of the cloud that hid Jesus from the sight of the apostles when He ascended (see Acts 1:9-11). The Christ returns to heaven in victory, and He receives His kingdom. All the beings of heaven and earth worship Him.

**Praise God forever, there stood**

**The Lamb.**

Lesson 18

Revelation 6, 7, 8 and 9

**Victory in Jesus, our Savior**

**FOREVER**

 No one but this Lamb can open the seals. The Lamb breaks open the first seal and continues opening till seal number seven.

1. Seal #1 A White Horse, a rider with a bow and crown, He rides forth conquering and to conquer. *(This horseman is the Lord who begins His reign as king.)*
2. Seal #2 A Red Horse *(Representing the slaughter of persecution.)*
3. Seal #3 A Black Horse *(Suggesting economic deprivation suffered by the saints.)*
4. Seal #4 The fourth horse is death followed by Hades, who collects his bounty.

 During this

**The life as a follower of Christ is difficult during this time. There are great persecutions against all who will not bow to the ruling Caesar. Christ is Lord. This letter is to warn Christians to be faithful until death if necessary.**

1. Seal #5 John sees an altar of burnt offering. Beneath the altar are souls of those who had been slain for their faithful devotion to the Lord. They were all in white robes praying, *“How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”*
2. Seal #6 The seal is opened and John sees God’s answer to the persecution of His saints. *“Behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.****13****And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.****14****Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.****15****And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,****16****and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!****17****For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”*

Finally, John sees a triumphant multitude that has come through great tribulation. They had washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white. These represent the faithful saints of God.

1. Seal #7 was opened. After all this there is a SILENCE in heaven for about half an hour. All of the great sound was heard and now total SILENCE!

Then angels came forward and were given seven trumpets.

An angel appears at the golden altar and adds much incense to the prayers of the saints. When the prayers and the incense came up before God, there was an immediate response. The angel dipped his censer into the coals of the altar and hurls it to the earth. God is responding to the prayers of the saints. The trumpets begin to sound!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

1. As the first trumpet sounds, a mixture of hail and fire and blood rains down on the earth. One third of the earth is devastated.
2. As the second trumpet sounds, a great mountain burning with fire is thrown into the sea. One third of the creatures in the sea and ships on the sea are destroyed.
3. As the third trumpet sounds, a great star fell from heaven, burning with fire. It fell upon the rivers and fountains of water. The stars name was Wormwood. (Wormwood suggests bitterness, bitterness due to sin upon the earth.)
4. As the forth trumpet sounds, a third of the sun, moon and stars are struck. (Powers on earth will be thrown down.)

Then a solitary eagle flying in the sky cries out in a loud voice:

 “Woe, woe, woe, to those who dwell on earth, because of the remaining trumpet blasts.” Whatever was to follow was to be a terrible judgment from the Lord God.

1. As the fifth trumpet sounds, John saw a star that had fallen from heaven. The star was the key to the bottomless pit. The pit opened and smoke came up and darkened the sky. The monstrous locusts came out to afflict men that did not have the seal of God on their forehead. The afflicted those who became lower than animals, fit only to be destroyed. They would not see and would not repent.
2. As the sixth trumpet sounds, a voice from the four horns of the golden altar cries for the four angels who are being held at the river Euphrates to be released that they might kill a third of mankind.

In spite of all the warnings, men do not repent of their murders, or of their sorceries, or of their fornications, or of their thefts. Judgment is impending.

The book of Revelation is written to poor tormented followers of God. It is to bring them hope and joy of the judgment to come and the ultimate “victory in Jesus”.

Read this to see the

POWER of GOD.

Lesson 18

Just tell what you found interesting.

What kind of things did you see about God?

What kind of things did you see about Jesus?

Lesson 19

Revelation 10-11

 After the sixth trumpet, another pause takes place. The purpose seems to re-assure His readers that God is in control and that He will protect the faithful from all the judgments that are taking place. We are introduced to another angel called “A Mighty Angel”. The way he is clothed tells us that he has divine authority. The way he stands on the land and sea also tells us that his message is for the whole world. His voice also tells us of the power behind the message of this angel. John says this angel has a voice of a loud lion and that seven thunders come out of his mouth. In the Old Testament, thunder was often used to forewarn of divine judgments. (2 Sam 2:10, 22:14; Isa. 29:6).”

 John starts to write what he has just seen. But he is told by a voice in heaven not to reveal what he has just heard from the seven thunders. The warnings of the six trumpets were sufficient to bring men to repentance. No more time would be given; God’s patience has just run out. At the sounding of the seventh trumpet the “mystery of God” would be finished. At the sounding of the last trumpet the final chapters of the Revelation would be made known to John and to all of God’s people. God is going to tell us how he will bring down Rome.

 The second picture of the interlude is that of a little book that John is told to take and to eat it. In other words, he is told to make it part of his life. He is told it would be sweet to the mouth, but bitter to the belly. This same idea is found in Ezekiel 2:8 - 3:3, where Ezekiel is also told to eat a scroll with the same effects. The idea is that the promises and rewards of God’s word are sweet as honey. But hardships that must be faced, it turns the sweetness into bitterness. The saints would have to endure trials and tribulations to obtain s crown. He saw hell in all its vile, evil, painful reality (bitterness) for all who do not remain faithful or never except the gospel.

 John is told to take a reed and measure the temple. This is not the literal Temple in Jerusalem, but God is referring to the spiritual temple of God - the Church. The purpose is to assure the church again that God was looking out for its welfare. The “reed” is the words by which we must measure up, the scriptures. There was an outer court. Those in the outer court would be hurt; they are not under the protection of God.

 Before the sounding of the seventh trumpet “two witnesses” are given the chance to prophesy for 3 1/2 years. They are given

God’s message and they proclaim it with great power and strength. They are opposed by the beast and they are killed (it looks as though the cause of Christ has met its match. But wait, there’s more.)After a short time the two witnesses are raised from the dead and power is restored to the church and a period of great progress is seen.

 Finally the seventh trumpet is sounded and unlike the silence that was produced after the seventh seal was opened; the seventh trumpet causes an eruption of joy, and praise in heaven. God’s judgment came upon the powers that persecuted His saints, and His kingdom was preserved. Victory is ours!!!! The Lord will take vengeance on our foes!!!! This is a struggle between good and evil, between God and Satan. The scene ends with lightning and thundering, and hail, and noises, and an earthquake.

**What an ending to the first section.**

The battle would be won on earth by the Lord

and His saints.

But how about the war in heaven!!

**WAR IN HEAVEN?**

Lesson 20

Revelation 12

SECTION TWO: Struggle of Christ and His forces against Satan and his forces; the struggle behind the scenes on earth.

Good vs. Evil

All throughout the Bible we read about how Satan wanted to destroy God’s people. Here at the final round God gave this revelation to John to let these Christians know that Satan will **NOT** win the battle.

In the book of Revelation John saw many different visions. Beginning here in chapter 12, he saw a struggle between “good and evil”. There is a lot of figurative and symbolic language meant to be understood by those who are saints of the Lord and confusing to those who served the world.

But in Revelation 12:9, John clearly stated who he was talking about. ***9****So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

**GOOD**

The beginning of chapter 12 tells of a woman who is about to have a baby. This baby is Christ, and the chapter goes on to say how the giant, red dragon is out to destroy Him.

But Christ won the victory and Satan was bound. Christ arose from the dead and now reigns in heaven.

Read 12:7-11

These verses tell how Satan lost his battle to destroy Christ.

Victory belongs to those who did not bow to the dragon 15:2.

**EVIL**

Read: 12:3, 9

Who is the giant, red dragon?

What does he do?

He then goes off to lead the followers of Crist away from the truth. 12:17

Does he still try to lead people away from God today?

**YES** or **NO**

 **VS**.

We now know who the enemy really was and that he was out to destroy the church. How was he doing that? It was through persecuting those who refused to worship him as Lord. In the time of John this included the emperor who was backed by the power of Satan. Today, the devil is still against those who live a life that is pleasing to God.

History tells us that the Roman Empire fell around the year A.D. 476. Many things helped bring down Rome. But the message John wrote to these Christians was that God would bring down the powers of earth. The Roman rule would come to an end, but the church would continue,

**AND IT DOES**

Lesson 21

Revelation 13-14

 The battle continues: Satan’s goal is destroy all who are connected to the man child-the woman and her children. A beast rose up from the sea; a beast rose up from the earth. They worked together to cause men to worship the beast.

 Then three angels appeared flying in the sky.

![C:\Users\June Guyton\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\D982P1IA\MC900151579[1].wmf]()

The first:

proclaims good news and warn the inhabitants of the earth to accept the rule of God and give Him Glory for judgment is coming.

![C:\Users\June Guyton\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\41KZTMQ0\MC900237301[1].wmf]()

The second:

proclaims the downfall of Babylon. (the evil ruling power)

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The third:

Proclaims God’s judgment upon those who worship the beast and his image.

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Chapter 14 closes with a vision of the Son of Man coming to reap His harvest-All the one who did not bow their knee to the Evil One.

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Along with the Son of Man was another angel sent to harvest the vines of the earth because her grapes are ripe. These grapes are thrown into the winepress of the wrath of God. God’s judgment is again against the powers that persecuted God’s people.

Lesson 21

![C:\Users\June Guyton\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\P1BVW86C\MC900001254[1].wmf]()

1. What is Satan’s goal?

2. Who rose up to help the people to come to Satan?

Three angels appear in the sky. What did they each proclaim?.

Angel one

Angel two

Angel three

The Son of Man appears in the sky. What had He come to do?

Then and angel come to throw into the wine press those who

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God people.

Lesson 22

Revelation 15-19

 Remember these are all visions that John saw while he was looking into heaven. This is a beautiful story of God’s victorious plan. God knew this from the beginning. As all of this is happening a multitude of the redeemed were singing the song of Moses and the Lamb. The song is the song of deliverance.

*Praises to the King of Kings*

*He is the great I AM*

*He will defeat all His*

*enemies*

![C:\Users\June Guyton\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\41KZTMQ0\MM900354558[1].gif]()

 ![C:\Users\June Guyton\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\87LY555R\MP900387101[1].jpg]()

Then seven angels came out with

Seven bowls of plagues and wrath.

The angels were all dressed in linen pure and bright with *“golden”* sashes. One of the four living beasts gives to each angel a golden bowl full of wrath of God. The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power. No one was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues were finished.

![C:\Users\June Guyton\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\D982P1IA\MC900174073[1].wmf]()

 As chapter 16 opens, a voice from inside the temple commands, “Go, and pour out the bowls of wrath upon the earth.” The result was grievous to the earth and the throne of the beast.

The seventh bowl of wrath is for Babylon (represented as the worldly power) and her allies. The angel calls for John to come see the judgment of this harlot. The harlot refused to recognize God as Lord, the one who persecuted His people.

![C:\Users\June Guyton\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\P1BVW86C\MC900415148[1].wmf]()

John watched as the seventh bowl of judgment was poured out upon Babylon and her allies.

Chapter 19 is the chapter of rejoicing in HEAVEN!!!!!!!!!!!!

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Babylon is defeated.

Time for the marriage feast has arrived.

There is praises to God. “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory belong to our God.” There is rejoicing as the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.” Victory, Victory as the Christ goes forth on a white horse in power and glory. The beast and the false teachers are all cast into the lake of fire and brimstone. Their followers are killed by the sword of the One who sits upon the horse.

Lesson 22

The book of Revelation is a book of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ seen by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, when he was called up to heaven.

From before the foundation of the world, God knew He would be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Praise God!!

Those who were redeemed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Praises to God.

Seven angels dressed in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ linen step forward and were given \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of wrath.

The temple was full for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and no one was allowed to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ until all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

bowls were poured out. It was not a pretty sight.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was called forward to watch the judgment.

.

The seventh bowl was poured out on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. She presented the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ powers who had become a harlot themselves with the beast.

Babylon was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 Christ come in on a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ horse acting vengeance upon the beast, the false prophets and those who followed.

**Praise GOD**

**Hallelujah**

Lesson 23

Revelation 20

Satan himself is taken and bound and cast into an abyss. There he is imprisoned for a 1000 years while the souls of the dead saints live and reign with Christ in heaven.

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Remember this is all part of John’s vision. By these visions God shows His saints that He will utterly defeat the powers that oppose them.

After that time he is released for a short time to deceive the nations. He gathers the men of the earth under his banner and they surround the saints to destroy them.

![C:\Users\June Guyton\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\0WFJQH3I\MP900438774[1].jpg]()

PRAISE

GOD

But fire comes down from heaven and consumes all who sided with Satan before another saint was killed.

Satan is taken and cast into the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophets are

![C:\Users\June Guyton\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\SF6F329Z\MC900048723[1].wmf]()

*Thus we learn that in the end*

*Satan himself will be brought to justice.*

The final judgment occurs with Christ sitting upon a great white throne. All men, small and great come before Him, and the books are opened, and all men are judges from the books. Anyone whose name is not found written in the book of life is cast into the lake of fire.

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Lesson 23

**JUDGEMENT**

John’s vision now showed him the scene of the final judgment. The earth and everything that we know will be destroyed by fire.

(2 Peter 3:10-12) What does Peter say about judgment day?

**Read: Revelation 20:11-15** and answer these questions.

What does he see first? (verse 11)

Who do you think is sitting on that throne?

Who was standing before the throne? (verse 12)

What was each person judged by? (verses 12-13)

What happened to a person whose name was not found in the book of life? (verse15)

Lesson 24

Revelation 21

 Joy, Bliss and Splendor

Lesson 24

 Then John sees a new heaven and a new earth. The holy city, New Jerusalem, comes down out of heaven dressed as a bride for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. **4**And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

 One of the seven angels, who had one of the seven bowls, took John upon a mountain, great and high, to see the holy city of Jerusalem. Its beauty was so grand. The city gleamed like a diamond, clear as crystal. The walls had 12 foundations on which the name of the 12 apostles was inscribed.

 Only the best and noblest could enter the city. In no way could anything profane or anything that makes a lie enter it. Only those whose name is written in the Lamb’s book of life could come in.

Lesson 24

The 12 foundations of the city

had the names of the 12

Apostles inscribed on them.

List them in the box

beside.

(Remember not Judas

Acts 1)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Heaven

What will heaven be like? John gives us a description of it in chapter 21-22. Remember that John wrote in symbolic words. When one reads the description, you can only imagine what John saw, tell how he describes it.

 What do we know about heaven?

**Heaven**

 Read the following verses and see

 Just how wonderful it will be!

* It is God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and we will be with Him (21:3).
* There will be no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, sadness, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or pain for God will wipe away all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (21:4).
* Only those who win the victory will be there, Victory in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, no evil is found there (21:7-8).
* There is no sun or moon there because “the glory of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is its \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (21:23, 22:5).
* There is no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ there (21:25, 22:5).
* The throne of God and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will be there (22:3).

Lesson 25

Revelation 22

John’s Closing Words

**The River of Life**

**22**And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. **2**In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, *was* the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each *tree* yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations. **3**And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. **4**They shall see His face, and His name *shall be* on their foreheads. **5**There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

![C:\Users\June Guyton\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\SGFN7CUR\MC900157179[1].wmf]()Encouragement is given to those who will come and take of the water of life freely!

God is all their light.

**The Time Is Near**

**6**Then he said to me, “These words *are* faithful and true.” And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. **7**“Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed *is* he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.” **8**Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. **9**Then he said to me, “See *that you do* not *do that.* For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.” **10**And he said to me, “Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. **11**He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.”

**Jesus Testifies to the Churches**

**12**“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work. **13**I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End, the First and the Last.”

Jesus tells John that He too is a servant of God and a Brother to all who keep the words of this book.

**14**Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. **15**But outside *are* dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. **16**“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.” **17**And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

**A Warning** 18For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; 19and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book[[l](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2022&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-31100l)] of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

Who will be blessed and have the right to the tree of life and enter the city?

Who will be outside the city?

Revelation 22:18-19 says that anyone who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God’s Word or takes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from God’s word will be punished. Their names will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the book of life. So we need to be careful only to speak where the Bible \_\_\_\_\_\_ and to be silent where it is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Lesson 26

**Review**

God will win!

Saints will win through

Jesus Christ.

Praise GOD!!!!

The book of Revelation is all about ***overcoming***.

What does it mean to overcome?

The purpose of the book is to encourage saints of

all ages to overcome.

What does it mean to encourage someone?

God shows that even when the battle seems lost, and the enemy appears unbeatable, the victory will still be to those who are His servants.

What does victory mean?

Do you remember? Check the correct answer.

 John was exiled to this island because of his faith.

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Crete \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Patmos

 John wrote letters to this many churches.

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ seven \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ six

 Satan is described as what?

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a big rat \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a giant red dragon

 In his vision, John saw who at the judgment day?

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all people \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ only the bad people

 What will each person be judged by?

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their good deeds \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ everything they ever did on earth

 Who will gain the victory?

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ everyone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ only those whose name is in the book of life

 In heaven, there will be no more tears, death, pain or sorrow.

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ true \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ false

Write the correct word from the box with its definition

Someone who is higher or above others \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

To treat someone badly for their beliefs \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

An agreement or promise \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Freedom from doubt \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

To triumph or overcome something \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The foretelling or prediction of what is to come \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Firm belief \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Someone who inherits something that belongs to someone else \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 VICTORY COVENANT SUPERIOR PROPHECY

HEIR ASSURANCE CONVICTION PERSECUTION

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