**The Book of**

 **Revelation**

Lesson Number Two

 **“Walk Through the Bible” Series**

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The book of Revelation is:

**Apocalyptic**- meaning it talks about the destruction of the earth.

**A book of prophecy** – it tells the future.

**A book of letters**- John to the 7 churches in Asia.

 Letters like Paul wrote to the 7 churches – each has specific instructions.

**Revelation 1:19 (KJV)**

19  Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

The Book of Revelation can basically be broken down into Three Parts - Revelation 1:19

“The Things thou hast seen” – Chapters 1 – 5

“The things which are” – Chapters 6 – 18

“The things which shall be hereafter” Chapters 19 – 22

**Revelation 1:1-3 (NLT)**

1  This is a 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, 2  who faithfully reported everything he saw. This is his report of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. 3  God blesses the one who reads the words of this prophecy to the church, and he blesses all who listen to its message and obey what it says, for **the time is near**.

**“must soon take place”** **“the time is near”** – soon – Grk. Tachos – soon, quickly. It would make more sense to us to say **“the events that must quickly take place.”** There have been almost 2,000 years since this book was written and these things have not taken place yet. In the scheme of things, it all happens very quickly. What is 2,000 years in respect to eternity?

John faithfully reported everything he saw. I believe John saw things in “real time.” The Bible doesn’t tell us exactly how John saw these things happen so we don’t really know if he was actually placed physically in that time and place. We just don’t know.

Some people see visions that are in their mind’s eye. I believe this vision was much more than that.

Whoever reads this book to the Church receives a blessing as well as those who hear it and DO what is written therein!

We are supposed to be **“Doers”** of the Word of God.

**James 1:22-25 (NLT)**

22  But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. 23  For if you listen to the word and don’t obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. 24  You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. 25  But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don’t forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

**Galatians 6:7 (KJV)**

7  Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Whatever we choose to do, we will reap a harvest from that!

We can reap both **GOOD** and **BAD!** Let me encourage you to “DO” God’s Word and especially as we see the “end times” approaching. You can reap bad things as easily as you can reap good things!

**Revelation 1:4 (NLT)**
4  This letter is from John to the seven churches in the province of Asia. Grace and peace to you from the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come; from the sevenfold Spirit before his throne;

**John’s Greeting or Salutation to the Seven Churches in Asia**

**Revelation 1:4-6 (NLT)**

4  This letter is from John to the seven churches in the province of Asia. Grace and peace to you from the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come; from the **sevenfold Spirit before his throne**; 5  and from Jesus Christ. He is the **faithful witness** to these things, the first to rise from the dead, and the ruler of all the kings of the world. All glory to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us. 6  He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.



Asia Minor is present day Turkey.

What is the “sevenfold Spirit before His throne?”

**Revelation 5:6 (NLT)**

6  Then I saw a Lamb that looked as if it had been slaughtered, but it was now standing between the throne and the four living beings and among the twenty-four elders. He had **seven horns and seven eyes**, which **represent** the sevenfold Spirit of God that is sent out into every part of the earth.

The number “Seven” is symbolic of **fullness** or **completeness**.

[**seven horns and seven eyes**] Not seven titles of the Holy Spirit, for there are more titles than this that are applied to the Spirit. Since the Lamb has the seven horns and seven eyes, since we know there is but one Holy Spirit ([Eph. 4:4-6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+4%3A4-6)), and since the Lamb is a symbol of Christ, the seven lamps of fire ([Rev. 4:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+4%3A5)), the seven horns, and seven eyes are all symbolic of the one Holy Spirit and can only denote His fullness and power upon the Lamb and before the throne ([Jn. 3:34](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+3%3A34); [Isa. 11:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+11%3A2); [42:1-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+42%3A1-7); [61:1-2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+61%3A1-2); [Acts 10:38](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+10%3A38)).

*Dake's Annotated Reference Bible: Containing the Old and New Testaments of the Authorized or King James Version Text.*

**Revelation 1:7-8 (NLT)**

7  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! 8  “I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end,” says the Lord God. “I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One.”

“everyone will see him— even those who pierced him” – Those in the vicinity of Jerusalem and the descendants of those who had Jesus killed, the Jews!

Notes For Verse 7

**a** [**every eye shall see him**] All eyes in the immediate vicinity of Jerusalem where He lands ([Zech. 14:1-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Zec+14%3A1-5)). People in distant parts of the earth will not see Him until later ([Isa. 2:2-4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+2%3A2-4); [66:19-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+66%3A19-21); [Zech. 8:23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Zec+8%3A23)).

**b** [**they also which pierced him**] The descendants of those who pierced Him -- the Jews ([Zech. 12:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Zec+12%3A10)).

**c** [**and all kindreds of the earth**] The armies of the nations that will be surrounding Jerusalem when Christ comes ([Zech. 14:1-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Zec+14%3A1-5); [Mt. 24:29-31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+24%3A29-31)).

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Not everyone on earth will see Christ when He returns. We will not all have supernatural vision. Those in the vicinity of Jerusalem WILL see Him when He returns.

**Isaiah 2:2-4 (NLT)**

2  In the last days, the mountain of the LORD’s house will be the highest of all— the most important place on earth. It will be raised above the other hills, and people from all over the world will stream there to worship. 3  People from many nations will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of Jacob’s God. There he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths.” For the LORD’s teaching will go out from Zion; his word will go out from Jerusalem. 4  The LORD will mediate between nations and will settle international disputes. They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore.

People will travel to Jerusalem to see the Lord. He will rule from Jerusalem and, as Isaiah prophesied, will settle international disputes and teach us His ways.

**Revelation 1:8 (NLT)**

8  “I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end,” says the Lord God. “I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One.”

Alpha and Omega - the first and the last letters in the Greek alphabet. This term is used four times in the Book of Revelation to denote that Christ is the Beginning and the End! He is the First and the Last! He is fully and completely God!

“Almighty One” – Almighty refers to God Himself (Rev. 4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 16:7,14; 19:15; 21:22).
Jesus told us that He and the Father are one (John 10:30).

**Revelation 1:9 (NLT)**

9  I, John, am your brother and your partner in suffering and in God’s Kingdom and in the patient endurance to which Jesus calls us. I was exiled to the island of Patmos for preaching the word of God and for my testimony about Jesus.

John was exiled to Patmos for two reasons; for **preaching the Word of God** and for his **testimony about Jesus**.

John, as well as all of the disciples knew about suffering. John was put into a pot of boiling oil with the intent of killing him but he would not die. Because of this, he was exiled to Patmos. Patmos was much like Alcatraz. It was an island where prisoners were left with no way to get back to the mainland.

**2 Timothy 3:10-13 (NLT)**

10  But you, Timothy, certainly know what I teach, and how I live, and what my purpose in life is. You know my faith, my patience, my love, and my endurance. 11  **You know how much persecution and suffering I have endured**. You know all about how I was persecuted in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra—but the Lord rescued me from all of it. 12  Yes, and **everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution**. 13  But evil people and impostors will flourish. They will deceive others and will themselves be deceived.

**Into All the World**

Reports and legends abound and they are not always reliable, but it is safe to say that the apostles went far and wide as heralds of the message of the risen Christ. An early legend says they cast lots and divided up the world to determine who would go where, so all could hear about Jesus. They suffered greatly for their faith and in most cases met violent deaths on account of their bold witness.

**PETER** and **PAUL** were both martyred in Rome about 66 AD, during the persecution under Emperor Nero. Paul was beheaded. Peter was crucified, upside down at his request, since he did not feel he was worthy to die in the same manner as his Lord.

**ANDREW** went to the "land of the man-eaters," in what is now the Soviet Union. [Christians](http://www.christianity.com/) there claim him as the first to bring the gospel to their land. He also preached in Asia Minor, modern-day Turkey, and in Greece, where he is said to have been crucified.

"Doubting" **THOMAS**was probably most active in the area east of Syria. Tradition has him preaching as far east as India, where the ancient Marthoma Christians revere him as their founder. They claim that he died there when pierced through with the spears of four soldiers.

**PHILIP** possibly had a powerful ministry in Carthage in North Africa and then in Asia Minor, where he converted the wife of a Roman proconsul. In retaliation the proconsul had Philip arrested and cruelly put to death.

**MATTHEW** the tax collector and writer of a Gospel, ministered in Persia and Ethiopia. Some of the oldest reports say he was not martyred, while others say he was stabbed to death in Ethiopia.

**BARTHOLOMEW** had widespread missionary travels attributed to him by tradition: to India with Thomas, back to Armenia, and also to Ethiopia and Southern Arabia. There are various accounts of how he met his death as a martyr for the gospel.

**JAMES** the son of Alpheus, is one of at least three James referred to in the New Testament. There is some confusion as to which is which, but this James is reckoned to have ministered in Syria. The Jewish historian Josephus reported that he was stoned and then clubbed to death.

**SIMON THE ZEALOT**, so the story goes, ministered in Persia and was killed after refusing to sacrifice to the sun god.

**MATTHIAS**was the apostle chosen to replace Judas. Tradition sends him to Syria with Andrew and to death by burning.

**JOHN** is the only one of the company generally thought to have died a natural death from old age. He was the leader of the church in the Ephesus area and is said to have taken care of Mary the mother of Jesus in his home. During Domitian's persecution in the middle 90's, he was exiled to the island of Patmos. There he is credited with writing the last book of the New Testament--the Revelation. An early Latin tradition has him escaping unhurt after being cast into boiling oil at Rome.

<http://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/timeline/1-300/whatever-happened-to-the-twelve-apostles-11629558.html>

Everyone who follows after Christ and is a “Doer” of the Word of God will suffer **persecution**. This does NOT mean that you will all be martyred but some of you certainly could be. Are you willing to give your life for Christ?

We should count it as an honor to be martyred for Christ’s sake.

There were more Christian martyrs in the **20th century** than in the entire history of the world combined, before that! Persecution of Christians is still going on and will only get worse as the end approaches.

**Revelation 1:10-20 (NLT)**

10  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. 11  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.” 12  When I turned to see who was speaking to me, I saw seven gold lampstands. 13  And standing in the middle of the lampstands was someone like the Son of Man. He was wearing a long robe with a gold sash across his chest. 14  His head and his hair were white like wool, as white as snow. And his eyes were like flames of fire. 15  His feet were like polished bronze refined in a furnace, and his voice thundered like mighty ocean waves. 16  He held seven stars in his right hand, and a sharp two-edged sword came from his mouth. And his face was like the sun in all its brilliance. 17  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. 18  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. 19  “Write down what you have seen—both the things that are now happening and the things that will happen.
20  This is the meaning of the mystery of the seven stars you saw in my right hand and the seven gold lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Notes For Verse 10

**a** [**in the Spirit**] A term used of being wholly in union with the Holy Spirit and yielded to Him (note, Lk. 22:3).

**b** [**the Lord's day**] A term used by early Christians of the first day of the week, the day of the Lord's resurrection. Romans set aside certain days for emperor worship and called them "the Augustean day," etc., so Christians set aside Sunday as the day to worship God and Christ, calling it the Lord's day.

**c** [**as of a trumpet**] God prepared Moses to receive the law by the blowing of a trumpet (Ex. 19:16-19).

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Here we have a vision of Christ in His glorified state.

1. Wearing a long robe with a gold sash across His chest.
2. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow.
3. His eyes were like flames of fire.
4. His feet were like polished bronze refined in a furnace.
5. His voice thundered like mighty ocean waves.
6. In His right hand He held seven stars which were the pastors of the seven churches.
7. His mouth had a two edged sword coming out of it.

**Ephesians 6:17 (NLT)**

17  Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

**Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)**

12  For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

1. His face was like the sun in all its brilliance.

Daniel saw a similar vision of Christ.

**Daniel 10:6 (NLT)**

6  His body looked like a precious gem. His face flashed like lightning, and his eyes flamed like torches. His arms and feet shone like polished bronze, and his voice roared like a vast multitude of people.

**Being “Slain in the Spirit” or “Falling Out”**

When John saw Jesus in all of His glory, he fell “as a dead man.”

You may have seen services on television or you may have been at one personally where, when people are prayed for, they fall down. The common term for this is “being slain in the Holy Ghost” or “falling out.”

Is this scriptural or is it learned behavior and just something charismatic and Pentecostal Christians do?

The Bible tells us that we should always **establish doctrine** by two or three witnesses (Deut. 19:15; 2 Cor. 13:1). So, let us look to the Bible to establish doctrine!

1. In Genesis chapter 15, God makes a covenant with Abram but God puts Abram into a deep sleep before He does it.

**Genesis 15:12 (NLT)**

12  As the sun was going down, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a terrifying darkness came down over him.

1. In Numbers 24, we have the story of a “mercenary false prophet, a mere magician and sorcerer,” Balaam. The Bible says he “bows down with eyes wide open.”

<http://www.charismamag.com/spirit/supernatural/17935-the-biblical-support-for-falling-out-in-the-spirit>

**Numbers 24:4 (NLT)**
4  the message of one who hears the words of God, who sees a vision from the Almighty, who bows down with eyes wide open:

**Numbers 24:16 (NLT)**
16  the message of one who hears the words of God, who has knowledge from the Most High, who sees a vision from the Almighty, who bows down with eyes wide open:

“Each time Balaam tried to curse the people of God, he fell down with his eyes wide open, seeing a vision from Almighty God. Instead of curses, blessings for the nation of Israel came rushing out of his mouth! That happened not once but three times. “

“In a trance, the unbelieving follower of witchcraft saw a vision of God and prophesied the word of God. How amazing to consider that through a trance, God used Balaam’s mouth for His glory!”

<http://www.charismamag.com/spirit/supernatural/17935-the-biblical-support-for-falling-out-in-the-spirit>

1. The prophet Ezekiel had several experiences in which God visited him in a trance.

**Ezekiel 1:28 (NLT)**

28  All around him was a glowing halo, like a rainbow shining in the clouds on a rainy day. This is what the glory of the LORD looked like to me. When I saw it, I fell face down on the ground, and I heard someone’s voice speaking to me.

**Ezekiel 2:2 (NLT)**

2  The Spirit came into me as he spoke, and he set me on my feet. I listened carefully to his words.

Kenneth Hagin used to say, “If you think you’ve really had an experience with the Lord when you were slain in the spirit, wait until He picks you up!”

**Ezekiel 3:23 (NLT)**

23  So I got up and went, and there I saw the glory of the LORD, just as I had seen in my first vision by the Kebar River. And I fell face down on the ground.

1. Daniel fell into a trance and had a vision about the end times that correspond with the Book of Revelation. After the trance and vision, he was weak and sick for several days.

**Daniel 8:27 (NLT)**

27  Then I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for several days. Afterward I got up and performed my duties for the king, but I was greatly troubled by the vision and could not understand it.

1. Saul, before his name was changed to Paul, was on his way to Damascus when he was visited by the Lord.

**Acts 9:3-5 (NLT)**

3  As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. 4  He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?” 5  “Who are you, lord?” Saul asked. And the voice replied, “I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting!

“Here again we see clear evidence of falling out as a natural response to a divine revelation. Paul arose from that experience blinded for several days. Although his physical sight was temporarily gone, his spiritual eyes could see clearly. In a trance, he received confrontation and correction from Jesus. Paul recounted this experience before the Jews in Jerusalem in Acts 22 and again before King Agrippa in Acts 26.”

<http://www.charismamag.com/spirit/supernatural/17935-the-biblical-support-for-falling-out-in-the-spirit>

1. Paul had another, similar experience.

**Acts 22:17-18 (NLT)**

17  “After I returned to Jerusalem, I was praying in the Temple and fell into a trance.
18  I saw a vision of Jesus saying to me, ‘Hurry! Leave Jerusalem, for the people here won’t accept your testimony about me.’

“Paul definitely heard the voice of Jesus while he was in a trance. We do not know whether or not he had fallen to the ground, but he was out of consciousness and totally absorbed or engaged in communion with Christ. The purpose of the trance was to give Paul deliverance from his enemies. The experience happened to him in church. God needed to give Paul specific instructions, for more than forty Jewish leaders had sworn an oath that they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul. God supernaturally revealed that He had other plans for Paul!”

<http://www.charismamag.com/spirit/supernatural/17935-the-biblical-support-for-falling-out-in-the-spirit>

1. In the story of Cornelius and how he and his people came to the Lord, we see Peter fall into a trance as he is praying on the rooftop.

**Acts 10:9-16 (NLT)**

9  The next day as Cornelius’s messengers were nearing the town, Peter went up on the flat roof to pray. It was about noon, 10  and he was hungry. But while a meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. 11  He saw the sky open, and something like a large sheet was let down by its four corners. 12  In the sheet were all sorts of animals, reptiles, and birds. 13  Then a voice said to him, “Get up, Peter; kill and eat them.” 14  “No, Lord,” Peter declared. “I have never eaten anything that our Jewish laws have declared impure and unclean.” 15  But the voice spoke again: “Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean.” 16  The same vision was repeated three times. Then the sheet was suddenly pulled up to heaven.

1. Of course, we have John’s experience. He was Jesus in all his manifest glory and he fell as his feet.
2. Solomon had just built the temple and he had the priests bring the Ark of the Covenant into the Holy of Holies.

**1 Kings 8:10-11 (NLT)**

10  When the priests came out of the Holy Place, a thick cloud filled the Temple of the LORD. 11  The priests could not continue their service because of the cloud, for the glorious presence of the LORD filled the Temple.

**2 Chronicles 5:13-14 (NLT)**

13  The trumpeters and singers performed together in unison to praise and give thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals, and other instruments, they raised their voices and praised the LORD with these words: “He is good! His faithful love endures forever!” At that moment a thick cloud filled the Temple of the LORD. 14  The priests could not continue their service because of the cloud, for the glorious presence of the LORD filled the Temple of God.

At the end of the dedication of the temple, Solomon prayed and then:

**2 Chronicles 7:1-3 (NLT)**

1  When Solomon finished praying, fire flashed down from heaven and burned up the burnt offerings and sacrifices, and the glorious presence of the LORD filled the Temple. 2  The priests could not enter the Temple of the LORD because the glorious presence of the LORD filled it. 3  When all the people of Israel saw the fire coming down and the glorious presence of the LORD filling the Temple, they fell face down on the ground and worshiped and praised the LORD, saying, “He is good! His faithful love endures forever!”

1. When Jesus was resurrected there was an earthquake and if the Shroud of Turin is right, there must have been so much power, it burned the negative image of Christ onto the shroud.

**Matthew 28:1-4 (NLT)**

1  Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. 2  Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. 3  His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. 4  The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint.

1. When the soldiers went to arrest Jesus, the power of God overwhelmed them.

**John 18:4-6 (NLT)**

4  Jesus fully realized all that was going to happen to him, so he stepped forward to meet them. “Who are you looking for?” he asked. 5  “Jesus the Nazarene,” they replied. “I AM he,” Jesus said. (Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.) 6  As Jesus said “I AM he,” they all drew back and fell to the ground!