

## Appendix (cont.)

Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. . . Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and Son. (1 John 2:18, 22)

And every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of Antichrist, which you have heard is coming, and is now already in the world. (1 John 4:3)

For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. (2 John 7)

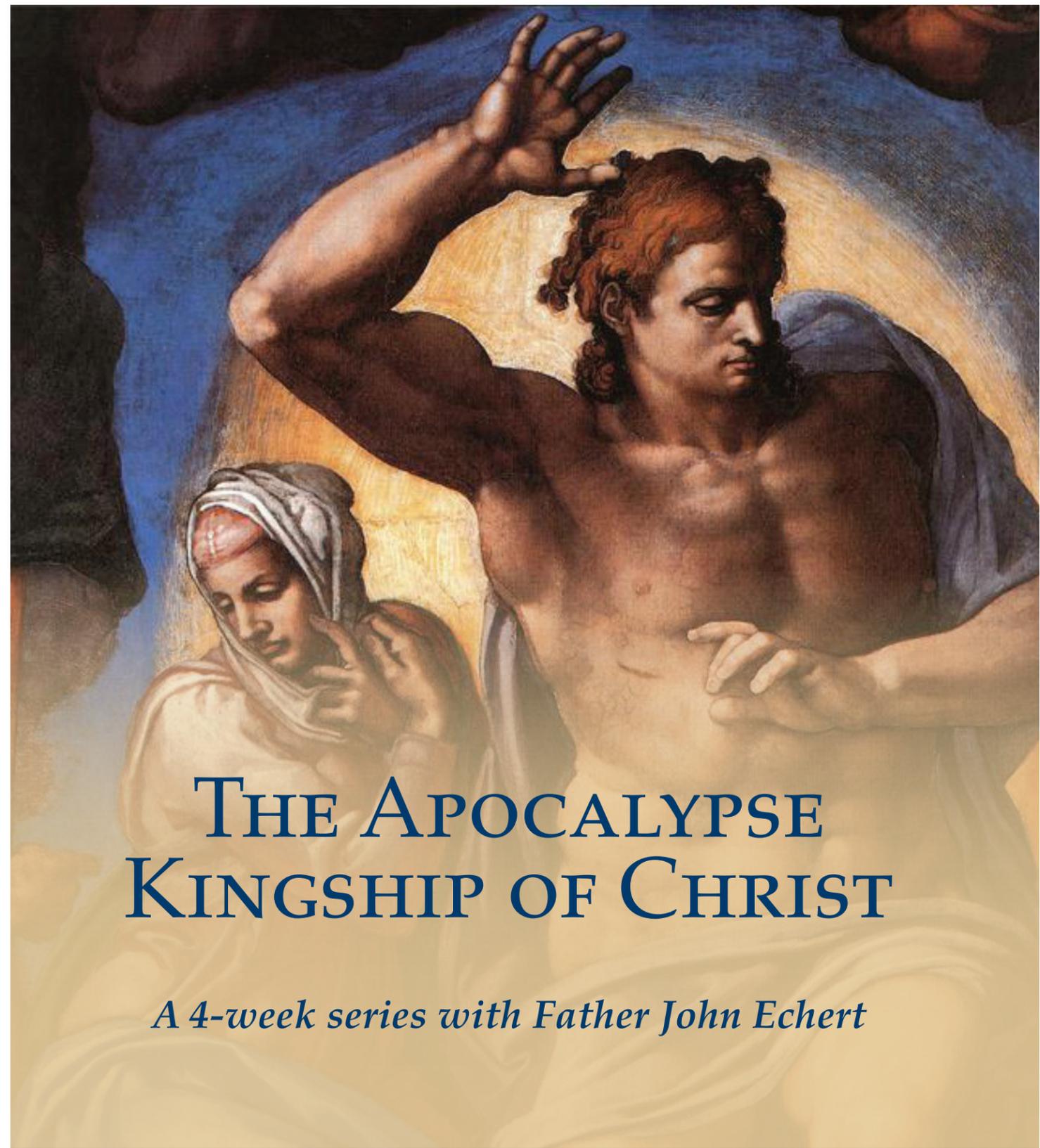
### BIO FOR FATHER JOHN PAUL ECHERT

Father John Paul Echert is priest of the Archdiocese of St. Paul – Minneapolis and pastor of Holy Trinity Parish, serving the two churches of Holy Trinity and St. Augustine in South St. Paul. Prior to his current pastorate Father was a Professor of Sacred Scripture at the University of St. Thomas and The Saint Paul Seminary, specializing in New Testament studies. He holds a License in Sacred Scripture from the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome, with additional graduate studies at the Ecole Biblique, Jerusalem. Father Echert is the Scripture Expert for EWTN online and a frequent radio guest on Catholic Spirit Radio, Omaha. He writes a monthly column on Scriptural topics for The Catholic Servant and teaches in various diocesan programs for deacon candidates and adult enrichment. He served as a Catholic Chaplain in the United States Air Force and Air National Guard for nearly thirty years.

### PRAYER OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

*Grant, O merciful God, that I may ardently desire, prudently examine, truthfully acknowledge, and perfectly accomplish what is pleasing to Thee, for the praise and glory of Thy Name. Amen.*

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# THE APOCALYPSE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST

*A 4-week series with Father John Echert*



ARCHDIOCESE  
OF  
SAINT PAUL &  
MINNEAPOLIS

EVANGELIZATION

## Discussion Guide

# SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES

Small groups are an opportunity to create deep and lasting faith-filled relationships, with people who will share times of joy in your life, and encourage and help you in times of difficulty.

*“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.” (1 Thess. 5:11)*

To that end, we provide the following small group guidelines:

- 1. Please arrive on time, and come prepared**
  - Begin your homework with prayer, asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
  - Spread out your homework over the week; you will get more out of it and enjoy it more.
  - If you cannot attend a class, please call, e-mail or text me.
- 2. Actively take part in the discussion with charity**
  - Everyone’s insights are valuable to others and vital for the group’s growth.
  - Please participate each week.
  - If you like to share, think ahead to the 2 or 3 times you would like to comment, so as not to dominate the discussion. Allow quiet time for others to speak before adding comments.
  - If you find it hard to share, think ahead to the 1 or 2 times you would like to comment, so you are comfortable participating.
- 3. Be a good listener and respectful of others**
  - Please give your full attention to the person speaking, and do not interrupt others
  - Please avoid side conversations in the small group discussions and lecture.
- 4. Stick to the assigned study material; do not bring other materials to the small group**
  - In order to gain the most out of this study, please stay focused on insights gleaned from your assigned homework.
  - Please do not get sidetracked on other matters- such as former churches or bible studies, movies you have seen, or books you have read.
  - Bring only your homework, Bible and Catechism to class.
  - Please do not bring materials to share with the group- such as other bible study materials, articles, books, tapes or other handouts.
- 5. Small group discussions are confidential**
  - Please do not discuss them outside the small group.
- 6. Pray for your small group members**

## Appendix (cont.)

call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first;<sup>17</sup> then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord.<sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4)

But as to the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need to have anything written to you.<sup>2</sup> For you yourselves know well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.<sup>3</sup> When people say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as travail comes upon a woman with child, and there will be no escape.<sup>4</sup> But you are not in darkness, brethren, for that day to surprise you like a thief.<sup>5</sup> For you are all sons of light and sons of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.<sup>6</sup> So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.<sup>7</sup> For those who sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.<sup>8</sup> But, since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.<sup>9</sup> For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>10</sup> who died for us so that whether we wake or sleep we might live with him.<sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5)

This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be made worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering—<sup>6</sup> since indeed God deems it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you,<sup>7</sup> and to grant rest with us to you who are afflicted, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire,<sup>8</sup> inflicting vengeance upon those who do not know God and upon those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.<sup>9</sup> They shall suffer the punishment of eternal destruction and exclusion from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,<sup>10</sup> when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at in all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.<sup>11</sup> To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his call, and may fulfil every good resolve and work of faith by his power,<sup>12</sup> so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thessalonians 1)

Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our assembling to meet him, we beg you, brethren,<sup>2</sup> not to be quickly shaken in mind or excited, either by spirit or by word, or by letter purporting to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.<sup>3</sup> Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness[a] is revealed, the son of perdition,<sup>4</sup> who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.<sup>5</sup> Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you this?<sup>6</sup> And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time.<sup>7</sup> For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way.<sup>8</sup> And then the lawless one will be revealed, and the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by his appearing and his coming.<sup>9</sup> The coming of the lawless one by the activity of Satan will be with all power and with pretended signs and wonders,<sup>10</sup> and with all wicked deception for those who are to perish, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.<sup>11</sup> Therefore God sends upon them a strong delusion, to make them believe what is false,<sup>12</sup> so that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (2 Thessalonians 2)

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## Appendix: *The Parousia, the Rapture, the Anti-Christ*

Then I looked, and lo, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand. <sup>15</sup> And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat upon the cloud, "Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe." <sup>16</sup> So he who sat upon the cloud swung his sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

And another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. <sup>18</sup> Then another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has power over fire, and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "Put in your sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe." <sup>19</sup> So the angel swung his sickle on the earth and gathered the vintage of the earth, and threw it into the great wine press of the wrath of God; <sup>20</sup> and the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the wine press, as high as a horse's bridle, for one thousand six hundred stadia. (Revelation 14)

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Amen, I say to you, this generation will not pass away till all these things take place. <sup>35</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>36</sup> "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. <sup>37</sup> As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of man. <sup>38</sup> For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they did not know until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of man. <sup>40</sup> Then two men will be in the field; one is taken and one is left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding at the mill; one is taken and one is left. <sup>42</sup> Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> But know this, that if the householder had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have watched and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect. (Matthew 24)

I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. <sup>35</sup> Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left." <sup>37</sup> "Where, Lord?" they asked. He replied, "Where there is a dead body, there the vultures will gather." (Luke 17)

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Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and mortal with immortality. (1 Cor 15)

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For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be raptured up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4)

But we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <sup>15</sup> For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel's

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## SESSION I

# ANCIENT APOCALYPSE



## Judgment of the Damned

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and him who sat upon it; from his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Also another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, by what they had done. <sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead in them, and all were judged by what they had done. <sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire; <sup>15</sup> and if any one's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Rev 20)

## New Jerusalem

<sup>22</sup> And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup> By its light shall the nations walk; and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it, <sup>25</sup> and its gates shall never be shut by day—and there shall be no night there; <sup>26</sup> they shall bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. <sup>27</sup> But nothing unclean shall enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. (Rev 21)

## Heavenly Paradise

Then he showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life[a] with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> There shall no more be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and his servants shall worship him; <sup>4</sup> they shall see his face, and his name shall be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And night shall be no more; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they shall reign for ever and ever. (Rev 22)

### Discussion Questions

- ❖ Describe the significance of the Woman Clothed with the Sun who gives birth to a Son. The dragon attempts to devour the Son but the Son is rescued. Who are the Offspring of the Woman next attacked by the dragon?
- ❖ Identify the symbolism of each of these figures: the dragon, the beast from the sea, the beast from the land. What is the significance of the fact that they are three in number and what are they the complete antithesis of?
- ❖ Many non-Catholics believe that there will be a 1,000 year physical reign of Christ here on earth but that view has been condemned by the Church. Explain how many Jews of the time of Jesus made a similar mistake.

## Rider on a White Horse

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems; and he has a name inscribed which no one knows but himself. <sup>13</sup> He is clad in a robe dipped in [b] blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, followed him on white horses. <sup>15</sup> From his mouth issues a sharp sword with which to smite the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron; he will tread the wine press of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. <sup>16</sup> On his robe and on his thigh he has a name inscribed, King of kings and Lord of lords.

## The Beast and the Armies Defeated

<sup>17</sup> Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly in midheaven, “Come, gather for the great supper of God, <sup>18</sup> to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great.” <sup>19</sup> And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who sits upon the horse and against his army. <sup>20</sup> And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had worked the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulphur. <sup>21</sup> And the rest were slain by the sword of him who sits upon the horse, the sword that issues from his mouth; and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

## The Millennium

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain. <sup>2</sup> And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, <sup>3</sup> and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years were ended. After that he must be loosed for a little while. Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom judgment was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony to Jesus and for the word of God, and who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life, and reigned with Christ a thousand years. <sup>5</sup> The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy is he who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and they shall reign with him a thousand years. And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be loosed from his prison <sup>8</sup> and will come out to deceive the nations which are at the four corners of the earth, that is, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. <sup>9</sup> And they marched up over the broad earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city; but fire came down from heaven [a] and consumed them, <sup>10</sup> and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. (Revelation 20)

## World Wide Deluge Apocalypse

When men began to multiply on the face of the ground and daughters were born to them, <sup>2</sup> the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were fair; and they took to wife such of them as they chose. <sup>3</sup> Then the Lord said, “My spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh, but his days shall be a hundred and twenty years.” <sup>4</sup> The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men that were of old, the men of renown. <sup>5</sup> The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. <sup>6</sup> And the Lord was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. <sup>7</sup> So the Lord said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the ground, man and beast and creeping things and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.” <sup>8</sup> But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. (Genesis 6)

The flood continued forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. <sup>18</sup> The waters prevailed and increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters. <sup>19</sup> And the waters prevailed so mightily upon the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered; <sup>20</sup> the waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. <sup>21</sup> And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, birds, cattle, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm upon the earth, and every man; <sup>22</sup> everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. <sup>23</sup> He blotted out every living thing that was upon the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the air; they were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those that were with him in the ark. (Genesis 7)

## Sodom and Gomorrah Apocalypse

When morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city.” <sup>16</sup> But he lingered; so the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the Lord being merciful to him, and they brought him forth and set him outside the city. <sup>17</sup> And when they had brought them forth, they [a] said, “Flee for your life; do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley; flee to the hills, lest you be consumed.” <sup>18</sup> And Lot said to them, “Oh, no, my lords; <sup>19</sup> behold, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have shown me great kindness in saving my life; but I cannot flee to the hills, lest the disaster overtake me, and I die. <sup>20</sup> Behold, yonder city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one. Let me escape there—is it not a little one?—and my life will be saved!” <sup>21</sup> He said to him, “Behold, I grant you this favor also, that I will not overthrow the city of which you have spoken. <sup>22</sup> Make haste, escape there; for I can do nothing till you arrive there.” Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven; <sup>25</sup> and he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. <sup>26</sup> But Lot’s wife behind him looked back, and she became a pillar of salt. <sup>27</sup> And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the Lord; <sup>28</sup> and he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and toward all the land of the valley, and beheld, and lo, the smoke of the land went up like

## Sodom and Gomorrah Apocalypse (cont.)

the smoke of a furnace. <sup>29</sup> So it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in which Lot dwelt. (Genesis 19)

## Egyptian Empire Apocalypse

And the Lord said to Moses, “See, I make you as God to Pharaoh; and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet. You shall speak all that I command you; and Aaron your brother shall tell Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go out of his land. But I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, Pharaoh will not listen to you; then I will lay my hand upon Egypt and bring forth my hosts, my people the sons of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch forth my hand upon Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them.” And Moses and Aaron did so; they did as the Lord commanded them. Now Moses was eighty years old, and Aaron eighty-three years old, when they spoke to Pharaoh. (Exodus 7:1-6)

## First Jerusalem Apocalypse (586 BC by the Babylonians)

And in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came with all his army against Jerusalem, and laid siege to it; and they built siege works against it round about. <sup>2</sup> So the city was besieged till the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. <sup>3</sup> On the ninth day of the fourth month the famine was so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land. <sup>4</sup> Then a breach was made in the city; the king with all the men of war fled[a] by night by the way of the gate between the two walls, by the king’s garden, though the Chaldeans were around the city. And they went in the direction of the Arabah. <sup>5</sup> But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king, and overtook him in the plains of Jericho; and all his army was scattered from him. <sup>6</sup> Then they captured the king, and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, who passed sentence upon him. <sup>7</sup> They slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him in fetters, and took him to Babylon. <sup>8</sup> In the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month—which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon—Nebuzaradan, the captain of the bodyguard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. <sup>9</sup> And he burned the house of the Lord, and the king’s house and all the houses of Jerusalem; every great house he burned down. <sup>10</sup> And all the army of the Chaldeans, who were with the captain of the guard, broke down the walls around Jerusalem. <sup>11</sup> And the rest of the people who were left in the city and the deserters who had deserted to the king of Babylon, together with the rest of the multitude, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried into exile. <sup>12</sup> But the captain of the guard left some of the poorest of the land to be vinedressers and plowmen. (2 Kings 25)

## The Whore of Babylon (cont.)

me, “The waters that you saw, where the harlot is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. <sup>16</sup> And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the harlot; they will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire, <sup>17</sup> for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and giving over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. <sup>18</sup> And the woman that you saw is the great city which has dominion over the kings of the earth.” (Revelation 17)

## The Fall of Babylon

After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority; the earth was made bright with his splendor. <sup>2</sup> He called out with a mighty voice, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! It has become a dwelling place of demons, a haunt of every foul spirit, a haunt of every foul and hateful bird; <sup>3</sup> For all nations have drunk the wine of her impure passion, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich with the wealth of her wantonness.” <sup>4</sup> Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues; <sup>5</sup> for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. <sup>6</sup> Render to her as she herself has rendered, and repay her double for her deeds; mix a double draught for her in the cup she mixed. <sup>7</sup> As she glorified herself and played the wanton, so give her a like measure of torment and mourning. Since in her heart she says, ‘A queen I sit, I am no widow, mourning I shall never see,’ <sup>8</sup> so shall her plagues come in a single day, pestilence and mourning and famine; she shall be burned with fire; for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.”

## Rejoicing in Heaven

After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, <sup>2</sup> for his judgments are true and just; he has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication, and he has avenged on her the blood of his servants.” <sup>3</sup> Once more they cried, “Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever.” <sup>9</sup> And the angel said[a] to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are true words of God.” <sup>10</sup> Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.” For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. (Revelation 19)

## The Seven Bowls of Wrath (*cont.*)

not repent of their deeds. <sup>12</sup> The sixth angel poured his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east. <sup>13</sup> And I saw, issuing from the mouth of the dragon and from the mouth of the beast and from the mouth of the false prophet, three foul spirits like frogs; <sup>14</sup> for they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. <sup>15</sup> (“Lo, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is he who is awake, keeping his garments that he may not go naked and be seen exposed!”) <sup>16</sup> And they assembled them at the place which is called in Hebrew Armageddon. <sup>17</sup> The seventh angel poured his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, “It is done!” <sup>18</sup> And there were flashes of lightning, voices, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as had never been since men were on the earth, so great was that earthquake. <sup>19</sup> The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered great Babylon, to make her drain the cup of the fury of his wrath. <sup>20</sup> And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found; <sup>21</sup> and great hailstones, heavy as a hundredweight, dropped on men from heaven, till men cursed God for the plague of the hail, so fearful was that plague. (Revelation 16)

## The Whore of Babylon

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who is seated upon many waters, <sup>2</sup> with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and with the wine of whose fornication the dwellers on earth have become drunk.” <sup>3</sup> And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. <sup>4</sup> The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and bedecked with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her fornication; <sup>5</sup> and on her forehead was written a name of mystery: “Babylon the great, mother of harlots and of earth’s abominations.” <sup>6</sup> And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When I saw her I marveled greatly. <sup>7</sup> But the angel said to me, “Why marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her. <sup>8</sup> The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is to ascend from the bottomless pit and go to perdition; and the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will marvel to behold the beast, because it was and is not and is to come. <sup>9</sup> This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; <sup>10</sup> they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he comes he must remain only a little while. <sup>11</sup> As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to perdition. <sup>12</sup> And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. <sup>13</sup> These are of one mind and give over their power and authority to the beast; <sup>14</sup> they will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.” <sup>15</sup> And he said to

## Second Jerusalem Apocalypse (70 AD by the Romans)

Some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, Jesus said, <sup>6</sup> “As for these things which you see, the days will come when there shall not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.” <sup>7</sup> They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign when this is about to take place?” <sup>8</sup> He said, “Take heed that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is at hand!’ Do not go after them. <sup>9</sup> When you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified; for this must first take place, but the end will not be at once.” <sup>10</sup> Then he said, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. <sup>12</sup> But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name’s sake. <sup>13</sup> This will be a time for you to bear testimony. <sup>14</sup> Settle it therefore in your minds, not to meditate beforehand how to answer; <sup>15</sup> for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and kinsmen and friends, and some of you they will put to death; you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. <sup>18</sup> But not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup> By your endurance you will gain your lives. <sup>20</sup> “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. <sup>21</sup> Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it; <sup>22</sup> for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. <sup>23</sup> Alas for those who are with child and for those who give suck in those days! For great distress shall be upon the earth and wrath upon this people; <sup>24</sup> they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led captive among all nations; and Jerusalem will be trodden down by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. <sup>25</sup> “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth distress of nations in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, <sup>26</sup> men fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, look up and raise your heads, for your redemption is drawing near.” (Luke 21)

### Discussion Questions

- ❖ What is the meaning of the word Apocalypse and its generally understood significance when used in a religious context? What is the value for modern day Christians of examining ancient Apocalypses of the long past?
- ❖ What is meant by “the remnant” vis-à-vis an Apocalypse? How are we to understand the expression “wrath of God” in terms of an Apocalypse and how can we reconcile this with the fact that God is merciful and loving?
- ❖ What is a major difference in the aftermath of the first Jerusalem Apocalypse (586 BC) and the second Jerusalem Apocalypse (70 AD) and what would account for this difference in the long term outcome?

## SESSION II

# THE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST



## The Lamb and the 144,000

Then I looked, and lo, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. <sup>2</sup> And I heard a voice from heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder; the voice I heard was like the sound of harpers playing on their harps, <sup>3</sup> and they sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who had been redeemed from the earth. <sup>4</sup> It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are chaste; [a] it is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes; these have been redeemed from mankind as first fruits for God and the Lamb, <sup>5</sup> and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are spotless. (Revelation 14)

## Message of Three Angels

<sup>6</sup> Then I saw another angel flying in midheaven, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; <sup>7</sup> and he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, for the hour of his judgment has come; and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the fountains of water." <sup>8</sup> Another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of her impure passion." <sup>9</sup> And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If any one worships the beast and its image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, <sup>10</sup> he also shall drink the wine of God's wrath, poured unmixed into the cup of his anger, and he shall be tormented with fire and sulphur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. <sup>11</sup> And the smoke of their torment goes up for ever and ever; and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name." <sup>12</sup> Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. <sup>13</sup> And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord henceforth." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!" (Revelation 14)

## The Seven Bowls of Wrath

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God." <sup>2</sup> So the first angel went and poured his bowl on the earth, and foul and evil sores came upon the men who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. <sup>3</sup> The second angel poured his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a dead man, and every living thing died that was in the sea. <sup>4</sup> The third angel poured his bowl into the rivers and the fountains of water, and they became blood. <sup>5,8</sup> The fourth angel poured his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch men with fire; <sup>9</sup> men were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues, and they did not repent and give him glory. <sup>10</sup> The fifth angel poured his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was in darkness; men gnawed their tongues in anguish <sup>11</sup> and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores, and did

## The Beast from the Sea

And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems upon its horns and a blasphemous name upon its heads. <sup>2</sup> And the beast that I saw was like a leopard, its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority. <sup>3</sup> One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth followed the beast with wonder. <sup>4</sup> Men worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?" The beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months; <sup>6</sup> it opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. <sup>7</sup> Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and tongue and nation, <sup>8</sup> and all who dwell on earth will worship it, every one whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb that was slain. <sup>9</sup> If anyone has an ear, let him hear: <sup>10</sup> If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if any one slays with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints. (Revelation 13)

## The Beast from the Land

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw another beast which rose out of the earth; it had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. <sup>12</sup> It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed. <sup>13</sup> It works great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in the sight of men; <sup>14</sup> and by the signs which it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast, it deceives those who dwell on earth, bidding them make an image for the beast which was wounded by the sword and yet lived; <sup>15</sup> and it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast so that the image of the beast should even speak, and to cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. <sup>16</sup> Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, <sup>17</sup> so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. <sup>18</sup> This calls for wisdom: let him who has understanding reckon the number of the beast, for it is a human number, its number is six hundred and sixty-six. (Revelation 13)

## King in a Manger

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; <sup>8</sup> and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; <sup>11</sup> and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. (Matthew 2)

## King in Ministry

Jesus went up on the mountain, and there sat down with his disciples. <sup>4</sup> Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. <sup>5</sup> Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a multitude was coming to him, Jesus said to Philip, "How are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" <sup>6</sup> This he said to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. <sup>7</sup> Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii] would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." <sup>8</sup> One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup> "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what are they among so many?" <sup>10</sup> Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place; so the men sat down, in number about five thousand. <sup>11</sup> Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup> And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, that nothing may be lost." <sup>13</sup> So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten. <sup>14</sup> When the people saw the sign which he had done, they said, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world!" <sup>15</sup> Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself. (John 6)

## King Claiming His Royal City

And when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethpage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples,<sup>2</sup> saying to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me.”<sup>3</sup> If any one says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and he will send them immediately.”<sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying,<sup>5</sup> “Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass.”<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them;<sup>7</sup> they brought the ass and the colt, and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon.<sup>8</sup> Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.<sup>9</sup> And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”<sup>10</sup> And when he entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, “Who is this?”<sup>11</sup> And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee.” (Matthew 21)

## King Before Pilate

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?”<sup>35</sup> Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?”<sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.”<sup>37</sup> Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” (John 18)

## King on the Cross

And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!”<sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine<sup>37</sup> and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”<sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”<sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?”<sup>41</sup> And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.”<sup>42</sup> Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”<sup>43</sup> He replied, “Amen I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” (Luke 23)

## The Woman and the Dragon

And a great portent appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars;<sup>2</sup> she was with child and she cried out in her pangs of birth, in anguish for delivery.<sup>3</sup> And another portent appeared in heaven; behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems upon his heads.<sup>4</sup> His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven, and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, that he might devour her child when she brought it forth;<sup>5</sup> she brought forth a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne,<sup>6</sup> and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which to be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days. (Rev 12)

## St. Michael vs. the Dragon

<sup>7</sup> Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,<sup>8</sup> but they were defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.<sup>9</sup> And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.<sup>10</sup> I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.<sup>11</sup> And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.<sup>12</sup> Rejoice then, O heaven and you that dwell therein! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!” (Rev 12)

## The Dragon vs. the Offspring

<sup>13</sup> And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had borne the male child.<sup>14</sup> But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.<sup>15</sup> The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with the flood.<sup>16</sup> But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river which the dragon had poured from his mouth.<sup>17</sup> Then the dragon was angry with the woman, and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and bear testimony to Jesus. And he stood[a] on the sand of the sea. (Revelation 12)

## SESSION IV

# THE FINAL APOCALYPSE (PART 2)



## King of Final Judgment

“When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup> and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? <sup>38</sup> And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? <sup>39</sup> And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?’ <sup>40</sup> And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.’ <sup>41</sup> Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ <sup>44</sup> Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?’ <sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.’ <sup>46</sup> And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” (Matthew 25)

## King of Everlasting Dominion

I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. <sup>14</sup> And to him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed. (Daniel 7)

### Discussion Questions

- ❖ One of the titles given to Jesus is “Son of David.” What are the significance of this title and the importance of King David in the ancestral line of Jesus as well as the Davidic Kingdom vis-à-vis the Kingship of Christ?
- ❖ Following the miracle of the Multiplication of Loaves the Jews wanted to make Jesus their king but he hid from them. Why would Jesus withdraw Himself from them and what can we learn about the nature of his Kingship?
- ❖ The Kingship of Christ will be recognized and acknowledged by every single person, angelic and human, at the end of time. What bearing does the Kingship of Christ have on the Church and world in the present time?

## SESSION III

# THE FINAL APOCALYPSE (PART 1)



## The Seventh Trumpet

Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever." <sup>16</sup> And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, <sup>17</sup> saying, "We give thanks to thee, Lord God Almighty, who art and who wast, that thou hast taken thy great power and begun to reign. <sup>18</sup> The nations raged, but thy wrath came, time for the dead to be judged, for rewarding thy servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear thy name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth." <sup>19</sup> Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple; and there were flashes of lightning, voices, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail. (Rev 11)

### Discussion Questions

- ❖ There are letters written to seven ancient churches of Asia Minor, with commendations and condemnations. What might a letter look like today written to your own parish or the Catholic Church in the U.S.?
- ❖ Explain the figure of the Lamb that seemed to have been slain and the essential significance of this figure in what has already taken place in salvation history and what remains to play out in the final apocalypse.
- ❖ There have been non-Catholic sects that have claimed that there will be only 144,000 total people saved from the entire population of humanity. Are there better interpretations of the biblical reference to 144,000 sealed?

## Seven Trumpets

<sup>6</sup> Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets made ready to blow them. <sup>7</sup> The first angel blew his trumpet, and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, which fell on the earth; and a third of the earth was burnt up, and a third of the trees were burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up. <sup>8</sup> The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea; <sup>9</sup> and a third of the sea became blood, a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. <sup>10</sup> The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the fountains of water. <sup>11</sup> The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died of the water, because it was made bitter. <sup>12</sup> The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light was darkened; a third of the day was kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night. <sup>13</sup> Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice, as it flew in midheaven, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets which the three angels are about to blow!" (Revelation 8)

## The Two Witnesses

Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told: "Rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there, <sup>2</sup> but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample over the holy city for forty-two months. <sup>3</sup> And I will grant my two witnesses power to prophesy for one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." <sup>4</sup> These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands which stand before the Lord of the earth. <sup>5</sup> And if any one would harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes; if anyone would harm them, thus he is doomed to be killed. <sup>6</sup> They have power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to smite the earth with every plague, as often as they desire. <sup>7</sup> And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that ascends from the bottomless pit will make war upon them and conquer them and kill them, <sup>8</sup> and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which is allegorically[a] called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified. <sup>9</sup> For three days and a half men from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb, <sup>10</sup> and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth. <sup>11</sup> But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. <sup>12</sup> Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up hither!" And in the sight of their foes they went up to heaven in a cloud. <sup>13</sup> And at that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. <sup>14</sup> The second woe has passed; behold, the third woe is soon to come. (Rev 11)

## Revelation of Jesus Christ

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants what must soon take place; and he made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, <sup>2</sup> who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. <sup>3</sup> Blessed is he who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written therein; for the time is near. <sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup> and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup> Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, everyone who pierced him; and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. <sup>8</sup> "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty. (Revelation 1)

## Message to Seven Churches

<sup>8</sup> "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: 'The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life. <sup>9</sup> "I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. <sup>10</sup> Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. <sup>11</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who conquers shall not be hurt by the second death.'" (Revelation 3)

## The Heavenly Sanctuary

<sup>1</sup> After this I looked, and lo, in heaven an open door! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up hither, and I will show you what must take place after this." <sup>2</sup> At once I was in the Spirit, and lo, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne! <sup>3</sup> And he who sat there appeared like jasper and carnelian, and round the throne was a rainbow that looked like an emerald. <sup>4</sup> Round the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clad in white garments, with golden crowns upon their heads. <sup>5</sup> From the throne issue flashes of lightning, and voices and peals of thunder, and before the throne burn seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God; <sup>6</sup> and before the throne there is as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And round the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: <sup>7</sup> the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. <sup>8</sup> And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all round and within, and day and night they never cease to sing, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" (Revelation 4)

## Worthy is the Lamb

<sup>1</sup> And I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals; <sup>2</sup> and I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" <sup>3</sup> And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, <sup>4</sup> and I wept much that no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to into it. <sup>5</sup> Then one of the elders said to me, "Weep not; lo, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." <sup>6</sup> And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders, I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth; <sup>7</sup> and he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. <sup>8</sup> And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and with golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints; <sup>9</sup> and they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy art thou to take the scroll and to open its seals, for thou wast slain and by thy blood didst ransom men for God from every tribe and tongue and people and nation, <sup>10</sup> and hast made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on earth." <sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" <sup>13</sup> And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all therein, saying, "To him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might for ever and ever!" <sup>14</sup> And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped. (Revelation 5)

## The Seven Seals

Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say, as with a voice of thunder, "Come!" <sup>2</sup> And I saw, and behold, a white horse, and its rider had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. <sup>3</sup> When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" <sup>4</sup> And out came another horse, bright red; its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that men should slay one another; and he was given a great sword. <sup>5</sup> When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" And I saw, and behold, a black horse, and its rider had a balance in his hand; <sup>6</sup> and I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius,] and three quarts of barley for a denarius;[b] but do not harm oil and wine!" <sup>7</sup> When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" <sup>8</sup> And I saw, and behold, a pale horse, and its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him; and they were given power over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth. <sup>9</sup> When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne; <sup>10</sup> they cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before thou wilt judge and avenge

## The Seven Seals (cont.)

our blood on those who dwell upon the earth?" <sup>11</sup> Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been. <sup>12</sup> When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, <sup>13</sup> and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale; <sup>14</sup> the sky vanished like a scroll that is rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. <sup>15</sup> Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the generals and the rich and the strong, and every one, slave and free, hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, <sup>16</sup> calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; <sup>17</sup> for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand before it?" (Revelation 6)

## The 144,000 Saved

After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree. <sup>2</sup> Then I saw another angel ascend from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, <sup>3</sup> saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God upon their foreheads." <sup>4</sup> And I heard the number of the sealed, a hundred and forty-four thousand sealed, out of every tribe of the sons of Israel, <sup>5</sup> twelve thousand sealed out of the tribe of Judah, ...twelve thousand sealed out of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup> and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!" <sup>11</sup> And all the angels stood round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen." (Revelation 7)

## The Seventh Seal

When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. <sup>2</sup> Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. <sup>3</sup> Another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer; and he was given much incense to mingle with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar before the throne; <sup>4</sup> and the smoke of the incense rose with the prayers of the saints from the hand of the angel before God. <sup>5</sup> Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth; and there were peals of thunder, voices, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake. (Revelation 8)