

## *Study Questions: Lesson 13*

**First please read chapter 30 in the text.**

### **RESPONSE**

#### **The Last Letter**

1. List the four methods which have been used to interpret the *Book of The Revelation*. Briefly explain each (in one sentence).
2. What is a key factor for deciding which method of interpretation should be embraced?

#### **An Unusual Style of Writing**

3. Briefly describe *Apocalyptic literature*.

#### **The Spiritual Significance of Special Numbers**

4. How are numbers used in *The Revelation*?

#### **The Content and Place of The Revelation**

5. What is the overall message of *The Revelation*?

#### **The Structure of the Book**

6. List and briefly describe the seven visions around which *The Revelation* is based.

#### **The Millennium - Chapter 20:1-10**

7. a. Briefly describe the three different views when interpreting the thousand year reign of Christ.  
b. Is it appropriate to invest a lot of time and energy in defending a particular fixed interpretation of the end times? Explain your answer. [Please note the last paragraph of this section.]

### **REFLECTION**

8. Read Revelation chapters 4-5.
  - a. In your own words, describe worship in heaven.
  - b. If this is the way worship *is* in heaven, what priority should our own worship have now?
9. *The Revelation* describes the defeat of those entities which seek to hurt the Church, such as the False Beast (political power) and the False Prophet (Caesar worship). What great principle can Christians find to take comfort in?

### **MAKING IT PERSONAL**

10. Make a chart listing in the first column the seven churches of Asia. In the second column list the problem in each church. In the third column give the promise that the Lord made to each church. In the fourth column give the Scripture reference where each promise has been given.
11. Take some time to review all the lessons of this *New Testament Survey* study. What new understanding have you gained about the most Holy God, His Word, and changes in your own heart through the work of the Holy Spirit?

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## Lesson 13      **The Revelation: Christ Is Lord!**

1.
  - a. *The Revelation* is spiritual in nature. There is a spiritual basic conflict between the Church and the forces of evil.
  - b. *The Revelation* is historical. Most of the events have been fulfilled historically.
  - c. *The Revelation* is a summary of successive ages. It reveals the unfolding of Church history (as seen from the vantage point of time).
  - d. *The Revelation* is futuristic. The key verse is Revelation 1:9.
2. One important factor for deciding which method of interpretation should be embraced is the dating of *The Revelation*. If a late date theory is held (c. AD 90), then it is possible that all that John saw is in the futuristic view. However, if an early date (c. prior to AD 70) of *The Revelation* can be established, then a good argument can be made that what John saw would happen actually has happened (historical view).
3. In Apocalyptic literature, the purpose of the writer was to unveil a particular meaning by using signs and symbols. Its pattern is that certain themes occurred over and over again.
4. *The Book of the Revelation* uses numbers in a symbolic way. **Four** living creatures, horsemen, and angels; **twelve** elders, gates to the city of God, foundations, and varieties of fruit on the tree of life; **seven** (*completeness*) messages to the Seven Church (2:1-3:22), Seals (6:1-17), Trumpets (8:6-11:19), Personages (12:1-14:20), Vials (Bowls) of God's Wrath (16:1-21), Final Judgments (17:1-20:15), and Seven Wonderful Blessings (21:1-22:5). A *thousand* also means perfection or completeness (cp. Psalm 90:4). The Church is complete reflected in twelve thousand being saved from each of the twelve tribes of [spiritual?] Israel (7:1-8). Satan is bound for a *thousand* years (20:3). In a negative sense, the number 3 1/2 is associated with Satan (11:2; 13:5). We read of a 42 month (or 3 1/2 year) period. This number is designed to symbolize man's attempting to diminish the glory and power of God.
5. The overall message of *The Revelation* is "God is all-powerful." It gives us hope in that God's kingdom with His saints is irrevocably established. And we see more of truth: the true heart of man apart from God is hatred of God, and the true heart of God toward man is long-suffering, mercy, and just hatred of sin. The book brings the whole story of redemption, begun in Genesis, to a telling conclusion. "The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth" – The Revelation 19:6.

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6. The **First Vision** (ch. 1-3) is of the resurrected Christ challenging His Church to remain loyal in the midst of great tribulation.

The **Second Vision** (ch. 4-7) is of Christ the Slain Lamb standing with a sealed scroll before God the Father in heaven. As the Lamb opens each of the seven seals containing the destinies of individuals and nations, a series of disasters befall the earth.

A series of seven angels blowing seven trumpets forms the **Third Vision** (ch. 8-11). At the sound of these trumpets divine judgment falls again.

The **Fourth Vision** (ch. 12-14) consists of the persecution of the Church (symbolized by a heavenly woman and by two witnesses [Moses and Elijah]) by Satan and the Beast (Nero?).

The **Fifth Vision** (ch. 15-16) contains another series of seven: seven bowls pouring out God's wrath.

The **Sixth Vision** brings into focus the judgment of Babylon (a symbol for Rome?) (ch. 17:1-19:10).

The **Seventh Vision** promises a final victory, final judgment, and final blessedness (ch. 19:11-22). There will be a glorious future for the people of God. Christ has promised to make all things new: a new heaven, a new earth, and a new Jerusalem (21).

7. a. Premillennialists believe there is a rapture of the Church into the clouds with Jesus, a seven year tribulation period, followed by Christ's return to earth to reign for a literal thousand years, followed by judgment and the New Heaven and New Earth. Amillennialists understand the Millennium to be a picture of the present reign of Christ, "the kingdom of God is within you" – Luke 17:21. Postmillennialists believe that Christians will bring about a visible reign of godliness by being actively involved in society to establish godly laws and society.
- b. Perhaps this should be a personal answer, but we trust most can agree that: 1) a study of the end times is subject to several valid interpretations because of its dependence on so much symbolism, and 2) the end times should never displace major doctrines of salvation and sanctification in the life of a believer or church, or become grounds for division.

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