

The Future – Book of Revelation – Lesson 16

Title: The Revelation of Jesus Christ as given to John.

It is a revelation given by God of Jesus to show his servants things that must come to pass by his angel to John.

NOTE: Blessed are those that **read** and **hear** and **keep** the words of this prophesy.

The word “**blessed**” occurs 7 times in the book like many other things.

Mark Trotter in “52 Weeks of Pursuit” explains the divisions God clearly makes in this book which is key to understanding the text:

“Within the context of the 22 chapters of this Book, something significant happens **two** times: heaven opens.

When heaven opens the first time in 4:1-2, somebody GOES UP. When heaven opens the second time in 19:11, somebody COMES DOWN. In 4:1, when somebody goes up, heaven opens and John, who is a picture of the church, hears a voice, the sound of a trumpet, and in the moment in the twinkling of an eye, finds himself in heaven at the very throne of God. It is clearly identifying the Rapture, because it describes exactly what Paul detailed in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17.

In 19:11 when somebody comes down, heaven opens and the Lord Jesus Christ comes out of heaven on a white horse with His armies following behind, also on “white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.” (19:14) The “armies” that are with Him are clearly the church (See 19:7-8), and the event is unmistakably the Second Coming of Christ.

A simple way to distinguish between these two events is that at the Rapture, Jesus comes in the CLOUDS — **FOR** His saints (I Thess. 4:17), and at the Second Coming, Jesus comes to the EARTH—**WITH** His saints.

Whereas the Rapture ends the Church Age and ushers in the Tribulation, the Second Coming ends the Tribulation period and ushers in the Millennium (“milli” = 1,000, “anum” = years). (Rev. 20: 1-6).

So, these two significant events (heaven opening) “divide” the Book into three sections:

- 1) Chapters 1-3
- 2) Chapters 4-19
- 3) Chapters 20-22

Interestingly enough, in chapter 1 and verse 19, God told John that there would be three sections to the Revelation he would receive:

- 1) “The things which thou HAST SEEN” (past)
- 2) “The things WHICH ARE” (present)
- 3) “The things which SHALL BE hereafter” (future)

If we will “rightly divide” this Book, it is imperative that we make the obvious connection between the three divisions of the Book created by the two times heaven opens, and the three tenses in which God told John to write in 1:19.

However, there is a key that many miss when making these connections! Notice what John says in chapter 1 and verse 10: “I was in the Spirit on the **Lord’s day**.” Now, most assume that John is talking about the fact that one Sunday afternoon he was simply “walking in the Spirit” as all of us have been commanded to do (Gal. 5:16), when all of a sudden he received an incredible “revelation” from God. But that is not what the verse is communicating!

As we've talked about since the very beginning of the 52 Weeks of Pursuit, the phrase “the Lord’s day” that John references in verse 10 isn't talking about “Sunday,” this is the phrase God uses to refer to the theme of the Bible! It is that 1,000 year “day” that God set aside for Himself way back in Genesis 2:3! (c.f. II Peter 3:8) What John is trying to get us to understand in verse 10 is that the Spirit of God had picked him up and catapulted him forward in time to the “Day of the Lord,” and from the vantage point of someone way out in the 21st century at the time of the Lord’s Second Coming, he was told to write in the three tenses described in 1:19.

So, from John writing the “Revelation” from the standpoint of “the Lord’s Day,” the Book of Revelation actually “divides” (2 Tim 2:15) like this:

- Chapters 1-3 are “the things which John HAST SEEN” (1:19a), or the things which from the standpoint of “the Lord's Day” were in the PAST. Namely, the events of the Church Age to the Rapture.
- Chapters 4-19 are “the things which ARE” (1:19b), or the things which from the standpoint of “the Lord's Day” were in the PRESENT. Namely, the events of the Tribulation to the Second Coming.
- Chapters 20-22 are “the things which SHALL BE” (1:19c), or the things which from the standpoint of “the Lord's Day” were yet in the FUTURE. Namely, the events of the Millennium on into Eternity.

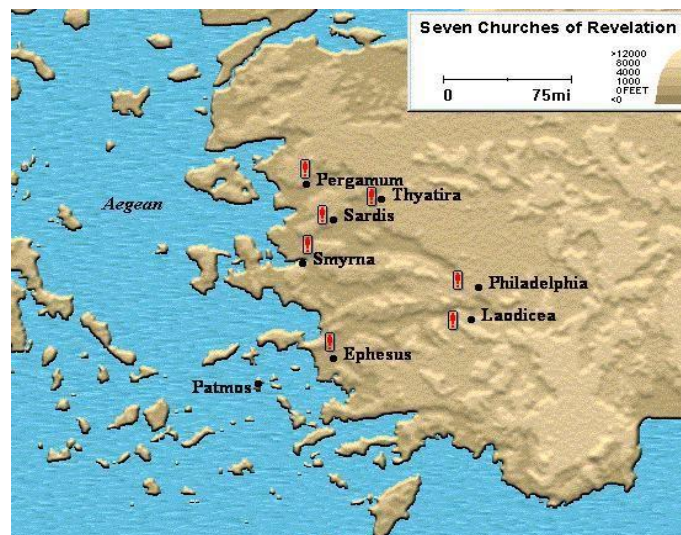
It should be noted that because this Book is “the Revelation of Jesus Christ” (1:1a), it actually necessitated that it be “divided” into these three tenses—because our Lord Jesus Christ is He “which is, and which was, and which is to come!” (Rev. 1:8)”

John writes to the 7 churches in chapters 1-3.

The Seven Churches of Asia Minor

Represent:

- Actual churches of the time
- Periods of the Church Age
- Types of churches found today
- Types of Christians



Comparison Chart

Note the different titles of Christ in the passages and the command to repent

Church Name	Meaning	Period	Reference	Commended	Rebuked	Promise to Overcomers	Name of Christ
Ephesus:	The Desired One	70-170	Rev 2:1-7	Labor& patience, hates deeds of Nicolaitans	Left 1st love	Tree of life in paradise	He holds 7 stars and walks in midst of candlesticks
Smyrna:	Myrrh; Death	170-312	Rev 2:8-11	Endured tribulation	No rebuke	Crown of life not 2nd death	1st, last, was dead and is alive
Pergamos:	Mixed Marriage	312-606	Rev 2:12-17	Not denied faith	Doctrine of Balaam, Nicolaitans	Manna, white stone, new name	He hath sharp, two-edged sword
Thyatira:	Odour of Affliction	606-1520	Rev 2:18-29	Faith, patience, works	Jezebel's teachings	Power to rule, morning star	Eyes like flame of fire, feet like brass
Sardis:	Remnant	1520-1750	Rev 3:1-6	Hast a name that lives	Dead works	White raiment, book of life	Hath 7 Spirits of God and 7 stars
Philadelphia:	Brotherly Love	1750-1900	Rev 3:7-13	Kept Word	No rebuke	New names given	Holy, true, and hath key of David to open and shut
Laodicea:	Civil rights	1900-rapture	Rev 3:14-22	No commendation	Lukewarm	Sit with Christ in throne	The Amen, faithful and true witness, beginning of creation of God

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

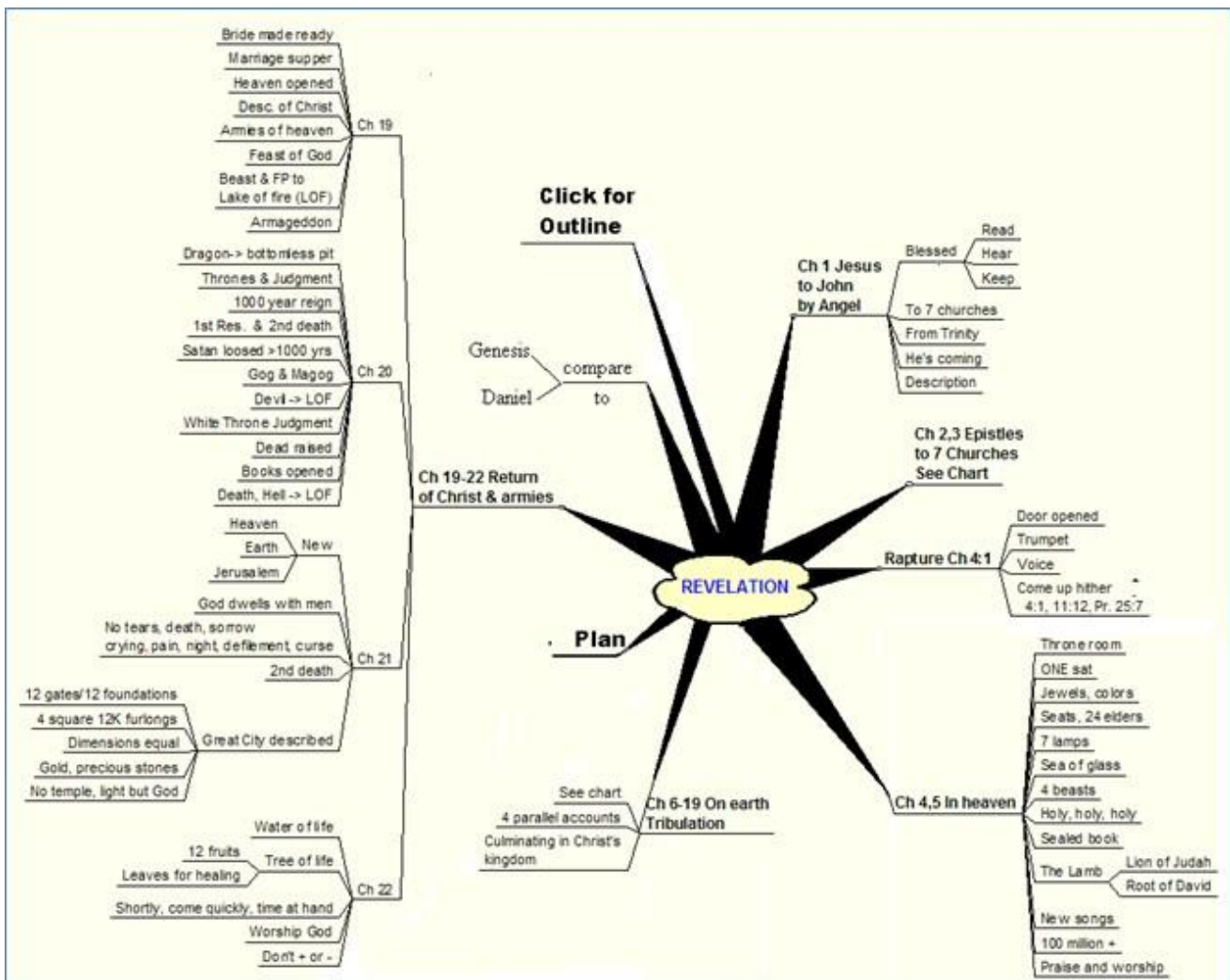
Chart above based on Chuck Missler's Learn the Bible in 24 Hours, hour 22

The churches of Rev 1-3 disappear from the narrative and a rapture occurs in Rev 4:1

A door is opened in heaven. A voice like a trumpet says, Come up hither. The church is not mentioned again until the return of Christ in Chapter 19. Compare this with the classic rapture verses in 1Th 4:13 -18 and 1Co 15:51 – 58, and also look at the wording of Rev 11:12, Pro 25:7, Josh 6:5, Neh 4:20. The sound of the trumpet and something going up is always worthy of attention.

Scene In The Throne Room of Heaven – Rev 4-5

<p>One sat on the throne Jewels, colors Seats 24 elders (perhaps representing the 12 tribes and 12 apostles) Seven lamps Sea of glass Four beasts (creatures)</p>	<p>Holy, Holy, Holy The sealed book The Lamb Lion of Judah Root of David New song 100 million plus Praise and worship</p>
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Chapter 6-19 Tribulation on earth

Beginning in chapter 6, John has brought us through four different accounts of the Tribulation Period which, of course, culminates with the Second Coming of Christ:

1st account— The OPENING of 7 SEALS. (6:1-8:1)

2nd account— The SOUNDING of 7 TRUMPETS. (8:2-11:19)

3rd account— The REVEALING of 7 PERSONAGES. (12-14)

4th account— The POURING of 7 VIALS. (15-16)

Four Views of the Tribulation	Rev 6:1-8:1 7 Seals - View 1	Rev 8:2-11:19 7 Trumpets -View 2	Rev 12:1-13:18 7 Personages - View 3	Rev 15:1-16:21 7 Vials - View 4
Event #1	White Horse Rider is the Antichrist - Rev 6:1,2 also Dan 8:25,11:21, Mt 24:4	1/3 of the Earth is consumed Rev 8:7	The Woman is Israel Rev 12:2	Grievous sores - Rev 16:2
Event #2	Red Horse Rider is the Angel of the Lord – Rev 6:3,4, Zec 1, Mt 24:6	1/3 salt water turned to blood Rev 8:8,9	The Man child is Jesus Rev 12:5, Eze 34:23	All seas turned to blood and all in sea die – Rev 16:3
Event #3	Black Horse Rider brings famine and the mark Rev 6:5	1/3 fresh water becomes bitter - Rev 8:10-11	The Dragon is Satan – Rev 12:3,7,9, Isa 27:1	All fresh water becomes blood - Rev 16:8
Event #4	Pale Horse Rider brings death and inhabitants of Hell – Rev 6:7, Mt 24:7	1/3 of the heavens (sun, moon, stars) darkened – Rev 8:12	Michael the Arch-angel – Rev 12:7	Sun scorches men - Rev 16:8
Event #5	Souls under the altar - Rev 6:9-11, Mt 24:9-13	Locusts from the bottomless pit – Rev 9:1- 11	The Beast of the sea is the Anti- christ – Rev 13:1	Antichrist's kingdom is darkened – Rev 16:10
Event #6	The heavens cleansed – black sun, blood moon, stars falling Rev 6:12-17, Mt 24:21,29-33,37	4 angels in Euphrates River released to slay 1/3 of men – Rev 9:13-21	The Beast out of the earth is the False Prophet Rev 13:11	Euphrates River dried up - Rev 16:12
Event #7	Silence 1/2 hour Rev 8:1.	The pronouncement of Christ's kingdom Rev 11:14-19	The Image of the Beast – Rev 13:15	Earthquake divides the great city – Rev 16:17-19
Parenthetical Chapters	Ch. 7 – The sealing of the 144,000 and a great multitude of all nations in heaven	Ch. 10 – John commanded to eat the book	Ch. 14 – The fall of Babylon	Ch. 17&18 – The woman arrayed in scarlet, fall of Babylon

Return of Christ and Armies of Heaven – Chapter 19-22

Chapter 19

- Bride made ready
- Marriage supper
- Heaven opened
- Descent of Christ
- Armies of heaven follow (saints of the 1st resurrection)
- Feast of God
- Beast and False Prophet cast into Lake of Fire
- Battle of Armageddon

Chapter 20

- Dragon cast to the bottomless pit
- Thrones and judgment
- 1000 year reign – Millennium called Kingdom of (from) Heaven
- 1st resurrection and 2nd death differentiated
- Satan loosed after 1000 years to deceive
- Battle of Gog and Magog
- Satan cast into Lake of Fire
- White Throne judgment
- Dead raised
- Books opened
- Death & hell cast into Lake of Fire - Second Death

Chapter 21

- New Heaven
- New Earth
- New Jerusalem
- God dwells with men
- No more
 - Tears
 - Death
 - Sorrow
 - Crying
 - Pain
 - Night
 - Defilement
 - Curse
- Second Death
- The great city described (see John 14:2-3)
- 12 gates and 12 foundations
- Foursquare 12,000 furlongs (1500 miles on a side)
- Gold, precious stones
- No temple, God is the light thereof

Chapter 22

- Water of life
- Tree of life
 - 12 fruits
 - Leaves for healing of the nations
- Shortly, come quickly, time is at hand
- Worship God
- Don't add or take away from prophecy of this book

Questions on Revelation

1. In Chapter 1 who is revealing and what is being revealed?
2. What is promised to the reader who hears and keeps the words of the book?
3. Chapter 2-3 are epistles from Jesus to _ _____.
4. How are these epistles similarly structured?
5. Chapter 4:1 sounds like a _____.
6. Describe what John saw in throne room of heaven.
7. Chapters 6-19 are about the judgment of the Jews called _____. What are other names for this period?
8. What happens in the middle of this period according to Daniel?
9. The last half of the period is called the _____.
10. What do each of the four horsemen represent?
11. Why are the 144,000 not Jehovah Witnesses?
12. Do you think the Seals, Trumpets, Personages, and Vials are sequential judgments or four accounts of the same basic set of events?
13. List as many things occurring in sevens in Revelation as you can.
14. What is the 2nd death
15. When are the antichrist, false prophet and Satan cast into the lake of fire?

Peter and the Early Church (Acts 1-12)

1. What things show that Peter was the leader of the early church? Ac 1.15, 2.14 Peter stood up...Ac 2.38, 3.4,6,12, 4.8,19, 5.3, 10.34 Peter spoke up. Ac 5.15, 9.34, 40 Peter did miracles
2. What are some things that happened to Peter three times? 3 tabernacles, 3 times asleep in the garden, 3 denials of Jesus, Jesus asks 3 times "lovest thou me", 3 times a vision of unclean animals, 3 men seek thee.
3. What events show that Peter was impulsive? Build 3 tabernacles, I will never deny thee, tries to walk on water, and cuts off the servant's ear.
4. When was Peter converted? See Lu 22.32. After Jesus' resurrection.
5. List Peter's journey's from Jerusalem. Samaria, Joppa and Caesarea, Antioch, Babylon.
6. How did Peter explain the speaking in tongues on Pentecost? He said it was fulfilled prophecy of Joel. See Ac 2.14-20, Joel 2.28.
7. What are the similarities of Peter and Paul's ministries?

<u>PETER:</u>	<u>PAUL:</u>
First Sermon - ch. 2	First Sermon - ch. 13
Lame Man healed - ch. 3	Lame man healed - ch. 14
Simon the Sorcerer - ch. 8	Elymas the sorcerer - ch. 13
Shadow influence - ch. 5	Handkerchief influence - ch. 19
Laying on of hands - ch. 8	Laying on of hands - ch. 19
Peter worshipped - ch. 10	Paul worshipped - ch. 14
Tabitha raised - ch. 9	Eutychus raised - ch. 20
Peter imprisoned - ch. 12	Paul imprisoned - ch. 28

8. Why did Ananias and Sapphira die? They lied to the Holy Ghost – Ac 5
9. Describe the early church activities. Ac 2.42, 46 In one accord, breaking bread, house to house, ministering to widows, preaching, teaching, discipleship, and sending out missionaries (Ac 6)
10. Peter was the apostle to the Jews, so why did he go to Cornelius, a gentile? God orchestrated it so the early church would know that the Gentiles were also accepted. (Ac 11). Also Paul was probably not yet available as the apostle to the Gentiles.
11. What did the Jewish church at Jerusalem require of the believing Gentiles? Ac 15:20,29; Ac 21:25 – abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.
12. Why was the office of deacon established? To help in the administration of the church so the apostles could give themselves prayer and ministry of the Word. (Ac 6.1-4)
13. How did Stephen confront the Jewish leaders? He gave them the Big Picture explaining their heritage and how Christ was foretold, and they crucified Him. (Ac 7)
14. What was the result of the persecution of the early church? They were scattered like seed, preaching the Gospel everywhere.
15. When Stephen was stoned, what phrase did he say that was like Christ? Ac 7.59-60...Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge...
16. What was the requirement for baptism of the Ethiopian? Others? Being saved by believing with the whole heart meaning confessing sin, repenting of it, believing, and receiving Christ as Savior.
17. How long did people wait after believing to get baptized? List examples. They were baptized immediately after being saved, as soon as they understood the meaning of baptism. See the Ethiopian, Cornelius, Paul, the Philippian Jailer, Lydia, the Corinthians of Ac 18.8, the Ephesians in Ac 19.1-5
18. Why should people be baptized today? It's a picture of Christ's death, burial and resurrection. He as our example was baptized. It's an act of obedience and identification with Christ.
19. How did the prayers of the early church for Peter get answered? Peter escaped from jail by the hand of an angel. They didn't believe it was really Peter when he showed up. See Ac 12.

Paul and Missions

1. What did Saul originally think about believers in Christ? Ac 8.1, 9.1-2, 22.20 He persecuted them, went after them, and consented to their death.
2. From what tribe of Israel was Saul of Tarsus? Tribe of Benjamin like King Saul of the OT.

3. Who did he meet on the way to Damascus? **He met the risen Lord Jesus Christ. Ac 9.4-5.**
4. What importance is the conversion of a persecutor like Saul, or a skeptic, or an atheist, etc.? **He was a hostile witness. His testimony is especially strong since he was a persecutor who became a follower. Why would he change so abruptly and powerfully?**
5. What did Saul do immediately after receiving his sight? What does this show? **It shows fruit, that his experience was real. He was immediately baptized and began preaching Christ to the Jews. See 2Co 5.17.**
6. How did the Jews feel about Saul after he converted? **The unsaved Jews hated him as a traitor and the saved Jews didn't trust him that he was really converted. They thought he might betray them.**
7. Where was the base of Saul's mission work located? **Antioch where believers were first called Christians. Ac 11.26.**
8. When did Saul become known as Paul? **After the conversion of Sergius Paulus, he was no longer referred to as Saul. Ac 13.7.**
9. Why did Paul dislike John Mark and refuse to take him on the 2nd journey? **He left the mission work on Paul's first journey for whatever reason.**
10. What was Paul's method of witnessing? **To the Jew first then the Gentiles. He would reason with them out of the OT Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ. Ac 17.2-3, 18.5,8.**
11. In what three ways did people of Paul's day respond to the gospel? **Some believed, some didn't, and some put off the decision until later.**
12. What happened when Paul tried to go to Asia and Bithynia? Then what happened? **He was forbidden by the Spirit. Then he had a vision of the Macedonian calling for help. Ac 16.6-9.**
13. What happened on Paul's 2nd journey at Philippi? **He was put in jail and let the jailer to the Lord when an earthquake opened all the cells. Ac 16.23-31.**
14. Why were the Bereans more noble than the Thessalonians? **They searched the Scripture daily to see if what they were told was true. Ac 17.11.**
15. What did Paul declare in Athens on Mars Hill? **Ac 17.22 Ye are too superstitious.**
16. When Paul revisited the churches, he confirmed the brethren. What does that mean? **He did all he could to make sure they were in the faith. Ac 14.22, 15.41**
17. How did Paul use his Roman citizenship to his advantage? **He played it like a trump card when he was in trouble. See Ac 22.25**
18. Why did Paul appeal to Caesar? **He didn't think he would be a fair hearing by the Jews and leaders in Jerusalem. Ac 25.9-11.**

Questions on Paul's Epistles

1. Paul's epistles start out with **doctrine** first then finish with **duty**.
2. They are characterized by being written to **churches** or to **people**.
3. How do Paul's epistles relate to his journeys? **He wrote in anticipation of or else as a follow up to his journeys.**
4. What does Paul mean by a mystery? **Something previously hidden.**
5. What are some of the mysteries he writes about? **Blindness to Israel so the Gentiles could be saved, the gospel, the Rapture, the will of God, the dispensation of grace, salvation of the Gentiles, the Church as the body of Christ, the indwelling of the believer by the Spirit of God, the Trinity, of iniquity, of godliness – God manifest in the flesh.**
6. Explain the judgment seat of Christ. **Christians will be judged there by Christ according to the works done after salvation. See Rom 14.10, 1Co 3.11-, 2Co 5.10**
7. Where are the clear explanations of the Rapture given by Paul? **1Th 4.13-18, 1Co 15.51- 58**
8. What is the doctrine of the rapture supposed to do for us now? **Comfort and motivate**
9. Paul says the body is the **temple of the Holy Ghost**.
10. Paul's writings give us many great doctrinal words that end in 'tion'. List and define as many as you can. **Adoption, affection, condemnation, consolation, contribution, corruption, creation, damnation, destruction, dissimulation, edification, election, emulation, exhortation, expectation, fornication, foundation, indignation, justification, manifestation, mention, nation, persecution, propitiation, proportion, redemption, , resurrection, salvation, tribulation(s)**

11. Explain the “new man” and the “old man” based on Scripture. Compare 2Co 5.17, Ro 6.6, Eph 4.22-24, Col 3.9-10
12. What does the Bible mean by charity? Perfect love requiring nothing in return. Search out the word, charity, in the scripture. Also search for the Greek word, agape (G26).
13. What is the Gospel that Paul preaches? Rom 10.8-13, 1Co 15.1-4
14. How do grace and works reconcile? Eph 2.8,9 Salvation by grace produces a new creature desiring to do good works for God. Grace and works are two sides of the same coin. Salvation is NOT by works – Titus 3.5. Works are the fruit of salvation. Faith without works is dead faith. James 2.18-26.

Questions on the General Epistles

1. These epistles are characterized by who is writing them.
2. To whom was Hebrews written? To the Hebrew Christians.
3. To whom was James written? What does that mean? To the 12 tribes scattered abroad. They were probably scattered from Jerusalem upon the stoning of Stephen. It means that some of the things that are written are particularly Jewish in nature.
4. Peter was the Apostle to the circumcision (the Jews). How does that matter when we read his writings? See the answer to the previous question. Keep in mind that Paul said there is no difference between Jew and Gentile in Christ.
5. What is the difference between the Jew and Gentile in the Church? There is no difference in God's eyes
6. How can the Book of James and Paul's writings be reconciled regarding works? See answer to #14 in the previous section.
7. Who was Jude? The half-brother of Jesus having Mary as his mother and Joseph as his father.
8. 1st John gives us assurance of our salvation.

Revelation

1. In chapter 1 who is revealing and what is being revealed? Re 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:
2. What is promised to the reader who hears and keeps the words of the book? A blessing.
3. Chapter 2-3 are epistles from Jesus to seven churches of Asia Minor.
4. How are these epistles similar and different? See chart below. Note the different titles of Christ in the passages and the command to repent

Church Name	Means	Appx. Dates	Reference	Praise for	Rebuke	Promise to Over-comers	Name of Christ
Ephesus	The Desired One	70-170	Rev 2:1-7	Labor & patience, hate Nicolaitans	Left 1 st love	Tree of life in paradise	He holds 7 stars and walks in midst of candlesticks
Smyrna	Myrrh; Death	170-312	Rev 2:8-11	Endured tribulation	No rebuke	Crown of life not 2 nd death	1 st , last, was dead and is alive
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He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches

5. Chapter 4:1 sounds like a rapture. Come up hither. No more church in chapters 6-19
6. Describe what John saw in throne room of heaven. One sitting on the throne. Jewels and colors, seats for the 24 elders, 7 lambs, a sea of glass, 4 beasts, a sealed book, the Lamb, hundreds of millions of people.
7. Chapters 6-19 are about the judgment of the Jews called the Tribulation.
8. What are other names for this period? Daniel's Seventieth Week, Time of Jacob's Trouble.
9. What happens in the middle of this period according to Daniel? The abomination of desolation breaks the covenant with the Jews. See Dan 9.27, Mt 24.15
10. The last half of the period is called the Great Tribulation.
11. What the four horsemen represent? War, famine, pestilence, death
12. Why are the 144,000 not Jehovah Witnesses? They are Jewish, male, virgins of each tribe of Israel.
13. Do you think the seals, trumpets, personages, and vials are sequential judgments or four accounts of the same thing? I don't have an answer except that they each have 6 things, a parenthetical chapter, and then the seventh item. It seems like the return of Christ happens at the end of each so they would be parallel accounts like the 4 Gospels. People disagree.
14. List as many things occurring in sevens in Revelation as you can.
 - Churches - Re 1:4; 2-3 Letters - Re 2-3
 - Spirits - Re 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6
 - Golden lampstands - Re 1:12,20; 2:1; 4:5
 - Stars - Re 1:16,20; 2:1; 3:1
 - Seals - Re 5:1,5; 6:1
 - Horns - Re 5:6 Eyes - Re 5:6
 - Angels - Re 8:2,6; 15:1,6-8; 16:1; 17:1; 21:9
 - Trumpets - Re 8:2,6
 - Thunders - Re 10:3-4
 - Thousand people - Re 11:13
 - Heads - Re 12:3; 13:1; 17:3,7,9
 - Crowns - Re 12:3
 - Plagues - Re 15:1,6,8; 21:9
 - Golden vials - Re 15:7; 16:1; 17:1; 21:9
 - Hills - Re 17:9
 - Kings - Re 17:10-11
 - Last 7 visions - Re 20-21
15. What is the 2nd death. The unsaved dead from all ages are resurrected to the Great White Throne judgment. Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.
16. When are the antichrist, false prophet, and Satan cast into the lake of fire? The antichrist and false prophet are cast in to the lake of fire when Christ returns. Satan is bound for 1000 years during the Millennium. He is loosed for a season at the end to deceive the nations who do not accept Christ's rule. Then he is cast into the lake of fire.