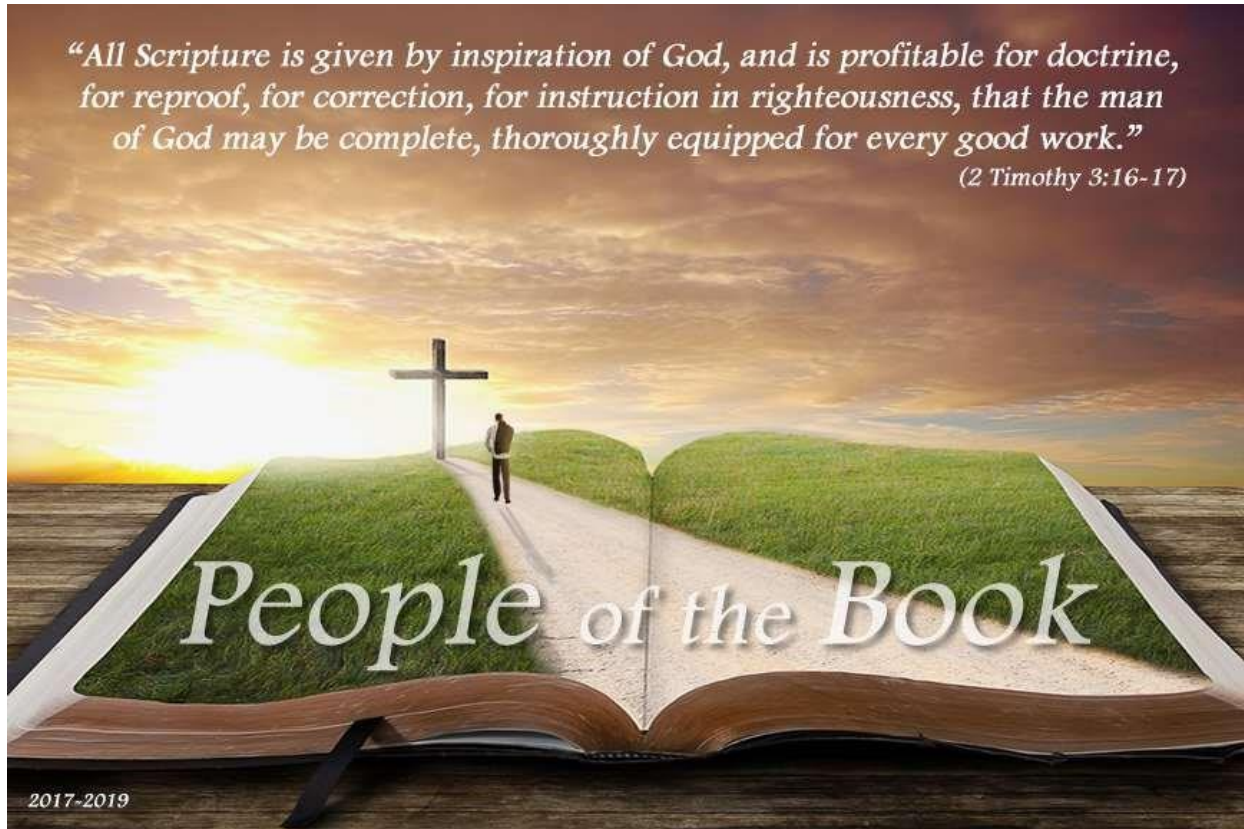


“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)



“People of the Book”

Words to the Faithful

The General Epistles and Revelation

Syllabus

Date	Lesson	Text
Sunday, October 6	1. Crash Course on Christian Wisdom	James 1
Wednesday, October 9	2. Faith in Action	James 2-3
Sunday, October 13	3. Applying the Teaching of Jesus	James 4-5
Wednesday, October 16	4. Faithfulness in Persecution	1 Peter 1:1—2:10
Sunday, October 20	5. Peter's Household Code	1 Peter 2:11—3:17
Wednesday, October 23	6. Suffering as a Christian	1 Peter 3:18—5:14
Sunday, October 27	7. Contend for the Faith	Jude
Wednesday, October 30	8. False Teachers Among You	2 Peter
Sunday, November 3	9. Love for God and Brother	1 John 1:1—2:17
Wednesday, November 6	10. In Deed and In Truth	1 John 2:18—3:24
Sunday, November 10	11. No Fear in Love	1 John 4-5
Wednesday, November 13	12. John to the "Elect Lady and Gaius"	2 and 3 John
Sunday, November 17	Meeting with Phillip Shumake	
Wednesday, November 20	13. Introduction to Revelation	Revelation 1
Sunday, November 24	14. The Seven Churches	Revelation 2-3
Wednesday, November 27	15. The Throne Room	Revelation 4-5
Sunday, December 1	16. The Six Seals	Revelation 6-7
Wednesday, December 4	17. The Seventh Seal and the Trumpets	Revelation 8-9
Sunday, December 8	18. The Angel and the Little Scroll; The Two Witnesses	Revelation 10-11
Wednesday, December 11	19. The Dragon, Satan, and the Beasts	Revelation 12-13
Sunday, December 15	20. The Lamb and the 144,000	Revelation 14
Wednesday, December 18	21. The Seven Bowls	Revelation 15-16
Sunday, December 22	22. The Fall of Babylon	Revelation 17-18
Wednesday, December 25	23. Celebration and the Defeat of Satan	Revelation 19-20
Sunday, December 29	24. A New Heaven and a New Earth	Revelation 21-22
Wednesday, January 1	25. Review	Revelation

17 Periods of Bible History

1. Before The Flood	Genesis 1-5
2. The Flood	Genesis 6-10
3. The Scattering of the People	Genesis 11
4. The Patriarchs	Genesis 12-50
5. The Exodus	Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers 1-13
6. Wandering in the Wilderness	Numbers 14-36, Deuteronomy, Joshua 1-5
7. Invasion and Conquest	Joshua 6-24
8. The Judges	Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel 1-7
9. The United Kingdom	
Saul	1 Samuel 8-31, 1 Chronicles 10
David	2 Samuel, 1 Chronicles 11-29
Solomon	1 Kings 1-11, 2 Chronicles 1-9
10. The Divided Kingdom	1 Kings 12-2 Kings 17, 2 Chronicles 10-30*
11. Judah Alone	2 Kings 18-25, 2 Chronicles 30*-36
12. Captivity	Ezekiel, Daniel
13. Return from Captivity	Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
14. Years of Silence	(Prophesy in Amos 8:11)
15. Life of Christ	Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
16. The Early Church	Acts
17. Letters to the Christians	Romans - Revelation

James and the Sermon on the Mount

James	Sermon on the Mount	Subject
1:2	Matt. 5:10–12 (Luke 6:22, 23)	Joy in the midst of trials
1:4	Matt. 5:48	God’s desire and work in us: perfection
1:5	Matt. 7:7	Asking God for good gifts
1:17	Matt. 7:11	God is the giver of good gifts
1:19, 20	Matt. 5:22	Command against anger
1:22, 23	Matt. 7:24–27	Contrast between hearers and doers (illustrated)
1:26, 27	Matt. 7:21–23	Religious person whose religion is worthless
2:5	Matt. 5:3	The poor as heirs of the kingdom
2:10	Matt. 5:19	The whole moral law to be kept
2:11	Matt. 5:21, 22	Command against murder
2:13	Matt. 5:7, 6:14, 15	The merciful blessed; the unmerciful condemned
2:14–26	Matt. 7:21–23	Dead, worthless (and deceiving) faith
3:12	Matt. 7:16 (Luke 6:44, 45)	Tree producing what is in keeping with its kind
3:18	Matt. 5:9	Blessing of those who make peace
4:2, 3	Matt. 7:7, 8	Importance of asking God
4:4	Matt. 6:24	Friendship with the world = hostility toward God
4:8	Matt. 5:8	Blessing on and call for the pure in heart
4:9	Matt. 5:4	Blessing and call for those who mourn
4:11, 12	Matt. 7:1–5	Command against wrongly judging others
4:13, 14	Matt. 6:34	Not focusing too much on tomorrow
5:1	(Luke 6:24, 25)	Woe to rich
5:2	Matt. 6:19, 20	Moth and rust spoiling earthly riches
5:6	(Luke 6:37)	Against condemning the righteous man
5:9	Matt. 5:22, 7:1	Not judging—the Judge standing at the door
5:10	Matt. 5:12	The prophets as examples of wrongful suffering
5:12	Matt. 5:33–37	Not making hasty and irreverent oaths ¹

¹ Thomas Nelson Publishers, [*Nelson’s Complete Book of Bible Maps & Charts: Old and New Testaments*](#), Rev. and updated ed. (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1996).

Lesson 1: Crash Course on Christian Wisdom

Text: James 1

Overview:

- It is usually accepted that this epistle was written by James, the brother of the Lord.
- James may be the most Jewish book of the New Testament. Much of the content of the book is organized in a more random way like Proverbs.
- It is interesting to note many parallels between what James says and the specific teaching of Jesus.
- Chapter 1 serves as a kind of table of contents for the rest of the letter.

Questions:

1. If this letter was written by Jesus' brother James, why does the author not mention it?
2. Why should we count it all joy when we have trials?
3. What does it mean to "ask in faith"?
4. If you are a Christian of humble means, how should you think about your situation? If you are a Christian of great wealth, how should you think about your situation?
5. As James discusses the process of temptation and sin, what kind of imagery is he using?
6. According to vv. 18-21, what specifically are we to be "quick to hear"?
7. Explain James' point in vv. 23-24.
8. Religion is more than what you do at church. What else does it involve?

Lesson 2: Faith in Action

Text: James 2-3

Overview:

- Christianity is not just a collection of doctrines and beliefs. It is a way of life.
- This is what makes James so powerful. He moves from one thing to the next quickly. If he doesn't step on your toes in one section, he will in the next.

Questions:

1. Why are we so quick to give preference to the wealthy and ignore the destitute?
2. When we show partiality, what commandment are we transgressing?
3. What is the "law of liberty"? Isn't that an oxymoron?
4. How would a person in need respond to the situation described in 2:15-16?
5. How is the evidence of our faith?
6. What images does James use to discuss the tongue and the need to control it?
7. How does teaching fall into the context of controlling our tongue?
8. Note the differences between the self-centeredness of 3:14-16 and the selflessness of 3:17.

Lesson 3: Applying the Teaching of Jesus

Text: James 4-5

Overview:

- The parallels between this letter and Jesus' teaching become obvious in this section. You may want to keep a list in the margin of this lesson.
- This section continues the practical teaching from the first three chapters. This is what faith looks like.

Questions:

1. What causes fights and disunity among brethren?
2. Why is "friendship with the world enmity with God"?
3. What does it mean to be "double-minded"? Some have argued that this is the key theme of the book. How would this apply to the previous subjects?
4. How is the person of 4:13-17 double minded?
5. Who else made comments about wealth like those in 5:2-3?
6. Whose example should we follow when suffering?
7. What is the sickness of 5:14-15?
8. **REVIEW:** Return to chapter one and note how it is like a table of contents for the rest of the letter.

Suffering in Divine Perspective

Human Suffering	Divine Perspective
Various trials (1 Pet. 1:6).	Rejoice; they are temporary (1 Pet. 1:6).
Unjust authority (1 Pet. 2:18).	Silence evil men by doing good. Follow the example of Christ (1 Pet. 2:21).
Suffering for doing what is right (1 Pet. 3:14).	Be ready to give testimony of your faith (1 Pet. 3:15).
Suffering because of a determination to resist carnal desires (1 Pet. 4:1).	Give up carnal pursuits (1 Pet. 4:2).
Religious persecution (1 Pet. 4:12–14).	Be partakers in Christ’s sufferings (1 Pet. 4:13, 14).
Suffering as part of God’s refining fire for spiritual growth (1 Pet. 4:19).	Commit your life to Him; He is faithful (1 Pet. 4:19).
Suffering from the attack of Satan (1 Pet. 5:8).	Resist Satan; be steadfast in faith (1 Pet. 5:9). ²

A Comparison of 1 and 2 Peter

1 Peter	2 Peter
Theme: Hope in the midst of suffering	Theme: The danger of false teaching and practices
Christology: The sufferings of Christ for our salvation and example at His incarnation	Christology: The glory of Christ and the consummation of history at His return
The day of salvation when Christ suffered, died and rose from the dead	The day of the Lord when Christ returns in judgment
Redemptive title: Christ	Title of dominion: Lord
Be encouraged in your present trials	Be warned of eschatological judgment
We need hope to face our trials	We need full knowledge to face error
Numerous similarities to Paul (especially Ephesians and Colossians)	Almost identical similarities to Jude (compare 2 Peter 2 with Jude 4–18) ³

² Thomas Nelson Publishers, [*Nelson’s Complete Book of Bible Maps & Charts: Old and New Testaments*](#), Rev. and updated ed. (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1996).

³ Ibid.

Lesson 4: Faithfulness in Persecution

Text: 1 Peter 1:1—2:10

Overview:

- Like James, Peter addresses many different topics. But the main theme of 1 Peter is “Faithfulness in the face of persecution.”
- Notice that these epistles written later in the first century emphasize faithfulness. The pagan world was learning about Christianity and the world chafed against it. How would these Christians respond?

Questions:

1. What was the “diaspora” or “dispersion”?
2. How is our spiritual inheritance described? How is that different from a physical inheritance?
3. Explain the connection between faith / persecution and gold / fire.
4. What advantage do we have over the prophets and angels?
5. If we are going to remain faithful, what do we need to do (cf. 1:13-16)?
6. What does Peter mean when he mentions the “time of your exile”?
7. How do we purify our souls?
8. How is Jesus a rejected stone that has become the chief cornerstone?
9. What are we to God?

Lesson 5: Peter's Household Code

Text: 1 Peter 2:11—3:17

Overview:

- This is the third household code we have looked at. The first two were in Ephesians and Colossians. This code omits the parent-child relationship and adds the government-citizen relationship.
- Peter's underlying purpose is for Christians to show that they are not radicals determined to upset social norms but live according to the law and natural order.

Questions:

1. How are we “sojourners and exiles”?
2. What does Peter hope to achieve by their good conduct?
3. What is responsibility of the citizen to the government?
4. What is the responsibility of the slave to the master? What if the master mistreats the slave?
5. What is the responsibility of the wife to the husband? What does Peter hope this might accomplish?
6. When did Sarah call Abraham “lord”?
7. All the instruction of this household code is to the part in subjection, except for one sentence to husbands. What is Peter's warning to men?
8. How might we see 3:8-9 as the underlying principle for Peter's household code?
9. What should we have ready when others mock, slander, persecute, and question us?

Lesson 6: Suffering as a Christian

Text: 1 Peter 3:18—5:14

Overview:

- Remember, the purpose of this letter is to encourage the audience to remain faithful through trials and suffering. If they are going to suffer, they ought to suffer for their faith in Christ.

Questions:

1. Who are the “spirits in prison” of 3:19?
2. What does 3:21 say about the physical act of immersion and “getting wet”?
3. What impact does our righteous behavior have on those around us?
4. What does Peter mean when he says that the “gospel was preached to the dead”?
5. What famous restoration phrase comes from 4:11?
6. Consider 1 Peter 4:14-16. Does this sound familiar?
7. We often speak of Peter’s exhortation to the elders in 5:1-5. In the context of this letter, what is one of the main jobs of an elder?
8. What is the importance of sobriety in 5:8?
9. What is “Babylon” in 5:13?

Lesson 7: Jude

Text: Jude

Overview:

- Jude is a fascinating little book. It is very Jewish in nature and has many parallels with 2 Peter 2.

Questions:

1. If this is the brother of Jesus, why does he not reference that relationship?
2. Refer to 2 Peter 2 and note the parallels with this letter.
3. Why is Jude writing this letter?
4. Read the letter multiple times noticing how Jude likes to use groups of threes.
5. Where does the story of Michael and Satan come from?
6. What are “love feasts”?
7. When did Enoch make the prophecy of Jude 14?
8. How can we help those who are struggling with their faith?

Lesson 8: False Teachers Among You

Text: 2 Peter 1-3

Overview:

- 1 Peter encourages Christians to maintain faithfulness in the face of persecution.
- 2 Peter encourages Christians to maintain faithfulness in the face of false teaching.
- There are many overlaps between Jude and 2 Peter 2. So, this lesson will focus more on chapters 1 and 3.

Questions:

1. What has God given us regarding “life and godliness”?
2. What happens when you lack the qualities of 1:5-7?
3. Peter says that his death is coming. How does he know this? To what is Peter referring?
4. To what event does 1:16-18 refer?
5. Why should the audience listen to Peter and the other apostles as opposed to these false teachers?
6. Note the number of Old Testament characters and events Peter alludes to in chapter 2.
7. Since Jesus had yet to return, what would some people say? What had those people forgotten?
8. Since the world will be destroyed, what sort of people ought we to be?
9. What does Peter acknowledge about Paul’s letters?

OUTLINE OF 1 JOHN

Part One: The Basis of Fellowship (1:1–2:27)

- I. Introduction 1:1–4**
- II. The Conditions for Fellowship 1:5–2:14**
 - A. Walk in the Light 1:5–7
 - B. Confession of Sin 1:8–2:2
 - C. Obedience to His Commandments 2:3–6
 - D. Love for One Another 2:7–14
- III. The Cautions to Fellowship 2:15–27**
 - A. Love of the World 2:15–17
 - B. Spirit of the Antichrist 2:18–27

Part Two: The Behavior of Fellowship (2:28–5:21)

- I. Characteristics of Fellowship 2:28–5:3**
 - A. Purity of Life 2:28–3:3
 - B. Practice of Righteousness 3:4–12
 - C. Love in Deed and Truth 3:13–24
 - D. Testing the Spirits 4:1–6
 - E. Love as Christ Loved 4:7–5:3
- II. Consequences of Fellowship 5:4–21**
 - A. Victory over the World 5:4, 5
 - B. Assurance of Salvation 5:6–13
 - C. Guidance in Prayer 5:14–17
 - D. Freedom from Habitual Sin 5:18–21⁴

The Quality of Love

The Source of Love	The Effect of Love
God personifies love (4:8, 16)	We reflect God's love in the world (4:7)
God loves us (4:19)	We love God; our fear is gone; we keep His commands (4:18, 19; 5:3)
God gave His Son for us (4:9, 10)	We give our substance for others (3:17; 4:11)
Christ laid down His life for us (3:16)	We lay down our lives for others (3:16) ⁵

⁴ Thomas Nelson Publishers, [*Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps & Charts: Old and New Testaments*](#), Rev. and updated ed. (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1996).

⁵ Ibid.

Lesson 9: Love for God and Brother

Text: 1 John 1:1—2:17

Overview:

- After studying Paul (and even Peter), John's letters are very different.
- John regularly returns to the themes of light and love.

Questions:

1. Note the similarities in Genesis 1:1, John 1:1, and 1 John 1:1.
2. What is John referring to in 1:1-3?
3. Light and darkness is a common theme in John's writings. What is God and where are we to walk?
4. When Christians sin, who pleads our case?
5. What does "propitiation" mean?
6. How can we know that we have a relationship with God?
7. If we are going to walk in the light, what two commandments must we keep?
8. In Romans, Paul argued that we must walk according to the spirit, not the flesh. James said, "friendship with the world is enmity with God." What does John say?

Lesson 10: In Deed and In Truth

Text: 1 John 2:18—3:24

Overview:

- In this section, John places great emphasis on doing and obeying.
- This is the main section of John's first letter that lead scholars to conclude that John was dealing with the false doctrine of Gnosticism.

Questions:

1. Who or what is the "antichrist"? How is John's description of "antichrist" different from how the religious world usually talks about it?
2. Use a bible dictionary or the internet to research Gnosticism. What from John's first letter would indicate that he might be dealing with this particular false doctrine?
3. Like Peter's letters, John writes to warn his audience about _____ (2:26).
4. How will the unfaithful respond at Christ's return? What about the faithful?
5. When Christ returns and we join Him, how will we appear?
6. What does John mean by "keeps on sinning" in 3:6? Don't we all, technically, keep on sinning?
7. What are the signs of one who is a child of God and one who is a child of the devil?
8. What example does John give to explain "let us love not in word or talk but in deed and truth"?

Lesson 11: No Fear in Love

Text: 1 John 4-5

Overview:

- I do not mean any disrespect toward the apostle John, but he reminds me of a grandfather (he may have been around 90 when he wrote this letter). Paul is scholarly and crafts long, logical arguments. But John is simple and practical. Love each other! Be careful! Obey the Lord! Watch out!
- A study of John's gospel with his epistles is interesting—the parallels are numerous. He likes to talk about light, love, obedience, and Christ versus the world.

Questions:

1. Why does John instruct his readers to “test the spirits”?
2. How do we know what love is (4:9-10)?
3. “Perfect love casts out fear.” What does John mean?
4. Can we keep the first great commandment while forsaking the second?
5. How are we to overcome the world?
6. Consult various Bible versions for 1 John 5:8.
7. John says that if we ask anything according to God's will, it will be given to us. So the question is this, what does it mean to “ask according to His will”?
8. Why does John end this letter the way he does?

Lesson 12: John to the “Elect Lady” and Gaius

Text: 2 and 3 John

Overview:

- I wonder if John wrote 2 and 3 John at the same time: 2 John to the local church and 3 John to Gaius, a member of that church.
- In 3 John, he mentions that he had written something to the church but Diotrephes is a hindrance to John’s work.
- My thought is that 2 John is to the church and 3 John is to Gaius to let him know that there is a specific letter for the congregation and to warn him that Diotrephes might keep it from being read.

Questions:

1. Why does John refer to himself as “the elder”?
2. Who or what is the “elect lady”?
3. John mentions the importance of love and the danger of denying that Jesus came in the flesh. What are the parallel passages from 1 John?
4. How are Christians to respond to those who bring in false doctrine?
5. Why does John praise Gaius?
6. What does John accuse Diotrephes of doing?
7. Who might be John’s example of good and evil from v. 11?
8. Why are these two letters so short?

Lesson 13: Introduction to Revelation

Text: Revelation 1

Objectives:

- Revelation is a very different book from the rest of the New Testament. Its closest parallel from the Old Testament would be Daniel and Zechariah.
- It is apocalyptic literature. It uses dramatic symbols and descriptions to paint a picture.
- It is important to remember that not every detail has a 1 to 1 meaning in real life.
- The Jews were accustomed to this type of literature from the intertestamental period. This is crisis literature. It presents repetitive pictures of judgment against God's enemies.
- Simple theme of Revelation: Jesus and Satan go to war. Jesus wins!

Questions:

1. Do some research on Apocalyptic literature. I highly recommend Mark Robert's book *Understanding Apocalyptic Literature*. You can purchase it from the Florida College Bookstore. It should be required reading for everyone studying Revelation.
2. When was Revelation written and what impact does this have on the book?
3. How does John refer to the three persons of deity?
4. What should we expect when we read the phrase "coming with the clouds"?
5. Where is John and why is he there?
6. Where does the phrase "son of man" come from?
7. How or why does Jesus have the keys of "Death and Hades"?
8. What are the seven stars and the seven golden lampstands?

Lesson 14: The Seven Churches

Text: Revelation 2-3

Overview:

- While Revelation is apocalyptic literature and prophecy, it is also a letter. This letter was written to specific people about a specific issue that they would have to deal with.
- We will move quickly through each letter due to time constraints. Fortunately, this is the easiest section of the book.

Questions:

1. Each note to the churches follows a pattern. What is it?
2. Where do the descriptions of Jesus in the first part of each letter come from?
3. What does he mean that Ephesus has “abandoned their first love” or “the love they had at first”?
4. Who were the Nicolaitans?
5. What is a “synagogue of Satan”?
6. What does he mean when he says, “Where Satan’s throne dwells”?
7. What was the teaching of Balaam?
8. Who is Jezebel?
9. What was wrong with the church at Philadelphia?

Lesson 15: The Throne Room

Text: Revelation 5-6

Overview:

- This is one of the most powerful scenes in all of scripture as we peek into the very throne room of God.
- Remember as you read this that these are not literal descriptions. This is accommodative language. John is using human language to describe spiritual realities. Throughout scripture, one of the main descriptions of God is His brightness.

Questions:

1. What does the number 24 symbolize?
2. What is a theophany?
3. What is the Old Testament parallel for these four living creatures?
4. What does it mean that the 24 elders cast their crowns down before the throne?
5. Why was John weeping?
6. What is the symbolism behind the “Lion from the tribe of Judah”?
7. What makes Jesus worthy to open the seals of the scroll?

Lesson 16: The Six Seals

Text: Revelation 6-7

Overview:

- As the Lamb breaks each seal, something happens.
- Each of the first four seals is like something out of the Old Testament, specifically Zechariah.
- This is where we begin to see some repetition and telescoping. You have the seven seals, the last of which brings the seven trumpets. The last trumpet brings the seven thunders (which are not revealed to us). And later we will see the seven bowls of wrath.

Questions:

1. Describe the first horseman and what he does.
2. Describe the second.
3. Describe the third.
4. Describe the fourth.
5. What does John see when the fifth seal is opened?
6. What kind of language is John using in 6:12-14?
7. Who is sealed in Revelation 7? Where do we see this in the Old Testament?
8. What is unusual about the list of tribes?

Lesson 17: The Seventh Seal and the Trumpets

Text: Revelation 8-9

Objectives:

- As we mentioned last lesson, there is a lot of repetition in Revelation. This is just a part of Apocalyptic literature.
- There are many parallels between the seals, the trumpets, and the bowls.

Questions:

1. What is the seventh seal?
2. What is the first trumpet?
3. What is the second trumpet?
4. What is the third trumpet?
5. What is the fourth trumpet?
6. What are the last three trumpets called?
7. Describe the fifth trumpet.
8. Describe the sixth trumpet.

Lesson 18: The Angel and the Little Scroll; The Two Witnesses

Text: Revelation 10-11

Overview:

- Remember to engage your imagination as you read these chapters. This type of language is intended to evoke emotion.
- Notice the similarities between the language seen here and the judgments described in the Old Testament prophets.

Questions:

1. How is this angel described? Is this confusing?
2. What did John hear and what is he told to do?
3. What did John do to the scroll? How is it described?
4. What Old Testament character measures the temple?
5. How long is 42 months? How long 1,260 days?
6. Where in the Old Testament do we read of two olive trees?
7. John describes the great city symbolically as Sodom and Egypt. What do Sodom and Egypt symbolize?
8. How long are the witnesses left in the street? Then what happens?
9. What phenomena do we see when the temple is opened?

Lesson 19: The Dragon, Satan, and the Beasts

Text: Revelation 12-13

Overview:

- The overall message of Revelation is simple: God will judge the wicked. However, the faithful must endure many things in the process.

Questions:

1. Who does this woman symbolize?
2. Who is the male child?
3. Where does the description of Satan in 12:9 come from?
4. Revelation 12:11 says, “they loved not their lives even unto death.” What saying of Jesus is like this?
5. What are “time, times, and half a time”?
6. Who else speaks of beasts like what we read of the beast from the sea?
7. What is the relationship of the second beast to the first?
8. Who is marked and what does this cause?
9. What does the number “666” mean?

Lesson 20: The Lamb and the 144,000

Text: Revelation 14

Overview:

- This class period will be used to catch up if we fall behind.

Questions:

1. Who are the 144,000?
2. What is the message of the first angel?
3. What is the message of the second angel?
4. What is the message of the third angel?
5. Consider Revelation 2:10 and 14:13. He is not just talking staying faithful while you grow old and then die. What is he talking about?
6. Where else do we see the description of 14:14?
7. Look up the words to *Battle Hymn of the Republic*. Where does this language come from?

Lesson 21: The Seven Bowls

Text: Revelation 15-16

Overview:

- Again, we want to note the parallels with the seals and trumpets.
- Sometimes God sends plagues, pestilence, and hardship not necessarily as judgment but to wake people up and to convince them to repent. What happens when we ignore these things? Read Amos 4.

Questions:

1. What is the song of Moses?
2. What is the connection between the plagues in v. 6 and the bowls in v. 7?
3. What happened when the first bowl was poured out?
4. The second?
5. The third?
6. The fourth?
7. The fifth?
8. The sixth?
9. The seventh?

Lesson 22: The Fall of Babylon

Text: Revelation 17-18

Overview:

- In these chapters the author cannot be clearer about who the enemy is, but he maintains his metaphorical, symbolic language.
- These chapters confirm my opinion that Rome is the great enemy of God in this book.

Questions:

1. Who is the “Great prostitute who is seated on many waters”?
2. What does it mean that the beast “was, is not, and is about to rise”?
3. What do the seven mountains of 17:9 represent?
4. Who are the kings described in vv. 10-11?
5. What city had “dominion over the kings of the earth” in the first century?
6. What groups of people will mourn the destruction of Babylon?

Lesson 23: Celebration and the Defeat of Satan

Text: Revelation 19-20

Overview:

- And now we enter into the text from which false teachers have concocted premillennialism. After all the imagery and metaphors of the book, should we now read everything as literal?

Questions:

1. What is being celebrated in heaven? What Old Testament minor prophet records the celebration of their enemy?
2. Who is the lamb? Who is the bride?
3. Revelation 19:8 says, “for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.” What does Isaiah say that seems to contradict this statement? What is the explanation?
4. How does this rider on a white horse compare to the one of chapter 6?
5. What is the relationship between the beast and the false prophet?
6. What do the 1,000 years stand for? Are they literal?
7. When will Satan be released? Has he already been released?
8. When else had John seen the people described in 20:4?
9. What or who is Gog and Magog?

Lesson 24: A New Heaven and a New Earth

Text: Revelation 21-22

Overview:

- Because of sin, our world will crumble and ultimately be destroyed. However, God has a plan. The description of this new dwelling place is of something we can barely imagine. John is forced to use the most beautiful and most expensive materials to even describe it. And, yet, it will be superior to his description.

Questions:

1. “Behold the dwelling place of God is with man.” What is significant about this phrase?
2. Where else do we receive an invitation to come drink of water without payment?
3. The New Testament contains many lists of sins. How does the one in 21:8 specifically relate to the book of Revelation?
4. In the description of the new Jerusalem, why is there an obsession with the number 12?
5. Consult other versions and the internet for the precious stones named in 21:19-20.
6. Why is there no temple in heaven?
7. Why is there no sun or moon in heaven?
8. What is the significance of the tree of life being in heaven?
9. In what way is Jesus coming soon? It’s been 1900+ years since these words were written?
10. To what do the words of 22:18-19 apply?

Lesson 25: Revelation Review

Text: Revelation

Overview:

- One reason people run into trouble studying Revelation is because they slow down too much and inspect every single detail. This is not how apocalyptic literature works.
- It helps to step back and see the whole forest.

Questions:

1. What is apocalyptic literature? Who else writes like John in Revelation?
2. Why does John write to these seven specific churches?
3. What are the main praises given to God and the Lamb in this book?
4. What are the various “sevens” presented in this book?
5. What is the hierarchy of wicked power: the land beast, the sea beast, the dragon?
6. Why is the great enemy of God referred to as “Babylon”?
7. 144,000. 1,000. 12. 7. 666. There are many numbers used in this book. Are they literal or symbolic? What do they mean?
8. Does the message of the book change if we say it addresses Rome and emperor worship and was written in the 90s versus the destruction of Jerusalem and was written in the 60s?