

Roots 2025-The Revelation Part One-The Church-2/12/25

Led by Terry Cooper...based on Dr. David Jeremiah book "Agents of Apocalypse"

- The Revelation...one of the most talked about books of this ancient book we call the Bible, God's Word.
- The Revelation...where does that name come from anyway...

Revelation 1:1 (NIV)

¹ **The revelation of Jesus Christ**, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

- The word "revelation" which is the translation of the Greek word "apokalypsis" or "apocalypse".
- When we think of the word "apocalypse" we think of something awful or tragic...a cataclysmic end of the world event or something like that.
- However, the word simply means...the uncovering, the unveiling.
- The primary purpose of the Book of Revelation isn't just to paint a picture of the end times...even though it does do that.
- The primary purpose of the Book of Revelation is to reveal the glory of Jesus Christ.
- If you're confused about the glory of Christ **before the world began**...listen to this prayer of Jesus to His Father before He went to the cross...

John 17:4-5 (NLT)

⁴ I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.

⁵ Now, Father, bring me into **the glory** we shared **before the world began**.

John 17:24 (NLT)

²⁴ Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all **the glory** you gave me because you loved me even **before the world began**!

- The glory...yes even before the world began.
- The glory...yes now and forever more the glory of Christ.
- Can you see it, have you seen it?
- Do you want to see it...because here we go...**The Revelation!**
- The Apostle John wrote this book and received this Revelation from God while he was exiled on the Isle of Patmos...exiled because he was a Jesus follower, even though Jesus had already long since departed from earth.
- Let there be no doubt that John was in a place of suffering because he was a Jesus follower.

Revelation 1:9-10 (NLT)

⁹ I, John, am your brother and **your partner in suffering** and in God's Kingdom and in the patient endurance to which Jesus calls us. **I was exiled to the island of Patmos for preaching the word of God and for my testimony about Jesus.** ¹⁰ It was the Lord's Day, and I was worshiping in the Spirit. Suddenly, I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet blast.

- John specifically mentions that his exile is because of two things, 1) for preaching the Word of God and 2) my testimony about Jesus.
- Do you think that's new...do you think that's old?
- The world has always persecuted God's people and they always will...this is not new or old...it's just the way it is.
- Moses wrote the Pentateuch in the wilderness...suffering!

- David wrote many of the Psalms while fleeing from King Saul....suffering!
- Isaiah wrote while watching the nation of Judah self-destruct in idolatry and hiding from King Ahab...suffering!
- Ezekiel wrote while he was a captive in Babylon...suffering!
- They threw Jeremiah in a cistern to stop his preaching and testimony of God...suffering!
- Peter wrote his two letters just before he was executed for his preaching and testimony...suffering!
- Paul wrote much of the New Testament from a Roman prison cell...suffering!
- And John...He received the most extensive revelation of future events shown any writer in the New Testament while he was enslaved on an Island because He wouldn't stop preaching and testifying about Jesus.
- Have you ever wondered why God allows His people to experience such suffering and hardship?
- I don't want to pretend like I have the answer to that very deep question, but I can tell you that suffering and hardship will certainly **get your attention** and **make you prepared to listen to God**.
- If you notice, just about every one of the men in the Bible that encountered God...were removed from the normal circumstance and **placed into a totally new setting** where they would have to depend on God.
- Abraham...you must leave your homeland.
- Joseph...you're going to Egypt to be a slave.
- Moses...Hebrew baby in the Nile to wilderness and back to Egypt...only to leave again for Canaan.
- Daniel was a slave in Babylon when God revealed the future to him and King Nebuchadnezzar.
- Peter and John left their boats and their vocations to set out on a new path.
- It was in the last days of this new path of following Jesus...that John receives the revelation.
- Many people read the Book of Revelation and their main question becomes "when and how long do we have".
- They read the word "soon" and think that "soon" can't be 2000 years, can it?
- Look at verse one again...

Revelation 1:1 (NLT)

¹ This is a revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants the events that **must soon take place**. He sent an angel to present this revelation to his servant John,

- And if you go to the last chapter...he does it again...

Revelation 22:6 (NLT)

⁶ Then the angel said to me, "Everything you have heard and seen is trustworthy and true. The Lord God, who inspires his prophets, has sent his angel to tell his servants **what will happen soon**."

- Have you ever thought about what "soon" would mean to an eternal being?
- Have you ever thought about what "soon" would mean to the One who was, and is and is to come?

2 Peter 3:8-10 (NLT)

⁸ But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: **A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day**. ⁹ The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.

- Do you think the Lord is slow...or patient...waiting for a bunch of people to repent?

I like how Dr. David Jeremiah describes this...*This expression describes something that suddenly comes to pass. It indicates rapid progression after something commences. The idea is not that the event may occur soon, but that when it does, it will occur suddenly. It's like a California earthquake; we don't know when the next will come, but we know that it will. And it will come suddenly without warning.*

- John meets Jesus again in The Revelation scene...after many years of preaching about Him, John meets him again on his island prison.
- John has always been considered part of the inner circle of Jesus' earthly ministry.
- John was with Jesus at the transfiguration, the garden of Gethsemane and the cross.
- In fact, John was the only one of the 12 that is recorded to be there with Jesus on the cross and in that scene, Jesus gave John instructions to care for His mother Mary.
- In fact, John is the only one that records this scene at the cross...

John 19:25-27 (NLT)

²⁵ Standing near the cross were Jesus' mother, and his mother's sister, Mary (the wife of Clopas), and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, "**Dear woman, here is your son.**" ²⁷ And he said to this disciple, "**Here is your mother.**" And from then on this disciple took her into his home.

- With this closeness to Jesus do you think John will recognize Jesus when He appears to him on the Isle of Patmos?
- Is He the Matthew, Mark, Luke, John...Jesus or....

Revelation 1:9-18 (NLT)

⁹ I, John, am your brother and your partner in suffering and in God's Kingdom and in the patient endurance to which Jesus calls us. I was exiled to the island of Patmos for preaching the word of God and for my testimony about Jesus.

¹⁰ It was the Lord's Day, and I was worshiping in the Spirit. Suddenly, I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet blast. ¹¹ It said, "**Write in a book everything you see, and send it to the seven churches in the cities of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.**"

¹² When I turned to see who was speaking to me, I saw seven gold lampstands.

¹³ And standing in the middle of the lampstands was someone like the Son of Man. He was wearing a long robe with a gold sash across his chest.

¹⁴ His head and his hair were white like wool, as white as snow. And his eyes were like flames of fire.

¹⁵ His feet were like polished bronze refined in a furnace, and his voice thundered like mighty ocean waves. ¹⁶ He held seven stars in his right hand, and a sharp two-edged sword came from his mouth. And his face was like the sun in all its brilliance.

¹⁷ **When I saw him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead.** But he laid his right hand on me and said, "**Don't be afraid! I am the First and the Last.**

¹⁸ **I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.**

- Jesus tells John to not be afraid, but I think it didn't work.
- Jesus then announces something profound to His old friend and companion.
- 1. **I am the living one.**
- 2. **I died and look...I'm alive forever and ever.**
- 3. **I hold the keys of death and the grave/hades.**
- John is specifically told by Jesus to write down what he sees and send a message to seven churches in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey).

Revelation 1:10-11 (NLT)

¹⁰ It was the Lord's Day, and I was worshiping in the Spirit. Suddenly, I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet blast.

¹¹ It said, "Write in a book everything you see, and send it to the seven churches in the cities of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea."

- Each of those messages of Jesus to the 7 churches begins with "I know your works/deed" and each of those letters contains a promise from Christ to those who will overcome.
- Overcome what; overcome who...where is John at that very moment?
- John is on an island prison for preaching the Word of God and for refusing to stop testifying about Jesus.
- The world wants you to overcome those two things....to get over them and quit.
- The world wants you to overcome the two things that make you an overcomer!
- What two things...**the Word and the Name!**
- But Jesus promises a reward to the church that refuses to stop preaching the Word of God and testifying to the glory of Jesus...the Name of Jesus!
- Let me give you an example by reading what Jesus said to the Church at Philadelphia.

Revelation 3:8-13 (NLT)

⁸ "I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can close. **You have little strength, yet you obeyed my word and did not deny me.**

⁹ Look, I will force those who belong to Satan's synagogue—those liars who say they are Jews but are not—to come and bow down at your feet. They will acknowledge that you are the ones I love.

¹⁰ "**Because you have obeyed my command to persevere, I will protect you from the great time of testing that will come upon the whole world to test those who belong to this world.**

¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown.

¹² All who are victorious will become pillars in the Temple of my God, and they will never have to leave it. And I will write on them the name of my God, and they will be citizens in the city of my God—the new Jerusalem that comes down from heaven from my God. And I will also write on them my new name. ¹³ "**Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.**

- Did you hear the Spirit just then...did you hear what He said to the church?
- 7 times...Jesus says the same thing... **Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.**
- Jesus uses the same phrase to end his challenge, rebuke and promise to all seven churches.
- Why do you think He did that...The Spirit is what makes the Church the Church.
- To answer that question, let's go to the last chapter of **The Revealing** again and only 4 verses follow this verse at the end of **The Revealing**...

Revelation 22:17 (NLT)

¹⁷ The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." Let anyone who hears this say, "Come." Let anyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who desires drink freely from the water of life.

- The Spirit is Christ, and the Bride is the Church and they both say the same thing "Come".
- Of course, they are because it is the voice of Christ and He has one message... "Come".
- Come get free living water...who wouldn't want that?
- Seven times to seven churches...

Revelation 3:13 (NLT)

¹³ "**Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.**

- Listen to the Spirit and understand...did you, have you, will you?
- It's hard to listen in the midst of so much world noise, but I bet you could hear better if you were in a cave on a remote island (John).
- I believe you could hear, listen and understand a burning bush in the midst of the desert (Moses).
- I believe you could hear, listen and understand in a cistern in Jerusalem (Jeremiah).
- I believe you could hear, listen and understand in a roman prison (Paul).
- Hear what, listen to what, and believe what...the Word of God!
- All of these people we've mentioned tonight were in trouble because of it...the Word of God.
- Do you believe the Book of Revelation is the Word of God?
- **"Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.**
 1. **What did John see?**
 2. **What did Jesus say?**
 3. **What did John write down?**
- If you believed The Revelation was the very Word of God you would know all three!
- I can tell you one thing John wrote down...**the blessings** to those who listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.
- Jesus makes that statement 7 times and then John records 7 blessings (coincidence?) that are connected.
- Here they are...are you listening?

Blessing #1) Revelation 1:3 (NLT)

³ **God blesses** the one who reads the words of this prophecy to the church, and he blesses all who listen to its message and obey what it says, for the time is near.

Blessing #2) Revelation 14:13 (NLT)

¹³ And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this down: **Blessed are those who die in the Lord from now on.** Yes, says the Spirit, they are blessed indeed, for they will rest from their hard work; for their good deeds follow them!"

Blessing #3) Revelation 16:15 (NLT)

¹⁵ **"Look, I will come as unexpectedly as a thief! Blessed are all who are watching for me, who keep their clothing ready so they will not have to walk around naked and ashamed."**

Blessing #4) Revelation 19:9 (NLT)

⁹ And the angel said to me, "Write this: **Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.**" And he added, "These are true words that come from God."

Blessing #5) Revelation 20:6 (NLT)

⁶ **Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection.** For them the second death holds no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him a thousand years.

Blessing #6) Revelation 22:7 (NLT)

⁷ **"Look, I am coming soon! Blessed are those who obey the words of prophecy written in this book."**

Blessing #7) Revelation 22:14 (NLT)

¹⁴ **Blessed are those who wash their robes.** They will be permitted to enter through the gates of the city and eat the fruit from the tree of life.

- If the Lord is willing, we will spend the next 11 weeks covering the main characters and events in The Revelation.
- A book **filled with prophecy**...you can know the future...and most people never read it.

- A book **filled with the Words of God and the promises of God** and most people never read it.
- A book **filled with blessings** for those who read it and most people never read it.
- Why...fear, ignorance, laziness...I'm not really sure, but I can tell you what happened when I read it and studied it.
- It changed my life when I saw who Jesus was, not a historical Jesus, but a present, right now Jesus and He is glorious.
- I, like John wanted to fall down on my face like a dead man, but Jesus told me to not be afraid and I believed Him.
- He holds the keys to death and the grave and without Jesus...I don't have a key to either one.

Revelation 1:17-18 (NLT)

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, **“Don’t be afraid! I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.**

- I close with a story from Dr. David Jeremiah’s book “Agents of Apocalypse”.

Denis Lyle, a Baptist pastor in Belfast, Northern Ireland, tells of a tourist who visited a beautiful mansion on a lovely lakeshore in Switzerland. The house was surrounded by well-kept gardens connected by tidy pathways. There wasn't a weed in sight.

“How long have you been caretaker here?” the tourist asked the gardener. “I’ve been here twenty years.” “And during that time how often has the owner of the property been in residence?” The gardener smiled. “He has been here only four times.” “And to think,” the visitor exclaimed, “all these years you’ve kept this house and garden in such superb condition. You tend them as if you expected him to come tomorrow.” “Oh no,” replied the gardener, “I look after them as if I expected him to come today.”

- Of the 7 blessings...It's this one that gets me...

Revelation 16:15 (NLT)

¹⁵ **“Look, I will come as unexpectedly as a thief! Blessed are all who are watching for me, who keep their clothing ready so they will not have to walk around naked and ashamed.”**

- I believe that if you believed that you were lost, unclothed, naked and ashamed and Jesus had the power to clothe you in white and remove your naked shame...I believe you would believe in Jesus!
- Are you a believer?

Revelation 3:13 (NLT)

¹³ **“Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.**

Session #1) 2/12/25-The Church

Session #2) 2/19/25-The Martyrs

Session #3) 2/26/25-The 144,000

Session #4) 3/5/25-The Two Witnesses

Session #5) 3/12/25-The Dragon (Satan)

Session #6) 3/19/25-The Beast from the Sea (Antichrist)

Session #7) 3/26/25-The Beast from the Earth (False Prophet)

Session #8) 4/2/25-The Day (Jesus Returns)

Session #9) 4/9/25-The King (Jesus 1000-year reign)

Session #10) 4/16/25-Judgment Day (The Great White Throne Judgment)

Session #11) 4/23/25-Revealing Hell (the eternally lost)

Session #12) 4/30/25-And After That (New Heaven and New Earth)

Roots 2025-The Revelation Part Two-The Martyrs-2/19/25

Led by Terry Cooper...based on Dr. David Jeremiah book "Agents of Apocalypse"

- Last week's topic was The Church...why was John in prison on Patmos?

Revelation 1:9 (NLT)

⁹ I, John, am your brother and your partner in suffering and in God's Kingdom and in the patient endurance to which Jesus calls us. I was exiled to the island of Patmos **for preaching the word of God and for my testimony about Jesus.**

- What is the message to the church from Jesus last week...

Revelation 3:8 (NIV) The Church at Philadelphia

⁸ I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept **my word and have not denied my name.**

- John and the Church were in trouble with the world because of the Word and the Name.
- Tonight, The Revelation...reveals The Martyrs...The Apocalypse reveals the martyrs.

Revelation 6:9 (NLT)

⁹ When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of all who had been **martyred for the word of God and for being faithful in their testimony.**

- Did you see it...did you see all three of these (John, the Church and the Martyrs) all have two things in common that have gotten them into trouble with the world (The Word and The Name/Testimony).
- Before you can understand the martyrs of the end, of the Revelation, you must understand the martyred of the past.
- Let's begin with the word itself...martyr... One who bears witness of the truth (The Word and The Name), and suffers death in the cause of Christ. In this sense Stephen was the first martyr recorded in the New Testament...in the church age. The Greek word used in all other cases is translated "witness."
- Pharaoh killed the babies of the witnesses of Israel.
- Haman conspired to kill all the witnesses in the time of Esther and Mordecai.
- Antiochus Epiphanes killed all the Jewish witnesses that refused to bow to Zeus in the years leading up to the birth of Christ.
- Herod killed all the young boys born of the Jewish witnesses in Bethlehem in his attempt to kill the baby Jesus.
- All of those mentioned before were specific attacks on Hebrew, Israelites or Jews-witnesses.
- The church age began with new martyrs...the Jews stoned Stephen to death because of his witness of Christ.
- King Herod put the apostle James to death and Caesar had Polycarp burned at the stake for refusing to worship him...The Name and the Word!
- John himself is exiled on the Island of Patmos because he is a witness of Jesus.
- God's chosen have always faced death because of their witness...Hitler's persecution of the Jews in Europe killed and martyred some 6 million Jews (witnesses) during WW2.
- Some believe that Hitler's attack on the Jews reduced the number of Jews in Europe to less than the number of Jews that left Egypt with Moses (that removed a lot of stars from the sky).

- Where does this murderous hatred come from...Adolf Eichmann, expressing Nazi hatred for the Jews, said, "I shall leap laughing into my grave, for the thought that I have five million human lives on my conscience is to me a source of inordinate satisfaction."
- Did you know that Moses prophesied this Jewish hatred as he led them out of Egypt?

Deuteronomy 28:64-67 (NLT)

⁶⁴ For the LORD will scatter you among all the nations from one end of the earth to the other. There you will worship foreign gods that neither you nor your ancestors have known, gods made of wood and stone!

⁶⁵ There among those nations you will find no peace or place to rest. And the LORD will cause your heart to tremble, your eyesight to fail, and your soul to despair. ⁶⁶ Your life will constantly hang in the balance. You will live night and day in fear, unsure if you will survive. ⁶⁷ In the morning you will say, 'If only it were night!' And in the evening you will say, 'If only it were morning!' For you will be terrified by the awful horrors you see around you.

- Church, do you still want to be a witness?
- Now, with all that background, who are the martyrs, the murdered witnesses under the altar in The Revelation?

Revelation 6:9 (NLT)

⁹ When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of **all who had been martyred** for the word of God and for being faithful in their testimony.

- The Apostle John specifically places this scene in the future, when the church of Jesus Christ has been raptured and the dead in Christ have already risen to meet the Lord in the air.
- So, these martyrs are **NOT from the church age**, not from the age we are living in now.
- These martyrs are asking God for judgment on their oppressors on the earth...so their murderers are still living on the earth.

Revelation 6:9-11 (NLT)

⁹ When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of all who had been martyred for the word of God and for being faithful in their testimony. ¹⁰ **They shouted to the Lord and said, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you judge the people who belong to this world and avenge our blood for what they have done to us?"** ¹¹ Then a white robe was given to each of them. And they were told to rest a little longer until the full number of their brothers and sisters—their **fellow servants of Jesus who were to be martyred**—had joined them.

- These martyred souls under the altar are going to be joined by more martyred souls...so who are they and what is the time of their martyrdom?
- This scene strongly suggests that these martyrs are those who have turned to Christ during the Tribulation period, not the church that was raptured before the tribulation began.
- After the church is taken away, taken up...God will turn His attention to Israel once more and many Jews will turn to Christ and receive Jesus as the Messiah.

Romans 11:25-28 (NLT)

²⁵ I want you to understand this mystery, dear brothers and sisters, so that you will not feel proud about yourselves. **Some of the people of Israel have hard hearts, but this will last only until the full number of Gentiles comes to Christ. [END OF CHURCH AGE]**²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved. As the Scriptures

say, “The one who rescues will come from Jerusalem, and he will turn Israel away from ungodliness. [NIV-Deliverer will come out of Zion]²⁷ And this is my covenant with them, that I will take away their sins.”

²⁸ Many of the people of Israel are now **enemies of the Good News**, and **this benefits you Gentiles**. Yet they are still the people he loves because he chose their ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

- So, who is oppressing and killing Jesus followers during the Tribulation...the Antichrist.
- This is the logical question that many have today...if the Church is the Spirit of Christ on the earth today and the Church is taken away...how will anyone come to Christ, Jew or Gentile?
- If the church is gone, who will be **the witnesses** of Christ on the earth to lead others to salvation?
- Can I suggest that there will be 3 powerful witnesses on the earth during the 7 year tribulation?
- **The 2 witnesses, the 144,000 sealed** and sent out by God (NEXT WEEK) and **the Word/Bible**.
- Martyrs will become very common during the tribulation...how else would you explain this victory over Satan in the last days?

Revelation 12:11 (NLT)

¹¹ And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony. And **they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die.**

- The spiritual war between God and Satan has always produced martyrs and that will intensify during the tribulation.

Psalms 44:22 (NLT)

²² But for your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.

- Yes, it's a fearful thought, but Jesus tells us **who and what** to fear...

Luke 12:4-5 (NLT)

⁴ “Dear friends, don’t be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot do any more to you after that. ⁵ But I’ll tell you whom to fear. Fear God, who has the power to kill you and then throw you into hell. Yes, he’s the one to fear.

- In the tribulation the Antichrist will tell you that you can save your life by bowing to him, but in reality Satan has always been using that same line of lies.
- He is saying it to the church today...give up the Word and the Name!
- Martyrs are those who refuse to listen to those lies...it's not new!

Daniel 3:14-18 (NLT)

¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you refuse to serve my gods or to worship the gold statue I have set up? ¹⁵ I will give you one more chance to bow down and worship the statue I have made when you hear the sound of the musical instruments. But if you refuse, you will be thrown immediately into the blazing furnace. And then what god will be able to rescue you from my power?” ¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. ¹⁸ But even if he doesn’t, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.”

- Are you ready to die for the cause of Christ...as a witness of the Word and the Name?
- Would you die before you would bow to Satan?

- In the tribulation it will be certain and sure death to hold to the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus.
- But in reality, it is certain death to let those go TODAY, it's just a slower form of certain death!
- In the Revelation, Jesus sends this message to **the Church** at Pergamum...

Revelation 2:12-13 (NLT)

¹² “Write this letter to the angel of the church in Pergamum. This is the message from the one with the sharp two-edged sword: ¹³ “I know that you live in the city where Satan has his throne, yet **you have remained loyal to me. You refused to deny me even when Antipas, my faithful witness, was martyred among you there in Satan’s city.**

- And Jesus writes this message to the Church at Philadelphia...

Revelation 3:8 (NLT)

⁸ “I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can close. You have little strength, yet **you obeyed my word and did not deny me.**

- When the time of the church, the church age, the time of the gentiles...closes with the rapture of the church...God will turn His attention to the Jews.
- Yes, I believe some Gentiles will come to Christ during the tribulation, just as many Jews have come to Christ during the church age.
- However, if you're a Gentile...I would highly recommend against that strategy.
- The Old Testament prophet Zechariah spoke of the Jews during the tribulation...

Zechariah 13:8-9 (NLT)

⁸ Two-thirds of the people in the land will be cut off and die,” says the LORD. “But one-third will be left in the land. ⁹ I will bring that group through the fire and make them pure. I will refine them like silver and purify them like gold. They will call on my name, and I will answer them. I will say, ‘These are my people,’ and they will say, ‘The LORD is our God.’”

- Why are they dying and who is killing them?
- During the Tribulation...Satan will **fill the antichrist** with anger against the Jews and Satan will be filled with fury because he knows that his days are short...the countdown has begun.

Revelation 12:12 (NLT)

¹² Therefore, rejoice, O heavens! And you who live in the heavens, rejoice! But terror will come on the earth and the sea, for **the devil has come down to you in great anger, knowing that he has little time.**

- Let there be no doubt that those who persecute God’s people **now** and **in the tribulation** will become the enemies of God.
- The wrath and judgment of God will fall upon them completely and eternally on that last day.
- God will defend His people and He will bring justice and judgment against those who have persecuted and martyred His children.

Revelation 16:6 (NLT)

⁶ Since they shed the blood of your holy people and your prophets, you have given them blood to drink. It is their just reward.”

Revelation 17:6 (NLT) Babylon the Whore/Prostitute

⁶ I could see that she was drunk—drunk with the blood of God's holy people who were witnesses for Jesus. I stared at her in complete amazement.

- God will defend those martyred for the Word and the testimony of Jesus, **NOW** and in the Tribulation.

Revelation 18:24 (NLT)

²⁴ In your streets flowed the blood of the prophets and of God's holy people and the blood of people slaughtered all over the world."

Revelation 19:1-2 (NLT)

¹ After this, I heard what sounded like a vast crowd in heaven shouting, "Praise the LORD! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God. ² His judgments are true and just. He has punished the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality. He has avenged the murder of his servants."

- Let me make this as simple and clear as I can and it is the same today as it will be during the tribulation.
- The Word and the Testimony of Jesus...these two are not for sale.
- There is great pressure today upon the church to go along with the world on issues such as gay marriage and gender neutrality, but for us to go along we would have to surrender the Word and the Name.
- The world is bashing the church on these issues because the church wouldn't go along...go along with WHO?

Revelation 6:9 (NLT)

⁹ When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of all who had been martyred for the word of God and for being faithful in their testimony.

Revelation 6:9 (NASB) NASB

⁹ When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained;

- You and I must maintain the Word and the testimony till our last breath!
- If anyone trades these two for the acceptance of the world...you have traded life for death.
- It's like Esau trading the rights of the firstborn for a bowl of soup...it's a terrible trade.
- Jesus promises there will be a generation that will escape the tribulation period because they refused to trade the Word and the Name for the pleasures of sin for a season.
- Satan is a deceiver and he will try to get believers to go along, but to go along will mean you must deny the Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus...denying Truth and Truth has a name!
- Some of you have already done it and I'm telling you that as of right now you still have time to receive forgiveness through repentance...but only through repentance.
- This promise of deliverance from the Tribulation was in Jesus' message to the Church at Philadelphia...

Revelation 3:7-13 (NLT)

⁷ "Write this letter to the angel of the church in Philadelphia. This is the message from the one who is holy and true, the one who has the key of David. What he opens, no one can close; and what he closes, no one can open. ⁸ "I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can close. You have little strength, yet you obeyed my word and did not deny me. [NIV/NASB "You kept My Word or you have not

denied my Name]⁹ Look, I will force those who belong to Satan's synagogue—those liars who say they are Jews but are not—to come and bow down at your feet. They will acknowledge that you are the ones I love.¹⁰ **“Because you have obeyed my command to persevere, I will protect you from the great time of testing that will come upon the whole world to test those who belong to this world.”**¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown.¹² All who are victorious will become pillars in the Temple of my God, and they will never have to leave it. And I will write on them the name of my God, and they will be citizens in the city of my God—the new Jerusalem that comes down from heaven from my God. And I will also write on them my new name.¹³ **“Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.”**

- There will be a rapture (caught up) and there will be many left behind to endure the great tribulation...the great time of testing that will come upon the whole world...to see where you belong!
- God will turn His attention to the Jews and 144,000 sealed Jewish preachers will go out to testify about Jesus [Next week's topic], followed by Two Witnesses [the next week] with supernatural powers...**all carrying the Bibles that the raptured faithful left behind on the earth.**
- Anyone who turns to Christ during the tribulation will come under swift persecution.
- Many will be martyred because they will hold tightly to the Word and the Testimony of Jesus and their **martyred souls** will be ushered into the presence of God, under the altar.
- There they will cry out for justice and vengeance from God to those who persecute the believers on the earth.
- As I read it again, notice their **cry for vengeance** is very different than that of the first martyr Stephen...which leads me again to believe that these are not martyrs from the church age, but martyrs from the Great Tribulation.
- Let's start with Stephen...the first recorded martyr from the church age.

Acts 7:59-60 (NLT)

⁵⁹ As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

⁶⁰ He fell to his knees, shouting, **“Lord, don't charge them with this sin!”** And with that, he died.

- Dr. David Jeremiah describes it this way...*Those persecuted during the tribulation will be able to call for God's judgment in perfect propriety because the age of grace has ended. This is the day of the judgment of God.*
- Soon the age of grace will end!
- Notice how different the call of these Tribulation martyrs are from Stephen's...

Revelation 6:9-11 (NLT)

⁹ When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of all who had been **martyred for the word of God and for being faithful in their testimony.**¹⁰ They shouted to the Lord and said, **“O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you judge the people who belong to this world and avenge our blood for what they have done to us?”**¹¹ Then a white robe was given to each of them. And they were told to rest a little longer until the full number of their brothers and sisters—their **fellow servants of Jesus who were to be martyred**—had joined them.

- There are going to be more martyred...wait and rest a little longer.
- What is their reward, those martyred during the Tribulation?
- Is their reward worth dying for...what if I told you that their reward was bigger than death itself?
- What about today (forget about the Tribulation) is **the promised reward of Christ worth dying for?**

Revelation 20:4-6 (NLT)

⁴ Then I saw thrones, and the people sitting on them had been given the authority to judge. **And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony about Jesus and for proclaiming the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his statue, nor accepted his mark on their forehead or their hands. They all came to life again, and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years.** ⁵ This is the first resurrection. (The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the thousand years had ended.) ⁶ Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. For them the second death holds no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him a thousand years.

- These **Martyred Saints during the Tribulation** are going to join **the Raptured Saints from the Church Age** and reign with Christ on this present earth with eternal flesh for 1000 years.
- What is the value of that...how big is that reward?
- What is the alternative to that?

Closing

- More Christians were martyred in the 20th century than in all previous centuries combined.
- It is illegal to be a Christian in North Korea, and some 50,000 Christians have been sent to forced labor camps there.
- Christians are persecuted in more than 65 of the world's 193 countries.
- In Nigeria, nearly 300 churches were destroyed and 612 Christians were killed in 2013.
- In India, anti-conversion laws have been adopted in five states, and these laws are frequently used as a pretext to disrupt and harass Christians. Pastors are frequently beaten or killed, church buildings are destroyed and converts are forced to flee their homes.
- More than one million of the 1.5 million Christians in Iraq have fled the country since the fall of Saddam Hussein, due to increased persecution.
- In Mosul and in the ancient City of Nineveh...every remnant of Christianity was destroyed and scattered. Some of the oldest churches in the world are no more.
- Recently some Christians have returned to rebuild in Iraq/Nineveh/Mosel...putting the crosses back on top the buildings.
- Courage, we need courage today in the American Church.
- Courage to stand on the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus, YES, even unto death itself.
- Is this our Church at Philadelphia moment...because we would not deny the Word or the name of Jesus.
- Will we be that generation that escapes the coming **judgment and tribulation**?

Revelation 3:10-11 (NLT)

¹⁰ **"Because you have obeyed my command to persevere, I will protect you from the great time of testing that will come upon the whole world to test those who belong to this world.**

¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown.

- Jesus himself instructs us to pray this prayer and I am...every day.

Luke 21:34-36 (NLT)

³⁴ **"Watch out! Don't let your hearts be dulled by carousing and drunkenness, and by the worries of this life. Don't let that day catch you unaware,**

³⁵ **like a trap. For that day will come upon everyone living on the earth.**

³⁶ **Keep alert at all times. And pray that you might be strong enough to escape these coming horrors and stand before the Son of Man."**

Roots 2025-The Revelation Part Three-The 144,000-2/26/25

Led by Terry Cooper...based on Dr. David Jeremiah book "Agents of Apocalypse"

- The Revelation...reveals The Church, The Martyrs...and the 144,000 Evangelists.
- Let me begin today by reading a paragraph from Dr. David Jeremiah's book...

During the Tribulation, the Antichrist will work to consolidate his power and exalt himself in the Holy of Holies in Jerusalem. While he is crushing those who refuse to bow before his statue, the greatest spiritual awakening of all time will take place. And this awakening will come through the ministry of the 144,000 sealed Jewish evangelists. Their story is another dramatic demonstration of the way God takes care of His people during an era of trial and tribulation, reminding us that "God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew".

- Paul's letter to the Gentile Church during the church age...

Romans 11:1-5 (NLT)

¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his own people, the nation of Israel? Of course not! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham and a member of the tribe of Benjamin.

² No, God has not rejected his own people, whom he chose from the very beginning. Do you realize what the Scriptures say about this? Elijah the prophet complained to God about the people of Israel and said, ³ "LORD, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me, too." ⁴ And do you remember God's reply? He said, "No, I have 7,000 others who have never bowed down to Baal!" ⁵ It is the same today, for a few of the people of Israel have remained faithful because of God's grace—his undeserved kindness in choosing them.

- What if the church age (Pentecost to the Rapture-Trumpet) was God's door of salvation opening to the Gentiles, but the rapture is the door closing day for Gentiles...that opens a final door to the Jewish people?
- Some people believe that God is done with the Jews or the church replaced Israel...regarding the promises and covenants.
- Paul is writing to the Gentile Church at Rome when he explains this...

Romans 11:11-16 (NLT)

¹¹ Did God's people stumble and fall beyond recovery? Of course not! **They were disobedient, so God made salvation available to the Gentiles.** But he wanted his own people to become jealous and claim it for themselves.

¹² Now if the Gentiles were enriched because the people of Israel turned down God's offer of salvation, **think how much greater a blessing the world will share when they finally accept it.** ¹³ I am saying all this especially for you Gentiles. God has appointed me as the apostle to the Gentiles. I stress this, ¹⁴ for **I want somehow to make the people of Israel jealous of what you Gentiles have,** so I might save some of them. ¹⁵ For since their rejection meant that God offered salvation to the rest of the world, **their acceptance will be even more wonderful.** It will be life for those who were dead! ¹⁶ And since Abraham and the other patriarchs were holy, their descendants will also be holy—just as the entire batch of dough is holy because the portion given as an offering is holy. For if the roots of the tree are holy, the branches will be, too.

- If you look at Israel/the Jewish people today...they still live in unbelief...regarding Jesus as Messiah...enemies of the gospel, for now.
- Is something going to happen to change that...what will change that?
- Could anything change that and open the eyes of Israel to see the Messiah.
- Why can't they see Jesus as Messiah when it is so clear to us today?
- Have some Jews turned to Christ...yes, but as a nation...NO!
- Then why not?
- I'll answer the question...it's not time yet, but that time may be coming soon.
- Is it a mystery...can we understand this mystery?

Romans 11:25-29 (NLT)

²⁵ I want you to understand this mystery, dear brothers and sisters, so that you will not feel proud about

yourselves. Some of the people of Israel have hard hearts, but this will last only until the full number of Gentiles comes to Christ. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved. As the Scriptures say, “The one who rescues will come from Jerusalem, and he will turn Israel away from ungodliness. ²⁷ And this is my covenant with them, that I will take away their sins.” ²⁸ **Many of the people of Israel are now enemies of the Good News, and this benefits you Gentiles.** Yet they are still the people he loves because he chose their ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ²⁹ For God’s gifts and his call can never be withdrawn.

- I believe the “full number of Gentiles coming to Christ” is the day of the Rapture, ending the church age.
- If you’re in the room today and you tell me you don’t believe in the Rapture...then I say this...Yes you do.
- Believing in the Rapture is not a point of contention to any Bible believing person...the question is not the Rapture, but whether or not people will be left behind after the Rapture.
- If you believe in the Bible you believe in a Rapture.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 (NLT)

¹⁵ We tell you this directly from the Lord: **We who are still living when the Lord returns** will not meet him ahead of those who have died. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. ¹⁷ Then, together with them, **we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.** Then we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ So encourage each other with these words.

- I believe this event of the “caught up” is the day that the full number of Gentiles have come in to Christ.
- I believe this event is the end of the church age and the beginning of the final call to Jacob/Israel.
- If so, then how does God reach out to the Jewish people around the earth that live in unbelief?
- **The Revelation Part 3...The 144,000**

Revelation 7:4-8 (NLT)

⁴ And I heard how many were marked with the seal of God—144,000 were sealed from all the tribes of Israel: ⁵ from Judah — 12,000 from Reuben — 12,000 from Gad — 12,000 ⁶ from Asher — 12,000 from Naphtali — 12,000 from Manasseh — 12,000 ⁷ from Simeon — 12,000 from Levi — 12,000 from Issachar — 12,000 ⁸ from Zebulun — 12,000 from Joseph — 12,000 from Benjamin — 12,000

- Now I have heard some people tell me that these are representatives/witnesses of the Church of Jesus Christ, but this Scripture clearly defines the 144,000 as Jews from the 12 tribes of Israel.
- Again, I see this as another attempt to state that the church has replaced Israel.
- I find that nowhere in Scripture!
- Instead I see that the Church has been invited to join Israel as God’s children, not replace Israel.
- Spiritually speaking Gentile Christians have been adopted into the family of Abraham.

Galatians 3:6-7 (NLT)

⁶ In the same way, “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.”

⁷ The real children of Abraham, then, are those who put their faith in God.

- 144,000 divided by 12 is 12,000...that’s a lot of 12’s.
- 12 is a big and important number to God.
- The Jewish high priest wore a breastplate bearing 12 precious stones.
- The table of Showbread in the Temple had 12 loaves of bread.
- There are 12 gates in the city of God and in every one of those cases they represent the 12 tribes of Israel.
- Jesus mentions the 12 when talking to the 12 Apostles...

Matthew 19:27-28 (NLT)

²⁷ Then Peter said to him, “We’ve given up everything to follow you. What will we get?”

²⁸ “Yes,” Jesus replied, “**and I assure you that when the world is made new and the Son of Man sits upon his**

glorious throne, you who have been my followers will also sit on **twelve thrones**, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

- In the Revelation...Jesus gives a message to the seven churches and then the church specifically, isn't mentioned any more...not at all...after chapter 3.
- Jesus' message to the 7 churches is a picture of the church age that will end with the Rapture of the Church when Jesus comes for the Church.
- The Revelation then turns to the 7 Seals of Chapter six.
 1. White Horse (conquering power, not Jesus, but a false Christ/imposter).
 2. Red Horse-war and bloodshed.
 3. Black Horse-famine
 4. Pale Green/Ashen Horse-Pestilence and death.
 5. Souls under the altar-martyrs during the tribulation...we covered that last week.
 6. Whole earth trembles-physical changes occur.
- I want to read you the events of the sixth seal because it precedes the 7th seal which is the sealing of the 144,000...notice the sequence of events that FOLLOW the church age...

Revelation 6:12-17 (NLT)

¹² I watched as **the Lamb broke the sixth seal**, and there was a great earthquake. The sun became as dark as black cloth, and the moon became as red as blood. ¹³ Then the stars of the sky fell to the earth like green figs falling from a tree shaken by a strong wind. ¹⁴ The sky was rolled up like a scroll, and all of the mountains and islands were moved from their places. ¹⁵ Then everyone—the kings of the earth, the rulers, the generals, the wealthy, the powerful, and every slave and free person—all hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. ¹⁶ And they cried to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb. ¹⁷ For the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to survive?”

- The Lamb is Jesus and Jesus has broken the sixth seal and the question is this...**who is going to survive?**
- It is in this context that chapter seven opens...listen carefully...

Revelation 7:1-8 (NLT)

¹ Then I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds so they did not blow on the earth or the sea, or even on any tree. ² And I saw another angel coming up from the east, **carrying the seal of the living God**. And he shouted to those four angels, who had been given power to harm land and sea, ³ “Wait! Don’t harm the land or the sea or the trees until **we have placed the seal of God on the foreheads of his servants**.” ⁴ And I heard how many were **marked with the seal of God—144,000 were sealed from all the tribes of Israel**: ⁵ from Judah — 12,000 from Reuben — 12,000 from Gad — 12,000 ⁶ from Asher — 12,000 from Naphtali — 12,000 from Manasseh — 12,000 ⁷ from Simeon — 12,000 from Levi — 12,000 from Issachar — 12,000 ⁸ from Zebulun — 12,000 from Joseph — 12,000 from Benjamin — 12,000

- 144,000 sealed by God and they are all from the 12 tribes of Israel...they are all Jewish...why?
- The seal of God is on their forehead...a mark of ownership and this seal will protect them and commission them to complete the calling and purpose of God.
- What is the context of this seal of God...to answer the question of the 6th seal...**who is going to survive?**
- When God called Noah He sealed and separated Noah so that he would survive.
- God sealed Lot and his family when judgment was coming to Sodom.
- God sealed the firstborn of all Jewish families in Egypt from the judgment of the death angel.
- Even though Elijah thought he was the only one left in all the land that still followed God...God revealed that He had sealed 7000 who would not bow to false Gods.
- God told the angel of the seventh seal to WAIT...the sealing of 144,000 must preserve the remnant of Israel.

Revelation 7:3 (NLT)

³ “Wait! Don’t harm the land or the sea or the trees until we have placed the seal of God on the foreheads of his servants.”

- The seal of God is the protection of God and the equipping for the purpose of God...the very call of God and the ownership of God.
- God sealed His people in the church age and He will do it again in Israel.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (NIV) NIV

²¹ Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us,

²² set **his seal of ownership on us**, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

Ephesians 1:13-14 (NIV) NIV

¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were **marked in him with a seal**, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.

- This seal comes with a warning...

Ephesians 4:30 (NIV) NIV

³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with **whom you were sealed** for the day of redemption.

- So, what is the purpose and calling of the 144,000 that receive the seal of God during the Great Tribulation?
- We today know the impact that the Apostle Paul, **sealed by God** had upon the Gentile world and he was only one man.
- What do you think will happen when 144,000 Apostle Paul's are set loose on the earth during the Tribulation?
- To answer that question specifically we go to Revelation 14...

Revelation 14:1-5 (NLT)

¹ Then I saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and **with him were 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads**. ² And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of mighty ocean waves or the rolling of loud thunder. It was like the sound of many harpists playing together. ³ This great choir sang a wonderful new song in front of the throne of God and before the four living beings and the twenty-four elders. No one could learn this song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴ They have kept themselves as pure as virgins, following the Lamb wherever he goes. They have been purchased from among the people on the earth as a special offering to God and to the Lamb. ⁵ They have told no lies; they are without blame.

- 144,000 holy men, marked by God on mission for the Lamb of God.
- They are introduced and sealed in chapter 7, but now in chapter 14 they are standing in Jerusalem with Jesus.
- The number is the same...they have been sealed and protected during the Great Tribulation and **all of them have survived...all of them!**
- All of them, standing with Christ in Jerusalem with the Father's name written on their foreheads...the antichrist could not steal them or mark them or kill them.
- Were they successful in their ministry to the Lamb during the 7 year tribulation?
- Will there be a great soul harvest during the Tribulation?
- Let me change the question a bit...do you think there will be a great soul harvest **before the Rapture** and the Tribulation begins?
- Let me begin by answering the second question first...**will there be a great revival before the Rapture of the Church?**
- **No**, there will be a great apostasy, a great falling away (yes some will come, but more will fall away).

2 Thessalonians 2:1-7 (NLT)

¹ Now, dear brothers and sisters, let us clarify some things about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered to meet him. ² Don't be so easily shaken or alarmed by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun. Don't believe them, even if they claim to have had a spiritual vision, a revelation, or a letter supposedly from us. ³ Don't be fooled by what they say. For **that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed**—the one who brings destruction. ⁴ He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God. ⁵ Don't you remember that I told you about all this when I was with you? ⁶ **And you know what is holding him back**, for he can be revealed only when his time comes. ⁷ For this lawlessness is already at work secretly, and **it will remain secret until the one who is holding it back steps out of the way**.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 (NASB) NASB

³ Let no one in any way deceive you, **for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first**, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

- An apostasy is not a revival, but the opposite...a great falling away.
- The Bible speaks of a great revival, but it takes place **after the Rapture of the Church** and this revival will take place as the 144,000 evangelists are released upon the earth...yes, in the midst of the Great Tribulation.
- Three things will remain upon the earth after the Rapture that will create a Great Revival.
- The Bible, the 144,000 and the Two Witnesses (next week's topic).
- The Apostle John in the Revelation speaks specifically to the impact and result of these three during the Tribulation.
- Notice that these come from every tribe, tongue and nation...which fulfills Jesus Olivet Discourse which He said...

Matthew 24:14 (NLT)

¹⁴ **And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.**

- Will it be the 144,000 Jewish evangelists that complete this final preaching of the gospel to the whole world during the tribulation...YES, I think so.

Revelation 7:9-14 (NLT)

⁹ After this [after the sealing of the 144,000] I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they were shouting with a mighty shout, "Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!" ¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living beings. And they fell before the throne with their faces to the ground and worshiped God. ¹² They sang, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength belong to our God forever and ever! Amen." ¹³ Then one of the twenty-four elders asked me, "**Who are these who are clothed in white? Where did they come from?**" ¹⁴ And I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "**These are the ones who died in the great tribulation.** They have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white."

Closing

- Some people may hear this session tonight and make this **tribulation saint revival** your backup plan.
- You might say...I'll wait to see if the rapture thing is real and then come to Jesus.
- Good luck with that...why would I say that?
- Are you a Gentile...yes I believe there will be saved Gentiles during the tribulation just like there were saved Jews during the church age...but the full number of Gentiles has come in during the church age!
- If that very flawed thought is somewhere in the back of your mind I want you to listen to this in closing.

- The rapture occurs **and then** the angel announces the 7 sealed scrolls are opened...**immediately thereafter.**
- 1. White Horse (conquering power, not Jesus, but a false Christ/imposter).
- 2. Red Horse-war and bloodshed.
- 3. Black Horse-famine
- 4. Pale Green/Ashen Horse-Pestilence and death.
- 5. Souls under the altar-martyrs during the tribulation...we covered that last week.
- 6. Whole earth trembles-physical changes occur.
- 7. And then the 144,000 evangelists are sealed as the 7th seal.
- I want to read the details of **the first six seals** of God's judgment in closing?

Revelation 6:1-17 (NLT)

¹ As I watched, the Lamb broke the **first of the seven seals on the scroll**. Then I heard one of the four living beings say with a voice like thunder, "Come!" ² I looked up and saw **a white horse** standing there. Its rider carried a bow, and a crown was placed on his head. He rode out to win many battles and gain the victory. ³ When the Lamb broke the **second seal**, I heard the second living being say, "Come!" ⁴ Then another horse appeared, **a red one**. Its rider was given a mighty sword and the authority to take peace from the earth. And there was war and slaughter everywhere. ⁵ When the Lamb broke the **third seal**, I heard the third living being say, "Come!" I looked up and saw a **black horse**, and its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. ⁶ And I heard a voice from among the four living beings say, "A loaf of wheat bread or three loaves of barley will cost a day's pay. And don't waste the olive oil and wine." ⁷ When the Lamb broke the **fourth seal**, I heard the fourth living being say, "Come!" ⁸ I looked up and saw a horse whose color was **pale green**. Its rider was named Death, and his companion was the Grave. These two were given authority over one-fourth of the earth, to kill with the sword and famine and disease and wild animals. ⁹ When the Lamb broke the **fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of all who had been martyred** for the word of God and for being faithful in their testimony. ¹⁰ They shouted to the Lord and said, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you judge the people who belong to this world and avenge our blood for what they have done to us?" ¹¹ Then a white robe was given to each of them. And they were told to rest a little longer until the full number of their brothers and sisters—their fellow servants of Jesus who were to be martyred—had joined them. ¹² I watched as the Lamb broke the **sixth seal**, and there was a great earthquake. The sun became as dark as black cloth, and the moon became as red as blood. ¹³ Then the stars of the sky fell to the earth like green figs falling from a tree shaken by a strong wind. ¹⁴ The sky was rolled up like a scroll, and all of the mountains and islands were moved from their places. ¹⁵ Then everyone—the kings of the earth, the rulers, the generals, the wealthy, the powerful, and every slave and free person—all hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. ¹⁶ And they cried to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb." ¹⁷ **For the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to survive?"**

- Who is able to survive...wait and see...is that your plan?
- Really...that's your backup plan?

Hebrews 2:3-4 (NLT)

³ So **what makes us think we can escape if we ignore this great salvation** that was first announced by the Lord Jesus himself and then delivered to us by those who heard him speak? ⁴ And God confirmed the message by giving signs and wonders and various miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit whenever he chose.

- Here's my final question to all of you tonight. Have you been sealed by God through the Holy Spirit?

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (NIV) ²¹ Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, ²² set **his seal of ownership on us**, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

- Is there a different gospel today?
- Will there be a revival before the rapture...NO...an apostasy will take place.
- Jesus holds the keys to death and the grave...only Jesus!

Roots 2025-The Revelation Part Four-The 2 Witnesses-3/5/25

Led by Terry Cooper...based on Dr. David Jeremiah book "Agents of Apocalypse"

- The Revelation...reveals The Church, The Martyrs...and the 144,000 Evangelists and tonight we will study the Revelation of the 2 Witnesses.
- I've told you on a couple of occasions that 3 things will be working on the earth **during** the tribulation and **after** the rapture...**the Word/Bible, 144,000 sealed witnesses** and the **2 Witnesses**.
- The rapture will change the world in an instant...the whole world.
- Why, because the rapture will remove the church and the church is the light of the world and when light departs...there will be darkness.
- Things will begin to change immediately...when the church is taken out of the way.
- The church is the very presence of God, witnesses of God the Father and Jesus the Son because the Holy Spirit dwells inside of the people called the church (the body of Christ).
- The church is the restrainer of evil because the church is **the presence** of God, but one day the church will be taken out of the way, removed and **Paul knew it** and wrote it down for the church at Thessalonica...He just didn't know when!

2 Thessalonians 2:5-12 (NLT)

⁵ Don't you remember that I told you about all this when I was with you? ⁶ And **you know what is holding him back**, for he can be revealed only when his time comes. ⁷ For this lawlessness is already at work secretly, and it will remain secret until **the one who is holding it back steps out of the way**.

⁸ **Then** the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will kill him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming.

- Sequence of Events...Rapture, Antichrist revealed, Tribulation period of 7 years, Jesus Comes to reign for 1000 years in what many call the Millennium.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 (NLT)

⁹ **This man** will come **to do the work of Satan** with counterfeit power and signs and miracles.

¹⁰ He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those on their way to destruction, because they refuse to love and accept the truth that would save them. [during the Tribulation]¹¹ So God will cause them to be greatly deceived, and they will believe these lies. ¹² Then they will be condemned for enjoying evil rather than believing the truth.

- Yes, the church will be taken...transported into the clouds to receive immortal flesh and move to heaven to experience the wedding supper of the Lamb.
- The church has given witness to the Glory of God for some 2000 years now (28 generations).
- Many Messianic Jews (Avi Mizrahi-Dugit) and other believe that the Millennium Reign of Christ will be the 7th one-thousand-year period...since the creation of the earth...A day like 1000 years.
- 2000 years Adam to Abraham, 2000 years Abraham to Jesus and now 2000 Jesus to today...if that's true, God gives the Gentiles the same amount of time as the Jews (2,000 years).
- Jesus told us to pray this prayer...

Luke 21:34-36 (NLT)

³⁴ "Watch out! Don't let your hearts be dulled by carousing and drunkenness, and by the worries of this life. Don't let that day catch you unaware, ³⁵ like a trap. For that day will come upon everyone living on the earth.

³⁶ Keep alert at all times. And **pray that you might be strong enough to escape these coming horrors and stand before the Son of Man.**"

- The Bible/the Word will remain...God never leaves Himself without a witness.
- The 144,000 will be sealed and released upon the earth as the 7th seal is opened.
- But there is **one more thing** that will **give witness** to the Glory of God during the Tribulation.
- They are called the **2 Witnesses** and I believe they will arrive near the beginning of the 7 year tribulation.
- Let's see what "The Revelation" tells us about these 2 witnesses of God.

Revelation Part 4—The Two Witnesses

Revelation 11:3 (NLT)

³ And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will be clothed in burlap and will prophesy during those 1,260 days.”

- **MY 2 witnesses**...God never leaves Himself without a witness...are you a witness?
- Clothed in burlap because they stand in the midst of the Great Tribulation, unlike any time before on the earth.
- These 2 men will prophesy for 1260 days...that’s 3.5 years and yes, I believe it will be in the first 3.5 years of the 7 year tribulation.
- Some have suggested that these 2 witnesses are symbols of the Old and New Testaments, but I believe they are real people, real prophets and real preachers in the middle of a real tribulation.
- They will speak and perform great miracles and then they will die just like real people do.
- The next verse in The Revelation describes them as 2 olive trees and 2 lampstands...

Revelation 11:4 (NLT)

⁴ These two prophets are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of all the earth.

- The prophet Zechariah had a vision from God some 520 years before Christ...

Zechariah 4:1-3 (NLT)

¹ Then the angel who had been talking with me returned and woke me, as though I had been asleep.

² “What do you see now?” he asked. I answered, “I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl of oil on top of it. Around the bowl are seven lamps, each having seven spouts with wicks.

³ And I see two olive trees, one on each side of the bowl.”

- Zechariah saw the 1 lampstand and the 2 olive trees but didn’t know what it meant...

Zechariah 4:11-14 (NLT)

¹¹ Then I asked the angel, “What are these two olive trees on each side of the lampstand,

¹² and what are the two olive branches that pour out golden oil through two gold tubes?”

¹³ “Don’t you know?” he asked. “No, my lord,” I replied. ¹⁴ Then he said to me, “They represent the two heavenly beings [NASB-anointed ones] who stand in the court of the Lord of all the earth.”

- Now in the time of Zechariah this reference was to the High Priest Joshua and the governor Zerubbabel who were restoring the Jerusalem Temple after the 70 years of Babylonian captivity.
- What’s interesting to me is what God says about this governor named Zerubbabel and the power that God had given him to complete his earthly assignment.

Zechariah 4:6-7 (NLT)

⁶ Then he said to me, “This is what the LORD says to Zerubbabel: It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. ⁷ Nothing, not even a mighty mountain, will stand in Zerubbabel’s way; it will become a level plain before him! And when Zerubbabel sets the final stone of the Temple in place, the people will shout: ‘May God bless it! May God bless it!’”

- Joshua and Zerubbabel were unstoppable because they were on a special mission from God.
- John’s Revelation however, is referring to 2 other unstoppable men, not Joshua or Zerubbabel that will also stand in Jerusalem as special witnesses for God during the tribulation...**at the rebuilt Jerusalem Temple.**
- Nothing, no power on earth will stop them from completing their assigned task until they are finished.

Revelation 11:4-6 (NLT)

⁴ These two prophets are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of all the earth.

⁵ If anyone tries to harm them, fire flashes from their mouths and consumes their enemies. This is how anyone who tries to harm them must die. ⁶ They have power to shut the sky so that no rain will fall for as long as they

prophecy. And they have the power to turn the rivers and oceans into blood, and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they wish.

- These 2 prophets, 2 olive trees, 2 lampstands that stand before the Lord of all the earth are unstoppable.
- Fire comes from their mouths upon the enemies of God who try to stop the plan of God.
- They can shut up the skies and stop the rain.
- They can turn rivers and oceans into blood.
- They can strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they wish.
- So, who are they...we don't know for sure, but the Bible gives us some interesting clues about their identity.
- Many or most believe that Elijah is one of them because of what the final Old Testament prophet Malachi, revealed before the 400 years of Biblical silence...final 2 verses of the Old Testament.

Malachi 4:5-6 (NLT)

⁵ “Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the LORD arrives.

⁶ His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise I will come and strike the land with a curse.”

- After that prophetic announcement from Malachi...the future generations of Jews were looking for the coming of Elijah.
- 400 years later they didn't get Elijah, but they got John the Baptist, not Elijah.
- Listen carefully, the Bible says that John the Baptist came in the spirit and power of Elijah, but he was not Elijah.

Luke 1:11-17 (NLT)

While Zechariah [father of John the Baptist] was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the incense altar. ¹² Zechariah was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when he saw him. ¹³ But the angel said, “Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John. ¹⁴ You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord. He must never touch wine or other alcoholic drinks. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth. ¹⁶ And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly.”

- Did you notice that the angels' words matched the 400 year old prophecy of Malachi...*He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children.*
- When John came and grew up the people asked him...who are you?

John 1:19-21 (NLT)

¹⁹ This was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders sent priests and Temple assistants from Jerusalem to ask John, “Who are you?” ²⁰ He came right out and said, “I am not the Messiah.” ²¹ “Well then, who are you?” they asked. “Are you Elijah?” “No,” he replied. “Are you the Prophet we are expecting?” “No.”

- John came in the spirit and the power of Elijah, but John was not Elijah which means Elijah is still coming.
- Do you remember what the Jews said to Jesus on the cross?

Matthew 27:47 (NLT)

⁴⁷ Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah.

- Elijah is still coming, and you probably don't want to be here when he arrives.
- Elijah was miraculously taken up into heaven...so will the 2 witnesses.
- Elijah called down fire from heaven...so will the 2 witnesses.
- Elijah stopped the rain from falling...so will the 2 witnesses.

- Do you know how long the drought was in Elijah and King Ahab's days (3.5 years) the same as it will be with the 2 witnesses during the tribulation!
- Pretty good chance that Elijah is coming again, and he will be one of those 2 witnesses...do you want to be here when he comes? Are you a witness?
- **Who is the second one...(we don't know for sure)**, but again the Bible gives us hints.
- Many have suggested Enoch because Enoch, like Elijah did not experience death and like Elijah...Enoch was raptured, caught up to be with the Lord before the flood of Noah's day.
- It's very possible that the second witness is Enoch, but I've always leaned toward Moses as the 2nd witness.
- Why...because of what happened at the transfiguration of Jesus...

Matthew 17:1-3 (NLT)

¹ Six days later Jesus took Peter and the two brothers, James and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone. ² As the men watched, Jesus' appearance was transformed so that his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light. ³ Suddenly, **Moses and Elijah appeared and began talking with Jesus.**

- Who is standing with Jesus as His Glory is revealed...Moses and Elijah.
- Moses turned the water into blood...so will the 2 witnesses.
- We have record that Elijah and Enoch were raptured, but what happened to Moses' body?

Deuteronomy 34:5-6 (NLT)

⁵ So Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, just as the LORD had said.

⁶ **The LORD buried him in a valley near Beth-peor in Moab, but to this day no one knows the exact place.**

- Did God preserve Moses' body so that it might be restored in the tribulation as one of the 2 witnesses?
- Jude, in the New Testament gives another clue about Moses...

Jude 1:9 (NLT)

⁹ But even Michael, one of the mightiest of the angels, did not dare accuse the devil of blasphemy, but simply said, "The Lord rebuke you!" (**This took place when Michael was arguing with the devil about Moses' body.**)

- Why was Michael arguing with the devil about the body of Moses?
- Moses represents **the Law** among the people of Israel and Elijah represents **the prophets** among the Jewish people... and to whom is the main focus of evangelism in the tribulation...The Jews!
- The Law and the Prophets...listen to how Jesus describes these two...

Luke 16:16-17 (NLT)

"Until John the Baptist, **the law of Moses and the messages of the prophets** were your guides. But now the Good News of the Kingdom of God is preached, and **everyone is eager to get in.** [Gentiles]¹⁷ But **that doesn't mean that the law has lost its force.** It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for the smallest point of God's law to be overturned.

- With all of that background...what is the message and work of the 2 Witnesses during those dreadful 3.5 years?

Revelation 11:3-8 (NLT)

³ And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will be clothed in burlap and will prophesy during those 1,260 days." ⁴ These two prophets are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of all the earth. ⁵ If anyone tries to harm them, fire flashes from their mouths and consumes their enemies. This is how anyone who tries to harm them must die. ⁶ They have power to shut the sky so that no rain will fall for as long as they prophesy. And they have the power to turn the rivers and oceans into blood, and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they wish. ⁷ When they **complete their testimony**, the beast that comes up out of the bottomless pit will declare war against them, and he will conquer them and kill them. ⁸ And their bodies will lie in the main street of Jerusalem, the city that is figuratively called "Sodom" and "Egypt," the city where their Lord was crucified.

- They are witnesses of Jesus and they will complete their testimony of Jesus...and they will be hated for doing so...are you a witness?
- They are hated for their message and when their mission of God is completed, they will be killed/martyred.
- The beast will come out of the bottomless pit and kill them, but not until they have completed their assignment, completed their testimony...not until they have said what must be said upon the earth.
- This reference in chapter 11 is the first of 36 references to **the Beast** in the Book of Revelation...this is not his first event or the beginning of influence on the earth because he's been working behind the scenes ever since the rapture of the church.
- Who is the Beast that comes out of the bottomless pit to kill these 2 Witnesses...he is the man of lawlessness...he is **a man** inhabited and empowered by **the spirit of Satan**.
- Satan is the Dragon in the Revelation and **next week we will focus on The Dragon**.
- At the midpoint of the tribulation (3.5 years into) the Beast will break the treaty with Israel and assassinate the 2 witnesses...and the world will celebrate the Beast for doing so!
- Then, the Beast will display the dead bodies of the 2 witnesses in the streets of Jerusalem for all to see.

Revelation 11:8-10 (NLT)

⁸ And their bodies will lie in the main street of Jerusalem, the city that is figuratively called “Sodom” and “Egypt,” the city where their Lord was crucified. ⁹ **And for three and a half days, all peoples, tribes, languages, and nations will stare at their bodies. No one will be allowed to bury them.**

¹⁰ **All the people who belong to this world** will gloat over them and give presents to each other to celebrate the death of the two prophets who had tormented them.

- David Jeremiah says...*This is the only mention of any kind of rejoicing on earth during the entire Tribulation period.* And another writer says...*Now comes the real revelation of the hearts of man: glee, horrid, insane, inhuman, hellish, ghoulis glee! A regular Christmastime of Hell ensues.*
- But in the midst of their celebration something happens...the breath of life comes into the lifeless bodies of the 2 witnesses and the whole world will see it happen.

Revelation 11:11-12 (NLT)

¹¹ But **after three and a half days**, God breathed life into them, and they stood up! Terror struck all who were staring at them. ¹² Then a loud voice from heaven called to the two prophets, “Come up here!” And they rose to heaven in a cloud **as their enemies watched**.

- Two miracles will occur for all the world to see...1) The breath of life will enter these dead corpses and 2) they will rise to meet the Lord in the air.
- I wonder what will happen to the Christmastime celebration at that moment.
- I wonder if anyone will realize that there is only ONE source of **the breath of life** at that moment.
- I've always said that “**The Resurrection**” changes everything and it will change everything on that day.
- The Beast, the Antichrist cannot replicate this miracle because, neither the Beast nor Satan can give life.
- It is more than likely that this resurrection and rapture of the 2 witnesses will occur some 3.5 years after the rapture of the church.
- The Bible says that the rapture of the church will happen “in a moment, in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet...I suppose that this church rapture event will happen **too quickly for anyone to watch**.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (NLT)

⁵¹ But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but **we will all be transformed!**

⁵² **It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye**, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. ⁵³ For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

- But the rapture of the two witnesses will be different...fully visible and watched by the world.
- Their celebration will turn to terror.

- Their 3.5-day celebration will be followed by 3.5 **years** of horror as the second half of the tribulation begins.
- Listen to the very next verse describe what follows the rapture of the 2 Witnesses...

Revelation 11:13 (NLT) ¹³ At the same time there was a terrible earthquake that destroyed a tenth of the city. Seven thousand people died in that earthquake, and everyone else was terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

- Let me make something clear here regarding verse 13... “and everyone else was terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.”
- I don’t believe this is a repentant turning to Christ for salvation, but **a temporary state of terror that is absent of repentance and true faith** (similar to what happened in America after 911).

Closing

- Do you want to be here when all this happens?
- Do you want to see the revealing of the antichrist...the 2 Witnesses...the Tribulation?
- Will there be some that turn to Christ during the Tribulation...yes...is that your plan?
- Can I be real honest with you right now...If this message and the Gospel of Christ doesn’t affect you today it is highly unlikely it would change you then.
- You would think that everyone on earth would fall on their face in repentance during the Tribulation, but the opposite is true...

Revelation 9:17-21 (NLT) ¹⁷ And in my vision, I saw the horses and the riders sitting on them. The riders wore armor that was fiery red and dark blue and yellow. The horses had heads like lions, and fire and smoke and burning sulfur billowed from their mouths. ¹⁸ **One-third of all the people on earth were killed by these three plagues**—by the fire and smoke and burning sulfur that came from the mouths of the horses. ¹⁹ Their power was in their mouths and in their tails. For their tails had heads like snakes, with the power to injure people. ²⁰ **But the people who did not die in these plagues still refused to repent of their evil deeds and turn to God.** They continued to worship demons and idols made of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood—idols that can neither see nor hear nor walk! ²¹ And **they did not repent** of their murders or their witchcraft or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

- Again...if the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ doesn’t affect you today, it is unlikely it would affect you then....why...I’m not sure, but I do know this...

Hebrews 2:1-3 (NLT) ¹ **So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it.** ² For the message God delivered through angels has always stood firm, and every violation of the law and every act of disobedience was punished. ³ So **what makes us think we can escape if we ignore this great salvation that was first announced by the Lord Jesus himself and then delivered to us by those who heard him speak?**

- I wonder if this rapture of the 2 witnesses will be one of the largest events in the history of mankind.
- Are you a witness...How big will our rapture be?
- Did you hear what comes after that rapture of the 2 Witnesses...yes an earthquake...but after that (next verse)?

Revelation 11:14 (NLT) ¹⁴ The second terror is past, but look, the third terror is coming quickly.

- Why would any person live one day, one hour without the blood of Christ that sets us free from this future horror?
- You know the answer don’t you...they don’t believe it!
- Whoever **believes** in Him will not perish...do you believe...Quote John 3:16

Roots 2025-The Revelation Part Five-The Dragon-3/12/25

Led by Terry Cooper...based on Dr. David Jeremiah book "Agents of Apocalypse"

- The Revelation...reveals The Church, The Martyrs...and the 144,000 Evangelists, the 2 Witnesses and tonight "The Dragon".
- Revelation Part Five...The Dragon.
- The dragon is one of the main characters in the tribulation and the revelation itself.
- The dragon is the evil villain in this story of man and there would not be a "revelation" if it were not for the dragon.
- The dragon is Satan and Satan is the dragon...there is no mistaking his identity, his purpose or his outcome.
- Before I get into the detail about the dragon...let me read about his ending...it makes it easier to talk about him.

Revelation 20:1-3 (NLT)

¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit and a heavy chain in his hand.

² He seized **the dragon—that old serpent, who is the devil, Satan**—and bound him in chains for a thousand years. ³ The angel threw him into the bottomless pit, which he then shut and locked so Satan could not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were finished. Afterward he must be released for a little while.

- Chapter 12 of the Revelation gives 4 significant/great events that surround the dragon during the tribulation.
 1. A woman clothed with the sun giving birth.
 2. A large red dragon with seven heads
 3. A great wrath and anger
 4. A great eagle
- Let's start our study of the dragon with the woman clothed in red...remember these are all called great or significant events.

#1) THE WOMAN CLOTHED WITH THE SUN GIVING BIRTH

Revelation 12:1-2 (NLT)

¹ Then I witnessed in heaven an event of great significance. I saw **a woman clothed with the sun**, with the moon beneath her feet, and a crown of twelve stars on her head.

² She was pregnant, and she cried out because of her labor pains and the agony of giving birth.

- The woman is clothed with the sun, with the moon beneath her feet and a crown of 12 stars on her head.
- Can anyone guess who the woman is...do you really need a hint on this one?
- She is in labor; about to give birth...does that help?
- I recognize that there may be different opinions on this one, but to me it is clear that the woman represents the nation of Israel.
- The Old Testament is filled with references to Israel and "a woman" with child.

Isaiah 26:17-18 (NLT)

¹⁷ Just as a pregnant woman writhes and cries out in pain as she gives birth, so were we in your presence, LORD.

¹⁸ We, too, writhe in agony, but nothing comes of our suffering. We have not given salvation to the earth, nor brought life into the world.

- Israel was pregnant with the knowledge of God, but nothing came of it...at least not yet!
- Israel was supposed to reveal salvation to the world, life to the world...this was the very plan of God.
- By the way, the church is supposed to be doing this very thing today in our time.
- What is giving birth anyway...but giving life...to reveal life and the Life-giver.

Isaiah 66:7-8 (NLT)

⁷ “Before the birth pains even begin, Jerusalem gives birth to a son. ⁸ Who has ever seen anything as strange as this? Who ever heard of such a thing? Has a nation ever been born in a single day? Has a country ever come forth in a mere moment? But by the time Jerusalem’s birth pains begin, her children will be born.

Micah 5:2-4 (NLT)

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, one whose origins are from the distant past. ³ The people of Israel will be abandoned to their enemies **until the woman in labor gives birth**. Then at last his fellow countrymen will return from exile to their own land. ⁴ And he will stand to lead his flock with the LORD’s strength, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. Then his people will live there undisturbed, for he will be highly honored around the world.

- So, what does this have to do with the dragon...next verse...back to Revelation 12.

Revelation 12:1-6 (NLT)

¹ Then I witnessed in heaven an event of great significance. I saw a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon beneath her feet, and a crown of twelve stars on her head. ² She was pregnant, and she cried out because of her labor pains and the agony of giving birth. ³ Then I witnessed in heaven another significant event. I saw a large red dragon with seven heads and ten horns, with seven crowns on his heads. ⁴ His tail swept away one-third of the stars in the sky, and he threw them to the earth. He stood in front of the woman as she was about to give birth, ready to devour her baby as soon as it was born. ⁵ **She gave birth to a son who was to rule all nations with an iron rod. And her child was snatched away from the dragon and was caught up to God and to his throne.**

⁶ And the woman fled into the wilderness, where God had prepared a place to care for her for 1,260 days.

- How incredible is it that Revelation 12 includes three great/significant events of Jesus’ life.
- **His incarnation** (God in the flesh)...She was pregnant and gave birth to a male child.
- **His ascension**...her child was snatched away from the dragon and caught up to God and his **throne**.
- **His second coming**...he will rule the nations with an iron rod...but when?
- All three of these events of Jesus are given in conjunction with the dragon as an adversary.
- The dragon tries to kill the child at birth (Herod tried to kill all the boys in Bethlehem).
- His ascension...snatched away from the dragon to the throne of God...the very throne that the dragon desires to sit upon.
- His second coming will be with a rod of iron (absolute power) and the dragon will be chained and then destroyed.
- Revelation 19 reveals what that is going to look like (notice the iron rod again).

Revelation 19:11-16 (NLT)

¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war. ¹² His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself. ¹³ He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God. ¹⁴ The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses. ¹⁵ **From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod.** He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress.

¹⁶ On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords.

- The woman in Revelation 12 is Israel and the dragon is Satan and Satan is the enemy of God.
- Satan will lose, but not till the end...that brings me to the second scene with the dragon.
- The first scene with the dragon was with a woman clothed in the sun giving birth.

#2) THE GREAT RED DRAGON WITH SEVEN HEADS

- The second scene is a great red dragon with seven heads...

Revelation 12:3-4 (NLT)

³ Then I witnessed in heaven **another significant event**. I saw a large red dragon with seven heads and ten horns, with seven crowns on his heads. ⁴ His tail swept away one-third of the stars in the sky, and he threw them to the

earth. He stood in front of the woman as she was about to give birth, ready to devour her baby as soon as it was born.

- David Jeremiah says this...*Satan's path is ever downward. From heaven to earth...from earth to the bottomless pit...from the bottomless pit to the lake of fire.*
- Verse 9 gives us one of the clearest pictures of Satan and his future in all the Bible.

Revelation 12:9 (NLT)

⁹ This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.

- What do you think of when you hear the word “dragon”?
- What do you see when you hear dragon with 7 heads, 10 horns and 7 crowns?
- Do you think this dragon is ugly?
- Do you know what “Lucifer”, his original name means...“star of the morning”?
- The Apostle Paul says he masquerades as an angel of light...that’s not ugly sounding at all.

2 Corinthians 11:14 (NLT)

¹⁴ But I am not surprised! Even **Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.**

- The dragon is large and red...the power of death is large and the color of blood is red.
- I’ve always associated dragons with serpents and so does verse 9... and thus you will find the earthly origin of Satan as a serpent in the Garden of Eden.

Revelation 12:9 (NLT)

⁹ This **great dragon**—the **ancient serpent** called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.

- Deceiving the whole world with his **dragon evil** that doesn’t look like **dragon evil**.
- Satan’s opposition of God is not new and Jesus said that this dragon/Satan was a murderer from the beginning....who do you think killed Adam and Eve?
- The word “Satan” means adversary.
- Why 7 heads...why 10 horns and why 7 crowns?

Dr. David Jeremiah says this...*Biblically speaking, the number seven usually symbolizes totality, and the head conveys the idea of intelligence. The horns are a symbol of strength. So for the Dragon to have seven heads and ten horns speaks of Satan's distinct intelligence and cunning.*

- Satan is a counterfeit of Christ and do you think he could possibly do that without intelligence or cunning?
- Jesus is the light of the world and Satan masquerades as an angel of light.
- Jesus is the King of kings and Satan is the king of this world.
- Jesus is the prince of Peace and Satan is the prince of the kingdom of the air.
- Jesus is the Lord my God and Satan is the god of this age.
- Jesus is the Lion from the tribe of Judah and Satan is a roaring lion looking for someone to eat.
- Let me make something clear about the heavenly and earthly spiritual battle/war.
- God did NOT give authority over this earth to Satan...NO...Satan deceived Adam and received his authority through deception (same as today).
- That which Adam lost...Satan gained and that my friend is why Jesus is called the second/last Adam.

#3) THE WRATH AND ANGER OF SATAN

- That brings up the next question about the dragon named Satan...does he have followers?

Revelation 12:3-4 (NLT)

³ Then I witnessed in heaven another significant event. I saw a large red dragon with seven heads and ten horns,

with seven crowns on his heads.

⁴ **His tail swept away one-third of the stars in the sky**, and he threw them to the earth. He stood in front of the woman as she was about to give birth, ready to devour her baby as soon as it was born.

- Many believe this to be a description of the angels that joined in Satan's rebellion against God.
- Satan's rebellion caused one third of the angels to be thrown down to the earth with him...expelled from the very presence of God.
- Listen to this statement of God to Job when God called Job into account for questioning Him...

Job 38:4-7 (NLT)

⁴ "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you know so much. ⁵ Who determined its dimensions and stretched out the surveying line? ⁶ What supports its foundations, and who laid its cornerstone

⁷ **as the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?**

- There is a direct connection between the stars and angels in heaven.
- Notice that Peter in the New Testament refers to angels being held in dungeons/gloomy pits awaiting judgment.

2 Peter 2:4 (NLT)

⁴ For **God did not spare even the angels who sinned. He threw them into hell, in gloomy pits of darkness,** where they are being held until the day of judgment.

- Jude brings it up as well...

Jude 1:6 (NLT)

⁶ And I remind you of the **angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged.** God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness, waiting for the great day of judgment.

- Are there fallen angels...YES...and who is their leader...the dragon named Satan!
- The apostle Paul tells us that they are **not** all in prison...

Ephesians 6:11-12 (NLT)

¹¹ Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.

¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

- So, why is the dragon standing in wait for the woman to give birth to the male child and destroy him in Revelation 12?
- Do you remember the curse in Genesis...then you will understand why!

Genesis 3:14-15 (NLT)

¹⁴ Then the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all animals, domestic and wild. You will crawl on your belly, groveling in the dust as long as you live.

¹⁵ And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

- Satan must stop the seed of woman before that seed crushes/strikes his head with a fatal wound.
- Satan tried to get Esau to kill his brother Jacob.
- Satan tried to get Pharaoh to kill the baby boys in Egypt (Moses).
- Satan tried to stop the kingdom lineage of David and Satan succeeded in having it reduced to one last seed of David, but that one last seed (Joash) survived.
- Satan tried to kill all the Jews with Haman in Persia, but God raised up Queen Esther and Mordechai to stop the holocaust.
- King Herod tried it in Bethlehem and Hitler tried it in Europe, but they have all failed to stop this One that will come to one day sit on David's throne.

- Listen to what God told this woman named Mary that would deliver this child named Jesus...

Luke 1:26-33 (NLT)

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, **a descendant of King David.**

²⁸ Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" ²⁹ Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. ³⁰ "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God!" ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² **He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David.** ³³ **And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!**"

- Do you think Satan can read?
- Jesus was born and at the age of 30 Jesus was baptized and the Holy Spirit came upon Him in power.
- Jesus immediately went in the wilderness to face his arch enemy...the dragon named Satan.
- It was in that moment that Satan tried to do to the last Adam/Jesus what he did to the first one.
- If Satan could deceive Jesus, control Jesus...Satan could retain his earthly kingdom.
- But he couldn't do it...every temptation of Satan was met with the truth of the Word (Jesus quoted the Bible every time).
- Jesus refused to give up the Word...He used the Word as His Sword.
- After that event with Satan...Jesus returned to Nazareth and opened up the scroll of Isaiah in his hometown synagogue and read these words.

Luke 4:16-21 (NLT)

¹⁶ When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. ¹⁷ The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written: ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, ¹⁹ and that the time of the LORD's favor has come." ²⁰ He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently.

²¹ Then he began to speak to them. **"The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!"**

- How do you think they took that announcement...their hometown boy was the long awaited Messiah?

Luke 4:28-30 (NLT)

²⁸ When they heard this, the people in the synagogue were furious. ²⁹ Jumping up, they mobbed him and forced him to the edge of the hill on which the town was built. They intended to push him over the cliff, ³⁰ but he passed right through the crowd and went on his way.

- What power was trying to push Jesus off the cliff...the dragon named Satan!
- Satan couldn't stop him, but he didn't stop trying.
- Later...Jesus was preaching to the Jews when this happened...

John 8:56-59 (NLT)

⁵⁶ **Your father Abraham rejoiced as he looked forward to my coming. He saw it and was glad."** ⁵⁷ The people said, "You aren't even fifty years old. How can you say you have seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸ Jesus answered, **"I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I AM!"** ⁵⁹ At that point they picked up stones to throw at him. But Jesus was hidden from them and left the Temple.

- Why couldn't they stone him?
- Finally, it was a Friday afternoon at 3:00 and Jesus, the very Son of God breathed his final breath on that bloody cross.
- Surely Satan, the dragon could rest...surely he had won.
- The first Adam was dead and now the last Adam was also dead.
- Satan's kingdom was secure, or was it?

- What if the very thing that Satan thought would stop Jesus from becoming King...actually made Him King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Revelation 5:1-10 (NLT)

¹ Then I saw a scroll in the right hand of the one who was sitting on the throne. There was writing on the inside and the outside of the scroll, and it was sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a strong angel, who shouted with a loud voice: **“Who is worthy to break the seals on this scroll and open it?”**

³ **But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll and read it.**

⁴ Then I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll and read it.

⁵ But one of the twenty-four elders said to me, **“Stop weeping! Look, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the heir to David’s throne, has won the victory. He is worthy to open the scroll and its seven seals.”**

⁶ **Then I saw a Lamb that looked as if it had been slaughtered,** but it was now standing between the throne and the four living beings and among the twenty-four elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which represent the sevenfold Spirit of God that is sent out into every part of the earth. ⁷ He stepped forward and took the scroll from the right hand of the one sitting on the throne. ⁸ And when he took the scroll, the four living beings and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp, and they held gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of God’s people. ⁹ And they sang a new song with these words: “You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it. **For you were slaughtered, and your blood has ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.** ¹⁰ **And you have caused them to become a Kingdom of priests for our God. And they will reign on the earth.”**

Closing

- Satan didn’t kill Jesus...the Jews didn’t kill Jesus...the Romans didn’t kill Jesus....No, no, no!

John 10:17-18 (NLT)

¹⁷ “The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take it back again.

¹⁸ **No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily.** For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded.”

- God the Father killed Jesus so the dragon wouldn’t kill you!
- Jesus, a man, much like us in every way would be the one to kill the dragon so the dragon wouldn’t kill you.

Hebrews 2:14-16 (NLT)

¹⁴ Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. **For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death.** ¹⁵ **Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.** ¹⁶ We also know that **the Son did not come to help angels; he came to help the descendants of Abraham.**

- Chapter 12 of the Revelation gives 4 significant/great events that surround the dragon during the tribulation.
 1. A woman clothed with the sun giving birth....Israel bringing forth the Messiah that will crush the serpent/dragon’s head.
 2. A large red dragon with seven heads...Satan that is the temporary false ruler of this world.
 3. A great wrath and anger of Satan...everything Satan has tried to stop God has failed...how frustrating that must be.
 4. **Finally a Great Eagle...**

Revelation 12:13-14 (NLT)

¹³ When the dragon realized that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴ But **she was given two wings like those of a great eagle so she could fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness.** There she would be cared for and **protected from the dragon for a time, times, and half a time.**

- I believe these events in Revelation 12 are to occur in the midst of the Great Tribulation and Satan will try to stop the final coming of Christ by attacking the Jewish people and thus stop the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy.
- For 3.5 years God will protect His precious children from the deadly dragon as they await the coming of the True King Jesus.
- The Great Eagle is a picture of the power of God and the grace of God.
- He's been using this **Great Eagle power and grace** for His children for a long time.
- As Moses brought the Children of God/Israel out of Egypt...

Exodus 19:3-6 (NLT)

³ Then Moses climbed the mountain to appear before God. The LORD called to him from the mountain and said, "Give these instructions to the family of Jacob; announce it to the descendants of Israel:

⁴ 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how **I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.** ⁵ Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. ⁶ And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.' This is the message you must give to the people of Israel."

Isaiah 40:28-31 (NIV) NIV

²⁸ Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. ²⁹ He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. ³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;

³¹ but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. **They will soar on wings like eagles;** they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

- Are you afraid of the large red dragon?
- On the cross...Jesus destroyed the power of the dragon...the power that could kill you.
- After the Millennium reign of Christ Jesus will kill the dragon by throwing him into hell.

Revelation 20:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

- On the cross...God killed His Only Son—so the Dragon couldn't kill you!
- On the cross...He saved your life.
- Do you believe this...this is the gospel of Jesus Christ...this is the power over the grave.
- Jesus told the church that He has the power over death and the grave...He has the keys!
- The same power that rose Jesus from the dead, lives in me...I am a witness and I give my testimony today.

Roots 2025-The Revelation Part Six-The Beast from the Sea-3/19/25

Led by Terry Cooper...based on Dr. David Jeremiah book "Agents of Apocalypse"

- The Revelation...reveals the future of the church, the Martyrs, and the 144,000 Evangelists, the 2 Witnesses, the Dragon and tonight the Beast that came from the Sea.
- Dragons and beasts...if the dragon is Satan then who is the beast?
- He is the Antichrist...Revelation Part 6-The Antichrist—The Beast that came out of the sea.
- Dr. David Jeremiah...*While there are more than 100 passages of Scripture that describe him, the title "antichrist" is mentioned in only five verses in the New Testament—each time by the apostle John.*
- The antichrist by his very name opposes the work of Christ...thus the word anti.
- John describes the **spirit of antichrist** working against the **Spirit of Christ** as the church age begins...there are only two spirits on the earth (the Holy and the unholy).
- This is a picture of the spiritual war/battle that is raging in the heavenly realms between God and the Dragon.

1 John 2:18-23 (NLT)

¹⁸ Dear children, **the last hour is here** [END OF CHURCH AGE]. You have heard that **the Antichrist** is coming, and already many such **antichrists** have appeared. From this we know that **the last hour has come.**

¹⁹ These people left our churches, but they never really belonged with us; otherwise they would have stayed with us. When they left, it proved that they did not belong with us.

²⁰ But **you are not like that, for the Holy One has given you his Spirit,** and all of you know the truth.

²¹ So I am writing to you not because you don't know the truth but because you know the difference between truth and lies. ²² And who is a liar? Anyone who says that **Jesus is not the Christ.** Anyone who denies the Father and the Son is an **antichrist.** ²³ Anyone who denies the Son doesn't have the Father, either. But anyone who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

- This is the spiritual battle of the church age...the last hour is here.
- The spirit of antichrist will proclaim two things...1) Jesus is not the Christ and 2) Denies the Father and the Son.

1 John 4:1-3 (NLT)

¹ Dear friends, **do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit.** You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.

² This is how we know if they have **the Spirit of God:** If a person claiming to be a prophet acknowledges that **Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God.**

³ But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has **the spirit of the Antichrist,** which you heard is coming into the world and indeed is already here.

2 John 1:7-9 (NLT)

⁷ I say this because many deceivers have gone out into the world. They deny that Jesus Christ came in a real body. Such a person is a deceiver and an **antichrist.**

⁸ Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked so hard to achieve. Be diligent so that you receive your full reward.

⁹ Anyone who wanders away from this teaching has no relationship with God. But anyone who remains in the teaching of Christ has a relationship with both the Father and the Son.

- Bear in mind that John "probably" wrote these references to the antichrist before he wrote the Revelation, though we're not totally sure of the timeline.
- The NLT uses an upper case "A" Antichrist to announce His coming (denotes a person), but the lower case "a" antichrist has been here for a while...which denotes not a person, but the spirit of antichrist.

1 John 2:18 (NLT)

¹⁸ Dear children, the last hour is here. You have heard that **the Antichrist** is coming, and already many such **antichrists** have appeared. From this we know that the last hour has come.

- The Antichrist is coming and he is a he...he is a man...and he is a beast.
- David Jeremiah describes him as the most despicable man that has ever walked on the earth.
- John calls him the antichrist, but the prophet Daniel gave him several names (I counted six).
- The little horn, a fierce king and master of intrigue, the prince/ruler who is to come, the one who causes desolation, a king that does as he pleases.
- Let me take the time to show you that last one...

Daniel 11:36 (NLT)

³⁶ **"The king will do as he pleases,** exalting himself and claiming to be greater than every god, even blaspheming the God of gods. He will succeed, but only until the time of wrath is completed. For what has been determined will surely take place.

- Paul calls him the man of sin, the man of lawlessness, or the lawless one (depending on English translation).
- He will be a man, a ruler, a king and he will have a name...even though we don't know his name yet.
- And can I say that the true church may not know his name while we remain on this earth.

2 Thessalonians 2:5-8 (NLT)

⁵ Don't you remember that I told you about all this when I was with you?

⁶ And you know what is holding him back, for he can be revealed only when his time comes.

⁷ For **this lawlessness is already at work secretly, and it will remain secret until the one who is holding it back steps out of the way.** ⁸ Then **the man of lawlessness** will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will kill him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming.

- Do you want to meet him...I don't want to.
- Do you want to know his name...I don't...because I already have a KING!
- He will likely come out of Europe (the former Roman Empire) based on this Scripture...

Daniel 9:26 (NLT)

²⁶ "After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, **the Anointed One** [JESUS] will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing, and **a ruler will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple.** The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed **from that time to the very end.**

- After Jesus, the Anointed One was crucified...who destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple?
- The Romans, under Emperor Titus did both in 70 AD...thus many believe the antichrist will come out of Europe or come from European decent...a European Gentile.
- And he will come in power and he will come in the last days which I believe to be a description of the 7 year Great Tribulation.

Daniel 8:23-24 (NLT)

²³ "At the end of their rule, [the Gentile kingdoms of men] when their sin is at its height, **a fierce king, a master of intrigue, will rise to power.** ²⁴ He will become very strong, **but not by his own power.** He will cause a shocking amount of destruction and succeed in everything he does. He will destroy powerful leaders and **devastate the holy people.**

- The beast hates the Jews... "He will devastate the holy people".
- Let's pause and reflect for a moment. The church is the restrainer of evil on the earth because the church is the body of Christ, the Spirit of Christ and light of the world in these last days.
- The Church is holding back the power of Satan that will inhabit a man known as the Antichrist.

- But when the church is caught up to be with the Lord...a spiritual vacuum will be filled with darkness and the revealing of the antichrist.
- He will be very handsome, boastful and very smart, a master of intrigue...the things that the world finds impressive and the world will follow him into the darkness (nothing left to restrain evil/darkness).

Daniel 7:20 (NLT)

²⁰ I also asked about the ten horns on the **fourth beast's** head and the little horn that came up afterward and destroyed three of the other horns. **This horn had seemed greater than the others, and it had human eyes and a mouth that was boasting arrogantly.**

- He won't come to power by force, but by intrigue as he works under the power of Satan.

Daniel 8:25 (NLT)

²⁵ He will be a master of deception and will become arrogant; he will destroy many without warning. He will even take on the Prince of princes in battle, but **he will be broken, though not by human power.**

Daniel 11:21 (NLT)

²¹ "The next to come to power will be a despicable man who is not in line for royal succession. He will slip in when least expected and take over the kingdom by flattery and intrigue.

- He, **the beast-the Antichrist** is godless...of course he is...he is inhabited by Satan.

Revelation 13:6 (NLT)

⁶ And **he spoke terrible words of blasphemy against God, slandering his name and his temple**—that is, those who live in heaven.

- The beast is so arrogant and so God hating that he will not allow the worship of ANY other gods except himself.

Daniel 11:37 (NLT)

³⁷ He will have no respect for the gods of his ancestors, or for the god loved by women, or for any other god, for **he will boast that he is greater than them all.**

- In his arrogance he will allow the Jews to rebuild the Jerusalem Temple so that he may use it as his own thrown...to announce that he alone is God.

Daniel 9:27 (NLT)

²⁷ **The ruler** [the Beast] will make a treaty with the people [Israel] for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him."

- A treaty with Israel...for what and to do what...many believe this treaty will make way for the Jews to rebuild the Jerusalem Temple...I believe this takes place after the rapture of the church.
- The treaty is for a period of one seven...seven years, but in the midst of that seven years the beast, who is a liar will break the treaty and stop the animal sacrifices and offerings that the Jews had begun when they rebuilt their temple.
- Jesus quotes Daniel's prophecy in his Olivet discourse some 500 years after Daniel died and the Apostle Paul reveals it as well.

Matthew 24:15-22 (NLT)

¹⁵ **"The day is coming when you will see what Daniel the prophet spoke about—the sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing in the Holy Place."** (Reader, pay attention!) ¹⁶ "Then those in Judea must flee to the hills. ¹⁷ A person out on the deck of a roof must not go down into the house to pack. ¹⁸ A person out in the field must not return even to get a coat. ¹⁹ How terrible it will be for pregnant women and for nursing mothers in those days. ²⁰ And pray that your flight will not be in winter or on the Sabbath. ²¹ **For there will be greater anguish than at any time since the world began. And it will never be so great again.** ²² **In fact, unless that**

time of calamity is shortened, not a single person will survive. But it will be shortened for the sake of God's chosen ones [Israel].

- Run...pay attention and run!
- The Dragon wants the throne of God...He inhabits a man's body, a beast, in an attempt to gain the throne.

2 Thessalonians 2:4 (NLT)

⁴ He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God.

- The Dragon wants the throne of God...He has the title deed, but He wants the throne.
- This Beast will come out of the sea...that's how John describes him in The Revelation.
- To give you a hint...next week there is another beast that comes out of the earth...The False Prophet.

Revelation 13:1-2 (NLT)

¹ Then **I saw a beast rising up out of the sea.** It had seven heads and ten horns, with ten crowns on its horns. And written on each head were names that blasphemed God.

² This beast looked like a leopard, but it had the feet of a bear and the mouth of a lion! And **the dragon gave the beast his own power and throne and great authority.**

- The dragon/Satan gave this beast his own power and throne and great authority...But God gave the throne to Jesus.
- This beast, like the dragon will persecute and pursue the saints of the Most High and if the church has already departed the earth...this is a reference to the tribulation saints and the Jews.

Daniel 7:21-22 (NLT)

²¹ As I watched, this horn was waging war against God's holy people and was defeating them,

²² until the Ancient One—the Most High—came and judged in favor of his holy people. Then the time arrived for the holy people to take over the kingdom.

- The beast is waging war and he is in charge of almost everything...including commerce, buying and selling.
- In the Tribulation you will either bow to this beast or die.
- There is one big problem with that...if you bow to the beast you are forever lost in hell along with the beast and the dragon.
- Can I stop right now and say this...you had better think deeply and decide which God you will follow.

Revelation 13:3-10 (NLT)

³ I saw that **one of the heads of the beast** seemed wounded beyond recovery [he has 7 heads]—but the fatal wound was healed! The whole world marveled at this miracle and gave allegiance to the beast.

⁴ They worshiped the dragon for giving the beast such power, and they also worshiped the beast. “Who is as great as the beast?” they exclaimed. “Who is able to fight against him?” ⁵ Then the beast was allowed to speak great blasphemies against God. And **he was given authority to do whatever he wanted for forty-two months [3.5 years].** ⁶ And he spoke terrible words of blasphemy against God, slandering his name and his temple—that is, those who live in heaven.

⁷ And the beast was allowed to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. And he was given authority to rule over every tribe and people and language and nation.

⁸ And all the people who belong to this world worshiped the beast. They are the ones whose names were **not written in the Book of Life** before the world was made—the Book that belongs to the Lamb who was slaughtered. ⁹ Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.

¹⁰ Anyone who is destined for prison will be taken to prison. Anyone destined to die by the sword will die by the sword. **This means that God's holy people must endure persecution patiently and remain faithful.**

- That last sentence would apply to Christians today and to any of God's holy people during the tribulation as well.

- Who is like the beast...he has power, signs and wonders...who is like the beast?
- Unholy Trinity Satan/Dragon is false God, Antichrist is false Jesus, False Prophet is false Holy Spirit.
- Where did the beast get his power...is he the origin of power and authority...NO...he got his power from the dragon.
- So what is the Truth about the origin of power...who is the Creator and **source** of life and power?
- Which power is true and which power is counterfeit?
- You had better figure that out because your life and you soul hang in the balance.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 (NLT)

⁹ This man will come to do the work of Satan with **counterfeit power and signs and miracles**.

¹⁰ He will use every kind of **evil deception** to fool those on their way to destruction, because they refuse to love and accept the truth that would save them. ¹¹ So God will cause them to be greatly deceived, and they will believe these lies. ¹² Then they will be condemned for enjoying evil rather than believing the truth.

- What lies, what truth...neither the dragon nor the beast can **give life or create life!**
- They can take life, but they can't give it.
- Remember when the 2 Witnesses lay in the street for 3 days and all the world, under the deception of the dragon and the beast were celebrating...like Christmas?
- What happened to end their celebration...LIFE happened as the 2 witnesses began to breathe the breath of life and were raptured into heaven.
- Horror came upon the earth when they realized that **LIFE doesn't belong to the dragon or the beast from the sea.**
- Someone once said this about the antichrist...take all the sins of the world and press them all into one human mold and out will come the man of lawlessness...the ultimate man of sin filled with the origin of sin itself.
- What does God have planned for this man of lawlessness, the Antichrist, the beast that came from the sea?
- What about the dragon?
- Jesus is going to kill the beast that comes from the sea...**Jesus is going to take his life away from him.**
- The Apostle Paul met Jesus face to face on the Damascus road and He was also taken up into the third heaven to see and hear unspeakable things about the future.
- This part was not unspeakable, but this part is unstoppable.

2 Thessalonians 2:8 (NLT)

⁸ Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will kill him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming.

- The beast will have a **temporary** reign in a **temporary** kingdom until he meets the **eternal** King named Jesus.
- Jesus is going to kill him, but I want you to listen carefully to what that really means.
- Jesus will destroy the Beast, just by showing up...that's how Paul describes the end of the beast.
- Kill him...death...what does that mean for the beast and what does that mean for other men and women.
- What is death anyway?
- Now listen to how the Apostle John puts it...

Revelation 19:11-21 (NLT)

¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, **for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war**. ¹² His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself.

¹³ **He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God.** ¹⁴ The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses. ¹⁵ **From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress.** ¹⁶ On his robe at his thigh was written this title: **King of all kings and Lord of all lords.** ¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, shouting to the vultures flying high in the sky:

“Come! Gather together for the great banquet God has prepared.

¹⁸ Come and eat the flesh of kings, generals, and strong warriors; of horses and their riders; and of all humanity, both free and slave, small and great.” ¹⁹ Then **I saw the beast** and the kings of the world and their armies gathered together to fight against the one sitting on the horse and his army.

²⁰ And **the beast was captured**, and with him the false prophet who did mighty miracles on behalf of the beast—miracles that deceived all who had accepted the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue. Both **the beast and his false prophet were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur**.

²¹ Their entire army was killed by the sharp sword that came from the mouth of the one riding the white horse. And the vultures all gorged themselves on the dead bodies.

- Thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur...their bodies were killed and they were thrown alive into hell.
- Who is like the beast now?
- The beast from the sea, the man of lawlessness, the antichrist is a man and that man’s body will be killed by Jesus at His Coming, but that man’s soul will be cast into the fires of hell.
- For how long...who is like the beast?

Revelation 20:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. **There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.**

- Who is like the beast?
- Do you know the truth about the beast...you do now!
- What will you do with the truth?
- The Spirit of Christ is Truth and the Word of God is Truth and the Truth is here today.
- The spirit of antichrist is also here tonight, we are living in what the Apostle John calls the last hour.
- What is truth, who is truth and what will you do with this truth?
- The Beast is coming!
- Jesus is coming!

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 (NLT)

⁹ This man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles.

¹⁰ He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those on their way to destruction, because they refuse to love and accept the truth that would save them.

¹¹ So God will cause them to be greatly deceived, and they will believe these lies.

¹² Then they will be condemned for enjoying evil rather than believing the truth.

- The beast is coming!
- Jesus is coming...to receive His bride, the Church!
- Heaven’s coming!
- What will you do with truth?
- I’ll tell you what I’m going to do...Maranatha, Hosanna, Hallelujah and Amen.

Roots 2025-The Revelation Part Seven-the Beast from the Earth-3/26/25

Led by Terry Cooper...based on Dr. David Jeremiah book "Agents of Apocalypse"

- The Revelation...reveals the future of the Church, the Martyrs, the 144,000 Evangelists, the 2 Witnesses, the Dragon, the Beast from the Sea and today the Beast from the Earth.
- Revelation Part Seven...The Beast from the Earth
- Tonight's character from the Revelation is much less talked about than the others.
- In fact you would be pretty well read to tell me about the beast that came from the earth.
- Yes, it's another beast, but who is he and what will he do in this Great Tribulation to come?

Revelation 13:11 (NLT)

¹¹ Then I saw another beast come up out of the earth. He had two horns like those of a lamb, but he spoke with the voice of a dragon.

- Another beast, but this one comes up out of the earth vs. the 1st one that comes up out of the sea.
- This beast only has one head; the antichrist beast had 7 heads.
- This beast only has 2 horns and the antichrist beast had 10 horns.
- This beast doesn't have any crowns and the antichrist beast had 10 crown.
- But this beast has a unique voice...he speaks with the voice of the dragon.
- The beast that come up out of the earth is commonly known as the False Prophet.
- Like the earlier beast, the antichrist...he is a man like us, but a man filled with an evil power of darkness.
- Has anyone noticed that there are three of them, the dragon, the beast from the sea and the beast from the earth?
- The dragon is Satan and the beast from out of the sea is the Antichrist; a man filled with the power of Satan.
- But this second beast's power is different than the first one.

Revelation 13:11-12 (NLT)

¹¹ Then I saw another beast come up out of the earth. He had two horns like those of a lamb, but he spoke with the voice of a dragon. ¹² He exercised all the authority of the first beast. And he required all the earth and its people to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.

- This beast, the false prophet speaks with the voice of the dragon, but he exercises the authority of the first beast, the antichrist.
- Can you see this "un-holy" trinity?
- The dragon thinks he is God and wants to be God...he is not a man...He is Satan.
- The antichrist is a man filled with the spirit of Satan and tries to take the throne of God in Jerusalem which belongs to the true King Jesus.
- The false prophet works under the authority of the antichrist, like the Holy Spirit works today under the authority of Christ.
- Satan is not a creator, so he must counterfeit and deceive...he (the dragon) is the head of the counterfeit and unholy trinity, but know this...they cannot give life...they are counterfeits, imposters, deceivers.
- The beast that comes up out of the earth is called "The False Prophet" 3 times in the Revelation.
- I will read all three applications to you...

Revelation 16:13-14 (NLT)

¹³ And I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs leap from the mouths of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. ¹⁴ They are demonic spirits who work miracles and go out to all the rulers of the world to gather them for battle against the Lord on that great judgment day of God the Almighty.

Revelation 19:19-20 (NLT)

¹⁹ Then I saw the beast and the kings of the world and their armies gathered together to fight against the one sitting on the horse and his army. ²⁰ And the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who did mighty

miracles on behalf of the beast—miracles that deceived all who had accepted the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue. Both **the beast and his false prophet** were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

Revelation 20:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining **the beast and the false prophet**. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

- This unholy trinity spends its time together in the tribulation and they also spend their time together in hell.
- This beast that comes out of the earth is a false prophet...think about that name and compare it to the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit reveals Truth...reveals Jesus, but the false prophet reveals a false Jesus...the antichrist.
- John told us that the Antichrist was coming, but the spirit of antichrist was already working on the earth...in the last hour-the church age.
- John tells us that the False Prophet (a real person), the beast that comes up out of the earth is coming, but like the spirit of antichrist, false prophets are already working on the earth today.
- There is a singular Antichrist coming and yes there is a singular False Prophet coming, but the spirit of evil that they will work under is already here today.
- Beware of false prophets...who said that (Jesus)?

Matthew 7:15-20 (NLT)

¹⁵ “Beware of **false prophets** who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. ¹⁶ You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. ¹⁹ So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so **you can identify people by their actions**.

- They look and sound like harmless sheep, but they are actually vicious wolves.
- Satan has always operated by deception and false prophets are to Satan what the Holy Spirit is to God.
- God gave the Holy Spirit in the church age to reveal the truth of the Word... and God gave preachers that would proclaim the Truth under the power and authority of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 1:21-24 (NLT)

²¹ Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our **foolish preaching to save those who believe**. ²² It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. ²³ So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it’s all nonsense. ²⁴ But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.

- Preaching in the power of the Holy Spirit vs. preaching in the power of the unholy spirit...one is truth and the other is false.
- Satan uses false prophets to undo and thwart what God has purposed through the church in these last days...the preaching of the gospel of Christ.
- I say all that to ask this question...if the beast from the sea, the antichrist is a false king that will rule by deception during the Great Tribulation...who is the false prophet?
- Will the false prophet be a **religious leader** that stands by the side of the antichrist?
- Will the false prophet be a **religious leader** that speaks with the deceiving voice of the dragon and brings together the religions of the world in the absence of the church?
- The false king will need a **religious man** to help bring the masses under his authority and rule.
- Before I expand the reading on the beast/false prophet let me ask...do we worship the Holy Spirit?

- No, the Holy Spirit leads us to worship Jesus Christ and by worshipping the Son...we worship the Father who gave us His Son...remember that as I read this from The Revelation...

Revelation 13:11-15 (NLT)

¹¹ Then I saw another beast come up out of the earth. He had two horns like those of a lamb, but he spoke with the voice of a dragon. ¹² He exercised all the authority of the first beast. And **he required all the earth and its people to worship the first beast**, whose fatal wound had been healed. ¹³ He did astounding miracles, even making fire flash down to earth from the sky while everyone was watching. ¹⁴ And with all the miracles he was allowed to perform on behalf of the first beast, he deceived all the people who belong to this world. He ordered the people to make a great statue of the first beast, who was fatally wounded and then came back to life. ¹⁵ He was then permitted to give life to this statue so that it could speak. Then the statue of the beast commanded that anyone refusing to worship it must die.

- This beast called the false prophet isn't requiring people to worship him, but they must worship the first beast, the antichrist.
- I'm convinced that the false prophet in the Tribulation will be a religious figure, but his religion is straight from hell.
- In the absence of the church he will bring the world together as if they will be free to worship independently, but in reality everyone will eventually be forced to worship the beast or die.
- The false prophet will use religion to unite the world around the antichrist with great signs of power that will win them over.

Revelation 13:13-14 (NLT)

¹³ He did astounding miracles, even making fire flash down to earth from the sky while everyone was watching. ¹⁴ And with all the miracles he was allowed to perform on behalf of the first beast, he deceived all the people who belong to this world. He ordered the people to make a great statue of the first beast, who was fatally wounded and then came back to life.

- The false prophet will receive his power from the antichrist who has received his power from the dragon...Satan.
- Look at the contrast of the antichrist and the true Christ...

Matthew 11:27 (NLT)

²⁷ "My Father has entrusted everything to me. No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

- We know that Satan cannot give life, but we read that the false prophet seemingly gives life to a statue that then speaks.
- Let me stop for a moment and say this...Satan, the dragon has power.
- Jesus himself said this about the coming Great Tribulation...the time that the dragon will reign on earth through the antichrist.

Matthew 24:21-25 (NLT)

²¹ For there will be greater anguish than at any time since the world began. And it will never be so great again. ²² In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, not a single person will survive. But it will be shortened for the sake of God's chosen ones. ²³ "Then if anyone tells you, 'Look, here is the Messiah,' or 'There he is,' don't believe it. ²⁴ For **false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform great signs and wonders so as to deceive**, if possible, even God's chosen ones. ²⁵ See, I have warned you about this ahead of time.

- Great signs and wonders...yes...Jesus warned us ahead of time.
- Let's look at how the false prophet will convince people to follow and worship the antichrist.
- He will call down fire from heaven...would that work for you?
- Would a good fireworks show make you worship the antichrist?

Revelation 13:13 (NLT)

¹³ He did astounding miracles, even making fire flash down to earth from the sky while everyone was watching.

- God did bring down fire from heaven on Sodom and Gomorrah, but can man do that?
- Elijah is the only man listed in the Bible that brought down fire from heaven and he did so against the **false prophets** overlooking the Valley of Megiddo.
- The prophet Malachi, in the last Book of the Old Testament announces that God would send another Elijah before the coming of Messiah (final words before 400 years of silence).
- I can't help but wonder if the false prophet in the tribulation will try to convince the people that he is Elijah in order to convince them to bow down to the antichrist.

Malachi 4:5 (NLT)

⁵ “Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the LORD arrives.

- I admit that I don't know how the **false prophet** has power to call down fire from heaven, unless it is a magician's illusion, but I do know that those who fall for this deception will be forever lost.
- Either way, this false prophet will have a power and that power will be convincing to many.
- **He will then require an image, a statue to be built.**...the origin of all idolatry is to bow to a false god.

Revelation 13:14 (NLT)

¹⁴ And with all the miracles he was allowed to perform on behalf of the first beast, he deceived all the people who belong to this world. **He ordered the people to make a great statue of the first beast**, who was fatally wounded and then came back to life.

- A statue of the first beast...the antichrist.
- Not just a statue, but a statue of one that was fatally wounded and then came back to life.
- Has the antichrist experienced a resurrection...can you see the unholy trinity now?
- Is this the false Elijah revealing the lordship of the false Jesus?
- This image or statue is mentioned 4 times in Chapter 13 and 6 more times in the rest of Revelation.
- Why is it so important...because this is the core of the fall of man...idolatry!
- Do you think the 1st and 2nd commandments are numbers one and two by accident?

Exodus 20:1-6 (NLT)

¹ Then God gave the people all these instructions: ² “I am the LORD your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. ³ **“You must not have any other god but me.** ⁴ **“You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea.**

⁵ **You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods.** I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me.

⁶ But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands.

- I wonder if this **image of the beast** is what Jesus was referring to in His Olivet discourse.

Matthew 24:15-22 (NLT)

¹⁵ “The day is coming when you will see what Daniel the prophet spoke about—**the sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing in the Holy Place.**” (Reader, pay attention!) ¹⁶ “Then those in Judea must flee to the hills. ¹⁷ A person out on the deck of a roof must not go down into the house to pack. ¹⁸ A person out in the field must not return even to get a coat. ¹⁹ How terrible it will be for pregnant women and for nursing mothers in those days. ²⁰ And pray that your flight will not be in winter or on the Sabbath. ²¹ For there will be greater anguish than at any time since the world began. And it will never be so great again. ²² In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, not a single person will survive. But it will be shortened for the sake of God's chosen ones.

- Paul tells the church about it as well...

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 (NLT)

³ Don't be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction.

⁴ He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and **every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God.**

- A false idol in the Jerusalem Temple would defile the temple, make it unholy.
- Fireworks and a statue...what if that fireworks show and statue were on the temple mount in Jerusalem?
- What if the statue began to breathe?

Revelation 13:15 (NLT)

¹⁵ He was then permitted to give life to this statue so that it could speak. Then the statue of the beast commanded that anyone refusing to worship it must die.

- The statue is alive and this statue commands that everyone worship the antichrist or die!
- The statue speaks...how do they do that?
- Maybe this is the artificial intelligence that many computer people have been working on for years.
- Would artificial intelligence eliminate the need for God?
- Maybe it's a form of demonic possession that brings breath and speech...I really don't know.
- I don't really know how the dragon does it, but I do know what's next.

Revelation 13:16-18 (NLT)

¹⁶ He required everyone—small and great, rich and poor, free and slave—to be given a mark on the right hand or on the forehead.

¹⁷ And no one could buy or sell anything without that mark, which was either the name of the beast or the number representing his name.

¹⁸ Wisdom is needed here. Let the one with understanding solve the meaning of the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. His number is 666.

- I believe the false prophet will be the world's religious leader directing the worlds worship to the first beast.
- But he will also be the controller of the world's economy and the distribution of wealth, commerce and food supplies.
- The mark of the beast...on your right hand or on your forehead...the mark of 666.
- The Apostle John said that if you get it your gone...forever gone.
- This mark is the mark of ownership...ownership of the dragon and if the dragon owns you...you will go where the dragon goes.

Closing

- Do you remember the other mark we talked about a few weeks ago...It was a mark of ownership too, but a very different owner.

Revelation 7:1-4 (NLT)

¹ Then I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds so they did not blow on the earth or the sea, or even on any tree.

² And I saw another angel coming up from the east, carrying the seal of the living God. And he shouted to those four angels, who had been given power to harm land and sea,

³ "Wait! Don't harm the land or the sea or the trees **until we have placed the seal of God on the foreheads of his servants.**"

⁴ And **I heard how many were marked with the seal of God**—144,000 were sealed from all the tribes of Israel:

- Wait, not yet, there are some that must be marked first.
- Wait, there are some that will be purchased by God and sealed by God...saved by God.
- Do you know that scene is unfolding on earth today, right now, even in this room?

- I close tonight with this revelation from the Apostle Peter to the church and to the people in this room right now.
- You and I are in the middle of a “wait a minute” moment while God is bringing in those final sealed and marked saints to His Kingdom.

2 Peter 3:8-16 (NLT)

⁸ But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day.

⁹ **The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.**

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.

¹¹ Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live,

¹² looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames.

¹³ But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness.

¹⁴ And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight.

¹⁵ **And remember, the Lord's patience gives people time to be saved.** This is what our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom God gave him—

¹⁶ speaking of these things in all of his letters. Some of his comments are hard to understand, and those who are ignorant and unstable have twisted his letters to mean something quite different, just as they do with other parts of Scripture. And this will result in their destruction.

- The Lord's patience gives people time to be saved, but remember this is the last hour.
- John said the Antichrist was coming, but the spirit of antichrist is already here.
- John said the False prophet is coming and Jesus said the false prophets are already here.
- Peter said that Jesus is coming, right after a **wait a minute moment** when people will have a chance to repent.
- Do you believe any of this, all of this, some of this?
- Is there a spirit of antichrist and are there false prophets right now... trying to deceive and destroy your soul?
- Peter closes the letter that I just read to you with these final words to the church...

2 Peter 3:17-18 (NLT)

¹⁷ I am warning you ahead of time, dear friends. Be on guard so that you will not be carried away by the errors of these wicked people and lose your own secure footing.

¹⁸ Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All glory to him, both now and forever! Amen.

Roots 2025-The Revelation Part Nine-The King-4/9/25

Led by Terry Cooper...based on Dr. David Jeremiah book "Agents of Apocalypse"

- The Revelation...reveals the future of the Church, the Martyrs, the 144,000 Evangelists, the 2 Witnesses, the Dragon, the Beast from the Sea and today the Beast from the Earth, the Day that changes everything and now the King.
- 1. The Revelation begins with Jesus revealing His messages to the Church and the future of the Church, but you must say that after that Church portion...it's been a pretty nasty series of events.
- 2. Souls of martyrs crying out to God for justice.
- 3. 144,000 Jews sealed and sent out with a final call to come and be saved...come and die.
- 4. The 2 Witnesses preaching and then killed by the antichrist.
- 5. The Dragon (Satan-the false God)
- 6. The Beast from the Sea (the antichrist or the false Christ)
- 7. The Beast from the Earth (the false Holy Spirit)
- 8. The Day...the Day that some have been dreading and The Day that many have anxiously awaited.
- 9. The King...the thing that makes the day, the day is THE KING.
- **Revelation Part Nine...THE KING!**
- Have you ever allowed your imagination to consider the Garden of Eden and what life was like then and there?
- We have been given 5 senses from our Creator and I want to begin today by thinking about those 5 senses of man in the Garden Paradise of God.
- 1. Sight...what did it look like (the garden/the sky)?
- 2. Sound...what did Adam hear?
- 3. Taste...what did the food taste like?
- 4. Smell...what smells were in the air?
- 5. Touch...what did it feel like the first time that Eve touched him or the first time he touched the nose of a lion?
- They lived in paradise; they lived in a perfect world in the presence of the perfect God.
- They lived in perfect bodies and ate perfect food and breathed perfect air.
- And at least for a while, everyone and everything around them was perfect.
- Sounds like heaven doesn't it...but it wasn't heaven in the clouds, it was heaven on earth.
- Do you think there will be heaven on earth...again...like the Garden of Eden?
- Perfect people in perfect bodies living in a perfect peace with perfect nature in the presence of the Perfect God.
- If you can't imagine that...then I ask you what do you think the Apostle Paul was talking about when he wrote what we call Romans chapter 8...bear in mind that Paul acknowledges the current imperfection and suffering of mankind...

Romans 8:18-22 (NLT)

¹⁸ Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. ¹⁹ For **all creation** is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. ²⁰ Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, ²¹ **the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay.** ²² For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

- All creation is groaning/eagerly waiting for this present earth to be recreated into its former Garden of Eden glory.
- Is that possible...does the Bible tell us of such a time on this present earth?
- If Revelation 19 tells us about "the Day", then Revelation 20 tells us **about The Day** that **The King comes to reign...what will it be like on the earth in that time?**

Revelation 20:1-7 (NLT)

¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit and a heavy chain in his hand.

² He seized the dragon—that old serpent, who is the devil, Satan—and bound him in chains for **a thousand**

years. ³ The angel threw him into the bottomless pit, which he then shut and locked so Satan could not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were finished. Afterward he must be released for a little while.

⁴ Then I saw thrones, and the people sitting on them had been given the authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony about Jesus and for proclaiming the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his statue, nor accepted his mark on their forehead or their hands. They all came to life again, and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵ This is the first resurrection. (The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the thousand years had ended.) ⁶ Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. For them the second death holds no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him a thousand years. ⁷ When the thousand years come to an end, Satan will be let out of his prison.

- Six times in 7 verses you find this specific description of time...a thousand years.
- You can spiritualize it if you want to, and many have, but I believe it means just what it says...a thousand years.
- A thousand years of what and why?
- The thousand years begins with The Day...what day...the Day of Jesus' coming.
- But I want to point out six specific things about this thousand years that begins on The Day of The King.
 1. It is the length of time that Satan will be bound...chained in the Abyss/bottomless pit.
 2. It's the length of time that the nations will not be deceived by Satan (regular people on earth).
 3. It's the length of time that the martyred saints of Christ will reign with Christ the King.
 4. It's the length of time that the "rest of the dead" will wait (unsaved dead) will wait until they are resurrected into judgment before God.
 5. It is the length of time that those who rise in the first resurrection will reign with Christ the King.
 6. It is the length of time that will elapse before Satan will again be released from God's prison.
- This thousand years is most commonly known today as the Millennium (mille means thousand and annum means a year).
- The Millennium Kingdom refers to the time when The King (Jesus) will reign on this present earth (a-millennials don't believe that will ever happen...is chapter 20 literal or figurative).
- The first Adam lost this kingdom and dominion to Satan, but there is a day coming when King Jesus is going to take this kingdom and dominion back and make it His very own...He will be King.
- Think of the simplicity of the Lord's Prayer...Jesus told us to pray this...

Matthew 6:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

- On earth...not in the clouds.
- Listen to how the Psalmist describes this coming Kingdom of Christ...

Psalms 2:1-9 (NLT)

¹ Why are the nations so angry? Why do they waste their time with futile plans? ² The kings of the earth prepare for battle; the rulers plot together against the LORD and against his anointed one. ³ "Let us break their chains," they cry, "and free ourselves from slavery to God." ⁴ But the one who rules in heaven laughs. The Lord scoffs at them. ⁵ Then in anger he rebukes them, terrifying them with his fierce fury. ⁶ For the Lord declares, "I have placed my chosen king on the throne in Jerusalem, on my holy mountain." ⁷ The king proclaims the LORD's decree: "The LORD said to me, 'You are my son. Today I have become your Father.' ⁸ Only ask, and I will give you the nations as your inheritance, the whole earth as your possession. ⁹ You will break them with an iron rod and smash them like clay pots."''

- When the angel Gabriel came to Mary...the Kingdom and the King were clearly defined on this present earth...

Luke 1:30-33 (NLT)

³⁰ "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

- The prophet Daniel describes it in incredible detail some 500 years before Jesus is born in Bethlehem...as he interprets the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 2:29-35 (NLT)

²⁹ “While Your Majesty was sleeping, you dreamed about **coming events**. He who reveals secrets has shown you what is going to happen. ³⁰ And it is not because I am wiser than anyone else that I know the secret of your dream, but because **God wants you to understand** what was in your heart.

³¹ “In your vision, Your Majesty, you saw standing before you a huge, shining statue of a man. It was a frightening sight. ³² The head of the statue was made of fine gold. Its chest and arms were silver, its belly and thighs were bronze, ³³ its legs were iron, and its feet were a combination of iron and baked clay. **[the Gentile kingdoms of men]** ³⁴ As you watched, **a rock was cut from a mountain, but not by human hands. It struck the feet of iron and clay, smashing them to bits.** ³⁵ **The whole statue was crushed into small pieces of iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold. Then the wind blew them away without a trace, like chaff on a threshing floor. But the rock that knocked the statue down became a great mountain that covered the whole earth.**

Daniel 2:44-45 (NLT)

⁴⁴ “During the reigns of those kings, **the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed or conquered. It will crush all these kingdoms into nothingness, and it will stand forever.** ⁴⁵ That is the meaning of the rock cut from the mountain, though not by human hands, that crushed to pieces the statue of iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold. **The great God was showing the king what will happen in the future. The dream is true, and its meaning is certain.**”

- King Nebuchadnezzar heard Daniel’s interpretation and bowed down before Daniel (a Hebrew slave) and made Daniel the governor of the whole land of Babylon.
- Do you want more proof...the prophet Isaiah said this...

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NLT)

⁶ For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven’s Armies will make this happen!

- What government will rest on his shoulders?
- His government and its peace will never end...what government and where?
- He will rule with fairness and justice on the throne of David for all eternity.
- David’s throne wasn’t in heaven...David’s throne is in Jerusalem on this present earth.
- God is passionate and He will make this happen.
- In fact the only remaining question is when...because when it starts it will have no end!

Revelation 11:15 (NLT)

¹⁵ Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices shouting in heaven: **“The world has now become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.”**

- Jesus is coming to make war on His enemies and to take control and command of planet earth away from Satan, the antichrist and the false prophet.
- Jesus will win and Jesus will reign on this present earth for 1000 years.

Revelation 19:15-16 (NLT)

¹⁵ From his mouth came a sharp sword to **strike down the nations**. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress.

¹⁶ On his robe at his thigh was written this title: **King of all kings and Lord of all lords.**

- What nations is King Jesus striking down?
- Will everyone be dead or will some, from the nations survive His arrival?
- King over the kings...what kings?

- Lord over the lords...what lords?

Zechariah 14:3-4 (NLT)

³ Then **the LORD will go out to fight against those nations**, as he has fought in times past.

⁴ On that day **his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem**. And the Mount of Olives will split apart, making a wide valley running from east to west. Half the mountain will move toward the north and half toward the south.

- Fight against what nations?
- Is there another Mount of Olives, another Jerusalem?
- The earth will shake and split apart at His coming!
- Jesus will be “The King” and He will reign as King on this present earth and guess what.
- This part is going to shock you and stretch some of you...are you ready?
- The Bible clearly states that Jesus will appoint resurrected King David to rule in Jerusalem.

Ezekiel 34:23-24 (NLT)

²³ And I will set over them one shepherd, my servant David. He will feed them and be a shepherd to them. ²⁴ And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David will be a prince among my people. I, the LORD, have spoken!

- So if you want to know if **resurrected people are going to reign with Christ in the Millennium think about that one.**
- Ezekiel lived about 500 years after the time of King David and some 600 years before the time of Christ and yet God reveals that Jesus will resurrect King David to reign under Him in Jerusalem.
- Stop right now...if you truly **believe in the resurrection** why do you struggle with this idea at all.
- Do you think you’re going to be **resurrected** as a spook or into a glorified human body?
- Well that’s great...King David is back in a resurrected body and reigning in Jerusalem, but what about me and you?
- Daniel talks about this as well...

Daniel 7:15-18 (NLT)

¹⁵ I, Daniel, was troubled by all I had seen, and my visions terrified me. ¹⁶ So I approached one of those standing beside the throne and asked him what it all meant. He explained it to me like this: ¹⁷ “These four huge beasts represent four kingdoms that will arise from the earth. ¹⁸ **But in the end, the holy people of the Most High will be given the kingdom, and they will rule forever and ever.**”

- Who are they these holy people of the Most High...go down to verse 27...here they are again...

Daniel 7:27 (NLT)

²⁷ Then the sovereignty, power, and greatness of **all the kingdoms under heaven will be given to the holy people of the Most High.** His kingdom will last forever, and all rulers will serve and obey him.”

- There will be a realm of authority on the earth during the 1000 year reign of Christ.
- Jesus will be the King and David will reign under Jesus in Jerusalem...wait there is more...

Matthew 19:27-30 (NLT)

²⁷ Then Peter said to him, “We’ve given up everything to follow you. What will we get?”

²⁸ “Yes,” Jesus replied, “**and I assure you that when the world is made new and the Son of Man sits upon his glorious throne, you who have been my followers will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.** ²⁹ **And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for my sake, will receive a hundred times as much in return and will inherit eternal life.**

³⁰ But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then.

- Peter was a Jew, from the seed of Abraham, an Apostle of Jesus...He will sit on one of twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel (the Jews).
- The Apostle Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles describes the role of the resurrected and glorified church in the millennium Kingdom of Christ...Paul is writing this to a Gentile Church...

1 Corinthians 6:2 (NLT)

² Don't you realize that someday we believers will judge the world? And since you are going to judge the world, can't you decide even these little things among yourselves?

- The word judge doesn't necessarily mean a final judgment, but it is the term of a ruler...example...Israel lived in the time of the judges before there were kings.
- No more war...How does that sound to you...you can't have a Garden of Eden if you have war.

Isaiah 2:2-4 (NLT)

² **In the last days, the mountain of the LORD's house will be the highest of all— the most important place on earth.** It will be raised above the other hills, and people from all over the world will stream there to worship.

³ People from many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of Jacob's God. There he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths." For the LORD's teaching will go out from Zion; his word will go out from Jerusalem.

⁴ The LORD will mediate between nations and will settle international disputes. **They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore.**

- No war between kings or kingdoms, but also no war between mankind and the animal kingdom.
- Peace between nations and peace in the created world.

Isaiah 11:1-10 (NLT)

¹ Out of the stump of David's family will grow a shoot— yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root.

² And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³ He will delight in obeying the LORD. He will not judge by appearance nor make a decision based on hearsay. ⁴ He will give justice to the poor and make fair decisions for the exploited. The earth will shake at the force of his word, and one breath from his mouth will destroy the wicked. ⁵ He will wear righteousness like a belt and truth like an undergarment. ⁶ In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together; the leopard will lie down with the baby goat. The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion, and a little child will lead them all. ⁷ The cow will graze near the bear. The cub and the calf will lie down together. The lion will eat hay like a cow. ⁸ The baby will play safely near the hole of a cobra. Yes, a little child will put its hand in a nest of deadly snakes without harm. ⁹ Nothing will hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, for as the waters fill the sea, so the earth will be filled with people who know the LORD.

¹⁰ In that day the heir to David's throne will be a banner of salvation to all the world. The nations will rally to him, and the land where he lives will be a glorious place.

- For how long...1000 years...will there be people born on the earth during those 1000 years...yes.
- Born to whom...not to people in resurrected bodies, but what about those who did not die in the tribulation...referred to as "the nations"...will some from the nations survive?
- Yes, there will be survivors of the tribulation and yes and I believe they will have children during the 1000 year reign of Christ...and life expectancies from these people will be incredible.

Isaiah 65:20-25 (NLT)

²⁰ "No longer will babies die when only a few days old. No longer will adults die before they have lived a full life. No longer will people be considered old at one hundred! Only the cursed will die that young!

²¹ In those days people will live in the houses they build and eat the fruit of their own vineyards.

²² Unlike the past, invaders will not take their houses and confiscate their vineyards. **For my people will live as long as trees, and my chosen ones will have time to enjoy their hard-won gains.** ²³ They will not work in vain, and their children will not be doomed to misfortune. For they are people blessed by the LORD, and their children, too, will be blessed.

²⁴ I will answer them before they even call to me. While they are still talking about their needs, I will go ahead and answer their prayers! ²⁵ The wolf and the lamb will feed together. The lion will eat hay like a cow. But the snakes will eat dust. In those days no one will be hurt or destroyed on my holy mountain. I, the LORD, have spoken!”

- What about the land...does anyone think this is looking more and more like the Garden of Eden?

Joel 2:22-24 (NLT)

²² Don’t be afraid, you animals of the field, for the wilderness pastures will soon be green. The trees will again be filled with fruit; fig trees and grapevines will be loaded down once more. ²³ Rejoice, you people of Jerusalem! Rejoice in the LORD your God! For the rain he sends demonstrates his faithfulness. Once more the autumn rains will come, as well as the rains of spring. ²⁴ The threshing floors will again be piled high with grain, and the presses will overflow with new wine and olive oil.

Isaiah 35:1-2 (NLT)

¹ Even the wilderness and desert will be glad in those days. The wasteland will rejoice and blossom with spring crocuses. ² Yes, there will be an abundance of flowers and singing and joy! The deserts will become as green as the mountains of Lebanon, as lovely as Mount Carmel or the plain of Sharon. There the LORD will display his glory, the splendor of our God.

Closing

- The King...He will stand on the Mount of Olives and take His seat on David’s Throne in Jerusalem.
- Satan will be put in prison for 1000 years and the earth will be totally changed by these two events.
- You and I will have returned with Jesus to this present earth and watch as Jesus turns this earth into a Garden of Eden.
- At the end of the Thousand Years there will be a final **resurrection of the lost** and then there is going to be a radical transformation of this present earth by fire...coming sessions.
- Remining Sessions...#9-The King, #10-Judgment Day (Great White Throne), #11 Revealing Hell (eternally lost), #12-And After That (New Heaven and New Earth).
- My question today in closing is this...**do you believe in the resurrection (Jesus’ and yours)?**

Revelation 20:6 (NLT)

⁶ Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. For them the second death holds no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him **a thousand years**.

- Can you see it...the Garden of Eden...you and I resurrected into the new world, new bodies, eternal life.
- Do you believe any of this, some of this, all of this, none of this? The last word today comes from Jesus in the final chapter of The Revelation...to the church!

Revelation 22:16-21 (NLT)

¹⁶ “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this message for the churches. I am both the source of David and the heir to his throne. I am the bright morning star.”

¹⁷ The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” Let anyone who hears this say, “Come.” Let anyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who desires drink freely from the water of life.

¹⁸ And I solemnly declare to everyone who hears the words of prophecy written in this book: If anyone adds anything to what is written here, God will add to that person the plagues described in this book.

¹⁹ And if anyone removes any of the words from this book of prophecy, God will remove that person’s share in the tree of life and in the holy city that are described in this book.

²⁰ He who is the faithful witness to all these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon!” Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

²¹ May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s holy people.

Roots 2025-The Revelation Part Eight-The Day-4/2/25

Led by Terry Cooper...based on Dr. David Jeremiah book "Agents of Apocalypse"

- This series has revealed the main characters and events of The Revelation.
- The Revelation...reveals the future of the Church, the Martyrs, the 144,000 Evangelists, the 2 Witnesses, the Dragon, the Beast from the Sea and today the Beast from the Earth and now THE DAY!
- Revelation Part 8...The Day!
 1. The Revelation begins with Jesus revealing His messages to the Church and the future of the Church, but you must say that after that Church portion...it's been a pretty nasty series of events.
 2. Souls of martyrs crying out to God for justice.
 3. 144,000 Jews sealed and sent out with a final call to come and be saved...come and die.
 4. The 2 Witnesses preaching and then killed by the antichrist.
 5. The Dragon (Satan-the false God)
 6. The Beast from the Sea (the antichrist or the false Christ)
 7. The Beast from the Earth (the false Holy Spirit)
 8. And today, finally some real good news...the Day, the day that everything will change.
- This is what Jesus' disciples were asking about the day that Jesus left this earth (the ascension).

Acts 1:6-12 (NLT)

⁶ So when the apostles were with Jesus, **they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?"** ⁷ He replied, "**The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know.**" ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. ¹⁰ As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, **but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!**" ¹² Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile.

- These guys had spent 3 incredible years with Jesus watching and learning.
- They had seen it all, the miracles, walking on water and scolding the sea...the healings.
- They also saw the cross...the day that it looked like the dragon had won the war.
- They saw and experienced the despair of those **3 days** (Friday to Saturday) as they lived without Jesus.
- On Friday all seemed lost and Saturday it still seemed lost, but Sunday came...O what a Sunday...O what **a Day**...what a **SON-DAY**.
- They saw the resurrection...**in a sense they saw the return of Christ**...this time from the grave...what a day that was!
- So what did they see that day...that Sunday...they could see that a man could walk out of a grave, they saw that a man could defeat death...this is big...**that day** was big.
- But they saw something else and that something is revealed very clear by their question to Jesus on **the day** that He departed earth to sit at the right hand of the Father (some 40 days after the cross).

Acts 1:6-8 (NLT)

⁶ So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "**Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?**" ⁷ He replied, "**The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know.**" ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- They saw **a Kingdom** and they saw **a King**...the only question now was "**When**".
- Revelation 19 is the "WHEN"...**the Day**!
- Revelation 19 is the Day...that the King and the Kingdom will come to the kingdom of men.

- Revelation 19 is what the Apostles were waiting for and as of today 28 generations of men have been waiting for (2000/70).
- “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?”
- I want you to understand something before I read it to you...this King is coming to make war.
- This King is going to take His kingdom from the dragon by force and this King will kill the reigning king...the antichrist at His arrival.
- This King is going to initiate the bloodiest battle that has ever taken place on the earth.
- This King is not a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.
- He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords.
- I hope you were here last week because I told you then the reason He’s not come yet...we’re in a wait a minute moment...waiting for “The Day”.
- He doesn’t want people to perish...so He’s giving people/generations time **to repent** and come to Him for the forgiveness of sins...time to be made right with God through faith in the Son of God.
- We are in a wait a minute moment and in fact it’s been a few minutes now...a day to the Lord is like a thousand years...waiting for “**The Day**”.
- David Jeremiah tells a story about this **wait a minute moment** and what comes when that minute is up.

On the first day of class a teacher carefully explained to the one hundred college freshmen in his classroom that they would be responsible for completing three term papers within the semester. The papers would be due on the last of September, October and November and there would be no extensions.

At the end of September, ninety students dutifully turned in their papers, while ten remorseful students quaked in fear. “We’re sorry,” they said. “We didn’t make the proper adjustments from high school to college, but we promise to do better next time.” The teacher bowed to their pleas for mercy and gave them an extension but warned them not to be late next month.

The end of October rolled around, and about eighty students turned in their papers, while twenty of them showed up empty handed. “Oh, please,” they begged, “it was homecoming weekend, and we ran out of time”. The teacher relented once more but warned, “This is it. No excuses next time. You will get an F.”

The end of November came, and only fifty students turned in their papers. The rest told the teacher, “We’ll get it in soon.”

“Sorry,” he replied. “It’s too late. You get an F.” The students howled in protest, “That’s not fair!” “Okay,” the teacher replied, “you want justice, do you? Here’s what’s just: you’ll get an F for all three papers that were late. That was the rule, right?”

- Many have mistaken the mercy, grace and longsuffering of God for a lack of justice and a lack of authority.
- When Revelation 19 opens the books are closed and all grades are final...no one will get to take that semester over again.
- When Jesus leaves the Father’s side on **that day**...to come to the earth...the time of grace and mercy will suddenly end and He will come to bring wrath.
- What I’m about to tell you might be my absolute favorite part today and it has to do with a word “hallelujah”.
- It was several years ago that God gave me a 4 word prayer...Maranatha, Hosanna, Hallelujah and Amen.
- Did you know that the 3rd word in that 4 word prayer is only found in one chapter of the English Bible (NIV and NASB)?
- The word Hallelujah is a Greek word that is translated from the Hebrew “Praise the Lord”...the NLT uses the Hebrew phrase “Praise the Lord”.
- Hallelujah is only found in one chapter of our English Bible, but in that chapter it is found 4 times and they all apply to the time when **Jesus comes to reign as King in Revelation 19**.
- Somebody say “Hallelujah”!
- I’m going to read to you about “**The Day**”...**The Revelation reveals “The Day”**.

Revelation 19:1-10 (NIV)

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

⁶ Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "**Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.**" ⁷ Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

⁸ Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)

⁹ Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God." ¹⁰ At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers **who hold to the testimony of Jesus.** Worship God! **For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**"

- Are you ready for this **hallelujah day**...are you ready for end of this semester?
- Have you made plans to meet the Teacher who will be King on **that day**?
- Really...it's not like we didn't get any notice, any warning about "the day".

David Jeremiah writes...*References to the Second Coming of Jesus outnumber references to the first a factor of 8 to 1. Scholars have identified **1,845 biblical references to the Second Coming.** In the Old Testament, Christ's return is emphasized in no less than seventeen books, and New Testament authors speak of it in twenty three of twenty seven books. Seven out of every ten chapters in the New Testament mention His return. In other words, **one out of every thirty verses in the New Testament teach us about the return of Christ to this earth.***

In 1 and 2 Thessalonians, the first two books written for the early church, the return of Christ is taught in every single chapter. The Lord Himself referred to His return 21 times. The Second Coming is second only to salvation as the most dominant subject in the New Testament.

- And I have people actually tell me that I talk about Jesus' coming...too much!
- Are you ready for this hallelujah day...you ready for end of this semester?
- Have you made plans to meet the Teacher who will be King...that day?
- Nobody around here is going to be able to say they didn't know about "the day".
- The church is supposed to tell the world about "The Day" and I know that we've been doing it here at NCC and I also know that some people mock "The Day".
- I even find their mocking a confirmation of "The Day"...they're not mocking me, well maybe they are, but they are actually mocking the Word of God that told them to prepare for "The Day".

2 Peter 3:3-7 (NLT)

³ Most importantly, I want to remind you that **in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth** and following their own desires. ⁴ **They will say, "What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again?"** From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created."

⁵ **They deliberately forget** that God made the heavens by the word of his command, and he brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water. ⁶ Then he used the water to destroy the ancient world with a mighty flood. ⁷ And by the same word, the present heavens and earth have been stored up for fire. They are being kept for the day of judgment, when ungodly people will be destroyed.

- The Day will come at the end of the last days. In fact there can't be last days without "The Day".
- Even godless and scoffing Hollywood is making movies about the Apocalypse...which refer to a last day.
- Do you know what the word "apocalypse" means...The Revelation!
- The Apocalypse is the revelation, the revealing, the uncovering, the unveiling the manifestation of.
- Of what...The Day.

- Here's one of my big questions for you today...does the thought of the Apocalypse bring you fear or a great hallelujah joy?
- The answer to that question reveals much about what you have done in your life to prepare for "The Day".
- Are you looking forward to the Day?
- The Apostle Paul knew that the end of his days on earth were near and listen very carefully to what he tells us about "the Day".

2 Timothy 4:5-8 (NLT)

⁵ But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you. ⁶ As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The **time of my death is near.** ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. ⁸ And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me **on the day of his return.** And **the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.**

- Where do you think the Apostle Paul is right now, today, on this day?
- I suppose that his earthly body has decayed in the ground somewhere around Rome.
- But I don't think that's where Paul is...Paul is with Christ in heaven and Paul is waiting for the day.
- Jesus told Paul in advance what was going to happen on a **certain day** for **the dead in Christ.**
- Note that this promise is **only for the dead in Christ** and **the alive in Christ** on "**The Day**".

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 (NLT)

¹³ And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know **what will happen to the believers who have died** so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that **when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died.** ¹⁵ We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, **the Christians who have died will rise from their graves.** ¹⁷ **Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.** Then we will be with the Lord forever.

- Where will believers meet the Lord on "that day"...in the clouds, in the air!
- This is not Jesus' second coming to the earth, but Jesus's coming for his Church before the Tribulation begins.
- Where is Paul's body right now...in the earth.
- Where is Paul's soul right now...in the presence of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 4:14 (NLT)

¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, **we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died.**

- Do you believe that...bring back with Him...whom and why?
- Why would Jesus bring Paul back and other believers back with him when the trumpet sounds?
- I'm glad you ask...because this is **the day** that that believers will be clothed in immortal flesh.
- The living and the dead (if that is even a possible description of a believer) will receive immortal flesh on **The Day** of the Trumpet.

1 Corinthians 15:50-55 (NLT)

⁵⁰ What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that **our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God.** **These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever.** ⁵¹ But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. **We will not all die, but we will all be transformed!** ⁵² **It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed.** ⁵³ For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies. ⁵⁴ Then, when our dying bodies have

been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”⁵⁵ O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

- In a moment, in the blink of an eye **that day** will come and go...are you ready for **that day**?
- This is the rapture of the church day and we will meet Christ in the air and we will escape the coming horrors of the tribulation that are revealed in the Revelation.
- Jesus told us to pray that we would escape the Tribulation and I am praying just that.

Luke 21:34-36 (NLT)

³⁴ “Watch out! Don’t let your hearts be dulled by carousing and drunkenness, and by the worries of this life.

Don’t let that day catch you unaware,³⁵ like a trap. For that day will come upon everyone living on the earth.

³⁶ Keep alert at all times. And **pray that you might be strong enough to escape these coming horrors and stand before the Son of Man.”**

- That Day...are you ready for that day church?
- Will you be with those who escape the coming horrors and stand before the Son of Man?
- What horrors...the Great Tribulation revealed in the Revelation of John.
- Will you be one of those that return with Jesus to this present earth at the end of the tribulation?

Revelation 19:11-16 (NLT)

¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war. ¹² His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself. ¹³ He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God. ¹⁴ **The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses.** ¹⁵ From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress.

¹⁶ On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords.

- Notice that the word “armies” is plural...more than one army in this glorious Second Coming of Christ.
- These armies are the believers from all ages (Old Testament and New Testament Church age and Tribulation Saints)...and yes the angels of heaven.
- Have you enlisted...do you see yourself in this army on “The Day”.
- Can you ride a horse...you will be able to in that new body!
- The prophet Zechariah describes this day some 500 years before the first coming of Jesus.

Zechariah 14:1-9 (NLT)

¹ Watch, for **the day** of the LORD is coming when your possessions will be plundered right in front of you! ² I will gather all the nations to fight against Jerusalem. The city will be taken, the houses looted, and the women raped. Half the population will be taken into captivity, and the rest will be left among the ruins of the city. ³ Then the LORD will go out to fight against those nations, as he has fought in times past. ⁴ On **that day** his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem. And the Mount of Olives will split apart, making a wide valley running from east to west. Half the mountain will move toward the north and half toward the south. ⁵ You will flee through this valley, for it will reach across to Azal. Yes, you will flee as you did from the earthquake in the days of King Uzziah of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, **and all his holy ones with him.** ⁶ On **that day** the sources of light will no longer shine, ⁷ yet there will be continuous day! Only the LORD knows how this could happen. There will be no normal day and night, for at evening time it will still be light. ⁸ On **that day** life-giving waters will flow out from Jerusalem, half toward the Dead Sea and half toward the Mediterranean, flowing continuously in both summer and winter. ⁹ And the LORD will be king over all the earth. On **that day** there will be one LORD—his name alone will be worshiped.

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 (NLT)

¹¹ May God our Father and our Lord Jesus bring us to you very soon.

¹² And may the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow and overflow, just as our love for you overflows. ¹³ May he, as a result, make your hearts strong, blameless, and holy as you stand before God our Father **when our Lord Jesus comes again with all his holy people.** Amen. [NASB=Saints]

Closing

- The Revelation is the Apocalypse, the unveiling the revealing, the uncovering.
- Has this uncovering/unveiling of **the day** made you feel fearful or do you want to shout hallelujah?
- Tonight I tell you that I am fearful for those who do not know Christ as Lord and Savior.
- I am fearful for them so I preach about the day...of His coming.
- The end of the semester is near and His mercy has given you a wait a minute moment.
- I can tell you how chapter 19 ends...how **“The Day”** will end.

Revelation 19:19-21 (NLT)

¹⁹ Then I saw the beast and the kings of the world and their armies gathered together **to fight against the one sitting on the horse and his army.** ²⁰ And the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who did mighty miracles on behalf of the beast—miracles that deceived all who had accepted the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue. Both the beast and his false prophet were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

²¹ Their entire army was killed by the sharp sword that came from the mouth of the one riding the white horse. And the vultures all gorged themselves on the dead bodies.

- I suppose this will be the bloodiest battle that has ever occurred on the earth.
- I close with this word from the Apostle Paul to the church today...to believers and unbelievers today...please listen carefully.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 (NLT)

⁷ And God will provide rest for you who are being persecuted and also for us when the Lord Jesus appears from heaven. He will come with his mighty angels, ⁸ in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don't know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus.

⁹ They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power.

¹⁰ When he comes on **that day**, he will receive glory from his holy people—praise from all who believe. And this includes you, for you believed what we told you about him.

- Does this include you?

2 Thessalonians 1:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ When he comes on that day, he will receive glory from his holy people—praise from all who believe. And **this includes you**, for you believed what we told you about him.

- Do you believe any of this, some of this, all of this?
- One way or the other...this includes you.
- Forever joined with Christ or forever separated from Christ.
- We stand in a wait a minute moment today as we await The Day.

Roots 2025-The Revelation Part Ten-Judgment Day-4/16/25

Led by Terry Cooper...based on Dr. David Jeremiah book "Agents of Apocalypse"

- Give credit to Dr. David Jeremiah.
- 1. The Revelation begins with Jesus revealing His messages to the Church and the future of the Church, but you must say that after that Church portion...it's been a pretty nasty series of events.
- 2. Souls of martyrs crying out to God for justice.
- 3. 144,000 Jews sealed and sent out with a final call to come and be saved...come and die.
- 4. The 2 Witnesses preaching and then killed by the antichrist.
- 5. The Dragon (Satan-the false God)
- 6. The Beast from the Sea (the antichrist or the false Christ)
- 7. The Beast from the Earth (the false Holy Spirit)
- 8. The Day...the Day that some have been dreading and The Day that many have anxiously awaited.
- 9. The King...the thing that makes the day, the day is THE KING begins to reign.

Revelation Part 10-Judgment Day

- Did anyone wonder why Satan was only locked away in prison for 1000 years?
- Did anyone wonder why God wouldn't just throw Satan (dragon) into hell at the same time that He threw the antichrist (beast from the sea) and the false prophet (beast from the earth)?
- During the Millennial Kingdom of Christ, when Jesus is reigning on the earth and the resurrected saints are reigning with Him on earth...Satan is bound in the abyss, a prison.
- But, it's not over...not yet.
- During that 1000 years children will be born and they will grow up and have children and the population of earth will again increase (remember this is after the great tribulation when many on the earth have died).
- During that 1000 years the **resurrected believers** will be in eternal flesh and their eternity has begun, but there are and will be many that are not finished...not yet.
- The judgment of the church (our Judgment Day) will have taken place before the tribulation even began...when the dead in Christ were caught up to meet the Lord in the air...at the rapture.
- Paul describes the judgment of the Church like this...this letter is to the church...

2 Corinthians 5:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.

- The Rapture...only the dead in Christ will rise on that day...The Rapture...only the living believers will rise and follow the dead in Christ into the clouds on that day....**that is Judgment Day for the church.**
- There will be many who will come to Christ during the 7 year Tribulation (after the Rapture of the church) and they will die because they will not bow to the antichrist or his image during the time of his earthly reign...they will come to life again as Jesus prepares to place His feet down on the Mount of Olives to make war against His enemies at the end of that 7 year Tribulation.
- Confused yet...let me read that part slowly again.
- This is when Jesus comes to Jerusalem, at the end of the Tribulation to reign as King and the **Old and New Testament believers** and **tribulation saints that were martyred** are coming back with Him.
- Let me ask a mysterious and thought provoking question...what if there were **Tribulation Saints** that **weren't martyred**, that didn't die in the Tribulation (still alive in human flesh at his arrival)?
- What would happen to them at the end of the Tribulation, when Jesus comes to reign?
- Can they have children...they are not in glorified bodies (not raptured and not died and not resurrected).
- If they can have children (they are still in human flesh), then their children can also have children, etc.

Revelation 20:1-6 (NLT)

¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit and a heavy chain in his hand.

² He seized the dragon—that old serpent, who is the devil, Satan—and bound him in chains for **a thousand years**.³ The angel threw him into the bottomless pit, which he then shut and locked so Satan could not deceive the nations anymore until the **thousand years** were finished. Afterward he must be released for a little while.
⁴ Then I saw thrones, and the people sitting on them had been given the authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony about Jesus and for proclaiming the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his statue, nor accepted his mark on their forehead or their hands. They all came to life again, and they reigned with Christ for **a thousand years**.⁵ This is the first resurrection. (The rest of the dead did not come back to life until **the thousand years** had ended.)⁶ Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. For them the second death holds no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him **a thousand years**.

1. 1000 years...It is the length of time that Satan will be bound.
2. It's the length of time that the nations will not be deceived by Satan.
3. It's the length of time that the **martyred saints** of Christ will reign with Christ the King.
4. It's the length of time that the "rest of the dead" will wait (unsaved dead) will wait until they are resurrected into judgment before God.
5. It is the length of time those who rise in **the first resurrection** will reign with Christ the King.
6. It is the length of time that will elapse before Satan will again be released from God's prison.
- And then something happens...something that is very difficult for our human mind to comprehend...God let's Satan out of prison...next verse...

Revelation 20:7-10 (NLT)

⁷ When the thousand years come to an end, Satan will be let out of his prison.
⁸ He will go out to deceive the nations—called Gog and Magog—in every corner of the earth. He will gather them together for battle—a mighty army, as numberless as sand along the seashore.
⁹ And I saw them as they went up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded God's people and the beloved city. But fire from heaven came down on the attacking armies and consumed them.
¹⁰ Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

- **Once again Satan will deceive the nations**...remember the population of the earth has greatly increased.
- Yes, Jesus is reigning in Jerusalem and Yes, believers are reigning with Christ around the world and yet Satan will once again be able to deceive the nations.
- No, he will not be able to deceive the redeemed who live in resurrected bodies, but not everyone on earth has a resurrected body during the Millennium.
- Once again, Satan will raise an army that will rebel against God.
- The Bible doesn't say exactly how long this process of deception and rebellion will take (after his 1000 year prison sentence)...I can only say that this time of Satan is referred to as a "little while".
- And **after** the 1000 years and **after** the prison release of Satan and **after** the little while is...**JUDGMENT DAY**...are you surprised at that?
- This will be **the final judgment** of the inhabitants of earth...some refer to this event as the Great White Throne Judgment based on this Scripture...and by the way, it's the very next verse in Revelation 20...

Revelation 20:11 (NLT)

¹¹ And I saw a **great white throne** and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide.

- Do you remember **the resurrection at the rapture**...when the dead in Christ and the alive believers in Christ rose to meet the Lord in the air?
- That was **the beginning of the first resurrection**, but it seems to only be for New Testament/church age saints.
- Following the church age resurrection there will be a 7 year tribulation during which the church will experience the wedding supper of the Lamb in Heaven with Jesus.

- At the end of that 7 year tribulation there seems to be a **part 2 of the “first resurrection”** but this time it will be the Old Testament Saints and those believers who were martyred during the Tribulation.

Revelation 20:4-6 (NLT)

⁴ Then I saw thrones, and the people sitting on them had been given the authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony about Jesus and for proclaiming the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his statue, nor accepted his mark on their forehead or their hands. **They all came to life again, and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**

⁵ **This is the first resurrection. (The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the thousand years had ended.)** ⁶ **Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. For them the second death holds no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him a thousand years.**

- If that's **the first resurrection** (the rapture of the dead and alive church age saints plus the resurrection at the end of the tribulation of O/T saints) then what is **the second resurrection**?

Revelation 20:5 (NLT)

⁵ This is the first resurrection. (The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the thousand years had ended.)

- One thing for sure...**the second resurrection** or the next resurrection is referred to as **the second death** and neither of them occurs until after the 1000 year reign of Christ on this present earth.
- The blessed are those who experience the first resurrection.

Revelation 20:6 (NLT)

⁶ **Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection.** For them the second death holds no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him a thousand years.

- Those who have experienced **the first resurrection** (the raptured and resurrected church before the tribulation and the resurrected Old Testament Saints and Tribulation martyrs that come some 7 years later) **they cannot die**...the second death holds no power over them because they are in resurrected bodies.
- All of these **first resurrection people** enter the Millennial Kingdom of Christ in resurrected bodies...immortal flesh!
- Listen to how David Jeremiah describes this time...***When Christ returns to reign during the Millennium, not one believer's body from Adam onward will be left in the grave. The first resurrection will be completed.***
- Then what...**Judgment Day**...The Great White Throne Judgment.
- This is the second resurrection, and this is the resurrection into judgment and condemnation.
- Why...because these people died in their sins...they stand before God...unforgiven!
- This is the **resurrection into the second death**, not an unconscious death, but everlasting torment.

Revelation 20:11-15 (NLT)

¹¹ And I saw **a great white throne** and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. ¹² **I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne.** And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds.

¹⁴ Then **death and the grave** were thrown into the lake of fire. **This lake of fire is the second death.**

¹⁵ And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.

- This resurrection will take place 1000 years after the end of the Tribulation.
- **It will include all the unsaved dead** from creation to the Millennium (they died in their sins).
- After this resurrection there will be NO GRAVE occupied by the dust/corpses of men or women.
- In this final resurrection every person who ever lived on earth will have been resurrected to either eternal life or eternal death.

- Do you believe in the resurrection...YOU WILL ON THAT DAY!
- The location of this White Throne Judgment is a mystery...can you guess why?

Revelation 20:11 (NLT)

¹¹ And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide.

- Earth has fled from His presence and the sky has fled as well...so where does this final judgment take place?
- No one knows for sure, but David Jeremiah suggests that it takes place somewhere between heaven and earth.
- I'm not so concerned about the location as I am the people that are standing in front of the Great White Throne on that day...
- If you've ever wondered if the lost are unconscious....if the dead without Christ are unaware...listen to this next verse...

Revelation 20:12 (NLT)

¹² I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books.

- The dead are standing...they have been resurrected from the dead and they are dead, but they are not unconscious and they are not unaware.
- By the way, if you're wondering who it is sitting on the Great White Throne...this must be your first Sunday at this Church....His name is Jesus!

John 5:21-30 (NLT)

²¹ For just as the Father gives life to those he raises from the dead, so the Son gives life to anyone he wants.

²² In addition, the Father judges no one. Instead, he has given the Son absolute authority to judge,²³ so that everyone will honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son is certainly not honoring the Father who sent him. ²⁴ "I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life." ²⁵ "And I assure you that the time is coming, indeed it's here now, when the dead will hear my voice—the voice of the Son of God. And those who listen will live." ²⁶ The Father has life in himself, and he has granted that same life-giving power to his Son. ²⁷ And he has given him authority to judge everyone because he is the Son of Man. ²⁸ Don't be so surprised! Indeed, the time is coming when all the dead in their graves will hear the voice of God's Son, ²⁹ and they will rise again. Those who have done good will rise to experience eternal life, and those who have continued in evil will rise to experience judgment.

³⁰ I can do nothing on my own. I judge as God tells me. Therefore, my judgment is just, because I carry out the will of the one who sent me, not my own will.

- The Apostle Paul describes the judgment this way to the Church at Rome...

Romans 2:16 (NLT)

¹⁶ And this is the message I proclaim—that the day is coming when God, through Christ Jesus, will judge everyone's secret life.

- Think about it...those who have rejected Christ will be rejected by Christ.
- Those who have refused to come to Christ will be forever removed from the presence of Christ.
- Graves all over the earth are going to be emptied out and books will be opened and the Book of Life will be opened.
- The earthly graves and the sea will produce the remains of the human flesh while the souls of those who died without Christ will be released from Death and Hades to join their resurrected bodies to stand before the Great White Throne of Jesus.

- Contrast that event to the Rapture of the Church when the souls of departed saints will come back with Jesus in the clouds to be joined with eternal and immortal resurrected believer's bodies to experience the eternal presence of Jesus.
- No secrets will be secret on this day...everything will be brought into the light of Christ, no shadow of darkness in His presence.
- There will be religious people in line that day...yes false religions like Islam, Hindu's and Buddhism, but also those who claimed to be Christians...how do I know that?

Matthew 7:21-23 (NLT)

²¹ "Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. ²² On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' ²³ But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'

Closing

- In this White Throne Judgment...Death and Hades/Grave are cast into the lake of fire.
- This is the second death and from this death...there is no resurrection.

Revelation 20:14-15 (NLT)

¹⁴ Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death.

¹⁵ And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.

- When a person in our world stops breathing we call it death...we will say that he or she has died.
- The meaning of death is separation...the soul has departed the body.
- This is biblically referred to as the first death-the separation of the soul from the body.
- Jesus teaches us that...if you are born twice you will only die once.
- Born once was your infant birth to your earthly parents, but born again means that you died to yourself so that you might be born again...born again in Christ...a spiritual change of lineage and birthright.
- Because you've been born again...you can only die once and you might not have to do that if the rapture comes soon.
- That's why Jesus stood in a graveyard and said this...

John 11:25-26 (NLT)

²⁵ Jesus told her, "**I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.**"

²⁶ **Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?**"

- But if you have not been born again, you will die twice because you were only born one time and that one time is from the seed of Adam and all from Adams seed live under the curse of death.
- You're not going to be condemned...you are already condemned by your own choices and lack of faith.

John 3:16-20 (NLT)

¹⁶ "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ "There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son. ¹⁹ And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil.

²⁰ All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed.

- The Revelation and the Gospel of Matthew both speak clearly of the reality of hell as a place of eternal suffering and torment.
- I've found that almost everyone believes in some sort of heaven, but very few really believe in an eternal hell.

- **Ark Encounter Serpent Picture Here**



- David Jeremiah...*Jesus spoke three words about hell for every one word He spoke about heaven.*
- Do you believe in the resurrection...you will!
- Does this session make you afraid?
- Does the thought of all this make you afraid.
- Are you afraid to see Jesus?
- The Apostle John spent 3 years (night and day) with Jesus but he was clearly afraid when He saw and received The Revelation on the Isle of Patmos.

Revelation 1:17-18 (NLT)

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, “**Don’t be afraid! I am the First and the Last.** ¹⁸ **I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.**”

- Don’t be afraid...I am the First and the Last.
- Don’t be afraid...I am the Living One.
- Don’t be afraid...I died, but I am alive forever and ever.
- Don’t be afraid...**I hold the keys of death and the grave!**
- In Revelation One Jesus holds the keys to death and the grave...He is the resurrection!
- In Revelation 20 death and the grave are thrown into the lake of fire...the second death.
- Do you want to know what happens after that?
- Session 11 will be “Revealing Hell”
- Session 12 will be “And After That...New Heaven and New Earth”.
- Are you still afraid...you don’t have to be!

Roots 2025-Revealing Hell-Part Eleven of Revelation Series-4/23/25

Led by Terry Cooper...based on Francis Chan book "Erasing Hell"

- Big question from last week's session...Will the lost enter the Millennial reign of Christ?
- I've spent the last 10 weeks teaching this series about Revelation, so that we could know the future plan of God for all mankind.
- You cannot talk about The Revelation (revealing) without also Revealing Hell.
- That brings up a powerful and compelling question...Does everyone go to heaven?
- If I listened to what I hear in funerals the answer would be an overwhelming yes.
- Several years ago, I read the Francis Chan book "Erasing Hell" and I'll refer to his book in this session.
- Is Hell real...would a loving God really send someone to hell to suffer eternally?
- Isn't it more likely that unbelievers would just cease to exist...wouldn't that be bad enough?
- Maybe people in hell will suffer for a while (depending upon how terrible they were) and then they would cease to exist.
- Maybe people in hell, after suffering, will get a chance to repent and receive forgiveness of their sins and join the people in heaven (idea of purgatory).
- Or maybe it's really as bad as you've been taught...forever existence (it couldn't be called life) a forever conscious existence of suffering and anguish in darkness and the absence of God.
- No second chances and no do over's...No punishment that leads to nonexistence or unconsciousness.
- I could make this a short class tonight...stop here and say why test any of the above...come to Jesus!
- Instead I'm going to look at the Word of God and learn what He says about this place called "Hell".
- David Jeremiah...*Jesus spoke three words about hell for every one word He spoke about heave.*
- Ark Encounter Pic (Serpent speaking) If I can convince you that the flood was not real, then I can convince you that heaven and hell are not real.

Love Wins...

- A few years back a very popular Christian preacher named Rob Bell wrote a book called "Love Wins" in which he comes to this conclusion about hell.
- By the way...this isn't a new idea. The idea has been labeled as "Universalists" and they've been around for a long time (Billy Graham talks about them in many of his sermons).
- Rob Bell...*"At the heart of this perspective is the belief that, given enough time, (in hell) everybody will turn to God and find themselves in the joy and peace of God's presence. The love of God will melt every hard heart, and even the most "depraved sinners" will eventually give up their resistance and turn to God."*
- The problem with Rob Bells idea is that it's Rob Bell's idea...that book cost him dearly.
- Nowhere in the Bible does it mention anyone having a second chance after death to turn to Jesus.
- Let's look at the teaching of Jesus from the Gospel of Luke.

Luke 13:22-30 (NLT)

²² Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he went, always pressing on toward Jerusalem. ²³ Someone asked him, “Lord, will only a few be saved?” He replied, ²⁴ “**Work hard to enter the narrow door to God’s Kingdom, for many will try to enter but will fail.** ²⁵ When the master of the house has locked the door, **it will be too late.** You will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Lord, open the door for us!’ But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’ ²⁶ Then you will say, ‘But we ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’ ²⁷ And he will reply, ‘I tell you, I don’t know you or where you come from. Get away from me, all you who do evil.’ ²⁸ “There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, for you will see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God, but you will be thrown out. ²⁹ And people will come from all over the world—from east and west, north and south—to take their places in the Kingdom of God. ³⁰ And note this: Some who seem least important now will be the greatest then, and some who are the greatest now will be least important then.”

- Here’s the problem with Rob Bell’s idea...Jesus says’ clearly something in verse 25.

Luke 13:25 (NLT)

²⁵ When the master of the house has **locked the door, it will be too late.** You will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Lord, open the door for us!’ But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’

- Now here is where the issue of our own hearts and minds come into play and the real reason that I added this session to my 11-part Revelation series (I also needed one more to make 12 weeks lol).
- How would you feel if that person on the other side of that door was your grandmother?
- She loved you and fed you and gave you spending money when your parents wouldn’t and nobody showed you love more than your grandmother, but she **never** confessed or received the forgiveness of her sins by the blood of Christ.
- Now, how do you feel about God and the locked door?
- Would you like for God to give grandma another chance?
- Of course you would and so would I, **but I’m not God!**
- You and I must come to grips with this one issue before we can go on.

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NLT)

⁸ “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the LORD. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. ⁹ For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

- How could a finite being (us), corrupted by sin even contemplate the absolute holiness, righteousness and love of God?
- Much less...tell him that He might be wrong on this whole hell thing.
- Do you know what would be good counsel right now on this subject...fear God!

Luke 12:4-5 (NLT)

⁴ “Dear friends, don’t be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot do any more to you after that. ⁵ But I’ll tell you whom to fear. **Fear God**, who has the power to kill you and then throw you into hell. Yes, **he’s the one to fear.**

- Given the choice to listen to Rob Bell (universalism) or Jesus on this issue of Hell...I’m going to listen to Jesus.
- Let me summarize what Jesus says about hell.

#1) Hell is a place of punishment after judgment.

Matthew 25:31-33 (NLT)

³¹ “But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will place the sheep at his right hand and the **goats at his left.**

Matthew 25:41 (NLT)

⁴¹ “Then the King will turn to those **on the left** and say, ‘Away with you, you cursed ones, into the **eternal fire** prepared for the devil and his demons.’

- Judgment belongs to God...look at this one.

Matthew 5:21-22 (NLT)

²¹ “You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are **subject to judgment.**’ ²² But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. **And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.**

- Judgment belongs to God...We are not up to the task, but I assure you He is!

#2) Hell is described in imagery of fire and darkness, where people lament (weep).

Matthew 13:24-30 (NLT)

²⁴ Here is another story Jesus told: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. ²⁵ But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away. ²⁶ When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew. ²⁷ “The farmer’s workers went to him and said, ‘Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?’ ²⁸ “‘An enemy has done this!’ the farmer exclaimed. “‘Should we pull out the weeds?’ they asked. ²⁹ “‘No,’ he replied, ‘you’ll uproot the wheat if you do. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to **sort out the weeds, tie them into bundles, and burn them, and to put the wheat in the barn.**”

Matthew 13:36-43 (NLT)

³⁶ Then, leaving the crowds outside, Jesus went into the house. His disciples said, “Please explain to us the story of the weeds in the field.” ³⁷ Jesus replied, “The Son of Man is the farmer who plants the good seed. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed represents the people of the Kingdom. The weeds are the people who belong to the evil one. ³⁹ The enemy who planted the weeds among the wheat is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world, and the harvesters are the angels. ⁴⁰ “Just as the weeds are **sorted out and burned in the fire**, so it will be at the end of the world. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and **they will remove from his Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil.** ⁴² And the angels will **throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.** ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father’s Kingdom. Anyone with ears to hear **should listen and understand!**

Matthew 18:7-9 (NLT)

⁷ “What sorrow awaits the world, because it tempts people to sin. Temptations are inevitable, but **what sorrow awaits the person who does the tempting.** ⁸ So if your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It’s better to enter eternal life with only one hand or one foot than to be thrown into **eternal fire** with both of your hands and feet. ⁹ And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw

it away. It's better to enter eternal life with only one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.

3) Hell... is it a place of annihilation OR never-ending punishment?

- How long will hell last?
- There is some debate on that one as well.
- Jesus makes this very clear for Satan and his angels.

Matthew 25:41 (NLT)

⁴¹ “Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, ‘Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.’

- Is the eternal nature and condition of hell only for Satan and the demons?
- I’m going to read a Scripture that specifically refers to people, not demons or angels.

Matthew 25:44-46 (NLT)

⁴⁴ “Then they will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?’ ⁴⁵ “And he will answer, ‘I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.’ ⁴⁶ “And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life.”

- Now I’m going to tell you that there are some that believe that the eternal punishment is only for Satan and the demons, not for mankind.
- Those who believe that tend to believe that punishment and time will be dependent upon how you lived your life and then....death or unconscious nonexistence would eventually come.
- I don’t know...I’m going to keep it simple...it looks like eternal punishment to me.
- Either way, the thought of eternity or 1000 years in hell makes me tremble in fear and fall on my face in view of the cross of Jesus that offered me eternal life.

What shall we do?

Acts 17:30-31 (NLT)

³⁰ “God overlooked people’s ignorance about these things in earlier times, but now he commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to him. ³¹ For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead.”

- Repent or perish and I don’t want to perish!

John 3:16-19 (NLT)

¹⁶ “For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ “There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹ And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil.

- The church began with this clear announcement!

Acts 2:37-40 (NLT) ³⁷ Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" ³⁸ Peter replied, "Each of you must **repent of your sins, turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ to show that you have received forgiveness for your sins.** Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ This promise is to you, and to your children, and even to the Gentiles—all who have been called by the Lord our God." ⁴⁰ Then Peter continued preaching **for a long time**, strongly urging all his listeners, "**Save yourselves** from this crooked generation!"

- I close tonight with the scariest passage in the Bible about hell.
- I tremble when I read these verses.

Matthew 7:21-23 (NLT)

²¹ "**Not everyone** who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. **Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.**

²² On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.'

²³ But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'

- Don't try to rationalize it, just tremble and believe HIM!
- God is almighty and sovereign...He is in charge of all things at all times.
- If that is true and I believe it is...then some may rationalize why doesn't He save everyone?
- Why would He send anyone to hell if He is indeed all powerful, all loving and all sovereign?

Romans 9:19-24 (NLT)

¹⁹ Well then, you might say, "**Why does God blame people for not responding? Haven't they simply done what he makes them do?**"

²⁰ No, don't say that. Who are you, a mere human being, to argue with God? Should the thing that was created say to the one who created it, "Why have you made me like this?"

²¹ When a potter makes jars out of clay, doesn't he have a right to use the same lump of clay to make one jar for decoration and another to throw garbage into?

²² In the same way, even though God has the right to show his anger and his power, he is very patient with those on whom his anger falls, **who were made for destruction.**

²³ He does this to make the riches of his glory shine even brighter on those to whom he shows mercy, who were prepared in advance for glory.

²⁴ And we are among those whom he selected, both from the Jews and from the Gentiles.

- I am dust, a piece of clay that God has breathed life into.
- This piece of dust (mixed with water) has been invited by his Creator (the Potter) to become a child of God and enter His Eternal Kingdom...I have said "Yes Lord".
- Have you, Are you sure?
- Heaven is real, Hell is real, You and I are real.
- Judgment is real and judgment is coming...Are you ready?

Hebrews 3:7-15 (NLT)

⁷ That is why the Holy Spirit says, "Today when you hear his voice, ⁸ don't harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled, when they tested me in the wilderness. ⁹ There your ancestors tested and tried my patience, even though they saw my miracles for forty years. ¹⁰ So I was angry with them, and I said, 'Their hearts always turn away from me. **They refuse to do what I tell them.**' ¹¹ So in my anger I took an oath: 'They will never enter my place of rest.'" ¹² Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. **Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God.** ¹³

You must warn each other every day, while it is still “today,” so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. ¹⁴ **For if we are faithful to the end,** trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ. ¹⁵ Remember what it says: “Today when you hear his voice, don’t harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled.”

- What if we’re not faithful to the end?
- Can a person lose their salvation...surrender the salvation which they have once received by faith?
- If you are saved by faith...what if you lost your faith...what then?

Hebrews 3:14 (NLT)

¹⁴ For if we are **faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed,** we will share in all that belongs to Christ.

- Why would you not repent when sin enters your life?
- Why would a person not be baptized...there are many that have not been?
- Why would anyone take less than serious the most serious issue in the universe (heaven vs. hell)?

Hebrews 3:14-15 (NLT)

¹⁴ For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ. ¹⁵ Remember what it says: “Today when you hear his voice, **don’t harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled.**”

- I’ve labeled the following Scriptures one of the most frightening in the Bible.

Hebrews 4:1-7 (NLT)

¹ **God’s promise of entering his rest still stands, so we ought to tremble with fear that some of you might fail to experience it.** ² For this good news—that God has prepared this rest—has been announced to us just as it was to them. But it did them no good because **they didn’t share the faith of those who listened to God.** ³ For only we who believe can enter his rest. As for the others, God said, “In my anger I took an oath: ‘They will never enter my place of rest,’” even though this rest has been ready since he made the world. ⁴ We know it is ready because of the place in the Scriptures where it mentions the seventh day: “On the seventh day God rested from all his work.” ⁵ But in the other passage God said, “They will never enter my place of rest.” ⁶ So God’s rest is there for people to enter, but **those who first heard this good news failed to enter because they disobeyed God.** ⁷ So God set another time for entering his rest, and that time is today. God announced this through David much later in the words already quoted: “Today when you hear his voice, don’t harden your hearts.”

- The word “revelation” which is the translation of the Greek word “apokalypsis” or “apocalypse”.
- When we think of the word “apocalypse” we think of something awful or tragic...a cataclysmic end of the world event or something like that.
- However, the word simply means...the uncovering, the unveiling.
- The primary purpose of the Book of Revelation isn’t just to paint a picture of the end times...even though it does do that.
- The primary purpose of the Book of Revelation is to reveal the glory of Jesus Christ.

Roots 2025-The Revelation Part Twelve-And After That-4/30/25

Led by Terry Cooper...based on Dr. David Jeremiah book "Agents of Apocalypse"

1. The Revelation begins with Jesus revealing His messages to the Church and the future of the Church.
2. Souls of martyrs crying out to God for justice.
3. 144,000 Jews sealed and sent out with a final call to come and be saved...come and die.
4. The 2 Witnesses preaching and then killed by the antichrist.
5. The Dragon (Satan-the false God)
6. The Beast from the Sea (the antichrist or the false Christ)
7. The Beast from the Earth (the false Holy Spirit)
8. The Day...the Day that some have been dreading and The Day that many have anxiously awaited.
9. The King...the thing that makes the day, the day is THE KING.
10. Judgment Day...the Great White Throne Judgment
11. Revealing Hell
12. **The Revelation Part 12...And After That**
 - The Great White Throne Judgment ends with this scene/this verse (from two weeks ago).

Revelation 20:14-15 (NLT)

- ¹⁴ Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death.
¹⁵ And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.

- Is that the end of Revelation...NO...what comes AFTER THAT?
- The name of this last session is "**And After That**".
- This is not the end...maybe you could call it the end for unbelievers, but that's not what I'm looking forward to...that's not what I'm excited about.
- This is not the end; this is only the beginning of the beginning.
- **And after that**...is the beginning of the beginning...eternity...infinity.
- What comes next is what keeps me going...keeps me in the race.
- I'm pretty excited about the rapture (maybe that is the understatement of a lifetime).
- I'm pretty excited about living with Jesus in heaven during the tribulation in a new eternal body.
- I'm pretty excited about returning to reign with Him on this present earth for 1000 years.
- I'm pretty excited about living on this present earth in an immortal and eternal body and watching some people live as long as trees.
- But what about **after that**?
- I'm so glad that the Revelation doesn't end with a lake of fire, aren't you?
- Chapter 20 is the Great White Throne Judgment and a lake of fire, but I proclaim to you today that there is a chapter 21 and 22.
- If you are in Christ today...chapter 21 and 22 are for you...they describe **your eternal future**.
- We go from the lake of fire for the lost...to this for the believers...

Revelation 21:1-7 (NLT)

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." ⁵ And the one sitting on the throne said, "**Look, I am making everything new!**" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." ⁶ And he also said, "**It is finished!** I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. ⁷ **All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.**

- All who are victorious (NIV overcomers) will inherit all this.

- A new heaven and a new earth...this time there is no sea.
- John gives a glimpse of eternity...Write it down John.
- I heard Max Lucado call it the land of no more.
- No more tears, no more death, no more crying, no more pain...no more Satan, no more last days.
- The old way is gone, and **everything is going to be made new.**
- Focus on this one verse you believers in Jesus...this is the goal and prize for those who will be victorious, those who will overcome and persevere through the storms and trials of life.
- This is the goal and prize for those who will never deny the Name and the Word...JESUS!

Revelation 21:5 (NLT)

⁵ And the one sitting on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new!” And then he said to me, “Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true.”

- Write it down John...that church at Ninevah is going to need it in the future...it will inspire them to hold on and it will inspire them to share the good news with others.
- I like new stuff, new cars, maybe a new motorcycle.
- But the problem with new stuff in this current world is that it doesn't stay new.
- Why, because this current world is under a curse of death and decay...**aging** is a problem in a **temporary kingdom**, but what about an **eternal kingdom**?
- **Aging** is a problem in a kingdom that has last days that lead to a last day.
- In Revelation 21...Jesus announcing a **new heaven** and a **new earth** and a **New Jerusalem**.
- And none of these new places will ever have a last day...they are eternal.

Let's start there...a new heaven and a new earth.

Revelation 21:1 (NLT)

¹ Then I saw a **new heaven and a new earth**, for the old heaven [NIV First Heaven] and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone.

- This verse follows the lake of fire verse and “then I saw a new”.
- The old heaven and earth had disappeared and they are replaced by new...write it down John.
- The Apostle Peter also knew about this event and He describes this old earth, this present earth being destroyed by fire to make new for the new...write it down Peter.
- And by the way...Peter said the world, leading up to that time would be mocking and scoffing the real history of man.
- They would be mocking and scoffing the real history, real origin and reality of man's judgment day that will occur at the coming of Jesus Christ.
- Before there will be “**the new**” the people will deny “**the old**”...denying the beginning and the origin.
- Jesus will come in the midst of people denying the creation, denying the Creator and the Flood of Noah (sound familiar).

2 Peter 3:3-14 (NLT)

³ Most importantly, I want to remind you that **in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth** and following their own desires. ⁴ They will say, “**What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again?**” From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created.”

⁵ **They deliberately forget that God made the heavens by the word of his command, and he brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water.** ⁶ **Then he used the water to destroy the ancient world with a mighty flood.** ⁷ **And by the same word, the present heavens and earth have been stored up for fire. They are being kept for the day of judgment, when ungodly people will be destroyed.** ⁸ But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. ⁹ The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. **Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements**

themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.

¹¹ Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, ¹² looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. ¹³ But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness. ¹⁴ And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight.

- They will deliberately forget (they will forget on purpose) that God made the heavens and the earth.
- They will forget on purpose that God used water to bring Judgment Day on the earth during the time of Noah.
- They will deliberately forget that Judgment Day is coming again and the current earth is going to be set on fire...this time it won't be by water.
- They will deliberately forget that everything that mankind is seeking after is going to melt away in the fires of God's Judgment... coming to this present earth.
- John writes about it, Peter writes about it and the prophet Isaiah wrote about it...this new heaven and new earth some 700 years before the first coming of Jesus.

Isaiah 66:22 (NLT)

²² "As surely as **my new heavens and earth will remain**, so will you **always be my people**, with a name that will never disappear," says the LORD.

- New heaven and new earth...with "my people"....forever...they will never disappear.
- God is going to renovate the planet by fire...to burn away the contamination and restore earth to its original purity and holiness.
- Do you know what the **big event** in this scene really is?
- It's not the new earth, even though that's pretty cool.
- It's not the new heaven and it's not the absence of seas on the new earth.
- The big event is this... "**God is going to permanently move to the new earth**".
- Heaven is moving here...God is moving here...and He will remain here forever...no last day!

Revelation 21:3 (NLT)

³ I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.

Revelation 21:7 (NLT)

⁷ All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.

- Think about it...everything made new and there is no curse of aging or decay, or last day...so everything will remain forever in its new condition.
- That's about the new earth, but what about this new city... **NEW JERUSALEM**.

Revelation 21:2 (NLT)

² And I saw the holy city, **the new Jerusalem**, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

- What is Jerusalem anyway...it is the place that God called His dwelling place...it is the place of God's throne.
- If God is going to move onto the new earth...He will need a place for his throne.
- The Lord gave the prophet Ezekiel a vision of the future Temple in Jerusalem where He would live forever among His people...

Ezekiel 43:7 (NLT)

⁷ The LORD said to me, "Son of man, **this is the place of my throne and the place where I will rest my feet. I**

will live here forever among the people of Israel. They and their kings will not defile my holy name any longer by their adulterous worship of other gods or by honoring the relics of their kings who have died.

- Abraham spent his entire life waiting for this **New Jerusalem...**

Hebrews 11:8-10 (NLT)

⁸ It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going. ⁹ And even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith—for he was like a foreigner, living in tents. And so did Isaac and Jacob, who inherited the same promise. ¹⁰ **Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God.**

- Is the New Jerusalem big enough for all believers since the beginning of time?
- Can the New Jerusalem handle all the resurrected believers from Adam through the Millennium?

David Jeremiah writes...*Scripture gives its basic dimensions as a cube measuring about 1500 miles per side, depending on how one translates the exact measurement of a furlong.*

Revelation 21:15-16 (NLT)

¹⁵ The angel who talked to me held in his hand a gold measuring stick to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.

¹⁶ When he measured it, he found it was a square, as wide as it was long. In fact, its length and width and height were each 1,400 miles.

David Jeremiah...*Think of a box that is 1500 miles high, 1500 miles wide and 1500 miles long (approx.. the driving distance between Dallas and New York). In other words, this city would occupy a land area of 2.25 million square miles. One writer calculated that the base of the city is roughly ten times the size of France and Germany, and 40 times the size of England.*

- Now, for the first time in some of your lives this verse from Jesus is going to take hold.

John 14:1-3 (NLT)

¹ “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. ² There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? ³ When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that **you will always be with me where I am.**

- The city is not just large, but **this city is holy.**

Revelation 21:2 (NLT)

² And I saw **the holy city, the new Jerusalem,** coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

- The holy city is compared to a virgin bride...meeting her husband.
- The prophet Ezekiel describes it like this...

Ezekiel 43:12 (NLT) ¹² And this is the basic law of the Temple: **absolute holiness!** The entire top of the mountain where the Temple is built is holy. Yes, this is the basic law of the Temple.

- Everyone inside this New Jerusalem will be holy because they have been made holy by the transforming power of Christ.
- Since God and everyone in the city will be holy...the city itself will also be holy.
- This **holiness of man** will come only through the blood of the Lamb.

Revelation 22:14-15 (NLT) ¹⁴ Blessed are those who wash their robes. They will be permitted to enter through the gates of the city and eat the fruit from the tree of life. ¹⁵ Outside the city are the dogs—the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idol worshippers, and all who love to live a lie.

- The gates are made of pearl and the streets are made of gold.
- I must admit that my mind cannot comprehend this scene, but I believe every word.
- It is interesting to me that one of the most precious materials on this current earth (gold) is going to be used to pave the streets of the New City of Jerusalem..
- We've talked about the New Earth and the New City, but what about the New Heaven?
- We think of the heavens as a place for the sun, moon and stars.
- We think of the heavens as the throne of God and the place of His angels and His present kingdom.
- But what about "AFTER THAT"?
- What about when heaven moves to earth...when God comes here?
- The heaven/the skies and the universe as we know it today will change...will be made new...

Revelation 21:23-27 (NLT) ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light. ²⁴ The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the world will enter the city in all their glory. ²⁵ Its gates will never be closed at the end of day because there is no night there. ²⁶ And all the nations will bring their glory and honor into the city. ²⁷ Nothing evil will be allowed to enter, nor anyone who practices shameful idolatry and dishonesty—but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

- Who are the nations that walk in its light?
- Who are the kings of the world that enter the city in all their glory?
- Who do you think reigned with Christ during the thousand years...all over the earth.
- They are the gentiles from the kingdoms of men that believed in this King of the Jews...Jesus!
- It's interesting to me that the prophet Zechariah talks about another heavenly occurrence that will take place before this New Heaven event.
- Zechariah describes the time at the end of the 7 year tribulation when Jesus' feet stand on the Mount of Olives to make war against the antichrist and begin his 1000 year reign on this present earth.

Zechariah 14:6-7 (NLT) ⁶ On that day the sources of light will no longer shine, ⁷ yet there will be continuous day! Only the LORD knows how this could happen. There will be no normal day and night, for at evening time it will still be light.

Closing... Revelation 22 (the last chapter) opens with a breathtaking view of the throne of God in the city of God.

Revelation 22:1-6 (NLT) ¹ Then the angel showed me a river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ² It flowed down the center of the main street. On each side of the river grew a tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations. ³ No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ And they will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. ⁵ And there will be no night there—no need for lamps or sun—for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever. ⁶ Then the angel said to me, "Everything you have heard and seen is trustworthy and true. The Lord God, who inspires his prophets, has sent his angel to tell his servants what will happen soon."

- Everything you have seen and heard is trustworthy...do you believe it.
- Do you believe Him...you will, but will it be too late.
- Some will be resurrected to eternal life and others to eternal death, but **all will experience a resurrection**...do you believe in the resurrection...you will, but will it be too late?
- Do you believe in Jesus...you will...but will it be too late?

Revelation 22:6-7 (NLT) ⁶ Then the angel said to me, "Everything you have heard and seen is trustworthy and true. **The Lord God, who inspires his prophets, has sent his angel to tell his servants what will happen soon.**" ⁷ "**Look, I am coming soon! Blessed are those who obey the words of prophecy written in this book.**"

- Will happen soon...honestly, I thought He would be here by now.
- Peter told us that scoffers would mock the fact that He's not here yet.

- I suppose that the eternal Christ doesn't measure "soon" like mortal man does.
- Do you know anyone over 120 years old...why don't people live longer than that today?
- Gold told Noah this before the flood...

Genesis 6:3 (NLT) ³ Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not put up with humans for such a long time, for they are only mortal flesh. In the future, their normal lifespan will be no more than 120 years."

- Mortal man looks at a life span of 120 years as a long time and the eternal Christ must look at 120 years as blink of an eye.
- But I still admit...I thought He'd be here by now.
- If Peter's analogy of 1000 years is like a day...then it's only been two days...coming soon!
- Jesus says it again in verse 12 of the final chapter of Revelation...

Revelation 22:12-13 (NLT) ¹² "Look, **I am coming soon**, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds. ¹³ **I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.**"

- Do you believe in the resurrection...you will.
- Have you experienced the resurrection of Christ...that's what it means to be born again...it is to pass over from death to life.
- Do you believe in Jesus as the Son of God, the Savior of the World...you will.
- Revelation 22 offers **the last invitation in the Bible** and I close this final session with these powerful words.
- What if this is the last invitation that you will ever receive?

Revelation 22:16-21 (NLT) ¹⁶ "**I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this message for the churches. I am both the source of David and the heir to his throne. I am the bright morning star.**" ¹⁷ **The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." Let anyone who hears this say, "Come." Let anyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who desires drink freely from the water of life.** ¹⁸ And I solemnly declare to everyone who hears the words of prophecy written in this book: If anyone **adds anything** to what is written here, God will add to that person the plagues described in this book. ¹⁹ And if anyone **removes any of the words** from this book of prophecy, God will remove that person's share in the tree of life and in the holy city that are described in this book. ²⁰ He who is the faithful witness to all these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon!" Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! ²¹ May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's holy people.

- **And After That** always comes with **Before That**...and That is where we are right now.
- We are right now...before that...which comes after that.
- 1. Before the Rapture.
- 2. Before the Great Tribulation.
- 3. Before Jesus stands on Mt of Olives as King of kings and Lord of Lords.
- 4. Before the Great White Throne Judgment.
- 5. Before the New Heaven and the New Earth.
- Do you believe we are before that...Rapture, Tribulation, Jesus' Coming, Judgment?
- I believe that if you believed you were lost and Jesus had the power to save you...I believe that you would believe in Jesus.
- Believers believe and believers overcome and believers will be victorious on the last day.

Revelation 21:7 (NLT)

⁷ All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.