



## UNDERSTANDING THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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### FALL 2017 | SESSION #8

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“Biblical prophesy always *both* addressed the prophet’s contemporaries about their own present and the future immediately impending for them *and* raised hopes which proved able to transcend their immediate relevance to the prophet’s contemporaries and to continue to direct later readers to God’s purpose for their future... One of the functions of Revelation was to purge and refurbish the Christian imagination.”

— R. Bauckham

#### I. A STIRRING VISION OF VICTORY FOR GOD’S MISSION — *“Let the one who can hear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”* — Ch.19: 1–5

**Rev. 19:1** After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, 2 for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants." 3 And again they shouted: "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever." 4 The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: "Amen, Hallelujah!" 5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!"

##### A. THE SONG OF CELEBRATION OVER THE FALL OF BABYLON

1. Heaven and earth are joined together in unity of celebration: saints, apostles, and prophets rejoice for God has vindicated their witness and their deaths at the hands of the persecuting Babylon.
2. They sing a song of worship in response to the defeat of evil? Is this appropriate?

—> Proverbs 8:13 – “To fear [reverence] the Lord is to hate evil.”

—> Matthew 23:37 – “**Jerusalem, Jerusalem**, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.

##### B. ANNOUNCING THE “WEDDING SUPPER OF THE LAMB.” (19: 6-8)

Rev. 19:6 Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. 7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. 8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)

1. The wedding is announced but the \_\_\_\_\_ is not described.
2. The Lamb's bride is \_\_\_\_\_, but we are not told who she is – just that she is eager, prepared (see parable of the 10 virgins of Mt.25), and we are told what she is wearing.

3. **Note:** What she is wearing was “\_\_\_\_\_” to her. It is described as “fine white linen which John feels the need to explain so no one misses it. The clothing is the “righteous deeds of the saints.”
4. **Pastoral Point:** Observe the relationship between God’s sovereign grace [given not earned] and the impact of that grace seen in the Spirit birthed response of doing God’s will and deeds in God’s character [righteous] by his true people.

**C. A BLESSING AND A MAJOR BLUNDER — “Let the one who can hear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”— Chapter 19: 9–10**

**1. THE BLESSING/BEATITUDE — (19:9) “Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb! And he added, “These are the true words of God.”**

- First appearance of the wedding metaphor with its themes of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

**2. A MAJOR BLUNDER ON JOHN’S PART (19:10)**

*10 At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."*

- a. The need to be wise and able to differentiate between high regard/honor and idolatry of another. No idols of any kind allowed! Only God is “awesome”.
- b. CCF (or any community) and combating the idolatry of others. (Teacher/Worship Leaders/etc.)

**D. THE CONQUERING LORD’S BATTLE — “Let the one who can hear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.” (Chapter 19:11-21)**

11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. 17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, 18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great." 19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. 20 But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. 21 The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

1. **John sees the “heavens open.”** —> This returns us again to an underlying theme in the Revelation. John’s experience begins “in the Spirit” with a door opening in heaven – a door he is invited to enter through and which brings him revelations of truth. Later he will see an open temple door from which

comes the worship as well as the ministries of God [both graces and wrath]. —> Now heaven itself is opened to reveal its full dominion over the things of the earth.

2. **Very Dynamic Voice:** —> “And Behold A White Horse...”(KJV).

- a. The Lamb (Jesus) is revealed as a \_\_\_\_\_, whose coming results in the conquering of the principalities and powers of darkness. (Isaiah 63:1-6; Ezekiel 38-39; Joel 3 and Zechariah 14:3)
- b. **A WARRIOR LAMB?** A memorable oxymoron. Is this a contradiction to the rest of NT revelation concerning Jesus? Answer is NO! (See Mt.13: 41-42 & 25:41; Ro. 2:5; 2Thess. 1:7 & 2:8).
- c. **THE WARRIOR KING DESCRIBED AS THE \_\_\_\_\_.**

[1] He is “\_\_\_\_\_.” Earlier (3:14) Jesus is described as the “faithful and true witness”, now he is the faithful and true judge. He is pure (not distorted by the powers — and loyal to the true good). With justice he judges and makes war.

[2] **His eyes penetrating like a flaming fire.** (Rev.1:14) seeing fully the heart and mind of a person. (Use of fire in OT and NT = purification of dross; intensity of vision and judgment; baptism of Spirit and fire). — Therefore he is able to judge rightly for all of humanity.

[3] **Robed in a blood dipped gown** reminding the reader that he came as the saving lamb and even now as the divine judge he remains marked by his sacrifice of overcoming the world and its powers. (Rev. 5:6, 12)

[4] He is the \_\_\_\_\_ and his words expose and overcome evil. The nations are judged with the sword of his mouth – (Isaiah 11:4; John 12:46–49, Rev. 1:16; 2:12, 16).

**Isaiah 11:4** But with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

- **This judgment is a result of the rejection of the earthly testimony of his life and the testimony of his people to the nations.**

**John 12:48** There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word, which I spoke, will condemn him at the last day.

3. **THE FINAL VICTORY OF THE KING!** — The Chapter ends with the defeat of the armies of the Beast and the False Prophet. These stark images are of an ancient battlefield with its exposed dead and the birds of prey present and having their fill.

## II. **ULTIMATE BLESSINGS, JUDGMENTS, AND VICTORIES!** — “*Let the one who can hear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.*”— Chapter 20:1–15

1 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. 2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. 3 He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time. 4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast

or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. **5**(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. **6**Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years. **7**When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison **8**and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. **9**They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. **10**And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever. **11** Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. **12**And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. **13**The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. **14**Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. **15**If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

- A. **Profoundly difficult section.** Lots of opinions by lots of thoughtful people. Greatest difficulty is in trying to make sense of this in a linear historical flow of time. D. Johnson is helpful in reminding us that these audio-visual experiences are described in terms of what John saw. First he saw this and then that, etc. It does not say that what he saw is in a concrete progression of historical time. Remember how John saw the nativity story earlier in Revelation?

**SATAN IS BOUND IN THE ABYSS** (v. 1-3) and finally cast down into the fiery lake and the second death forever, *followed by death and hades (7-14)!*

**B. THE 1000 YEARS (MILLENNIUM) OF SATAN BEING BOUND?**

*(See handouts from Christian History;—and especially the reflections by D. Johnson from Discipleship On the Edge.)*

- C. **THIS IS A \_\_\_\_\_** to what is happening to the martyred dead who overcame in their lives by keeping the testimony of Jesus and did not worship the Beast. They are being raised up in new and eternal life, (because they are sharing in the 1<sup>st</sup> resurrection — the resurrection of their Lord? — the dynamics of true baptism? Romans 6) — to receive and reign with the Lord in his Kingdom. They are blessed with this life and are freed from the power of the second death.

1. **ANOTHER BEATITUDE:** Rev. 20: 6 “Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.”
2. The other part of dead humanity is raised as well to face the great **“white throne judgment”** which results in the second death [11-15].
  - a. This is the 7<sup>th</sup> Throne Image and is now reduced to only the throne and He who sits on it.”
3. **PASTORAL POINT:** The judgment is on “what they had done” and if their names were in the “book of life.” — Could John be telling us that none of us has any chance of abundant life, what Jesus calls “real and eternal life” (Jn. 10:10 Message) — simply by our attempts at good works (which never cancel out the bad) but that each and every one of us needs the life that comes solely through Jesus Christ and reorients us to the “good works of Christ.” (Eph. 2:10 *For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to*

*do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*" (See end of notes for the use of "life" in the gospel of John.)

Jesus makes it clear that all will be judged by their deeds (Sheep and Goats) — just as he and the apostles clearly assume that true faith results in a transformational power that alters the mind, heart, and actions of a person as they turn from darkness and embrace the light and life of Jesus.

### **III. THE NEW HEAVENS, THE NEW EARTH & THE NEW JERUSALEM. — *"Let the one who can hear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches."* (Chapter 21)**

Rev. 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." 5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." 6 He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death." 9 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. 11 It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. 12 It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. 13 There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. 14 The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 15 The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. 16 The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long. 17 He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits thick, by man's measurement, which the angel was using. 18 The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. 19 The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. 21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass. 22 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. 25 On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. 26 The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. 27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

A. John sees the re-creation of the heavens and earth making them "new." This new creation joins with the angels and saints in singing their new songs. ("Behold I make all things new.")

- **NOTE: AND "THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY SEA."** The end of chaos has come.

B. **THE NEW JERUSALEM — BRIDE OF CHRIST (v.2)** —> descending from heaven (its source of existence comes from the throne not the earth) to the earth – like a bride coming down the aisle to embrace her new destiny with her waiting husband.

C. **NOW THE DWELLING OF GOD IS WITH MEN — GOD’S CREATIONAL VISION FULFILLED.**

“Now the dwelling of God is with men ... and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.” (Vs. 3) (Exodus Covenant)

1. **RICH THEME OF GOD’S INTIMACY** to the overcomers (verse 7). They shall be his “sons” i.e. the inheritors of his domain.

2. **THE BLESSINGS OF INTIMACY ARE DESCRIBED IN EACH OF THE 7 BEATITUDES** — and in the promises that end each of the 7 letters to the churches as well as the blessings described here in v. 5-7.

*5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." 6 He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.*

a. Note the contrast made between overcomers and those of verse eight (8). What did they overcome? They overcome the world and its ways. What are the “ways of the world?” —v.8: “But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

3. **PARADISE FOUND? MULTIPLE ECHOES OF HOPE AND LIFE!**

*Revelation 22:1 — Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be any curse.*

a. There is to be “a river of living water” and a “tree of life”. —Echoes of Genesis 2:8; Isaiah 55:1; John 4:10-14; 7:37-38.

b. The healing of sorrows; no more death; no more mourning, nor crying! Why? —> Because the “*old order of things has passed away.*”

D. **THE BRIDE IS NOW REVEALED** —> She is morphed into a city – the true and New Jerusalem.

1. **The New City?** Perhaps 2 Ideas Here: In Christ God has created a “new” people. It has come about through the grafting of the Jew and Gentile into one new society of God.

*12 It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel ... 14 The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.*

• *She is a 12 X 12 cube — like the dimensions of the Holy of Holies*

2. **THE OLD JERUSALEM?** It has been destroyed by the powers of Rome in the history of the first readers, but those powers are unable to destroy the new people of God.— **THE ISSUE OF THE OLD JERUSALEM:**

its corrupted priesthood; its declaration in the Gospels that “we have no king but Caesar”, and its leaders complicity with the Gentiles in the death of Jesus suggests that Old Jerusalem was perhaps seen as captive to the Beast. It too was outside the measuring of the temple in our earlier discussion.

3. **FINAL DYNAMIC CONTRAST IN THE REVELATION** —> Babylon and the New Jerusalem. — Insight from R. Bauckham
- a. Babylon is a \_\_\_\_\_ but here we find a \_\_\_\_\_ bride.
  - b. Babylon is cloaked in \_\_\_\_\_ red, while the NJ is dressed in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ white.
  - c. God’s people are called to \_\_\_\_\_ the new but are called to “\_\_\_\_\_” of the old. [18:4]
  - d. Babylon is seductive using the “wine” of here \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to seduce the nations to her darkness.
  - e. But the New Jerusalem is a \_\_\_\_\_ and servant to all the nations — and they will come and enter into her where there is life and healing for the nations. [Theme: World mission and proclamation resulting in a new community with members from every tribe and tongue and race.]
  - f. Babylon \_\_\_\_\_, is a \_\_\_\_\_, and lives under the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin and rebellion. In the new city there will “no longer be any curse.” [22:3]

**IV. FINAL WARNINGS; FINAL BLESSINGS; THE FINAL DESIRE!** — *“Let the one who can hear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.” (Ch. 22:1-21)*

1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign forever and ever. 6 The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.” 7 “Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book.” 8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. 9 But he said to me, “Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book. Worship God!” 10 Then he told me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near. 11 Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy.” 12 “Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. 14 “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. 15 Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. 16 “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.” 17 The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. 18 I warn everyone who hears

the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. **19**And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. **20**He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. **21**The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

- A. **THE FINAL WARNING [v.18-19]** —> "I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. 19 And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book."

This is true \_\_\_\_\_ so beware and be careful to not deliberately \_\_\_\_\_ **or** \_\_\_\_\_ its message and meaning.

B. **THE FINAL BLESSINGS/BEATITUDES.**

1. "Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book!"

- a. How does one "keep the words of the prophecy?"

Be an over-comer —> a call to the saints to endure and persevere —> come out from her and her ways – do justice and love mercy —> wash your robes and prepare (repent and act) yourself like an eager bride —> WORSHIP GOD ALONE!

2. "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city."

- a. John, one final time points his readers to the heart of his prophetic gospel — the lamb on the throne slain for the sins of the world. Whosoever should embrace him in overcoming loyalty as savior king shall not perish but shall have everlasting life.

- b. Echoes of a reversal from the expulsion from the Garden of Eden; now these blessed have the freedom/right to the tree of life. No one blocks their way: "If God be for us who can be against us?"

C. **THE FINAL PROMISE AND THE HEART'S DESIRE!**

12 "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. 14 "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. 15 Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. 16 "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star." 17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. 20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. 21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

1. \_\_\_\_\_: It is the desire of all true saints in all the ages. It is a desire that reveals itself in one of the most beautiful and hopeful of prayers.

*Rev. 22:17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life ... amen! (Maranatha) Come Quickly Lord Jesus!*

#### V. CONCLUDING THOUGHTS: REVELATION FOR TODAY? REFER TO HANDOUT

- A. **A call to a true and loyal faith** — verses a speculative, falsely triumphant, or escapist religiosity.
- B. **A call to a life of overcoming the powers of the world as they manifest themselves in social ethics, economic conformity, or political tyranny.** We overcome by our prophetic witness to the world and our coming out (non-participation) from her.
- C. **The world of today, like the world of Rome, continues to extend its control of lives and its claims of power and authority over God by its stunning images and wondrous displays.** We are not to gain our vision from the mesmerizing images of the world about us but by the eternally true images conveyed to us in the book of Revelation. Images of worship, obedience, fidelity, sacrifice, and the scenes of God's triumph.
- D. **A call to be the witness people of God to the nations.** God has put before the nations an invitation to life and a freedom from the powers of the second death. We are His ambassadors, called to declare Him and His gospel to all the nations. This is our unique purpose in the world and is central to our worship of Him.

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#### SONG LYRICS

##### **Goin' by the Book**

You can see it in the movies and the paper and the TV news  
Somebody's army is always on the move  
There's gonna be a battle the lines have been drawn  
They got guns and tanks and planes  
The wells are gone dry and the water is bad and the air is acid rain  
There's war after war and rumors of war from the East  
There's a rumblin' in the ground and they're talkin' about the beast  
Good mothers cry 'cause the rivers run high  
With the blood of too many sons  
Some people say peace is on the way  
But the worst is still to come  
'Cause the prophets wrote about it  
And Jesus spoke about it  
And John got to take a look  
And he told us what he saw when it's easy to see  
It's goin' by the book  
It's goin' by the book

There's armies in the cities and the missiles stand ready for flight  
A pale horse rides like the wind across the night  
And that rumblin' in the desert like thunder gettin' closer  
Are the trumpet's gettin' ready to blow  
There's gonna be a shout that will wake the dead  
We better be ready to go  
'Cause the prophets wrote about it  
And Jesus spoke about it  
And John got to take a look  
And he told us what he saw when it's easy to see  
It's goin' by the book  
It's goin' by the book

### **Johnny Cash - When the Man Comes Around**

Intro (Spoken)

And I heard as it were the noise of thunder  
one of the four beasts saying come and see and I saw  
and behold a white horse...

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There's a man, going around, taking names — And he decides, who to free, and who to blame  
Every body, won't be treated, quite the same — There'll be a golden ladder, reaching down.  
When the man comes around.

The hairs on your arm will stand up — At the terror in each Sip and each sup  
Will you partake of that last offered cup? — Or disappear into the potter's ground?  
When the man comes around.

Chorus

Hear the Trumpets hear the pipers — One hundred million angels singing  
Multitudes are marching to a big kettledrum — Voices calling, voices crying  
Some are born and some are dying — It's Alpha and Omega Kingdom come  
And the whirl-wind in the thorn trees — And the virgins are all trimming their wicks  
The whirlwind is in the thorn trees — It's hard for thee to kick against the pricks

Till Armageddon no shalom, no shalom — Then the father hen will call his chicken's home.  
The wise man will bow down before the thorn. — And at his feet they will cast the golden crowns  
When the man comes around. — Whoever is unjust let him be unjust still  
Whoever is righteous let him be righteous still — Whoever is filthy let him be filthy still  
Listen to the words long written down — When the man comes around

Chorus

Outro (Spoken)

And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts and I looked and behold, a pale horse  
and its name it said on him was Death — And Hell followed with him.

There are numerous biblical references in the lyrics. A spoken portion from Revelation 6:1–2 in the King James Version introduces the song. The passage describes the coming of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, each heralded by one of the "four beasts" first mentioned in Revelation 4:6–9. The musical portion then begins with Cash reciting that "the man" (Jesus Christ) will one day come to pass judgment. The chorus indicates that these events will be accompanied by trumpets, (as in Revelation ch.8, 9,11), pipers (Rev.18:22), and "one hundred

million angels singing". The voice of the Lord in Revelation is often likened to the sound of a loud trumpet (Revelation 1:10; 4:1; and 8:13). Revelation 5:11 states that John saw that there are millions of angels in Heaven.

The song also alludes to the Parable of the Ten Virgins from the Gospel of Matthew (25:1–13) with the lyrics "The virgins are all trimming their wicks," a reference to the virgins' preparation of the Second Coming of Christ. The phrase, "It's hard for thee to kick against the pricks" (goad) cites Acts 26:14, where Paul the Apostle describes meeting Jesus while traveling to Damascus. It is a reference to a Greek proverb where a kicking ox only injures himself by attempting to kick against a goad, intended to represent the futility of resisting the Lord.

Elsewhere, the song mentions the wise men who bow before the Lord's throne, and cast their "golden crowns" at the feet of God. Revelation 4 refers to elders who worship the Lord and "lay their crowns" before Him (Revelation 4:10). "Alpha and Omega" refers to God himself. (Rev. 1:8, 11, 21:6, 22:13). "Whoever is unjust... etc." is a quote from Revelation 22:11.

### **THESE ARE THE DAYS OF ELIJAH**

These are the days of Elijah  
Declaring the Word of the Lord, yes  
And these are the days of his servant, Moses  
Righteousness being restored  
And these are the days of great trial  
Of famine and darkness and sword  
So we are the voice in the desert crying  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord  
CHORUS:

Behold he comes  
Riding on a cloud  
Shining like the sun  
At the trumpet's call  
Lift your voice  
It's the year of jubilee  
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes

And these are the days of Ezekiel  
With dry bones becoming as flesh  
And these are the days of his servant, David  
Building the temple of praise, yes  
And these are the days of the harvest  
The fields are all white in the world  
And we are the laborers that are in your vineyard declaring the word of the Lord

CHORUS:

Refrain  
There's no God like Jehovah  
There's no God like Jehovah

### **“Life” in the Gospel of John**

**John 1:4** : In him was **life**, and that **life** was the light of all mankind.

**John 3:16** : For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal **life**. — Whoever believes in the Son has eternal **life**, but whoever rejects the Son will not see **life**, for God’s wrath remains on them.

**John 4:14**: but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal **life**.”

**John 5:21**: For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them **life**, even so the Son gives **life** to whom he is pleased to give it.

**John 5:24**: “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal **life** and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to **life**.

**John 5:39**: You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal **life**. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have **life**.

**John 6:27**: Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal **life**, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.” **John 6:33**: For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives **life** to the world.” **John 6:35**: Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of **life**. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

**John 6:40**: For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal **life**, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

**John 6:47**: Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal **life**.

**John 6:51**: I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the **life** of the world.”

**John 6:53**: Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no **life** in you.

**John 6:54**: Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal **life**, and I will raise them up at the last day.

**John 6:63**: The Spirit gives **life**; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and **life**.

**John 6:68**: Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal **life**.

**John 8:11**: “No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your **life** of sin.”

**John 8:12**: [ *Dispute Over Jesus’ Testimony* ] When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of **life**.”

**John 10:10:** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have **life**, and have it to the full.

**John 10:11:** I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his **life** for the sheep.

**John 10:28:** I give them eternal **life**, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.

**John 11:25:** Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the **life**. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;

**John 12:25:** Anyone who loves their **life** will lose it, while anyone who hates their **life** in this world will keep it for eternal **life**.

**John 14:6:** Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the **life**. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**John 15:13:** Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s **life** for one’s friends.

**John 17:2:** For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal **life** to all those you have given him.

**John 17:3:** Now this is eternal **life**: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

**John 20:31:** But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have **life** in his name.