

THE VERDICT TEACHING SERIES



# REVELATION

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Chapters 4-14



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# THE VERDICT

WITH PASTOR JOHN H. MUNRO

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## INTRODUCTION

# The Book of Revelation

## Chapters 4–14

**FIND THE BOOK OF REVELATION** to be one of the most fascinating books in all of the Bible. Many ignore it because they find it incomprehensible; others are so captivated by it that they study it almost to the exclusion of the rest of the Bible. Others use it to make sensational and outlandish predictions.

Our goal is to study and interpret the text of Holy Scripture. Many books of the Bible — such as Daniel, Zechariah, and Revelation — are full of prophecy, and we are to be diligent and obedient students of the Word. So don't say you are not interested in prophecy!

"Revelation" denotes something hidden now being revealed. It is a revelation given by Jesus Christ to the apostle John about "the things that must soon take place." We focused on the first three chapters in our initial study. Now we look to chapters 4–14, keeping the center of our study on the matchless and majestic Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, our Lord and Master and soon coming King.

There is also a special blessing given to those who read and hear "the words of this prophecy" (Revelation 1:3). So I invite you to join me in this exciting exploration and receive the blessing of God.

Warmly in Christ,

*John*

# REVELATION

## MESSAGE 11

# The Rapture, The Church, and Israel

## *Revelation 2–3*

AS WE CONTINUE IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION, getting a prophetic overview as a framework may be helpful. Scripture teaches that the next event in God’s prophetic calendar is the rapture of the church. So let’s consider the rapture, how it relates to the church, how it relates to the nation of Israel, and how it fits into the book of Revelation.

### The Rapture

- A generation of followers of the Lord Jesus will not die but will be raptured into the presence of the Lord.

*But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <sup>15</sup> For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words. — 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18*

### Four Important Aspects of the Rapture

- At the rapture, Jesus comes for His followers (John 14:1–3).
- At the rapture, there will be a supernatural transformation (1 Corinthians 15:51–53).
- At the rapture, believers will be forever with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:17).
- The rapture may occur at any moment (Philippians 3:20, Titus 2:13, James 5:7–9).

## The Tribulation

- The rapture and Christ's return to the earth are separated by the Tribulation.
- There is a difference between the rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18) and Christ's return in power and glory (Revelation 19).
- Jesus is coming back for the church prior to the Tribulation.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

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What does the word "rapture" mean? To what event does the rapture refer?

How does the rapture differ from Christ's return in glory?

What is the Tribulation?

Where is Israel during the Tribulation? Where is the church?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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### ***The verdict is yours.***

Are you familiar with God's prophetic calendar? How does it impact your daily life? If you are less familiar, how does this knowledge affect your perspective?

Do you understand why no wrath will fall on followers of Jesus Christ? Do you have the certainty of knowing that you are safe "in Christ Jesus"?

# REVELATION

## MESSAGE 12

# The Throne Room of God

## *Revelation 4*

IN RECENT YEARS, PEOPLE HAVE CLAIMED to have gone to heaven and returned to earth. There are also popular ideas of heaven that abound. But in Revelation, Scripture offers us the opportunity to look into heaven and learn about the future for followers of Christ who will love, know, and worship the infinite and inexhaustible God.

### **The Throne Room of God in Heaven**

- The heavenly prologue in context (v 1)
- The description of the throne (v 2–6)
- Those around the throne (v 7)

### **The Worship of God in Heaven**

- The four living creatures worship (v 8–9).
- The 24 elders worship (v 10–11).

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

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How does the heavenly prologue in chapters 4 and 5 help us as we move forward in Revelation?

How is the throne of God described? What are some of the symbols used? What do they signify?

Who is around the throne? What are they doing? Why is this significant?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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### ***The verdict is yours.***

What is your reaction to this biblical glimpse of heaven?

Are you a worshiper of God? What is your attitude, your perspective on worship?

Are you going to heaven, the throne room of God, when you die?



# REVELATION

## MESSAGE 13

# Worthy Is the Lamb

## *Revelation 5*

**IN THE THRONE ROOM OF GOD**, the worship builds to a magnificent climax. Chapters 4 and 5 are the heavenly prologue to the Tribulation period described in chapters 6 through 18. Only from the perspective of heaven can we understand what will occur on earth.

### **The Setting**

- In the throne room of God, no one is found worthy to open the scroll (v 1–4).

### **The Scroll**

- The Lamb is worthy to open the scroll (v 5–7).

### **The Song**

- The Lamb is worthy to receive all of heaven's praise (v 8–14).

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

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Why can no angel or human open the scroll? Why does John weep?

Who is found to open the scroll? Why is He identified as the Lion and the Lamb? What is significant about His posture? Why is He worthy?

What does the seal contain?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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### ***The verdict is yours.***

Do you understand why so much of worship is related to the cross of Christ? Is this central to your personal worship?

As we see the picture of Jesus in heaven, do you realize the significance of being able to have a personal relationship with Him? Do you know the Lamb?

# REVELATION

## MESSAGE 14

# The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

## *Revelation 6:1–8*

**FOCUSING EXCLUSIVELY ON OUR LIFE HERE** and now can be easy. But followers of Jesus are people with a future. We are people of hope, people bound for eternity! Understanding future events gives a biblical perspective on how we should live on earth. And despite the unpopularity of the subject, God's judgment is coming.

### **The Context of the Seals**

- The throne room of God (Revelation 4–5)
- The focus moves from heaven to earth (Revelation 6)

### **The Characteristics of the Seals**

- The scroll is sealed with seven seals.
- The sequence of events in Matthew 24:3–8 parallels Revelation 6:1–8.

### **The Chronology of the Seals**

### **The Content of the First Four Seals: The Four Horsemen**

- The rider on the white horse (v 2)
- The rider on the red horse (v 3–4)
- The rider on the black horse (v 5–6)
- The rider on the pale horse (v 7–8)

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

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Where are the seven seals located? What do the seals signify? Who is opening the seals?

Considering the overall chronology, how are the seals, trumpets, and bowls connected?

Who is the rider on the white horse?

What do the riders on the red, black, and pale horses bring to the world?

Why is it significant that the rapture takes place before the opening of the seals? Where are believers during the Tribulation?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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### ***The verdict is yours.***

Are you surprised by the eventual coming of judgment?

Are you comforted by the fact that all the judgments are under the sovereign hand of God?

Do you understand why believers in Christ are safe “from the wrath to come”?

Have you repented and asked Jesus Christ to forgive your sins? Do you know that you are safe from the wrath of God?

# REVELATION

## MESSAGE 15

# The Wrath of the Lamb

*Revelation 6:9–17*

**THE LAMB IS OUR LORD JESUS:** the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. But He is also the Lamb who is the judge. Although God is a God of love, He is also a God of justice. He has graciously provided a way of salvation and has given us time and opportunities to repent. But God will not be mocked, and in His timing, judgment will come.

### **The Wrath of God in Scripture**

- The wrath of God in the Old Testament
- The wrath of God in the New Testament

### **The Fifth Seal: Vengeance**

- The first four seals and the four horsemen (v 1–8)
- The Tribulation martyrs cry out for vengeance (v 9–11).

### **The Sixth Seal: The Wrath of the Lamb**

- The Lamb opens the sixth seal.
- This is the wrath of God.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

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What are examples of the wrath of God in the Old Testament? Was there a provision for salvation?

How is the wrath of God presented in the New Testament?

Who is calling for vengeance when the fifth seal is broken?

What happens when the Lamb opens the sixth seal? What is the reaction of the people on earth?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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### ***The verdict is yours.***

Notice that the Word of God will still be available during the Tribulation, and people will receive the Gospel. Does this surprise you?

Are you safe from the wrath to come? Have you taken refuge in Christ? There is no escape, no way of salvation other than Jesus.

# REVELATION

## MESSAGE 16

# Tribulation Believers

## *Revelation 7*

**CHAPTER SEVEN TAKES PLACE BETWEEN** the sixth and seventh seals and can be thought of as an interlude or a parenthesis. Before the final seal is opened, there is this fascinating description of events on the earth and in heaven.

### **The Background**

- The setting: a review of the big picture (v 1–3)
- The angels (v 1–2)

### **The 144,000**

- Suggestions as to the identity of the 144,000
- The 144,000 are Jewish believers (v 4–8).

### **The Great Multitude in Heaven**

- The identity of the great multitude (v 9, 13–14)
- The activity of the great multitude (v 10–17)

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

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What is the role of the four angels?

Why should Israel not be confused with the church of Jesus Christ? What is God's promise regarding the spiritual future of Israel?

What do we know about the 144,000 believers? What does it mean for the 144,000 to be "sealed"?

Who is the great multitude? How does the multitude relate to the 144,000 Jewish believers? What image in verse 14 confirms the identity of the multitude? What are they doing?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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### ***The verdict is yours.***

How do we continue to see the faithfulness of God during the Tribulation?

Are you surprised that people will continue to be saved?

Are you prepared for the time of God's wrath?



# REVELATION

## MESSAGE 17

# The Blast of the Trumpets

## *Revelation 8*

**THE LAMB HAS ALREADY OPENED** six of the seven seals of the scroll. The seven trumpets come from the seventh seal. Now chapter 8 describes the first four of the trumpet judgments.

### **Events in Heaven Before the Blast of the Trumpets**

- There is silence in heaven (v 1).
- The seven angels are given the seven trumpets (v 2).
- There is another angel at the altar with the golden censer (v 3–5).

### **The First Four of the Seven Trumpets**

During the Tribulation period there are seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven bowls of judgment. The seventh seal contains the seven trumpets, and the seventh trumpet contains the seven bowls. The final judgments of God come from the seven bowls.

- The first trumpet is sounded (v 7).
- The second trumpet is sounded (v 8–9).
- The third trumpet is sounded (v 10–11).
- The fourth trumpet is sounded (v 12–13).

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

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What happens in heaven when the Lamb opens the seventh seal? Why are these events significant?

What portion of the earth is affected by each of the trumpet judgments?

What are some similarities between the first four trumpet judgments and the plagues of Egypt? What do these similarities highlight?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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### ***The verdict is yours.***

Do you fear the Lord? Do you realize that the true God is just and will judge sin?

Do you understand the seriousness of sin and its consequences?

Are you trivializing any sin in your life?

# REVELATION

## MESSAGE 18

# Demonic Attack

## *Revelation 9*

**THE TRIBULATION PERIOD INVOLVES** the opening of seven seals, the blasting of seven trumpets, and the outpouring of seven bowls as the judgment of God is rendered. Revelation 9 deals with the blast of the fifth and sixth trumpets. While the first four trumpet blasts impacted the natural world, the last three trumpets directly impact humanity.

### **The Blast of the Fifth Trumpet**

- A star fallen from heaven to earth is given the key to the bottomless pit (v 1).
- The locusts from the pit (v 3–11)

### **The Blast of the Sixth Trumpet**

- The release of the four angels (v 13–15)
- The army of 200 million (v 16–19)
- The response of mankind (v 20–21)

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

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Who is the “star” mentioned in verse 11?

How are the “locusts” unlike ordinary locusts?

What happens when the four angels are released?

What is the reaction of the people on earth? What activities do they continue?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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### ***The verdict is yours.***

Do you believe that Satan and the demonic world are real?

Do you understand that God continues to be in control, even over the forces of darkness?  
Does this give you comfort?

Do you know our sovereign God through His Son, Jesus Christ?

# REVELATION

## MESSAGE 19

# The Angel with the Little Scroll

## *Revelation 10*

**AFTER THE BLASTS OF THE FIFTH AND SIXTH TRUMPETS** and before the seventh trumpet (which contains the seven bowls), there is another interlude similar to the one we saw in Revelation 7 after the sixth seal.

### **The Mighty Angel**

- His identity
- The mighty angel had a little scroll open in his hand (v 2).

### **The Seven Peals of Thunder**

- The mighty angel cries with a loud voice, and seven peals of thunder are heard.

### **The Little Scroll**

- John is now instructed to take the scroll (v 8).
- John takes and eats all the scroll.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

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Describe the mighty angel. Do we know who he is? What does he do?

What is signified by John eating the scroll?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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### ***The verdict is yours.***

Do you understand the role of angels?

Does it encourage you to know that God is still in charge during this period of judgment?

What is your experience of God's Word? Do you find it sweet or bitter?

# REVELATION

## MESSAGE 20

# The Two Witnesses

## *Revelation 11:1–14*

**IN THIS FIRST SECTION** of Revelation 11, we are still in the interlude between the sixth and seventh trumpet. Keep in mind that at the end of the Tribulation, Jesus Christ will return as King of kings and Lord of lords and will set up His millennial kingdom on earth.

### **The Temple**

- John is told to “measure the temple of God” (v 1).
- Solomon’s temple
- The second temple
- The tribulation temple

### **The Witnesses**

- Their identity (v 3–4)
- Their power and testimony (v 5–6)
- Their opposition (v 7–10)
- Their resurrection (v 11–12)

### **The Judgment**

- The earthquake (v 13–14)

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

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Do you see how God's Word will continue to be heard in the midst of the darkness and the violence of the Tribulation?

What takes place in Jerusalem after the two witnesses are taken up to heaven?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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### ***The verdict is yours.***

Are you living as a witness for Jesus Christ? Have you ever thought about having God's protection until your work is finished?



# REVELATION

## MESSAGE 21

# The Seventh Trumpet

*Revelation 11:15–19*

*“The second woe has passed; behold, the third woe is soon to come.” — Revelation 11:14*

**THE FIFTH TRUMPET IS THE FIRST WOE .** The sixth trumpet is the second woe. Now with the interlude complete, the seventh trumpet — the third woe — is to be blown.

### **The Sequence of the Judgments During the Tribulation**

- God’s judgment on the earth is contained in seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven bowls.

### **The Kingdom of God**

- The announcement of praise (v 15)

### **Reactions in Heaven and on Earth**

- Worship in heaven (v 16–17)
- Rage on earth (v 18)

### **Rewards and Judgments**

- When Christ returns, God’s servants will be rewarded.
- When Christ returns, unbelievers will be judged.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

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Explain the sequence of the seven seals, the seven trumpets, and the seven bowls.

Considering the ministry of our Lord Jesus, why is the announcement of the kingdom of God so significant? What is the difference between the millennial kingdom and the eternal state?

How are the rewards for followers of Christ different from the gift of salvation?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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### ***The verdict is yours.***

We've discussed the reaction to the kingdom of God coming in heaven and on earth. What is your reaction?

Do you believe that this day of judgment is coming? What spiritual preparations have you made?

# REVELATION

## MESSAGE 22

# Wars in Heaven and on Earth

## *Revelation 12*

**REVELATION HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE** a tremendous encouragement to believers who are persecuted. Have you ever suffered for your faith? Have you ever been ostracized, ridiculed, ignored, or insulted because you refused to compromise your faith in Christ?

### **War on Earth**

- The first great sign appears in heaven (v 1–2).
- Another sign appears in heaven (v 3).

### **War in Heaven**

- Michael and his angels war against the great dragon and his angels (v 7–9).
- The announcement of victory (v 10–12).

### **War on Earth**

- Israel is the particular object of the dragon's attack (v 13).

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

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What/who is signified by the first sign (the woman)? What about the other sign (the dragon)?

What does defeat mean for our enemy, Satan?

How has God protected Israel against Satan's attacks in the past? How will He continue to do so in these future events?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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### ***The verdict is yours.***

Why do you think Revelation is such an encouragement for believers, particularly those who have been persecuted? Are you encouraged?

God protects His people — be it the church of Jesus Christ or the nation of Israel. Do you know whether you are under this protection? Are you secure in your salvation through Jesus Christ?

# REVELATION

## MESSAGE 23

# The Antichrist

## *Revelation 13*

**THE ANTICHRIST HAS LONG BEEN A SUBJECT** of sensational speculation — a powerful, charismatic individual who will rule the world. But he is called a “beast” by God. The kingdom of the Antichrist will ultimately be destroyed when Jesus Christ returns to set up His kingdom as King of kings and Lord of lords.

### **The Beast Rising Out of the Sea**

- His description (v 1–4)
- His actions (v 5–10)

### **The Beast Rising Out of the Earth**

- His description (v 11–15)
- The mark of the beast (v 16–18)

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

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What are the significant symbols used in John's description of the Antichrist? Why is this person identified as the Antichrist? What are some of his other names?

When will the Antichrist rule?

Who is the second beast?

What do we know about the mark of the beast?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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### ***The verdict is yours.***

Do you see how a world out of control would look to the Antichrist for answers and order?  
Who do you look to for answers and order in your life?

Do you see how neutrality is not an option? Who are you following?

# REVELATION

## MESSAGE 24

# Victory and Judgment

## *Revelation 14*

**THIS CHAPTER IS A PREVIEW OF EVENTS** at the end of the Tribulation. The chronology will be resumed in chapter 16 with the seven bowls. There are three visions — now we see the Tribulation from God’s perspective. Instead of the devil and the Antichrist, we have the Lamb. Instead of those who follow the Beast, we have those who follow the Lamb.

### **The Triumph of Followers of the Lamb**

- The identity of the 144,000 (v 1)
- The activity of the 144,000 (v 2–3)
- The description of the 144,000 (v 4–5)

### **The Announcements of Heaven**

- The first angel (v 6–7)
- The second angel (v 8)
- The third angel (v 9–11)
- Eternal rest (v 12–13)

### **The Judgments of God**

- The harvest of the earth (v 14–20)

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

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Who are the 144,000? What do they do? Why are they significant?

What does the first angel do? Why could this be seen as “the last call of grace”?

What is the metaphor used for the final judgment of God?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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### ***The verdict is yours.***

Why does the Gospel contain a warning?

Followers of Christ are encouraged to endure. If you are a follower of Christ, have you endured in your faith? Or have you fallen away?

Where will you be in eternity?



# THE VERDICT

WITH PASTOR JOHN H. MUNRO

*"Where the Gospel is preached, the lives of men and women and boys and girls are transformed. Through His death and resurrection, Christ gives us peace with God, present power for living, and future hope for eternal life." — John H. Munro*

**The Verdict is a radio and podcast program** featuring the expository Bible teaching of Pastor John Munro.



Born and raised in Scotland, John graduated from the University of Edinburgh and practiced law in Scotland before God called him to full-time ministry. He and his wife, Gudny, moved to Texas, where he attended Dallas Theological Seminary.

For more than 30 years, John has dedicated his life to pastoral ministry, preaching and teaching the Word of God. He presently serves as Senior Pastor of Calvary Church in Charlotte, North Carolina.

**On The Verdict, listeners are challenged to turn to the Bible** and render a "verdict" as they consider their personal response to the truth of God's Word. John presents a clear examination of Scripture, offering insight and application for all backgrounds, from those unfamiliar with the Gospel to mature believers following Christ.

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