

# *Devoted* Disciple

Series 6: Return of Jesus  
*Revelation Overview*

**10 Daily Scripture Passages**  
*Revelation 1-22*  
Personal Time,  
Paired Discussion,  
Participating in Fellowship

# 6. Return of Jesus: (Overview Page)

## □ 1. Revelation Overview

### Revelation 1-22

#### **Revelation Overview:**

If you are a disciple of Jesus Mashiach, there is a spark of desire to know Jesus face-to-face. For, our lives grow accustomed to this dim time apart from the Lord, but God gives the book of Revelation to remind us of the day when that spark of desire alights fully aflame when we see face-to-face the One whose face is as a sunny brilliance! So, let Revelation speak to your heart of our certain future of knowing Jesus and being fully known by him, face-to-face. As His revealing changes of all our reality! Read Revelation, and prepare to devote yourself to the Lord whose world=changing coming is certain! Let our hearts say: Maranatha—*come Lord Jesus!*

#### **Devoted to the Lord:**

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*30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ Mark 12:30.*

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As Jesus instructed us, we are to *love the Lord our God* with all that we have, with all our lives. In the Bible, such love is a *giving* love, to present to him all of who you are... heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Importantly, we give, that is, *devote* ourselves to him every day. Why? Because it is too easy to lose focus and give ourselves to unworthy things. We give ourselves up to the *flesh*, to live merely in satisfying our own desires. To the world and its agendas and anxieties, following its own purposes. And, even to things such as career, ambition, or greed.

To keep your faith focused on God and your love given faithfully to Him, have regular *devotional times* with the Lord. Every day, in the morning or some other good time, commit to meeting with the Lord in *devotion*. This booklet helps you go through keep Bible passages to hear from God and share with your friends, family, and fellowship groups. Start here!

**Devote yourself to the Lord God:** At the start of every devotional, use the Checklist below to Devote All of who you are to the Lord! Position yourself to hear the Word from Him in *faith*. *Do you have a...*



- Do I want to humble myself under the Lord God by faith?
- Will I live as my own Lord, relying on my own understanding?

**Prayer of Devotion:** Lord God, I devote myself to you today: In soul—humbling myself under your Lordship; In mind—to know you and your Word by *faith*; In heart—to love Jesus and the Father to do your will; and in soul—to give my life to you as a living sacrifice! Please teach me now by your Holy Spirit, that I might be live out your holy Word! In Jesus name, Amen

# □1. Revealing Jesus: God's Kingdom Purpose

## Read Revelation 1

*Why does God reveal Jesus Christ to you, His servant?*

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, 2 who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. 3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near. **Revelation 1:1-3**

### **1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart**

*Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.*

**Seeing:** What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

**Learning:** What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

**Doing:** What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

### **2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group**

*Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.*

Q: Why is important for us as disciples of Jesus Christ to know His plan to bring the Kingdom of God to Earth by revealing Himself to the world?

QA: How can we devote ourselves to advance the Kingdom of Jesus Mashiach until he returns for us?

### **3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples**

*Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.*

Q1. Why does God reveal Jesus Christ to his servants? (Rev. 1:1-3)

**1.Jesus Revealed: Kingdom Timing.** God reveals Jesus Christ to His servants to show them *the things that must soon take place* (Rev. 1:1). For, Jesus Christ is the embodiment of God's Kingdom future for heaven and earth, and his *revealing* first to His Churches, then to Israel, and then to the nations speeds all of history toward the Day when Jesus brings all in heaven and earth under the Father's rule.

Q2. How has God worked and will continue to work in His Kingdom people? (Rev. 1:4-8)

**2. Gracious Work: Kingdom People.** God's eternal purpose is to *come* and dwell forever with His people (Rev. 21:3), sharing His *life* with His people by the Spirit poured out across the seven ages of the Church (Rev. 21:3). But, it is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who redeemed God's people home to the Kingdom. For, Jesus was the first *martyr*, giving His life to testify as God's *faithful witness* (5), rising as the *firstborn Son* of many sons to rise from the dead, and eventually to *rule* as the Lord of all earth's kings. By his blood sacrifice, He redeems us to be a Kingdom family of priest to serve our Father (6). This Almighty Son returns to bring the Kingdom (7).

Q3. What is the Kingdom work of the servants of Jesus on earth, and how does the Lord support them in this work? (Rev. 1:9-20)

**3. Present Lord: Kingdom Testimony of Church.** Following our Lord's *faithful witness*, we also testify of the Lord's Gospel and coming Kingdom to this hostile world, as *witnesses (martiros) proclaiming with our lives and words the salvation of Jesus Christ and forgiveness in His blood* (9). We are not alone in our testimony, but Jesus Christ himself walks among us as the One having defeated *Death* to overpower the grip of Hell (18). Having the Lord's support, we boldly endure *tribulation* for the sake of Jesus and His coming Kingdom (9).

## 4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

*Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.*

Why does God reveal Jesus Christ to you, His servant?

**6.1. Revealing Jesus: God's Kingdom Plan.** If you are a servant of Jesus Christ, God wants you to be prepared, for *the time is near* (Rev. 1:1) for God transform the world through Jesus and His coming Kingdom. And, God knows you play a vital role in that Kingdom future!

Because you play a vital role in God's Kingdom future, the family Godhead of Father, Son, and Spirit prepare you with His *grace and peace* (1:4). The *eternal Father* shapes all history to the day of reunion, when he *comes* to dwell with man (21:3); the *fiery Spirit* indwells us through the *seven ages of the Church*; and, Jesus Christ, the one to inherit the Kingdom as its *firstborn of the resurrected dead* (1:5), has made us by his *freeing blood* (6) a Kingdom and priests to serve our Father.

Because you are a servant of Jesus Christ, God shows you how the *revealing of Jesus* brings the Kingdom—first to us, His Church; then to Israel, the ones who pierced him; and finally to a rebellious world in darkness (7).

So, let us together as His family suffer and endure *tribulation* for His sake and to advance His coming Kingdom (1:9)! For, the Son of Man dwells with us in His resurrected glory to guide our service! (13).

**Notes<sup>1</sup>: Testimony** (Rev. 12:1). When our Lord shared human flesh with us, He testified of Himself as the first *faithful witness*, (literally *martyr*, one who sacrifices all for his true message). In this way, we *witness* by our words and lives to prove the truth of Jesus and His Gospel, enduring testing, affliction, and persecution to show that we uphold the truth of Jesus regardless the high cost. In this way, we defeat the devil *by the blood of the Lamb* and the *word of our testimony*, for we love not our lives even to death (Rev. 12:11).

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<sup>1</sup> **Every Eye (1:7).** Jesus Christ, exalted as Lord over heaven and earth by his resurrection (Matt. 28:18), reveals Himself by His coming so that *every eye* sees him—in joyful reunion, He is seen by His awaiting Church (1 Thess. 4:17); in heart-rending recognition, He is seen by His Jewish people, who crucified him (Zech. 12:10); and, in horrible regret, He is seen by all nations as He comes with His heavenly armies (Rev. 19:13-14, 21).

## □2. Seven Churches: Testifying of Jesus.

### Read Revelation 2-3.

*How does Jesus Christ walk with His seven Churches?*

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. 2 “‘I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. **Revelation 2:1-2**

### **1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart**

*Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.*

**Seeing:** What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

**Learning:** What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

**Doing:** What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

### **2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group**

*Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.*

Q: Why did the Lord Jesus prioritize *love* and *faith*, especially for the early churches which faced great opposition?

QA: How are we called to serve Jesus Christ as members of His church?



### 3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

*Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.*

Q1. What are signs of faith and fleshly behavior in the First Churches?  
(Rev. 2:1-20)

**1.First Churches: First Faith and Fleshly Temptation.** Jesus reminds His first Church, Ephesus, that our faith must always center on Him, for He must always remain our first love (2:4). Even when we *labor tirelessly* by faith, we must always hold to Jesus as our loving Lord. For, if we make Him our *life*, we have rich and abundant life (Jn. 10:10) even in the midst of tribulation and poverty (1:9). But, the first churches were also tempted in their flesh to *love* the religious things of Christianity and the Church—what Jesus called *sexual immorality*—that is, spiritual unfaithfulness (1:14, 20). Jesus warns of the danger of *religious-looking things* that entice us from His Lordship, such as *human teachings* (14) or religious figure or institutions (20).

Q2. What are signs of faith and fleshly behavior in the modern churches?  
(Rev. 3:1-13)

**2.Modern Churches: Fleshly Sleep and Faithful Service.** In the modern age, the Churches of Jesus Christ were tempted to abandon the spiritual life vital for their relationship with Jesus. Holding to the *fleshly* ways of the world, the spiritual life of some was *about to die* (2) as they became *sleepy* and *deadened* (2-3) to the Lord and His life. In the modern age, we can easily hold to an earthly and fleshly faith—seeking mere success or good in this life only. As Paul warned, an earth-bound faith is a *pitiable faith* (1 Cor. 15:19), abandoning the riches of Christ for religious traditions, rituals, and doctrines. However, some in the modern church remained faithful to Christ, staying *loyal to His name* and *keeping His Word* (2:8,10). To these weak but faithful disciples, Jesus opens a door for ministry (7) and promises them escape from earth’s coming tribulation (10).

Q3. Why does Jesus reject this final church? (Rev. 3:14-22)

**3.Faithless Church: Fleshly Focus and Worldly Riches.** As we saw in the first churches, a church is defined by its faith-relationship and loyalty to Jesus Christ as her Lord. When this final church builds a religious life rich in an earthly prosperity, Self-satisfaction, and human teachings (3:17) but ignores Jesus, locking him outside the church (3:20), then they have an unrecognizable, lukewarm faith (16). All churches through the Ages testify and Jesus agrees as the *Amen* (14) that any church which does not know the Lord Jesus as its Head has no place in the Body of Christ (16).

## 4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

*Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.*

*How will my soul be safe in this hostile world?*

**6.2. Seven Churches: Knowing Jesus as Lord.** When the Church age has run its seven-staged course, it will leave the legacy of being first to know Jesus Christ as Lord. As a member of the Church, you are honored with this distinction forever! Together, we have learned to walk by faith and resist the temptations of the flesh.

In our first churches, starting with the Jewish Church of Jerusalem and ending with the Catholic Church of Rome, we learned that our labor of faith must never abandon our *faithful love*, even unto *death* (Rev. 2:4, 10). For, no teaching, religious practice (14), or authority (20) should entice us to give our devotion to anything but our Lord Jesus.

In our modern churches, we learned that when we had *little power* but walked faithfully with the Lord (8), the Lord worked powerfully in us to *open doors for service* (3:7), but we must never abandon His spiritual life for *fleshly* but *dead* religion (3:2) based on human wisdom and understanding.

Tragically, we saw the Lord reject an entirely *fleshly focused* church *rich* in the human things of this world (3:17) but without Jesus Christ in a pitiful blindness (17-18).

**Notes<sup>2</sup>: Worldly and Lukewarm.** The last, apostate church had lapsed into a Christ-less and wretched limbo. Neither *cold*—not knowing Christ or the truth of His Word, nor *hot*— aflame with the passion of a love and faithful devotion for him, this wretched *church* was simply a convenient worldly assembly which had shut Christ out (3:17, 20). To these rejected imposters, Jesus appealed to individual hearts to open to him, even if the Church itself had shut him out (20).

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<sup>2</sup> **Key of David.** Positioned as the final faithful church, the Philadelphia Church had an evangelical zeal to advance the Kingdom through the doors *opened* to them by their Lord (3:7). One of these doors was to bear witness to the errant Jewish nation (9), testifying to them that Jesus is indeed their long-awaited Mashiach (*Christ- Messiah*). Through their witness, Jesus opens their locked hearts with the realization, *the key of David* (7) that God promised David to *raise up* by the laws of duty (Gen. 38:8) and redemption (Ruth 4:10) Mashiach as David's *Seed* (zera) as the Son of David (2 Sam. 7:12) and the Son of God (14). Thus, Jesus was indeed the Son of David and rightful heir to David's rule as Mashiach. For, the Holy Spirit used David's own bodily material (12) to conceive Jesus.

### □3. Home with God: Kingdom of Lamb

#### Read Revelation 4-5

*How does God build us into the Lamb's Kingdom Family?*

12 saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" 13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

#### **Revelation 5:12-13**

#### **1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart**

*Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.*

**Seeing:** What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

**Learning:** What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

**Doing:** What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

#### **2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group**

*Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.*

Q: Why does all of heaven gather around and before the throne of God?  
What place do we have in heaven?

QA: Why is Jesus Christ honored as the *lion* and the *lamb* of God's family,  
and which of His works do we all celebrate?

### 3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

*Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.*

Q1. What will you see when you are welcomed home to God?  
(Rev. 4:1-6, 11)

**1. Home with God: Family around Throne.** As the Church Age concludes, John is shown what must take place *after this*—after the Church has completed its wandering on earth only to come to its forever home in *heaven* (4:1). Passing through a *door* into the spiritual realm (1), John sees the true *heart* and center of heaven, our *enthroned* Creator God. As the source of all life, He has a *blood-red appearance* (3). Surrounding him as His Word promising peace is a rainbow (3) in a life-giving green. Honored in His presence sit our twenty-four family elders (4), now glorified in garments white with Christ's righteousness worked out as deeds of faith (Rev. 19:8) and crowned to rule (5:10).

Q2. Why is only Jesus Messiah the only one to bring God's Kingdom Family into reality? (5:1-10)

**2. Lion of Judah: Building Kingdom House.** God has always planned for Messiah to build a Kingdom House (2 Sam. 7:12-13) around His people of Israel but also filled with the blessed of the nations, fulfilling His promises to Abraham (Gen. 22:18) and David (2 Sam. 7:16). However, Jewish rejection of Jesus as Messiah has stopped the Kingdom's progress. Now, only Jesus Messiah, the Lamb as Family Redeemer, has the *right* to open God's Kingdom Scroll to restore Israel to the Kingdom Family (5:9). For, Jesus has not only the *Lion of Judah's right* to rule God's house (5:5) but also the *redeemer's right as the Lamb of God to atone and save the family from their enslaving sin* (5:9-10).

Q3. How is Jesus, God's Lion and Lamb, shown to be worthy? (5:11-14)

**3. Worthy Lamb: Receiving Kingdom.** Jesus as Messiah not only possessed the *birthright* to rule the Kingdom as the *Lion of Judah* (5:5; Gen. 49:9-10) but paid the blood offering to atone for the family's salvation as the *Lamb of God* (5:9-10). Thus, the Lamb's death and resurrection into the new life of the Kingdom make him worthy to receive the future Kingdom's *power, wealth, wisdom, might, honor, glory, and blessing!* (5:12).

## 4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

*Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.*

*How will my heart find relief when others shame and anger me?*

**6.3. Kingdom Family: Home with God and Lamb.** When you are finally safely home with God, you will see God's future as a Kingdom future rooted in our Family. At the center of our family sits our Father, enthroned in his heavenly glory (4:2). Around him are our family leaders who have shepherded us through the years, twenty-four enthroned family Elders (4). And, the accompanying Spirit illuminates us all, as we stand together as a holy family, like a clear sea of glass before him (5-6).

Our family and its Kingdom future depend on the Firstborn of our Family, our Head, Jesus Christ. As the *Lion of Judah*, He alone inherits brings us into this coming Kingdom (5:5). Not simply by the power and force of His birthright, but His humble subjection to the Father's will as our sacrificing Lamb, our family Redeemer. This sacrifice perfects our Lamb to have the perfect insight (eyes) and power (horns) to rule over our eternal Kingdom. The Lamb alone is worthy to rule forever, for He *ransoms us by His blood for God* to be a holy Kingdom family. You, with all of us, will serve and rule on behalf of our Father forever! (10).

**Notes<sup>3</sup>: Worthy is Lamb.** God's Kingdom purpose not only culminates all of human history but it directs reality forward to a glorious future in which God himself dwells with man forever (21:3) in a world in which God is *all in all* (1 Cor. 15:28). But, only one person, Jesus, the *Lamb of God* (5:9) is *worthy* to bring this Kingdom purpose into reality. Why?

Only Jesus is the *Lion of Judah*, the rightful Heir of the Kingdom which spans *heaven* (the Son of God—Ps. 2:8; 2 Sam. 7:14-16) and *earth* (the Son of David—Ps. 8:6; 2 Sam. 7:9, 12-13); Only Jesus is the *Lamb* who reconciles God and man (Rev. 5:6) by shedding His blood to redeem a family household for God (5:9). Such sacrifice perfects the Lamb to receive all power and wisdom (5:6), proving His subjection to the Father. The Kingdom and its Rule belongs to the preeminent Lamb (Col. 1:15-19).

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<sup>3</sup> **Kingdom Family: Elders and Sea.** God's *glorified people* embody the *holy life of God* in heavenly glory in two ways. Their family leaders are enthroned as *twenty-four elders* (4:4), splendidly crowned to embody the *family's rule as kings of the Kingdom* (5:10). The glorified family itself is like a sea embodying the water of life, at rest like a vast and crystal sea (4:6); in war like terrible clouds of judgment (1:7), having been reborn as the dew of the morning (Ps. 110:3) accompanying Messiah in holy garments in His Day (3).

## □4. Israel's Spiritual Birth: Day of the Lord

### Read Revelation 6-7

*How does the Lord draw Israel back to faith in the Messiah?*

15 Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave[d] and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, 16 calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, 17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?" **Revelation 6:15-17**

### **1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart**

*Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.*

**Seeing:** What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

**Learning:** What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

**Doing:** What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

### **2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group**

*Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.*

Q: How does the Lord God work through his unsealed judgments to turn Israel from its waywardness to faith in Jesus as her Mashiach?

QA: What happens after Israel repents and turns to Jesus Mashiach on the Day of the Lord?



### 3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

*Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.*

Q1. How does God rebuke Israel's hardness against Jesus as their Messiah? (Rev. 6. 1-8)

**1. Birth Pains: Judging Israel's Unbelief.** When Jesus, the *Lamb* of God unseals the first four seals (6:1-8), he unleashes what he had previously called the *birth pains* upon Israel—God's painful rebuke of Israel's hardness against her Messiah (Mt. 24:8). Israel rejected Jesus as Christ, the Lamb who shed his own blood for them, so God unleashes upon them bloodthirsty Antichrist (6:2); Israel *bought peace for herself by her unfaithfulness*, so God gives them the *sword* of violence and bloodshed (4); abandoning her Messiah, Israel sought protection in worldly wealth, so God gives her *famine and economic collapse* (6:6); and, *Israel* rejected Messiah to venerate the Jewish life, *so gives world-wide death* (6:8), for there is no life apart from Messiah.

Q2. How does Israel turn to Jesus as its Messiah to be reborn spiritually? (6:9-17)

**2. Witness and Day of Lord: Lamb Revealed.** Before the *birth pains begin*, Jesus Christ shows Israel that He has indeed loved His Church by *evacuating* His faithful witnesses (1 Thess. 4:15-16). This sign and the series of birth pains draws a remnant of Jews to believe in Jesus as Messiah, and these Jewish witnesses are quickly martyred for their testimony (6:9). When Jesus Messiah opens the sixth seal to commence the Day of the Lord, He reveals Himself to Israel even as He saves her from destruction (6:14-15). Finally, Israel looks upon the face of Jesus as her saving Messiah, and the entire repents in prayer and weeping (6:16; Zech. 12:10). At this point, the entire Jewish nation is saved!

Q3. How does a repentant Israel now respond to Jesus as their Messiah? (7:1-17)

**3. Sealing Servants: Salvation Harvest.** With the terrible realization that Jesus is indeed the Messiah, Her Firstborn Son cast off as a stranger, Israel repents with a national time of mourning, prayer, and consecration (Zech. 12:11-14). As a newly born nation presents itself to the Lord and His Messiah, Israel consecrates 144,000 sons to serve Messiah from the twelve tribes. Bringing the Gospel of Jesus to all the world, they reap a great harvest of martyrs for the King Jesus and His coming Kingdom! (7:9-10)

## 4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

*Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.*

*How will the Lord's Steadfast Love lead me home in righteousness?*

**6.4. Israel's Spiritual Birth: Day of the Lord.** As the Head of our Kingdom Family, Jesus is pained by the rejection of His Jewish people that has divided God's household. Sharing his pain, we hope in the day of their spiritual rebirth when the Lord reveals Himself to Israel to bring them home (Zech. 12:10, Rev. 6:17).

Preparing Israel for this day, the Lord judges with birth pains the deep roots of Jewish unbelief. Rejecting their Christ, the Jews are met with the Antichrist, whose unbelief has deceived them (6:2). Hoping for peaceful *shalom*, they find only the *sword* (4); pursuing *earthly wealth*, they suffer famine (6); and, venerating *Jewish life* as they cry, "L'chaim!" they are met by Death's pale horse (8).

In their pain, Jesus sends them His witnesses, a *remnant* from their own sons and daughters (10), whom Israel will reject (Mt. 22-23). But, Israel will then see the Lamb with their own eyes and recognize Jesus as their long-lost *son* (Rev. 6:17, Zech. 12:10).

Repenting with weeping (Zech. 12:11-14), Israel is reborn by the Spirit (Ezek. 37:9-10, 14) sealed for service as the Lamb's *great army* (Ez.10; Rev.7:4). On that day, our family is made whole in the Lamb!

**Notes<sup>4</sup>: Day of the Lord.** Confronting lofty human pride, the great day of the Lord's judgment reveals power of God and the *wrath* of the Lamb (Rev. 6:17). Once blinded by their unchecked ambition, Israel and the nations are shocked into reality by the Lord's presence. Israel weeps and repents (Zech:12:11-14), forgetting for all time their *irreverent blasphemy against their Mashiach*. The nations grovel in the dirt, terrified by the Lord's face (Rev. 6:16).

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<sup>4</sup> **Anointed for Service.** As Ezekiel had predicted, when Israel is revived, they are brought to life *entirely* and *in their fullness*, a *great and formidable army for the Lord Mashiach* (Ezek. 37:9-10). Yes, their national weeping will be deep, but this *grief* will accompany repentance and they will then *consecrate* 144,000 sons from every tribe to the Lamb's service (Rev. 7:4). These devoted servants will bring the *gospel to the whole earth*, bringing about the end of the world's Godless age and ushering in the Kingdom (Mt. 24:14). Thus, the Lamb will finally be satisfied as His redemption finally reaches Israel!

## □5. Israel Testifies of Jesus: Signaling Judgment.

### Read Revelation 8-9

*How does God judge the world's spiritual darkness?*

The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, 21 nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts. **Revelation 9:20-21**

### **1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart**

*Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.*

**Seeing:** What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

**Learning:** What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

**Doing:** What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

### **2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group**

*Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.*

Q: How does Israel finally testify of Jesus Mashiach to the world?

QA: What trumpeting judgments does the Lord God unleash on the world to affirm Israel's testimony of Jesus as the world's Messiah? What does the Lord reveal about the true nature of Satan and his dark world?

### **3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples**

*Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.*

Q1. What does Israel do to prepare for the Lord's judgment on the earth?  
(Rev. 8:1-5)

**1. Worshipful Prayer: Israel Witnesses in Judgment.** Once Israel consecrates 144,000 witnesses for the Lamb (Rev. 7:4), it offers to the Lord God holy prayers from its rebuilt Temple as its two national prophets testify against the world's sin (8:3; 11:1-3). Finally, the ancient promise is fulfilled, and the Chosen Seed of Messiah has multiplied into a countless nation of worshippers in Israel. So, the Lord and His Messiah, with all of heaven, listen in silence for half an hour as Israel presents its prayers (1). In response, the Lord prepares seven trumpets (2) and thunders as His judgment breaks out upon the earth (5).

Q2. How does the Lord trumpet His judgment on the earth? (8:6-13)

**2. Trumpet Blasts: Judging Darkness.** When earth's people are enticed and indulge in the world's darkness, they also share in the guilt and wrath God pours out against these Satanic powers. Trumpeting judgment, the Lord announces the defeat of Satan's dark powers in the heavenlies (Rev. 12:9), and their fiery and bloody demise burns the earth (8:7); then, he trumpets the downfall of Satan's dark angels, and their toxic corruption poisons a third of the seas (9); then Satan's own judgment (10) as he poisons the world's water. As humanity shares in the painful fallout of spiritual judgment, its people realize that sin and darkness lead only to judgment and suffering.

Q3. How do the Lord's trumpet judgment reveal the true nature of Satan's darkness? (9:1-21)

**3. Fallen Star: Evil Unmasked.** Ever since Satan advised our first parents to go our own way, humanity has embraced the Serpent's lies, assuming that Satan, not God, was committed to man's best interests. However, the true evil of Satan is revealed as he gathers fallen angels to *torture earth's people with painful affliction* (9:2,5). Then, his demons convince a murderous horde to *kill a third of mankind* (9:15). Yet, even as the spiritual reality of Satan's darkness is uncovered, people will insist on *worshipping demons* and this world's *idolatrous powers that rebel against the true god* (20).

## 4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

*Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.*

*How will the Lord help me in my troubles?*

**6.5. Israel Testifies of Jesus: Signaling Judgment.** Reborn by the Holy Spirit into the name of Jesus Mashiah, Israel now consecrates itself to the Lord in the newly rebuilt Temple (Rev. 11:1). Presenting its 144,000 sons from every tribe as the Lamb's witnesses and anointing its two national *prophets*, the saints offer their prayers to the Lord for the world's salvation. As the Lamb breaks the seventh seal, the Lord God silently listens to Israel's holy prayers for half an hour (8:1), then unleashes thunderous judgment by his angels (5).

With each *trumpet*, the Lord God unmasks the *poisonous* evil of Satan's dark power. Satan's dark rule is *destructive* (8:7), *toxic* (8:9), and *bitterly poisonous* (11). Rather than benign spirit-guides, Satan's demons are *sadistic* (9:5) and *murderous* (9:15).

Yet, like drug-addled slaves, the people of earth persist in their idolatrous worship of Satan's darkness (20) yet refuse the true God's healing life.

In our family's generational war against this world's Satanic darkness, we must remember our enemy's persistent depravity and seek nothing from him but his total defeat, that his captives may one day find release!

**Notes<sup>5</sup>: Evil Kingdom: Fallen Star and Mountain.** Trumpets of angelic judgment (Rev. 8:6) actually signal judgment against Satan's dark powers, and the suffering humans endure are *fallout* from the downfall of this darkness. Yet, God's judgment rightly afflicts humans, for choosing to side with this world's darkness is to embrace its judgment and inevitable downfall.

Thus, when Satan is defeated in heavenly battle and he and his angels are thrown to earth (Rev. 12:9), their destruction is seen on earth as the *great and burning mountain* falling into the sea (8:8) and the devil himself falling as a *great star blazing like a torch* (10).

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<sup>5</sup> **Worshipping Demons and Idols.** Mankind has held to a popular myth that denying the true God His rightful worship and simply pursuing human works claims a spiritual neutrality, a willful ignorance that neither honors nor insults God. However, the Lord's judgments on this dark world show that all who reject God and His Messiah's Kingdom rule already participate in an idolatry deserving God's wrath. To ignore God and pursue the flesh is to *worship demons, idols of earth—gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood* (20).

## □6. Kingdom Battle: Satan Cast Down.

### **Read Revelation 11-12.**

*How does the Kingdom of God displace Satan's rule?*

15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." **Revelation 11:15**

### **1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart**

*Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.*

**Seeing:** What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

**Learning:** What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

**Doing:** What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

### **2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group**

*Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.*

Q: From God's Temple in Jerusalem, how do the Lord's prophets testify of Jesus Mashiah to a dark world? What is the world's response to their message?

QA: How does the Lord God finally respond when Satan and his dark forces attack God's people? Why does He wait until He choose to act decisively?



### **3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples**

*Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.*

Q1. How does Israel testify of Jesus Messiah to a darkening world?  
(Rev. 11:1-14)

**1. Prophetic Witness: Heavenly Judgment.** Once the House of Jacob embraces Jesus as her Messiah, the Kingdom of God is *established* in the land of Israel, planting spiritual reality in earthly soil. For three and a half years, the altar of God's temple offer holy sacrifices (11:1-2) and God's chosen *witnesses* prophecy (3) with powerful signs confirming God's proclamation to the people of earth (6). In these three and a half years, the Gospel of Jesus is preached to all the earth (Mt. 24:14) and then the Antichrist defeats God's prophets and defiles God's Temple (15). But, God raises His prophets to life, for He alone is the Lord of life!

Q2. After Israel's defeat, why does Heaven celebrate the Kingdom's victory? (11:15-19)

**2. Claiming Kingdom: Heavenly Judgment Falls.** Once Satan and his Antichrist defile God's temple (11:7), their declaration of open war seals their certain doom, for now *the kingdoms of the world* becomes *the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ* (11:15). Finally, the time has come for the Lord to reveal His power to defeat Satan and His dark world, to judge the people of earth, and to reward His *prophets and saints* (18).

Q3. How do the stories of both the nation Israel and the Satanic dragon both converge at this point of the Antichrist's defilement of the Temple and the start of His 3.5 year reign and the start of the time of *great tribulation*? (12:1-17; Matt. 24:15-20)

**3. Heavenly Battle: Satan Unseated and Israel in Hiding.** When the Antichrist inaugurates His 3.5 year rule on earth, he gives Satan complete control over the nations to demand their worship. Now, the age of darkness enters its final season as Godless humanity enters *great tribulation* (Matt. 24:15-20). A spiritually reborn Israel, having secured a place for her sons to rule on Messiah's throne, now flees the Beast's wrath for the 3.5 years of terror (12:6). Thrown down from the heavens in total defeat, Satan now finds himself banished to earth (12:12) and persecutes Israel and her children (13, 17).

## 4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

*Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.*

*How can I withstand the Lord's righteous judgment?*

**6.6. Kingdom Battle: Satan Cast Down.** You may be unaware, but Satan's dark kingdom has ruled unopposed through most of our human history. But, on the day Israel regains its place its spiritual inheritance by national spiritual rebirth, the Kingdom of God secures the land as a beach-head of light for the Kingdom of God. For three and a half years, the Antichrist's dark kingdom encircles Israel in an uneasy truce.

But, when this *bestly ruler* defiles God's temple and kills his two prophets, he declares open war against God's Kingdom (11:7). At that moment, God's final trumpet sounds the battle cry, announcing *the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ* (11:15). Now, the Lamb can wage *righteous war* against Satan to retake Earth and unleash the Lord God's wrath against the usurping darkness (11:18).

For, Satan has already lost the *heavenly battle*, waged in *heaven* (12:7) and perfected on earth. Do you realize, saint, that your hand has helped vanquish our age-old enemy? Even as the angels waged cosmic, world-shaking warfare (8), on earth, we ourselves have *overcome Satan by the blood of the Lamb, by the Word of our testimony, and that we have not loved our lives even unto death!* (11).

**Notes<sup>6</sup>: Overcoming Satan.** Our Kingdom Family spans heaven and earth. Even though Satan has long held a place of power in the heavenlies, accusing God's people before the throne *night and day* (11:10), we also fight against the darkness *on earth*.

In order retain his power, Satan seeks to prove that God's word and work in the Gospel of Jesus are untrue. So, we you test and approve the truth of God's promises in your life, you conquer the enemy! For, even your sin is cleansed by His blood, *proving God's grace* (Rev. 11:11).

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<sup>6</sup> **The Woman, her Seed, and the Serpent.** (Gen. 3:15). Created to be heirs of God, our family line of Adam and Eve lost everything when they died in Sin and thrust us as *spiritually dead flesh* into this world of sin and death (Gen. 3). However, the Lord God promised that the Messiah, the chosen Seed, would redeem our family and restore us to our inheritance in the house of God. So, the Seed of Abraham inherits a land and people (Gen. 17:7-8; 22:17); of David redeems a royal house and Kingdom (2 Sm. 7:12-16); and, the Seed of the Woman crushes the Serpent's head. So, the Serpent fears the Seed.

## □7. Great Testing: Holy Harvest or Painful Wrath.

### **Read Revelation 13:4-17:6**

*How does God reveal His wrath against false Government and Religion?*

3 And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! 4 Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed." **Revelation 15:3-4.**

### **1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart**

*Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.*

**Seeing:** What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

**Learning:** What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

**Doing:** What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

### **2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group**

*Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.*

Q: How does Antichrist, earth's final Godless ruler, culminate the world and flesh's desire to live entirely without God?

QA: What do the martyrs of Jesus Mashiach know that prompts them to reject Antichrist and accept whatever persecution awaits them?

### **3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples**

*Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.*

Q1. How do the Beast and his false prophet embody human rebellion against God? (Rev. 13:4-10, 15-18)

**1. Beastly Antichrist: Helped by False Prophet.** We are mistaken if we think that Antichrist will be unrecognizably evil. Rather, Antichrist will be familiar to all of us who know the flesh's corruption. Dead flesh always seeks to steal worship from God to lavish on our Selves. Antichrist simply lives out all our fleshly desire to raise our human lives above God (13:4) and to speak and act lawlessly (5). Furthermore, Satan has always enticed humanity to love the world and ignore God, so now the False Prophet enforces this Godless way of life (17) so that those who love God become enemies of the world. The rule of the Beast is the natural outcome of a Godless humanity that has turned its back on the Lord its Creator!

Q2. How are God's people called to live in this time of great tribulation? (14:12-15:4)

**2. Harvest of Earth: God's Wrathful Response.** During the horrible rule of the Antichrist, God's people are called to *endure* in their faith in Jesus (14:12). For, God calls them to be willing to go to *captivity or even the sword* for their enduring faith in Jesus (13:10). For, God warns the people of the earth that those who take on the Beast's mark (14:9) to save their momentary lives on earth will suffer *eternal torment in fire* (14:10). Now, in the *great tribulation*, the Lord blesses those who *suffer captivity and even death* for His name (13). As a result, the earth yields an amazing *harvest of souls* (19) whose shed *blood fuels God's coming winepress of judgment* (20). For their suffering, these tribulation saints are brought immediately before the throne, singing with the martyred witnesses the praises of the Lamb! (15:2-4).

Q3. How does the Lord pour out His wrath on the Beast and His worshippers? (15:5-17:6).

**3. God's Wrath: Judging Beast, Godless, and Prostituting False Religion.** Now that humanity's Godless rebellion has reached its horrible conclusion, the Lord God pours out His full wrath as painful *bowls of judgment* (15:7). The Lord God answers the Beast and his followers according to their own hearts and actions— *they indulged the flesh so now reap corruption, as painful sores breakout* (16:2); spilling the blood of the innocent, they now have only blood to drink (3-4); scorning God's light and loving darkness, they are now scorched by sun and engulfed in darkness (9-10). Living by the sword, all nations now gather to slaughter one another (16). But, mankind's worst betrayal is judged last, as *humanity's spiritual unfaithfulness in all its fleshly and pious self-righteousness* is unclothed as a cheap prostitution (19). Babylon, embodying humanity's noblest religious aspirations apart from God, is shown to be a *blood-thirsty harlot* (18:24).

## 4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

*Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.*

*How will the Lord Judge between Whole-hearted Worshippers & Wicked?*

**6.7. Great Testing: Holy Harvest or Painful Wrath:** One day, people will face the *greatest test* in human history. But, it is not incomprehensible but one you have already faced, and passed, if you are a disciple of Jesus Christ.

In this Godless age, we all know the impulses of *dead flesh*, the Godless part of us that ignores God to indulge its selfish cravings. If you have not *repented* of your *dead flesh* to live by faith in God, then the *enslavement* of rebellious flesh will only reach its high point in the beastly rule of Antichrist.

Further, disciples are called to love God as their Lord, more than all this world offers, more than even their own self-interest and life itself. But, if you are already ignoring God to cling to this material world and its passing comfort and convenience, then the Beast's coming tyranny will ensure that you choose life on earth by rejecting God forever.

The choices are the same, but the stakes are higher, for people in the last days will know unmistakably that they reject God for Satan, they cling to a passing life of Antichrist by choosing eternal torment in fire.

Disciples of Jesus Christ will be heaven's heroes when they endure this testing by faith in the Lamb of God. Laying down their lives is the harvest which fuels the winepress of God's wrath and His world-changing judgment.

**Notes<sup>7</sup>: Prostituting Religion.** Because spiritually dead flesh seeks to be God, controlling life as its Lord, *fleshly people* love both lawless sin and man-made, lawful religion. Such pious and Self-righteous religion is a mere prostitute in the Lord's eyes (17:1), for *worship's original purpose is to honor* the true God by its sacrificial service. But, human religion is devoted to human ideals and indulgence. Such religion is earthly (James) and demonic (Rev.18:1), being so bold as to *cling to piety while forsaking God as dead in shameless widowhood* (18:7). Such *defiled religion* is stained red by the blood of the martyrs of Jesus Christ (24).

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<sup>7</sup> **Harvest & Winepress: Salvation and Judgment.** For three and a half years (Rev. 11:3), Israel has witnessed to Jesus Mashiach and His Gospel. And, the Lord raises up a worldwide harvest of faithful believers. Immediately hated by Satan's worldwide government, these believers are quickly martyred. When this harvest is *reaped*, their martyred *blood* fuels the very *winepress of God's wrath against the dark lord and his earthly followers* (14:19).

## □8. Return of King: Rebuking Rebellion

### Read Revelation 18, 19

*How do people respond differently to the Returning King?*

12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. 13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. 14 And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. **Revelation 19:12-14**

### **1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart**

*Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.*

**Seeing:** What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

**Learning:** What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

**Doing:** What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

### **2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group**

*Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.*

Q: How does Jesus Mashiach return in power to rule the world?

QA: How can we reject faithless religion in order to devote ourselves faithfully to Jesus Mashiach as His people, the Bride?



### 3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

*Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.*

Q1. What is the true nature of man-made religion, depicted by the unfaithful city *Babylon*? (Rev. 18:1-19:4):

**1. Unfaithful Human Religion: Judged by God.** Man-made religion purports to access a *pure, spiritual reality* by its own efforts, fashioned in its own man-made image. However, the reality is that such false religion is *a dwelling place for demons* (18:1). At its heart, such religion is driven by *fleshly passions* for anything but God—a spiritual *immorality* (3). Full of contradictions, such false worshippers go so far as to *claim* “There is no God” while also denying being *widowed* (18:7), that is, stripped of power without God, the legitimate source of power. Because the *faithfulness of prophets and saints* amplifies her own wretched unfaithfulness, false religion’s *Babylon* proves its *harlotry* by spilling the blood of Christ’s martyrs (24).

Q2. How do the Lord God and his people celebrate their mutually faithful relationship? (19:6-10).

**2.Faithful Bride: Devoted to Lamb.** The people of the Lamb are called the *Bride because like a Bride*, they forever trust Him by faith as their Lord (19:6), seeking to please and honor him by their obedient deeds (8). Like a husband giving His life for a wife, the *Lamb* has proven His sacrificial love to redeem His bride from death and worldly enslavement. Now, the Lamb and His Bride enter a glorious new life of joy and exultation (7).

Q3. How is Jesus revealed in glory at His return to establish the Kingdom of God? (19:11-21).

**3.Lord and King of Kingdom: Word and His Armies.** Having come in the flesh to atone for sins, Jesus now returns to earth in spiritual all-power. No longer a solitary *Seed* but multiplied and accompanied by *armies of heaven, made pure by His atoning blood which now clothe him in garments of blood-reddened salvation* (13-14; Is. 63:1-3). Having redeemed for himself a Kingdom people, he is now crowned with all authority (12) as earth's King of kings and Lord of lords (16). And he is unstoppable.

## 4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

*Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.*

*How do people respond differently to the Returning King?*

**6.8. Return of King: Rebuking Rebellion.** When Jesus Christ reveals himself, we see two responses. One is the *prostitute's secret rebellion*, saying "I sit as a queen, I am now widow," living as if the Lord is dead to her (Rev. 18:7). The other, the *bride's faithful devotion*, saying, "Hallelujah, for the Lord our God the Almighty reigns... and his Bride has made herself ready" (19:6-7b).

Be faithful and devote yourself to your coming Lord and King, for He will clothe you in *righteous deeds* fitting His precious saints (8).

Then, He will open your eyes to see him who is *Faithful and True* (11), victorious on his *white horse* with his *fiery eyes* set on earth and his head *honored with many crowns* (12). You will accompany your King and Lord in the *armies of heaven* (15), descending to bring His Kingdom like a *storm cloud breaking upon the land* (1:7).

Before the rightful King of Kings, all the world's rebellion is a mere breath, with its fleshly power mere food for birds. There is only one rightful power on earth, so honor only this Word of God!

**Notes<sup>8</sup>: King of Kings, Lord of Lords:** Jesus Christ is not merely Lord and King, he is *the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords!* (16). That is, Jesus does not simply *share* His authority with other peers. He is the *source, the Head, and the ruler of all other powers in heaven and on earth!*

So, we see at His coming the miserable fate of any who dare raise themselves up in idolatrous Self-honor. The *great prostitute*, giving herself to selfish indulgence and worldly honor, is brought to nothing. The epitome of Godless humanity, the Beast, is simply cast into a *Godless state of destruction, the lake of fire* (19:20).

Thus, when the *saints rule on earth* in the Kingdom of God, *each king* wields only a derived power, *in the name of Jesus* (5:10).

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<sup>8</sup> **Alive into Lake of Fire.** The *Lake of Fire* (Rev. 19:20) is the final place of judgment for the guilty. Notably, Satan's two *beasts*, the Antichrist and the false prophet, who lived as the antithesis of God's creation, who blasphemed most boldly, and who shed the blood of a generation of God's saints as servants of Satan, are most guilty and condemned. So, they are thrown *alive* into the Lake of Fire, as are their followers (Mt. 25:45-46). At the final judgment, God condemns the *Dead* to go into this fire (Rev. 20:12-15), for they have clung to the world but have lost their *souls* (Matt. 16:26).

## □9. Kingdom of God: Rule, Reward, Judgment.

### Read Revelation 20 (cf. Is. 2:1-5; 4, 25; 60)

*How will Jesus Christ transform the world by His Kingdom?*

Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. **Revelation 20:4**

### **1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart**

*Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.*

**Seeing:** What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

**Learning:** What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

**Doing:** What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

### **2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group**

*Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.*

Q: How should we live on earth, knowing the imminent reality of the Lord's final judgment?

QA: What do you think you will enjoy most about the Kingdom Rule of Jesus Mashiach on earth? How will your earthly desires be satisfied then?

### **3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples**

*Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.*

Q1. What will the earthly rule of Jesus Christ in His Kingdom look like, and what aspect does Revelation focus on? (Rev.20:1-6; cf. Is. 2:1-5; 4; 25;)

**1. Earthly Rule: Thousand Years of Kingdom.** The thousand-year rule of Jesus Messiah in His Kingdom was promised by the Old Testament prophets to be a time of global Godliness (Is. 2), glorious peace (Is. 4), and rewarding life (25). But, Revelation describes this thousand-year rule as a new beginning, a foretaste of a world free from Satan's insidious deception (20:2-3) and a preview of the life rewarded to those who overcame Satan's temptations, especially the ones emerging from earth's final testing (20:4). These overcomers know only *life* with no *threat of death* (5), and they *blessed as God's precious people* (6), now sharing in his rule as his servants.

Q2. Does the perfect rule of Jesus Christ in an earthly paradise guarantee human righteousness? (Rev. 20:7-10).

**2. Final Rebellion. Fiery Judgment.** Even in the perfect environment of the thousand-year earthly paradise, God's people still live by faith, relying only on Jesus Christ's *gift of righteousness* by His atoning sacrifice of blood to be righteous before God. For, Jesus Christ is forever the righteous life of His people, and his people forever live by faith in Him as their Lord and Lamb. Even in the millennium, humans do not achieve a perfect righteousness not requiring faith. For, even with the knowledge of God, humans born in the flesh still *are deceived by Satan and rebel* (20:8-9).

Q3. What does the Lord call those who have never known His life, and what is their final fate? (20:11-15)

**3. Final Judgment: Death or Life.** Due to our first parents' sin, we are all born as *dead flesh* without spiritual life, so our souls starve for God's life. When a person dies without ever having received new spiritual life from God, this starvation ends in *soul death*, so God calls them *the dead*. These dead have lost everything—their flesh has perished. And, as *dead*, they stand before God in judgment. But, how can the *dead* truly stand in judgment when *earth* and *heaven* have already fled his presence (20:11)? Before the Lord of Life, the *dead* have no place in heaven or earth, so they are abandoned to the fiery darkness (15). As the dead depart, they leave even without their very *souls*— losing even memory, identity, and self (Mark 8:36). How horrible, then those who like the Antichrist and false prophet are thrown alive, *souls intact, into the lake of fire* (Rev. 14:9-11; Mt. 25:41, 46<sup>9</sup>).

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<sup>9</sup> **Judgment and Escape:** Clearly, the *Beast and the False Prophet* are thrown *alive* into the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20). The only other humans who are similarly thrown *alive* into the lake of fire are the worshippers of the Beast who have received his mark. However, it appears that some who have received the mark *escape judgment* because they have shown mercy to the *persecuted saints during the great tribulation*, having fed, clothed, or visited them in their trials (Mt. 25:37-40). So, even in the midst of the most terrible judgment, some are still saved by *faith in Jesus to become righteous* (Mt. 25:37).

## 4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

*Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.*

*How will Jesus Christ transform the world by His Kingdom?*

**6.9. Kingdom of God: Rule, Reward, Judgment.** Throughout our human history, we have been ruled by the Serpent's kingdom of death and darkness (Is. 9:2; Eph. 2:2). But, Jesus Christ shines the light of God's Kingdom! Now, the world is ruled by a Lord who *loves righteousness and hates wickedness* (Ps. 45:7) to bring a global *shabbat* (rest) and *shalom* (peace). This world is now ours!

Once rejected by the world, we now *rule on thrones*, judging the world's people (20:4) like *sheep* and *goats* (Mt. 25:32).

Shamed for our testimony, we now are lifted up as the *house of the Lord* (Is. 2:3) to whom the nations stream to learn Godliness.

Deprived of *good* in the world, we now bear *fruit as branches of our glorious and beautiful Branch, the Messiah* (Is. 4:2).

Accustomed to hunger, loss, and sacrifice in your service to the Lord, He now gathers you to himself for a *feast of rich food, of well-aged wine, as he swallows up death forever* (Is. 25:6-8).

Outcast on the earth, you will come home to our eternal Jerusalem, sheltered by the Lord's cloud by day and fiery canopy by night (Is. 4:5).

**Notes<sup>10</sup>: Rebellion and Judgment.** Though Jesus Christ establishes His Kingdom on earth, the fleshly rebellion of humanity will still persist even in this righteous world. So, enticed by Satan, Godless rebels will once more resist God's rule only to lose their lives in judgment (20:9). If Satan's dark rule over earth led to his thousand-year punishment, then his direct attack against God's Kingdom secures his eternal damnation in the *lake of fire* (20:10).

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<sup>10</sup> **Great White Throne/ Lake of Fire.** The judgment of God uncovers the true state of heaven and earth, of spiritual and material reality. In the human-centered old age, God was someone to either honor or ignore. However, judgment reveals God as *the* inescapable reality, before whose presence even *heaven and earth flee!* (20:11). With God, there is life, so those who chose life without the true God, hiding in fleshly sin, Godless ignorance, or man-made religion, have only known *death*. So, this Godless reality becomes their permanent reality. Living without God in the former reality, there is no place in the new reality without God (20:15).

## □10. Eternity: Dwelling with God and Our Lamb.

### **Read Revelation 21-22 (cf. Is. 60; 65:17-25)**

*What will our life be in the Eternal New Heaven and Earth?*

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." 6 And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.7 The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. **Revelation 21:5-7**

### **1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart**

*Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.*

**Seeing:** What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

**Learning:** What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

**Doing:** What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

### **2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group**

*Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.*

Q: What are you looking forward to about dwelling forever with God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ?

QA: How did the Lord prepare a perfect place for us to live with him forever?



### 3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

*Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.*

Q1. What will God create the New Heaven and the new earth to be?  
(Rev. 21:1-8; Is. 60; 65:17-25)

**1. New Heaven and Earth: Our Eternal State.** The first age of heaven and earth was marked by sorrow, separation, and tears. It was the age of death, for man and God lived apart. But, when the Lord God creates the new heaven and new earth (21:1), He makes the *dwelling place of God* with *man* (3). So, the new world, centered around God's eternal dwelling with man in their city, the New Jerusalem, is designed for *joy* and her people to be a *gladness* (Is. 65:18). Joined by the bonds of *family*, God is *glad* in his people (19) as he banishes forever *pain* and *death* (Rev. 21:4).

Q2. Why (21:9-27)

**2. New Jerusalem: Eternal People.** God's new future is built on the foundation of His everlasting love for His eternal people, the sons of Israel. For, the Lamb and His Bride, His people of faith from all families of the earth, trace their redemption to God's steadfast love for Abraham and His household (Gen. 22:16-18). For, the Lamb's family *passed through the gates of Israel, drawn by the testimony of the Hebrew prophets*. And, His holy people all have a faith grounded in Christ, a foundation laid by the Gospel testimony of the twelve apostles of the Lamb (14). So, as our new city memorializes the family of the Lamb as a *light* of salvation to the world (Is. 60:1), we gratefully remember their sacrifice to bring all the families of man home to God.

Q3. How will the Lord and His people live together in their new home? (22:1-12)?

**3. New Life Together: Eternal Joy in Jesus.** As with any family, the forever family of God and His Lamb share a life together. As God and His Lamb sit at the head of all things, their Holy Spirit is an endless *river of the water of life* (22:1), shimmering with the Holy Life of the Lord given to His people. God's people serve him (3-4) as dear children bringing Father his favorite dishes. And, God's life radiates from this family center outwards, bringing *healing to the nations* (2) and ruling over the *kings of the earth* (24). Since there is no longer *sea*—space separating God and man, then perhaps the *kings of the earth* are kings who rule *from* the earth.

## 4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

*Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.*

*What will our life be in the Eternal New Heaven and Earth?*

**6.10. Eternity: Dwelling with God and Our Lamb.** In this current age of *life apart*, you have chosen to know God through your Lord Jesus Christ, by faith. Now, your faith becomes glorious sight!

In the old age of *separation*, the world was filled with *dark and even cursed* places chilled by a Godless vacuum. You may have felt lonely and out-of-place in this old world. Now, your *city Jerusalem* is *holy* and precious to the Lord, designed entirely in *steadfast love* and marital commitment to the Lamb (21:2).

To earthly goodness there is always scarcity and limit, but your city is *limitless in the grace and pleasure of God*—imagine a city more than 1300 miles long, and wide, and high! (21:16).

On earth, you often felt forgotten and unseen by God. But now, your very city shows how precious you are—your purified faith shown in the crystalline streets of gold (21:21), your sacrificial service the jewels laying the city’s very foundations! (21:19-20).

And, every point of the city, you are bathed in the satisfying presence of your God and His Lamb (22:5), with His Spirit a river of eternal delight (22:1). Your future is glorious!

**Notes<sup>11</sup>: New Heavens and New Earth.** By faith, we have glimpses of the new world in *eternity*. Enthroned at the center of a continent-sized city is our God and Father, surrounded by His holy family like a family’s patriarch draws together the generations. Now as visible as a smile and as close as a warm touch brushing away little tears (22:4), the Father dwells with his people. Earth’s kings, ruling over the new heavens, bring their glory to God. For, without the distancing *seas*—*the heavenly “waters over there”*—*the entirety of heaven is now within reach*.

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<sup>11</sup> **Bride, wife of the Lamb.** Eternal Lordship and Honor. In the same way that a bride forever honors her husband and a husband forever loves and protects His wife, so the Lord Jesus lives forever with His people in steadfast love. We will forever honor him as our Lord, and he will forever shepherd us as His precious people!

# **Prayer Requests:**

Request/ Date:	Answer Prayer/ Thankfulness

**Journaling:** What is the Lord teaching me/ Doing in my life?

<b>Weekly Sermon Notes:</b>	<b>Lord's Lessons and Works in my life:</b>

## Devotion: Self-Assessment.

### ❑1. Devoted Soul: Humbled under Lord not Self (Serpent)- Serving

16 And the **Lord God commanded** the man, saying, “**You may surely eat** of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil** you **shall not eat**, for in the day that you eat of it **you shall surely die.**” Genesis 2:16-17, also Gen. 3:1-6

#### ❑Humbled Under Lord God (2:17)

- Led by *Lord God* (2:17)
- Under *Commanding Authority*
- *Freely obeys for good life;*
- Rejects sin and *evil* leading to *death*.

#### ❑Self (Serpent)-Serving (3:1-6)

- Listening to *Worldly Serpent* who questions God (3:1)
- *Self is like God* as own Lord (3:5)
- *Self-righteous Self decides fleshly good* (6)
- *Self-interested Self decides fleshly evil to avoid.*

### ❑2. Devoted Mind: Faith in Lord not Unbelief in Fleshly Understanding

**Trust in the Lord** with all your **heart**, and do not **lean** on your **own understanding**. 6 In all your ways **acknowledge him**, and he will make straight your paths. 7 Be **not wise** in your **own eyes**; **fear the Lord**, and **turn away from evil**. Prov. 3:5-7; also Gen. 3:6-7

#### ❑Faith in Lord (2:17)

- Fear Lord as the only true God (Prov. 3:7)
- Trust in God as Lord of power, truth, and will (3:5);
- Be willing to follow His *ways* and honor him in your life (6) and turn from evil (7).

#### ❑Unbelief in Fleshly Understanding

- Flatter Self as *wiser* than God (3:7).
- Trust in own understanding to know truth, purpose, power (5).
- Find earthly reasons to sin and follow your own way not the Lord’s commands (Gen. 3:6-7).

### ❑3. Devoted Heart: Loving God as Father not Worldly Flesh

15 Do not **love the world** or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the **love of the Father** is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the **desires** of the **flesh** and the **desires** of the **eyes** and **pride of life**—is

not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the **world** is **passing** away along with its desires, but whoever does **the will of God** abides **forever**. 1 John 2:15-17

**☐ Loving God as Father (2:15)**

- Loves the Father (15)
- Desires to do the Will of God (17)
- Seeks what *abides forever* (17).

**☐ Worldly Flesh (16)**

- Loves the World (2:15)
- Follows the desires of flesh, what it sees as *good*, and its *prideful life in the world* (16)
- Clings to a world that is *passing away* (17).

**☐4. Devoted Strength: Giving Body as a Living Sacrifice not Conformed to World**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, **by the mercies of God**, to **present** your **bodies as a living sacrifice, holy** and **acceptable to God**, which is your **spiritual worship**. 2 Do **not be conformed** to this **world**, but be **transformed** by the **renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the **will of God**, what is **good** and **acceptable** and **perfect**. Rm. 12:1-2

**☐ Giving Self as a Living Sacrifice (12:1)**

- Gives Body as a Living Sacrifice to God (Rom. 12:1).
- Lives sacrificially to be holy, acceptable, and pleasing to God;
- *Transformed by renewing of mind by God's Word* (2)
- Discerns and proves God's Will as *good, acceptable, and perfect* (2)

**☐ Conformed to World (2)**

- Gives Flesh to be conformed to this world (2);
- Lives by fleshly works not needing God's mercy (1);
- Conforms to the World and its Godlessness;
- Unchanging, fixed, stubborn, fleshly mind.