

Saints Sing and Sinners Salute

Chapter 18 New Testament Audio Lesson #90



Objective: To learn more keys to understanding the Revelation



In a loud voice they sang, “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

—Revelation 5:12

Behold I come soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

—Revelation 22:7

He who was sitting on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” ... He said, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To those who are thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.”

—Revelation 21:5-6

This is the last chapter in the Mini Bible College’s survey course of the Bible. We pray that, after you finish this study, you will continue to come to the Scripture by yourself often and hear what the Holy Spirit wants to teach you. We have covered four keys and they are: the Holy Spirit, the signs or symbols, the divisions of the book, and the chronology of chapters 6-19.

Now, for the fifth key: be humble about your interpretation of the chronology of the events and of John’s commentary in the book. Jesus said in Matthew that even He did not know when He will return, so we certainly cannot know for certain. Therefore, we should approach this book with humility.

Sixth, our main objective should be to worship God, rather than to understand or interpret everything in the Revelation. We can understand many things in it and we should obey them, but above all, our study of this prophetic book should move us to worship the King of kings and Lord of lords.

The seventh key is to ask why God has revealed these things. He does not owe us an explanation nor does He need us to bring His plans to fruition. Rather, His intent is for His Word to impact us. He pulled back the veil so we will live lives that bring Him glory.

Eighth, we should beware of wishful thinking. John tells us that the events in this book must come to pass. There is too much injustice in the world, so there must be judgment to set it right.

Ninth, we should remember that not everyone will be at the throne of God. Philippians 2 tells us that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, but that does

not mean that everyone will be saved. Rather, it means that every creature, even those in hell, will confess Christ as Lord. Tenth, when we see God in all His glory, we will need to express the inexpressible. The saints will be singing a new song, and even sinners will be saluting Jesus from hell.

Other keys that help us to understand the code in the Revelation: a heavenly drama and an earthly drama are happening simultaneously; the commentary between the judgments is not in chronological order; and finally, comparing this book with other end-times Scriptures can help you better understand the events.



1. True or False: If you figure out the code of Revelation, you have a right to be proud.
2. True or False: No one but the Father knows when Jesus will return.
3. True or False: The most important reason to study the Revelation is to worship God, not to figure out every piece of the code.
4. True or False: Wishful thinking about the end times can lead us to deceive ourselves and others about what is going to happen.

Choose all answers that apply.

5. What is God's purpose for prophecy?
 - a. To make us figure out what it means.
 - b. To make us study the Word.
 - c. To hide the truth from some people.
 - d. To tell us about Jesus.

6. Why is humility a key to understanding the code of the Revelation?
 - a. Humility allows us to stay open to the Holy Spirit's instruction.
 - b. Humility closes our minds to other interpretations.
 - c. Humility only helps us if we think we might be wrong.
 - d. Humility shows that we understand that we cannot know how or when everything will unfold.

7. What is the right response to the Revelation?
 - a. Obsessing about details
 - b. Debating with other Christians about your opinions
 - c. Ignoring other parts of the Bible to study the Revelation only
 - d. Worshipping God

8. What did the angel say when John fell down and worshipped him?
 - a. "I am worthy of your worship."
 - b. "Do not worship me. I am God's servant too."
 - c. "You are right to worship me."
 - d. "Do not worship me yet."

9. Why would God tell us about the end times?
 - a. He wants us to know so we will follow His plan for our lives.
 - b. He owes us an explanation, because we are created in His image.
 - c. He knows science will one day figure it out anyway.
 - d. He wants us to live godly lives as we wait for His plans to unfold.

10. According to the study, what will God give us so we can worship Him better?
 - a. A heavenly choir
 - b. A heavenly worship leader
 - c. A new song
 - d. Voices like angels

11. What are the stories unfolding in the Revelation?
 - a. The story of the churches
 - b. The earthly story
 - c. The creation story
 - d. The heavenly story

12. As we read the awesome, difficult passages in the Revelation, what should we keep in mind?
 - a. Jesus Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords.
 - b. The language is symbolic so those terrible things will not really happen.
 - c. God will change His mind at the last minute and not carry out the Judgments.
 - d. We do not have to worry about it because it is far off into the future.



What are some things that you have taken to heart from your study of Revelation? What does God want you to do about those things?

Has the Holy Spirit uncovered any wishful thinking on your part about this study of the Revelation? Confess those things to Him now, and ask Him to change your thinking and help you trust Him and His plan.



Thank God for what He has shown and taught you through this study. Ask Him to continue to bring to mind what He has taught you. Ask Him to mold and shape you into a person who lives and loves like Jesus. Ask Him to remind you that He is on the throne, and He has already won the war with Satan. Thank God that, though heaven and earth will one day pass away, you will be with Him forever because your sin debt has been paid by the blood of the Lamb of God—Jesus the Christ—who was slain. Hallelujah!

NOTES



Going Deeper

1. How do you personally apply and teach others the significance of the reality that, on two occasions recorded in 19:10 and 22:8-9, when John wanted to worship the angel who made it possible for him to understand everything in this Revelation, he was rebuked and told not to worship the understanding but to WORSHIP GOD? _____

2. How do you personally apply and teach others the importance of not being guided by wishful thinking as you look behind the veil of this Revelation that God has given us? _____

3. How do you personally apply and teach others the significance of the reality that some from every tribe and nation will be there around the throne in heaven? (How did they get there?)

4. Why is it going to be necessary to give the people of God a new song when they gather around the Lamb on His throne in heaven? _____

5. What is your personal application and teaching strategy as you show the position of everything relative to the throne except the sinners who are saluting the Lamb while the great multitude of believers are singing a new song around the throne? _____

6. How do you personally apply and teach others that the Bible opens by asking us the question, "Where are you?" and closes implying the hard reality that where you will be then depends upon where you are now? _____

7. How do you personally apply and teach others that it is possible to do something about the quality of our eternity while we are still in this life? _____
