



– an uncluttered approach –

SIMPLIFYING

REVELATION

- We finished our study through the book last week.
- Tonight, we will review the book – all 22 chapters in one class.
- Let's go!!

Don't depend on commentaries

Don't force a date theory

Don't force a series of historical events

Identify the spiritual principles in images

Don't take signs & symbols literally

It is a book about Jesus Christ



CLEAR OUT THE CLUTTER

- Before we got into the book, there were a few basics to observe...
 - Don't depend on **COMMENTARIES**.
 - Don't force a **DATE THEORY**.
 - Don't force a series of **HISTORICAL EVENTS**.
 - Identify the **SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES** in images.
 - Don't take **SIGNS & SYMBOLS** literally.
 - It is a book about **JESUS CHRIST**.

...things which must shortly take place. (1:1)

...for the time is near. (1:3)

...things which must shortly take place. (22:6)

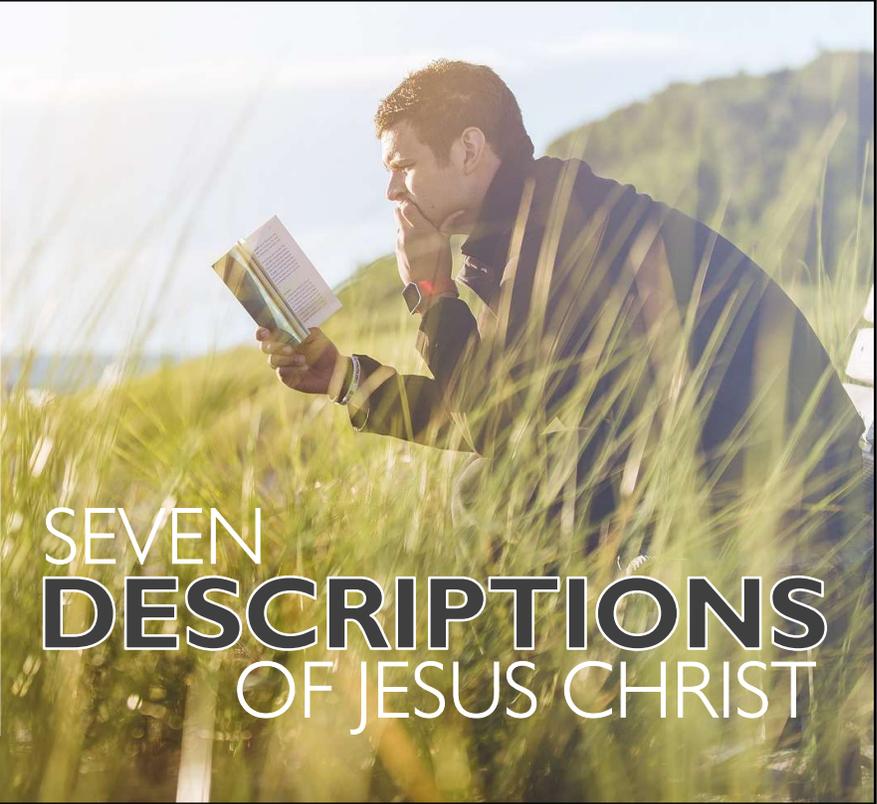
...the time is at hand. (22:10)

Revelation was **SIGNIFICANT**
to the original **RECIPIENTS!**



- 1:4 states the book was written to the seven churches of Asia. The book was important & applicable to them.
- We find **FULFILLMENT TIMESTAMPS** at the beginning & the end.
 - If something will take place shortly, is near or at hand, it is not 2000 years away.
 - These timestamps reveal the book was relevant to the original recipients.
- This doesn't mean everything spoken of was fulfilled in the days of the original recipients.
 - Some things were to come (the final judgment, the casting of Satan & his hosts into hell; the glorification of God's people in heaven), but
 - There would be temporal judgments to give relief & comfort.

The Faithful Witness
Firstborn From The Dead
Ruler Over The Kings
Alpha And Omega
Beginning And End
Is ... Was And Is To Come
The Almighty



SEVEN
DESCRIPTIONS
OF JESUS CHRIST

- Most of chapter 1 is devoted to descriptions of the Messiah.
- V 5-8 give these seven descriptions of the Christ. He is,
 - The **FAITHFUL WITNESS** (Gr. martos). He died but rose again!
 - The **FIRSTBORN** from the dead. Never to die again.
 - The **RULER** over the kings, the “King of kings”
 - The **ALPHA & OMEGA**. First & last letters of the Greek alphabet. Deity.
 - The **BEGINNING & END**, same as the previous image.
 - Who **IS AND WAS AND IS TO COME**. Used of the Father in 1:4; another statement of divine nature.
 - The **ALMIGHTY**. All-powerful.
- The remainder of the chapter revealed 7 attributes of the Christ: His voice, His countenance, His clothing, His face, His feet, His right hand, and His mouth.

LETTERS TO THE 7 churches of Asia

Jesus Identifies Himself

Assessment of the
Church

Recommendation
for the Church

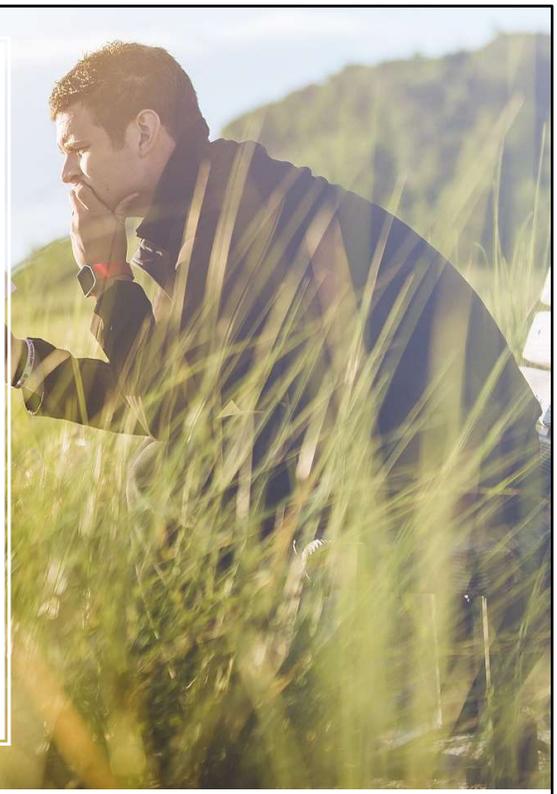
Promise to those who
Overcome

The format of the letters

- Ch. 2-3 are letters to the seven churches of Asia.
- All seven letters follow the same format:
 - **JESUS IDENTIFIES HIMSELF.**
 - **THE LORD'S ASSESSMENT OF THE CHURCH.**
 - **THE LORD'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE CHURCH.**
 - **THE LORD'S PROMISE TO THOSE WHO OVERCOME** – nike.
- A common phrase in each letter – *“He who has an ear, let him hear.”*

THE **THRONE ROOM**

- The 24 elders are **God's people**
- The 4 living creatures are **God's character**
- The sealed **scroll**
- The Lion, Root & Lamb are **Jesus Christ**



- Chapters 4-5 – throne room scene...
 - The **24 ELDERS** (12+12) who represent God's people (OT/NT). 12 is commonly used in the book to speak of God's people.
 - The **4 LIVING CREATURES**. There are angels in the throne room, but these are not angels. They are "*...in the midst of the throne, and around the throne...*" (4:6). They reveal the majesty, perfection, conscience and grace of God.
 - A **SEALED SCROLL** which no one is able to open, no one was found worthy in heaven, upon the earth, under the earth.
 - Then the focus shifts to the **LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH**, the root of Jesse, the Lamb of God. He alone was worthy to open the scroll.
- Ch. 5 has three occasions of praise to God in it, each ramped up from the previous...
 - The 24 elders;

- Many angels, the 4 living creatures & 24 elders;
- Every creature in heaven, on the earth & in the sea.



Jesus conquering hearts...



Violence reigns on earth...



Sorrow, distress & hardship...



Death & Hades (specifically non-peaceful deaths)...

4 Horsemen



JUDGMENT PERSPECTIVES...

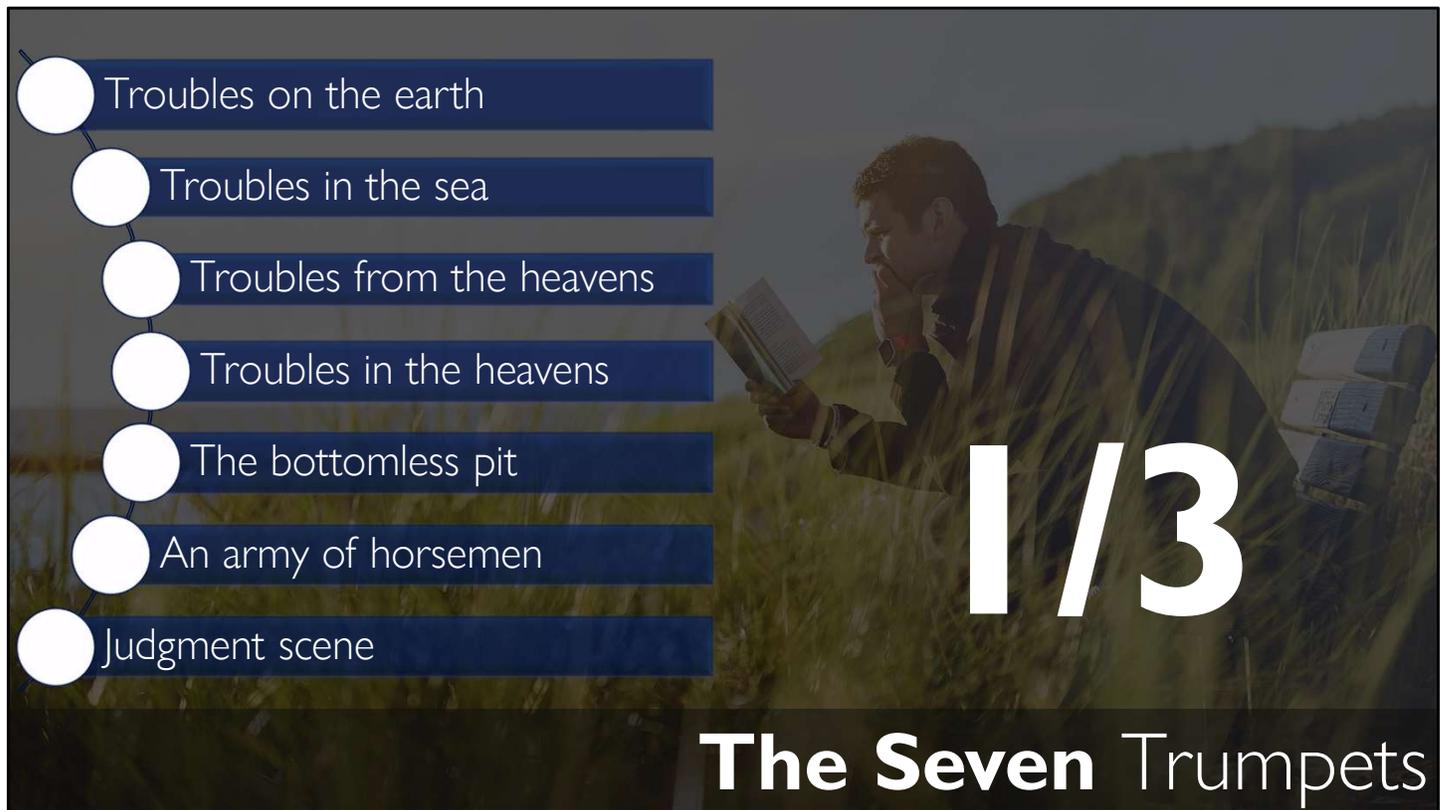
- ❖ Slain saints anticipate the judgment
- ❖ The wicked seek to hide from the Lamb

- Ch. 6 – the seals begin to be opened...
- Seals 1-4 are 4 horses & their riders (White, red, black & pale).
 - **SEAL #1** – the white horse. The Christ who conquers hearts with the gospel.
 - **SEAL #2** – the red horse. Violence & unrest on the earth. Unavoidable consequences in a world filled with sin.
 - **SEAL #3** – the black horse. Famine and hardship, trials & troubles in life.
 - **SEAL #4** – the pale horse. Death, in particular non-peaceful death. A sizeable % of the world do not die peacefully in their sleep at a ripe old age.
- The remainder of ch. 6 contains **2 PERSPECTIVES** of the final judgment.
 - Seal #5 (slain saints anticipate the judgment);
 - Seal #6 (the wicked seek to hide from the face of the Lamb)



Who Is Able To Stand?

- 6:17 asks the question, “Who is able to stand?”
- Ch. 7 answers the question.
 - The number, **144,000**.
 - Symbolic – 12x12x1000.
 - The listing of the 12 tribes is unique; 2 tribes excluded (Ephraim & Dan).
 - Verse 9 tells us about a MULTITUDE which could not be numbered. It’s the same group as the 144,000 (the number is not literal). If you’ve ever been in a huge crowd, you’ll grasp the idea of this “unnumbered crowd.”
- Chapter 7 ends with a parallel to the “...*God will wipe away every tear...*” text in Rev 21:4 (cf. v 16-17)



Troubles on the earth

Troubles in the sea

Troubles from the heavens

Troubles in the heavens

The bottomless pit

An army of horsemen

Judgment scene

1/3

The Seven Trumpets

- Ch. 8-9 – the seven trumpets represent God’s effort to cause the wicked to repent.
- Consistently through the text **WE SEE 1/3** of things being destroyed. The significance? God could have destroyed all – the destruction of 1/3 demonstrates God’s mercy.
 - **TRUMPET #1** – hail and fire, mingled with blood thrown to the earth.
 - **TRUMPET #2** – a great mountain burning with fire cast into the sea.
 - **TRUMPET #3** – a great star fell from heaven like a burning torch.
 - **TRUMPET #4** – a third of the sun, moon & stars were struck, a third of the day and the night.
 - **TRUMPET #5** – an angel with a key to the bottomless pit opens it & locusts came forth, granted to torment (but not to kill) men for 5 months.

- **TRUMPET #6** – Four angels are released from the Euphrates, which is associated with Assyria & Babylon, bringing an army of 200,000,000 horsemen and killing 1/3 of mankind.
- There is no historical event matching any of the details in ch. 8-9 (seven trumpets). They are figures.
- The 1st six trumpets were intended to affect repentance among the wicked, but they did not repent (9:20-21).
- As at the end of the **7 SEALS**, we found a judgment scene, so at the end of the 7 trumpets (in ch. 11) we find a judgment scene.

cf. Jeremiah 15:16 / Ezekiel 2-3

take it &
eat it &



BITTER & SWEET

- Ch. 10-11 – an interlude – what are God’s people doing while these trumpets are being sounded?
- Ch 10 – John is told to take a little book from an angel and eat it.
 - The same figure is used in Jeremiah 15 & Ezekiel 2-3.
 - In each case, it represents the experience of God’s servants in bearing the word of God.
 - God’s word is sweet to the child of God.
 - The rejection of God’s word by others when we share it with them is bitter.



- Ch. 11 – the measuring of the temple.
- The image of measuring comes from Zech 2, where it represents God’s protection of His people. This is how John uses it here.
- All **3 THINGS** mentioned represent God’s people.
 - In the OT, these are distinct things.
 - In the NT, they are synonymous.
 - A 4th image is mentioned – the outside court. It is not measured. It is associated with the Gentiles. They are not subject to God’s protection.
- Despite being protected by God, God’s people (also identified in the text as the Holy City) are trampled by the Gentiles – persecuted.

2 witnesses

SODOMEGYPTJERUSALEM

42 *trampled* MONTHS

two witnesses prophesy

1260 DAYS

two witnesses deceased

3 ½ DAYS



- Two witnesses are used in ch. 11 to represent God's people. They are charged with the duty of proclaiming God's word to a lost world. In the process, they are oppressed.
- When their work is complete, they are killed. **THREE CITIES** are implicated in their death – Sodom, Egypt and Jerusalem.
 - Sodom is where Lot was "*oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked*" (2 Pe 2:7)
 - Egypt is where Moses was sent to relieve "*the oppression of My people*" (Ex 3:7)
 - Jerusalem is where the Lord was oppressed and put to death.
 - The appearance is that the wicked have won. They even rejoice over the death of the witnesses, but after 3 ½ days, their dead bodies rise up to heaven – the spiritual victory of the saints!
- Recall, we had 3 numbers given in ch. 11 that all represent the

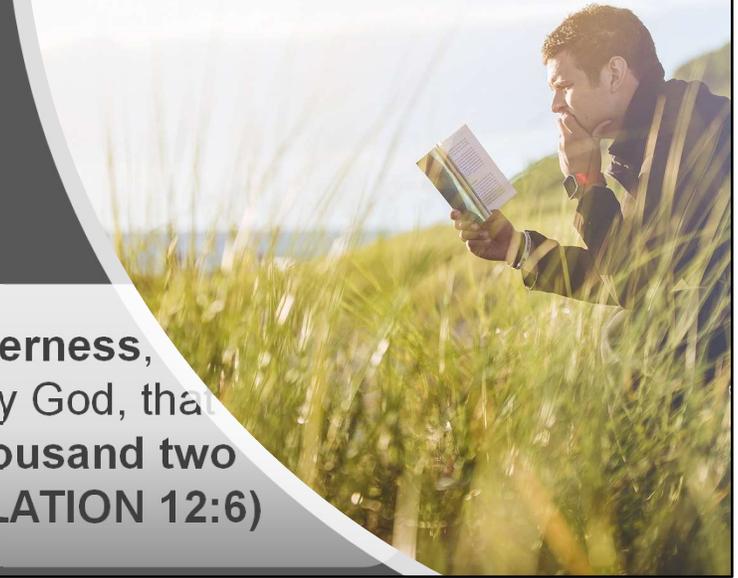
same time frame...

- The holy city (God's people) are **TRAMPLED** 42 months.
- The 2 witnesses **PROPHESIED** 1260 days.
- And the 2 witnesses **ROSE TO HEAVEN** after being dead 3 ½ days.
- 3 ½ is half of 7, complete, whole, divine.
- 3 ½ is used to speak of hardship for God's people.

A CHILD IS BORN

She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. (12:5)

Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days. (REVELATION 12:6)



- Ch. 12 – a woman (the faithful remnant of Israel) gives birth to a Child (the Christ) who was to rule the nations (cf. Ps 2).
- The dragon sought to destroy the Child, but He was caught up into heaven.
- Unable to defeat the Child, the dragon turns his attention to the woman. She is protected by God (**REVELATION 12:6**).
- Notice the 1260 days again.
 - Same period of time the holy city (church) is trampled by the Gentiles.
 - Same period of time the two witnesses (church) would prophesy.
 - Same period of time until the resurrection of the 2 witnesses.
- In the text, the image of the woman morphs from being the faithful remnant of Israel to the church, those who “...keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ”

(v 17).

A BEAST RISING UP OUT OF THE SEA

7 HEADS
10 HORNS
10 CROWNS

BLASPHEMY

MORTAL
WOUND

He who leads into captivity **shall go into captivity**; he who kills with the sword **must be killed with the sword**. Here is the patience and faith of the saints. **(13:10)**



- Ch. 13 – the dragon enlists the help of 2 beasts.
- The beast from the sea looks somewhat **LIKE THE DRAGON**.
 - He is blasphemous – his blasphemy continues 42 months (the time frame the church will be persecuted before the resurrection).
 - He is given power & authority from the dragon.
 - He is not invincible – has a mortal wound.
- V 9 – Hey, listen up!! *“If anyone has an ear, let him hear.”* Though things looked bleak, there is hope. **V 10** – the beast will not be victorious!
- Who is the beast from the sea?
 - This same beast appears in Daniel 7, and in context is the Roman Empire.
 - However, the scope of this image is not limited to the 1st century. In every age, Satan employs political forces to accomplish his will and to oppose God’s people (Communist

regimes, dictators, Islamic oppression, etc.). Any evil authority (political or social) which sets itself against the will of God.

LOOKS LIKE A LAMB
speaks like a dragon

the beast
FROM THE EARTH

HERE IS
WISDOM 666

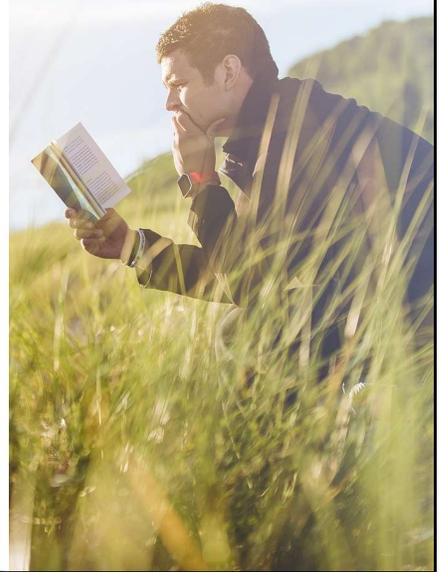
“...the number of a man...”

FALSEHOOD
however it presents itself

- Still in ch. 13, we see another beast rising from the earth.
 - He looks different from the dragon & the first beast. In fact, if one is not careful they might think he is associated with the Lord. The second best looks like **A LAMB**.
 - This suits his role – he is there to deceive. This 2nd beast works with the 1st to direct worship to the dragon (devil). His role is to deceive and entice people.
- Who is this second beast?
 - He supports the first, serving as a rallying force to garner attention.
 - In him is seen the power of **A LIE DRESSED** as the truth (false religion).
 - Emperor worship in Rome;
 - Nationalism used by Hitler;
 - Islam used by Muhammad;
 - Evolutionary theory by atheists;

- Ecumenicalism in “Christianity”
- Like with the first beast, John speaks hope in v 18.
HERE IS WISDOM... Listen up!! There his hope!
 - He is not deity – 666, not 777. Not a specific man; but deals with humanity.
 - The Caesars, the Hitlers, the Muhammads of the world are not perfect and will not have victory. They are mortal (6), not divine (7).

imitation AND MOCKERY

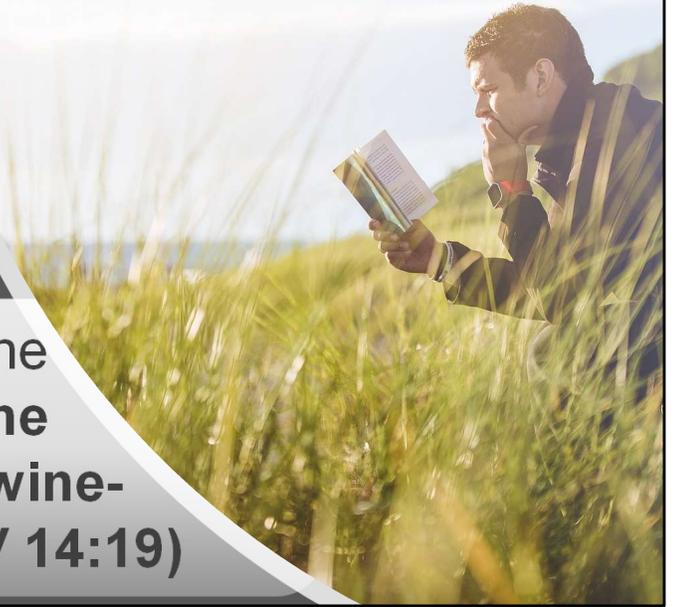


- Revelation 13 demonstrates how the devil likes to mimic & mock what God does.
- There are at least 5 different instances of mockery in the text:
 - **3 PERSONS** – Father, Son, Spirit /// dragon, sea beast, earth beast
 - **DEATH** – Jesus was dead & rose /// 1st beast mortal wound & healed
 - **WORSHIP** – Jesus directs people to God /// 1st beast directs people to Satan
 - **MIRACLES** – Holy Spirit works miracles /// 2nd beast works miracles
 - **MARK** – God’s people sealed with Spirit /// devil’s people marked by beast
- False religion often mock & mimic the truth.

AND THE EARTH WAS **REAPED**

The **LORD** takes His own from the earth.

...the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and **gathered the vine of the earth**, and threw it into the great wine-press of the wrath of God. (REV 14:19)



- Ch 14 – the judgment scene.
- The chapter focuses on the saved (144,000), and their praise of God (a song no one could learn except the 144,000).
- The Lord is pictured on a cloud, waiting for word from the Father to **REAP THE EARTH**.
- Immediately after, an angel reaps the wicked from the earth (**V 18-19**) for judgment.

BOWL 1

• a foul and loathsome sore

BOWL 2

• blood of a dead man

BOWL 3

• more blood

BOWL 4

• scorched with fire & heat

BOWL 5

• darkness and pain

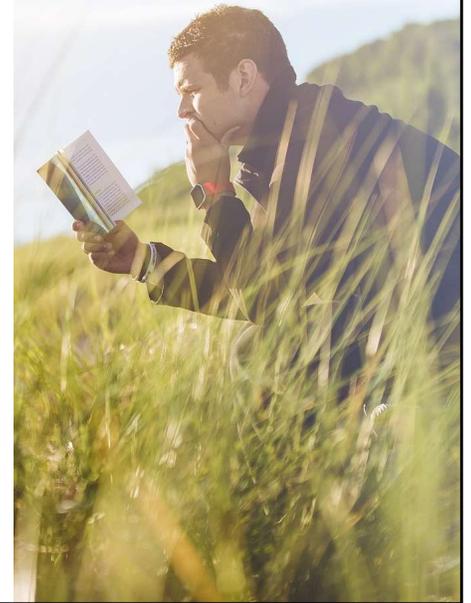
BOWL 6

• way of judgment prepared

BOWL 7

• Armageddon – It is done!

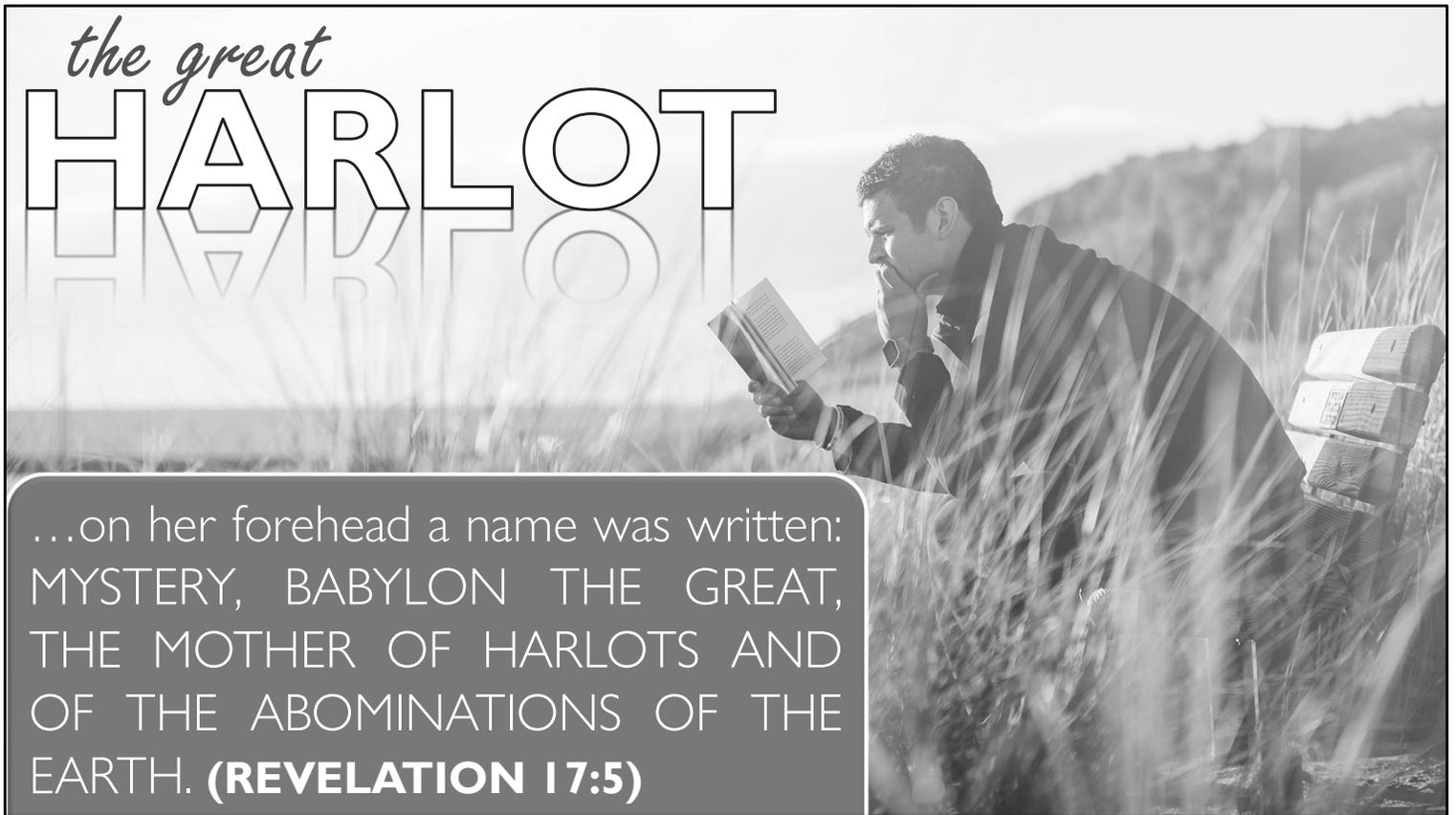
7bowls 7PLAGUES



- Ch. 15-16 reveal the seven bowls which are the seven last plagues.
- These represent God's vengeance upon those who opposed the Lamb and His people.
- **BOWL 1** reveals "...a foul and loathsome sore..." God visits their sin upon them in all it's putridity.
- **BOWL 2 & 3** involve blood and more blood. The image is about returning upon the wicked the things they did to the righteous.
- **BOWL 4** has continued retribution, with fire & heat. Many Christians were burned at the stake.
- **BOWL 5**, an angel is able to walk right into the devil's throne room & pour out a bowl on his throne. The image shows the utter defeat of God's enemy through darkness and pain.
- **BOWL 6**, the way of judgment is prepared as the bowl is

poured on out the Euphrates (in image that reminds us of Assyria & Babylon, whom God used in judgments in the OT).

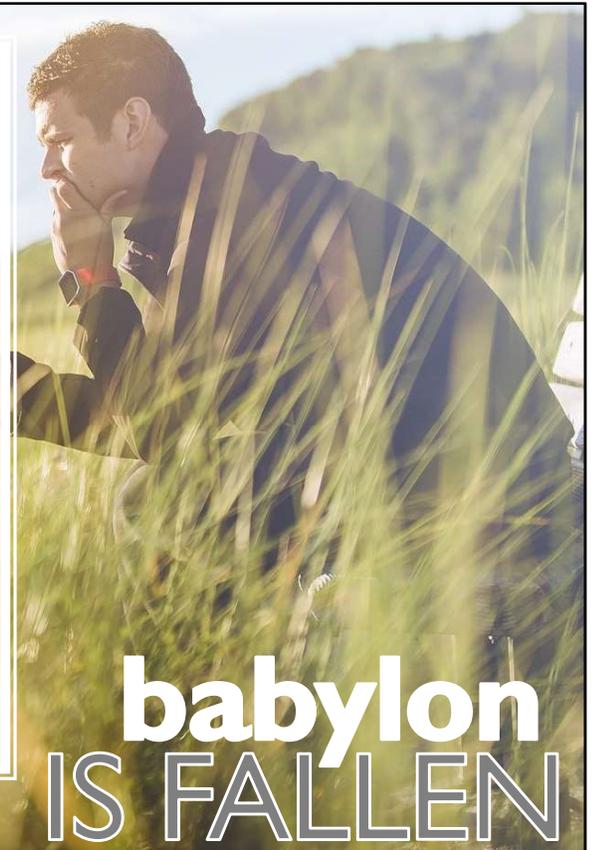
- **BOWL 7** is Armageddon. Satan gathered all the forces he could for one last battle. The battle is anticlimactic – “It is done!” A word from God, and the battle is over.



...on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. **(REVELATION 17:5)**

- Ch. 17-18 – the great harlot Babylon.
- Two figures are introduced to us – the woman & the beast she sits upon. We've seen them before.
 - The beast looks like the beast from the sea (ch. 13).
 - The woman fills the same role as the beast from the land.
 - 17:5 tells reveals all we need to know about her – she is evil!

Babylon the great **is fallen, is fallen**, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! (REVELATION 18:2)



- Not only is she evil, but she is defeated! (18:2).
- Her rise to “success” came through wickedness (appeal to lusts & desires) and in ch. 18 she (and those who joined with her) are judged.
 - V 10, 17, 19 – her desolate came in one hour.
 - Caught up in her fall were the kings, the merchants & the sailors.
 - Rather than separate themselves from her, they all lamented her loss.
- Sadly, in the face of eternal defeat, the wicked still would not repent.

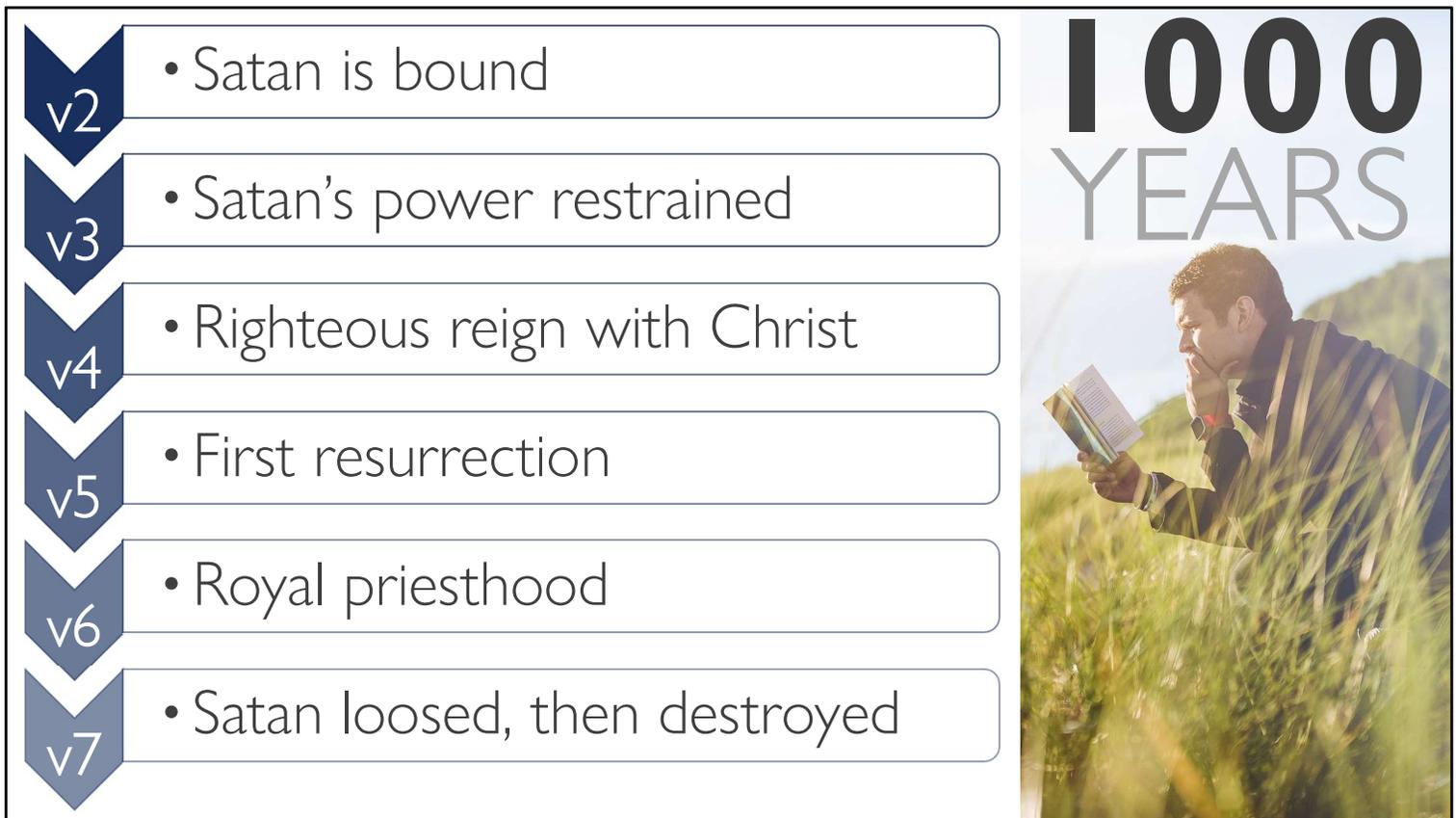
marriage supper of
THE LAMB

the supper of the
GREAT GOD

2 VERY DIFFERENT
FEASTS

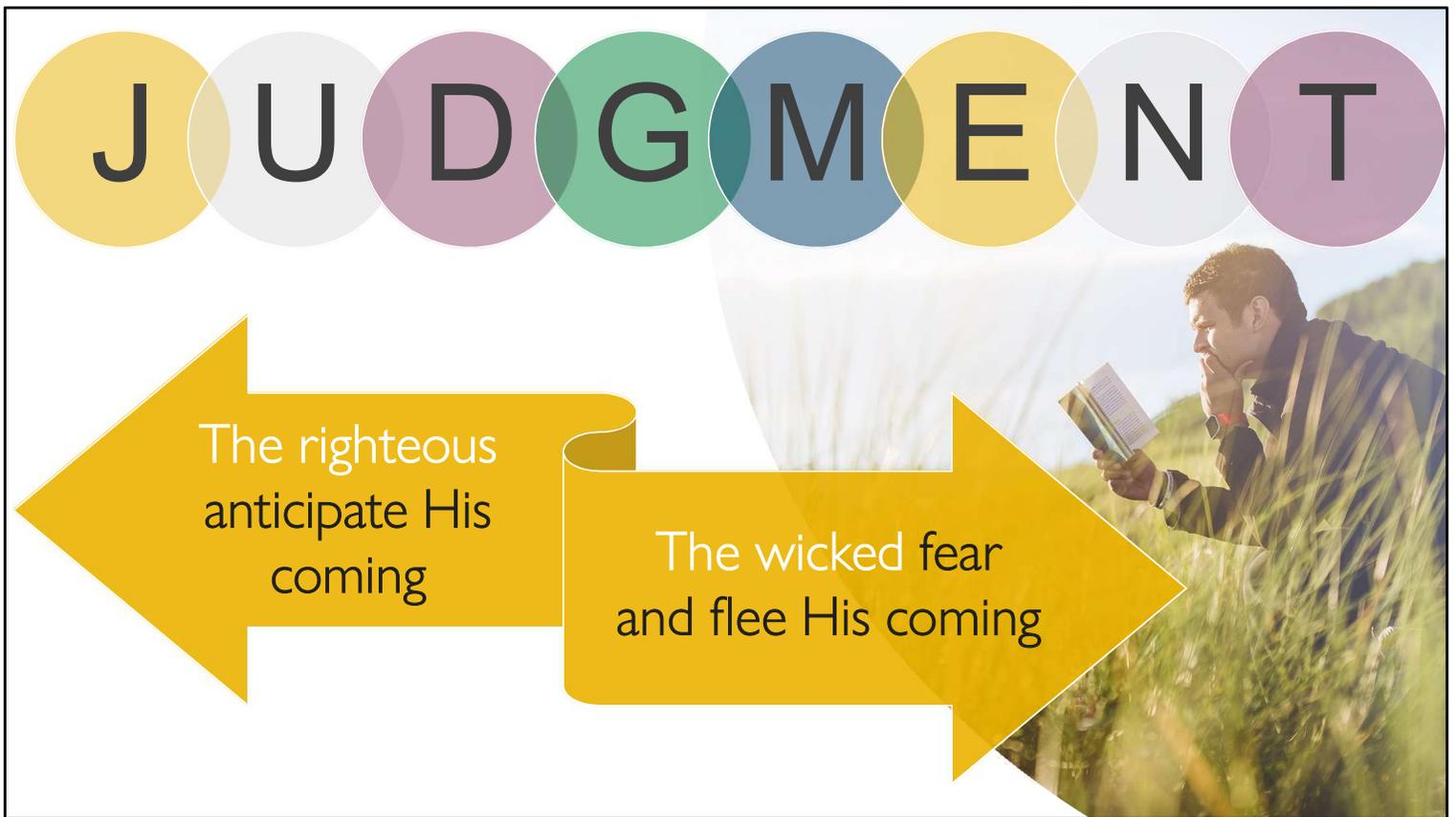


- Ch. 19 speaks about 2 very different feasts.
- First, the marriage supper of the Lamb.
 - His bride is arrayed in white garments.
 - Only those who serve God faithfully are at this feast.
- Second, the supper of the great God.
 - The wicked are pictured as being on the menu!!
 - They are judged & destroyed for their wickedness.
- At the end of ch. 19, the beast is captured along with the false prophet and cast into the lake of fire.
 - The beast – the same beast from ch. 13 & ch. 17
 - The false prophet – beast from the land & the harlot Babylon.



- Ch. 20 – the 1000 years.
- Not a literal time frame, but a perfect time – it is the same period of time we formerly saw as the 42 months, 1260 days or 3 ½ days. It is the time of the Lord's kingdom, the church, upon the earth.
- Six things are spoken of in relation to the 100 years.
 - The **DEVIL IS IMPRISONED** throughout the entire time.
 - His power is **RESTRAINED**. Still able to do harm (chained dog), but restrained.
 - The righteous **REIGN** with the Lord. This began at Pentecost; Peter said Christ was sitting on His throne (Ac 2:30-33).
 - The **FIRST RESURRECTION** describes spiritual life; obedience to the gospel. Those who partake of the 1st resurrection are not overcome by the second death (v 6), which is hell.
 - Those who reign with Christ (v 4), who took part in the 1st resurrection (v 5) are **PRIESTS OF GOD AND OF CHRIST** (v 6).

- The devil is **LOOSED BRIEFLY** (v 7), long enough for him to then be destroyed (v 10).



- Ch. 20 closes out with the judgment scene again.
- All appear before the great white throne upon which the Lord sits.
- The righteous desire His coming. The wicked are terrified at His coming.
- Any not found in the book of life were cast into the lake of fire.

“...the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.”

No

DEATH
SORROW
CRYING
PAIN

**A NEW HEAVEN
& A NEW EARTH**

- Ch. 21 – there is a new heaven & a new earth.
- Not a literal replacement of the current heaven & earth. There is a new realm, a new reality.
- Parallel terms – the New Jerusalem, heavenly Jerusalem (Heb 12), Heaven.
- God people are pictured with Him in eternity.
- On the other side of the judgment, **DEATH, SORROW, CRYING & PAIN** are gone.
- Pictured there are the tree of life, a river of life, walls bearing the names of the 12 tribes, a foundation bearing the name of the 12 apostles; precious jewels & gems, etc.
- The curse of sin & death is gone – the righteous are eternally with the Lord.

DO NOT SEAL THE WORDS OF THE

PROPHECY

He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still;

REV 22:11

he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.

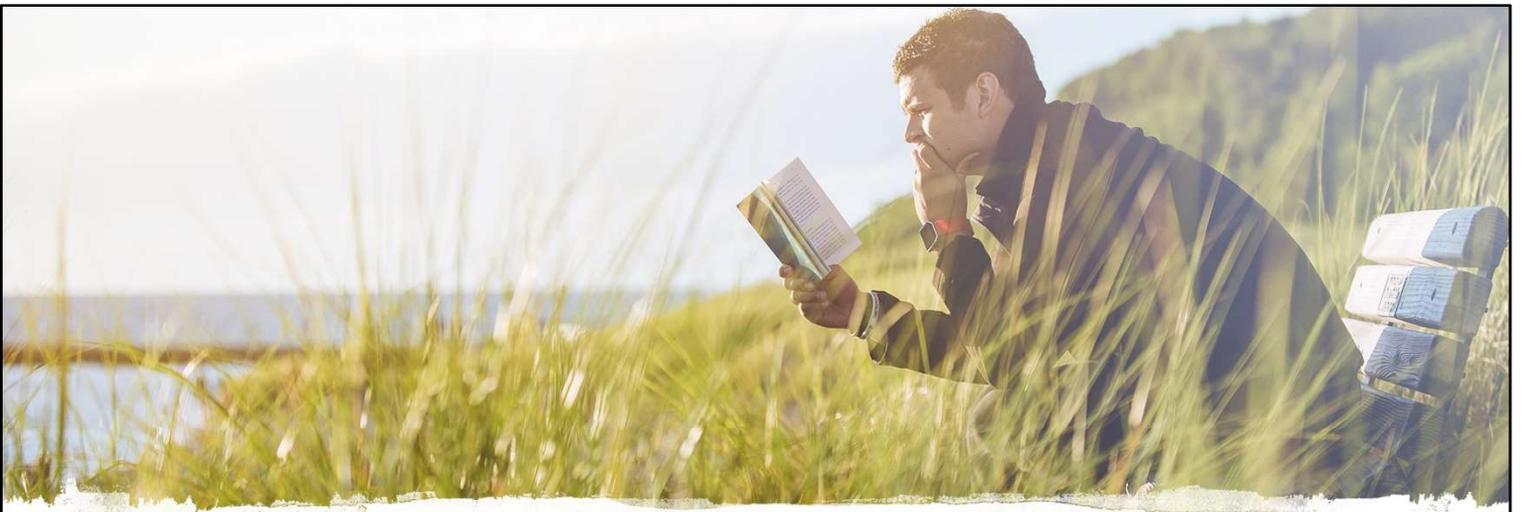
- Ch. 22 takes us back to some of the terminology used in ch. 1 about the timing of the book.
 - “things which must shortly take place” (22:6)
 - “I am coming quickly” (22:7)
- In ch. 22, John is told not to seal up the book. The fulfillment was eminent.
 - Daniel was told to seal up his prophecy (fulfillment was 550 years away).
 - The book was written to a 1st century audience who saw most of it fulfilled in their time.
 - That said, the images are fluid enough to apply to and give comfort to suffering Christians of any era.
- In v 11, the Lord expects us to make a choice about how we’re going to live.
 - Go ahead, be unjust & filthy if you want – but know

there are consequences.

- He would rather we choose righteousness & holiness.

For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of life, from the holy city, and from the things that are written in this book. (22:18-19)

- The book closes with this warning...
- Our place is not to add or subtract – we are to obey.
- We need to have more respect for God's word than to think we can alter it.



– an uncluttered approach –

SIMPLIFYING

REVELATION