



What **REVELATION**
Has To Say About End Times

HOW WILL THE WORLD END?

PORTICO
LEARNING HUB



FOUNDATIONS - MODULE 14D



“There are a number of reasons why people hesitate to read the Book of Revelation. The book is full of complex symbolism and descriptions of apocalyptic events, including wars, plagues, and cataclysmic disasters. These themes can be unsettling and may evoke fear about the future.

Revelation also includes passages about the final judgment and the fate of the wicked, which can lead some to be anxious about their own spiritual standing.

In addition, many have speculated when and how these events will occur, which has caused a lot of confusion and debate over the years.

The Book of Revelation actually begins with a blessing in verse 3: *“Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it...”* We should take comfort in these words, since they were given to John as the “the testimony of Jesus Christ” who only wants the best for us.

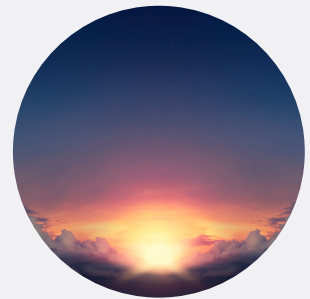
In this module you will learn how the Book of Revelation, though filled with warnings, is actually a message of hope - giving us insight into the rewards that await all believers who will live with God in harmony and peace, in a new earth, forever!"

Rick Carroll

Key Topics



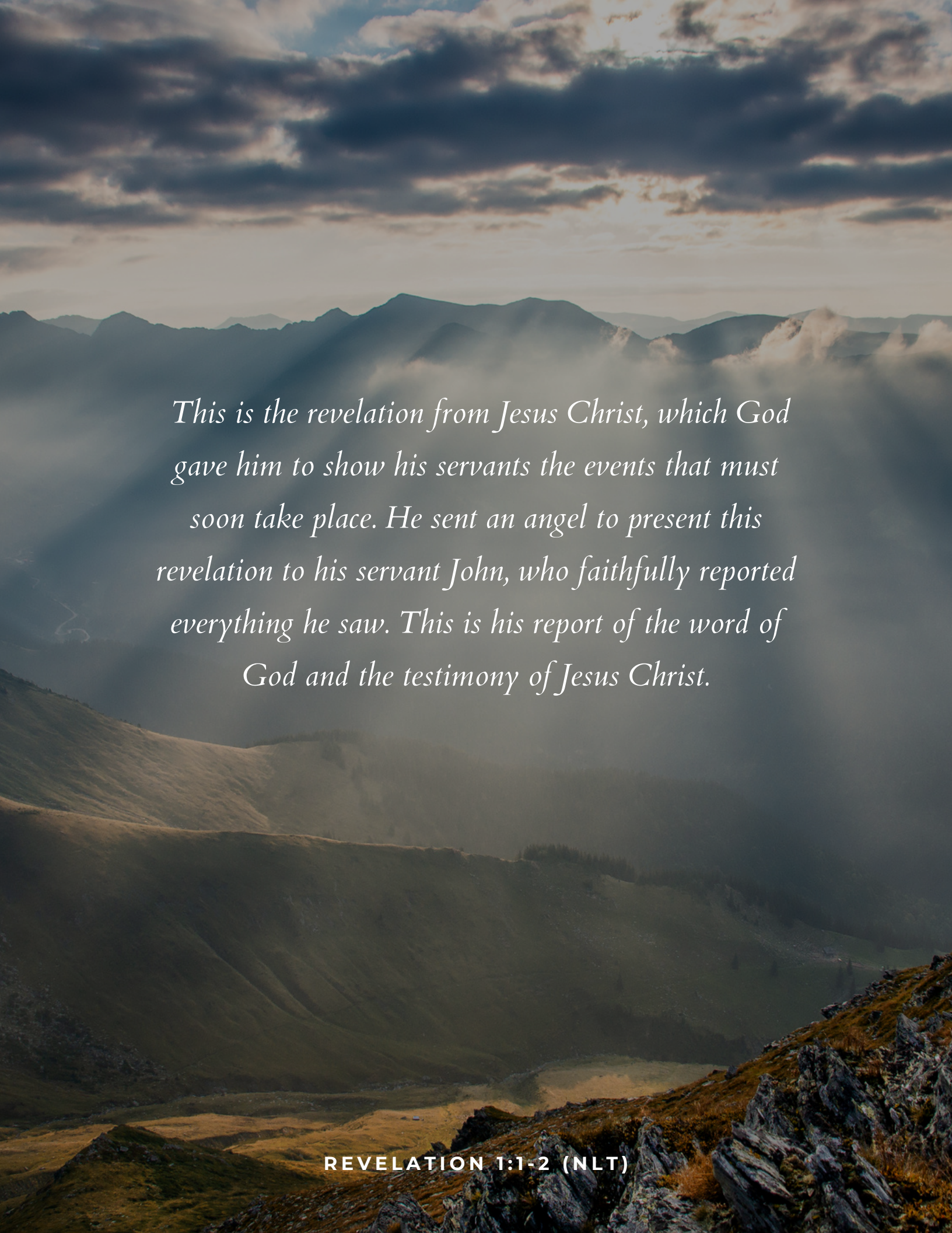
01
THE CONTEXT OF REVELATION



02
A TALE OF TWO CITIES



03
THE CITY OF GOD

A dramatic landscape of mountains at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, with a bright glow from the sun breaking through near the horizon. The mountains are silhouetted against the light, and a layer of mist or low clouds hangs in the valleys. The foreground shows a rocky, grassy slope. The overall mood is solemn and majestic.

This is the 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, who faithfully reported everything he saw. This is his report of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

REVELATION 1:1-2 (NLT)

01

The Context Of Revelation

- Revelation is not only the last book in the Bible, but it's also the last book that was written.
- Almost all agree that it's written by John the Apostle, and at the time it was written, John was the last remaining disciple alive.

Jesus replied, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow me."
John 21:22

- John was in his 80s or 90s, having survived death from torture that all the apostles faced, when he was banished to the island of Patmos, a penal colony.
- The island of Patmos is just off the south coast of modern day Turkey (Asia Minor) on the east and Greece on the west.
- The book of Revelation is written to people at churches that John would have wanted to encourage in preparation for Christ's imminent return, following visions he received from God.
- John could almost see the churches he is writing to from the edge of the island - Paul's churches in Asia Minor:
 - Pergamum
 - Thyatira
 - Smyrna
 - Philadelphia
 - Ephesus
 - Laodicea
- 2000 years later we have a very different context, interpreting Revelation as a prophetic letter, about the end times.
- As with all prophecy, we must look at what the original author intended to his or her original audience as part of our understanding.

Chapters 1–3: Introduction of the Main Characters

- John (Revelation 1:1–11) - received a message to share with the seven churches

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. 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." Revelation 1:10–11

- Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:12–20) - gave John the message

"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. 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." Revelation 1:17–18

- Seven Churches (Revelation 2:1–3:22) - newly converted believers who needed encouragement and correction.



Chapters 4–5: “A Glimpse of Heaven”

- God reigns in sovereign majesty; a king on a throne surrounded by worshipping angels (Revelation 4).

“Then as I looked, I saw a door standing open in heaven, and the same voice I had heard before spoke to me like a trumpet blast. The voice said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this.” And instantly I was in the Spirit...” Revelation 4:1-2

- A holy scroll that Daniel was instructed to seal (Daniel 12) is about to be opened by Jesus.
- The Lion of Judah (Jesus) appears to John as a lamb that has been slaughtered (Revelation 5) - indicating that the scroll will not be opened by force but by sacrifice.

Chapters 6–16: “Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls”

- Three sets of visions structured in sets of seven (the number of perfection)

Seven Seals - Revelation 6-7



- Occurs during the first part of the Tribulation
- Aligns with Zechariah’s prophecy about war, famine, judgment

Seven Trumpets - Revelation 8-11

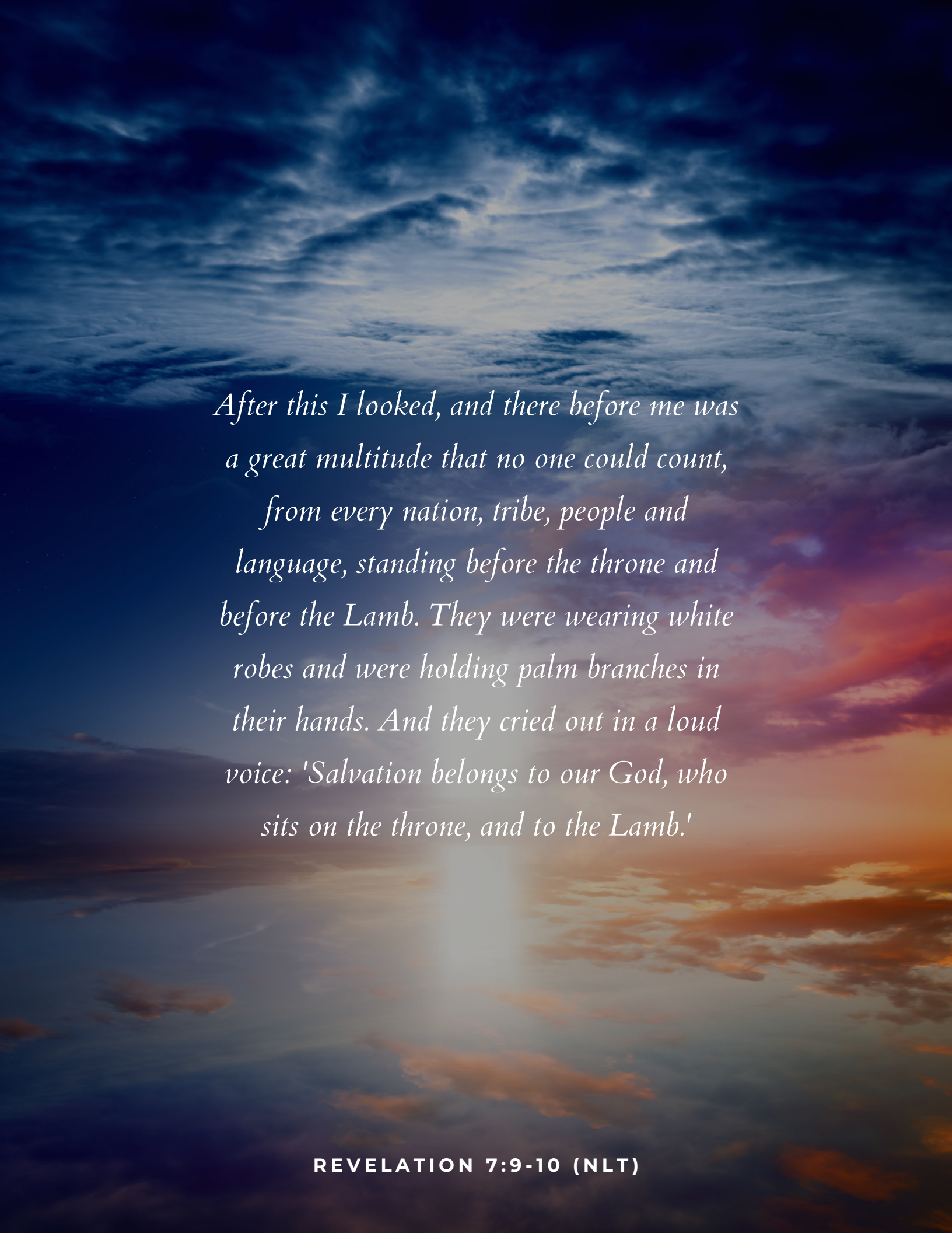


- Occurs during the middle of the Tribulation
- Remind us of the plagues that God sent to free His people from captivity in Egypt, and reiterates the war at the end of the world

Seven Bowls - Revelation 15-16










- Occurs during the second half of the Tribulation
- Reminds us again of the plagues in Egypt
- Bowl 5 refers to the darkness of the night when the first born children died, and yet still the Egyptians did not repent or follow God
- Bowl 6 describes the Battle of Armageddon, and Bowl 7 depicts the end of the world








After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.'

The Seven Seals of Judgment

<p>1st Seal</p> 	<p>A rider on a white horse wearing a crown and carrying a bow. His power is conquering. (Revelation 6:2)</p>	<p>Represents a political figure (associated with the Antichrist) who will oppose God during the Tribulation</p>
<p>2nd Seal</p> 	<p>A rider on a red horse with a mighty sword is given authority to take peace from the earth. (Revelation 6:4)</p>	<p>Represents a time of (nuclear) war</p>
<p>3rd Seal</p> 	<p>A rider on a black horse holding a pair of scales. (Revelation 6:5)</p>	<p>Represents starvation and famine, and the scales symbolize judgment.</p>
<p>4th Seal</p> 	<p>A rider named Death on a pale green horse, followed closely by Hades are given power to kill by sword, famine and plague. (Revelation 6:8)</p>	<p>Represents decaying flesh through plagues, which wipes out a quarter of the earth's population.</p>
<p>5th Seal</p> 	<p>The souls of the martyrs under the altar in heaven, who are given white robes while they await resurrection at the return of Jesus to the earth. (Revelation 6:9)</p>	<p>Represents those who come to faith in Christ after the rapture of the church, who sacrifice their lives as an act of worship to God, during the first half of the tribulation.</p>
<p>6th Seal</p> 	<p>Following a great earthquake (and tsunamis), the sun becomes dark, and the moon turns red, and stars fall from the sky (meteorite showers) just like a fig tree drops its unripe fruit. (Revelation 6:12-13). After this, John sees 4 angels standing at the 4 corners of the earth, holding back the wind, while a 5th angel arrives with the seal of God, that is placed on the forehead of the 144,000 "servants of our God" - 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel.</p>	<p>Reminds us of the Day of the Lord mentioned in the Old Testament. The natural disasters in verse 12 echo Jesus' words in Matthew 24:7-9, 29 during His Sermon on the Mount of Olives. Whereas the reference to the fig tree shedding its winter fruit in verse 13 refers to those who appear healthy but produce no spiritual fruit.</p>
<p>7th Seal</p> 	<p>There is silence in heaven for about 30 minutes (Revelation 8:1)</p>	<p>Just as there is silence in a courtroom when the judge is about to render a verdict in a criminal trial, so those in heaven fall silent as they anticipate what the Judge of the universe is about to do.</p>

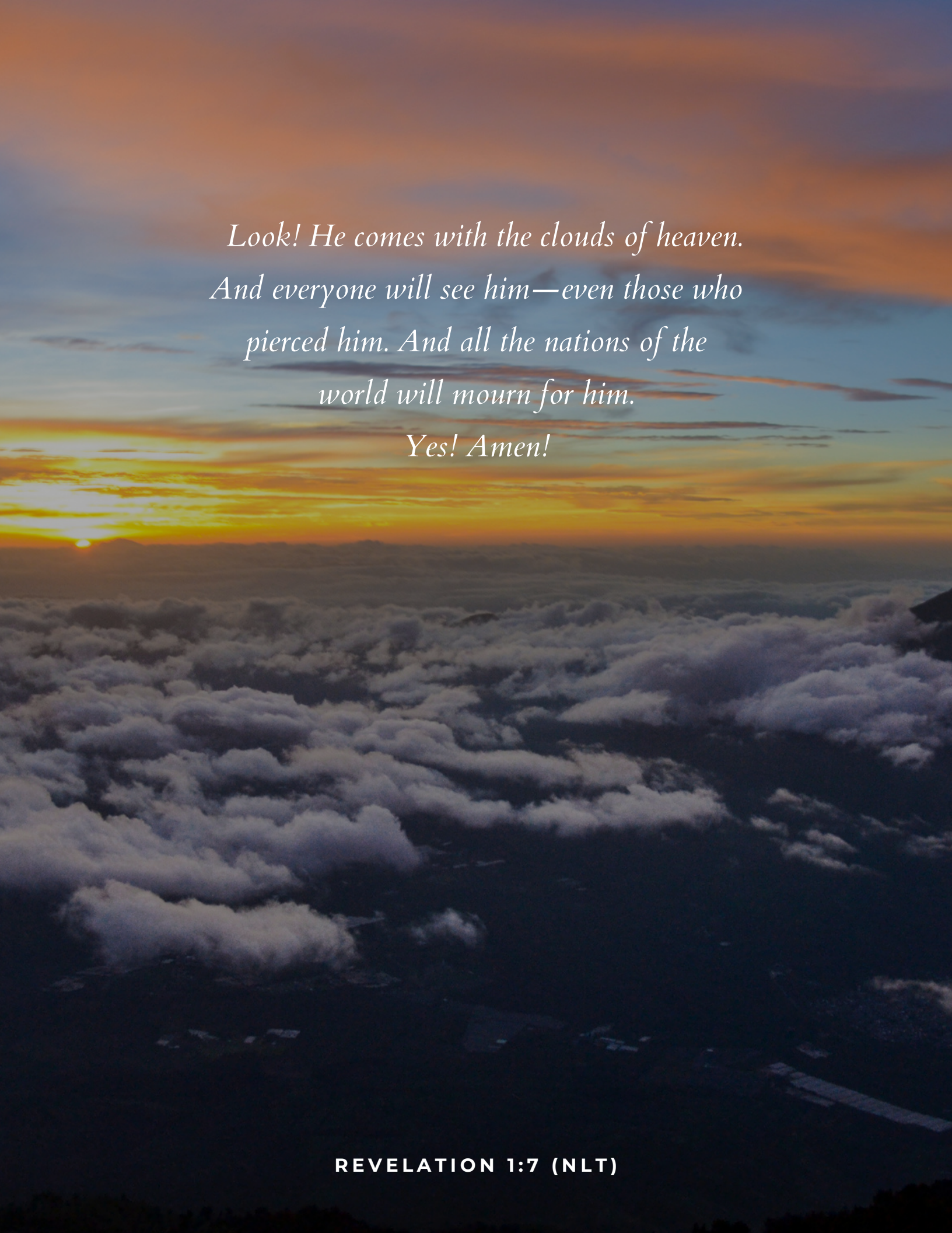
The Seven Angels with Trumpets

<p>1 </p>	<p>The first angel blew his trumpet, and hail and fire mixed with blood were thrown down on the earth. One-third of the earth was set on fire, one-third of the trees were burned, and all the green grass was burned. (Revelation 8:7)</p>
<p>2 </p>	<p>Then the second angel blew his trumpet, and a great mountain of fire was thrown into the sea. One-third of the water in the sea became blood, one-third of all things living in the sea died, and one-third of all the ships on the sea were destroyed.(Revelation 8:8-9)</p>
<p>3 </p>	<p>Then the third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from the sky, burning like a torch. It fell on one-third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star was Bitterness. It made one-third of the water bitter, and many people died from drinking the bitter water. (Revelation 8:10-11)</p>
<p>4 </p>	<p>Then the fourth angel blew his trumpet, and one-third of the sun was struck, and one-third of the moon, and one-third of the stars, and they became dark. And one-third of the day was dark, and also one-third of the night. (Revelation 8:12)</p>
<p>5 </p>	<p>Then the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen to earth from the sky, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. When he opened it, smoke poured out as though from a huge furnace, and the sunlight and air turned dark from the smoke. Then locusts came from the smoke and descended on the earth, and they were given power to sting like scorpions. They were told not to harm the grass or plants or trees, but only the people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. They were told not to kill them but to torture them for five months with pain like the pain of a scorpion sting. In those days people will seek death but will not find it. (Revelation 9:1-6)</p>
<p>6 </p>	<p>Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice speaking from the four horns of the gold altar that stands in the presence of God. And the voice said to the sixth angel who held the trumpet, 'Release the four angels who are bound at the great Euphrates River.' Then the four angels who had been prepared for this hour and day and month and year were turned loose to kill one-third of all the people on earth. I heard the size of their army, which was 200 million mounted troops. 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. 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. Their power was in their mouths and in their tails. For their tails had heads like snakes, with the power to injure people. But the people who did not die in these plagues still refused to repent of their evil deeds and turn to God... (Revelation 9:13-20)</p>
<p>7 </p>	<p>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.' (Revelation 11:15)</p>



Reflection #1

Have you ever considered that the imagery in Revelation is one picture that depicts the same thing in different ways, rather than 21 successive acts? How does this change your understanding of these parts of the book?

An aerial photograph showing a vast expanse of white, fluffy clouds stretching towards a horizon. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow that transitions into a soft blue and purple sky. The clouds are illuminated from below, giving them a soft, ethereal appearance. The overall scene is peaceful and majestic.

*Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven.
And everyone will see him—even those who
pierced him. And all the nations of the
world will mourn for him.*

Yes! Amen!

02

A Tale Of Two Cities

KINGDOM OF EARTH



Where creation existed, in perfection, then fell into disobedience, and will now be judged and destroyed.

KINGDOM OF GOD



Where a new heaven and a new earth will be established.

VS

- City of Earth

- The Great Prostitute riding a beast with 7 heads and 10 horns

- The amalgamation of the wicked people and leaders of this world that have risen up against God - will receive the final judgment

“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit and a heavy chain in his hand. He seized the dragon—that old serpent, who is the devil, Satan—and bound him in chains for a thousand years. 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.”

Revelation 20:1-3

■ The Millennium

- Most Biblical scholars interpret this as a literal 1,000 years
- Some see this time as figurative (the age we are living in right now)
- A time when Satan cannot unleash his true fury, until he released for the final battle (Battle of Gog & Magog).

■ The Great White Throne Judgment

- Satan will be defeated in the final Battle of Gog & Magog, and thrown into a lake of fire – a place of eternal, conscious torment

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. Revelation 20:7


- At the end of the Millennium, there will be one final judgment – everyone is judged according to their deeds
- Anyone whose name is not written in the Book of Life will be thrown into the lake of fire with Satan

“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. 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 sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.” Revelation 20:11–15



Reflection #2

What is your present understanding on what hell and eternity is, and did this topic challenge anything you thought previously?



Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. The devil will throw some of you into prison to test you. You will suffer for ten days. But if you remain faithful even when facing death, I will give you the crown of life.

REVELATION 2:10 (NLT)

03

City Of God

- **After Satan has been thrown into the lake of fire for eternity, the old earth disappears.**

- God leaves heaven to exist with His people on the NEW earth.

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

Revelation 21:1-4

- **This Kingdom awaits those who confess and accept Christ as payment for their sins, and acknowledge the desire to live with God.**
 - The place where we imagine heaven to be right now is NOT the place we will be spending eternity with God.
 - John see a NEW heaven and a NEW earth for the righteous ones.



Reflection #3

Based on what you've learned in this module, what part of Revelation are you ready to go back and study for yourself to gain more understanding?



Have You Said YES to Jesus?

If you've recently accepted Jesus as your Saviour,
we'd love to connect with you!

Let us know by visiting:

[PORTICO.CC/YES](https://portico.cc/yes)



*All glory to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us. He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever!
Amen.*

REVELATION 1:5-6 (NLT)

Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. To everyone who is victorious I will give some of the manna that has been hidden away in heaven. And I will give to each one a white stone, and on the stone will be engraved a new name that no one understands except the one who receives it.

REVELATION 2:17 (NLT)

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.

REVELATION 3:7 (NLT)

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

REVELATION 3:10-12 (NLT)

*He who is the faithful witness to all these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon!” Amen!
Come, Lord Jesus! May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s holy people.*

REVELATION 22:20-21 (NLT)