

Heaven: The Alpha and the Omega

Sunday, January 7, 2024 – Day 1

Read Revelation 1:9-20

Key Verse:

I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. Revelation 1:18 (NKJV)

Key Reflection:

In Revelation, we see Jesus as Jesus really is: the Alpha and the Omega. He is the first and the last. He is the beginning and the end. In Revelation 1:13-16 which have an apt description of his glorious presence. Jesus is God. This is the everlasting presence of the One who is our Lord. The Apostle John operates in obedience to write what he is witnessing and experiencing. He is seeing a vision of heaven. The revelation he receives is a reality that includes the presence of the entire eschatological (end times) process in the midst of which every reader now stands to make a decision about his or her present conduct in the world.¹ Every believer must choose if they will serve rightly Him who is the Alpha and the Omega, for He is the One who has all power.

Thought:

Revelation is a word from Jesus Christ. It is here where he informs us who He is and the power he possesses. These are the words that come from his mouth that is a two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12; Revelation 1:16). Only Christ holds the power to Hell and Death as he says in Revelation 1:18 because He is the One who was dead and is alive forevermore. This text gives credence to the fact that the tomb is empty and Christ is not dead. This is the truth and confidence that we have in the One we believe. Jesus Christ is not dead. He holds all authority in all of creation. He is the One we worship. We know this to be true because He is the One who declares the “Amen.” This means it is so. The response of humanity is to fall at his feet and worship as John does when he beheld Him (Revelation 1:17). As we begin 2024, let us respond to the Alpha and Omega who is alive forever by worshipping Him who holds the keys to life, death and Hell. The Alpha and Omega is to be worshipped.

Prayer:

Lord God, you are the Alpha and the Omega. Everything begins and ends with you. You are the One who holds all power. You hold the keys to Hell and Death. As you allow me to live in 2024, help me to recognize and acknowledge the power of your name and presence. Let me never forget who you are as I vow to worship you as the One who is alive forever. This is my prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Questions:

1. How will you worship the Alpha and Omega in 2024 knowing that He holds all authority?

¹ Christopher C. Rowland, *The Book of Revelation: The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*, vol. XII (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998), p. 567.

Heaven: Repent and Return

Monday, January 8, 2024 - Day 2

Read Revelation 2:1-7

Key Verse:

“Nevertheless, I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.” Revelation 2:4-5 (NKJV)

Key Reflection:

Jesus speaks to the church at Ephesus regarding their patient endurance and good deeds in the earth. This body was doing the things of the church. However, there was one thing missing. They were not being the body of Christ because they were not loving God. Love, that is not self-centered is the necessary characteristic of discipleship and reflects the love of God and Christ.² It is the love for Christ that should influence and motivate every good work. Love for Christ will keep the presence (lampstand) of God in place. Christ desires that we desire Him.

Thought:

The refusal to repent is characteristic of a rebellious and uncomprehending humanity.³ This should not and cannot be the position of body of Christ. Jesus has given us the gift of repentance through Christ who has given the privilege to turn away from Him so that we can turn to Him. Never be so full of pride to the point that you cannot return to your first love. Love begins and ends with Christ, who is the Alpha and Omega. Return to Christ so that you will be found faithful when Christ returns.

Prayer:

Lord, I repent of my ways where I have rejected you. I repent of the times where I have ignored you and placed my affection toward something else. I humbly repent of my ways that are not pleasing in your sight. Thank you for making a way for me to repent to you. Reveal to me the places, people and things that compete for time that I should be sharing with you. Illumine the places in me to where need to be more like you. You are my first love. Call me back to you in 2024. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

Questions:

1. How can you love God more this year?
2. How committed are you to spending time with God to exhibit how you love Christ?

² Christopher C. Rowland, *The Book of Revelation: The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*, vol. XII (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998), p. 575.

³ Ibid, p. 575.

Heaven: Hold Fast for Christ

Tuesday, January 9, 2023 - Day 3

Read Revelation 2:18-29

Key Verse:

“Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. But hold fast what you have till I come. And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— Revelation 2:24-26 (NKJV)

Key Reflection:

The church of Thyatira was comprised of a faction of people who did not stand against the evil of the Jezebel. This was a controlling, manipulative spirit that was operating through false teachings that celebrated sin. Deception is the mark of a falsehood and the activity of Satan.⁴ Satan is the chief deceiver who desires to shift our thinking that God is not who God says God is. As believers, it is important for us to hold fast to the confession of our faith (Hebrews 10:23). We can trust that God is who God says God is and not be swayed by tantalizing words or charismatic leaders who lead us into sin. We overcome when we are rooted in Christ.

Thought:

In Christ we are more than conquerors (Romans 8:37). Christ has given us the ability to overcome evil because of his sacrifice and our confession of Him. He charges us to hold fast to Him until he comes. To hold fast is to seize, grip and remain firmly committed to something.⁵ As the body of Christ, we must remain fully committed to the calling, commission and cause of Christ, trusting that Christ is the One who is Faithful and True. The promise for us is that we will rule (shepherd) with Him for eternity upon his return. This grants us the motivation as we live as overcomers.

Prayer:

Lord, I believe that you are who you say you are. You are the Blessed Ruler, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Help me to embrace that in you I am an overcomer. In you I am more than a conqueror. In you I am victorious. Lord, grant me the power to discern when the enemy is masquerading in my life as you. And help me to have a grip on and in you that I will never let go! In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

Questions:

1. What can you do to hold fast to Christ in these times?
2. Where do you feel the enemy is deceiving you?

⁴ Christopher C. Rowland, *The Book of Revelation: The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*, vol. XII (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998), p. 581.

⁵ Rick Brannan, ed., [*Lexham Research Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*](#), Lexham Research Lexicons (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2020).

Heaven: Holy Garments

Wednesday, January 10, 2023 – Day 4

Read Revelation 3:1-6

Key Verse:

“You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.” Revelation 3:4-5 (NKJV)

Key Reflection:

The Church at Sardis was fraudulent in its presentation. They have a reputation of being something in which they actually are not. Christ is looking for authenticity in the body. He commends the remnant who has not defiled their garments. These are those who are in the white robes that have been washed in the blood of the Lamb. These are the ones who walk worthy with the promise of their names being in the Book of Life. These are the one who will walk in heaven with Christ.

Thought:

There is no escaping the truth that God is holy. And God requires that his children be holy as well (I Peter 1:15-16). The imagery that is a spiritual truth is that those who are holy will be clothed in white, the symbol of purity. It is Christ who has the ability to make and keep us pure before God. Our responsibility and therefore our worship is to be holy. When we seek to be sanctified by the truth that is God’s word (John 17:17), we position ourselves for Christ to confess our names before God the Father and the angels of heaven. Holiness is the key to see God.

Prayer:

Lord, you are the scribe of the Book of Life who holds the power to write my name in it. In 2024, help me to live holy before you. It is my desire that my garments stay white. Vindicate me before all those who ridicule and question my efforts to please you. Confess my name before God the Father and the hosts of heaven. It is in you that I live, move and have my being. Help me to never forget the character of your name as I seek to remain holy and pleasing in your sight. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

Questions:

1. How will you be holy in 2024?
2. What can you do to ensure that Christ will call your name before God the Father in heaven?

Heaven: Open the Door

Thursday, January 11, 2023 – Day 5

Read Revelation 3:14-22

Key Verse:

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.” Revelation 3:20-21 (NKJV).

Key Reflection:

The church at Laodicea was not pleasing to Christ. This is the most negative letter of all the messages to the churches.⁶ They were functioning as if they did not need God because of their wealth. What they were rich in physically they were poor spiritually. Christ desires that they would come to Him for the wealth He offers so that they could prosper in His eyes. His desire was for them to gain sight and understanding of Him. Therefore, they needed to open the door and let Christ in fully.

Thought:

How many times have we fallen victim to the concerns of the world, namely material things and our lack of them. How much value do we place in our physical possessions that will all pass away? How many times has Jesus Christ stood at the door of our mess, mistakes and mishaps only to find out that we would not let Him in? How many times have we locked God out of our decision-making process? How many times have we locked God out of our finances by not giving our tithes and offering? Open the door to Christ in every aspect and area on your life so that you can sit with Him on His throne in heaven.

Prayer:

Lord, I love you. There is none who is wiser than you. In this new year help me to remove any barrier or obstacle that I have constructed to keep you out of my life. I give you open access to all of me. Lord Jesus, come in and dine with me at any time. Clothe me in your compassion, kindness, humility and power. I have no desire to be lukewarm. I desire the fire of your Spirit so that I may serve faithfully and overcome. Thank you for knocking at the door of my heart. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

Questions:

1. What parts of your life has been off limits to Jesus Christ?
2. Where can you allow Christ to come in?
3. What is the temperature of your relationship with Christ?

⁶ Christopher C. Rowland, *The Book of Revelation: The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*, vol. XII (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998), p. 586.

Heaven: The Throne of God

Friday, January 12, 2024– Day 6

Read Revelation 4:1-11

Key Verse:

“Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: “‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,’ who was, and is, and is to come.” Revelation 4:8 (NKJV)

Key Reflection:

There is a throne in heaven. It is place where the highest authority in all existence dwells; the rule of the Almighty. “God is Almighty...God is past, present and future. The divine glory belongs to the God of heaven.”⁷ At the throne of heaven God is worshipped perpetually, consistently and eternally. And the glory belongs to Him. It is the praise of His being. The Holy God receive glory, honor and praise. Everything in heaven gives glory to God. Power and authority are attributed to God and only operates within his providence. At the throne, the Almighty is worshipped.

Thought:

Worship is the order and is the central role in the book of Revelation.⁸ The praise of God’s glory should be evident in God’s people. This is the will of God concerning us as we pray for God’s will on earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10). For those of us who desire to go to heaven we should be the forerunners in the earth of those who glorify God. This kind of worship is both passionate and intimate for all of its reverence to our God. We should speak well of the one who gave his life for us to gather in his name and spend eternity with him. It is because of Him that we know the power of grace and forgiveness. Our God is to be adored and this adoration should flow from our beings within our thoughts, words and deeds.

Prayer:

God, I come to you in the name of Jesus to express that you are worthy to receive glory. I join the chorus with the heavenly creatures who cry holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty. You are the One who was, is and is to come. I join with the twenty and four elders who cry “You are worthy to receive glory and honor and power. Worship, honor and glory are due your name. It is because of you that I am. I willing give it to you because you are God, my God. I long for the day to worship you in eternity so I seek to prepare myself for heaven as I worship you on earth. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

No Question:

Just think about how you can express your worship to God today!

⁷ Christopher C. Rowland, *The Book of Revelation: The New Interpreter’s Bible Commentary*, vol. XII (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998), p. 593.

⁸ Ibid., p. 594.

Heaven: The Sealed Scroll

Saturday, January 13, 2024 – Day 7

Read Revelation 5:1-14

Key Verses:

But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.” Revelation 5:5 (NKJV)

Key Reflection:

The sealed scroll in heaven is the prophecy of the apocalypse. It is the truth of what will happen at the end of time. Yet, there is only One in heaven and earth who is worthy to open the sealed scroll in heaven. Only one is worthy to reveal the mysteries of heaven. The hope of all creation rests with the Messiah, the lamb who was slain who is the Lion of the tribe of Judah. This is Jesus. He is the One who was slain. He is the One who has redeemed us to God by His blood (vs.9). The angels cry that He is worthy to receive power (vs. 12). Every creature in heaven and earth recognizes his worth (vs. 13). Jesus the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David, the Lamb of God who holds the power and authority regarding the end times. The end begins with Him who is the Beginning and the End.

Thought:

Jesus is the Lamb of God who has prevailed. He is the One who brings deliverance in the earth because He is the Faithful Witness. The Lamb of God does not need permission to take the scroll because He is qualified to do so.⁹ Christ is the agent of deliverance who will be the Judge of the end. We should be in awe of Him who has earned the right by His blood to handle the end times. This is another reason why we reverently fear God and faithfully express our gratitude for the opportunity to be in the priesthood of believers. Our fate is in the scrolls and our surrendered worship of the Lamb will determine the success of our fate.

Prayer:

Lord, you are worthy. You are worthy to determine my ultimate destiny in you. You are worthy to decide whether or not I will live with you forever. Until the time comes Lord, teach me to live a life that is worthy of what you have done for me. It is a privilege to call you Lord. Let my life be an example to the world that you are Lord. I desire to offer myself as a living sacrifice unto you because you sacrificed your life for me. Worthy is the Lamb Lord God. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

Questions:

1. How serious are you about being found faithful by the Lamb in the end times?
2. How can you prevail in the fight of faith to be found worthy by God?

⁹ Christopher C. Rowland, *The Book of Revelation: The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*, vol. XII (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998), p. 604.

Heaven: The Six Seals

Sunday, January 14, 2024 – Day 8

Read Revelation 6

Key Verse:

“For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?” Revelation 6:17 (NKJV)

Key Reflection:

The seals of the scroll detail the wrath of God. It is a gruesome detail of the things to come before the final judgment of God. It is difficult to understand the cataclysmic events that will take place in the earth at the sixth seal, yet one can see that this event is beyond the control of humanity. Yet one thing is certain. This time is coming. It is a time of disorder and chaos that is inevitable. And the question that is raised in Revelation 6:17 is the question that humanity will answer by the lives that they live. Who is able to stand in the great day of the wrath of God? This is when the wrath of God and the Lamb is poured out in extreme measure, so that it can be called the time when “the great day of their wrath came,” which no unbeliever will be able to resist.¹⁰

Thought:

The wrath of God is God’s justice in the earth. As gruesome as it is points to God rewriting the order of creation given its original intent. The point for us as believers is to exemplify the tenants of patient, endurance, faithfulness and steadfast witness.¹¹ It is necessary for us to confess our sins before the Lord so that we can be found faithful as to avoid the wrath of God. We do this through faithful obedience and humble submission to the ways and will of God. We can run to Christ, the Lamb of God who has offered the once and for all sacrifice that ensures our forgiveness and assures our confidence in Him. The six seals remind us that the darker side cannot be hidden from God, because God is in it as well.¹²

Prayer:

Lord, I confess that I do not understand all of your ways. I am too human to know how you will pour out your wrath on humanity. I do know that I do not want to experience your wrath. I want to live in your favor forever and avoid your destruction of the world. I praise you for your faithfulness in seeing that I am weak and in need of a Savior. Thank you for your blood, Lord Jesus. In your name we pray, Amen.

Question:

1. What can you do to avoid the wrath of God? How committed are you to making God a priority in 2024?

¹⁰ G. K. Beale, *The Book of Revelation: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, New International Greek Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Carlisle, Cumbria: W.B. Eerdmans; Paternoster Press, 1999), 400–401.

¹¹ Christopher C. Rowland, *The Book of Revelation: The New Interpreter’s Bible Commentary*, vol. XII (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998), p. 616.

¹² Ibid., p. 617.

Heaven: The Great Multitude of Gentiles

Monday, January 15, 2024 – Day 9

Read Revelation 7:9-17

Key Verse:

“They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” Revelation 7:16-17 (NKJV).

Key Reflection:

The great multitude of which no one could number is comprised of all nations, tribes, people and tongues. No one race is celebrated above another. Here we see the truth. Race is a human sociological concept of separation. Yet in the eyes of God, all humans have the ability to be in the great multitude. What is required to be in this number is to have your robes washed in the blood of the Lamb. The ones who will come out of the wrath are those who serve, worship and believe that Jesus is the Christ by surrendering their lives unto Him. These are the ones who have resisted the pressure to conform to the world.¹³ These are the ones who have been granted the privilege to worship God in eternity.

Thought:

Heaven is not a segregated society. All those who make it have one thing in common. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. It does not speak to skin pigmentation, economic status or social identification. All that matters is that they have a life that testifies to cry of their hearts: Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb (vs. 10). This is the requirement for heaven. The believer in Christ must be those who worship with active perseverance that enables the righteous to stand before God’s throne day and night in the temple of heaven.¹⁴ Jesus is in their midst eternally just as Christ is in the midst of us now. He is the One who will wipe every tear.

Prayer:

Lord, I long to be in the number of those who will sing praise and honor to your name forever. I willingly offer myself to you as one who is surrendered to your will. Help me to see you in every part of humanity and not create division in my worship of you. Write your name on my heart so that I may enter into your divine presence forever. Every nation is represented in heaven. Let it be so on earth as we serve you in your house of prayer for all nations. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

Question:

1. How can you persevere to be faithful in your service to Christ in 2024?

¹³ Christopher C. Rowland, *The Book of Revelation: The New Interpreter’s Bible Commentary*, vol. XII (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998), p. 624.

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 624-62

Heaven: The Seventh Seal

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 – Day 10

Read Revelation 8:1-5

Key Verse

“Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. ⁴ And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand.” Revelation 8:3-4 (NKJV)

Key Reflection:

The opening of the seventh seal of the scroll yields a silence in heaven. It is a heightened anticipation of what is to come.¹⁵ All of heaven is waiting for what is next although they do not know. This silence is a reverential display of divine providence. Before the trumpet will sound all of heaven waits for the will of God. What is more, the prayers of the saints are offered to God at the altar. (vs. 3) Let this serve as evidence that God hears the prayers of His people.

Thought:

This silence in heaven regarding the opening of the seventh seal is a remembrance of the notion of Psalm 46:10. “Be still, and know that I *am* God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” The exaltation of God is forthcoming. God is about to rewrite history for a final time. What should be encouraging to us is the fact that prayers of the saints are offered before the altar. The prayers of the saints are efficacious.¹⁶ Before the wrath, God hears our prayers.

Prayer:

Lord, I thank you! I praise you for your will. Help me to become comfortable in your silence to trust that you are God. You have a will in heaven and earth that I must adhere to in order to see in eternity. I trust that you always hear my prayers that are always before you. Thank you for being my God. Thank you for embracing me into the family of God through Jesus Christ. I will thank you with every breath that I breathe because you are the One who has given me life. Lord, thank you for your unending and steadfast love. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

Questions:

1. How comfortable are you in the silence of God?
2. How will you live in 2024 that aligns with the truth that God is in control?

¹⁵ Christopher C. Rowland, *The Book of Revelation: The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*, vol. XII (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998), p. 629.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 630

Heaven: The Trumpets of Heaven

Wednesday, January 17, 2024 – Day 11

Read Revelation 8-9

Key Verse:

“But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. ²¹ And they did not repent of their murders or their ^[a]sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.” Jonah 8:20-21 (NKJV)

Key Reflection:

The woes of the trumpets detail the destruction of creation. The three woes are challenging to understand and may be hard to handle. Yet, this is the will of God. Earth will be destroyed and it will be at the doing of God. Unfortunately, everyone will not repent and cry out to God. Some will be stubborn and not yield to God even when creation is being destroyed. They will allow their pride to keep them in sin because they follow the lead of the evil one.

Thought:

The need for repentance is the consistent and insistent theme for humanity in Revelation.¹⁷ This is the response from humanity that God requires. None of us are above the need to repent. God had given us this gift of repentance through Christ. When humanity does not repent it essentially says that the worship of God is optional. Let us never be found guilty of unrepentance. For if we are we are condemning ourselves to destruction.

Prayer:

Lord, I have no desire to live pridefully before you. I do not want to be counted in the number of those who do not repent. I willingly confess my sins before you daily. I long for the release from the troubles of this world so I offer myself to you. Cleanse me of all unrighteousness as I confess my sins before you. Rid my life of all idols that compete for your glory. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

Questions:

1. Where in your life is there unrepentance?
2. What can you do in 2024 to ensure that you continually offer repentance before God?

¹⁷ Christopher C. Rowland, *The Book of Revelation: The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*, vol. XII (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998), p. 632.

Heaven: The Little Book

Thursday, January 18, 2024 – Day 12

Read Revelation 10

Key Verse

And he said to me, “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.”
Revelation 10:11 (NKJV)

Key Reflection:

Chapter 10 is a part of the second woe in the end times. Here John is given the instructions to eat the little book that the mighty angel holds. It is another commission for Him to do the will of God. He is to prophesy the will of God concerning these things. The sweetness of the word is because it is from God, but the bitterness in his bowels is due to the judgment that must proceed from his mouth. John is not speaking mere words. He is speaking the mystery of the One who is past, present and future, the promulgation of judgment on an unjust people who live on a shaky foundation.¹⁸ Let this judgment not fall on us.

Thought:

At times the word of God is difficult to consume. It tells us about ourselves and points us to the full council of God. God is Judge and has a right to do with creation what God pleases. Afterall, He is the Creator. To love God is to accept all of God, even that which we do not understand. Yet, as God instructs us, we like John must adhere and obey. No matter how bitter the task, we must be willing to stand for God and speak the truth that is God's word. For it does not matter how it is received because we know that it shall not return unto Him void (Isaiah 55:11)

Prayer:

Lord, I pray that I will obey you in all things. Grant me the courage to speak your word as I trust in you. Even when I do not understand what you mean help me to believe what you say. Your word is truth. It is by your word that I am sanctified. No matter how bitter it may rest in me, ultimately, I know it will be for my good. I ask this prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Questions:

1. What word has God spoken to that has been difficult to receive?
2. What word have you spoken to others from God that you found to be challenging?

¹⁸ Christopher C. Rowland, *The Book of Revelation: The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*, vol. XII (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998), p. 639.

Heaven: The Seventh Trumpet

Friday, January 19, 2024 – Day 13

Read Revelation 11

Key Verse:

“Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”
Revelation 11:15 (NKJV)

Key Reflection:

The seventh trumpet signifies the end of the second woe and that beginning of the third woe. At the end of the second woe those who remained gave glory to God for what they have witnessed. The seventh trumpet is a proclamation of the Kingdom of God. It is an announcement of what always was and has been. Now, it is realized in all of the earth by all of humanity. God is showing His reign that is undeniable. At some point all will recognize that Christ shall reign forever.

Thought:

The rule of Christ is what every believer must embrace. This is where our hope rests. That the God of our salvation is the Lord who reigns forever. Living with this truth grants us the confidence and courage to seek and live in the will of God. You must embrace that Christ reigns forever. In fact, the manner in which you live signifies whether or not you believe that Christ reigns forever. The kingdoms of the world belong to Him and so should you.

Prayer:

Lord, I belong to you. I acknowledge that you are King over my life. Let all the earth come to proclaim that which is proclaimed in heaven. Truly, the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ! Surely you shall reign forever as you reign in my life. Help me to live, move and make decisions based upon this truth. I offer this prayer to you knowing that you are and forever will be my God. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

Questions:

1. How does your life reflect that you believe in the reign of Christ?
2. What can you do to exhibit to the world that Christ reigns in you?

Heaven: The War in Heaven

Saturday, January 20, 2024 – Day 14

Read Revelation 12

Key Verses:

“So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God, day and night, has been cast down. ¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.” Revelation 12:9-11 (NKJV)

Key Reflection:

Revelation 12 chronicles the beginning of the end for Satan. He has lost his position in heaven and is about to be bound to the pit of hell. It is his mission to make war with those who have given their testimony of Jesus Christ and who keep the commands of God; for this is something he could not do. Because of Christ there is access to God where salvation is enjoyed by those who conquer and overcome by the blood of the Lamb. It is their testimony that expresses their continuity with Christ. ¹⁹

Thought:

Satan is real and the Devil is defeated. He lost in heaven and will lose on earth. He is the fallen angel who has no authority over you. His reign, which is not truly a reign but more of a lease from God, is coming to an end. He knows this and so should you. Because of your connection and devotion to Christ, you have overcome. And you will continue to overcome by the blood of Jesus and the power of your testimony. Keep speaking about what Christ has done in you and for you.

Prayer:

Lord, I believe you are God. You are the victorious King. Thank you for delivering me from the hand of the enemy. I reject every accusation of the enemy and take up the banner of truth that I overcome because of your blood and the truth of what you have done for me. In the face of adversity, I vow to be strong in you as I proclaim that salvation and strength is yours. The devil is defeated and I belong to Christ. In the name of the King who is Jesus I pray, Amen.

Questions:

1. What confidence do you have in God that you are victorious?
2. In 2024, what are some ways that you can live a victorious life in Christ?

¹⁹ Christopher C. Rowland, *The Book of Revelation: The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*, vol. XII (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998), p. 650.

Heaven: The Crux of the Matter

Sunday, January 21, 2024 – Day 15

Read Revelation 13 and 14

Key Verse:

“...saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.” Revelation 14:7 (NKJV).

Key Reflection:

The Beasts of Revelation 13 are those that are against God. They represent everything that seeks to undermine the plan of God. They come after those in the earth to deceive them into thinking that God is not who God says God is. They seek to deprive anyone of opportunity to live forever with Christ. Yet the angel in heaven proclaims an everlasting Gospel that is available to all. This is the crux of the matter for those who desire to see God (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

Key Thought:

The Gospel, the good news, is meant to give glory to God. Giving glory to God is the habit of heaven.²⁰ It is the activity around the throne. We are required to give glory to God. We give glory to God by telling the truth, confessing our sin, loving our neighbor and of course, by keeping His commandments. By this we operate in the reverential fear of God. This is the message of the Kingdom for all its subjects. We are called to worship God. This is crux of the matter of creation and the determining factor in judgment. It is the everlasting Gospel.

Prayer:

Lord, I come to you today believing in your Gospel. It is my desire to give you glory every hour of my life. I join with the host of heaven and declares that you are worthy to receive honor and glory. I worship you with my whole heart. I pray that your name is written on my heart so that my identity is in you. Thank you for your unfailing love and present to them the opportunity for salvation. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

Questions:

1. Evaluate how you give glory to God? In which ways can you give God more glory?

²⁰ Christopher C. Rowland, *The Book of Revelation: The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*, vol. XII (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998), p. 666.

Heaven: The Bowl of Judgments

Monday, January 22, 2024 – Day 16

Read Revelation 15 and 16

Key Verse:

“Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.” Revelation 16:15 (NKJV)

Key Reflection:

Revelation 15 and 16 details the full wrath of God. The seven angels will pour out God’s wrath of judgment on the earth for their denial and opposition to God. The wrath of God is poured out for idolatry, unrepentance of sin and blasphemy of God’s name. God has given multiple opportunities for humanity to accept his Kingship and grace through Jesus Christ but many chose to deny this privilege and promise. For them they will face the wrath of God that is described as seven bowls of judgment.

Thought:

Just as Satan is real, God’s judgment is real as well. The event of God will happen. It will happen at the great day of God Almighty known as Armageddon. In the midst of this judgment, Jesus speaks to remind John of the truth of this event. He tells him that He is coming like a thief in the night. Those who desire to see Him are those who are watchful and keep their garments. Jesus gives a beatitude for us to remain alert and keep our garments clean.²¹ For the shame of sin and rejection of God are the nakedness of humanity that will be revealed in the wrath. This means that the key to escaping the wrath of God is to be holy in our worship, being and living for God. In this light we will not defile our garments. Holiness is the key!

Prayer:

Lord, you are holy. You ask that we be holy as well. Teach us to sanctify ourselves so that we do subject ourselves to your wrath. We believe you and your word. We want our garments to be white as we hope and rest in your character. Let us live before you so that we can experience the joy of your rule in eternity. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Question:

1. How is your life evident that you are holy in your pursuits to avoid the wrath of God?

²¹ Christopher C. Rowland, *The Book of Revelation: The New Interpreter’s Bible Commentary*, vol. XII (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998), p. 677.

Heaven: Babylon the Great

Tuesday, January 23, 2024 – Day 17

Read Revelation 17

Key Verse

"These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. ¹⁴These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those *who are* with Him *are* called, chosen, and faithful." Revelation 17:13-14 (NKJV)

Key Reflection:

In Revelation 17 Babylon is personified as the great harlot who is against God. It represents the kingdoms who do not give honor and obeisance to the Lord Almighty. The onus is to be at war with God. These kingdoms are filled with lust, idolatry and blasphemy of God. Although they believe that they are powerful, they are fighting a losing battle. They will not win. All who are against the Lamb are part of a losing team. Their fate is perdition. Only in Christ will you win.

Thought:

The church is comprised of those who are on the Lord's side. They are in alignment with the purposes of God who will conquer. Christ is undefeated. There is none in creation that can stand against Him since all power and authority has been given to Him. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The church is the faithful and chosen who are with Him. Let our worship and witness be one where the world sees our allegiance to Him. Let us be faithful to Him and faithful for Him as we seek to reign with Him. In Christ, there is no destruction only eternal destiny with the Divine.

Prayer:

Lord, thank you for calling me. I have a desire to be identified and one who is called faithful and chosen. I want my life to be pleasing unto you so that you will designate me as one who is faithful. Let my faithfulness ever be before you as I keep your commandments. Let my faithfulness be before you as I proclaim your goodness to a world that seeks to reject you. Let my faithfulness be before you as I pay my tithes and offerings unto you. Let my faithfulness be before you in every aspect of my life. You are the Overcomer and my prayer is that I overcome with you. Thank you for being my help. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

Question:

1. In what ways can you be more faithful to Christ as you battle opposition in the world?

Heaven: The Last Supper

Wednesday, January 24, 2024 – Day 18

Read Revelation 19:1-10

Key Verse:

“Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed *are* those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.” ¹⁰ And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See *that you do not do that!* I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” Revelation 19:9-10 (NKJV)

Key Reflection:

The multitude in heaven rejoice at the judgment of God. They give witness to the truth that the Lord God Omnipotent reigns. Now there is eternal gladness. It is the excitement for the marriage of the bridegroom (Christ) and His bride (the church). The beatitude of the marriage supper is now a reality. The church is given her attire of fine linen that is the righteous acts of the saints. To be clothed in righteousness is the order of the church so that she can be made ready for her bride. A wedding is happening in heaven.

Thought:

We as the church are called to be ready as the bride of Christ. We are made ready by the righteousness that is found only in Christ. Our righteousness is our worship that is a reflection to the truth that we are the righteousness of God in Christ. As the church everything that we do should be in preparation to meet our bridegroom. We should continue to fill our lamps with oil so that we will have enough when Christ comes. Let our lamps be the word of God that prepares us for the One who is called the Word of God (Revelation 19:13). This is our eschatological joy and hope for which heaven rejoices.

Prayer:

Lord, prepare me to meet you in your glory. It is my desire to have the appropriate garments for you. I join with the hosts of heaven in their exaltation of you, declaring that the Lord God omnipotent reigns. I will be glad and give you glory. Teach me to walk in the righteous garments of you. I testify that you are the Christ. Prepare my heart for you. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

Questions:

1. What have you discovered about your garments during this time of prayer and fasting?
2. How are you preparing yourself to receive Christ?

Heaven: The Second Coming of Christ

Thursday, January 25, 2024 – Day 19

Read Revelation 19:11-21

Key Verse

“His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³ He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.” Revelation 19:12-14 (NKJV)

Key Reflection:

Christ is coming again. He is the Rider of the white horse who is called Faithful and True. He is the One who judges in righteousness. His robe is dipped in blood and His name is called the Word of God. He is the leader of the armies of heaven. He is the Divine Warrior who holds all authority and comes in power and bears the stripes of His own blood. ²² His name is written on His thigh; King of Kings and Lord of Lords. This is the glory in which He comes. The time for testimony is over; the case has been made, and the sentencing of earth will begin. ²³ Christ rules, reigns and has fought for His bride, the church.

Thought:

Jesus Christ is Him. There is none greater than Him. There is none who is more powerful than Him. There is none whose name is greater than Him. The armies of heaven follow Him. The hosts of heaven rejoice because of Him. Heaven crowns Him. If we desire to be with Him, we must act accordingly and glorify Him in the manner that He desires of Him. The word of God is the truth and Word and the Truth is Him. He will defeat all who are against Him when He comes. Let us remain in awe of Him as we patiently wait for Him.

Prayer:

Lord, I know that you are Him. I desire to please you. I do not want to miss you when you shall return. I believe that you are Faithful and True. I believe that you are righteous. I believe that you are the Word of God. I believe that you are King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Sanctify me by your truth, your word is truth. Make me holy so that I am prepared to meet you when you come. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

Questions:

1. Who is Christ to you?
2. How are you preparing to meet Him when He comes?

²² Christopher C. Rowland, *The Book of Revelation: The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*, vol. XII (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998), p. 699.

²³ Ibid., p. 699.

Heaven: The Throne of Judgment

Friday, January 26, 2024 – Day 20

Read Revelation 20

Key Verses:

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. Revelation 20: 11-15 (NKJV)

Key Reflection:

Revelation 20 is the culmination of the matter in the war between good and evil. Satan is bound. Satan is released. Satan opposes God. Satan is tormented forever in the lake of fire (hell). There is no room found in heaven for the devil nor for creation.²⁴ Death will be in hell too, along with all whose names are not written in the Book of Life. The eternal fate of humanity will be decided.

Thought:

The most important book in all of existence is the Book of Life. Only Jesus knows whose names are written in it. Assurance is given to those whose name are written in it and those whose names have been blotted out.²⁵ Judgment will be according to our works that will not be forgotten. We must worship, work and then wait to ensure that our names are written in it.

Prayer:

Lord, I come to you in the name of Jesus. My desire is to please you in all things. I never want my name to be blotted out of the Book of Life. Convict me by the power of your Holy Spirit when I operate in a way that puts my name in jeopardy. I do not want to live with death, I want to live with you. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

Question:

1. Where will your name be?

²⁴ Christopher C. Rowland, *The Book of Revelation: The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*, vol. XII (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998), p. 715.

²⁵ Ibid., p. 715.

Heaven: New Heaven and Earth

Saturday, January 27, 2024 – Day 21

Read Revelation 21 and 22

Key Verse:

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End, the First and the Last.” Revelation 22:12-13 (NKJV)

Key Reflection:

God will create a new heaven and earth. This is not a wish but a promise. It will be glorious and wonderful. There will be no house of worship for everything in the New Jerusalem is centered around the worship at the throne of God. In fact, the temple is the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb (Revelation 21:22). There will be no need for the sun because the light from the Son will be more than enough for it is the radiance of God’s glory.²⁶ There is no night because nothing will ever turn away from Him who is the Light. And the only ones who are able to be admitted into this city are those whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life (Revelation 21:27).

Thought:

Here is the final matter of things: Jesus is returning and His word is true. Jesus testifies that Revelation is from Him (Revelation 22:16). Prophecy, witness and the life of Christ are bound together in Revelation, and its readers find that such commitment and activities have a price.²⁷ Christ paid the price so that we may have the opportunity to commit to His price. Jesus is coming and His reward is with Him. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last, the Root and Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star. Jesus is real and Jesus reigns. JESUS IS COMING BACK!

Prayer:

COME LORD JESUS AND LET ME BE FOUND FAITHFUL WHEN YOU COME! AMEN

²⁶ Christopher C. Rowland, *The Book of Revelation: The New Interpreter’s Bible Commentary*, vol. XII (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998), p. 723.

²⁷ Ibid., p. 733.