

The Revelation

Lesson 21

Class Questions from the Revelation Study!

Continued

THE TRIBULATION

34. Is the beast from the sea the anti-christ?

35. We have always talked about the Anti-Christ....and who he will be...we always think of a government leader...do you have thoughts on this?

The word “anti-Christ” is not found in the REVELATION. It is found in 1st and 2nd John whose author was the same John of this REVELATION. In his two little letters, it is clear that John is talking about false teachers. That brings up an interesting point. He knew the word “anti-christ” and yet, he did not use it when he recorded the REVELATION. I believe it was omitted on purpose. In the Church age there will be false teachers who claim to be Christian, yet they are not. In the REVELATION, John describes a government empire leader as a *beast*. He does not indicate that this *beast* intended to be a Church preacher or Christian as John portrays the *anti-christs*. He indicates that the *beast* is fully attached to Satan. Remember, John stated that there were many anti-christs preaching in his day.

36. Is the beast from the earth the false prophet?

No. The *beast from the earth* is the religion which the *false prophet leads*. That is the reason we do not see the *beast of the earth* thrown into the *lake of fire and brimstone*, only the *false prophet with the beast of the abyss*.

37. Is the woman mentioned in the Revelation wearing nothing but a tan? (Clothed with sun)

No. She is clothed appropriately. The sun is simply glowing upon her.

38. What is the meaning of 666? Is 6 one day short of 7 Sabbath? So 6 would indicate non-Christians? Why not 333?

The Scripture is plain, the 666 in the number of the name that is to be marked on each person who worships the *beast of the abyss* and is part of the *Revived Roman Empire* and who hates the LORD. Please see pages 135-137 of these notes, lesson 11. It was covered in detail. However, the short answer is this, in the Islamic Koran, the word *w-allah* is used multiple times. The numeric number of that name in Arabic equals 666. You see that word printed on headbands, armbands and flags. *W-allah* means *I swear to Allah*.

39. What is the meaning of the marriage supper? (Revelation 19:6)

The marriage supper is the meal prepared by the LORD for the invited guests (birds) to eat in the valley of Megiddo. It is not a meal for humans. It is a meal for the birds to eat the bodies of humans who had gathered in the valley to fight against the LORD and lost. The LORD will trample on the bodies of these people fulfilling the promise that *He will tread them in the winepress of His wrath at Armageddon*. The birds will eat that meal and make a quick job of it in fewer than 45 days.

DEATH

40. Cremation OK as it relates to bodily resurrection on the day of Christ? (Creation versus burial of the body)

Yes, there is nothing wrong with cremation. The process of natural decomposition requires heat. Heat is required to break chemical bonds in the compound undergoing decomposition and ultimately turn to dust. The speed of this process depends on many factors which we will not cover here. Nevertheless, cremation is simply the process of burning the body and turning it to dust as it will naturally do on its own with time. King Saul and his two sons were cremated. Jonathan, one of his sons, was one of the godliest men that has ever walked on this earth and a dear friend to King David. We will see Jonathan when we get to heaven and most likely King Saul, too! The body of clay is just that and everyone's body will one day be turned to dust!

BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

41. What year did they start teaching or understand that the seven churches are part of the timeline?

To my knowledge, I am the only theologian who teaches this interpretation. It simply makes sense. In Genesis chapter one, the LORD filled the text with time markers. In Genesis chapter two, the LORD gave a time marker as to when death would begin to occur on earth. Throughout the Bible, time markers are everywhere. Daniel's prophecy gave time markers that led directly to the year of the appearance of the Messiah perfectly. Many years ago, one theologian began to teach that the seven Churches of the Revelation were the seven kinds of Churches that would exist in the Church Age. Then, that same theology was fabricated and expanded in several ways with absolutely no proof within the Scripture. However, in each letter to each Church in the Revelation, it was promised that the lampstand of each Church would be removed – those are time markers. When all seven Churches had closed their doors then the first verse of chapter 4 could begin to be fulfilled.

Revelation 4:¹ After these things I looked, and behold, a door *standing* open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like *the sound* of a trumpet speaking with me, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things."

42. What is the best argument (Scripture) for pre-trib vs. post-trib rapture?

I do not teach the topics of pre-trib or post-trib rapture just as I do not address the teachings of Luther, Calvin, Zwingli etc. These are doctrines conjured up by men and are in competition with Scriptures in many points. I do know the arguments of pre-trib and post-trib as well as the partial rapture, amillennial, preterist and ultradispensationalism positions. I

will not teach any of them. I teach God's word, not the theories of man. I do fall into one of those camps. From the study of the Revelation as a whole, it is clear to me that the Church arrives in heaven as a great multitude too numerous to count to worship the LORD with their palm branches before the beginning of the tribulation of Israel, also called the *time of Jacob's trouble*. The REVELATION story, taken in chronological order without stacking any of the information in any of the chapters on top of each other to make the Revelation fit any of the six theories is the best argument for when the *snatching away of the Church will occur* as presented by Paul in 1st Thessalonians. If you absolutely need a passage, here is Isaiah's prophecy.

Isaiah 26:¹⁹ Your dead will live; Their corpses will rise. You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy, For your dew *is as* the dew of the dawn, And the earth will give birth to the departed spirits.
²⁰ Come, my people, enter into your rooms And close your doors behind you; Hide for a little while Until indignation runs *its* course. ²¹ For behold, the LORD is about to come out from His place To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; And the earth will reveal her bloodshed And will no longer cover her slain.

In other words, the saints will not go through the time of tribulation, the time of Jacob's trouble.

I concur wholeheartedly with the message that the Church will be removed from the earth before the beginning of the Tribulation as recorded in the historic writings of the Apostolic Fathers (*the pastors who were discipled by the Apostles and faithfully led the Church after their deaths*). One example is Irenaeus, and he said,

"when in the end the Church shall be suddenly caught up from this, it is said, 'There shall be tribulation such as has not been since the beginning, neither shall be.' [Matthew 24:21] For this is the last contest of the righteous, in which, when they overcome they are crowned with incorruption." (Irenaeus, ca. 180, *Against Heresies* 5:29:1, in *Ante-Nicene Fathers* 1:558)

43. Who were the Nicolatians? (Revelation 2:6)

According to the writings of some of our early pastors, the Nicolatians taught that wives could be shared among the men of the church communally and that adultery and fornication needed not be thought of as sin. Furthermore, they taught that it was quite lawful to eat food offered to idols and that pagan rituals were acceptable practices in the Church. The second century pastors who identified these traits of the Nicolaitans were Tertullian, Clement of Alexandria, Irenaeus and Augustine.

LIFE ON EARTH NOW

44. Revelation 21:8 – Cowardly – What is this referring to? Afraid or what?

Good question. I should have addressed it in the notes. The Greek word is *deilos* and it means *slothful or lazy or idle*. In other words, they never did anything that was right for the LORD and they never entered into a relationship with the LORD because doing things the world's way, instead of God's way, was always easier!

PROPHECY STILL UNFULFILLED

45. Where in the Scripture is the prophecy that Palestinians have to be in the space program?

This story is found in Obadiah. The book is written to the Edomites, who, at the time of the writing of the book had already abandoned their land and moved to the land of the Philistines and intermarried. One of the Caesars mistakenly called them Palestinians and it stuck. Because of the treatment of their cousins through the years, the Israelites, they will be killed by the LORD at the time of Armageddon. In Obadiah, it says the following.

Obadiah 1:2 "Behold, I will make you small among the nations; You are greatly despised. **Ob 1:3** "The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, You who live in the clefts of the rock, In the loftiness of your dwelling place, Who say in your heart, 'Who will bring me down to earth?' **4** "Though you build high like the eagle, Though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down," declares the LORD. **5** "If thieves came to you, If robbers by night— O how you will be ruined!— Would they not steal *only* until they had enough? If grape gatherers came to you, Would they not leave *some* gleanings? **6** "O how Esau will be ransacked, *And* his hidden treasures searched out! **7** "All the men allied with you Will send you forth to the border, And the men at peace with you Will deceive you and overpower you. *They who eat* your bread Will set an ambush for you. (There is no understanding in him.) **8** "Will I not on that day," declares the LORD, "Destroy wise men from Edom And understanding from the mountain of Esau? **9** "Then your mighty men will be dismayed, O Teman, So that everyone may be cut off from the mountain of Esau by slaughter. **10** "Because of violence to your brother Jacob, You will be covered *with* shame, And you will be cut off forever.

However, the descendants of the Edomites are not the only ones this promise is made to. Amos makes the same announcement. Therefore, the Palestinians will not be alone.

Am 9:2 "Though they dig into Sheol, From there will My hand take them; And though they ascend to heaven, From there will I bring them down. **3** "Though they hide on the summit of Carmel, I will search them out and take them from there; And though they conceal themselves from My sight on the floor of the sea, From there I will command the serpent and it will bite them. **4** "And though they go into captivity before their enemies, From there I will command the sword that it slay them, And I will set My eyes against them for evil and not for good."

SALVATION

46. When we die, if we believe we are with Jesus. If we don't believe, we are separated from God (hell?). When do we receive a resurrected body? Are we with Jesus in spirit only until the Great White Throne Judgment?

We are created as a body, a soul and a spirit. The body is the case of clay that the soul lives in while here on earth. The spirit is the *breath of life* given by the LORD to Adam and Eve and passed down through birth. When Adam died, his spirit left the body causing it to

die. The spirit provides every cell of the body with life. It controls all the involuntary elements of life in a body. No one can control the spirit within the body; it is controlled by God. The soul is the person living in the body. When we die, the body goes to the ground, the spirit of life returns to the Giver of life and the soul immediately goes to be with the LORD or to torment depending on their decision to make Jesus LORD or not.

The souls of those who accepted the LORD before Calvary were rejoined with their resurrected bodies at the time of the LORD's resurrection. The souls of those who have accepted the LORD since Calvary will be rejoined with their resurrected bodies when the Church is snatched away from the earth. At that same time, those who are still living on earth and have accepted the LORD will be transformed without death to rise to meet the LORD in the air and return to heaven. After the snatching away of the Church, during the days of the tribulation, their souls will immediately go to heaven (New Jerusalem) to be with the LORD and their bodies will go to the ground. The souls of those who reject the LORD during the tribulation and die will go to torment in Hades and their bodies will go to the ground. During the 1,000-year kingdom of the LORD, the souls of those who die will go to torment and their bodies to the ground. Believers will not die during the 1,000-year kingdom. At the formation of the kingdom, the bodies of the tribulation saints will be rejoined to their bodies when they exit from beneath the altar of the LORD to return to earth. At the *Great White Throne Judgment*, all bodies will be resurrected from the ground and their souls will depart from torment in Hades and stand before the LORD on His throne and every one of them will be sent to the *lake of fire and brimstone*. Then, the body of every human on earth will be changed into a resurrected body without experiencing death and enter the New Jerusalem and eternity future.

ANGELS

47. Are there still angels falling – choosing to sin with Satan?

We do not know that answer. Great question. Any answer would be pure speculation.

SEAL ONE

48. The angel on the white horse: His duty was to spread confusion and discord? That sounds like demonic or satanic work rather than angelic or heavenly purpose. Is the angel attacking Christians or non-Christians?

It is not an angel riding the white horse, it is man. You are correct, the intention of this horse rider is to spread confusion, discord and lies. It is demonic and Satanic. It is attacking Christians, but more than that, it is attacking the LORD and everything that is godly.

GOD'S DIVINE WILL

49. God is sovereign, and He chooses who He wills. Were there particular characteristics in the following examples?
- a. John "the beloved disciple," "whom God chose to write the Revelation details"
 - b. John "the Baptist"
 - c. Saul was struck down on the way to Damascus

This is a question that only God can answer. He knows the hearts of everyone and he knows the hearts of those who will be faithful servants to Him. The willingness of the heart is the only characteristic that we can identify among these three examples.

COUNTRIES AND THE TRIBULATION

50. I guess the main thing I am still confused about is if the tribulation will be only be on Israel and the 10 toed countries and countries around the Mediterranean Sea or the whole world?

When we speak of the *time of tribulation and the great tribulation*, both are directed at the *Nation of Israel*.

The Time of Tribulation

The *time of tribulation* for Israel will begin with a *peace treaty* put in place between the *Nation of Israel* and the *Nation of the Beasts* (10 countries formed into one nation) and it will last three and a half years or 1260 days. However, when the treaty is put in place, Israel will not discern that they have formed an alliance with Satan and his *beasts*. For background, at the time of the formation of the western toes in 476 AD, Israel was part of the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire formed a giant circle of land around the Mediterranean Sea. The land of Israel was 80% of the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. The other nations that controlled slithers of land of that eastern coastal border were Cyprus, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, and Lebanon. Together, that area acquired the name *The Levant States* at the end of the Eastern Roman Empire Rule in 1453 AD with the overthrow by the Ottoman Empire. This name should not be strange to you. For the entire eight years of President Obama's term he continually used the term *ISIL* (the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) instead of *ISIS* (the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria). By using the term *ISIL*, Obama was systematically stating that all of Israel truly belonged to Islam because it was attached to Syria in the Muslim Ottoman Empire and was part of that overthrow in 1453 AD and, thereby, he was ignoring the establishment of Israel as a true and viable county in 1948 AD. When the 10 toes form into the new nation of Satan and his *beasts*, that empire will border the *Nation of Israel* on the north and south. The flow of the formation of the empire will be so swift and fluid that a *peace treaty* will be a natural process between the two nations and that will allow the full circle of the *Revived Roman* Empire to be united once again as it was at the final fall. When that fall occurred in 1453 AD, the Muslims lumped Israel as part of Syria. In the future, when the *peace treaty* is established, Israel will mistakenly let its guard down, thinking that the nation which surrounds it will protect it from all harm.

About the time of the *peace treaty agreement*, the *two witnesses* will arrive in Jerusalem. Evidently, because they are not a nation attacking the *Nation of Israel* but are Jewish by nationality and have a right to be in Israel. Satan and his *beasts* will not engage in the agreement to protect Israel. The *two witnesses* will control Israel and bring upon the Jewish nation great distress and famine. When Israel plays the harlot and reaches out to other nations for help and supplies, none will come. To this point, the LORD finally makes His point with the *Nation of Israel*. Near the end of the three and a half years, one of the LORD's prophecies will begin to transpire. The king of the north, *Gog of Magog*, will gather the support of the kings of the east and south and march into Israel to take it for their own possession because it had postured itself as a country of peace and unarmed the nation. The

king of the west, *the Revived Roman Empire*, will hear of the move and rise to defend Israel long before the adversaries come anywhere near Jerusalem. After defeating *Gog*, the king of the *Revived Roman Empire* will march into Jerusalem, meet up with the *two witnesses* and kill them. Then, three and a half days later, the *two witnesses* will rise from the dead and ascend into heaven. The *Nation of Israel* will see this and finally accept the message that the LORD as its long-ignored Savior and begin to give glory to God.

The Great Tribulation

But the salvation of Israel does not end the troubles of the nation – its troubles become worse than ever. The king of the *beast* makes Jerusalem his home, requires them to worship him and attempts to eradicate every Jew who does not worship him and take his mark. The people of the *Nation of Israel* will begin to scatter and live in deplorable conditions for three and a half years, until the *Second Coming of the LORD*. But the *beasts* are not without their troubles as indicated by the *bowls of the LORD's wrath* poured out upon them. Armageddon will bring an end to that time of *Great Tribulation*.

51. So, unless America wants to trade with Anti-Christ countries no one here would need to take the mark? Life would go on as usual?

See the answers to questions 34 and 35 above for the discussion on the anti-christ. To answer this question specifically, yes, if America wants to do trade with the *Revived Roman Empire*, it will be required to accept the mark of the *beast*. That means that all American companies wishing to buy, sell or trade with the empire will accept the mark into their business plan, their logo and their marketing.

As far as life for the rest of Americans, yes, life will go on as usual. Many Americans live and operate in the United States without dealing directly with other countries. However, all Americans deal indirectly with other countries. For example, most of the fruit and vegetables we purchase at the grocery store in the winter come from other countries. Indirect purchasers of such products will surely not have to take the mark to purchase within the states; however, those corporations and businesses will.

ETERNITY FUTURE

52. I don't understand why there will be gates (12 with pearl gates) in the new heaven. Why will we need gates?

As we have stated in the REVELATION study many times, the *new heaven*, or rather the *New Jerusalem*, is not new at all. It was created on the first day of creation before this earth and the universe around it were created as a city with steps, gates, walls, etc., and it is an example of what cities, villages and towns on earth should have been like after its initial creation. Remember, earth was created by the LORD to resemble His home (tabernacle, courts, tents, Ark, tree of life, river of life, etc.). The LORD's home in heaven is the perfect example of what we should work toward to make our homes like here on earth. Obviously, sin entered the picture as scheduled and the family units and homes would not all come anywhere close to the heavenly example.

The twelve gates are a symbol of freedom to go and come in God's home in heaven now and later when it comes to rest and remain here on earth for all eternity. That statement leads us to the following question.

53. Where will we go if we go out these gates?

The *New Jerusalem* will cover a 1,500-mile square patch of land on the earth, roughly half the size of the United States without Alaska and Hawaii. Think of it this way, the earth is roughly 25,000 miles around and the *New Jerusalem* will take up only 1,500 miles of that, meaning there are 23,500 more miles around the globe from east to west that will be available to travel to if you desire. But remember, at that time, everyone will be in spiritual bodies and can make the trip around the world faster than the speed of light. Everyone will also be enjoying the family relationships in heaven and especially God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Will we need to go outside the gates? No. Will we be able to? Yes, if we want to, and without fear because no evil will dwell on earth for all eternity either inside the gates or out.

54. Will there be people on other planets or do you think we are the only ones He created?

To answer this question, we must ask another question. Will there be creatures on other planets? The world today is obsessed with finding life on other planets, but in reality, it is obsessed with finding intelligent-human-like life on other planets. Will we find creatures on other planets? Are we not still finding microscopic creatures on earth in places where scientists of the past told us no life could exist? We are finding them in the coldest and hottest places, in the deepest depths of the abyss and the highest points in the atmosphere. I think it would be absurd at this point in scientific research to state emphatically that we will never find microscopic life on the moon, Mars, Venus and beyond. Human-like-life is a whole new question. To that, the answer is no, we will never find where God has made man in His own image with the ability to communicate with God anywhere else in the universe save the creatures created on the first day of creation to serve in God's home.