

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 07 June	1John 1
2) 14 June	1John 2
3) 21 June	1John 3
4) 28 June	1John 4
5) 05 July	1John 5
6) 12 July	2 nd John & 3 rd John
7) 19 July	Rev 1
8) 26 July	Rev 2-3
9) 02 August	Rev 4-6
10) 09 August	Rev 7-13
11) 16 August	Rev 14-17
12) 23 August	Rev 18
13) 30 August	Rev 19-22

INTRODUCTION

- **The final wipe-out begins.** The 144,000 are seen standing on Mt Zion just outside of Jerusalem; Seven angels are ready to release the 7 plagues, and another 7 angels are ready to release 7 bowls of judgment on the earth; and finally we are introduced to the Woman in Red sitting on a dragon.
- **Remember Our Focus → The Urgency of the Gospel**
 - ♦ One might ask, "So what if more than ½ the world is slaughtered sometime in the future beyond my lifetime? Why should I care? It's going to happen as God says it's going to happen, and nothing I can say or do will alter God's plan for the ages."
 - ♦ Yes, on a high level, all that is very true...BUT on a lower level, we have the opportunity to play a very important and pivotal role in what happens to many lives in the future
 - ♦ God has given us, possibly the last generation prior to the Rapture of the Church, the role to help loved ones and even strangers to escape the Tribulation all together by joining us in the Rapture, or to plant a seed for those who go through the Great Tribulation to recall our words of faith and possibly repent and accept Christ during this horrible time of judgment

Passage	Comments
15:1-8	<p>Seven Angels with Seven Plagues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v2. Who are those who had been victorious over the beast? How were they victorious? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ They are probably martyrs on a global scale, saved through the preaching of the 144,000, and who refuse to take the mark of the beast • vv2-4. Look at the "Song of Moses" and the truths it conveys about the faith they had, even unto death. They realized their God is holy and righteous; a God to be feared; & a God who would be worshipped by all one day • vv5-8. The Temple was filled with smoke from God's glory, and people could not enter in until God's wrath was completed. Recall that following the Millennial reign of Christ there will be no temple found in Heaven, because God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple Rev 21:22

Passage	Comments
Revelation 14:1-20	<p>The Roundup of the 144,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-5. The 144,000 apparently are preserved through and come out of the Tribulation alive, and they greet Jesus at Mount Zion (or in or near Jerusalem) on His return. Possibly, this is the time of Zechariah 14, when Jesus, standing on the Mount of Olives, cleaves Jerusalem down the middle and creates a "very great valley" Zech 14:4 • vv4-5. These men were unmarried and found without fault. IOW, They opt out of marriage to devote all their time and energy to live for Christ and win all the lost they could <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What would it take for us to be found without fault? • vv6-7. Even with the powerful witnessing of the 144,000 and of all believers throughout history to "preach the Gospel to all the world," an angel was used to make the final appeal. So, no one has an excuse that God didn't employ every means possible, even shouting from the sky, to save • v8. Babylon has fallen. According to most theologians, "All the circumstances require us to understand this of Rome" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Babylon will come up again (Rev 16:19 17:5 18:2,10,21), and many entities have had a Babylonian reputation to deal with, from the city of Jerusalem to the Church ♦ What is the Babylonian reputation? <input type="checkbox"/> Immorality; <input type="checkbox"/> Apostasy; <input type="checkbox"/> Materialism; <input type="checkbox"/> All of the above • vv9-11. The mark of the beast. Technologically, we are very close to seeing a cashless and credit-card-less society. Identify theft is rampant, so a permanent tattooed barcode might be the solution. What makes such a mark evil is who we would be pledging allegiance to: → Satan • vv12-20. Patience of the saints. For anyone to faithfully endure the trials of the tribulation and be in the 1st reaping by the Son of Man would take the enabling of God's mighty Hand. No one will be able to stay faithful in their own flesh.

Seven Bowls of God's Wrath
Revelation 16

Judgment

- 1 Earth** 666
Those with the mark of the beast who worship its image break out in sores
- 2 Sea**
Sea turns to blood that kills all life in it
- 3 Rivers/Springs**
Waters turn to blood
- 4 Sun**
Sun scorches people with fire
- 5 Beast's throne**
Darkness covers beast's kingdom; people gnaw their tongues and curse God
- 6 Euphrates River**
River dries up to allow kings to cross for battle at Armageddon
- 7 Air**
Earthquake collapses cities and splits the great city; 100-pound hailstones fall on people

Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.com

Passage	Comments
Revelation 16:1-21 Compare: Zechariah 14:1-5 Nahum 1:5-8	<p>The 7 Bowls or Vials of God's Wrath</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To some degree these 7 "plagues" continue to mirror on a global scale the plagues of Egypt v8. The 4th bowl: "The sun was given power to scorch the people with fire and intense heat" – but the people still refuse to repent...what stupiditycf Isa 30 (sun 7x brighter) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk about global warming, yet it is "God who controls these bowls of wrath." Global warming will not be a result of man's ability to affect the ozone layer v14. Spirits of demons perform miraculous signs, to the extent they manipulate world leaders to gather together to fight Israel. The best Satan can do is "lying wonders" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If his miracles are so mighty, why use them to amass a military force? Why haven't these sores, intense heat, and polluted waters destroyed Israel by this time? Unless these plagues skipped over Israel as they did once before during the time of Moses. vv16-21. The mother of all earthquakes (probably with volcanic activity resulting in 100 lb. hailstones pelting survivors) virtually levels the world, splits Jerusalem, and possibly sinks Hawaii & other islands around the world. Yet, survivors did not repent, but instead cursed God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What would we do if we lived through this? Recall Psalms 46:1-3 "...though the mountains quake ...God is in our midst and we will not be moved"

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> v8b. Doctrinal Note on the Book of Life. Some believe the "inhabitants of the earth" are the unsaved (non-elect) who never had their names written in the book of life from the creation of the world (Not the book of physical life, but the book of spiritual life) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calvinists love this passage, but it only highlights God's sovereignty of knowing who would be written in that special book God desires that all men be saved and He made it possible through the Cross of Christ, but as Jesus said in John 5:40, He wants to save the non-elect, but the non-elect refuse to be saved Others believe the Book of Life has the names of all members of the human race who have ever been conceived from time of Adam and Eve, to the last person in human history. For those who reach the age of accountability (whatever age that is) and fail to receive Christ by the time they die, then their names are erased from the book. We'll get more into this in Chapter 20 v9. "This calls for a mind of wisdom" – Some things can only be spiritually discerned. This wisdom only comes to those who ask God for His wisdom and who are prepared through humbled obedience and diligence

NAME	DEBITS	CREDITS	BALANCE
Unbeliever	5K	None	Condemnation
Believer	None	+R	SALVATION
Unbeliever	2,500	+R	SALVATION
Unbeliever	1,000	None	Condemnation
Believer	None	+R	SALVATION
Believer	None	+R	SALVATION

BOOK OF LIFE

NAME	DEBITS	CREDITS	BALANCE
Unbeliever	5K	None	Condemnation
Unbeliever	875,521	None	Condemnation
Unbeliever	8,200	None	Condemnation
Unbeliever	2,500,776	None	Condemnation
Unbeliever	3,256	None	Condemnation
Unbeliever	3,252,524	None	Condemnation

BOOK OF WORKS

The Book of Life is mentioned throughout the Bible: Exodus 32:32; Daniel 12:1; Luke 10:10; Philippians 4:3; Revelation 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15.

CONCLUSION/ APPLICATIONS:

- If you ignore the doomsayers, and just look at some statistics such as the ever increasing number of earthquakes and earthquake intensities, active fields of war and warring rhetoric, it is hard to miss that we are in the last days of what the Bible calls labor pains.
- Yet, there is still time for things to get much worse before the world is ready to accept the lordship of a global savior – the Antichrist.
- So, if we are years away from the Rapture and the start of the 7-year tribulation, what a great time we have to prepare
- What else should we be doing besides preaching? Should we build a bomb shelter? Should we hoard? Should we live frivolously? Should we have more Bible studies? Should we be more diligent?

NEXT WEEK: Revelation 18. Which city is Babylon? Why is God vague here? Was the meaning of Babylon vague to the 1st Century audience? These are some of the questions we will explore.



Earthquake intensities and frequencies have been escalating in recent history. Source: <http://earth.webecs.co.uk/index.htm>

Passage	Comments
17:1-18	<p>Judgment of the Great Whore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are told we have a mystery on our hands, but the mystery will be revealed. The various horns and heads are depictions of various kingdoms who were or will come to power at their appointed time The "Great Prostitute" seems to be the city of Rome (v18). vv2-5 – "the kings of the earth" indulge in what she has (wealth from geopolitical power); v6 – she slaughtered the saints; and v9 – Rome sits on 7 hills (so does Cincinnati, OH) A special love/hate relationship exists between the woman (Rome) and the beast (Antichrist). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v15. The Woman could also be a subtle allusion to the Papal Seat of the Roman Catholic Church who has over the centuries, sometimes by commendable & other times by ignoble means, gained a massive following around the world of "peoples, multitudes, nations and languages" vv7, 15-16. For a while the woman rides or controls the beast, but eventually she is destroyed by her lovers who take everything from her (possible allusion to the seat of the Catholic church coming to a brutal end when the ruling powers controlled by the Antichrist end the relationship with the religious power of the day) v8a. The beast (i.e., the Antichrist) "who once was, now is not, and will come forth..." – I wonder if God told John to pen those words or if God allowed John's humor to come out as he made a jab of a comparison to the true Lamb of God who "is, always was, and always will be"