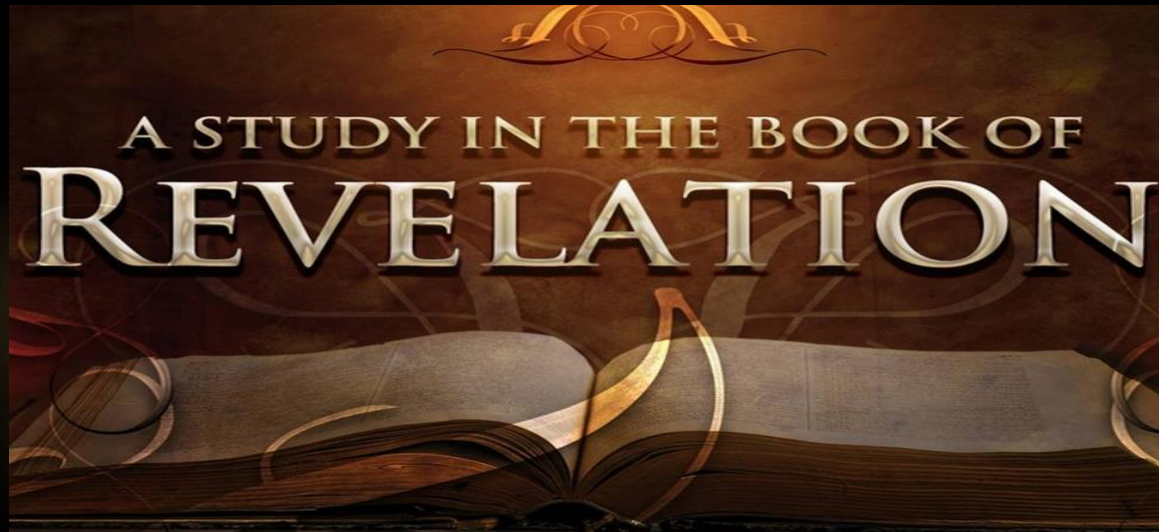


SRMBC FAMILY BIBLE STUDY



SRMBC May - Jul Bible Study Schedule

Date	Subject	Scripture
5/1/2019	Lesson 1: An Illustrated Letter from Jesus	Revelation 1
5/8/2019	Lesson 2: Pardon My Speaking the Truth	Revelation 2
5/15/2019	Lesson 3: My Dear Compromised People	Revelation 3
5/22/2019	Lesson 4: Worship the All-Powerful Lamb	Revelation 4 – 5
6/5/2019	Lesson 5: The Beautiful Wrath of God	Revelation 6
6/12/2019	Lesson 6: Living Faithfully Through the Holocaust	Revelation 7, 16
6/19/2019	Lesson 7: Cheer Up! The Worst Is Yet to Come!	Revelation 8 – 9
6/27/2019	Lesson 8: The Last Word on Witness	Revelation 10 - 11
7/3/2019	Holiday (Independence Day)	No Study
7/10/2019	Lesson 9: Conflict with the Accuser	Revelation 12 – 13
7/17/2019	VBS	No Study
7/24/2019	Lesson 10: Doing Mission in Hard Times	Revelation 14 – 15
7/31/2019	Lesson 11: Tearing Down Strongholds	Revelation 17 – 18
9/11/2019	Lesson 12: Are You Going to the Wedding?	Revelation 19
9/18/2019	Lesson 13: The Last Battle	Revelation 20
9/25/2019	Lesson 14: God Dwelling With His People	Revelation 21 – 22

SRMBC Family Bible Study

Revelation - The Triumph Of God

Lesson 10: **Doing Mission in Hard Times**

Revelation 14 – 15

The Apostle John – The Book of Revelation

- **Author:** Revelation 1:1,4,9 and 22:8 identify the author as the apostle John.
- **Date of Writing:** The Book of Revelation was likely written between A.D. 90 and 95.
- **Purpose of Writing:** The Revelation of Jesus Christ was given to John by God (while in exile on the Isle of Patmos) to tell his servants about the last days before Christ's return, the final judgment of sin and Satan and the new heaven and new earth.

The Book Of Revelation:

- Gives us a glimpse of heaven and the glories awaiting those who keep their robes white.
- Informs us on the Great Tribulation and the final fire that unbelievers will face for all eternity.
- Records the defeat of Satan and the doom he and his angels are bound for.
- Shows us the worship and service of all creatures and angels of heaven and the promises of eternal life with Jesus in the New Jerusalem.



John on the Isle of Patmos

Group Discussion: What thoughts and images come to mind with the words “mission” and “missionary”? Where do these perspectives come from?

Forrest Gump: “I gotta find Bubba!”



In this scene, set during the war in Vietnam, Forrest's platoon receives enemy fire. He runs away as fast as he can, just as Jenny told him.

When he arrives safe on the water's edge, he realizes his best friend Bubba isn't there. He runs back into the jungle to find Bubba, saving others along the way.

Questions:

- Forrest's 1st instinct in the battle was self – Preservation. What changed? Why?
- Although Forest's goal was to find Bubba – He was able to help other's along the way. How does this relate our mission for Christ?
- Forrest kept going even though “Something jumped up and bit him” What dangers do we face on the mission field?
- How does Forrest's passion to find his wounded friend compare to God's passion for the Lost? How should we, His church respond?

Revelation 14:1 – 5 (NKJV)

The Lamb and the 144,000

1 Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having **His Father's name written on their foreheads.**

2 And I heard a voice from heaven, **like the voice of many waters**, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the **sound of harpists playing their harps.**

3 **They sang as it were a new song** before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except **the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.**

4 **These are the ones who were not defiled with women**, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

5 And in their mouth was found no deceit, for **they are without fault before the throne of God.**

Revelation 14:6 – 9 (NKJV)

The Proclamations of Three Angels

6 Then I saw **another angel flying in the midst of heaven**, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—

7 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.”

8 And **another angel** followed, saying, “**Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city**, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”

9 Then a **third angel** followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone **worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark** on his forehead or on his hand,

Revelation 14:10 – 13 (NKJV)

10 **he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God**, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be **tormented with fire and brimstone** in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

11 And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and **whoever receives the mark of his name.**”

12 Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who **keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.**

13 Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “**Write: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’**” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.”

Revelation 14:14 – 16 (NKJV)

Reaping the Earth's Harvest

14 Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat **One like the Son of Man**, having on **His head a golden crown**, and in His hand a sharp sickle.

15 **And another angel** came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "**Thrust in Your sickle and reap**, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe."

16 So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and **the earth was reaped**.

Revelation 14:17 – 20 (NKJV)

Reaping the Grapes of Wrath

17 **Then another angel** came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also **having a sharp sickle**.

18 And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "**Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe**."

19 So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into **the great winepress of the wrath of God**.

20 And **the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress**, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.

1. What differences do you notice between the 144,000 who are with the Lamb (14:1-5) and Babylon, the beast and those who worship it (14:6-11)?



The Lamb and The 144000

- The Father's name on their Foreheads
- The voice of God over them
- The song of the Lord and joy
- Holiness and separation from the world



Babylon, The Beast And Worshippers

- The mark of the beast on their forehands
- A voice of woe and judgment
- The atmosphere of Smoke Fire And Brimstone
- The fall off the World system

2. Apparently the 144,000 (14:1-5) are the church "redeemed from the earth" (14:3). How do you respond to this vision as you may face challenges to your faith?

- **Hope:** I have hope in the one that I belong to and has set His Name upon me can never and will never let me go – rejoicing over us in signing.
- **Joy:** O the joy in my heart that causes me to sing when I think about the goodness of the Lord in the past present and into the future.
- **Love:** My love for the Lord O that he would redeem/save from sin and from death hell and the Grave.
- **Faith/Determination:** My heart stirred up to obey and not be defiled with the things of this world – to be holy and obedient.

Note: The fulfillment of the 144,000 sealed (7:1-8) is that they are now saved. This number of completeness "stands for the whole church of Jesus Christ" not a spiritual elite such as the martyr (Morris, Revelation of St. John, p. 75)

3. What dimensions of God's mission are expressed by each of the three angels (14:6-13)?

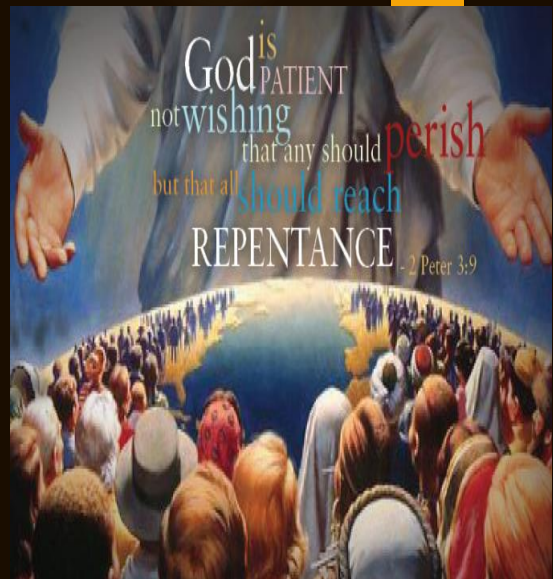
- **The 1st Angel:** A Call to faith and salvation in the Lord God the Creator of all.
- **The 2nd Angel:** A Call of warning to repent turn away from Babylon – the sinful world and its system.
- **The 3rd Angel:** A Call of judgement - Announcing God's righteous judgement and wrath against those who rebel in stubborn unbelief – siding with Satan.



So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" (II Cor 5:20, NLT)

4. What does this reveal about God's interest in those who are not yet Christians in the end times?

- **God's Patience:** He gives people a wide berth, every opportunity to turn from sin and avoid the coming wrath of judgement.
- **God's Purpose:** His purpose in bring His Judgement and wrath is not just punitive but to spur those He loves to repentance
- **God's Passion:** He is so loving and so intent on saving even the most difficult of us that He will use all means to bring the unbelieving to faith in Christ



Revelation 15:1 – 5 (NKJV)

Prelude to the Bowl Judgments

1 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: **seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.**

2 And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, **having harps of God.**

3 **They sing the song of Moses**, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!"

4 Who shall not fear You, **O Lord, and glorify Your name?** For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested."

Revelation 15:5 – 8 (NKJV)

5 After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of **the testimony in heaven was opened.**

6 **And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues**, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands.

7 Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels **seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever.**

8 The temple was filled with smoke from **the glory of God** and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till **the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.**

5. Describe the harvest of the earth (14:14-20 and 15:1, 7).

"It must be remembered that evil has its harvest as well as good. There is a harvest of misery and woe.

The Wheat Harvest

- Harvested by the Lord Jesus Christ (Crowns, Son of Man)
- Faithful believers/Followers of the Lord
- Made up of the Church and Israel

The Grape Harvest

- Harvested by an angel of the Lord
- The Unbelieving and fearful
- Facing the Wrath of God (the Winepress).

This vivid picture of judgment was the inspiration for The Battle Hymn of the Republic.

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord,
He is trampling out the vineyard where the grapes of wrath are stored,
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword,
His truth is marching on!

6. Why must God's mission include both blessing and wrath (15:1)?

- The mission of wrath and blessings is God's last appeal to a world turned away in revolt.
- God's saving judgment, results in either deliverance and condemnation, depending on whether the gospel is met with repentance or rebellion.
- God's wrath is not his vindictive anger but an expression of His perfect justice.
- God allows people to experience the results of their own obstinate choices.



In the number **666** each digit falls short of perfection (7). Therefore **666** represents "failure upon failure upon failure." the important thing is to direct the meaning of this vision to the reality of spiritual warfare in every age.

7. John takes us into heaven once again (15:1-8). Why do the saints sing? In what way does their song embody the ultimate goal of God's saving mission?

Why They Sing:

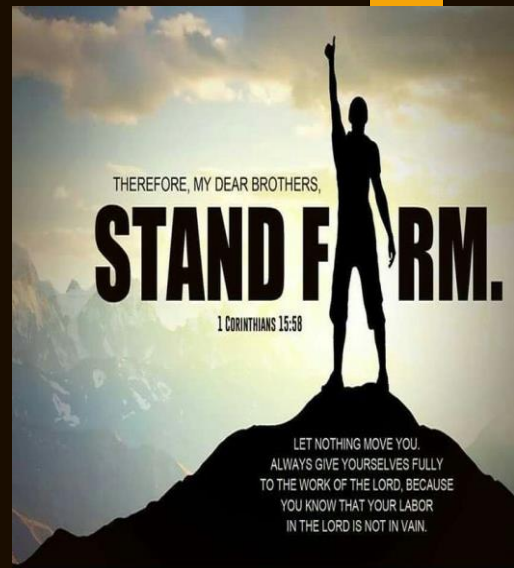
- The Wrath of God is about to be completed.
- People will have a another change for repentance and Salvation.
- They sing in awe of a Great God as they see His will and justice come to pass.

What The Song Embodies:

- God's Purpose is to save people from the penalty, power and presence of sin.
- God has set a time for Judgement – but sends ample warning for all to get right
- All of these works (wrath and mercy) this is for the praise and the Glory of God.

8. What confidence can we have that the Christian life on earth will not be resultless?

- We can have confidence in the Purposes of God in the Gospel of Christ.
- We can have confidence in Promises of God in the Scriptures
- We can have confidence in the Prophecies of God. His Word always come to fruition.
- We can have confidence in the Person of God. His character – He cannot lie or fail.
- We can trust in the Power and Plan of God. The Gospel and Word will have a far reaching effect – even after when our work is done.



Keys For Living

- God has given every member of the Body of the Christ the mission of spreading the Gospel to every nation. There is great reward that awaits those who faithfully give their lives to the Work of the Lord.
- God's gracious blessing for the faithful and His wrath against sinful unbelievers are completely consistent with His Holy and Loving Character.
- The Father's Perfect Love and His Righteous Wrath are seen most vividly at the Cross of Jesus Christ. Jesus, as expression of God's love for us, took God's wrath against sin upon Himself for our salvation.



QUESTIONS

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