

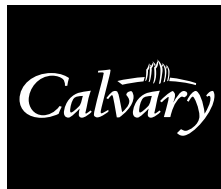
THE VERDICT TEACHING SERIES



# REVELATION

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Chapters 15-22



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# THE VERDICT

WITH PASTOR JOHN H. MUNRO

***Thank you for listening to The Verdict***

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## INTRODUCTION

# The Book of Revelation

## Chapters 15–22

**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." While we focused first on chapters 1–3, then on chapters 4–14, we now come to the final chapters (15–22). The center of our study remains 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 25

# The End is Near

## *Revelation 15*

AS WE RESUME OUR STUDIES IN CHAPTER 15 , here is a brief reminder of the context.

The next event in God's prophetic calendar is the Rapture of the church. After the Rapture, various events will happen on earth. There will be a period of seven years, called the Tribulation, when God's judgment descends on the earth. During this time, the Antichrist will rise to power. But God is at work and there are witnesses to Jesus Christ throughout the Tribulation, including the 144,000 Jewish believers and the two witnesses who are killed, resurrected, and caught up to heaven.

As we come to Revelation 15, we are approaching the end of the Tribulation period when the seven bowls (the culmination of God's wrath) will fall on a sinful world. Revelation 15 gives the context and preparation of the seven bowls which contain the seven plagues. The particulars of the seven bowls are described in Revelation 17 (the next message).

### **The worship of the Lord**

- The song of the redeemed (v 1-3a)
- The object of worship (v 3b-4)

### **The wrath of the Lord (v 5-8)**

- The culmination of the wrath of God
- Jesus is coming back for the church prior to the Tribulation.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

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Who is singing? What are they singing about? What words do they use?

Describe the scene in heaven as preparations are made for the final seven bowls of God's wrath to be poured out.

How is the wrath of God consistent with the character of God? Why is this justice?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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

What is your reaction to the glory of God and the wrath of God?

Do you understand that Jesus Christ received the wrath of God on the cross to provide a way of salvation to those who believe? Have you made this choice?

Have you had the opportunity to share this good news with others?

# REVELATION

## MESSAGE 26

# Armageddon

## *Revelation 16*

**THERE IS THE VIEW THAT WE SHOULDN'T MENTION** the judgment of God as we don't want to frighten people. But the Bible contains warnings for our good, and the wonder of the grace of God is that all of us may be delivered from this coming judgment. But for those who prefer to go their own way, how do they respond to the judgment of God?

### **The context**

- The command to the seven angels

### **Seven bowls are poured out on the earth.**

- The first bowl (v 2): harmful and painful sores on people with the mark of the beast.
- The second bowl (v 3): the sea becomes like blood.
- The third bowl (v 4-7): the fresh waters become blood
- The fourth bowl (v 8-9): people are scorched by fierce heat
- The fifth bowl (v 10-11): the beast's kingdom is plunged into darkness.
- The sixth bowl (v 12-15): the river Euphrates is dried up
- The seventh bowl (v 17-21): lightning, thunder, and a great earthquake which causes the cities of the nations to fall.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

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What is the significance of each of these judgments? How do they remind you of the plagues of Egypt?

What is the response of the people to the judgment of God?

What is the significance of Armageddon? Who will be assembling there? Why?

How is the cry "It is done" different from the previous cry on the cross, "It is finished"?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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

Are you surprised by the reaction of the people? Does this impact your view of God's judgment?

When have you experienced a hard heart? Did you repent, or is your heart still hard towards God?



# REVELATION

## MESSAGE 27

# Global Religion

## *Revelation 17*

**BEFORE DESCRIBING THE RETURN OF OUR LORD JESUS**, the apostle John steps back and writes about a global religion, Babylon, which is going to rise to power during the Tribulation. In Scripture Babylon refers not only to a specific city, but to a system which is anti-God.

### **Babylon: Man-made and man-centered religion**

- Babylon's beginning (Genesis 10:8-10; 11:1-4)
  
- Babylon's future

### **The woman of John's vision (v 3-6)**

### **The interpretation of John's vision (v 7-18)**

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

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How does Babylon's beginning set the stage for this overall spirit of rebellion?

How does the depiction of Babylon contrast with the image we are given of the church in Scripture (the bride of the Lamb)?

How do the details of Babylon's description emphasize the characteristics of this religion, this spirit of rebellion?

What is Babylon's relationship with the Antichrist?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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

Is there any compromise in your life? Any spirit of Babylon in your life?

Who is your authority? Where is your trust—in yourself, the culture, or the Word of God?

# REVELATION

## MESSAGE 28

# The Fall of Babylon

## *Revelation 18*

**BABYLON IS MORE THAN A CITY:** it is a man-made and man-centered religion characterized by defiance, open rebellion against God, and the enthronement of self. In Revelation 17 Babylon is pictured as a great prostitute in control of the Antichrist and the kings on earth. But halfway through the Tribulation the Antichrist and his kings turn on her and destroy her.

### **The announcement of the fall of Babylon**

- The destruction of Babylon is announced (v 1-3)
- The reasons for the destruction of Babylon (v 5-8)
- The historical example of Babylon's fall (Daniel 5)

### **The lament of the fall of Babylon**

- Babylon's destruction is lamented by the kings of the earth (v 9-10).
- Babylon's destruction is lamented by the merchants of the earth (v 11-17a).

### **The final prophecy of the fall of Babylon**

- Babylon will be utterly and irretrievably destroyed (v 21-24).

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

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How does the historical fall of Babylon recorded in Daniel foreshadow the future fall of Babylon?

Why do the merchants lament the fall of Babylon?

How is the utter destruction of Babylon emphasized?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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

Do you understand how dangerous compromise can be? Are you compromising by tolerating any sin in your life?

Do you understand that the love of God is not compromised by His justice? Are you able to rejoice at the judgment of evil?

# REVELATION

## MESSAGE 29

# Hallelujah

*Revelation 19:1-10*

WHEN WE COME TO REVELATION 19, a victory is being celebrated. The last seal has been broken. The last trumpet has sounded. The last bowl has been poured out. Babylon has been destroyed. The stage is now set for the return to earth of Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

### The celebration of the judgment of Babylon

- The first two hallelujahs celebrate the eternal destruction of Babylon, and the vengeance of the blood of the martyrs (v 1-3).

- FZWJWV dSf[a` aXfZW\$&WVWteS` V Xagd Th[ Y UvSfgdW/v &Z fi

### FZWtWV dSf[a` aXfZWmSd[SYWvXfZWvS\_ T

- Heaven celebrates the soon-coming reign of the Lord God (v 6).
- Heaven celebrates the coming of the marriage of the Lamb (v 7-8).

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

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Who is rejoicing at the destruction of Babylon? Why are they rejoicing and praising God?

Who is the bridegroom at the marriage supper? Who is the bride?

What are some of the reasons these wedding images are so meaningful in Scripture?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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

Do you praise God? Is He the object of your worship?

Does the ultimate victory of our God and the Lamb of God move you to praise? How does it refresh and renew your spiritual life?

# REVELATION

## MESSAGE 30

# King of Kings and Lord of Lords

*Revelation 19:11-21*

**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS**, was buried, and rose again. Now He is alive forevermore and He is coming back! And when He returns, He will execute His victory so that all evil will be punished, and every injustice will be put right. This is a message of triumph and hope for those who are trusting the Lord Jesus, but a message of judgment for those who do not know Him.

### **The Lord Jesus, the living Christ, is coming back (v 11-16).**

- The Lord Jesus is returning as the victorious King of kings and Lord of lords.
- Christ's second coming is in power, majesty, and triumph, demonstrating His sovereignty.

### **The Lord Jesus is victorious at Armageddon (v 17-21).**

- The "Great Supper of God" is prepared for the birds of the air to feast on the enemies of God.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

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Why is it possible to describe the return of Jesus as occurring in two phases?

In Revelation 19, as the apostle John sees heaven opened, how is the Lord Jesus described?

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

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Who comes with the Lord Jesus as He returns in power and glory?

Who is the Lord Jesus fighting?

What happens to the Antichrist and the false prophet?

How is the defeat of the enemies of God pictured? What does this convey?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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

How do you view the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ?

Do you know the Lord Jesus personally? Are you anticipating His return?  
Or do you just know of Him?

Is the prospect of His return frightening or unsettling?



# REVELATION

## MESSAGE 31

# The Reign of Christ

*Revelation 20:1-10*

**THE RETURN OF OUR SAVIOR** will be followed by the millennium, the 1,000-year reign of our Lord Jesus Christ which will then continue for all eternity.

**The second coming of Jesus Christ is followed by the Millennial Kingdom.**

- The millennium is a literal 1,000-year reign on earth by Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords.
- Amillennialism denies a literal millennium.
- Postmillennialism believes that the second coming of Jesus Christ will occur after the millennium.

**The earth will be transformed during the Millennial Kingdom.**

- Christ will reign over all the earth for 1,000 years (a millennium).
- During the millennium the curse on the earth will be removed.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

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What are the problems with the views of Amillennialism and Postmillennialism?  
What is your view?

What promises are fulfilled during the millennium? What is the earth like? What will believers be doing?

What happens to the devil during the millennium?

Will everyone living be saved during the millennium?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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

How does the world end? Will humanity ever achieve world peace or an ideal society?

How does this knowledge impact your view of life today—how you evaluate the messages you hear and the priorities you pursue?

# REVELATION

## MESSAGE 32

# The Final Judgment

*Revelation 20:11-15*

**DO YOU BELIEVE IN ETERNAL PUNISHMENT?** The subject of hell is rejected out of hand by many, but no one spoke more about hell than our Lord Jesus Christ. Central to His teaching, central to His mission, is the reality of eternal punishment. In this message we are considering that future day from which there is no escape; that day when eternal destinies are forever sealed: that day of the final judgment.

### **The Judge (v 11)**

- God is on the throne.
- God is the perfect and just Judge.

### **The Defendants (v 12a)**

- John saw the dead.
- Regardless of the circumstances of their death, all unbelievers will be there (13a).

### **The Trial (v 12b-13)**

- God is the divine bookkeeper.
- The book of life is opened.

### **The Verdict and the Penalty (v 14-15)**

- The verdict is final and irrevocable.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

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Is the reality of eternal punishment inconsistent with the character of God? Why is eternal punishment necessary?

Why is it important that God is the judge?

Who will stand before the throne of God?

What books are referenced? Why are they significant?

What is the penalty for those not saved? What is the difference between Hades and Hell? What are we told about Hell, the “lake of fire”?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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

Do you believe in eternal punishment?

Is your name written in the Book of Life? Do you know with certainty that you have been saved by the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit and vs. having a mere profession of salvation?

How far ahead are you looking? Are you prepared to meet God?

# REVELATION

## MESSAGE 33

# The New Heaven and the New Earth

## *Revelation 21:1-8*

**WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF HEAVEN?** We hear of various personal accounts of those who claim to have gone to heaven, and we may have many unanswered questions about heaven ourselves, but God has revealed in His Word all that He wants us to know. Revelation 21 and 22 are the final two chapters of Revelation and the entire Bible, and they are about the new heaven and the new earth.

### **What is Heaven like?**

- Heaven (the new heaven and the new earth) is God's new creation (v 1-2).
- Heaven is the presence of God (v 3).
- Heaven is the removal of all evil (v 4).
- Heaven is for believers only (v 5-8).

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

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Why is significant that the new heaven and the new earth will be “new”?

What seven familiar things will not be present in Heaven?

How is God’s gracious invitation (v 6) similar to the invitation given previously by Jesus (John 4:13-14)?

God describes who will be in Heaven and who will not be in Heaven. How are the occupants described?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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

Are you prepared to enter Heaven on God’s terms?

As a follower of Jesus Christ (“one who conquers”), what are some of the aspects of Heaven to which you are most looking forward?

How does this knowledge of Heaven impact your perspective and your life today?

# REVELATION

## MESSAGE 34

# The New Jerusalem

*Revelation 21:9-22:5*

**THE NEW JERUSALEM COMES DOWN FROM HEAVEN** and rests on the new earth, the center of the universe. This is the capital city of the new heaven and earth—the eternal home of followers of Jesus Christ.

### **A description of the new Jerusalem.**

- The new Jerusalem is a place of indescribable glory and beauty (21:9-27).

### **What shall we do in Heaven?**

- In Heaven we will be at home, enjoying perfect communion and fellowship with all the redeemed.
- In Heaven we will worship the Lamb, and we will see His face (v 22:1-5).

## **REVIEW QUESTIONS**

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What are some of the characteristics of the new Jerusalem?

Why is there no temple and no sun?

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

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Why is it significant to think that Heaven is home for believers?

Will we know each other in Heaven?

Why is it so amazing to think that we will see God's face?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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

In Revelation 21:7 we read of the new Jerusalem: "Nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of Life." Do you know that your name is written in the Lamb's book of life? Have you trusted in our Lord Jesus Christ?

Today meditate on the grace of God. God not only saves us; He takes us into His own home, into the Father's house, into His own presence to live with Him for eternity. What marvelous, amazing grace is this? And what a glorious day this will be!



# REVELATION

## MESSAGE 35

# He's Coming Soon

*Revelation 22:7, 12, 20*

**THE APOSTLE PAUL ENCOURAGES BELIEVERS** in the Lord Jesus to be looking “for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13). At any moment our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will come again. And when He comes, He comes for those saved by His amazing grace. Everyone else will be left behind.

### **Our Lord Jesus is coming at any moment.**

- Jesus is coming back prior to the Tribulation (the Rapture).
- Reasons why we believe that the Rapture of the church is before the Tribulation

### **Three responses to the Lord's soon return**

- Be alert: don't lose focus (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10).
- Be holy: don't compromise (Titus 2:13-14; John 3:2-3).
- Be ready: don't be left behind (John 14:4-6).

### **The Judgment (v 13-14)**

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

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Why do we believe that the Rapture will take place before the Tribulation?  
(Where do we see the church in Revelation? Where do we not see the church?)

Why is the message that Jesus is coming soon so comforting?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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

How does a truly expectant attitude change your day-to-day reality?

What response do you have to the message that Jesus is coming soon for those who believe in Him? Are you ready? Are you struggling with your focus? Are you struggling to avoid compromise?

# REVELATION

## MESSAGE 36

# The Time is Near

*Revelation 22:6-21*

AS WE COMPLETE OUR STUDY, YOU MAY STILL HAVE QUESTIONS, but our goal has not been to be speculative or sensational or to force current events into the text, but rather to allow God's Word to speak to us. To conclude, let's focus on three final points:

### Remember why the message of Revelation is given:

- An encouragement to persevere
- The consummation of God's promises at the end of the age
- The exaltation of the Lamb of God

### The basic outline of Revelation

- The things which are (1:19)—chapter 1 ("the things which you have seen") and chapters 2 and 3: the letters to the seven churches ("the things which are").
- The things which are to take place "after this" (1:19) (comprises chapters 4-22): the throne room of God (chapters 4-5); the Tribulation (chapters 6-18); the rise and fall of Babylon (chapters 17-18); the return of Jesus Christ (chapter 19); the Millennial Kingdom (20:1-10); the final judgment (20:11-15); and the new heaven and the new earth (chapters 21-22).

### The Epilogue

- This prophecy is absolutely accurate (v 6-9).
- A final warning given by the Lord Jesus (v 10-15).
- A final invitation and final warning are given (v 17-21).

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

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Why should we study Revelation? What are its key purposes?

What are the main events in God's prophetic timeline?

Who attests to the accuracy of this prophecy? What is the warning given regarding further revelation?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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

What kind of impact has Revelation had on your life? Is it a comfort? An encouragement? A serious warning that has gotten your attention?

From your perspective, what are some of the most memorable elements as you review?

What have you learned about the Lord Jesus Christ? About the reality of judgment? About how the world will end? About your eternal future?

Revelation begins and ends with grace (1:4; 22:21). However messed up your life, however rebellious you are or have been, come to Christ and be part of this eternal family. Receive God's gift of salvation.

Are you ready for the return of Jesus Christ?

# 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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