

# A Spoonful of Hebrews

*A daily devotional on the book of Hebrews*



*Bill Brinkworth*





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*By*  
*Bill Brinkworth*

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# In Dedication

I dedicate this work to the cause of Christ, and thank Him for all His help. I also want to thank all the pastors and Christians He has used to help me develop a love for His Word. I pray that more will read, believe, and obey these preserved words from God.

I also am indebted to my wonderful wife for her help in putting this piece together. Without her editing, contributing thoughts for the day, being my living concordance, and her encouragement, this booklet would not have been possible. Thank you, Barbara Ann.



# Purpose

One of the most life-changing and life-guiding influences any person can have is reading the Word of God. Within its pages the reader will find God's words on how to live; how to die; who to have as friends; how to get to heaven; how to have an exciting, successful life; how to please God; how to know God's plan for your life, and hosts of other important revelations. Yet, as valuable as the Bible's contents are, too few read its preserved words and advice.

In an attempt to get more to read the Bible and understand it, I have created this short, devotional series. Although there are many daily devotionals available, this one is different. Most other devotionals have a short, uplifting paragraph or two to bless the reader, several verses, and a recommended reading for the day.

The "Spoonful Devotional" encourages the reader to read at least one chapter a day. A chapter from the King James Bible is included in the day's reading. No matter how busy one's life, if it is a priority to know God's will and way, all should be able read one chapter of the King James Bible in this devotional.

To help more understand what the Bible teaches, there is a short commentary included explaining one principle taught from the day's chapter. It may not necessarily be the most important doctrine taught in that chapter, but it is a teaching from the day's reading. After reading each brief explanation and the Scripture, one will certainly have more of an understanding of the Word of God, when the book is finished.

After completing this book, the reader will have learned several biblical doctrines. The one thing I have noticed, since being a Christian, is that many Christians do not have a knowledge of biblical teachings. Many have only a basic knowledge of God's Word that they may have gotten out of a church service, or another source rather than their own reading and studying. Some just assume they know what the Bible says, or what they think is right or wrong. It is God's Word, and it is up to us to read, study it, and learn what God has preserved for us to learn.

*"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15*

Unfortunately, many today are not big readers. That may be why so few have not read the entire Word of God. To help those type of readers still glean principles from God's Word, I have kept all discussions of the chapters' contents short — usually from 300-800 words. Because of these size restraints, much of what is discussed is very brief.

Also, to be helpful, a short "Thought for the Day" is included. The quote is one short quip, which may encourage one to contemplate what was taught in the commentary for the day's reading.

Prior to reading of the day's chapter, there are a few words, and phrases, that should be understood when reading the Word of God. This short list is not intended to be a dictionary, but an attempt to define some words that may be used differently in the reading than what is commonly understood today.

After each reading there are short exercises, or puzzles to help the readers comprehend some of what they have just read. The answers to the questions are found at the back of the book.

The size of the devotional is larger for a reason. In hopes that more will read and study the Bible, I have designed it so a Sunday school teacher, pastor, classroom teacher, or any ministry that is encouraging their people to study the Bible, will make copies of the lesson and freely distribute them. It can be copied on normal 8 x 11.5" paper on a copy machine or printed out on a computer printer. The graphics in most lessons are black and white, so they will print well on non-commercial, monochrome printing devices. I am giving the purchaser of this devotional permission to make as many copies as they can use, and hand out to their people.

This world is changing for the worse — on a daily basis. If more knew, believed, and obeyed the words of God there would be less decline in morality, less sin, and more godly living. I have made an attempt to portion biblical doctrine in small palatable portions so more would read it.

Is God's Word important to you? Have you always wanted to read it, but never "got around to it"? Well, here is an opportunity for you to read and learn more about the Bible — one small "spoonful" a day!





# Hebrews 1

## Daily Nugget:

In Paul's letter to the Hebrews, he started off telling them who Jesus is. There are at least thirteen points he made about the Saviour, including:

1. Jesus was there at creation with the Father (vss. 1, 10). He made the worlds (vss. 2, 10).
2. God has spoken to people through His Son, Jesus (vs. 2).
3. Jesus is heir of all things (vss. 2, 4).
4. Jesus is the brightness of God's glory (vs. 3).
5. Jesus is the express ( to show by resemblance or copy) image of God (vs. 3).
6. Jesus upholds (elevates) all things by His word (vs. 3).
7. Jesus purged us of our sins (vs. 3).

8. Jesus has finished what He was sent to do (vs. 3).
9. Jesus is sitting at the right hand of His Father (vs. 3). God honors His son (vs. 9).
10. Jesus is better than the angels (vss. 4, 5, 6, 13).
11. Jesus' throne is forever (vs. 8).
12. Jesus loves righteousness and hates sin (vs. 9).
13. Jesus will never change (vss. 11-13).

Jesus was not just a good man, as some cults portray Him. He is God in the flesh and God's son at the same time. To deny Jesus is God in the flesh, one would have to deny most of this chapter, and many other scriptures.

## Today's Thought:




*"If you want to be more like the Father, follow His Son."*

## Words to Understand:

divers: different  
sundry: more than one  
vesture: clothing

## Today's Reading:

- 1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,
- 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;
- 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;
- 4 ¶ Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.
- 5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?
- 6 And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten

Christ aboute Tothe Hebrewes. the Angels.	
<p>me, even thine owne selfe besides: 20 Wea, brother, let mee haue toy of thee in the Lord: refresh my bowles in the Lord. 21 Having confidence in thy obedience, I wrote vnto thee, knowing that thou wilt also doe more then I say. 22 But wilt thou prepare mee also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be giuen vnto you.</p>	<p>23 There salute thee Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Iesus: 24 Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellow labourers. 25 The grace of our Lord Iesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.  Written from Rome to Philemon, by Onesimus a seruant.</p>
	
<h3>THE EPISTLE OF PAVL</h3> <p>the Apostle to the Hebrewes.</p>	
<p>CHAP. I. 1 Christ in these last times coming to vs from the Father, is preferred above the Angels, both in Person and Office.    <b>H</b>o who at sundry times, and in diuers manners, spake in time past vnto the Fathers by the Prophets, 2 hath in these last dayes spoken vnto vs by his Sonne, whom he hath appointed heire of all things, by whom also he made the worlds. 3 ¶ Who being the brightnesse of his glory, and the expresse image of his person, and vpholding all things by the word of his power, when hee had by himselfe purged our sinnes, sate down on the right hand of the Father on high. 4 Being made so much better then the Angels, as hee hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name then they. 5 For vnto which of the Angels said hee at any time, Thou art my sonne, this day haue I begotten thee: And againe, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Sonne. 6 And againe, when hee bringeth in the first begotten into the world, hee saith, And let all the Angels of God worship him. 7 And of the Angels he saith: who</p>	<p>maketh his Angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. 8 But vnto the Sonne, he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for euer and euer: a scepter of righteousnesse is the scepter of thy kingdom. 9 Thou hast loued righteousnesse, and hated iniquitie, therefore God, euen thy God hath anointed thee with the oyle of gladnesse above thy fellows. 10 And, thou Lord in the beginning hadst layed the foundation of the earth: and the heauens are the works of thine hands. 11 They shall perish, but thou remainest: and they all shall waxe old as doth a garment. 12 And as a vesture that thou fold them vp, and they shall be changed, but thou art the same, and thy yeeres shall not faile. 13 But to which of the Angels said hee at any time, Sit on my right hand, but I will make thine enemies thy footstool: 14 Are they not all ministring spirits, sent forth to minister for them, who shall be heires of saluation?  CHAP. II. 1 Wee ought to be obedient to Christ Iesus, 5 and that because hee vouchsafed to take our nature vpon him, 14 as it was necessarie.    <b>H</b>erefore we ought to giue the more earnest heede to the things which we haue heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. 2 For</p>

*into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.*

*7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.*

*8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.*

*9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.*

*10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:*

*11 They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment;*

*12 And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.*

*13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?*

*14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*

### **Understandest thou what thou readest?**

1. What is one way God spoke to the Old Testament Jews? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Other than believers, who else is to worship Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is one ministry of angels, as described in this chapter? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Hebrews 2

## Daily Nugget:

*“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation: which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;” (vs. 3)*

Many have heard the plan of salvation again and again. It has been heard so often by many, that it has lost its power and importance to them. It has been, for multitudes, commonplace and taken for granted. Too many have lost the wonder they once had when they first heard God’s message to them and learned what it meant. However, it still is a GREAT salvation!



✿ Salvation is great because of what it does. It is the only way any person will avoid seeing hell. Our good works and deeds, religious rituals, or clean living will not pluck us from hell’s everlasting torment. Only the salvation offered by God will save us from hell.

✿ Salvation is great because it has saved countless souls. Billions have trusted in Christ’s finished work on the cross to pay for their sins and have been saved!

✿ Salvation is great because of its cost. The cost of salvation was so expensive it could only have been paid by the shed blood of God’s only son, Jesus. No man’s good works, kindness,

or own attempts to please God are enough to pay for salvation. The only acceptable price was paid for by Jesus’ blood shed on Calvary’s cross.

✿ Salvation has changed lives. Not only does one who trusts Christ for salvation spend eternity with Him, but he can have a changed life. When one is saved and obeys God’s commandments, God will change his life. Adulterers have been saved, and their marriages reconciled; and the sin halted. Mean-spirited brawlers have been changed from the inside out, and now are calm, peaceable men. Drunks and addicted people have now had their lives healed and are free from what previously controlled their lives. Saved people still are not perfect, but they are not the people they were before they were saved. God will transform a life, if He is obeyed!

✿ Salvation is the greatest proof of how much God loves us! As much as we have let God down, and deliberately sinned against Him, He still loves us. He loves us so much that He allowed His only Son, Jesus, to die for us. That death is the means to pay for the sins of all who call upon Jesus as Saviour.

Salvation should not be hum-drum to any, especially to those that have been saved. It is a GREAT salvation.

## Today’s Thought:

*God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense*

## Words to Understand:

brethren: those that are saved  
sanctified: cleansed; purified  
succour: help, especially in time of need

## Today's Reading:

- 1 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.
- 2 For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward;
- 3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;
- 4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?
- 5 ¶ For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak.
- 6 But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?
- 7 Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:
- 8 Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.
- 9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.
- 10 ¶ For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.
- 11 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,
- 12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.
- 13 And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.
- 14 ¶ Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;
- 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.
- 16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.
- 17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.
- 18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

## Understandest thou what thou readest?

S	E	O	P	R	U	G	K	C	G	I	O
K	N	A	N	O	I	T	A	V	L	A	S
P	T	E	V	C	Z	B	S	Q	N	S	Y
I	C	L	G	C	X	H	O	W	E	K	K
G	X	B	H	L	V	H	L	E	P	R	J
S	G	W	Q	W	E	I	S	M	A	C	L
H	D	J	I	G	B	C	Q	P	C	W	B
A	O	F	A	R	J	E	T	G	S	O	E
L	R	S	F	E	Z	L	R	L	E	C	T
L	X	F	Y	A	I	Y	I	E	L	W	V
Y	Y	Y	V	T	V	D	S	U	U	E	L
X	F	S	S	I	B	K	C	Y	S	H	E

**Find words  
from Hebrews 2:3a:**

“How  
shall  
we  
escape,  
if  
we  
neglect  
so  
great  
salvation; ...”

# Hebrews 3

## Daily Nugget:

One of the most dangerous conditions for anyone to have, Christian or non-Christian, is mentioned in this chapter. That condition is having one's heart hardened (vs. 8). It is not referring to a problem with one's physical heart. It is referring to the spiritual part of a person that has determined not to do what God had urged it to do. By refusing to do what God has shown it to do, it is directly disobeying God — a most serious situation!



have had because their hearts were fixed not to believe or trust God. Because of their hardened hearts a possibly six-day march to the land God had prepared for them took 40 years. None of the hard-hearted people ever got to see the promised land, although their off-spring did. Their hearts of unbelief cost them so much.

A hard-hearted condition can just as easily be obtained today, as it was then. When God shows a person what salvation is, and that they should trust Christ as Saviour today; they are hardening their heart when they postpone the decision after hearing the invitation. When their

To make it clear to the Hebrews, Paul reminded them what hard-heartedness had cost their forefathers in the wilderness. While in the wilderness, the Jews had a wonderful opportunity to follow God to a land He had reserved for them. By day, God led them in His direction by going before them in a column of cloud that stretched from heaven to earth. When it moved, they moved. When it stopped, they stopped. At night, it changed to a column of fire. Although they had many proofs of God's helping them, they still doubted. Unbelief, the root cause of hard-heartedness (vs. 12), crept into their thoughts, and they doubted God.

heart is shown to do something, such as being saved, faithful in church attendance, praying, reading their Bible, tithing, or telling others about salvation; their not doing it is a direct refusal to God. Even slow obedience to a command, or justification in not doing as they are shown, is still unbelief and distrust.

This provoked God (vs. 8) and caused the Israelites to have many trials and tribulations. They missed many of the blessings they could

Five times (in vss. 7, 12, 13, 4:7) Paul mentioned the key to not having a hardened heart. The key is "today". When God shows you something or quietly speaks to your heart in conviction, it is imperative that you obey Him then! Not tomorrow! Not later! It should not be open to debate! Doing it when we want, and not when He commands, is a step in hardening one's spiritual heart.

## Today's Thought:

*Slow obedience is no obedience.*

## Words to Understand:

exhort: encourage

"in the provocation": the days that the Jews struggled with following God while in the wilderness after leaving Egypt

## Today's Reading:

1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

2 Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house.

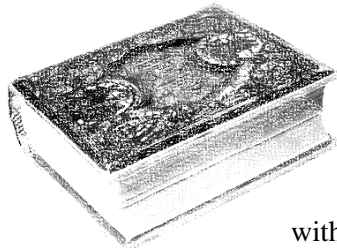
3 For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house.  
 4 For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God.  
 5 And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;  
 6 But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.  
 7 ¶ Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,  
 8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:  
 9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.  
 10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.  
 11 So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)  
 12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.  
 13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.  
 14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;  
 15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.  
 16 For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.  
 17 But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?  
 18 And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?  
 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

### **Understandest thou what thou readest?**

1. Who was considered worthy of more honor than Moses ( vs. 3)? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What does it mean to “harden” one’s heart? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name one thing that can cause one’s heart to be “hardened”. \_\_\_\_\_

# Hebrews 4

## Daily Nugget:



Most know what it is like not to have rest. The constant working and daily activity can leave us tattered, harried, nervous, and without the peace we normally would have. The nine “rest”s mentioned in this chapter (found in vss. 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11) are speaking of a similar feeling one can experience when one does without another type of rest. In most of the references it is referring to a spiritual rest one has when they have done what the Holy Spirit had shown them to do. They no longer feel convicted, guilty, or oppressed by their conscience.

The rests referred to in this chapter are:

- ✿ the rest God took after He created all in our universe (vs. 4),
- ✿ the rest one has when they are saved and have peace within their spiritual hearts,
- ✿ and the eternal rest all believers will one day have when they spend eternity with Jesus (vs. 9, 10).

Until a believer goes to his eternal rest, he is to work to please God. The “guidebook” to lead one through a life that pleases God is the Word of God, our Bible. This book is not just any book. It has all God wants us to know. It is preserved, and pure, and exactly how He dictated it

to the men that penned it. It is the only recorded means we have of knowing the mind and will of God.

Here are five of the reasons the Word of God should be relied on and trusted; as we prepare for our eternal rest:

- ✿ It is “quick”. “Quick” means living. It is not a dead book. It is the living Word of God! It will direct us in His paths!
- ✿ It is powerful. No other book ever written has convicted and changed lives as the Word of God has done. It can change us into the Christian God desires us to be.
- ✿ It is sharp. No matter how tough an individual is, its cutting words can speak the truth to any man’s conscience and soul. Its truths will expose the real “us”.
- ✿ It pierces. It can pierce through the outer hardness of any man and speak to their inner soul. Obeying it will help make us a new creature in Christ.
- ✿ It helps one discern truth from lies. It exposes falsehood, and shows the real truths as God sees them.

The only way anyone will have rest in this life, and in the one to come, is to follow the guidance of God’s Word. Obedience to it is the “secret” to living a successful, restful Christian life.

## Today’s Thought:

*If God said it, that settles it; whether I believe it or not!*

## Words to Understand:

asunder: divided; separated; in pieces  
“foundation of the world”: when the world was created  
wrath: anger



## **Today's Reading:**

1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

4 For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.

5 And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.

6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:

7 Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

8 For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.

9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

11 ¶ Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

## **Understandest thou what thou readest?**

1. How can one have spiritual rest ? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the "example of unbelief"? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who is our great high priest? \_\_\_\_\_

# Hebrews 5

## Daily Nugget:

During Old Testament times, there were priests that served as mediators between God and man presenting their prayers and sacrifices to Him. Before Moses, the priests' duties were often done by the head of a household as did Job, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. During Moses' day God appointed priests from the Levite lineage, and this practice was intended to continue until the perfect priest came, Jesus Christ.

The old testament priests were not perfect. Their limitations were because:

- ✿ They were ordained ("appointed by") by men, although they were of an ancestry ordered by God (vs. 1). Not just any man could be a priest.
- ✿ They had to go to God with sacrifices and gifts (vss. 1, 3). The offerings were not a one-time gift. They had to be offered more than once. They were only temporary appeasements to a Holy God.
- ✿ The priests themselves were sinners. They also had to give an offering for themselves (vss. 2, 3).
- ✿ Soon the priesthood stopped. The sacrifices halted. Intercessory prayers and gifts to God ceased, but man was still in desperate need of a mediator between him and God.
- ✿ God then sent man the perfect priest. He was not appointed by man. He only had to make one offering for all of man's sins. That sacrifice covered sins past, present, and even into the



future. This priest was not of Levi's lineage. He was very much like a priest of Abraham's time — Melchisedec. Like Melchisedec, who's name means "king of righteousness", this God-appointed priest was the real King of righteousness. This priest was the only God-appointed priest. This priest was God's only begotten son — Jesus! Jesus' one-time sacrifice, that never had to be re-offered, was His own life.

Unfortunately, many have not allowed God's High priest to be the sacrifice for their sins. Too many have rejected Jesus and are still appointing their own priests. No matter what those sincere people offer to God, it will be refused by the Creator. They are doing it their way and are refusing the one-time sacrifice Jesus made for them on Calvary's cross.

The Old Testament priesthood was for another time — a time before the perfect priest had been sent by God. Today we have the privilege of going to that High Priest, which is not sitting in some earthly temple or church, but is sitting at the right hand of the Father, in Heaven. We can accept His offering on the cross to cover all our sins. After we have accepted Him as our Saviour, we can go to Him anytime with our prayers and needs. We no longer need an imperfect middle man. We have the perfect mediator — Christ Jesus.

## Today's Thought:

*"Jesus knew that He had come to kindle a fire on earth ... He saw that what was exalted among man was an abomination before God." — Walter Rauschenbush*

## Words to Understand:

begotten: to bring into existence; to procreate

"dull of hearing": Will not understand. Much of the time it is not in reference to a hearing problem.

ordained: appointed by

## **Today's Reading:**

*1 For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:*

*2 Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.*

*3 And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins.*

*4 And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.*

*5 So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.*

*6 As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.*

*7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;*

*8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;*

*9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;*

*10 ¶ Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.*

*11 Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.*

*12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.*

*13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.*

*14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

## **Understandest thou what thou readest?**

1. Who was Aaron (vs. 4)? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who was Melchisedec? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What does it mean: "useth milk"? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Hebrews 6

## Daily Nugget:

In understanding this difficult chapter, it is important to understand one thing. “Therefore” in the beginning of verse one tells us it is continuing what was discussed in Chapter 5. That chapter ended after discussing those that were not growing in the things of God. Those people discussed previously should have been teachers (5:12), but instead were in dire need of the basics. In this chapter it is talking about those people that had spiritual-growth problems.



The group of people this letter addresses, were not growing in “perfection” (vs. 1). “Perfection” here is not saying that we can be perfect; as none can, just forgiven. However, these people were not moving on and understanding other spiritual things. They were not improving or “perfecting” themselves spiritually.

They were “stuck” in some of the things they had learned in Judaism. They were:

- ✿ Not turning from their “dead works” (vs. 1) — the traditions and Levitical rites that were no longer for the church age they were living in at the time. They were not fully trusting in what Christ had done for them and did not have the faith they should have had (vs. 1).
- ✿ Trusting in the washings (baptisms) performed by the Levitical priests. It is not talking about the water baptism of a believer after they are saved, but what was performed by the priest in the temple.

- ✿ Trusting in an act done by a Levitical priest when he laid his hands on a sacrificial animal and killed it or set it free (Lev. 16:21). They were not trusting on the one time sacrificial offering of Christ to cleanse their sins.
- ✿ Looking forward to the general resurrection of the dead (Job 19:25-27, John 11:24) taught by Judaism, not the one revealed to us after Jesus came.
- ✿ Looking forward to an “eternal judgment” taught by Judaism at the time, and not what is taught in the New Testament.

Although this chapter is directed to Jews adhering to what they had always been taught, it has application for many today. There are many today that have been involved in a religion, or even a denomination calling itself Christian. They accept a “little bit” about Jesus; that He died for them, and that He rose again, but they are not fully trusting in Christ for salvation. They are somewhat “enlightened” (verse 4); and even though they have had the privilege to “taste” a little bit of “Christianity”, they are still holding on to what they had previously believed.

The Bible says it is impossible (verse 4) for them to be renewed “unto repentance” (vs. 4). There is only one way to Heaven, and that is God’s way. No one will get there by hanging onto both what they believe and a little of the Gospel. The only way to go to Heaven is to trust 100% in what Christ has done on the cross. That means unscriptural church or denominational teachings, unbiblical traditions, or anything else that is not wholly relying on what God has told us to believe by faith must be discarded! Jesus is the only way — plus nothing, and minus anything!

## Today’s Thought:

“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;” 1 Timothy 2:5

## Words to Understand:

consolation: comforting

immutability: inability to change

“laying on of hands”: when elders of the church, ministers, or apostles were used, by the Spirit of God, to heal a person just by touching them.

repentance: a genuine sorrow for doing something wrong or sinful. This sorrow and grief are strong enough to drive the person to do their best not to commit that wrongful act again.

sware: promise; make a pledge

## Today's Reading:

*1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,*

*2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.*

*3 And this will we do, if God permit.*

*4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,*

*5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,*

*6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.*

*7 For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God:*

*8 But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.*

*9 ¶ But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.*

*10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.*

*11 And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:*

*12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*

*13 For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself,*

*14 Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.*

*15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.*

*16 For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife.*

*17 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:*

*18 That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:*

*19 Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;*

*20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.*

## Understandest thou what thou readest?

1. When God made a promise to Abraham, by whose name did he swear? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What two things are impossible for God to do? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Hebrews 7

## Daily Nugget:

This chapter continues to explain why Jesus is the “better” high priest. This epistle (letter) was addressed to Hebrews who were quite familiar with the Old Testament priesthood. In language they could understand, Paul continues to compare (also in Heb. 5) the priesthood of a certain priest, Melchisedec, to the current High Priest, Jesus.

Bible students would call this relationship of the priest in the past to Jesus, as a “type”. The earlier Melchisedec gave the Jews of his era an idea of who the upcoming Jesus would be, and what He would do.

Melchisedec was a high priest before the Levitical priesthood was established. When Abraham was returning from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer (Gen. 14:17-19), Melchisedec met him and gave Abraham bread, wine, and blessed him. In return, Abraham gave the priest his tithes.

Here are some of the similarities between Melchisedec and Jesus:

- ✿ Melchisedec was a high priest. Jesus is our high priest.
- ✿ Melchisedec means “king of righteousness”. He was also the king of Salem. Most believe Salem to be Jerusalem (Ps. 76:2). Jesus is the King of Righteousness.
- ✿ Melchisedec went to Abraham.

## Today's Thought:

*A coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.*

## Words to Understand:

consecrated: separated from a worldly to a holy purpose; dedicated to service and worshipping of God

disannulling: to nullify; to annul; to get rid of

tithe: one tenth of earnings that belong to the Lord.

similitude: similar to; much like

Jesus came to us when He came to this earth and died on the Cross for our sins.

✿ Melchisedec blessed Abraham.

Jesus blesses those that accept Him.

✿ Melchisedec has no recorded genealogy. According to the Bible, he had no father, or mother, or beginning (vs. 3). All the other Levitical priests had to prove they were descended from the tribe of Levi. Melchisedec did not come from the Levites (vs. 11).

Jesus had no beginning or ending. His genealogy is not from the tribe of Levi. His only genealogy is that He is God's only Son.

✿ Melchisedec was given tithes.

Jesus should be given our tithes.

✿ Melchisedec was the king of Salem. He was also the king of peace (vs. 2). Jesus will one day be our King ruling from Jerusalem, and He is our King of Peace.

The similarities between Melchisedec and Jesus are not a coincidence. They show that God had planned for thousands of years to send Christ to this earth. All throughout history He showed mankind what the Saviour would do, say, and even where He would go, and where He would be born. Some saw the similarities and quickly accepted Jesus as their Saviour. Others did not. Is He just a man to you, or is Jesus your High Priest?



## **Today's Reading:**

- 1 *For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;*
- 2 *To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;*
- 3 *Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.*
- 4 *Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.*
- 5 *And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham:*
- 6 *But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises.*
- 7 *And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better.*
- 8 *And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth.*
- 9 *And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham.*
- 10 *For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.*
- 11 ¶ *If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?*
- 12 *For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.*
- 13 *For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar.*
- 14 *For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.*
- 15 *And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest,*
- 16 *Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.*
- 17 *For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.*
- 18 *For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof.*
- 19 *For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.*
- 20 *And inasmuch as not without an oath he was made priest:*
- 21 *(For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:)*
- 22 *By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.*
- 23 *And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:*
- 24 *But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.*
- 25 *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*
- 26 *For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;*
- 27 *Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.*
- 28 *For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.*

## **Understandest thou what thou readest?**

1. What did Abraham give Melchisedec? \_\_\_\_\_
2. From what tribe of Israel did Jesus' earthly ancestry come? \_\_\_\_\_



# Hebrews 8

## Daily Nugget:



In this chapter, Paul gives the Hebrew believers five more reasons why Christ is the better High Priest:

1. Christ, our High Priest is sitting. No Levitical priest ever sat, because their work was never done. There were no chairs in the tabernacle or temple. Here, our Priest's one-time sacrifice is complete, and Jesus is seated (vs. 1). Jesus' earthly ministry is finished!
2. Christ, our High Priest is at the right hand of the Father (vs. 1). No Old Testament priest ever saw God, let alone sat next to Him, as does Jesus.
3. Christ is the minister of the "sanctuary and of the true tabernacle" (vss. 2-4). All the Levitical priests ministered in a God-ordered, but man-made tabernacle, and later a man-made temple. It was not perfect, al-

though created as God relayed its design to Moses (the tabernacle).

4. All the earlier Levitical priests ever did was present a "shadow", or picture, of heavenly things to come (vs. 5). Christ's ministry is not a picture of anything to come. It is the real thing!
5. Christ's ministry is a "more excellent ministry", than any earthly priest ever had. The Old Testament priests were representative of all people. They mediated with God for all the people; however not many had a direct audience with the priest. We as Christians, however, can have an audience with the perfect High Priest; no matter who we are.

Christ's ministry is "more excellent" because it comes with a "better covenant"; a better agreement between God and man. Although Paul sites the old covenant as faulted (vs. 7), it does not imply that God made a mistake with the old agreement. That agreement was good for that time, and met its purpose — to show man could not make a worthy sacrifice himself. The sacrifice had to be made by His perfect Son, Jesus!

This explanation of the past priests and our current Priest can help today's believer understand more of what Jesus did for him, and who He really is. He is the most "excellent" priest (vs. 6), with a ministry many throughout past ages have awaited.

## Today's Thought:

*There are only two choices for salvation: do or done. The Bible says, "It is finished!"*

## Words to Understand:

admonished: taught, counseled correctly

covenant: binding agreement. The "first covenant" (vs. 7) referred to those agreements spoken about in the Old Testament

mediator: the representative of the people; the "middle man" between God and man

sanctuary: refers to the place in the back of the tabernacle that only the High Priest could enter

shadow: not the actual thing, but a picture (or example) of the thing

## **Today's Reading:**

*1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;*

*2 A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.*

*3 For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer.*

*4 For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law:*

*5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.*

*6 ¶ But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.*

*7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.*

*8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:*

*9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.*

*10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:*

*11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.*

*12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.*

*13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.*

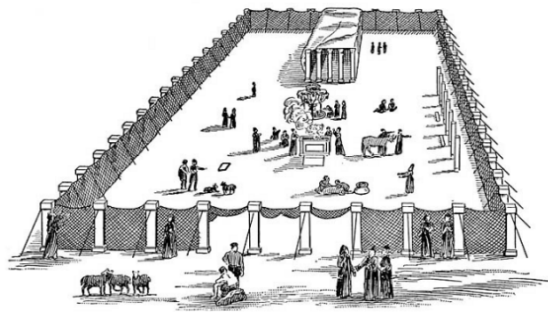
## **Understandest thou what thou readest?**

1. Who has a better ministry (vs. 6)? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who is the current High Priest? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where do we find the “new covenant” (vs. 13) today? \_\_\_\_\_

# Hebrews 9

## Daily Nugget:

In his further writings to the Hebrews, Paul continues to address the worship they were familiar with before their salvation. Although this chapter continues about the priesthood, he also delved into examining the tabernacle.



The tabernacle was the first “church” the Jews built. When Moses was on the mountain with God and received the ten commandments, he also received instructions from God as to how to build the mobile center for worshipping God. The tent was only 45 feet long and 15 feet wide, but its furnishings pictured a one-day-to-come better worship. It pictured Christ.

Paul made it clear that this early place of worship was a glimpse of future things. At least six

times the preacher used terminology indicating that even their forefathers were taught that their tabernacle worship was only temporary and was illustrating another worship that would one day come. Paul used words such as: “signifying” (vs. 8), “was not yet made manifest” (vs. 8), “figure” (vs. 9), “greater and more perfect tabernacle” (vs. 11), “patterns” (vs. 23), and “figures” (vs. 24).

All this effort God made to show early followers of Him what would come one day was to prepare them for the perfect “tabernacle” and “Priest”. Yet, with all the symbolism, pictures, and types, many did not recognize Jesus when He did come.

To this day, many still do not recognize the fulfillment of God’s many promises. There are those who still trust in the priesthood, ornate places of “worship”, traditions, and many practices that were only for a short, temporary time, and certainly not for today. A perfect way to truly worship God is available, but too many would rather worship the way they feel is right, rather than accept the way God is now demanding. They will miss all God has planned for them, because they will not accept that Christ did it all for them!

## Today’s Thought:

*Move from the shadow (symbols) to the substance (the Son).*

## Words to Understand:

cherubim: a created creature that flies with its two wings. It is not an angel, but a different creature.  
ordinances: requirements, laws  
testator: a person who leaves a will (testament) for after his death  
transgressions: sins

## Today’s Reading:

1 Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary.  
2 For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary.  
3 And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;  
4 Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron’s rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;  
5 And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.

6 Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God.

7 But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:

8 ¶ The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:

9 Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

10 Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

15 ¶ And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

16 For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

17 For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

18 Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood.

19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people,

20 Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.

21 Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry.

22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

23 ¶ It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

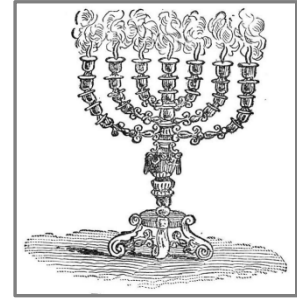
24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.



Golden Candlestick

## Understandest thou what thou readest?

1. What were the four pieces of furniture found inside the tabernacle according to verses 2-4?

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# Hebrews 10

## Daily Nugget:

For the early Hebrews, and those that still do not understand what Paul had said about the practice of the Mosaic law in earlier times being a glimpse of a futuristic better worship, one more word was used to describe that time. Paul describes that practice as a “shadow” of good things to come (vs. 1).

When a person approaches you in the dusk of a fall evening, and is several hundred feet away, he is but a shadow. One can see that it is a person approaching, but the details of what the person looks like, and what he is wearing cannot be made out. This is how those practicing the Mosaic laws saw the future worship, as a distant shadow. They could see the furniture of the temple worship, the priest, and all the sacrifices. They knew they stood for something and were somehow prophetic, but they did not grasp their whole meaning until Christ came. Then many saw clearly what God had planned to show them for a long time.

They knew their sacrifices were not enough to take away their sins (vss. 4, 11) permanently,

even as they were offering them. If the sacrifices could have taken away their sins, they would have had no more concern (guilt) for them (vs. 2). If the sacrifices could have taken away their sins permanently, they would not have had to repeat the sacrifices each year (vs. 3). They also knew that the offered blood of bulls and of goats did not take away sins (vs. 4).

So if deep in their hearts they knew that their offerings were not permanent and were only picturing a future way of worshipping, why did they annually offer those sacrifices to the Lord? The Hebrews performed the worship as they were instructed to. They were obedient. Their obedience was much like “credit”, as Oliver B Greene describes it. When Jesus came and sacrificed His life for all mankind’s sin, He paid man’s sin debt in full (John 1:29)! The Old Testament saints’ sins were paid for, and all after them also. We have a perfect sacrifice when we accept Jesus’ offering. He paid it all on Calvary’s cross!

## Today’s Thought:

*Those saved before Jesus’ sacrifice looked forward by faith to the cross. Those saved after His sacrifice looked back by faith to the cross.*

## Words to Understand:

adversaries: enemies  
gazingstock: a person looked at with contempt  
perdition: eternal misery  
remission: forgiveness

## Today’s Reading:

1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.  
2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.  
3 But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.  
4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.  
5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but a body hast thou prepared me:  
6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.  
7 ¶ Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

8 Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law;

9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

15 Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,

16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

18 Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.

19 ¶ Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

21 And having an high priest over the house of God;

22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

32 But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;

33 Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used.

34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.

35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

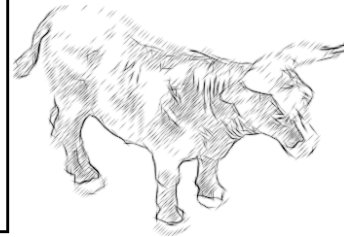
36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

# Understandest thou what thou readest?



Find the words for Hebrews 10:4:

*“For  
it  
is  
not  
possible  
that*

*the  
blood  
of  
bulls  
and  
of*

*goats  
should  
take  
away  
sins.”*





# Hebrews 11

## Daily Nugget

Beginning in Hebrews 10:38 and continuing throughout this chapter, Paul writes about another important spiritual concept that the Hebrews needed to understand. He wrote about faith. This concept was also prevalent throughout Old Testament times, and should also have been recognized by the Hebrews.

Verse one gives the best definition of what faith really is: *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1.* Faith is what one has when he is convinced that, without sight or visual proof, what he is desiring will come to fruition. Those with faith know what they require will happen! The expectation is so great that it is almost “substance”.

Much of the chapter gives highlights from the lives of believers the Hebrews would have known, and how faith was the driving force behind what they accomplished. Over nineteen Old Testament saints were cited in “God’s Hall of Faith” for their great faith in their mighty God. Three examples of the faith of Abraham (vss. 8, 9, 17), four from Moses (vss. 24, 27-29) were in the list, as were those of Abel, Enoch, Noah, and many others.



Not only were some of the accomplishments of noted saints specifically mentioned, but also general references to other heroic steps of faith by others. “Prophets” in general were cited for their faith (vs. 32). Also unnamed heroes of the faith that would not move from righteousness, but hung onto their faith even unto their death were also listed in verses 33-37. Many of the unnamed may have been known by those Paul wrote to; as many Christians were facing persecution and still would not waiver in their faith, even at the cost of their lives.

Faith is the crucial thread that runs from the earliest believers, throughout the Old and New Testaments, and even today. We can do all kinds of things that we may think please God. Some are even convinced that their good intentions and works are enough to please Him. Without faith, verse six says, “... it is impossible to please him...” The one thing that all believers must have, if they want to please God, is to have uncompromising, unwaivering, unrelenting faith in their heavenly Father — whatever He requires of them!

*“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” Hebrews 11:6*

## Today’s Thought:

*“Faith is firm persuasion and expectation, knowing that God will perform all that He has promised to the believer in Christ; and this persuasion is so strong and complete that it assures the believer of possession, even now, of those things for which he exercises faith ... Faith does not look to God with a cold heart and clouded thoughts concerning things to come.” — Oliver B. Greene*

## Words to Understand:

asunder: divided in pieces, separated  
esteeming: putting value to, to prize  
sojourned: lived in a place  
translated: moved from one place to another

## Today’s Reading:

- 1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
- 2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.

3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

4 ¶ By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

12 Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:

19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

21 By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.

22 By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.

23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.

24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

28 Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

29 By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.

31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

32 ¶ And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

34 *Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.*

35 *Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:*

36 *And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:*

37 *They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;*

38 *(Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.*

39 *And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:*

40 *God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.*

## **Understandest thou what thou readest?**

1. What is faith? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Without \_\_\_\_\_ it is impossible to please God.

3. What is is Noah noted for doing that showed great faith? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Hebrews 12

## Daily Nugget:

Every Christian, at one time or the other, contemplates why they are going through such trials and tribulations. Nowhere in the Word of God does it say that life will be easy once one is saved; although we do have much more godly protection. Actually, after salvation, life may be harder. That may be why so many “quit” their attempts to live godly.

The end of the previous chapter listed many that lost their lives for their faith, but the trials most of us face are nothing like they faced (vs. 4). Even the perfect Son of God faced trials imposed by others of far inferior spiritual standing than He (vs. 3). We should not be surprised when hard times do come our way.

However, some of the “hard times” many face are self-induced. Often the problems experienced are the side effects of one’s own sin. Other times our tribulations are the result of one’s Heavenly Father disciplining him for straying from the path He desired him to take.

Those that utter, “I can’t understand how a God of love could punish His own children!” certainly do not know the God of the Bible. If our earthly fathers discipline us (vss. 7, 9), or at least they should at times, we should expect correction from our spiritual Father when we step out of line. Despite what socially “corrected” people think, one who loves his children should

discipline them when they are not doing right. God loves His own children and certainly will correct them when they do wrong. *“For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.” Heb. 12:6*

Sometimes there are ones who say, “Well, God has never disciplined me!”

Well, I do not know you, but I do know that even if you are saved, you still are not perfect (Romans 3:23). You may be forgiven, but you still sin. If you sin, and you are one of God’s children, He will deal with your sin. No one gets away with any sin!

There would be a real serious situation if you claim you are saved, but still insist that God has never disciplined you when you have gotten involved in sin. It may be either your discipline is on its way, or you may not even be saved! A good earthly father may discipline his own children, but he would not correct the neighbor’s children. Likewise, God only corrects His own.

*“But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.” Heb. 12:8*

No one likes to be corrected, and since NO ONE gets away with sin, there is a simple solution to avoid consequences; flee sin! Keep as far away from it as is possible!

## Today’s Thought:

*For those that say, “A lot of people get away with sin”, then I have a question for you. Why are the jails so full, divorces so high, people so unhappy, and hell at near capacity? Those situations are not because everyone sat around and practiced what they read in their Bible!*

## Words to Understand:

chastening: discipline, correction

fornicator: sexual sin usually between unmarried partners

scourgeth: heavily disciplines, corrects, punishes, whips

## Today’s Reading:

*1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*

*2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

4 ¶ Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birth-right.

17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

18 ¶ For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest,

19 And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more:

20 (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart:

21 And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)

22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

25 See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

27 And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

29 For our God is a consuming fire.

## **Understandest thou what thou readest?**

1. If one can be involved in sin without chastisement from God, what could that indicate?

---

2. As a New Testament era believer, where does our faith originate from? \_\_\_\_\_

# Hebrews 13

## Daily Nugget:

In closing his letter to the Hebrew Christians, Paul left them with eight pieces of advice dealing with a Christian's social duties. They were:

- ✿ To love other Christians (vs. 1).
- ✿ To be nice to strangers, especially because we have no idea, that when we do, we may be entertaining angels (vs. 1). This informs a Bible reader that angels are real, and that we may come in contact with them more often than we realize. Because we may entertain them "unawares", the art depicting them with wings and halos is not accurate. If they had those features, we would definitely be able to distinguish them from other people. However, if they looked like normal men, we would never know if we had communicated with them "unawares". You may even come in contact with an angel today!
- ✿ To be concerned about the difficulties others are going through, as if they were your own trials (vs. 3).



✿ To remember marriage is the "honourable" thing; whereas adultery and fornication are not (vs. 4).

✿ To be content with what you have and not to covet what others have (vs. 5).

✿ To be respectful and obey those that have leadership responsibilities over you in your church (vss. 7, 17). It is the preachers, teachers, and other church leaders that God uses to minister to us. They have to answer to God for how they lead those under them. The least we can do is obey their leadership.

✿ To not fall for false doctrine that is heard (vs. 9). Study the Scriptures and evaluate if what you are hearing is taught in the Word of God. If it is not, stay with what the Word of God teaches!

Paul felt this advice would benefit the early Christians if they would heed his counsel. Over two thousand years later, it is still good advice for one to follow.

## Today's Thought:

*Don't just talk the talk; walk the walk.*

## Words to Understand:

whoremongers: those who have committed sexual sin; lewdness

## Today's Reading:

1 Let brotherly love continue.

2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

3 Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.



9 Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.  
 10 We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle.  
 11 For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp.  
 12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.  
 13 Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.  
 14 For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.  
 15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.  
 16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.  
 17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.  
 18 ¶ Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.  
 19 But I beseech you the rather to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner.  
 20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,  
 21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.  
 22 And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation: for I have written a letter unto you in few words.  
 23 Know ye that our brother Timothy is set at liberty; with whom, if he come shortly, I will see you.  
 24 Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you.  
 25 Grace be with you all. Amen.

### Understandest thou what thou readest?

X	K	T	H	E	E	K	F	O	R	S	A	K	E	U
G	S	N	O	I	T	A	S	R	E	V	N	O	C	G
T	S	A	E	E	H	T	L	E	T	W	I	Y	M	S
Q	H	U	H	E	H	K	E	H	A	V	E	Y	N	S
S	G	T	C	A	I	B	E	I	N	I	Q	L	R	E
Z	U	I	I	H	T	U	N	E	H	E	N	L	O	N
Y	A	N	R	W	M	H	V	F	C	Y	E	I	Q	S
P	T	O	W	B	E	A	S	K	O	B	V	W	V	U
E	N	A	C	I	E	Y	Z	G	N	R	E	X	D	O
L	R	F	O	L	T	A	W	T	N	D	R	S	D	T
I	P	X	N	E	H	H	S	T	N	I	P	O	V	E
W	A	L	T	V	M	A	O	A	R	P	H	G	L	V
X	S	T	E	I	I	Y	F	U	W	U	N	T	I	O
G	E	J	N	D	D	K	B	I	T	E	O	U	M	C
Y	O	Y	T	S	Y	V	C	L	H	R	S	Y	I	Q

Find the words of Hebrews 13:5  
 "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

# Are You Sure?

Reading the Word of God is very important. However, just knowing it and obeying many of the commandments recorded within its pages will not guarantee anyone an eternity in Heaven. Being a good person, attending church, obeying many of God's commandments, and doing many good deeds are wonderful things to do, but doing them will not get anyone to heaven — according to God's Word.

The Bible records God's way to have His promise of an eternity in Heaven. Since it is His Heaven, then it is His way that counts; not man's unbiblical ideas, philosophies, or religions. Here is what the Bible says needs to be believed and trusted on to have an eternity with Him:

✿ **To know that we are all sinners.**

*"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:" Rom. 3:10*

*"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" Rom. 3:23*

*"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." I John 1:8*

✿ **There is a price that will be paid for our sins!**

*"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

*Romans 6:23*

*"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" Romans 5:12*

*"Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." James 1:15*

✿ **Jesus died so that, whosoever would ask, could receive His death as payment for their sins!**

*"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."*

*Acts 2:21*

*"For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." Romans 5:7-9*

*"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:" I Peter 3:18*

✿ **Just ask!** If you recognize you are a sinner, and do not want to pay the price for being a sinner, then ask to be saved!

*"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

*10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:9-10*

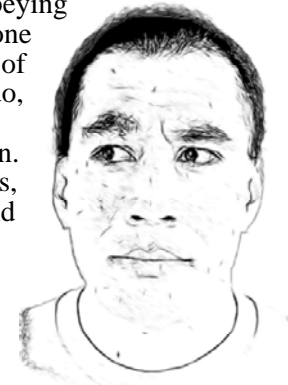
*"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10:13*

That's all that is required to be saved from Hell. Often the response is, "That can't be it. It's too easy." Well, it's not so easy if you have not been saved yet. People think they have to do something to earn their way to heaven. That is the whole point of what Jesus did. There is nothing you can do to achieve heaven, as you are a sinner. Jesus, however, was qualified and He did it all for you already! Accept what Jesus has done for you and be saved now!

If you want to be saved, just talk sincerely to the Lord in prayer. The words are not really important, as God is more interested in the sincerity of your heart. If you are serious about being saved, pray something like this:

*"Lord, I am a sinner. I have broken your heart with my sin. I am sorry for my sin; and with your help will try to keep from sin.*

*I am not worthy of heaven because of my sin, but Jesus paid the price for what I have done. I believe He died on the cross, was buried and rose again. Please forgive me for my sins; and save me today!"*



If you have asked Jesus to save you, please e-mail at [brinkworth@frontier.com](mailto:brinkworth@frontier.com), that I may rejoice with you over your very important decision.

# Glossary

“dull of hearing”: Will not understand. Much of the time it is not in reference to a hearing problem.  
“foundation of the world”: when the world was created  
“in the provocation”: the days that the Jews struggled with following God while in the wilderness  
“laying on of hands”: when elders of church, ministers, or apostles were used, by the Spirit of God, to heal a person just by touching them.  
admonished: taught, counseled correctly  
adversaries: enemies  
asunder: divided in pieces, separated  
begotten: to bring into existence, to procreate  
brethren: those that are saved  
chastening: discipline, correction  
cherubim: a created creature that flies with its two wings. It is not an angel, but a different creature.  
consecrated: separated from a worldly to a holy purpose, dedicated to service and worshipping of God  
consolation: comforting  
covenant: binding agreement. The “first covenant” referred to those agreements spoken about in the Old Testament  
disannulling: to nullify, to annul, to get rid of  
divers: different  
esteeming: putting value to, to prize  
exhort: encourage  
fornicator: person who committed sexual sin, usually between unmarried partners  
gazingstock: a person looked at with contempt  
immutability: inability to change  
mediator: the representative of the people, the “middle man” between God and man  
ordained: appointed by  
ordinances: requirements, laws  
perdition: eternal misery  
remission: forgiveness  
repentance: a genuine sorrow for doing something wrong or sinful. This sorrow and grief are strong enough to drive the person to do their best to not commit that wrongful act again.  
sanctified: cleansed, purified  
sanctuary: refers to the place in the back of the tabernacle that only the High Priest could enter  
scourgeth: heavily disciplines, corrects, punishes, whips  
shadow: not the actual thing, but a picture (or example) of the thing  
similitude: similar to, much like  
sojourned: lived in a place  
succour: help, especially in time of need  
sundry: more than one  
sware: promise, make a pledge  
testator: a person who leaves a will (testament) for his death  
tithe: one tenth of earnings that are given to the Lord.  
transgressions: sins  
translated: moved from one place to another  
vesture: clothing  
whoremongers: those who have committed sexual sin. lewdness  
wrath: anger

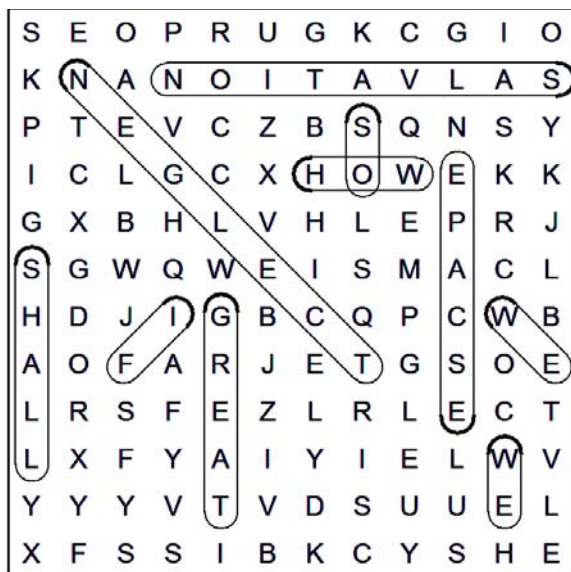


# Answers to Questions

## Hebrews 1:

1. By using the prophets.
2. The angels (vs. 6)
3. To minister to those that are saved (vs. 14)

## Hebrews 2:



## Hebrews 3:

1. Christ Jesus
2. Every time a person refuses to obey what the Holy Spirit is saying to their “conscience”, one can get more set in their refusal to obey His commands.
3. Unbelief (vs. 12), sin (vs. 13)

## Hebrews 4

1. By getting saved (vs.3)
2. Not laboring for the Lord (vs. 11)
3. Jesus (vs. 14)

## Hebrews 5

1. The older brother of Moses and was the first High Priest.
2. He was a priest-king at the time of Abraham. See commentary on Hebrews 7.
3. Instead of being a mature Christian that can understand spiritually harder things (the “meat of the Word), the person is an immature Christian needing spiritual “baby food”.

## Hebrews 6

1. His own name (vs. 13-14)
2. To give bad advice (counsel – vs. 17) and to lie (vs. 18)

## Hebrews 7

1. One tenth of what he collected from battling the Kings (vss. 1-2), his tithe
2. Juda (v. 14) Also called Judah in the Old Testament

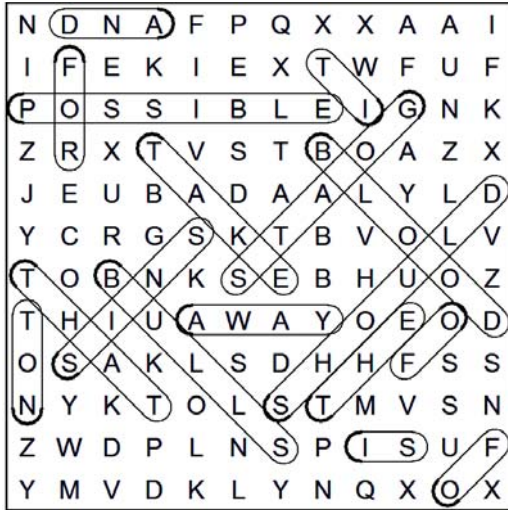
## Hebrews 8

1. Jesus
2. Jesus
3. In the New Testament of the Bible

## Hebrews 9

1. Candlestick, table of shewbread, golden censer (altar of incense), ark of the covenant

## Hebrews 10



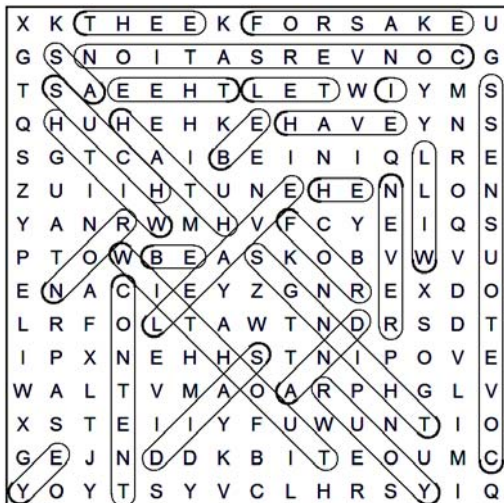
## Hebrews 11

1. Hoping for something, and knowing that it will be supplied.  
“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Heb. 11:1
2. faith
3. God told Noah to build an ark after warning him there would be a flood. At the time the earth was not watered by rain, so it took tremendous faith to trust God would do what He said He would do.

## Hebrews 12

1. That one may not be a child of God (vs. 8)
2. Jesus (vs. 2)

## Hebrews 13







# Notes





A Spoonful of

# Hebrews

This daily devotional is different than most other devotionals. Instead of reading a random verse and a short illustration about the principle taught in the verse, this devotional is designed to get the reader to read at least one chapter a day from the book of Hebrews and to teach him at least one important lesson from the day's reading.

A short, 200-500 word commentary highlights one of the principles taught in the day's chapter. This study is not a complete long-winded study of the chapter.

Following the commentary is a short quote about a principle taught in the commentary, several definitions of difficult or unusual words found in the King James chapter of Hebrews, and several short questions requiring the reader to think about what they have read.

This study is also designed for the Sunday school teacher's or pastor's usage. As many as required pages can be printed or copied, and given out to a class that is studying Hebrews. It is a handout that will help the class or congregation learn principles taught in the book.

Reading the Bible is wonderful; but learning something from it is far more important. Get more out of your daily devotions as you read this devotional.



# A Spoonful of Revelation

*A daily devotional on the book of Revelation*



*Bill Brinkworth*





# A Spoonful Of Revelation

*By*  
*Bill Brinkworth*



All quoted scripture is from the King James Bible only!

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# **In Dedication**

I dedicate this work to the cause of Christ, and thank Him for all His help. I also want to thank all the pastors and Christians He has used to help me develop a love for His Word. Prayerfully, more will read, believe, and obey the preserved words from God.

I also am indebted to my wonderful wife for her help in putting this piece together. Without her editing, contributing thoughts for the day, being my living concordance, and her encouragement, this booklet would not have been possible. Thank you, Barbara Ann.



# Purpose

One of the most life-changing and life-guiding influences any person can have is reading the Word of God. Within its pages the reader will find God's words on how to live; how to die; whom to have as friends; how to get to heaven; how to have an exciting, successful life; how to please God; how to know God's plan for your life, and hosts of other important revelations. Yet, as valuable as the Bible's contents are, too few read its preserved words and advice. The Book of Revelation is mostly about futuristic occurrences, but it still contains doctrines that today's Christians should understand.

In an attempt to get more to read the Bible and understand it, I have created this short, devotional series. Although there are many daily devotionals available, this one is different. Most other devotionals have a short, uplifting paragraph or two to bless the reader, several verses, and a recommended reading for the day.

The "Spoonful Devotional" encourages the reader to read at least one chapter a day. A chapter from the King James Bible is included in the day's reading. No matter how busy one's life, if it is a priority to know God's will and way, all should be able read one chapter of the King James Bible in this devotional each day.

To help more understand what the Bible teaches, there is a short commentary included about one principle taught from the day's chapter. It may not necessarily be the most important doctrine taught in that chapter, but it is a teaching from the day's reading. In "A Spoonful of the Book of Revelation", the commentaries are more of a synopsis of the chapter than the commentaries of other books in this series, but are still only a portion of what is taught in the chapter. After reading each brief explanation and the Scripture, one will certainly have more of an understanding of the Word of God when the book is finished.

After completing this book, the reader will have learned several biblical doctrines. The one thing I have noticed, since being a Christian, is that many Christians do not have a knowledge of biblical teachings. Many have only a basic knowledge of God's Word that they may have gotten out of a church service, or another source rather than their own reading and studying. Some just assume they know what the Bible says or what they think is right or wrong. It is God's Word, and it is up to us to read, study it,

and learn what God has preserved for us to learn.

*"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15*

Unfortunately, many today are not big readers. That may be why so few have read the entire Word of God. To help that type of reader still glean principles from God's Word, I have attempted to keep all discussions of the chapters' contents short — usually from 500-800 words. Because of these size restraints, much of what is discussed is very brief.

Also, to be helpful, a short "Thought for the Day" is included. The quote is one short quip which may encourage one to contemplate what was taught in the commentary for the day's reading.

Prior, to the reading of the day's chapter, there are a few words that should be understood when reading the Word of God. This short list is not intended to be a dictionary, but an attempt to define some words that may be used differently in the reading than what is commonly understood today.

After each reading there are short exercises, or puzzles, to help the readers comprehend some of what they have just read. The answers to the questions are found at the back of the book.

The size of the devotional is larger for a reason. In hopes that more will read and study the Bible, I have designed it so a Sunday school teacher, pastor, classroom teacher, or any ministry that is encouraging their people to study the Bible, will make copies of the lesson and freely distribute them. It can be copied on normal 8 x 11.5" paper on a copy machine or printed out on a computer printer. The graphics in most lessons are black and white, so they will print well on non-commercial, monochrome printing devices. I am giving the purchaser of this devotional permission to make as many copies as they can use, and hand out to their people.

This world is changing for the worse — on a daily basis. If more knew, believed, and obeyed the words of God there would be less decline in morality, less sin, and more godly living. I have made an attempt to portion biblical doctrine in small palatable portions so more would read it.

Is God's Word important to you? Have you always wanted to read it, but never "got around to it"? Well, here is an opportunity for you to

read and learn more about the Bible — one  
small “spoonful” a day!

# Revelation 1

## Daily Nugget:

The book of Revelation is the most popular of the prophetic books of the Bible. While on the Isle of Patmos (vs. 9), Jesus (vs. 1) revealed futuristic things to John.

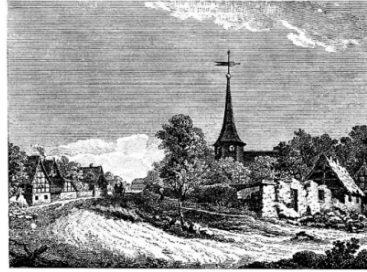
In this unveiling of things to come, Jesus instructed John to write the things that he saw and heard in a book (vs. 11), so that all could read what will happen (vs.3). Hundreds of Old Testament prophecies about Jesus and His first coming have come true. Hundreds of other prophecies about other happenings also have come true. It is just a matter of time until all that is recorded in *The Revelation* is fulfilled.

John was to send what he recorded to seven churches of that time (vs. 11). There were certainly more than seven churches at this time, so there were other reasons why the revelator was to give those particular churches copies of what Jesus showed the apostle.

As we will read in the next two chapters, these churches had had some in their membership that were doing right, but there were others that were doing wrong. The revelations given to them were designed to give those that were doing wrong an opportunity to repent and do right.

These seven churches erred in not living as they should. They were examples of what many other churches of all ages have done. Although these first century examples were a long time ago, sin has not changed; so churches even today have similar problems. The rebukes to these churches can also be a wake-up call to any church, in general, that has a similar spiritual problem.

Another reason for exposing the errors of these seven churches, and I believe the most important for our modern time, is that these seven



churches' spiritual conditions were a picture of the attitudes of churches throughout history. As Revelation is a prophetic book (vs. 4), the seven churches pictured seven church ages that would one day come. There are never two churches alike, but during certain times in history, there were predominate spiritual behaviors among churches.

Some say that the:

- ✿ Church in Ephesus (vs. 11) pictured early churches that had “lost their first love”.
- ✿ Church of Smyrna pictured the persecuted churches during the second and third centuries.
- ✿ Church at Pergamos pictured the heretical church age with rampant idolatry and other sin.
- ✿ Church at Thyatira pictured the Dark Age churches (before the 16<sup>th</sup> century).
- ✿ Church at Sardis pictured the Renaissance church.
- ✿ Church at Philadelphia pictured the great revival among churches at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- ✿ Church at Laodicea pictures the lukewarm, apostate churches of this church age.

These things spoken of in this book are for us to learn. They were revealed so we would know what was to come. It is not the dark, mysterious book that many feel it is. Granted it does take knowledge of the other parts of the Bible to understand it more clearly, but God has it preserved for our edification. He promises a blessing (vs. 3) to all that read it.

## Today's Thought:

*The church is a gift from God; some assembly required.*

## Words to Understand:

Alpha: first letter in the Greek alphabet; also used to denote beginning of something. This usage (vs. 8) is also referring to a person as it is a capitalized proper noun.

Omega: last letter in the Greek alphabet; used also to indicate the end of something. This usage (vs. 8) is also referring to a person as it is a capitalized proper noun.  
revelation: revealing a truth of God; making something clear to another that was not previously understood by them

### **Today's Reading:**

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 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

3 ¶ Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

9 ¶ I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

### **Understandest thou what thou readest?**

1. What are three ways to get a blessing from John's Revelation? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. To how many churches was John addressing this letter? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who revealed these futuristic events to John? \_\_\_\_\_

# Revelation 2

## Daily Nugget:

Messages to four different churches were penned in this chapter. These messages were not only to the real churches of the day, but they also were to any that had similar problems in them. These churches were also illustrations of how the churches generally would be in the future. They pictured different church ages.

The first church mentioned was the church at Ephesus. That church discerned what was right and wrong and labored for the cause of Christ (vs. 2-3). They were warned, however, that they had “left thy first love”. The church body had relaxed and lost the love for the Saviour, that they had had in the past.

This church in Ephesus pictured what would happen to churches in general. During the period of A. D. 70-170<sup>1</sup> the once strong church did backslide and did lose some of its zeal. They had left the love they had once for God.

Smyrna was the second church described. Although this ministry was poor financially, in many spiritual areas they were rich (vs. 9). However, this church faced much persecution. They were informed that Satan was behind their tribulations (vs. 9, 10), and that they should be faithful, even unto their deaths. This church’s persecution pictured what happened to many churches between A. D. 170 and A. D. 312<sup>1</sup>. During this time the true church faced tremendous persecutions from the Roman Emperors beginning with Nero and ending with Diocletian.

The third church addressed was the church in Pergamos. Although they were being faithful to Jesus, they were allowing the “doctrine of Balaam” (worldliness – Jude 11) to creep into their membership, along with the “doctrine of Nico-



laitans”. The Nicolaitans were people trying to establish the Old Testament priesthood within the church and cause a separation between the leaders and the “lay” people.

This prophecy was fulfilled in the churches from A. D. 312 to A. D. 606<sup>1</sup>. During this time, Constantine and men like him, fused pagan beliefs with “Christian” doctrine. Idols and immorality were forced onto the church.

Although the church in Thyatira was known for its charity, service, faith, and patience (vs. 19), Jesus knew it had weaknesses and failings. They allowed a self-proclaimed prophetess, Jezebel, to erode what truth was left in the church. Her involvement led the church to commit spiritual fornication. Idolatry was rampant in the church.

This church pictured what happened in many of the churches from A. D. 606 to the Reformation in A. D. 1520<sup>1</sup>. It was during this time that the Catholic church introduced idolatry, masses, other pagan rites, and became very powerful and controlling.

The history lessons in this chapter all came to pass. If guards are let down concerning spiritual matters, and any deviation from the truth is allowed; the real church will, and did, suffer spiritual loss.

In most of the churches that were written to they were warned and had an opportunity to repent and return to what God had intended for them. We, too, if we see our spiritual error being similar to those committed by the early churches, have a warning. If we do nothing, our spiritual condition will only get worse. If we admit our weaknesses, it is never too late. We can repent, and return to living the way God requires.

<sup>1</sup> Clarence Larkin. The Book of Revelation. Pages 20-27. Philadelphia, PA. Rev. Clarence Larkin Estate. 1919

## Today’s Thought:

*A church is not a building. It is an assembly of believers whose desire is to live for God.*



## Words to Understand:

Balaam: Balaam was a heathen diviner that the Midians and Moabites wanted to curse Israel so they could conquer Israel (Numbers 22).

blasphemy: irreverent words spoken against God

Nicolaitans: a sect that was prevalent during the time of the early church. They were said to have obeyed some Old Testament dietary laws, encouraged idolatry, denied that God was the creator, and practiced some of Balaam's teachings.

## Today's Reading:

1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

8 ¶ And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

12 ¶ And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

18 ¶ And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;

19 I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.

20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

25 But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.

26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

28 And I will give him the morning star.

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

## **Understandest thou what thou readest?**

1. Name two false teachings the church at Ephesus battled? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Name at least two tribulations the church of Smyrna and the Smyrna church age would face?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What crept in and weakened the Pergamos church and the Pergamos church age?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What did the church at Thyatira and the Thyatira church age allow to weaken them?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Revelation 3

## Daily Nugget:

John's warning to churches of his time and the revealing of future church ages continues in this chapter. He concludes by discussing the three remaining churches.

✿ A church at Sardis that was spiritually dying. They may have had the word "church" on the sign out front, but they had departed from following God's commandments.

However, as far as the church had drifted in general, Jesus' plea to John was that there was still an opportunity for them to repent and hold fast to what they had originally been taught (vs. 2-4). There were still a few in the church that were doing right. There was still hope.

All seven of the churches in Rev. 2-3 were actual churches of John's time. They also represented church ages to come. The church in Sardis was a picture of churches from A. D. 1500 to about A. D. 1750<sup>1</sup>. Although the churches at the time were generally dead, ritualistic, and unbiblical, there were some individuals like those in the Sardis church that did not sway. They were men like Martin Luther and other faithful men of this Reformation Period.

✿ Although many churches of John's time had drifted away from the doctrines taught by Christ and the apostles, there was still a church that had some spiritual strength (vs. 8). It was the church of Philadelphia. As the name "Philadelphia" implies, it was a church that was known for brotherly love. This church pictured the church age between A. D. 1750 and A. D. 1900. It was during this period of time that there were many great revivals throughout the world. It is believed to have been started by George Whitefield's ministry, and followed by men like John Wesley, Charles G. Finney, and D. L. Moody.

Great doors (vs. 8) were opened and missionaries went into the world giving the Gospel throughout the world. Countries



such as Africa, China, India, Japan, and Korea were reached.

✿ The seventh church John warned was the church of the Laodiceans. This was a "luke warm" ministry (vs. 16). They had riches and many things the world had to offer, but they were doing very little for the Lord. God saw them as "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" (vs. 17). Their failure to do anything for the Lord disgusted the Father (vs. 16).

Unfortunately, this church pictures the church age we are currently in. Like all church ages, not all churches are the same. There has always been a remnant doing God's will and way, but the majority of churches at this time are much like the church of Laodicea. There is more concern for the social interests of man than the spiritual. Clubs, committees, eloquent speakers, paid musicians, church appearance, and not offending anyone have a higher priority than do the needs of a man's souls. Preaching "Thus saith the Lord" is rarely heard anymore, and if it were, there would be many offended and those that would desert the church. Physical wealth does not cover up the fact that the majority of churches are not heeding the tugging of the Holy Spirit and in God's eyes are "... poor, and blind, and naked."

No matter the climate of the majority of luke-warm, worldly churches, until the Lord comes there is still time for a personal repentance and a return to God's ways of righteousness. The door of opportunity for personal revival is still open at this time; until Jesus returns again! Our individual, local church still has the opportunity to be like the church of Philadelphia.

*"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."* Rev. 3:21

<sup>1</sup> Clarence Larkin. The Book of Revelation. Pages 20-27. Philadelphia, PA. Rev. Clarence Larkin Estate. 1919

## Today's Thought:

*"We don't go to church; we are the church." — Southcott*

## Words to Understand:

"defiled their garments": dirtied their "robes of righteousness" with sin, spotted their testimonies

"I will come on thee as a thief": take you by surprise.

raiment: clothing

rebuke: correct, show errors

spue: spit

zealous: passionate, full of enthusiasm

## Today's Reading:

1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

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

7 ¶ And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

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

14 ¶ And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

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

## Understandest thou what thou readest?

1. What was the problem with the church of Sardis and the Sardis church age?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What was the church at Philadelphia and the Philadelphian church age known to have done right?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the current church age? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Find the seven church ages in this word search puzzle:



**Words to Find:**  
*Ephesus*  
*Smyrna*  
*Pergamos*  
*Thyatira*  
*Sardis*  
*Philadelphia*  
*Laodicea*



# Revelation 4

## Daily Nugget:

Next to the coming to the earth of Jesus, His death and resurrection, and plan of salvation this chapter signals an event that is the most anticipated promise given to believers. Every Christian from the time of the first church anxiously awaited the event that is described in this verse. Revelation 4:1 announces the occurrence of the long-awaited rapture! *“After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.” Revelation 4:1-2*



The rapture is when God says, “Enough” of rampant sin and takes his church, living and dead, out of this earth (I Thessalonians 4:16-18). After the church is removed, then all the terrible prophecies concerning God’s wrathful judgment upon the residents of the earth will begin. For the living child of God, from this point on in the book of Revelation, all that happens on this earth will not involve him; as he will be gone to heaven! Amen and Amen!

The Greek word for “caught up” in I Thessalonians 4:17 is “harpazō”, and it means “to catch away, to seize, pluck, pull, and take by force”. Its meaning is very similar to the English word “rapture”, which means “transport, seizing away”. Although “rapture” is not used in the preserved King James text, this futuristic happening is often referred to as the “rapture”.

Although Revelation is a record of what John saw and heard revealed to him by Jesus, it is meant to give us an understanding of what will happen on that day. It is believed that verse one is when the rapture happens because:

It says “After this ...”. After what? After the seven church ages are completed (Rev. 2-3). The last church age, as compared to the church of Laodicea, pictures perfectly how the majority of churches have become today. It is after God sees the last person has gotten saved, that He ends the church age and starts a new era; an era of His judgments!

“... a door was opened in heaven ...” A door is a means to pass from one place to another. This “door” moves the dead and living in Christ from this earth to the next “room”; the “room” where God is!

In Revelation 3:20 the door was where Jesus was last standing. He gave all an opportunity to trust Him as Saviour one more time during the indifferent, Laodicean church age. No more answered His pleas, so He opened the door of Heaven and called His own home.

The trumpet of God was sounded just like it was foretold it would be at the time of the rapture (I Thes. 4:16).

A voice was heard calling John to heaven as it was prophesied (I Thes. 4:16) the church would be summoned up: “... Come up hither ...”

It was prophesied that the Lord would come again when the earth became like the days of Noah (Mat. 24:37-38. Luke 17:26). Those days are certainly here.

After the Lord judged the world of Noah’s time, He sent a reminder of His judgment: the rainbow. In Rev. 3:3, there was a rainbow around God’s throne. The judgment of Noah’s day preserved only God’s own, who were inside the ark. The upcoming rapture will also have His own safely preserved( in Heaven), while God’s judgment of the tribulation takes place on earth.

The church is no longer mentioned in what occurs on the earth from this time on, because the church is no longer here!



Since we are currently in the last church age, the rapture mentioned in Revelation 4:1 is the next event in God's plan. It could be today or tomorrow. The big question is are you absolute-

ly positively sure you will be included in the rapture? If not, now may be your last opportunity to trust Christ as Saviour and be saved!

### **Today's Thought:**

*When Jesus comes for His own in the air, will you meet Him?*

### **Words to Understand:**

"Come up hither": come up to heaven

sardine stone: deep red, or brownish-red precious stone

### **Today's Reading:**

1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

6 And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.

8 ¶ And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

### **Understandest thou what thou readest?**

1. At the end of what church-age does the rapture occur?

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2. Why is this chapter, particularly verse one, so important to a Christian?

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# Revelation 5

## Daily Nugget:

With the real church raptured up to heaven, other events will then happen around God's throne. A "book" will be presented. There will be a big question concerning who will be able to open the book. John wept because there were none found worthy to open it (vs. 3) when he was allowed to have a sneak preview of what will happen. Then a Man (vs. 7) will step forward that is qualified to open it. His titles included the Lion of the tribe of Juda and the root of (King) David. The qualified man will be Jesus!

The "book" referred to will be a scroll that is sealed with seven seals. It is similar to the way redemption contracts were prepared in biblical days. A scroll was written on, rolled up, sealed with a wax seal, rolled up some more, sealed again, and continued to be rolled and sealed until seven seals were put on the document. This was a redemption contract that was given to Jesus; as a song in verse 9 indicates that Jesus was slain and redeemed the believers that were at the time residing in heaven.

In Old Testament days, if a wife, slave, or land were up for "sale" because of debt, there was a law providing a way that their debt could



be bought back and paid for. The first opportunity of paying off the debt was given to a near relative, an uncle, or closer kin. He was known as the kinsman redeemer. If the kinsman redeemer could show he could pay the debts, he was given a seven-sealed scroll, and would open the scroll breaking all seven seals publically.

Jesus is the only qualified kinsman redeemer. The Son of Man is a close relation to mankind. His payment of blood on Calvary qualified Him to open the seven-sealed book He took from His Father's hand (vs. 1). The church is the bride of Christ (John 3:29). Jesus will be able to redeem His bride. We were slaves to sin, and He is qualified to redeem us. The land was lost to sin as it was cursed, because of the sins of Adam and Eve. Jesus is also qualified to redeem the earth.

No wonder there will be great rejoicing around God's throne room (vs. 11-14). Finally, the only qualified redeemer of those that have been grasped by sin will officially redeem them. Jesus will step forward to break the seals of the scroll. He is our kinsman redeemer!

## Today's Thought:

*In unfailing love, God leads people He has redeemed.*

## Words to Understand:

Lamb (vss. 8, 12): a lamb was quite often an animal used in Jewish sacrifices. Here, because of other references and the fact that it is a proper name (it is capitalized) it is talking about a person. This Person is none other than Jesus Christ, He certainly is worthy (vs. 2)!

"The Lion of the tribe of Juda": another title for Jesus. It was prophesied (Genesis 49:8-10) that the One the world was waiting for would come from the Jewish tribe of Judah (Juda), as did Christ, and that he would be a "Lion".

"The Root of David?": Another mention of the prophesied lineage of Christ. He was from the offspring of King David as was previously foretold.

## Today's Reading:

1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

6 ¶ And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

## **Understandest thou what thou readest?**

1. Who will be the only Person in either heaven or earth that will be found worthy to open the seven- sealed “book”? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What was in the elder’s golden vials? \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Revelation 6

## Daily Nugget:

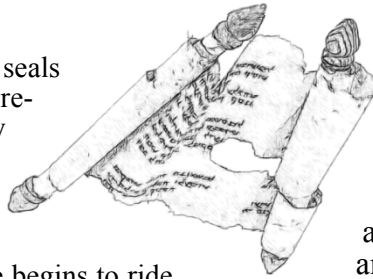
In this chapter, six of the seven seals on the “book” mentioned in the previous chapter are broken. As they are unsealed by Jesus, different events begin to unfold on earth and in heaven.

As the first seal of the scroll is broken, a rider on a white horse begins to ride (vs. 2). Is it a literal horse and rider, and are all the other released horses and riders further on in this chapter also literal? I do not know the answer, but they are clearly symbolic of what will happen on earth.

Although there are many ideas as to who the rider is, and who the other horsemen are further on in this chapter, the Bible does not say in this chapter. He is not Jesus, as Christ is opening the seals, and Jesus does not appear on a white horse until chapter 19. A white horse is believed to imply peace; and the rider has a bow without arrows, which indicates that that he is conquering without fighting. It most likely is a false peace (appears to many as “peace”, but in reality is not peace at all) that happens before (vs. 4) terrible things happen on the earth.

When the second seal is broken, the temporary peace on earth ends, and war breaks out. A “great sword” (vs. 4), or weapon, is unleashed on the inhabitants of earth. Some writers suppose it may be a nuclear weapon, but until it happens no one will be sure.

As the third seal is broken, a black horse is released. Its rider has a balance in his hand (vs. 5). The balance shows the reader, along with what is said in verse 6, that food will be scarce on earth; possibly because of



the war that happened when the previous horse traveled throughout the earth. Food will be measured out and there will be famine throughout the land.

When the fourth seal is broken, a pale horse named “Death” rides about the earth. The resulting war and death unleashed at this time kills one-fourth of the earth’s population (vs. 8). With a current population of close to seven billion people, that would mean at least 1.75 billion will die!

The scene shifts from earth back to heaven when the fifth seal is broken. At this time John sees those martyred for the Word of God (vs. 9) under heaven’s altar. This indicates that at that time on earth many will lose their lives for their testimonies for Christ. Persecution of Christians will increase.

Again, the focus is changed back to earth, when the sixth seal is broken. When it is, devastating cataclysms on earth will begin to happen. A great earthquake occurs. The sun becomes black (vs. 12). The moon appears as blood, and the earth’s atmosphere changes drastically. All inhabitants on earth will be terribly afraid (vs. 14).

What terrible events will unfold during those days! No man can stop what God will allow at that time, but there is something that one can do to make sure he does not have to face those terrible days. That way is to trust Christ as Saviour from their sins (Romans 10:9), now! We do not know how much more time we have on this earth.

Are you sure you have been saved (John 3:16), and have God’s promise of avoiding those terrible days? Jesus is the only hope of escape from those days (John 14:6), not our religion, good deeds, or our good intentions.

## Today’s Thought:

*Know God; no fear.*

## Words to Understand:

bondman: one bound to serve another without wages

sackcloth of hair: a coarse material that is used in making sacks. It was often used to make clothes that were worn when mourning the death of a person.

seal: a clay or wax material that was put on a document, and then had an impression stamped on it. It signified that it was authorized by the one who stamped it, and would indicate if the document had been opened previously or not.

### **Today's Reading:**

1 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.

2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

3 ¶ And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.

4 And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

5 And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

7 And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.

8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

9 ¶ And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens 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 that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

### **Understandest thou what thou readest?**

1. Who opened the sealed document? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What will the rider of the first horse begin to do on earth? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What will the rider of the second horse begin to do on earth? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What will the rider of the third horse begin to do on earth? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What will the rider of the fourth horse begin to do on earth? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

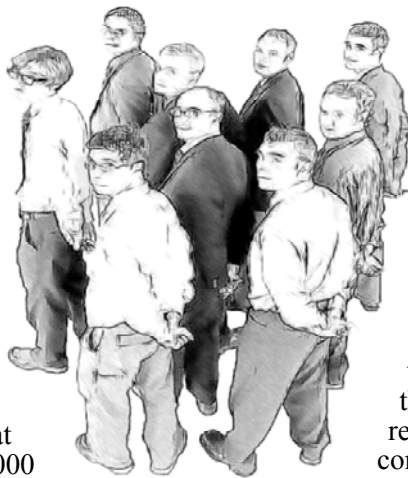
# Revelation 7

## Daily Nugget:

After the sixth seal is opened, there will be a brief respite, a parenthesis of time, before the seventh seal is broken. During this time the winds throughout the earth will be held back from blowing (vs. 1). Before more cataclysms occur, an angel warns (vs. 2) that one more task must first be performed.

The task will be that 144,000 thousand Jews, 12,000 members from each of the twelve tribes of Israel, must be selected (vss. 4-8) and marked with the Father's name on their foreheads (Rev. 14:1). Although records of who are members of those tribes are lost to man, God still knows who they are. There are many that claim to be the 144,000, including certain "anointed" Jehovah Witnesses. The Bible, however, is very clear that they are Jews.

Of the twelve original tribes, two of the tribes have been substituted. The Israelite tribes of Dan and Ephraim were omitted because their names



were blotted out (Deut. 29:18-21), when they introduced idolatry to Israel. They will be replaced by the tribes of Levi and Joseph.

These 144,000 Jews will go throughout the world and will present the world with one more opportunity to hear the Gospel and be saved. The soul-winning efforts of these 144,000 will have outstanding results. There will be so many saved that it will be hard to number them (Rev. 7:9). These that are saved are those that never heard the saving Gospel before and had never rejected Christ. They, too, as many other converts of that period, will be martyred for the cause of Christ.

God does not want any to perish and go to hell (II Peter 3:9). He gives multiple opportunities to most to trust Christ as payment. He has not given up on the Jews either and gives them this last opportunity to accept Christ as Saviour. His opportunities are limited, however, as is the time to be saved. Allow me to ask, are you saved (John 3:16)? Please take this opportunity to trust Christ as Saviour before it is eternally too late!

## Today's Thought:

*Today is a gift from God; that's why it's called the present.*

## Words to Understand:

elders: men-assigned leadership positions over others in a local church

kindreds: related by birth or marriage

tribe: refers to the genealogical divisions of the families of Israel. A "tribe" was one of the original twelve families established by Jacob's twelve sons

## Today's Reading:

1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

5 Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand.

6 Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand.

7 Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand.

8 Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.

9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

13 ¶ And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

## **Understandest thou what thou readest?**

1. How many tribes of Israel will have representatives used for God's glory during the tribulation? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Who were the righteous ones that honor God and Jesus in verse 9? \_\_\_\_\_

# Revelation 8

## Today's Nugget:

After the seventh seal is opened, there will be a mighty hush in heaven for one half hour (vs. 1). It is the only time mentioned in the Bible where there is silence at the throne of God. Perhaps, the suspense and anticipation of what will be unleashed on the earth will cause the quietness.

Seven angels with seven trumpets will move in position (vs. 2). An eighth angel will step to the altar and offer incense from his golden censer and the prayers of all the saints (vss. 3-5). Perhaps they will include the prayers of, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Mat. 6:10). Over two thousand years of prayers will be answered as God's will will be done.

The first angel will sound his trumpet and "hail and fire mingled with blood" will be rained on the earth. It is very similar to the plague brought on Egypt during Moses' leadership (Ex. 9:22-26). One third of all trees on the earth will be killed. All the green grass will be incinerated. The earth will definitely be affected, as natural suppliers of the earth's oxygen are diminished.

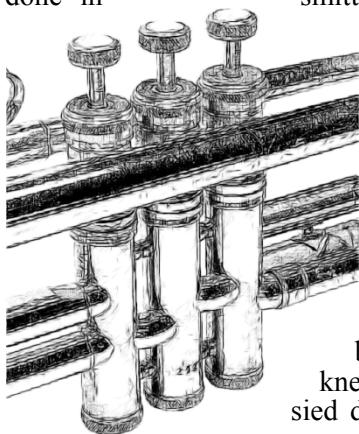
God's judgment on the earth continues, as the second angel sounds his trumpet. It is also similar to the plague of Moses' time (Ex. 7:19-21). A plummeting mass as a "great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea ..." (vs. 8). One third of the sea will become blood. One third of sea life will die. Even one third of the sea's ships will perish. With the loss of the much of

the sea's oxygen-producing plankton, the earth's breathable air level also will diminish.

The trumpet judgments continue as the third angel will sound his instrument. A "great star", possibly a huge meteorite, also crashes to the earth. The fresh water of one third of the earth's rivers is turned sour (vss. 10-11). Many die from the affected water.

Redemption of the earth continues, as the fourth angel sounds his trumpet. This judgment is also similar to the ninth plague of Moses' day (Ex. 10:22-24). The "third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars ..." (vs. 12). Either by darkening dust clouds that blocked the celestial lights or God's dimming of the lights from the outer atmospheres, the light shining on the earth will be lessened. Surviving plants will most likely die, as they will not have the light they require.

Although the Bible later mentions that there will be some still doubting and hating God in those last days, it is hard to believe anyone would not drop to their knees and worship God when these prophesied days come true. It will happen though; as even today many have read about the hundreds of prophecies God has fulfilled, but still doubt even His existence. They still scoff at the things of God and the many proofs of His involvement in this world's events. Many do not even give Him credit for creating all in this universe. It is so sad that the wickedness and hardness of man's heart will result in God's finally having His will and way in the upcoming last days through judgment on the earth.



## Today's Thought:

*The Lord gave Noah the rainbow sign — not water, but fire next time!*

## Words to Understand:

censer: a metal vessel used to carry incense. It usually had a handle to carry it.

wormwood: a bitter plant known to grow in wastelands



## Today's Reading:

- 1 And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.
- 2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.
- 3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.
- 4 And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.
- 5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.
- 6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.
- 7 ¶ The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.
- 8 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;
- 9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.
- 10 And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;
- 11 And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.
- 12 And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.
- 13 And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

## Understandest thou what thou readest?

1. When the first angel sounds his trumpet, what will happen on the earth?

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2. When the second angel sounds his trumpet, what will happen on the earth?

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3. When the third angel sounds his trumpet, what will happen on the earth?

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4. When the fourth angel sounds his trumpet, what will happen on the earth?

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# Revelation 9

## Daily Nugget:

The last seal judgment will be lengthened as it includes seven trumpet judgments. The fifth and sixth trumpets are sounded in this chapter.

After the fifth angel sounds his instrument, a “star” falls from heaven (vs. 1). The “star” is most likely an angel as verse two addresses the creature as a “he”. Also, in Job 38:7 angels are also referred to as “stars”.

This angel opens the bottomless pit (vs. 2) and releases demonic “locusts”. Although this plague on the earth is similar to the locust plague of Moses’ day (Ex. 10:13), these creatures look much different than any locust man has ever seen. Unlike the normal locust that eats vegetation; these do not. They will inflict torment on the men they sting with their scorpion-like tails. To make matters worse, although those stung by the creatures from the “pit” will desire to die from the the inflicted torment, they will not be able to (vs. 6).

The judgment of God continues as another angel blows the sixth trumpet (vs. 13). After it is sounded, four fallen angels will be loosed from their imprisonment somewhere near the Euphra-

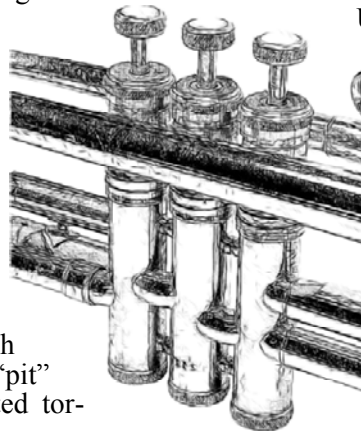
tes River (vs. 15). For approximately 391 days these ungodly, creatures will be involved with a large demonic army. The army consists of 200 million horsemen (vs. 16). These ungodly riders are astride demonic steeds (vs. 17).

These supernatural forces are allowed to kill one third of the remaining population (vs. 18).

Using today’s population figures, and deducting at least 1.75 billion when the forth seal was broken (Rev. 6:8), around 5.25 billion will remain. This army will kill 1/3 of those, leaving about 3.5 billion people on this earth!

After such display of supernatural intervention, one would believe that a world-wide turning to Christ would prevail. The contrary will occur instead, as the survivors refuse to repent from their worshipping of dev-

ils, idols, nature (vss, 20-21), and their rampant sin. Man often does not learn. The spiritual blindness that exists today will continue even to the last days.



## Today’s Thought:

*When God drives you to your knees; pray there!*

## Words to Understand:

brimstone: rock composed of sulphur

two hundred thousand thousand: 200 million

## Today’s Reading:

1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.

3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.

5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.

6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.

7 And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men.

8 And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.

9 And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.

10 And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.

11 And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.

12 One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.

13 ¶ And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.

15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.

16 And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.

17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.

18 By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.

19 For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.

20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

## Understandest thou what thou readest?

1. What will happen on the earth when the fifth angel sounds his trumpet?

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2. What will be different about these locusts that will be unleashed on the earth?

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3. What did the sixth angel do?

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# Revelation 10

## Daily Nugget:

After the catastrophes resulting from the blowing of the sixth trumpet, a curious event occurs in this chapter. A little book was taken from heaven to earth by an “angel”.

There are many ideas of who that “angel” will be. Many believe it to be Jesus. Here are some of the reasons why:

- ✿ If you believe the “angel” that Moses met at the burning bush (Exodus 3:2) to be the pre-incarnate Christ, then that was at least one instance that Jesus was referred to as an angel.
- ✿ No other angel in the Bible has ever been described the way this “angel” was in Rev. 10:1-4.
- ✿ Many of the descriptions of this “angel” sound very much like words used to refer to Jesus in many other scriptures. These include: “lion”, and other words describing His brilliant appearance (vs. 1), and His speech (vss. 3-4).

✿ The angel will have in his hand an open book (vs. 2). Since the previous seals of the book will have been opened by Jesus in heaven, the book would now be open. It makes sense that it will be that book that was brought to earth by Jesus.

Whoever the “angel” will be, John will request the book. The angel told John to take it and eat it. When John did so, the pages were sweet to his taste, but bitter in his belly (vss. 9-10).

Whatever this book will be, it had a similar reaction to John’s “eating” it that many have today with the Word of God. It may sound “sweet” in certain passages, when application is not directed to the reader. However, when the Word of God is taken personally and applied to one’s life, it has the power to convict one of his shortcomings and sin. When one is under conviction by the Holy Spirit, it will indeed be “bitter” to their stomach.

## Today’s Thought:

*What does the Word of God taste like to you: bitter or sweet?*

## Today’s Reading:

1 And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:

2 And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,

3 And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.

4 And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.

5 And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven,

6 And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:

7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

8 ¶ And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth.

9 And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.

10 And I took the little book out of the angel’s hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.

11 And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

### **Understandest thou what thou readest?**

1. What was John told not to record? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What was John told to do with the little book? \_\_\_\_\_

# Revelation 11

## Daily Nugget:

Prior to the sounding of the seventh trumpet (vs. 15), John was instructed to measure the temple of God. Herod's temple was destroyed by Titus in A. D. 70, 25 years previous to John's revelation. What is referred to here is not Herod's temple, but a future temple that will be constructed in those days. This is one thing the Jews have been waiting for for so long. Currently there is no temple in Jerusalem, but there will be one day — hopefully, soon.

The “angel”, mostly likely Jesus spoken of in Revelation 10, also prophesied of two “witnesses” that will come in the last half of the seven-year tribulation. There has been much discussion as to who these two prophesied (Zech. 4:1-4) “olive trees” and “candlesticks” are, but the scriptures told who those men will be a long time ago.



One of the lights (“candlesticks”) in a very sin-dark world will have “... power to shut heaven, that it rain not ...” (vs. 6). This is exactly what God allowed Elijah to do in the days of wicked King Ahab (I

Kings 17:1). Not only is this Elijah's signature miracle, but it was also prophesied that Elijah would come again “... before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.” (Malachi 4:6). Jews for thousands of years have been looking for Elijah's return (Mat. 11:14). Most likely, one of the witnesses will be Elijah.

Moses is probably the other witness, as this man will “... have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues ...” (vs. 6). Moses did this in Pharaoh's day. In the verse previous to the one promising Elijah's return in Mal. 4:6, Moses' was also mentioned. Also in the previous first, second, fourth, and fifth trumpet judgments (Rev. 8-9), it is very clear that God will use miracles He allowed Moses to perform, so it is not surprising that God would again use Moses in the last days as one of the witnesses.

These two witnesses will eventually be allowed to die when their ministry is completed (vs. 7), after three and one half years (vs. 3). As it most likely will be televised (vs.9), the whole world will see their carcasses lying dead in the street and will rejoice at their deaths (vss. 8-10). However, their glee will turn to fear as the world sees those two dead saints come back to life and walk the earth (vs. 11). More fear will come over the world as they hear a voice from heaven summoning the witnesses up, and as they watch them ascend (vs. 12) to heaven. The earth will also be shaken by devastating earthquakes (vs. 13) at that time, which will also increase their fear.

Although the catastrophes are not complete, as more judgments will come, part of the reason for these last day events will be accomplished by the witnesses' work. That reason will be accomplished when God finally gets some glory after many see what He has done with the witnesses: and they “... gave glory to the God of heaven.” (vs. 13). Many at that time will certainly know that God is in control of all that is happening in those days.

## Today's Thought:

*“Where one man reads the Bible, a hundred read you and me” — D. L. Moody*

## Words to Understand:

“court which is without”: an area outside the temple where those that were not involved directly in the worshipping could stand.

olive trees: in this case they represented testimonies and examples for God. The olive tree often represents Israel in the Old Testament.

reed<sup>1</sup>: a measuring tool; often it was a piece of calamus (sweet cane)

Sodom: A Old Testament city that was so given over to the depravity of sin, particularly homosexuality, that God destroyed it.

witnesses: Men that will be examples of godly living and speak the truths from God's Word without compromise or hesitation

### **Today's Reading:**

1 And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.

2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.

3 ¶ And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.

10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.

14 ¶ The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

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<sup>1</sup> Unger, Merrill F., Unger's Bible Dictionary, Chicago, Moody Press, 1979, pg. 720

# Understandest thou what thou readest?

Find what will be in the Temple of God (Rev. 11:19).

M	D	T	E	G	D	C	C	E	U	V	E
O	B	T	F	B	Y	U	A	Z	O	R	A
G	D	H	B	U	F	U	Y	I	M	L	R
K	U	U	I	L	K	X	C	Q	I	D	T
S	K	N	J	G	W	E	F	G	P	D	H
N	R	D	I	C	S	H	H	L	Y	J	Q
B	A	E	D	F	G	T	A	J	V	I	U
D	T	R	S	B	N	O	Y	I	Q	B	A
G	R	I	W	I	V	A	Z	L	L	L	K
L	J	N	N	L	T	A	L	J	V	L	E
B	L	G	J	F	U	V	G	J	J	K	O
W	S	S	A	I	V	D	W	V	L	P	Q

## Words to Find:

ark  
earthquake  
hail  
lightnings  
thunderings  
voices





# Revelation 12

## Daily Nugget:

In this chapter, two of the main characters during the last three-and-a-half years of the seven-year tribulation are revealed. The first is "... a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet ..." (Rev. 12:1). This "woman" is not the church as some assure, because the church will already have been raptured up (Rev. 4:1), and ensuing verses describe more clearly who she is (vs. 10-12,17).

This woman is actually Israel. Israel has been called a "woman" many times including: Isaiah 50:1, Jeremiah 3:1, Hosea 2:1-23. Also, the lineages of Israel were the means by which the promised "man child", Jesus, was brought to this world as was stated in verse 5. It will be Jesus who will rule the nations with an unwavering, just "rod of iron" (vs. 5).

The second character to appear is the "great red dragon" (vs. 3), Satan (vs. 9). "Seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads" speak of his earthly dominion and the nations he will control and influence. The "stars" of heaven that come with him will be the angels that followed Satan (Job 38:7).

Verses five and six encapsulate hundreds of years of history, when Satan had tried his hardest to keep the Christ child from being born. He tried to break the lineage (family tree) that would eventually birth the promised Christ child



by interfering with Adam and Eve, Cain, Abraham, David, and hosts of others that were in the royal lineage. Satan even tried his best to stop Jesus from being born. He was behind Herod's trying to kill the Christ child, and he was with the Pharisees, Romans, and Jews who eventually were behind Jesus' demise. This "dragon" has done all he could to stop the Saviour from being born and fulfilling prophesy about Himself. However, Satan never did succeed.

No longer will Satan pursue the church as it will be safely in heaven, but he will continue to attack Israel (vs. 13). As always, God is greater than the enemy. God kept His promise by delivering Christ through the blood-lines as had been prophesied. He will also protect Israel, as He has promised. Although many will seek the destruction of Israel in those days, she will go "into her place". Although no one is sure, it has been thought for a long time that that "place" would be the rock city, currently named Petra. It may be that this hard-to-reach place is referred to where "... the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth ..." (vs. 16).

At the time these terrible events unfold, it will certainly seem like chaos and out of divine control. However it seems to the living inhabitants at that time, God will still be in control. He will again be fulfilling prophesies made thousands of years ago. God always keeps His Word!

## Today's Thought:

*Never give the devil a ride. He always wants to drive!*

## Words to Understand:

"rule all nations with a rod of iron": iron does not bend. This phrase indicates that Jesus will rule during the millennial reign without wavering and bending to other influences. What Jesus commands will be done without questioning or changing.

threescore: A score is twenty; so "threescore" is 60.

travailing: laboring in childbirth

## Today's Reading:

1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

12 ¶ Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

## Understandest thou what thou readest?

1. What two “wonders” are revealed in this chapter?

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2. Who will fight whom in the war in heaven?

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# Revelation 13

## Daily Nugget:

An unholy character, the dragon (Satan), has already been prophesied to be involved in the last days from the previous chapter (Rev. 12:3, 9). This enemy of God and man has little imagination and often counterfeits what God has done. Satan will do this when he creates, not a holy trinity as is God, but an unholy one. This “dragon” will set himself up as the anti-god of the Satanic “trinity”. Two more of his unholy companions are introduced in this chapter.

Satan will provide the second part of his threesome by bringing onto the scene the antichrist. This antichrist will be the political “beast” of vs. 1. He will get his power and position from Satan (vs. 2). He will even suffer a fatal wound and will come back to life (vs. 3), duplicating the supernatural resurrection of the two witnesses, and of course, Jesus. Although, the antichrist will deceive many into thinking his power comes from God, it does not. It will come from Satan (vs. 2).

This first beast certainly will not be holy. This man (vs. 3) is ungodly, and is against (“anti”) all that Christ has done and represents. Instead of bringing honor and glory to God the Father, the antichrist will have all worship him (vs. 8). He is rightly named a “beast”, as he will blaspheme God (vs. 6), and make war against those that get saved during this time (vss. 7, 12:17).

The third member of the unholy “trinity” will also appear on the scene (vs. 11). He will be a

“religious” beast, the anti-holy spirit. He will be the false prophet referred to in Rev. 16:13 and Rev. 19:20. This “beast” will cause all on the earth to worship the antichrist (vs. 12). He will also have supernatural powers, that will enable him to call fire down from heaven (vs. 13) and do other miracles (vs. 14).



This religious leader will order men to create an “image to the beast” (vs. 14). His demonic power will even give the idol life, and it will speak (vs. 15). A one-world religious system will be forced into place, as the false prophet

will have all that do not worship the antichrist killed (vs. 15)! To further increase his control over man, this false prophet will demand that all must have a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads (vs. 16), or they will not be able to buy or sell (vs. 17). The mark has to do with the number 666 (vs. 18).

There are a lot of suggestions, determined by other prophetic Scriptures, who these unholy characters may be. Revealing current events also add to the possibilities of who these men may be. Truthfully, although biblical knowledge can give some insight and discernment, no one will really know who the two characters are until that time arrives (II Thes. 2:3)!

## Today's Thought:

*Satan is never original; he is only capable of counterfeiting.*

## Words to Understand:

blasphemy: irreverent, disrespectful words against God

“small and great”: common people and the important and famous people

## Today's Reading:

1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.

10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

11 ¶ And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

## Understandest thou what thou readest?

Find the words of Revelation 13:17 in this puzzle.

G	F	X	S	W	I	E	M	A	N	F	G	Z	I	G
Y	E	D	A	H	R	V	W	J	J	Q	P	N	O	R
L	R	H	W	N	R	B	T	M	O	L	F	D	O	P
X	B	I	O	E	T	V	F	H	U	O	T	B	F	S
T	X	S	B	U	B	C	Y	T	I	B	H	P	Z	I
H	W	M	T	S	A	E	B	S	H	S	A	L	X	P
E	U	A	M	S	N	R	Y	E	L	A	T	E	G	W
N	C	K	N	E	Z	Y	A	L	B	T	T	O	O	K
D	E	N	M	T	I	E	E	N	W	H	U	V	R	W
D	N	A	O	G	H	S	F	I	D	G	X	H	U	T
O	N	W	U	T	S	G	S	K	R	I	T	Q	H	I
H	F	N	A	M	Y	U	B	A	O	M	U	E	O	Z
E	B	B	Z	P	L	Q	T	T	V	K	W	R	O	C
F	M	A	R	K	L	J	P	H	U	E	Q	I	R	O
D	W	X	L	L	O	T	D	U	E	H	A	A	S	L

### Words to Find:

“And  
that  
no  
man  
might  
buy  
or  
sell,  
save  
he  
that  
had  
the  
mark,  
or  
the  
name  
of  
the  
beast,  
or  
the  
number  
of  
his  
name.”



# Revelation 14

## Daily Nugget:

John sees Jesus, this time, standing on Mount Zion (vs. 1). It is not the earthly Mount Zion, but the one spoken of by Paul (Heb. 12:22-23). It is located in the heavenly Jerusalem. With Jesus on this Mount, stands a large group. It will be the 144,000 introduced in Rev. 7:3-8.

These Jewish, virgin male (vs. 4) 144,000 have been martyred for their testimony and witness on earth. They are in heaven with the “elders” and hear the songs sung and are the only ones that can also sing the songs (vs. 3). These martyrs are considered the “firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb (Jesus)” (vs. 4). The firstfruits of the church have already been raptured up. These are the firstfruits of the restored, believing Israel.

Other activity is also occurring in the heavens. Angels announce other judgments on the inhabitants of earth. One third of the angels announces God’s wrath upon those on earth (vss. 10-11) that gave in and allowed the mark of the beast to be imprinted on their foreheads or right hands (vss. 12:16-18). At the time those that accepted the mark will certainly justify their being imprinted. They will reason that if they do not take the mark of the beast and worship his idol, they will not be able to buy, sell, or even live.

Their rationalization will not deter God from pouring His wrath on them for their participation

in idolatry (vs. 10) and worshipping of the beast. Sin is sin; no matter the pressures to be involved in it. God’s judgment on these will include eternal torment with fire and brimstone (vs. 10) for their sin.

The 144,000 will most likely face the same requirements to accept the mark of the beast and worship the beast’s idol as did the other inhabitants of earth. They blatantly will refuse to compromise their mission to witness and win many to an eternal day with the Lord. They will lose their lives, but they will earn a special place in Jesus’ heart for their dedication and love. Revelation 14: 4 says they will be honored for their stand against evil and for God’s way, and will have the privilege to be with the Lord wherever He goes.

These terrible days are yet to come. The church has not yet been raptured up to heaven (Rev. 4:1). Although the persecution Christianity faces today is getting worse, it is not like what those left behind will face after the restraining

Holy Spirit is removed from the earth, along with the Christians.

If the 144,000 can stand true in those difficult days, we certainly should be able to withstand the slight-in-comparison persecution we may face now. No matter the justification some

give for succumbing to the world’s pressure in not living a godly lifestyle, we can stand, as will the 144,000. We can always do right and live a godly life; it is our decision!



## Today’s Thought:

“Do right! Do right! Do right ‘till the stars fall!” — Bob Jones, Sr.

## Words to Understand:

furlong: one eighth of a mile  
guile: sneaky, deceitful  
indignation: anger

## Today’s Reading:

1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads.



2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

6 ¶ And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

13 ¶ And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

18 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.

19 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

## Understandest thou what thou readest?

1. Who are the 144,000 spoken of here? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What punishment will those that received the mark of the beast receive?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Revelation 15

## Daily Nugget:

Before seven more angels release the last seven plagues on the earth (vss. 1, 6-7), another heavenly event will occur. The once quiet, still “sea of glass” that is before God’s throne (4:6) will become mingled with shimmering fire and many more martyred tribulation saints.



This crowd before God’s throne will be the victors (vs. 2) from the beast’s earthly control, his blasphemic idol, and his mark of 666. Since there will be no way of getting out of the beast’s religious control alive and not receiving his brand, they got the “victory” by being killed. In man’s eyes, their refusal of the beast’s commandments will be a death sentence and certainly not a “victory”; but in God’s eyes it will be the right decision. Receiving the mark and worshipping the beast’s image will be a sentence of eternal torment (14:11); refusing the mark for God’s sake will indeed be a “victory”.

Many today, when they make any stand for the cause of Christ or face any kind of humiliation for not doing what the ungodly are doing are sad and apprehensive of being different. Sometimes they even have a “poor me” attitude, because they have even mild persecution for being a Christian. Here these martyred saints will not be sad, or resentful for their decision to not be marked as ungodly.

They may have lost their lives for their beliefs and convictions, but they still have the new, joyous song in their hearts that God put there. In verse 3, they will be singing the “song of Moses”. The “song of Moses” (Exodus 15:1-21)

was the joyous refrain Israel sang after they saw how God had protected them from the ensuing Pharaoh’s army. Seeing the enemy destroyed by God brought a sense of excitement and an increase in love for God when they saw His intervention.

Those that died for their stand for God will also have similar feelings. Although their death may be cruel and agonizing, standing in front of God’s throne will show them that they are on the winning side. Perhaps seeing seven more angels take up a position to further inflict plagues on the beast and the other ungodly people on earth that brought about their deaths, will also increase their excitement and love for God, as they see the enemy will be dealt with.

What a shining example these future saints can be to us, even though any persecution we may face is mild in comparison to what the tribulation saints will face. There may be some that talk about how a Christian is peculiar as compared to the rest of the world. Many may even shake their heads at how the Christians think, act, and believe. We may even feel that, as this world gets further away from God, that we do not fit in with them, and are increasingly becoming more “different”. However, we can be as those future saints. We can still have a joyous song in our heart. If we are saved, we are on the winning side. We can be victorious — no matter what happens in this life!

## Today’s Thought:

*Stand up, stand up for Jesus, ye soldiers of the cross;  
Lift high His royal banner, it must not suffer loss.  
From victory unto victory His army shall He lead,  
Till every foe is vanquished, and Christ is Lord indeed.*

— From George Duffield’s hymn, Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

## Words to Understand:

girdle: a band or belt

## Today's Reading:

1 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.

2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

5 ¶ And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:

6 And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles.

7 And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever.

8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.

## Understandest thou what thou readest?

1. How did the martyrs get victory over the beast? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who did the martyrs fear more than the beast? \_\_\_\_\_

# Revelation 16

## Daily Nugget:

John's report returns to the seven angels in heaven. He tells how the angels, one by one, will step to their position, and pour vials of the wrath of God on the earth.

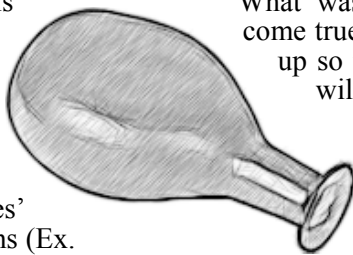
The first will pour his vial, and grievous sores will develop on men that have taken the beast's mark of 666, and those that worshipped his idol (vs. 2). This plague is similar to the sixth plague Moses' was used to inflict on to the Egyptians (Ex. 9:8-12).

When the second angel will pour out his vial upon the sea, it will become blood and all that remain in the sea will die. It is similar to the plague of the second trumpet in Rev. 8:8-9.

The third angel's vial will be poured out on rivers and water supplies; and they will become blood (vs. 4). This is a repeat of the first plague Moses was used to impose on the Egyptians (Ex. 7:19-24).

A fourth angel will pour his vial upon the sun. Men will be scorched from the sun's great heat (vs. 8), as was prophesied in Malachi 4:1-2. Instead of repenting and turning to God, the men on earth refused to repent and blasphemed God (vs. 9).

The fifth angel will pour his vial on the beast's kingdom, darkening his domain. It will be a repeat of the ninth Egyptian plague of darkness (Ex. 10:21-23). Like the Pharaoh of Moses' day, the beast's subjects also hardened their hearts and will continue to curse God. This day was also prophesied by Joel (Joel 2:1-2), and by Jesus (Mark 13:24).



The sixth angel will pour out his vial upon the Euphrates River, and it will be dried up (vs. 12). What was prophesied in Isaiah 11:15-16 will come true. God may allow the river to be dried up so the Kings of the East and their armies will be able to cross over and assemble for the Battle of Armageddon.

When the seventh angel pours his vial into the air, a voice from the Temple in Heaven will proclaim, "It is done!" The last of the vial judgments will bring thunders, and lightnings to the earth. The greatest earthquake that ever occurred on earth will rearrange the earth's geography. Islands will disappear, as will mountains. Hailstones will rain from heaven weighing over 94 pounds (vs. 21). Through all these terrible events, man will still blaspheme God.

Some quickly turn to God in times of testing, trials, and tribulations, but there are always those that do not. One would think, through all these final events, the remaining men's hearts would easily fear and respect God; but they do not.

Even today, when some go through trials and tribulations, there are those that draw closer to God; but there are still those that continue to shake their fist at God and rebel against Him. From an outsider's point-of-view, it seems logical to turn to God during those times, but a rebellious heart is hardened against spiritual things, and becomes more and more wicked. Each time one does not react the way the Holy Spirit intends, one's heart gets darker and further away from obeying God.

## Today's Thought:

*"Happy is the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief."*

*Proverb 28:14*

## Word to Understand:

talent: measurement used for metals. About 75 pounds.

## Today's Reading:

1 And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

2 And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.

3 And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.

4 And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.

5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.

6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

7 And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.

8 ¶ And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.

9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.

10 And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,

11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

12 ¶ And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

17 ¶ And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.

18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

## Understandest thou what thou readest?

What will happen when each angel pours out his vial on the earth?

1. First angel: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Second angel: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Third angel: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Fourth angel: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Fifth angel: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Sixth angel: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Seventh angel: \_\_\_\_\_

# Revelation 17

## Daily Nugget:

John was shown another judgment; the judgment of the great “whore” (vs. 1). A prostitute sells her body for money. This “whore” does not sell her body, but sells what she stands for: wealth, power, and popularity.

Although many formulate ideas of who “she” might be among past and present organizations that fit this chapter’s description, the truth is, no one will ever really know who “she” is until her identity is very clear in the last half of the seven-year tribulation.

We do not necessarily need to make many assumptions, as the Bible does reveal some facts describing “her”. She is identified in this chapter as:

- ❁ One who sits, or controls, many “waters” (vs. 1). The “waters” are identified as being multitudes, peoples, and nations of different languages (vs. 15). She will have authority over a large number of people.
- ❁ “Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of harlots and abominations of the earth” (vs. 5). Babylon is closely associated with a religious system at Babel that tried to get to God their own way (Gen. 10:8-10). This “whore” is actually a false religious system trying to get to God its own way. With all the real Christians being previously raptured (Rev. 4:1), this false system will deceive those that remain with a form of religion that will try to get them to heaven their own way, and not God’s. She will prostitute her “religion” for her personal gain.
- ❁ A Mother (vs. 5). A mother has children. This ecumenical system will attempt to attach all religions, “isms”, denominations, and cults to her apron strings. “Great” also indicates a large system.
- ❁ Full of abominations. Since the sin of idolatry will be very great during this



time (Rev. 13:14-15), this may be the system’s great abomination.

- ❁ Guilty of fornication (vs. 2). Since this is a religious system, it is not referring to sexual relations; but speaking of spiritual fornication, which is what idolatry and false worship are. This system will also persuade political powers to be involved in her sin.

❁ A woman sitting “... upon a scarlet coloured beast” (vs.3). Scarlet is usually biblically symbolic of blood or wealth. She will “ride” along with a power, that is either responsible for the deaths of many or is very rich, or both.

❁ Having “... seven heads ...” (vs. 3). Later the “heads” are identified as mountains (vs. 9); so this system is sitting on seven mountains. Although there are over 59 cities in the world fitting that demographic, the city of Rome has long be identified as being the “city of seven hills”.

- ❁ Having “... ten horns ...” (vs. 3). These “horns” are identified as kings (vs. 12), that eventually will turn on her, hate her, and destroy her (vs. 16).
- ❁ A “woman”. This “woman” is a symbol and is not a woman at all, but a city (vs. 18). It is a rich city that will be known for its “religion”.
- ❁ A very rich city, laden with expensive clothing, and other riches (vs. 4). It is rich in purple, scarlet, gold, pearls, and precious stones.
- ❁ A “woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus”. This system would be responsible for having had persecuted Christians before the rapture (“martyrs of Jesus”) and will kill many that get saved after the rapture.

Although there are many similarities to existing religious systems, their past activities and to the system that will be in power at the end times, no one will know for sure until those prophecies

become a reality. The Bible does, however, give many indications as to what the Mother of Harlots will be involved in. As for Christians, we will not be here for this great deception and power struggle. These revealing descriptions can help any believer that is now involved in any re-

ligious activities that are similar to those described to stand clear of what may bring reproach to the Lord and anger Him.

### **Today's Thought:**

*Do not sell out your God or your principles.*

### **Words to Understand:**

“arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold ...”: clothing of this type is used in the Bible to indicate wealth, royalty, and often leadership

fornication: In this case, “fornication” is not referring to sexual sin. Idolatry and worshipping the leadership here constitute “fornication” against one’s own self (I Cor. 6:18).

whore: The usage of the word “whore” is not referring to one that is paid to commit sexual sins with others. Here it is referring to one that gets others, usually for their own gain, to commit spiritual idolatry and false worship.

### **Today's Reading:**

1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

7 ¶ And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

14 ¶ These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

16 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

## Understandest thou what thou readest?

1. Whose death is the “whore” responsible for? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who are the “ten horns”? \_\_\_\_\_

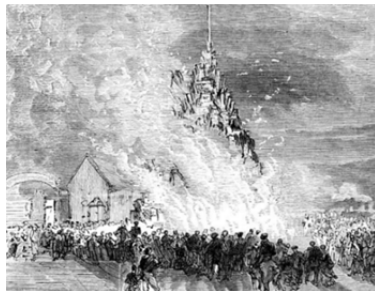




# Revelation 18

## Daily Nugget:

In this chapter, an angel makes a shocking announcement. He announces that, "... Babylon the great is fallen ..." (vs. 2). In one hour, the great city has been decimated. All that she sold, and made was lost. Twenty-seven products (vs. 12-13) she was noted for selling to the world will all be destroyed. Total losses most likely will bankrupt many business people. The financial world will be devastated, and many will mourn their financial loss (vss. 18-19).



Many commentators have tried to answer the question, "Where is this financial Babylon?" The reasoning is that the spiritual Babylon was destroyed by those that hated her (Rev. 17:16), so that the "Babylon" that is destroyed in one hour must be another city.

It is the opinion of many writers and preachers that it most likely is the restored original Babylon that is currently found in Hillah, Iraq. Although throughout history many have tried to restore the once enormous city that was at least 15 miles on each of its four sides, the city is not what it was. The most recent attempt to restore it was by Saddam Hussein. Although new buildings were added at the site, it is not very large or even used much. It certainly is not the trade center pictured in Revelation 18. It could, however, be reconstructed in the end days.

My observation is that it quite possibly may be the same Babylon spoken of in Revelation 17. Although the spiritual Babylon had her head-

quarters destroyed by fire (17:16), the destruction may also have affected her financial investments. Also, note that the Babylon of chapter 18 was also destroyed by fire (vs. 8).

Chapter 17 and 18 may be actually grouped together describing the same event. It was noted in Rev. 14:8, way ahead of where this detailed account is depicted, that Babylon was destroyed. Parts of Revelation are not chronological. Sometimes an event is prophesied earlier in the book and discussed in detail later in the book. That may be what is happening here.

I am also inclined to believe that it is not a second "Babylon" that is destroyed in Revelation 18, because of another detail revealed in verse 12. The list of losses, particularly in verse 12, includes many of the items that the "Harlot" had (Rev. 17:4): purple, scarlet, gold, precious stones, and pearls. These valuables were part of the spiritual "Harlot's" religious pomp and formality. Also, if it were a different Babylon, God could have easily distinguished the "two". He did not; so it is quite possible; there are not two Babylons, but one.

Again, this is one matter that will only be known for sure when the end times spoken of here occur. However, the point revealed here is not which city is involved, but how the people will react to God's judgment on their monetary losses.

Everyone and everything will be affected by God's wrath in those days. Millions will perish in these last days; and even the wealthy that will think they can still prosper during God's wrath will also be affected. No one will be safe from the wrath of God.

## Today's Thought:

*No one gets away with any sin! One will reap a harvest from what one plants!*

## Words to Understand:

Alas: an exclamation of grief and disappointment

fornication: The usage here is about spiritual relations that are not with God. Spiritual fornication (vs. 3), not sexual is the sin here.

iniquities: sins

odours: scents, products that were prized for their pleasant smells

thyine wood: a valued fragrant wood

## Today's Reading:

1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.

7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

9 ¶ And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,

10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:

12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble,

13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.

14 And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.

15 The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,

16 And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!

17 For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off,

18 And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city!

19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.

20 Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

21 And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

22 And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee;

23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.

24 And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

## Understandest thou what thou readest?

1. What sin is the financial Babylon guilty of? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What three things will happen to this city? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is evident that the merchants loved more than God? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

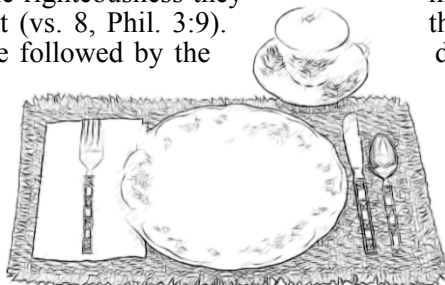


# Revelation 19

## Daily Nugget:

After the judging of the spiritual and financial Babylon, two more very important events will occur. These events have been talked about and have been anxiously awaited since Christ went back to heaven.

The first event will be the Marriage of the Lamb (vs. 7). The husband will be Jesus Himself, and the “wife” will be the saved from the time of Jesus to those that were raptured up (I Thes. 4:16-18) before the seven-year tribulation started (Rev. 4:1). The saved, the real church, will be arrayed in the righteousness they have done for Christ (vs. 8, Phil. 3:9). The wedding will be followed by the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (vs. 9). The wedding will not include Old Testament saints as they are referred to as to the friends of the bridegroom.



Another, and certainly not a joyous event, will be the largest battle that has ever occurred on earth. It will be the Battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16:16).

The returning Jesus will be leading the armies of Heaven, and riding a white horse (vss. 11-16). Jesus will not be the meek Saviour He was the

first time He came to this earth. He will be the Commander-in-Chief leading a host of angels (Mat. 25:31, I Thess. 1:7-10), and the righteous saints out of heaven (those that are dressed in “fine linen”, vss. 14, 8). Jesus will be returning to this earth to rule with justice and righteousness (vs. 15), after he destroys the enemies’ forces.

The armies of the antichrist and kings of the earth (vs. 19) will gather for the battle. They will be defeated by Jesus’ armies. All the enemies’ forces will die (vss. 17-19) and be food for the fowl of the air. It will be a terrible scene of dead, discarded bodies of both man and beast. The two leaders, the antichrist, and the false prophet will be the only two survivors until they are thrown alive into the lake of fire (vs. 20). They will be the first thrown into the everlasting place of torment.

Christians have suffered from the oppression of the wicked since Jesus first gave His message. The wickedness will increase in the last days, particularly those during the tribulation. As deceitful and as cunning as the enemies of God think they are, they will not get away with their rebellion against God, and the persecution of His saints. No one gets away with sin, especially in the last days spoken of here at the end of the tribulation.

## Today’s Thought:

*When Satan knocks at your door, ask Jesus to answer it.*

## Words to Understand:

Alleluia: an endearing exclamation  
arrayed: dressed, adorned  
omnipotent: the unlimited power that only God has  
vesture: a garment used for special events

## Today’s Reading:

- 1 And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:
- 2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.
- 3 And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.

4 And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.

5 ¶ And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

11 ¶ And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

## Understandest thou what thou readest?

1. Who is the Lamb's wife? \_\_\_\_\_

2. To what does the "fine linen" the wife was arrayed in make reference?

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

# Revelation 20

## Daily Nugget:

Much happens in the 15 verses of this chapter. Some of the most awaited events are described. These include:

- ✿ Satan's being bound for 1,000 years (vs. 2).
- ✿ The 1,000 year reign of Christ on this earth.
- ✿ The short release of Satan (vss. 3, 7-8).
- ✿ The destruction of many that Satan will deceive during his final rampage (vs. 9).
- ✿ And the third inhabitant of the lake of fire will be thrown into his permanent abode – Satan himself (vs. 10)!

The most frightening event in the whole Bible, for too many, is also foretold in this chapter. It will be the Great White Throne Judgment (vs.



11). The saved believers and Israel will have been previously judged, so this will not be for them. This judgment is for the lost and unrighteous only!

All the unrighteous from the beginning of man, those that died prior to the rapture, and those that died during the tribulation (vs. 5)

will be there, standing and awaiting their time of judgment before the perfect, most righteous judge ever — God Himself. Both the unrighteous from the Old and New Testament will nervously await their time before the One that saw and knows all they did. Christian killers, God-haters, unbelievers, educated and uneducat-

ed, church-goers and those that never went, those “good” in their own eyes, and countless masses that thought they would go to heaven will await their time before the Great Throne. They will all be judged out of the record of their works from God's own books (vs. 12).

The seas, with the remains of many that were lost in their waters will deliver up all the unsaved (vs. 13) from their waters. Those that have been dead for a long time and dwelt in hell (vs. 14), awaiting their judgment, will all have their opportunity before the throne of God.

All that are not found written in God's Book of Life will be cast into the place where they will stay forever (vs. 15)! This group, without hope and with a grim future, will all be thrown into the lake of fire. It is there that these cursed by God will spend their eternity.

This most grievous event should break the heart of every Christian on this earth. Most families will have someone that will stand at that White Throne Judgment. There will be mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, sons, daughters, neighbors, friends, members of all races and religions, nations, and ages.

The thought of all the hopeless souls cast into everlasting torment, their loneliness, and terror should be a life-changing image to every Christian. The thought of those countless numbers should motivate every Christian to give the only message that can save any from that final judgment. It is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus died so no one has to stand before God at that time. Jesus did His part; now we must do our part. We must tell all we can and warn them of this terrible future for all that reject Jesus. Speak to them now, for the final days are one day closer than they were yesterday! If we do not tell them, who will?

## Today's Thought:

*A Christian's responsibility should be to take as many souls as he can to heaven with him!*

## Words to Understand:

brimstone: an inflammable, yellowish rock containing sulphur

resurrection: when the dead come back to life



## Today's Reading:

1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

11 ¶ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

# Understandest thou what thou readest?

Find the words of Revelation 20:14-15 in this puzzle.

T	H	E	M	F	F	W	E	H	T	W	H	C	D	K
H	W	M	C	H	D	R	X	F	D	N	U	O	F	Z
M	H	T	H	I	S	I	C	K	O	O	B	H	A	V
I	O	D	R	T	P	T	A	T	D	N	Y	E	D	A
F	S	W	E	R	E	T	S	S	N	P	S	E	O	L
J	O	F	O	T	Q	E	T	A	A	A	W	K	F	V
K	E	H	C	S	H	N	F	C	W	Q	C	A	D	E
P	V	L	A	K	E	E	A	H	H	U	S	L	N	C
I	E	O	S	I	I	G	Q	T	H	Y	S	E	A	U
N	R	J	Y	W	M	N	A	T	Z	E	E	H	B	S
T	N	B	D	L	G	E	A	E	K	U	F	T	P	E
O	V	N	L	N	D	E	R	U	J	F	I	I	U	C
R	A	E	O	F	D	I	Y	H	F	N	I	Q	L	O
S	H	T	M	L	F	E	L	O	T	C	R	R	O	N
C	V	R	S	A	W	T	P	O	A	B	V	M	E	D

**Words to Find:**

“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”



# Revelation 21

## Daily Nugget:

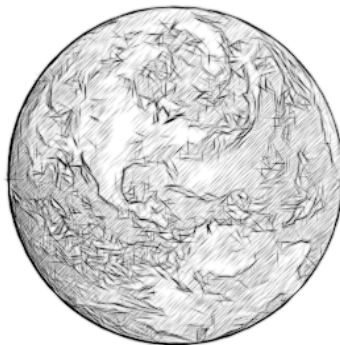
The Word of God started with a book of new beginnings — Genesis. It ends in this chapter with an end to the old, sin-stained earth and a new beginning for a new world.

The first earth will be “passed away” (vs. 1). Details in II Peter 3:10 tell us that the old earth and its contents will perish by fervent heat (Also: Mat. 24:35, Is. 65:17, Dan. 2:44). The earth will still exist (vs. 24), as the redeemed and restored Israel will dwell on it. They will have a new beginning on the new earth, without the plague that ruined the first earth — sin!

A new home for the saved will descend from Heaven (vs. 2). It will be the New Jerusalem and will be the habitation of those who trusted Christ as Saviour (vs. 7). Jesus promised He would go and get our eternal Home ready (Mat. 14:2-3), and He will keep His word.

Our new home will most likely be shaped as a cube. Each side and its height will be 12,000 furlongs (vs. 16). With a furlong being about 555 feet, the holy city will be 1,300 miles on each side. M. R. DeHaan calculated it will contain about 1,875,000 cubic miles; quite enough space to contain the mansions Jesus promised to all that call on His name for salvation. It will also be visited by those that occupy the new earth (vs. 24).

This new city will be more ornate than any of us can imagine. Its foundation will be garnished with precious stones (vss. 19-20). The surround-



ing wall, containing 12 gates, will be constructed of jasper (vs. 18). The city will be constructed of gold. Roadways will be paved of gold, so pure that it will appear as glass. Gates will be constructed of pearl (vs. 21).

There will be no need for the sun or moon anymore, as the glory of God will be the only light it will need (vs. 23). Another item will also not be necessary; a place of worship. God and His Son will be there, so there will be no need to go to a place to worship them indirectly. They will be there (vss. 3, 7, 22) in person!

There in the New Jerusalem will dwell man and His God forever!. There will be no tears, death, sorrow, crying, or pain, because those things will be destroyed as was the old earth (vs. 4). Probably the most exciting thing that will also not be there will be the monster that was responsible for the demise of the first earth — sin. Sin will be purged and barred (vs. 27) from ever entering the new, perfect city God has prepared for all those that have come to Him by means of salvation.

This earth has so much sorrow and heartache for all. Sin has changed God’s original intent to what is happening on earth today. One day, the damage done to this world will be forgotten. There will be a new earth and a new Home for all the righteous that have ever lived. Are you absolutely, positively sure you are trusting in what Christ has done for you, so you will one day dwell in the marvelous City God has prepared for His own?

## Today’s Thought:

*There is no place like Home!*

## Words to Understand:

abominable: detestable; vehemently disliked, hated

alpha: first letter in the Greek alphabet; used to denote beginning of something

cubit: a measurement from the tip of the middle finger to the end of one’s elbow; usually considered to be 18 inches

foursquare: square; all sides are the same length

furlong: a measurement for distance; considered to be about 1/8 of a mile

passed away: removed; also used to denote something died and is no longer alive

Omega: last letter in the Greek alphabet; used to indicate the end of something  
“tabernacle of God”: in this case it is referring to Jesus, not a physical building (vs. 3b)  
sorcerers: male enchanters, witches, or conjurers  
whoremongers: a male who commits sexual sins with females

### **Today's Reading:**

1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

9 ¶ And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.

14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

15 And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.

16 And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

17 And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.

18 And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.

19 And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald;

20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.

21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

## Understandest thou what thou readest?

1. What happened to the first heaven and earth?

---

2. What will no longer exist for those living in the new earth and heaven?

---

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3. What are the length and width of the new Jerusalem?

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# Revelation 22

## Daily Nugget:

This last chapter of the Bible continues from the previous chapter, chapter 21. More details are revealed about the New Jerusalem. The new details reveal that:

- ✿ There is a river of life there (vss. 1-2).
- ✿ There is the tree of life there (vs. 2).
- ✿ The curse of sin is completely gone.
- ✿ We will see the face of God (vs. 4).
- ✿ We will have His name on our foreheads (vs. 4).
- ✿ There will be no need for artificial light (vs. 5).

As the Bible and our brief glimpse of the end days concludes, one can reflect on how important all the words are in the Word of God. Although this study is certainly not detailed, which cannot possibly be accomplished with the 500-800 word explanation of a teaching of each chapter, the reader can see how interlaced and prophetic all the Scriptures are. Hundreds of prophetic passages, even from early Old Testament days, give us a more detailed picture of what Revelation says will happen in the last days. If one word of God's Word is altered, meanings will be affected.

God knows the importance of each word, and even the importance of punctuation (Mat. 5:18). That is why God has preserved His Word for all these years. English-speaking people still have every word He wants us to have in the King James Bible.

God further states that all the words in this Revelation are important and should not be altered at all. He even says that if anyone changes one word He has kept for us, God will see to it that some of the plagues mentioned in this book happen to the one that changes what He wants us to know.

*"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man*

*shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." Rev. 22:18-19*

With God's threatening promise in mind, I wondered what the new versions would do with verse 19, where it distinctly is commanded not to remove any of the words from this Revelation. A quick look at some of the most common, modern perversions of God's Word revealed that those versions changed even the verse that says not to change His Word. I found that:

✿ The New King James Version, which deceitfully is not a King James Version at all, changed nine words from what the preserved, King James said.

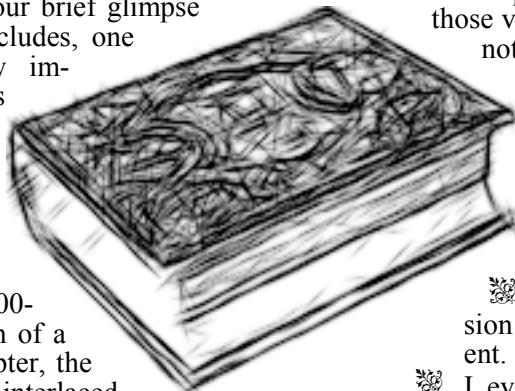
✿ The New International Version had 30 words that were different.

✿ The Catholic Confraternity Version (1963) had 10 words that were different.

✿ I even noticed that the NIV, Confraternity Version, New World Translation (the Jehovah Witnesses' bible), and the New American Standard Version all replaced verse 19's "book of life" with the "tree of life".

Apparently those that translated these modern versions do not fear God's promise to any that alter His Word in any way. These prophecies in the book of Revelation are important. Any omitted words of prophecies may cause them not to align with what is recorded in Revelation.

God's preserved words have the power to warn an unsaved person of what will happen, so that they may repent and turn toward God before it is too late. These prophecies are also an encouragement (I Thes. 4:18) to one that is living for the Lord, that one day God will put a stop to those that are against God's will and way. All of His Words are important, so we will know what God wants us to know. Believe and obey each word.





## Today's Thought:

*God's Word is never improved by changing it!*

## Words to Understand:

curse: In this usage (Rev. 22:3) it is referring to the punishment God put on the earth, and its contents because of the Adam and Eve's sin.

## Today's Reading:

1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and 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 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

6 ¶ And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

8 And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.

9 Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

20 ¶ He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

## Understandest thou what thou readest?

1. Who is the Lamb (vss. 1 & 3)? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Who was John forbidden to bow down to worship? \_\_\_\_\_

# Are You Sure?

Reading the Word of God is very important. However, just knowing it and obeying many of the commandments recorded within its pages will not guarantee anyone an eternity in Heaven. Being a good person, attending church, and doing many good deeds are wonderful things to do, but doing them also will not get anyone to heaven — according to God's Word.

The Bible records God's way to have His promise of an eternity in Heaven. Since it is His Heaven, then it is His way that counts, not man's unbiblical ideas, philosophies, or religions. Here is what the Bible says needs to be believed and trusted on to have an eternity with Him:

✿ **To know that we are all sinners.**

*"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:" Rom. 3:10*

*"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" Rom. 3:23*

*"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." I John 1:8*

✿ **There is a price that will be paid for our sins!**

*"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

*Romans 6:23*

*"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" Romans 5:12*

*"Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." James 1:15*

✿ **Jesus died so that, whosoever would ask, could receive His death as payment for their sins!**

*"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."*

*Acts 2:21*

*"For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." Romans 5:7-9*

*"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:" I Peter 3:18*

✿ **Just ask!** If you recognize you are a sinner, and will pay the price from being a sinner, then ask to be saved!

*"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

*10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:9-10*

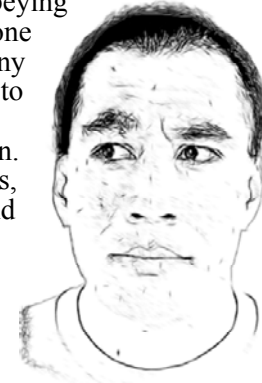
*"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10:13*

That's all that is required to be saved from Hell. Often the response is, "That can't be it. It's too easy." Well, its not so easy if you have not been saved yet. People think they have to do something to earn their way to heaven. That is the whole point of what Jesus did. There is nothing you can do to achieve heaven; as you are a sinner. Jesus, however, was qualified and He did it all for you already! Accept what Jesus has done for you and be saved now!

If you want to be saved, just talk to the Lord in prayer and mean it with all your heart. The words are not really important, as God is more interested in the sincerity of your heart. If you are serious about being saved, pray something like this:

*"Lord, I am a sinner. I have broken your heart with my sin. I am sorry for my sin, and with you help will try to keep from sin.*

*I am not worthy of heaven because of my sin, but Jesus paid the price for what I have done. I believe He died on the cross and rose again. Please forgive me for my sins and save me today!"*





# Glossary

abominable: detestable; vehemently disliked, hated  
Alas: an exclamation of grief and disappointment  
Alleluia: an endearing exclamation  
alpha: first letter in the Greek alphabet; used to denote beginning of something  
arrayed: dressed, adorned  
“arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold ...”: clothing of this type is used in the Bible to indicate wealth, royalty, and often leadership  
Balaam: Balaam was a heathen diviner that the Midians and Moabites wanted to curse Israel so they could conquer Israel (Numbers 22).  
blasphemy: irreverent, disrespectful words against God  
bondman: one bound to serve another without wages  
brimstone: an inflammable, yellowish rock containing sulphur  
censer: a metal vessel used to carry incense. It usually had a handle to carry it.  
“Come up hither”: come up to heaven  
“court which is without”: an area outside the temple where those that were not involved directly in the worshipping could stand.  
cubit: a measurement from the tip of the middle finger to the end of one’s elbow; usually considered to be 18 inches  
curse: In this usage (Rev. 22:3) it is referring to the punishment God put on the earth, and its contents because of the Adam and Eve’s sin.  
“defiled their garments”: dirtied their “robes of righteousness” with sin, spotted their testimonies  
elders: Men assigned some leadership position over others  
fornication: In this case, “fornication” is not referring to sexual sin. Idolatry and worshipping the leadership here constitute “fornication” against one’s own self (I Cor. 6:18). The usage here is about spiritual relations that are not with God.  
foursquare: square; all sides are the same length  
furlong: a measurement for distance; considered to be about 1/8 of a mile  
girdle: a band or belt  
guile: sneaky, deceitful  
indignation: anger  
iniquities: sins  
“I will come on thee as a thief”: take you by surprise.  
kindreds: people related by birth or marriage  
Lamb (Rev. 5:8, 12): a lamb was quite often an animal used in Jewish sacrifices. Here, because of other references, and the fact that it is a proper name (it is capitalized); it is talking about a person. This Person is none other than Jesus Christ. He certainly is worthy!  
Nicolaitans: a sect that was prevalent during the time of the early church. They were said to have obeyed some Old Testament dietary laws, encouraged idolatry, denied God to be the creator, and practiced some of Balaam’s teachings.  
odours: scents, products that were prized for their pleasant smells  
olive trees: in this case they represented testimonies and examples for God. The olive tree often represents Israel in the Old Testament  
Omega: last letter in the Greek alphabet; used to indicate the end of something  
omnipotent: the unlimited power that only God has  
passed away: removed; also used to denote something died and is no longer alive  
raiment: clothing  
rebuke: correct, show errors  
reed<sup>2</sup>: a measuring tool; often it was a piece of calamus (sweet cane)  
resurrection: when the dead come back to life

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<sup>2</sup> Unger, Merrill F., Unger’s Bible Dictionary, Chicago, Moody Press, 1979, pg. 720

revelation: revealing a truth of God; making something clear to another that was not previously clear to them  
 “rule all nations with a rod of iron”: iron does not bend. This phrase indicates that Jesus will rule during the millennial reign without wavering and bending to other influences. What Jesus commands will be done without questioning or changing.  
 sackcloth of hair: a coarse material that is used in making sacks. It was often used to make clothes that were worn when mourning the death of a person.  
 sardine stone: deep red, or brownish-red precious stone  
 seal: a clay or wax material that was put on a document, and then had an impression stamped on it. It signified that it was authorized by the one who stamped it, and would indicate if the document had been opened previously or not.  
 small and great: common people and the important and famous people  
 Sodom: A Old Testament city that was so given over to the depravity of sin, particularly homosexuality, that God destroyed it.  
 sorcerers: male enchanters, witches, or conjurers  
 spue: spit  
 “tabernacle of God”: in this case it is referring to Jesus, not a physical building  
 talent: measurement used for metals. About 75 pounds  
 threescore: A score is twenty, so threescore is 60.  
 “The Lion of the tribe of Juda”: another title for Jesus. It was prophesied (Genesis 49:8-10) that the One the world was waiting for would come from the Jewish tribe of Judah (Juda), as did Christ, and that he would be a “Lion”.  
 “The Root of David”: Also another mention of the prophesied lineage of Christ. He was from the offspring of King David as was previously foretold.  
 thyine wood: a valued fragrant wood  
 travailing: laboring in childbirth  
 tribe: refers to the genealogical divisions of the families of Israel. A “tribe” was one of the original twelve families started by Jacob’s twelve sons  
 two hundred thousand thousand: 200 million  
 vesture: a garment used for special events  
 whore: The usage of the word “whore” is not referring to one that is paid to commit sexual sins with others. Here it is referring to one that gets others, usually for their own gain, to commit spiritual idolatry and false worship.  
 whoremongers: a male who commits sexual sins with females  
 witnesses: Men that will be examples of godly living and speak the truths from God’s Word without compromise and hesitation.  
 wormwood: a bitter plant known to grow in wastelands  
 zealous: passionate, full of enthusiasm

# Answers to Questions

## Revelaton 1:

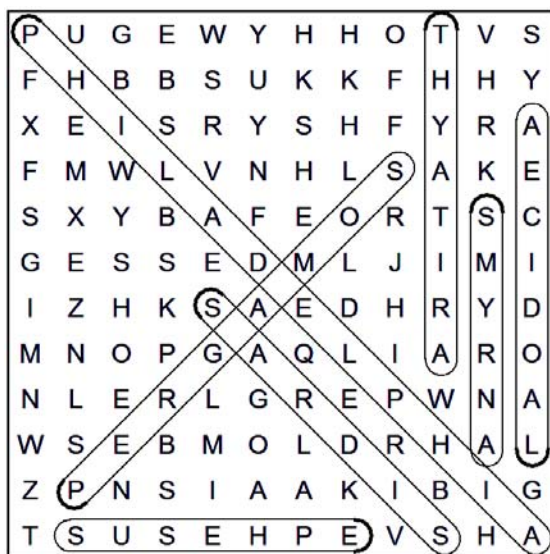
1. By reading, hearing and keeping (remembering, practicing) the things that are in The Revelation (vs. 3)
2. Seven (vs. 4)
3. Jesus (vs. 1). Also identified by His description in vss. 5,18.

## Revelaton 2:

1. They battled those that did evil, those that claimed they were apostles and were not, and the practices of the Nicolaitians (vss. 2, 6).
2. Poverty (vs. 9), Jew in name only opposition (vs. 9), prison (vs. 10), death (vs. 10)
3. The doctrine of Balaam which included idolatry, eating what was sacrificed, and fornication (vs. 14).
4. They allowed Jezebel to teach them to commit fornication, idolatry, and sacrifice to the idols (vs. 22).

## Revelaton 3:

1. They claimed to be Christian, but were spiritually dead (vs. 1).
2. They kept God's Word (vs. 10)
3. Laodicean (vs. 14)
- 4.



## **Revelation 4:**

1. At the end of the Laodicean church age
2. Because the church (the saved people) is no longer involved in the terrible things that will occur on earth during the seven year tribulation, as it is not on earth. It is where the rapture most likely occurs.

## **Revelation 5:**

1. Jesus
2. Odours, or the prayers of the saints. The prayers of His people is a pleasant “smell” unto God.

## **Revelation 6:**

1. Jesus
2. Conquer (vs. 2)
3. To take peace from the earth, and get people to kill each other (vs. 4)
4. Make some foods expensive (vs. 6)
5. He will bring death by violence and hunger to the earth (vs. 8).

## **Revelation 7:**

1. 12
2. They were those were martyred (died for their testimony in living for the Lord) during the tribulation period (vs. 14).

## **Revelation 8**

1. Hail and fire, mingled with blood, will be rained upon the earth and trees and grass will be burnt (vs. 7).
2. A large burning object will be cast in the sea, and the waters will become blood. One third of sea creatures will die and one-third of the ships will perish (vss. 8-9).
3. A star (meteor?) will cause one third of the waters to be bitter (vs. 11).
4. The sun, moon, and stars will not give as much light as they normally would (vs. 12).

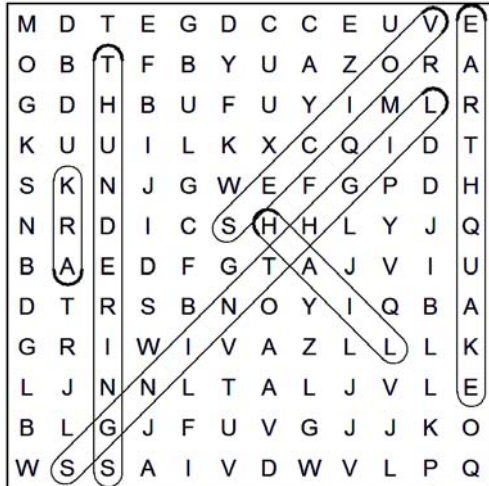
## **Revelation 9**

1. Another star will fall from heaven.
2. They will not hurt plant life, but will torment man (vss. 5-6). Their appearance will be different (vs. 7-10). The demonic locusts will have a leader (vs. 11 ).
3. Released four fallen angels from the pit (vss. 14-15)

## Revelation 10

1. John was not to write what the seven thunders said (vs. 4).
2. Eat it (vs. 10)

## Revelation 11

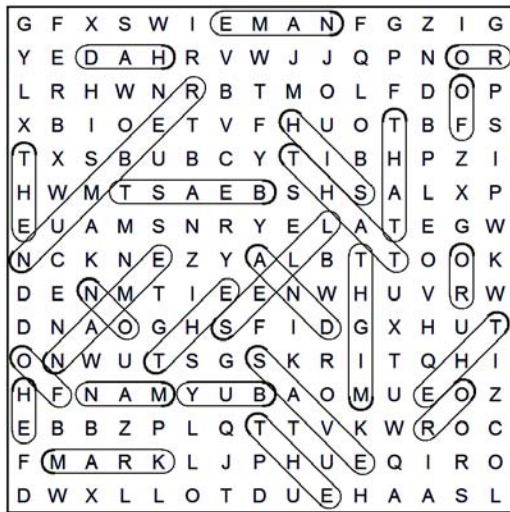


## Revelation 12

1. A woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet (vs. 1) and a seven-headed dragon
2. Michael and his angels will fight against Satan (the dragon) and his followers (vs. 7).



## Revelation 13



## Revelation 14

1. They will be the martyred virgin, male, Jewish “soul-winners” that were a testimony unto God (vs.5) and gave the remaining earth’s inhabitants one last opportunity to hear God’s message (vs. 4, Rev. 7:3-8).
2. They will be tormented for ever with fire and brimstone (vs. 10-11) in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:14).

## Revelation 15

1. They escaped the “beast’s” control by dying and being with Jesus.
2. Jesus (vs. 4)

## Revelation 16

1. First angel: sores grew on men (vs. 2)
2. Second angel: the sea became as blood; “living souls” in sea died (vs. 3)
3. Third angel: waters from rivers and fountains became as blood (vs. 4)
4. Fourth angel: sun (solar flares?) scorched men (vs. 8)
5. Fifth angel: the beast’s kingdom became dark (vs. 10-11)
6. Sixth angel: Euphrates dried up (vs. 12)
7. Seventh angel: thunders, lightnings and a great earthquake (vs. 18)

## Revelation 17

1. Those that followed God and were killed (martyred) for their faithfulness in living for Him.
2. Leaders of kingdoms; governmental powers (vs. 12).

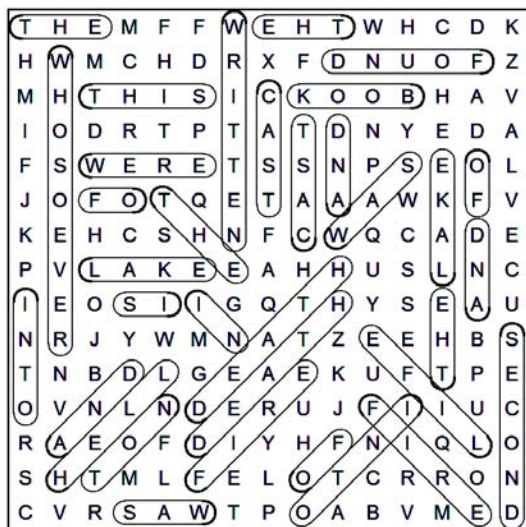
## Revelation 18

1. Worshipping another “god”, and not the true God. Their false god was the green god of money and wealth. (vs. 3)
2. Death, starvation, and destruction by fire (vs. 8)
3. They loved the things of this world more than God. They were covetous and valued the things of this world higher than anything else.

## Revelation 19

1. The church (vs. 7)
2. The righteousness they have done for Christ (vs. 8).

## Revelation 20



## Revelation 21

1. They were passed away (done away with) (vs. 1).
2. There will no longer be tears, death, sorrow, or pain (vs. 4).
3. Each side of the square new Jerusalem is 12,000 furlongs (187.5 miles) long (vs. 16).

## **Revelation 22**

1. Jesus (notice it is proper name because it starts with a capital letter)
2. An angel (vs. 8)



A Spoonful of

# Revelation

This daily devotional is different than most other devotionals. Instead of reading a random verse and a short illustration about the principle taught in the verse, this devotional is designed to get the reader to read at least one chapter a day from the book of Revelation and to teach him at least one important lesson from the day's reading.

A short 500-800 word commentary highlights one of the principles taught in the day's chapter. This study is not a complete long-winded study of the chapter.

Following the commentary is a short quote about the principle taught in the commentary, several definitions of difficult or unusual words found in the reading, a chapter from the King James book of Revelation, and several short questions requiring the reader to think about what they have read.

This study is also designed for the Sunday school teacher's or pastor's usage. As many as required pages can be printed or copied, and given out to a class that is studying Revelation. It is a handout that will help the class or congregation learn principles taught in the book of Revelation.

The time when many of the things spoken about in Revelation is getting closer. Understand more about what God says will happen in the last days. Learn what the book of Revelation shows the reader.