



# Perfect Ending

Journey Twelve

**OmniInfinity™**  
begin - return - continue

M. A. Helland

*"**OMNIALINFINITUDE™** builds a bridge on which my head and my heart can shake hands. It combines deep principles with ancient practices, and is a pathway to knowing God in order to love Him. I encourage you to walk the path; cross the bridge."*

*Dr. Jim Altizer  
Azusa Pacific University*

# Perfect Ending

## *journey elements*

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# what comes to your mind?

## Perfect Ending

Unexpected, beautiful, resolution and hope for the future  
Everything coming together and going out on top  
Victory, Accomplishment, Justice, Healing  
Better than you could ever imagine,  
More than you would ever expect.

For some it's a clean slate, forgiveness, redemption, new horizons, freedom  
For some it's being found after wandering in the wilderness  
For some it's too good to be true, a cherry on top, the icing on the cake

For others it's chickens coming home to roost  
What goes around coming back around  
Falling into the pit they dug for someone else.  
And everyone else breathes a sign of relief  
And we can all move on.

A Perfect Ending to what?  
A day, a career, a life, a movie, a conflict or struggle, an illness, a relationship, the earth  
But when it's over, is it really over?  
Or just a new beginning  
A new day, a new life, a new love, a new world  
Do we ride off into the sunset with all our dreams fulfilled?  
They say you can't take it with you, whatever it is.  
Does anyone live happily ever after?

The end is coming, nothing goes on forever....  
Or does it?  
There is a time for everything and everything in its own time  
Does HE really save the best for last?

Now we see through a glass darkly, but then we will fully know and be fully known.  
The Lion will lay down with the Lamb,  
No more tears, suffering, conflict, or death  
We will understand, we will get it, it will all make sense.  
Mystery solved  
Curtain lifted

That's all folks!  
Last one out lock the door.

There is One who can stop this madness  
Our only Hope and our Hope of Glory  
His Perfect Ending is a New beginning  
New Heavens and a New Earth  
A new Reality, the only Reality  
Perfectly glorious.

# remember



## John 1: 14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. NIV

**Please review the following verses from all the prior Journey Units.**

### Highest Honors: Psalm 145:3

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise, his greatness no one can fathom. NIV

### The One and Only: Exodus 3:14a

And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." NIV

### Beyond Time and Space: Revelation 1:8

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," say the Lord, "Who is, and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." NIV

### Large and In Charge: Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." NIV

### Faithful and True: Joshua 1:9

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified. Do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." NIV

### Good and Ready: Psalm 145:8-9

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The LORD is good to all, he has compassion on all he has made. NIV

### Bright, White and Right: Hebrews 7:26

Such a high priest meets our needs - one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. NIV

### Hot, Hot, Hot: Psalm 94:2-3

Rise up, O Judge of the earth; pay back to the proud what they deserve. How long will the wicked, O Lord, how long will the wicked be jubilant? NIV

### O Mercy Me: Ephesians 1:7

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins in accordance with the riches of God's grace. NIV

### To Die For: 1 John 4:8-9

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. NIV

### Up Close and Personal: John 1:14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. NIV

# read

## Revelation 4-5, 21-22

Please read all the above chapters through completely on three separate days, once from a **modern translation** such as the *NIV* or *NAS*, once in a **modern paraphrase** such as *The Message*, and then **once again with a pad and pencil** by your side as you record your thoughts and observations. It is also helpful to **read the selections aloud**. As you read, underline words that describe who God is or names He is called.



This element is about **reading what it says** – try to put aside any preconceived ideas about what you think it says, or what you may have concluded based on other studies or classes. We are not saying those ideas are wrong, but for this Element, we just want to read it as if for the first time. Please **read for the storyline** – and see if you can then faithfully retell it in your own words.

**First Reading:** Modern Translation – which one did you use?

**Second Reading:** Modern Paraphrase – which one did you use?

**Third Reading:** Reading Notes

Revelation 4:

Revelation 5:

Revelation 21:

Revelation 22:

Descriptions of God:

Names used for God:

# journal

## 12.1 Full Circle

Remember this? We've come full circle.

### God is transcendent

Because of this He had to provide us with **Proof of Life** that He is real and exists

– creation, laws of science, art, music, math, beauty, inner soul cravings, moral laws, miracles.....

But this **General Revelation** can only take us as far as belief in One God.

So God provided **The Bible** to give us additional **Special Revelation** that reveals the Rest of the Story - all we need to know about the Triune, Almighty, One and Only God.

He also sent His One and Only Son, **Jesus Christ**, fully God and fully man, to earth with the distinct purpose of making Himself known. Everything that is true of God is true of Jesus.

He came to Die – He did for us what we could not do for ourselves.

**His death saves us** from the punishment required for our sins, more specifically from His wrath – His holiness justly responding to our sin.

But in doing this, He became the **only way for us to come to God**. The only way we will ever get off the road to hell.

The **Justice** of a Holy God demands **we get what we deserve** – Hell

The **Mercy** of a Holy God provides the Hand that Helps us Up, so **we don't get what we deserve** – it snatches us from the grips of Hell.

And the **Grace** of a Holy God offers a Hand that Helps us out **giving us what we don't deserve** – the blessings of Heaven, the gifts of the Spirit, and the power of God.

We are the final example and evidence of His Proof of Life – the light that shines in the darkness in His earthly absence.

**Children of God** – Christians, New Creations

We now **manifest His Glory** to the rest of mankind.

We are to let our lights shine before men, that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in Heaven.

We are human vessels full of His Glory, everything we are able to be and do finds its source in HIM.

### Your turn:

How do you shine the glory of God into the darkness?



# analyze

## Parables, Poetry and More

This Journey Element has centered on practicing various key Bible Study methods. These included Color Coding, Chapter Titles, Summaries and Key Words, Word Studies, Core Concepts, Biographical studies, Comparing the Old and New Testament on a subject, and digging into the history, context and nitty gritty of one chapter.

The Practice Element in Journey 3 also presented instruction on various ways to interact with the Scripture through Reading, Memorizing, Devotional Reading, Study and Meditation. Often instead of reading the Word, we read books about the Word. While these provide valuable information and understanding, we must not neglect actual personal study and reading of the Word of God, the Bible, itself.

One of the important areas we have not yet discussed that is needed for in depth study is the understanding of the various genres or literary styles the Biblical writers used in their writings. A very brief discussion of this follows below. For more in depth information please consult online Bible Study resources.

## Bible Literary Genres

**Narrative:** This is one of the most common genres, stories retelling historical events as God worked in creation amongst his people. They record what did happen, the who, what, when, where, why and how of real people's activities in history, although unnecessary details may be left out. Both good and bad examples are included. Narratives help to reveal what God is like, how He deals with people, how people respond to Him, and the consequences of their response. God is always the hero of all Biblical narratives.

The Gospel narratives (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) include the stories about and teachings of Jesus Christ told from 4 different viewpoints to 4 different audiences for 4 different reasons. The Acts narrative covers the stories of the Holy Spirit working through normal people as the Church to fulfill the mission of God to move the Gospel forward into new territory and new lives. Many examples are given on how to relate to Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Although Acts has many stories about the early Church, it is not an instruction book or rules about how a Church should operate.

In reading and studying Narratives one should take them as they are written, without searching for hidden meanings. They usually do not teach doctrine but may illustrate principles and doctrines taught elsewhere in the Bible. They are not binding mandates unless they specifically say so.

**Here is a short list of the most recognizable and remembered stories from the Bible.**

- The Creation Story/Adam and Eve: Genesis 1-3
- Noah's Ark: Genesis 6-8
- Joseph and His Brothers: Genesis 37, 39-47
- Moses, the Plagues, the Passover and Crossing the Red Sea: Exodus 7-14
- Joshua and the Battle of Jericho: Joshua 5-6
- David and Goliath: 1 Samuel 17
- Story of Ruth: Book of Ruth
- Story of Esther: Book of Esther
- Daniel, the Fiery Furnace and the Lion's Den: Daniel 3, 6



- Jonah and the Big Fish: Jonah 1-4
- Birth of Christ: Matthew 1, Luke 1-2
- Jesus Feeds the 5000: Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:31-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:5-15
- Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ: Matthew 27-28; Mark 15-16; Luke 23-24; John 19-20
- Others include the story of Cain and Abel, Tower of Babel, Abraham's journey, Lot, Lot's wife and Sodom and Gomorrah, Birth of Isaac, Abraham tested by God, Isaac and Ishmael, Jacob and Esau, Baby Moses, Job, Samson and Delilah, David and Bathsheba, Solomon and the two mothers, John the Baptist, miracles of Jesus, Last supper, denials of Peter, Ascension of Christ, death of Stephen, Paul's conversion, return of Christ.

The first 5 books of the Old Testament are also referred to as the Law, Pentateuch or Torah. New Testament believers in Christ should interpret the OT Law and Narratives in light of the teachings of the New Testament. Many believe OT Laws relating to Temple Worship as well as the civil legal code of the theocracy of the OT Nation of Israel no longer applies after Jesus resurrection and the activating of the New Covenant. However, the moral law expressed in the 10 commandments and often restated in the New Testament does still apply in all time.

**Wisdom:** The Wisdom or Ethical Teaching genres include the books of Job, Ecclesiastes and Proverbs. These books focus on how to live well in God's world by making good choices and offers instruction for most life issues. It contrasts wise living with foolish, pragmatic or selfish living.

A proverb will emphasize one specific point, is short and meant to be memorable. The Proverbs are principles, focusing on general rules and not the exceptions to the rules. Proverbs are also not guarantees or promises and following them may not always work out as expected.

In Job and Ecclesiastes, the wisdom appears at the end of the book when God shows up and sets it all straight again. Much in these books focusses on the exceptions to the rules found in Proverbs, how to deal with life's struggles and disappointments.

**Poetry:** Poetry is found throughout the Bible, but especially in the Psalms, Song of Solomon, and Lamentations. Biblical poetry was often put to music and sung during worship. Poetry paints highly vivid word pictures, is often symbolic and full of emotion. Ideas will often be repeated over and over, but in different ways. Look for images, comparisons and figurative language to find the central message. Be careful to not take it literally, as poets always take "poetic license" to express a truth in a compelling way.

The Psalms, which are hymns and prayers of David and others, are aimed at connecting our heads to our hearts and then to assist us in expressing our hearts to God.

**Some of the most famous examples of poetry in the Bible include the following:**

- Song of Moses and Miriam: Exodus 15:1-21
- Song of Deborah: Judges 5
- Song of the Bow – David's lament: 2 Samuel 1:17-27
- The Beatitudes: Matthew 5:3-10, Luke 6:20-26
- The Magnificat (Song of Mary): Luke 1:46-55
- Hymn to Love: 1 Corinthians 13
- From the Writings of Paul: Romans 8: 31-39, 1 Corinthians 51-58, Philipians 2:5-11, 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

**Epistle:** The Epistles include every New Testament book, except for the Gospels, Acts and Revelation. They are letters written by an apostolic leader to a specific audience for a specific purpose. They are not written to teach theology but to address either a question, problem, doctrinal error, or need of the person or groups written to.

Be careful to understand the context of the letter. Do not try to understand the teaching outside of this context or why it was written. Find out what the problem was and what solution was offered. A text should never mean more to us that it did to the original author or recipients.

Epistles usually begin by identifying the writer and the recipients, followed by a greeting, a prayer of thanksgiving, then the body of the letter followed by a closing greeting and blessing. The hardest thing to determine when reading an epistle is whether the teachings are meant only for the particular cultural situation of the first century or whether they are timeless principles that would also apply to us. When our life situations are similar, God's Word is the same for us.

If our cultural practices have changed we must look for the principle behind the teaching so we can apply it to our current setting.

**Parables:** Jesus used parables as recorded in the Gospels to teach his followers. Parables are short stories that have a moral to be learned and are often shared in response to a specific situation or question. They usually illustrate one spiritual point and are designed to teach lessons, pierce the heart to evoke a response or confront with truth and call for a change.

Parables also separated out the spiritually hungry as many parable's messages appeared mysterious and hard to understand, oftentimes having a secondary meaning to convey, much like a punchline. Much of what Jesus said was radical and upset the status quo, so it is important to understand the cultural context.

The meaning of the parable is often stated in its introduction or closing and the hearers of the parable would catch his meaning quickly. Because of the use of figurative language, similes, metaphors and hyperbole, they should not be used to establish doctrine, but instead seen as illustrations of doctrine taught elsewhere. Don't get mired in the details but look for the larger spiritual point, the question it is trying to answer or the doctrine it is trying to teach. Try to hear it from the original listener's perspective.

**Here is a list of the most "famous" of Jesus 31 parables.**

- The Good Samaritan: Luke 25-37
- The Prodigal Son: Luke 15: 11-22
- The Sower and the Four Soils: Mark 4:3-20
- The Talents: Matthew 25:14-30
- Unmerciful Servant: Matthew 18:23-25
- Dishonest Manager: Luke 16:1-9
- Sheep and the Goats: Matthew 25:31-36
- The Lost Sheep: Luke 15:3-7
- The Rich Fool: Luke 12:13-21
- The Marriage Feast: Matthew 22:1-10
- The Mustard Seed: Mark 4:30-32
- The Wise and Foolish Virgins: Matthew 25:1-13

**Promises:** Promises are statements of what God says he will do for people. Many come with prerequisites or conditions such as continuing to follow and obey God. Not all promises are universal so understand who they are for and if they apply to you. The effects of some promises, both good and bad, will last over multiple generations. Other promises are unconditional and come without any responsibility on our part. There is an extensive list of God's Promises in the Investigate element of Journey 5 – Faithful and True.

**Discourses:** These are written records of sermons, prayers or speeches. For the most part take what is said literally and determine the main points. It is important to remember that not everything people say in the Bible is true, so find out who is saying it and what the situation is first.

**Prophecy:** Please see the More Cool Stuff element in this journey unit for a more in depth coverage of the Prophetic and Apocalyptic genres.

## General Rules and Principles of Correct Interpretation

There are well accepted rules and principles of grammatical interpretation used to correctly understanding the Bible as well as any other historical or legal written document. The Holy Spirit also aids and guides us as we read and study the Word. Many of the false doctrines and cults that exist today have resulted from straying from these principles and distorting the meaning of words and verses in the Bible.

We read the Bible by faith by believing it is the inerrant and inspired Word of God and able to be understood on a deeper spiritual level. We also seek the Holy Spirit's guidance and illumination in directing our spiritual discernment. The Holy Spirit was involved in the original inspiration of all Scripture.

1. **Is it logical? Does it make sense?** The use of reason is to be assumed as a bottom line given. The Bible is understandable and able to be read and applied by everyone, not just scholars and clergy. Assume the obvious plain sense meaning unless another grammatical form is being used that allows a secondary or symbolic meaning.
2. **Who was the author and what were they saying?** Focus on the original author's intended meaning. Don't make Scripture say something that would not be what they original author intended.
3. **Pay close attention to context.** Read each verse in the context of the entire paragraph, chapter, book, other books written by the same author, the Testament it is in and the Bible as a whole.
4. **Interpret Scripture by other Scripture.** The Bible is unified and consistent throughout in its teaching and doesn't contradict itself. However, some Biblical teaching is clear and explicit while some is implicit without being directly expressed. Interpret the difficult verses in light of the clearly understood verses. Interpret the Old Testament in light of the New Testament.
5. **What do the words mean?** Understand the original definitions and grammatical usage in Hebrew or Greek.
6. **When and where was it written? What was going on then?** Understand the historical and cultural issues of the times as well as the customs, laws, traditions, worldview, government, etc.
7. **Understand the genre** or literary form being used and interpret accordingly.

8. **Distinguish between Promises and Principles.**
9. **Distinguish between descriptive and prescriptive statements.** Is something that happened being described or is some behavior being prescribed for the Christian for all time?
10. **Beware of personal bias.** Make sure you check any of your own doctrinal opinions that have been previously formed but may not be scriptural and seek to bring them in harmony with scriptural teaching. Resolve to seek to understand the Bible rightly since God is the author of Scripture.

## Recommended Bible Study Resources

A Study Bible with notes (not digital) in a modern version (NIV, NLT, ESV, NKJ)  
A Chronological Bible  
A Bible Handbook, Encyclopedia, or one volume commentary  
Devotional book of your choosing, many available for Kindle or other eReaders

### Online Resources

[www.biblestudytools.com](http://www.biblestudytools.com)  
[www.bible.org](http://www.bible.org)  
[www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)  
[www.blueletter.org](http://www.blueletter.org)  
[www.youversion.com](http://www.youversion.com)  
[www.bible.com](http://www.bible.com)  
[www.logos.com](http://www.logos.com)  
[biblex.com](http://biblex.com)  
[thebibleproject.com](http://thebibleproject.com)

### APPS

Youversion Bible App (Online Bible and Bible Reading Plans - free)  
Scripture Typer App (Bible Memory Aid)  
Blue Letter Bible App (additional resources for a fee)  
Olive Tree Bible App (additional resources for a fee)

### Books

*Bible Study Tool Kit*, IVP  
*Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*  
*Halley's Bible Handbook*  
*What the Bible is All About*, Henrietta Mears  
*Evidence for Christianity*, Josh McDowell

# journal

## 12.2 Glory Be!



We throw the term around without even thinking about it. Glory to God! To God be the Glory!

We look back to our own Glory Days and sometimes even fly Old Glory on national holidays. When we're in our own glory we are at our best, at our happiest.

We might even say "Well, Glory Be!" out of surprise and shock. And when someone passes on we say they've gone On to Glory.

As humans we seek glory, fame, renown, credit; for who we are, our power, position and accomplishments.

Often we also will admire or glory in the great beauty and splendor of creation or someone else's extraordinary accomplishments, or just being in the presence of someone of great distinction, power or fame.

We worship, we praise, we exult, we rejoice, we glory in.....and the object of our glory, appears glorious to us.

But what about the Glory of God?  
It's a big deal in the Bible. **God's Glory is the end of all things.**

Defining the Glory of God is impossible because defining God is impossible. He's transcendent, beyond us, bigger than us, smarter than us, more powerful than us.

We began our study of His Attributes with Most High and Glorious. **Like transcendence, glorious is beyond our understanding**, but we can see some examples of it because He reveals His glory to us.

**The Glory of God is manifested by the totality of all his attributes together**, it's all that HE is, all that emanates from his character, his mysterious, beautiful, magnificent, overwhelming being. We can't ever come up with enough words to accurately describe the indescribable.

When we refer to the **Glory of God**, we're talking about all of it, **all the attributes, all the perfections, all the promises, His presence, His mighty acts**.....all of it. The word just wraps it all up.

It's all about the glory of God. Everything. It's the reality of His active presence linked with the perfect quality of his actions. He wants us to see it, to know Him, and to glorify Him in return.

Be glorified. All Glory to God!

### *Your turn:*

What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the word "glorious"?  
What do you glory in or find glorious?



# investigate

## Recapping the Most High

**Define:** Write a brief definition next to each attribute we studied.

- ∞ Incomprehensible
- ∞ Most High
- ∞ Glorious
- ∞ Self Existent
- ∞ Self Sufficient
- ∞ One and Only
- ∞ Immutable
- ∞ Infinite
- ∞ Eternal
- ∞ Omnipresent
- ∞ Sovereign
- ∞ Omnipotent
- ∞ Omniscient
- ∞ Wise
- ∞ Faithful
- ∞ Trustworthy
- ∞ Good
- ∞ Patient
- ∞ Holy

∞ Righteous

∞ Just

∞ Wrath

∞ Grace

∞ Mercy

∞ Love

∞ Personal

### *Conclude:*

Now place each attribute in one of the four categories below.

**The Glory of God**

**The Holiness of God**

**The Lordship of God**

**The Heart of God**

# 10 things

## Recapping the Most High

Review the **10 things** section from each Journey and choose one statement from each that best represents that Journey's attribute study for you. Rewrite the statements below.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.



# journal

## 12.3 Going Public



Because God is holy He is in a class by Himself.  
Set apart, distinct in His perfection, worth and greatness.

Unapproachable.

**No one can see God's face and live.** His holiness will not allow it.

**Instead, He reveals His Glory to us**, which is also overwhelming and incomprehensible.

His glory is the manifestation of His person, power and majesty, His holiness on display in a way we can see, perceive, and eventually acknowledge, ultimately responding to it in an appropriate way – our only response is to give him the honor and respect He deserves, to give Him the glory, to glorify His Name.

His glory appears as a likeness of familiar things but it is so much more than a bright light or a twinkling cloud. It is a visible expression of His absolute reality.

**To see God is to see the likeness of His Glory.** He must veil it, mute it, limit it, or we would die.

Moses had encounters with God through a burning bush, pillar of fire and a cloud, thunder and lightning, and fire and more clouds but finally He met him "face to face" on top of Mt. Sinai.

*Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."*

*And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."*

*Then the Lord said, "There is a place near me where you may stand in a rock. When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."  
Exodus 33:14-23 NIV*

Moses continued meeting with God in the Tent of Meeting, and God's glory ultimately came to reside in the Tabernacle and later in Solomon's temple. His visible and majestic Glory was a sign of His Presence among His People. (Exodus 34, 40, Deut. 5, 1 Samuel 4, I Kings 8, Isaiah 6, Ezekiel 1,10)

Eventually, after the abominations of the people defiled and polluted the Temple, God removed His Glory from it.

His Glory, however, is never left undeclared.....

### Your turn:

If God never leaves His Glory undeclared where or how do you see it displayed today?

# practice

Fill in the chart below.

	Abstinence or Engagement	Benefits to the Christ Follower
Solitude		
Silence		
Prayer		
Fasting		
Study		
Meditation		
Simplicity		
Slowing		
Confession		
Service		
Guidance		
Secrecy		
Spiritual Friendship		
Community		
Worship		
Submission		

## *Additional lesser known Spiritual Practices:*

### **Chastity:**

This is the practice of abstaining from dwelling upon and engaging in the sexual dimensions of our relationships with others. The goal of chastity is to help us learn to control our sexuality rather than it controlling us.

### **Frugality/Poverty:**

This is the practice of abstaining from using money or goods in ways that gratify our desires or our hunger for status, glamour or luxury. Frugality is concerned with abstaining from what is extra for living, not what is necessary.

### **Giving:**

This is the practice of engagement that demonstrates to the world we are not controlled by the treasures of this world by regular giving of time, service, money, etc. It is done out of obedience and serves to reorient our priorities, greed and control issues until they are focused on God and His Kingdom.

### **Mourning:**

This is the practice of feeling and expressing deep grief or sorrow aiding the process of healing and letting go, especially during and after a time or event of great pain or loss. The recognized stages of grieving include (although not always do they appear in the same order) the following:

- Shock and denial
- Anger (turned outward)
- Depression (anger turned inward)
- Bargaining
- Sadness
- Resolution, acceptance and forgiveness.

Often we are not allowed to mourn properly or long enough because our society puts such an emphasis on moving on and being happy. We need to let ourselves weep and mourn not only loss and pain but also issues of sin.

### **Sacrifice:**

This is the practice of abstaining from the possession or enjoyment of things that are necessary for living or meeting our basic needs, abandoning ourselves totally to God to bear us up.

## *Personal Reflections on the Practices:*

Reflect on and then rate the growth of your use of each of the practices below on a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being the best). How has each practice helped you to grow in your faith in Christ? Which ones need more of your attention? Which ones have you included into your regular daily activities? Which ones are the most valuable to you at this time in your life?

**Solitude**

**Silence**

**Prayer**

**Fasting**

**Study**

**Meditation**

**Simplicity**

**Slowing**

**Confession**

**Service**

**Guidance**

**Secrecy**

**Spiritual Friendship**

**Community**

**Worship**

**Submission/Lordship**

# why?

## Review your Practice

Review the **why?** sections from each Journey and choose one statement from each that best represents that Journey's practice for you. Rewrite the statements below.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

# journal

## 12.4 The Heavens Declare

God's creation is one of the most obvious displays of His glory.

The works of His hands  
 The Heavens and the earth  
 The moon and the stars  
 The beauty of the sunrise and sunset  
 The oceans and mountains, flowers and trees  
 Animals, insects, fish in the sea  
 The laws of nature, the weather  
 The universe without and within

**All declare the Glory of God.** Spectacular in power, beautiful, expansive, creative, glorious.

*The heavens declare the glory of God;  
 the skies proclaim the work of his hands.  
 Day after day they pour forth speech;  
 night after night they reveal knowledge.  
 They have no speech, they use no words;  
 no sound is heard from them.  
 Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,  
 their words to the ends of the world.  
 In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.  
 It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,  
 like a champion rejoicing to run his course.  
 It rises at one end of the heavens  
 and makes its circuit to the other;  
 nothing is deprived of its warmth.  
 Psalm 19:1-6*



**And because of this we are without excuse.** The glory is so obvious.

*The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.*

*For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.  
 Romans 1: 18-23*

The Psalms are full of references to creation's reflection of God's Glory.  
 Read the following to refresh your memory: Psalms 8, 19, 28, 89, 104, 147, 148.

### Your turn:

Read one of the Psalms listed above and describe how, where, or what reflects God's glory in creation.

# inventory

## Your Journey

No doubt much has occurred in your own spiritual journey and growth as you completed the prior 11 Omiallinfinitude Journey units. Take some time to reflect on the areas below and see how far you have come. Describe any growth, battles, victories or changes in the areas below.

### Section 1:

Awareness of the Presence and Peace of God

Prayer Life

Bible reading, knowledge and personal application

Implementation of other spiritual practices

Participation in Christian Community

Recognition of temptation and Confession of sin

Waiting on God and others

Sensitivity to the needs of others

Growth in character and integrity

Recognizing and dealing with evil

Development of Personal ministry

Recognition and use of Spiritual gift

Displaying the fruit of the Spirit in your life: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control

Strengthening of your faith, hope and trust in God

Loving God and others.

Perspective, Judgment and Decision Making



### Section 2:

Entertainment (watch, read, play, hang out, etc.)

Speech

Thought life

Spending

Social approval

Friends

Family dynamics

Pace of Life

Dealing with fear, anger, and worry

Dealing with disappointment, guilt, doubt and shame

Dealing with pride and success

Forgiving yourself and others

Things you've left behind or that no longer bother you.

### Section 3:

Where does your happiness come from?

What do you now seek in prayer?

How much power do your daily circumstances have over you?

What makes you angry?

What is your deepest fear?

Where is your greatest struggle now?

What do you need to let go of now?

What have you given up on?

What do you consider a trial? A reward?

What do you most need to continue to grow spiritually?

What do you have to give to others?

What needs do you see around you?

How deeply are you connected to your heart?

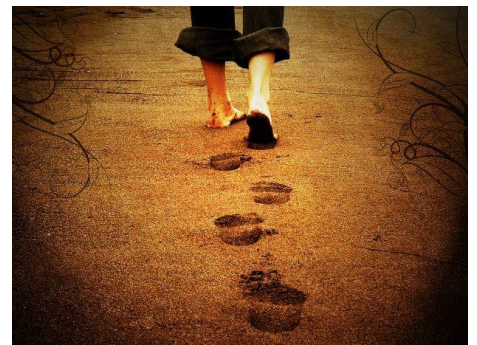
What causes you to cry?

How do you want to be remembered?

How has God provided?

What has God removed?

What brings you joy?





# journal

## 12.5 The Glory of Man

Human beings, men and women made in God's image, are vessels containing the Glory of God. All we are and do finds its source in God. His glory can be seen through our love, sacrifice, heroism, creativity, artistic endeavors, discoveries, compassion, teamwork, all the good we accomplish.



Psalm 139:13-14 describes the wonder that is our body, our jar of clay.

*For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.*

Psalm 8:3-6 puts it this way.

*When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars which you have set in place,  
What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?  
You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.  
You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet...*

And again in Isaiah 43:6-7

*I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.'  
Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth—  
everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."*

**We are the crown of God's creation.** He gave us dominion over the world He had created. He sought to walk with us in the garden. He provided us paradise and shared His Glory with us.

And then Adam and Eve ate from the Tree of Life and sin happened. And from that point on the Glory of Man has faded. It is transient, and not eternal.

*"All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.  
The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them.  
Surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." Isaiah 40:6-8*

The beauty displayed through man's spirit and accomplishments is now fading away. As Romans 3:23 states:

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

**Sin has distorted man's glory** as we are caught in a battle with the desires of the flesh, the devil and the world system. We seek our own glory in fame, accomplishments, riches, fulfillment and power.



**We have exchanged our glory for His**, and hide from Him in our shame just like Adam and Eve.

*How long will you people turn my glory into shame?  
How long will you love delusions and seek false gods?  
Psalm 4:2*

God is jealous of his Glory and does not let men use it for their own credit. Idolatry worships the object through which God's glory is manifested as if it is the source of the glory. God will not be mocked. All glory comes from Him. The glory of Man will fade away, the glory of God is eternal.

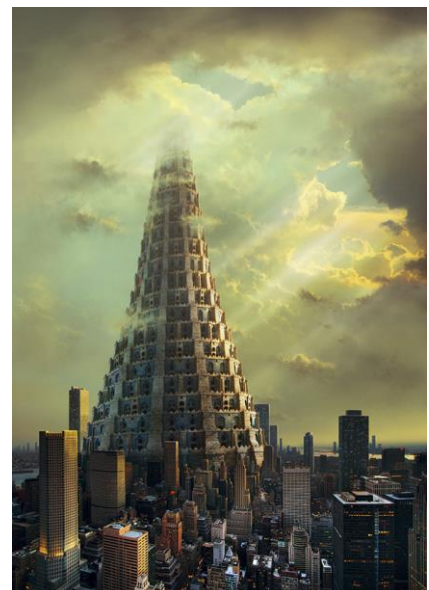
Many will try to regain God's glory through their own hard work, attempting to justify themselves in order to earn back the glory they exchanged for idolatry. However, this is simply self-achieved glory, not God's glory and still falls short of the Glory of God.

**There is hope.**

*For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. Phil.3:18-21*

**Your turn:**

List some ways mankind exchanges the glory of God for the glory of Man.



# adventuring

## Life Verse Search

For your final Adventuring challenge choose a life verse for yourself.

This verse should be one that has significant meaning and memories as well as being inspirational to you as you continue your Journey with God.

### Here are some ways to get started:

1. Pray for God to reveal it to you.
2. Pay attention to verses that stand out as you read, study, listen to teaching, etc.
3. Pay attention to verses that begin to appear more often than usual.
4. Pay attention to verses that have significant meaning to you.

### Once you decide on your life verse, do some of the following with it:

1. Memorize it!
2. Hang it on the wall!
3. Share it some way on social media.
4. Make it into digital art and use as a screen saver/wallpaper on your computer, tablet or phone.
5. Use it as a tagline on your email signature.
6. The opportunities are endless.

### The author's life verse is Philippians 4:8:

*"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things."*

Often parents or grandparents bless their children with a life verse that is prayed over and instilled in them as they grow up through song, art work, memorization, etc.

### Here are some ways to help you choose a life verse for a child or grandchild:

1. The best time to do this is when they are born, however it is never too late no matter how old they are.
2. Pray as you begin to search, but give yourself plenty of time.
3. Some things to use as signposts are the child's name, initials, meaning of their name, the number of the month and day they were born, the time they were born, their height and weight at birth, etc.
4. The verse should be one of hope, promise and blessing.
5. Sometimes in the period of time before their birth, certain number combinations will appear over and over as you go through your days. Pay attention to these numbers.

### Here are some examples:

1. A male child born on Jan. 9 named Joshua: **Joshua 1: 9** (this was just too easy)

*"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid. Do not be discouraged; for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*

2. Female child (with name starting with J) born on Nov. 17: **Job 11: 17-19**

*"Life will be brighter than noonday, and darkness will become like morning. You will be secure, because there is hope; you will look about you and take rest in safety. You will lie down, with no one to make you afraid, and many will court your favor."*

3. Male child born on Sept. 5. In the months leading up to his birth, the time 5:55 showed up more often than normal when looking at a digital clock: **Isaiah 55:5-6**

*"You also will command nations you do not know, and peoples unknown to you will come running to obey, because I, the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, have made you glorious. Seek the Lord while you can find Him. Call on Him now while He is near."*

4. Female child born on August 7, weighing 7 lbs. 7 oz., 21 inches long. We combined two verses together: **Micah 7:7 and Job 8:21**

*"Watch in hope for the Lord, Wait for God your Savior; He will hear you. He will yet fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy."*

5. Male child named Cole which means Victory of the People in Greek. We combined two verses together: **Isaiah 41:10 and Psalm 149:4.**

*"Do not fear for I am with you, Do not be dismayed, For I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. I crown the humble with victory."*



# journal

## 12.6 The Hope of Glory

The source of all glory is God and the only way to God is through Jesus Christ. Jesus was the ultimate manifestation of the glory and image of God.

He left the place of his glory, Heaven, and came to earth as fully man and fully God. Yet while He was here on earth his glory was veiled. During his crucifixion his glory left him, returned during his resurrection and ascension and now remains with him as he sits at the right hand of the Father in Heaven as the exalted LORD.



*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14*

*The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. Hebrews 1:3*

*What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. Luke 2:11*

*When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." John 11:4*

*As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night. When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. John 13:30-33*

*After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. John 17:1*

*And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. John 17:5*

*I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word... I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. John 17:6, 9-10*

*May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. John 17:21-24*

**Jesus' Glory broke through** at his birth, his baptism, through his many miracles and healings, his transfiguration, his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, his resurrection and his ascension. And it will ultimately be revealed during His Return to earth to establish His

Kingdom and the New Heavens and New Earth. He is currently glorified in Heaven at the right hand of the Father.

Believers in Christ, the Church, His Bride, as we remain on this earth, have the honor and duty to bring glory to Christ by various means.

*The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness, made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 2 Cor 4: 4-7*

*For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. 2 Peter 1:16-18*

*But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter. 2 Thess 2:13-15.*

**The Glory of God is the standard** by which we determine what we should do and not do. As followers and adopted children of God, we inherit his glory and reflect it back to the world. Through our lives we shine the light of his glory all around us bringing glory to His name.

We glorify Him through our worship and praise, thanksgiving, prayer, obedience, and acceptance of his will for us including blessings and sufferings. We share with and care for those around us, our brothers and sisters in Christ, our family, our neighbors, the poor, those in crisis and in danger. We use our talents, creativity, and other gifts to bring glory to His Name.

We do all this because of all He is and has done for Us. He is our Hope of Glory.

*To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Col. 1:27*

**What is this Hope of Glory?** To share in his resurrection and our heavenly inheritance, to emerge from darkness into light, to become more like Jesus and eventually to see Him as He is.

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you... 1 Peter 1:3-4*

Glorify God and Enjoy Him Forever!

**Your turn:**

How does your life bring glory to God? How is Jesus your Hope of Glory?



# lyrics

You might wonder why lyrics are included in a study like this.

I believe lyrics, or poetry put to music, as well as the accompanying music, have always been used by the Most High to impact our hearts and minds –

either by **our part in its creative process** –  
 or through **our participation in its expression** –  
 or through **our pleasure as a recipient** of its

sensory benefits.



Please try to access and listen to the musical versions on your own - **iTunes** and **youtube** are great online resources. If you are using the PDF version of this study and are connected to the internet, clicking on the song title will bring up a video of each song. The lyrics presented will not always be spiritual in their original context – but much can still be gained from applying them to how they describe and point to the Most High God.

## No Longer Slaves

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxkNj5hcy5E>

Lyrics and Music by Brian Mark Johnson, Joel Case and Jonathan David Helser  
 Performed by BETHEL MUSIC, featuring Jonathan and Melissa Helser  
 © 2015, Bethel Music  
 Youtube video uploaded by *Bethel Music*

You unravel me with a melody  
 You surround me with a song  
 Of deliverance from my enemies  
 Till all my fears are gone

I'm no longer a slave to fear  
 I am a child of God  
 I'm no longer a slave to fear  
 I am a child of God

From my Mother's womb  
 You have chosen me  
 Love has called my name  
 I've been born again into your family  
 Your blood flows through my veins

I'm no longer a slave to fear  
 I am a child of God  
 I'm no longer a slave to fear  
 I am a child of God  
 I'm no longer a slave to fear  
 I am a child of God  
 I'm no longer a slave to fear  
 I am a child of God

I am surrounded by the arms of the Father  
 I am surrounded by songs of deliverance  
 We've been liberated from our bondage  
 We're the sons and the daughters  
 Let us our sing our freedom

You split the sea so I could walk right through it  
 My fears are drowned in perfect love

You rescued me and I will stand and sing  
I am a child of God

You split the sea so I could walk right through it  
You drowned my fears in perfect love  
You rescued me and I will stand and sing  
I am a child of God

Yes I am  
I am a child of God  
I am a child of God  
Yes I am  
I am a child of God  
Full of faith  
Yes I am a child of God  
I am a child of God

I'm no longer a slave to fear  
I am a child of God  
I'm no longer a slave to fear  
I am a child of God

The song won the "Worship Song of the Year" award at the 47th Annual GMA Dove Awards in 2016, with Jonathan David & Melissa Helser performing it at the ceremony.

Go [here to watch](#) the story behind this song.

<https://bethelmusic.com/videos/no-longer-slaves-song-story-jonathan-and-melissa-helser/>

### *Your turn:*

Have you ever been a slave to fear? What are some of the fears that enslave us? Can you stand and sing, "I am a Child of God!?" How does being a child of God free us from slavery?

### [Through All of It](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0Dzh3RZn0E>

Lyrics and Music by Ben Glover and Molly Reed  
Performed by Colton Dixon

© 2014 Warner/Chappell Music, Inc., Capitol Christian Music Group  
Youtube video uploaded by *ColtonDixonMusicVEVO*

There are days I've taken more than I can give  
And there are choices that I made  
That I wouldn't make again  
I've had my share of laughter  
Of tears and troubled times  
This has been the story of my life

I have won  
and I have lost  
I got it right sometimes  
But sometimes I did not  
Life's been a journey  
I've seen joy, I've seen regret  
Oh and You have been my God  
Through all of it

You were there when it all came down on me  
When I was blinded by my fear  
And I struggled to believe  
But in those unclear moments  
You were the one keeping me strong



This is how my story's always gone

I have won  
and I have lost  
I got it right sometimes  
But sometimes I did not  
Life's been a journey  
I've seen joy, I've seen regret  
Oh and You have been my God  
Through all of it  
Through all of it

And this is who You are  
More constant than the stars up in the sky  
All these years of our lives, I  
I look back and I see You  
Right now I still do  
And I'm always going to

I have won  
and I have lost  
I got it right sometimes  
But sometimes I did not  
Life's been a journey  
I've seen joy  
I've seen regret

Oh and You have been my God  
Through all of it  
Oh and You have been my God  
Through all of it  
Oh and You have been my God  
Through all of it

"Ben Glover wrote the song, and he said he'd like me to record it. He told me this is one of his favorite songs he's ever written. Listening to the song, it resonated on so many levels. It's a simple song, but it connects deeply. It's good to know that through the ups and downs and good and bad and ugly of life, God's there through all of it. No matter what you are going through, we have this hope and trust that not only is God with us, but He's also waiting for us on the other side.

The obvious example of how my life is reflected in this song was my journey on American Idol. There's so much unknown in that, and I didn't know what I'd be doing each day I was part of that experience, or what would happen the day after it ended. This song is really trying to make it known that life is an ongoing conversation with God. That's what a relationship is. It's not just going to God when you are in trouble asking Him to bail you out. I'm sure we've all had that moment. That's not what it is about. We need to come to God for the good things as well as the bad things.

As I was being presented with options to make decisions in gray areas, knowing I could go to God for anything to know Him personally and to make Him happy and proud of me, the world was looking on as well. I want to be an example of how we can come to God for everything. God has been walking me through what He wants me to do with the opportunities He's opened the doors to in my life. I want people to be encouraged when they hear my songs.

This album came from a personal place of my realization of how desperately I need Jesus on a daily basis. Throughout the course of this album, I give people the challenge to realize that it's now or never. Jesus is our Anchor. He's with us through all of it." Colton Dixon

**More Through It All stories [here](http://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=WZKY67NX).**

The music video was first premiered on Fox News on June 22, 2015 and dedicated it to the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina following the mass shooting tragedy that occurred a week earlier. And while debate enraged and engulfed the nation, the people of Charleston kept their eyes and their hearts focused on Jesus Christ. They discovered an eternal truth – that God's grace will sustain them

through all of it. Even though the video was filmed long before the church massacre, its message holds a truth that is relevant today. "I had no idea when we were scheduling the premiere what would take place," Colton said.

Credit: [http://www.newreleasetoday.com/article.php?article\\_id=1541](http://www.newreleasetoday.com/article.php?article_id=1541)

NRTRewind, Kevin Davis, lead contributor, Behind the Song with Kevin Davis, #626

## Your turn:

Think back on your life's journey so far and share how God has been with you through the times when you won and lost, and through your joys and your regrets.

### Same Power

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7NcEkEeghYQ>

Lyrics and Music by Jeremy Camp and Jason Ingram  
Performed by Jeremy Camp  
© 2015 Stolen Pride, Open Hands Music, So Essential Tunes  
Youtube videos uploaded by *JeremyCampVEVO*

I can see  
Waters raging at my feet  
I can feel  
The breath of those surrounding me  
I can hear  
The sound of nations rising up  
We will not be overtaken  
We will not be overcome

I can walk  
Down this dark and painful road  
I can face  
Every fear of the unknown  
I can hear  
All God's children singing out  
We will not be overtaken  
We will not be overcome

The same power that rose Jesus from the grave  
The same power that commands the dead to wake  
Lives in us, lives in us  
The same power that moves mountains when He speaks  
The same power that can calm a raging sea  
Lives in us, lives in us  
He lives in us, lives in us

We have hope  
That His promises are true  
In His strength  
There is nothing we can't do  
Yes, we know  
There are greater things in store  
We will not be overtaken  
We will not be overcome

The same power that rose Jesus from the grave  
The same power that commands the dead to wake  
Lives in us, lives in us  
The same power that moves mountains when He speaks  
The same power that can calm a raging sea  
Lives in us, lives in us  
He lives in us, lives in us

Greater is He that is living in me  
He's conquered our enemy  
No power of darkness  
No weapon prevails  
We stand here in victory

The same power that rose Jesus from the grave  
The same power that commands the dead to wake  
Lives in us, lives in us  
The same power that moves mountains when He speaks  
The same power that can calm a raging sea  
Lives in us, lives in us  
He lives in us, lives in us

Go [here](#) and [here](#) for the story behind the song.

<http://www.955thefish.com/content/music/jeremy-camp-same-power-behind-the-song>  
<https://distantfields.wordpress.com/2015/11/09/same-power-the-story-behind-the-song/>

*Your turn:*

How does the same power that rose Jesus from the grave work in your life?

### [When the Man Comes Around](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k5dYxX-PNno>

Lyrics and Music by John R. Cash  
Performed by Johnny Cash  
2002© BMG Rights Management LLC  
Youtube video uploaded by *ezzytube74*

"And I heard, as it were, the noise of thunder  
One of the four beasts saying,  
'Come and see.' and I saw, and behold a white horse"

There's a man goin' 'round takin' names  
And he decides who to free and who to blame  
Everybody won't be treated all the same  
There'll be a golden ladder reachin' down  
When the man comes around

The hairs on your arm will stand up  
At the terror in each sip and in each sup  
Will you partake of that last offered cup  
Or disappear into the potter's ground?  
When the man comes around

Hear the trumpets hear the pipers  
One hundred million angels singin'  
Multitudes are marchin' to the big kettledrum  
Voices callin', voices cryin'  
Some are born and some are dyin'  
It's alpha and omega's kingdom come  
And the whirlwind is in the thorn tree  
The virgins are all trimming their wicks  
The whirlwind is in the thorn tree  
It's hard for thee to kick against the pricks  
Till armageddon no shalam, no shalom  
Then the father hen will call his chickens home  
The wise man will bow down before the throne  
And at his feet they'll cast their golden crowns  
When the man comes around

Whoever is unjust let him be unjust still  
 Whoever is righteous let him be righteous still  
 Whoever is filthy let him be filthy still  
 Listen to the words long written down  
 When the man comes around

Hear the trumpets hear the pipers  
 One hundred million angels singin'  
 Multitudes are marchin' to the big kettledrum  
 Voices callin', voices cryin'  
 Some are born and some are dyin'  
 It's alpha and omega's kingdom come  
 And the whirlwind is in the thorn tree  
 The virgins are all trimming their wicks  
 The whirlwind is in the thorn trees  
 It's hard for thee to kick against the prick  
 In measured hundredweight and penny pound  
 When the man comes around

"And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts  
 And I looked, and behold a pale horse  
 And his name that sat on him was death, and hell followed with him"

This is one of the last songs Johnny Cash wrote before his death. Cash held a strong Christian faith which comes through in this song about Judgement Day. Both sung and spoken, the song makes numerous Biblical references, especially to the Book of Revelation. The musical portion then begins with Cash reciting that "the man" (Jesus Christ) will one day come to pass judgment.

The song also alludes to the Parable of the Ten Virgins from the Gospel of Matthew with the lyrics "The virgins are all trimming their wicks," a reference to the virgins' preparation of the Second Coming of Christ. The phrase, "It's hard for thee to kick against the pricks" cites Acts 26:14, where Paul the Apostle describes meeting Jesus while traveling to Damascus. It is a reference to a Greek proverb where a kicking ox only injures himself by attempting to kick against a goad, intended to represent the futility of resisting the Lord.

Elsewhere, the song mentions the wise men who bow before the Lord's throne, and cast their "golden crowns" at the feet of God. Revelation 4 refers to elders who worship the Lord and "lay their crowns" before Him "Alpha and Omega" refers to Jesus Christ (Rev.1:8,11, 21:6, 22:13). "Whoever is unjust... etc" is a quote from Revelation 22:11.

The final quoted verse caps off the warnings throughout the song. "Will you partake of that last offered cup? Or disappear into the potter's ground? Are you prepared for that time when the Man comes around?"

**For a more in depth song analysis go [here](#) and [here](#).**

<https://wesleyanarminian.wordpress.com/2010/01/08/the-meaning-of-the-man-comes-around-by-johnny-cash/>

<https://heathert.org/2014/08/09/johnny-cashes-man-comes-around-what-do-the-lyrics-mean/>

The song has been used in various film and television soundtracks, most recently in 2017 when it played over the end credits of the film *Logan* (directed and co-written by James Mangold who had previously directed the Johnny Cash biopic *Walk the Line*). It has also been used in *The Blacklist*, *Dawn of the Dead*, *Sleepy Hollow*, *CSI*, *Dallas*, and *Criminal Minds*.

Credit: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Man\\_Comes\\_Around\\_\(song\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Man_Comes_Around_(song))

*Your turn:*

Are you prepared for when The Man comes around?

## [Save a Place for Me](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbsBUf9VKyc)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbsBUf9VKyc>

Lyrics and Music by Cindy Mizelle and Matthew West  
Performed by Matthew West  
© 2008 Warner Chappell Music, Inc.  
Youtube video uploaded by *MatthewWestVEVO*

Don't be mad if I cry  
It just hurts so bad sometimes  
'Cause everyday it's sinking in  
And I have to say goodbye all over again  
You know I bet it feels good to have the weight of this world  
Off your shoulders now  
I'm dreaming of the day when I'm finally there with you

Save a place for me  
Save a place for me  
I'll be there soon  
I'll be there soon  
Save a place for me  
Save some grace for me  
I'll be there soon  
I'll be there soon

I have asked the questions why  
But I guess the answer's for another time  
So instead I'll pray with every tear  
And be thankful for the time I had you here

Save a place for me  
Save a place for me  
I'll be there soon  
I'll be there soon  
Save a place for me  
Save some grace for me  
I'll be there soon  
I'll be there soon

And I wanna live my life just like you did (like you did)  
Make the most of my time just like you did (like you did)  
And I wanna make my home up in the sky  
Just like you did  
Oh, but until I get there  
Until I get there, just

Save a place for me  
Save a place for me  
'Cause I will be there soon  
Save a place for me  
Save a place for me  
I'll be there soon.  
I'll be there soon.

West blogged on his website the story behind this song: "She can't speak. Not anymore. The stroke she suffered took that way. She can't walk. Her 86 years of life have left her paralyzed and confined to a wheelchair. She is my grandmother, Luella Jane West. Five years ago, the doctors told the family she wasn't going to make it. I remember getting the phone call from my dad. I remember the trip to Iowa. I remember the hospital room. I remember saying goodbye.

What my family didn't expect was exactly what happened. Five years later, my grandmother has defied the doctors and is still with us. And though she has lost her voice, her life still speaks. Today, there is another Luella Jane West here with us. She is my daughter. And you should see Grandma's

eyes light up when she sees her namesake! Someday when Lulu asks about her name, I will be proud to tell her about a life that had something to say.

I know that my grandmother won't be here much longer. She knows it too. So, this song is dedicated to her. Celebrating a life while it is still being lived. I read a recent interview with Billy Graham in *Newsweek* that summed up the heart behind 'Save a Place for Me.' When asked about the passing of his wife, Rev. Graham said, 'I know God has prepared a home for her in Heaven. I just hope she saves a room for me.'

Credit: [http://matthewwest.typepad.com/matthew\\_wests\\_blog/2007/12/new-music-frida.html](http://matthewwest.typepad.com/matthew_wests_blog/2007/12/new-music-frida.html)

The song's music video, which was filmed in Nashville and produced by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, portrays both the burden of loss as well as joy found in the hope of Heaven. West explained, "I wanted the video to tell the story beyond my own personal experience of losing a loved one. One setting in particular captures the sentiment of the song so well. There is a memorial wall, and all these different people are walking up to the wall, placing pictures on the wall, leaving flowers, saying a prayer, and remembering someone they've lost. I get chills just writing about it. I hope the video and the story it tells will enhance the emotion of the song when people see it, both the sadness and the hope of Heaven."

Credit: <http://www.songfacts.com/detail.php?id=18748>

### *Your turn:*

Who is saving a place for you?

Who might you be saving a place for?

### [The Revelation Song](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-Gxjtd6Wp4>

Lyrics and Music by Jennie Lee Riddle  
 Performed by Kari Jobe and worship team  
 © 1999, 2008 Universal Music Publishing Group  
 Youtube video uploaded by Integrity Music

Holy, holy is He  
 Sing a new song to Him who sits on  
 Heaven's mercy seat

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
 Holy, holy is He  
 Sing a new song to Him who sits on  
 Heaven's mercy seat

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty  
 Who was and is and is to come  
 With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings  
 You are my everything and I will adore You

Clothed in rainbows of living color  
 Flashes of lightning rolls of thunder  
 Blessing and honor, strength and glory and power  
 Be to You the only wise King

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty  
 Who was and is and is to come  
 With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings  
 You are my everything, and I will adore You (I will adore You)

Filled with wonder awestruck wonder  
 At the mention of Your name  
 Jesus Your name is power, breath and living water  
 Such a moment mystery

Oh, You're worthy, mystery  
 You are, are worthy  
 Yes

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty  
 Who was and is and is to come  
 With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings  
 You are my everything and I will adore You, I will adore You

From Jennie Lee Riddle, songwriter:

"I didn't actually mean to title the song "Revelation Song." I wrote it at the top of my notebook page to remember what the song was about, and I never could find a title for the song. The song (title) doesn't just come from book of Revelation; in my heart, it is a revelation about Jesus--and the scriptures are from Ezekiel and Revelation.

"Revelation Song" has taken on a life of its own, and it has been an intense joy to watch the Father "grow it up," and to hear the voice of the bride sing to Jesus; Her voice is so lovely. I often get asked which version is my favorite. Honestly, the voice of the Bride is my favorite of all.

I also get asked about the song story, and even more often, the question of "how" it got "out there" comes up. My only answer is that God chooses what He chooses. No amount of maneuvering, strategic posturing, or pitching would have gotten my music "out there"--whatever that means. I remember telling Jesus with complete sincerity that I could wait until I got to Heaven to hear my song sung; although, I also suggested that it would be a terrific song for the angels and great cloud of witnesses to sing when He comes back for us, in the event that He had not already chosen one for the occasion. I didn't think it would hurt to ask!"

More information can be found at [www.jennieriddle.com](http://www.jennieriddle.com)

"Revelation Song" won the 2010 Dove Award for Worship Song of The Year. It is also one of the top 5 most downloaded chord charts on CCLI's Song Select website for worship leaders. On [PraiseCharts.com](http://PraiseCharts.com)--a popular site for worship band charts and orchestrations--"Revelation Song" was recently both the No. 1 and the No. 5 songs downloaded (two different versions). The song also spent 17 weeks at No. 1 on Christian music charts.

It has been recorded by Gateway Worship, Kari Jobe, Phillips, Craig & Dean, Jesus Culture featuring Kim Walker-Smith, Avalon's Melissa Greene, Newsboys, Shane & Shane and others, and it's sung weekly in hundreds churches around the world.

"It's not just a lyric, it's not just the music, it's a combination of all of that together that takes you on a journey," says Dan Dean of Phillips, Craig and Dean. "It lifts your spirit. I have seen it happen many times in our church as we do the song in worship. Now we just hope we can see that happen on a larger scale."

Credit: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revelation\\_Song](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revelation_Song)

### *Your turn:*

Describe what being filled with awestruck wonder means to you. What stirs up awestruck wonder in you?

# more cool stuff

## I'll Be Back



*They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."*  
Acts 1:10-11

## Prophets and Prophecy

*In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.*  
Hebrews 1:1-2

*When there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams.* Numbers 12:6

*Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.*  
Amos 3:7

*The Lord, the God of their ancestors, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling place. But they mocked God's messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the Lord was aroused against his people and there was no remedy.*  
2 Chronicles 36:15-16

*For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.* 2 Peter 1:21

While priests in Israel were the people's hereditary representatives before God, prophets were called by God to be his representatives to the people. A prophet's job was to hear or receive the message from God and then clearly proclaim it to the people. The most common way of doing this was oral communication, sometimes in formal speeches, but also through more intimate, personal, one on one warnings and rebukes.

Additionally, prophets spoke through written communication, letters addressed to specific people or groups and in the New Testament, directed to specific regional churches. Often the written communication was a record of prior verbal conversations, sermons, interviews, etc., so that a wider group would be reached and informed. Much of the Bible is made up of written letters and recorded history spoken through the prophets.

The prophets were both men and women called by God to speak to their contemporaries. In the Old Testament they only spoke when the Holy Spirit came upon them, but in the New



Testament, since all the apostles received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, it became a gift and not a profession.

Some messages were delivered in a dramatized format, through parables, word pictures and stories filled with symbolism, using the thought processes of their day and idioms and analogies their hearers would understand.

Prophets are inspired by God to share a message. Depending on their own background and training and the audience they are trying to reach, two prophets might do this differently. Inspiration refers to the process God uses to prepare the prophet to receive the message, while Revelation is the divine act that discloses the information from God to the prophet, and Illumination is the process which allows the hearer of the message to know its authentic, understand it and apply it to their circumstances.

All three of these processes are enabled by the Holy Spirit. Real prophets are never wrong. False prophets were punished by death in the Old Testament.



### General Prophecy: Forth Telling

This kind of prophecy was delivered in the context of a specific historical situation, and was straightforward referring to the immediate future, often in the form of a lawsuit, woe, promise, or poem. It reminded people of God's covenants, blessings and curses and the results of continuing disobedience. The prophets spoke God's Word to the people, the kings and the nations. Sometimes the prophecy was **conditional** on the response of the recipients to it. (Jonah 3:4)

### General Prophecy: Fore Telling

Prophets also spoke of future events, deportations, captivity, dispersion, return; the birth, life, and death of the Messiah; our eternal legacy, things yet to take place and that no one could know would. **Blended prophecy** can be one of the most confusing kinds because a single prophecy will have two fulfillments stated or implied, one in the near future or its obvious intent and one at the end times looking way into the future.

### Apocalyptic Writing

Apocalyptic writing is prophetic revelation that unveils the mystery of the majestic power of Jesus in the reality of the spiritual realms and includes what will come at the end of time. It claims to reveal a new vision of reality, one of victory, hope, salvation, our eternal future and judgment of God's enemies.

This is often God's blessing and answer to believers going through stressful times including encouragement to endure persecution because of God's promises to them and His absolute sovereignty in history and the control of the future. God is transcendent and in total control even in dire times. The people understood these promises would not be fulfilled immediately. "Stand strong, He and we will prevail" was the message they claimed and held on to.

**Characteristics of Apocalyptic writing include the following:**

- Usually based on visions and dreams delivered by heavenly beings.
- Uses symbolic and figurative language, strange images, numbers and symbols
- Appears as double talk and nonsense to those who do not believe
- Prophet often transported to timeless spiritual realm by heavenly messenger and told to write what they saw. Sometimes they were shown things and told not to write about them.
- Various events may be portrayed in the same prophecy, but they are not always in chronological order. Earth time does not exist in the heavenly realms.
- Similar to Jesus' parables, we should concentrate on the main point of each prophecy, not all the surrounding details.
- They are mysterious, symbolic, very detailed and specific, and not always to be taken literally.
- The Big Picture is always the struggle between good and evil, the final triumph of good and Jesus in the last days and that He, His sufferings and Glory are central to all things.

Because these prophecies are symbolic their impact and understanding is not weakened by time or any immediate cultural context. They are understandable and applicable in all times. We import our own values and emotions and find a new way to say something true impacting all the generations. The signs, codes, and symbols actually simplify difficult concepts and clarify the mystery of the future. However, they do point to actual events that will take place in the near and far future.

The following chapters of the Bible include excellent examples of Apocalyptic Writing and are worthy of additional study:

Daniel 7-12

Isaiah 24-27, 33, 34-35

Jeremiah 33:14-26

Ezekiel 38-39

Joel 3:9-17

Zechariah 9-14

Matthew 24-25

2 Thessalonians

Mark 13

2 Timothy 3-4

Luke 17, 21

2 Peter 3

I Cor 1, 15

Jude

2 Cor 5

Revelation



## Various Interpretations

While good people differ on how to interpret prophecy, many prefer the following practices.

1. **A Literal Interpretation:** This view states the prophecy describes exactly what it says it describes. Most people would know what was being said. A good example includes the over 300 prophecies about the birth and death of Jesus Christ. The predictions surrounding the Messiah's birth, life, betrayal, death and resurrection were not fulfilled allegorically or in a spiritual manner. Jesus literally was born in Bethlehem, performed miracles, was betrayed by a close friend for 30 pieces of silver, was pierced in His hands and feet, died with thieves, was buried in a rich man's tomb, and was resurrected three days after His death. All these details were predicted hundreds of years before Jesus was born and were literally fulfilled.
2. **A Futuristic Interpretation:** This describes events that have not yet occurred but will in the future. Examples that fall into this category include much of the book of Daniel, all of Revelation, and the fulfillment of God's covenant with Abraham regarding the promises to his descendant and the land of Israel. In the book of Revelation John was given direct

messages for the 7 churches who existed in his day but also visions of what would occur later during the End times.

3. **Dispensationalist Interpretation:** This is a theological system that holds to a literal interpretation of the Bible, giving each word the meaning it would have in everyday usage when it was written. Without this there is no objective standard by which to understand the Bible. Even symbols and figurative sayings have literal meanings behind them. It also believes there are two distinct peoples of God, Israel and the Church. Salvation has always been by grace through faith alone in God in the OT and now through Jesus Christ. Dispensationalists believe that, just as God is in this age focusing His attention on the Church, He will again in the future focus His attention on Israel (see Romans 9–11 and Daniel 9:24).

Dispensationalists understand the Bible to be organized into seven dispensations: Innocence (Genesis 1:1–3:7), Conscience (Genesis 3:8–8:22), Human Government (Genesis 9:1–11:32), Promise (Genesis 12:1, Exodus 19:25), Law (Exodus 20:1, Acts 2:4), Grace (Acts 2:4, Revelation 20:3), and the Millennial Kingdom (Revelation 20:4–6).

4. **Premillennial Interpretation:** Dispensationalism, as a system, results in a premillennial interpretation of Christ's Second Coming and usually a pre-tribulational interpretation of the Rapture. This means that first the church will be Raptured, then the world will experience a seven-year Tribulation period, and then Jesus Christ will return to reign over the earth for 1,000 literal years (Revelation 20). Once the Church is removed from the earth, then Jesus once again deals with the nation of Israel, His Chosen People.

## *Value of Studying Prophecy*

The study of prophecy and apocalyptic writing can be both fascinating, confusing and oftentimes frightening. It is very easy to get lost in the weeds, follow bunny trails to nowhere, and major on minor points. There is much information and opinion out there and the fringe views are much easier to access now because of the internet.

Studying prophecies of the past that have already been fulfilled can build our faith in God and hope for the future. It shows God and his sovereignty at work in the world and individuals and that his promises can be trusted. It always affirms that the prophecies yet to come to pass will indeed come to pass. We can learn from the warnings of the past to be ready for the future. We are left with examples to follow and learn from.

### **Here are four responses that Biblical Prophecy should stir up in our souls:**

1. **Personal obedience to Jesus:** Be ready for his return
2. **Worship:** Expression of gratitude for our salvation, giving him Honor and Glory, practicing for Heaven.
3. **Proclamation of His Prophetic Message:** Don't seal up the message or the book.
4. **Service:** Diligence to carry out God's will for us, growing in our personal walks, laying up of treasure in heaven.

## Signs of the Times

Jesus Christ has promised His Return to earth and one of the mysteries of all times is when that will occur. The Church has been speculating about this since His Ascension while His Disciples questioned Him often about it while he was on earth. Even though we do not know the exact date and time, much has been written in the Bible about how to know when we are getting close. Jesus Himself shared the following.

*Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. Matt 24:42-44*

In Matthew 24 and Mark 13 Jesus talks in length about the signs to watch for that will show his return is near. The following is a list of scriptures with the signs to watch for listed below them.



### Matthew 24

*As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" v3*

*Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.*

*"Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. v 4-14*

*"Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. v 32-35*

- Increase in deception and false prophets
- Dissension, wars and rumors of wars (150 million people died in wars during the 20<sup>th</sup> century)
- A time of devastation, disasters, earthquakes and famines in unusual areas
- Hatred, persecution and death of Believers by nations and governments
- A time of widespread betrayal, disloyalty, defection and loss of love and faith
- The Gospel will be proclaimed to all the nations
- Increase in wickedness, immorality, idolatry, drug use, sexual perversion, violence

## 2 Timothy 3

*But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.*

*They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth everyone.  
V.1-7*

- Perilous times
- Lovers of pleasure, self and money
- People easily led astray to false doctrines
- Disobedience, arrogance, pride, abuse, unloving and unforgiving
- Disrespect of parents
- Impure, selfish motives

## Revelation 11:18

*The nations were angry,  
and your wrath has come.  
The time has come for judging the dead,  
and for rewarding your servants the prophets  
and your people who revere your name,  
both great and small—  
and for destroying those who destroy the earth.*

- Ability to destroy and corrupt the entire physical earth – rise in technology and warfare

## Daniel 4:1-4

*At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. But you, Daniel, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.*

- Greatest time of distress in human history
- Increase in travel and speed of movement of people
- Increase in search for and accumulation of both biblical and prophetic knowledge and access to worldly and scientific knowledge – rise in technology

## Revelation 13:16-17

*It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.*

- Ability to enforce the mark of the Beast – rise in technology.

## Israel's return to the land and creation as a nation in 1948

*The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.”*  
Genesis 17: 8

*“So then, the days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when people will no longer say, ‘As surely as the Lord lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,’ but they will say, ‘As surely as the Lord lives, who brought the descendants of Israel up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.’ Then they will live in their own land.”*  
Jeremiah 23:7-8



*He will raise a banner for the nations  
and gather the exiles of Israel;  
he will assemble the scattered people of Judah  
from the four quarters of the earth.*  
Isaiah 11:12

*I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit. I will plant them on their land, and they shall never again be uprooted out of the land that I have given them,” says the Lord your God.*  
Amos 9:14-15

*The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Write in a book all the words that I have spoken to you. For behold, days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will restore the fortunes of my people, Israel and Judah, says the Lord, and I will bring them back to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall take possession of it.”* Jeremiah 30:2-3

*Hear the word of the Lord, you nations;  
proclaim it in distant coastlands:  
‘He who scattered Israel will gather them  
and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.’  
For the Lord will deliver Jacob  
and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they.*  
Jeremiah 31:10-11

*For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.*  
Ezekiel 36:24-28

*This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be*



*one king over all of them and they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms. They will no longer defile themselves with their idols and vile images or with any of their offenses, for I will save them from all their sinful backsliding, and I will cleanse them. They will be my people, and I will be their God.*  
Ezekiel 37:21-23

## **Jewish nation once again occupies the city of Jerusalem in 1967**

*This is what the Lord Almighty says: "Once again men and women of ripe old age will sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each of them with cane in hand because of their age. The city streets will be filled with boys and girls playing there."*

*This is what the Lord Almighty says: "It may seem marvelous to the remnant of this people at that time, but will it seem marvelous to me?" declares the Lord Almighty.*

*This is what the Lord Almighty says: "I will save my people from the countries of the east and the west. I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem; they will be my people, and I will be faithful and righteous to them as their God."*

*Zechariah 8:4-8*

## **Rise of United Europe and global government, politically, economically, and religiously.**

United Nations (Revelation 13, Daniel 7)

## **Rebuilding of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem**

## **Rise of the Russia/Iran/Turkey alliance**

Gog and Magog (Ezekiel 38-39)

## **1 Timothy 4**

*Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. V1-3*

- Rise of false teaching
- Rise of alternative lifestyles
- Rise of demonic influence and devil worship
- Rise of lack of conscience and selfishness and lack of respect for others lives

## **Convergence of all these things.**

## **Not just one of the signs but all the above signs at the same time.**

In AD 70 when the Romans destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem and carried away or killed the Jewish people, none of these signs were present. Today, all of them are.

*So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!  
Matt 24:33*

*Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near. Luke 21:28*

## Denial of the signs and of Jesus 2nd Coming

*Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Savior, knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

*But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:1-9*

## Summary of Signs and Warnings (in no particular order)

1. Increase in deception, false prophets and false teachings
2. Dissension, wars and rumors of wars
3. Natural disasters, famines, earthquakes and devastation occurring more often and on a grander scale.
4. Increasing wickedness, immorality, idolatry, drug use, sexual perversion and violence.
5. Disrespect of parents and the collapse of the family unit
6. Hatred, persecution, imprisonment and execution of Believers by governments
7. People are lovers of self, pleasure, money, power, with impure motives
8. The Gospel will be proclaimed to all the nations
9. People will be easily led astray, disloyal, arrogant, abusive and unforgiving
10. The rise in technology and advanced warfare will enhance man's ability to destroy the earth and each other.
11. The rise in technology will make it possible to restrict and control commerce through the "mark of the beast".
12. The rise in technology will enhance both people's ability to travel far and often as well as to increase both their general knowledge and understanding as well as Biblical knowledge and understanding.
13. Israel will return to the land promised to her by God. (1948)
14. Israel will once again occupy the city of God, Jerusalem. (1967)
15. Movement towards a global government through the creation of a United Europe and the United Nations.
16. Movement toward a global economic system.
17. Movement toward a global religious system (all Gods are the same God).
18. Rise of alternative lifestyles
19. Rise of demonic influence and devil worship
20. Rise of seared consciences and lack of remorse, repentance, value for life or property of others.
21. Denial of these signs and denial that Jesus will come again.
22. The convergence of all these signs happening at the same time.





## In the Twinkling of an Eye

*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 the mortal with immortality. 1 Cor 15:51-53*

*Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 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. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.*

*1 Thess 4:13-18*

*And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. John 14:3*

*Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. Rev 3:10*



*But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.*

*1 Cor 15:20-23*

One of the most anticipated, misunderstood and feared events leading up to the Return of Christ is called the Rapture (1 Thess 4:17), for the latin word *rapturo*, meaning caught up or carried away. It is also used in Acts 8:39 to describe how Philip was caught up near Gaza and transported to Caesarea, and also when Paul was caught up to the Third Heaven in 2 Cor 12:2-4. The word clearly describes moving people from earth to heaven.

There are no prerequisite events that need to occur prior to the Rapture occurring. It will occur without any warning or fanfare in an instant. Jesus will step off his Heavenly Throne, and step out of His Heaven, enter our heavens and in a twinkling of an eye, draw all believers, living and dead to Him in the air.

The first to rise will be those who have died, who have been asleep. Their spirits, who have been in Heaven with Jesus since their death, will be given new resurrected glorified bodies.

Then those on earth, who are living, will be caught up in the air and their earthly bodies will be instantly changed into eternal, glorified, imperishable bodies.

Then all will meet the Lord and He will take everyone back to His Heaven and they will be with Him forever.

## Pre, Mid or Post Trib?

Much debate exists on the timing of the Rapture of the Church. There are no signs or events that need to occur before this happens. In fact, it happens without any warning at all, suddenly, surprisingly, like a thief in the night. Jesus appears in the air and does not set foot on the earth. No one sees Him except the believers that join Him in the air. Those left on the earth will only see and experience the after effects of the mass exodus of people disappearing from all over the earth.

The Rapture removes the Church from the earth, taking the Holy Spirit's restraining influence on society and culture away at the same time. The Antichrist or Man of Lawlessness cannot be revealed (2 Thess 2:1-12) until this happens, ushering in the 7 year Tribulation period, "The time of Jacob's trouble", which was designed for the Jewish nation and not the Church. The purpose of the Tribulation is the redemption of Israel and the punishment of the wicked. (Rev. 3:10, 1 Thess 1:10, 1 Thess 5:9, Romans 5:9, Eph 5:6, Col 3:4)

Some believe the Rapture will not occur before (Pre) but midway (Mid) through the 7 year Tribulation period and others believe it won't happen until the 7 years are over (Post). The fact that the Rapture is described as a surprising event to even believers would make the idea that it would occur midway or after the Tribulation impossible, since it would be obvious what is occurring all around them. We will proceed in this journey with the understanding that the Rapture occurs prior to the beginning of the Tribulation.

## The Last Trump

*The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Make two silver trumpets. Of hammered work you shall make them, and you shall use them for summoning the congregation and for breaking camp. And when both are blown, all the congregation shall gather themselves to you at the entrance of the tent of meeting. Numbers 10:1-3*

There are many trumpets sounded in the Book of Revelation and some believe the trumpets referred to in 1 Thess 4 and 1 Corinthians 15 are the same as the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet sounded in Revelation 10 (which occurs half way through the Tribulation). However, the 7th trumpet in Revelation is sounded for days not an instant and Jesus does not return immediately after it, leading us to believe it is not the same trumpet blast that begins the Rapture.

Throughout Scripture, trumpets were used as signals to gather people, to set armies on the move, and as part of the worship of God. The trumpet that summons the church at the Rapture is called "the trump of God," while those in sounded in Revelation are angelic trumpets.

In Numbers 10 we see God giving instruction to Israel about the use of trumpets to start the movement of his people when they were to break camp. The first trumpet blast called the leaders together and then consecutive trumpet blasts signaled each group of tribes to begin their journey, and the last blast indicated the movement of the last group in the camp.

As the Last Trumpet is sounded to move the Church to Jesus in the air and then on to Heaven, the Rapture concludes the Church Age on earth.



## The BEMA Seat

*For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames. 1 Cor 3:11-15*

The Bema Seat Judgment, or the Judgment Seat of Christ, is believed to take place immediately after the Rapture. This is the only judgment believers will experience and has nothing to do with salvation or sin. Salvation has already been obtained through Jesus and now they must give an account of their works on earth for the glory of God, their faithfulness to God and the influence they left behind.

The Bema Seat refers back to the awards handed out at the end of a race during the ancient Olympics. The judge handing out the awards would sit on the Bema seat at the finish line.

Christ is the judge and some of the rewards He will be handing out include:

- **Crowns** (James 1:12, 2 Tim 4:8, 1 Peter 5:4, 1 Cor 9:25-27, 1 Thess 2:19),
- **Heavenly Treasure** (Matt 6:20, 1 Peter 1:4),
- **Accolades and Commendations** (Luke 19:17-19, 1 Cor 4:5),
- **Promises** (Rev 2:7, 2:11,17,26),
- **Special Responsibilities and Authority** (Matt 19:28, 24:45-47, 25:21, 23, Luke 19:17-19, 22:29-30, Rev 2:26).

## The Rapture vs. the Second Coming of Christ

There is often confusion about Jesus' very secret return in the air for the Church at the Rapture and his very visible Return to Earth at the Second Coming. They are not the same event. Here are some of the differences as recorded in verses about each one.

- Christ meets believers in the air during the Rapture and on earth at the Second Coming.
- The Mt. of Olives is unchanged during the Rapture and divided at the Second Coming
- Living believers gain glorified bodies at the Rapture and those at the Second Coming remain in earthly bodies.
- Believers return with Christ to Heaven at the Rapture but at the Second Coming glorified believers return from heaven while earthly believers stay on earth.
- The world is left unjudged and living in sin after the Rapture, while the earth is judged and righteousness established at the Second Coming
- No signs precede the Rapture while many signs precede the Second Coming.
- The Rapture only deals with believers, while the Second Coming deals with everyone.
- After the Rapture Satan remains free, but after the Second Coming, Satan is bound and thrown into the abyss.

- Jesus refers to Himself as the Bright Morning Star during the Rapture and then as the Sun of Righteousness during the Second Coming. The Morning Star appears out of the darkness of night just before dawn (Rev.2:26-28, 22:16), heralding the rising of the Sun. He represents the imminent dawn of eternal morning, with great hope and promise. To the Church he is the Bright Morning Star. The long night since his ascension and His Second Coming is almost over. To the Israel and the Gentile world who go through the Tribulation, He will be the Sun of Righteousness, shining brightly during the days to come. (Mal 4:1-2)
- The Church as the Bride of Christ attends the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in Heaven between the Rapture and the Second Coming (Rev. 19:7-10).
- The Church returns with Christ at the Battle of Armageddon during His Second Coming.

## Soon, and Very Soon

*But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

*But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.*

*Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. 2 Peter 3:8-12*

*I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. Rev.3:11*

*Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Rev.22:12-13*

*He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Rev. 22:20*

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Phil.4:4-7*

*The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:7-8*

Every generation of believers has waited expectantly for the return of Jesus. He spoke often not only of his death and resurrection but also of His return during the Last Days. He promised it would be soon and that He would come quickly. He said the end was near.

Every generation prayed it would be tomorrow, sooner than later, faster than slower. There is much teaching in the Bible about maturing and growing in Christ and the great value in waiting on Him and gaining perseverance, long suffering, faithfulness, etc. We should not be surprised at any delays. His promises of His Return for us as well as our future in Heaven bring us the hope and strength to endure as we wait on Him.

The Greek word *tachu*, which is translated “soon” or “quickly,” means “without unnecessary delay.” It does not mean “immediately.” There will be no unnecessary delay, everything is going according to plan, according to God’s timetable. He will show up. No one gets to know the time. Jesus didn’t even know the day or the hour.

*“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.*

*“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. Matt 24:36-42*

God’s timing is perfect and he wants none to perish so is giving all the time in the world to those who will be saved. (2 Peter 3:9, Romans 8:29-30, Eph 1:5) Being that we’re earthbound and stuck in earth time, it is always mystifying from our vantage point to process events occurring in spiritual eternity, trying to fit eternal spiritual ideas into a world governed by time.



“I come quickly” does not mean without delay, but without unnecessary delay. But it will be sudden, and surprising, and without warning, in the twinkling of an eye. Quickly means “definitely”, “surely”, or “certainly” to take place. His Return is inevitable. There is zero chance it won’t happen.

God is faithful and true. If He said He was coming back, He’s coming back.

## *The Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ*

The Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ is the last book of the New Testament. It also contains the most detailed description of what will occur during the Tribulation period, the Second Coming of Jesus and beyond. It is the only book of the Bible that promises a special blessing to those who read it aloud as well as those who hear it and take it to heart. (Rev 1:3) The word *revelation* comes from the Greek word *apocalypse* and refers to an unveiling or a disclosure of something yet unknown.

It was written by the Apostle John while he was exiled on the Isle of Patmos between 90 AD and 95 AD. Revelation is the only book of its genre in the NT and in it Jesus directly addresses the readers. Only in Revelation does Jesus Himself speak directly to the churches. (Rev 2-3, 22;16) The book clearly states that Jesus’ purpose is to show his servants what must soon take place. It is Jesus’ revelation, directly from the source, about Himself, his Person, Power and Plan for the future.

John was told in Rev. 1:19 to write what he saw, the things you have seen which are, and the things that will come after these things. Or in other words, what happened in the past, what is happening now and what is to happen in the future. He was given a series of visions, transported to different parts of heaven to observe and write what he saw.

The book is filled with mysteries of things to come. It contains final warnings that the world will surely end and judgment will come. We are given a tiny glimpse of heaven and the glories waiting those who go there.

It describes in great length the great coming tribulation period and all its woes and the final fire that all unbelievers will face for eternity ending up with glorious pictures of the New Jerusalem, New Heavens and the New Earth.

The book is filled with symbolism, strange visions and creatures and is a culmination of prophecies about the end times from other books of the Bible. (Daniel 9, 13, Isaiah 24-27, Ezekiel 37-41, and Zechariah 9-14). Many of the symbols and visions are similar in nature to ones in Daniel, Ezekiel and Zechariah.

## Jesus, in all His Glory

Revelation begins by focusing on Jesus, with John seeing an amazing vision of Christ, Himself.

*On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."*

*I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.*

*When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. Rev 1:10-18*

Symbolism is often used to describe various aspects of Jesus character, power and position. He is often call a Lion, a Lamb, the Bridegroom, a Rider of a White Horse. Since Revelation is "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" it demonstrates His glory, wisdom and power (1:1-20), and portrays His authority over the church (2:1-3:21) and His power and right to judge the world (5:1-19:21).

### **Other descriptions, titles and names of Jesus in Revelation include:**

- The faithful witness (1:5)
- The firstborn from the dead (1:5)
- The ruler over the kings of the earth (1:5)
- The Son of Man (1:13)
- The first and the last (1:17)
- The living One (1:18)
- The Son of God (2:18)
- He who is holy, who is true (3:7)
- The Amen (3:14)
- The Beginning of the creation of God (3:14)
- The Lion that is from the tribe of Judah (5:5)
- The Root of David (5:5)
- A Lamb (5:6)
- The Word of God (19:13)
- King of Kings and Lord of Lords (19:16)
- The Alpha and the Omega (22:13)
- The beginning and the end (22:13)



- The bright morning Star (22:16)
- The Lord Jesus (22:21)

## The Seven Churches

In Revelation 2 and 3, Jesus sends messages to seven actual churches that represent the spectrum of churches that existed at that time and throughout history. Many scholars believe these letters foreshadow the specific eras or stages in the growth and history of the Christian Church.

These churches had both Jewish and Gentile members and were dealing with distractions, persecutions, false teachings, immorality, laziness and stagnation.

In each message Jesus starts out by describing himself, then offers praise for the church, followed by something they need to correct, then an exhortation of encouragement with an accompanying penalty or reward and finally a promise.

### Here is a brief summary of Jesus' exhortation to each church:

**Ephesus:** Do not let your love for Jesus grow cold.

**Smyrna:** Do not fear the persecution of the world

**Pergamum:** Trust the Word of God to keep you strong and faithful.

**Thyatira:** Avoid both sexual and spiritual adultery. Be pure.

**Sardis:** Wake up now! Strengthen what remains!

**Philadelphia:** I will open a door for ministry and witness for you.

**Laodicea:** Don't yield to complacency. Invite me in. Let me revolutionize and transform your life and you will have a princely position in the age to come.

In addition, these are amazing warnings and admonitions for believers anywhere at anytime.

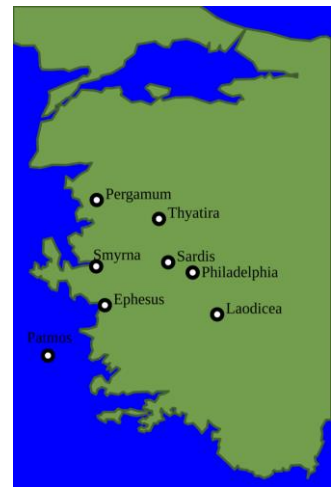
For an excellent printable online chart about this go to: <http://www.freegracesources.org/rev2-3chart.pdf>

Also please consult other resources, commentaries, study Bible notes, or a Bible encyclopedia for more in depth information on these churches. It is a fascinating study.

## The Tribulation, in all its Horror

Revelation 6 begins the description of the horror and devastation of the seven years of Tribulation which include a series of ever increasing calamitous judgments on the earth, the rise of the Antichrist and the False Prophet, the Mark of the Beast (Satan) 666, the sealing of the 144,000 witnesses and the Two Witnesses, the climatic battle of Armageddon, the return of Christ, the binding of Satan, and the Antichrist and the False Prophet being cast into the Lake of Fire. The Lord Jesus then reigns on earth for 1000 years, after which Satan is released and eventually is also cast into the Lake of fire, followed by the Great White Throne Judgment, and finally the creation of the New Heavens and the New Earth.

The Tribulation begins when the Lamb, a representation of Jesus and the only one worthy, breaks 7 Seals holding an old book shut. The Book holds the answers to all the unanswerable questions. But Man is not looking to God for the answers but to himself. Each time a Seal is broken it triggers an event on earth, most of which are catastrophic. (Rev 4-7)



The Seventh Seal contains Seven angels who blow seven trumpets and each trumpet blast brings a devastating plague or natural disaster on the earth. The Trumpet disasters are worse than the Seal disasters including possible nuclear explosions, meteors, great volcanos, moral darkness, anarchy, allowing evil to run wild. Demonic activity and torment increase exponentially as the gates to hell opened allowing mind control and propaganda, drugs, magic, warfare, great destruction to occur. (Rev. 8-11)

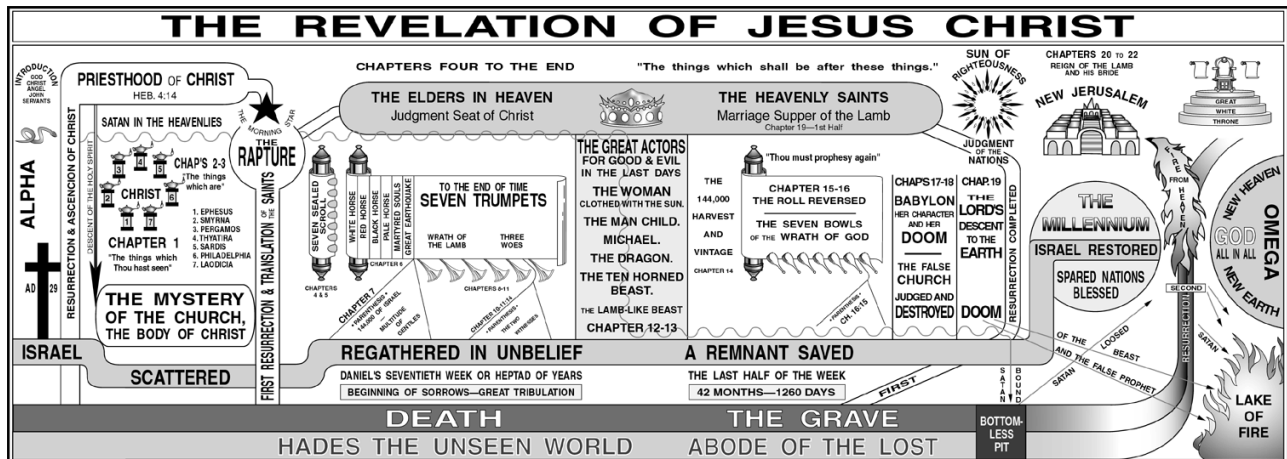
The 5<sup>th</sup>,6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpets coincide with 3 Woes allowing intense and horrifying demonic activity and warfare on the earth.

The Seventh Trumpet contains Seven angels who pour out 7 Bowls. The 7 Bowls are filled with the wrath of God and are the worst versions of many of the torments and disasters that have already occurred, only with greater intensity and destruction. (Rev. 15-16)

During the above, other important specific characters and events are portrayed.

- **The Rise of the UnHoly Trinity:** A great dragon (Satan) and two beasts make war against a certain woman and the saints. (Rev. 12-14)
- **144,000 witnesses are sealed:** 12,000 each from the 12 Jewish tribes
- **Two witnesses preach in Jerusalem for 1260 days** – 42 months – 3.5 years, God never leaves himself without a witness. Their ministry is to strip away all delusions, lies and satanic propaganda. When their work is complete they are killed by the Antichrist, their bodies put on display, and then they are resurrected like Jesus and taken up to heaven in a cloud for all the world to see.
- **The Temple is rebuilt** on Mt Moriah and occupied by Antichrist

We have seen the Tribulation is a series of 21 events, seven seals, trumpets and bowls exacting a grand judgment on the sinfulness of humanity. This shows the seriousness of which God views sin. Payment will be exacted from those not covered by the blood of Christ.



## The Return of Jesus, in all His Glory

The return of Jesus in all His Glory is the most prophesied event in the Bible, the Climax of History. He came as a thief for His Church at the beginning of the Tribulation and since then has been directing things from behind the scenes.



But now He comes and appears to all, riding a White Horse, Faithful and True. The Sword in his mouth is the Word of God with the power to cut through and wake us up. It will destroy the evil nations and rule over the rest during the Millennium.

*I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.*

*He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

*And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and the mighty, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, great and small."*

*Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army. But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.*

*The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh. Rev 19:11-21*

Jesus returns to earth at His Second Coming and overcomes the wicked city of Babylon, the Dragon, and the Beasts, and then brings about a final Judgment Day. The False Prophet and the Antichrist will be thrown into the Lake of Fire and Satan will be bound by an Angel in the Abyss for 1000 years.

## 1000 years

The 1000 year reign of Christ on earth, known as the Millennium, occurs immediately after Jesus' victory over Satan and Babylon at the end of the Tribulation. Those martyred during the Tribulation will reign on earth with Christ. Although sin and sinners will still exist, righteousness will now rule over the earth restraining sin for 1000 years. There will be humans alive with perishable (mortal) and imperishable bodies (immortal) and all of them will be redeemed or saved in order to enter the Millennium Kingdom.

As before, mortal humans will still be able to reproduce and all people born during the Millennium must accept Christ as Savior and Lord during this time of Christ's theocracy on the original earth, repaired from the destruction of the Tribulation.

Christ will serve as King of Kings and Lord of Lords and fulfill the promises that He will sit on David's throne over the House of Israel. (2 Sam 7:16, Ps 89:20-37, Isa 11:1-16, Jer 33:19-21. He was born to rule over Israel as King. (Luke 1:32-33) But the people of Israel rejected Him as their king and He died as their King. And now that He has returned He will finally rule over the Davidic Kingdom.

The fact that Christ will reign over the entire world is taught by many Scriptures. (Isa. 2:1-4; 9:6-7; 11:1-10; 16:5; 24:23; 32:1; 40:1-11; 42:3-4; 52:7-15; 55:4; Dan. 2:44; 7:27; Micah

4:1-8; 5:2-5; Zech. 9:9; 14:16-17). These verses demand a literal kingdom and a literal reign of Christ on earth over the entire earth, absolutely. His rule will be visible, spiritual, peaceful and glorious.

His earthly rule during this time will be the final complete fulfillment of the Covenants God made with the nation of Israel in the Old Testament. (Gen. 12:1-3, 15:18-21, Deut. 30:1-10, 2 Sam 7:12-16, Jer. 31:31-134) This final fulfillment requires Israel occupy the Promised Land through an earthly, political nation that has repented and submitted to Jesus Christ as their earthly and heavenly God and King.

There will, however, still be sin, death, and divine judgment during this time. The earth will still be stuck in time, not yet in eternity.

At the end of the Millennium period, Satan will be loosed from the Abyss and will roam the earth again leading unbelievers in rebellion against Christ, His saints and the city of Jerusalem. Fire from Heaven comes down and instantly devours them. Satan will then be thrown into the Lake of Fire where the Antichrist and the False Prophet are suffering eternally.

John describes the eternity of Hell, the final resting place of the unbelieving. In Rev 19:20 the antichrist and the false prophet are cast into the Lake of Fire. After the Millennium reign of Jesus Christ in 20:10, the devil is also cast into the Lake of Fire. We also see that the Antichrist and the False Prophet are still in torment, "*day and night forever and ever*" because John describes Hell as an eternal place of conscious torment.

**Verses for further study about the Millennium:** Rev. 20, Isaiah 11, 65, Zech 2, Eze 40-46. For a in depth description of the Millennium Kingdom visit follow this link.  
<https://bible.org/seriespage/15-second-coming-christ-and-millennial-kingdom>

## The Coming Judgments

### **The Judgment Seat of Christ (The BEMA Seat):** (2 Corinthians 5:10)

This occurs immediately after the Rapture and is for Believers (The Church) only. This is a judgment of each believers or faithfulness to Christ, not their sin. Selfish works or those done with wrong motives will be burned up and only works of lasting value to the Lord will remain. Crowns will be distributed as well as responsibilities and honors in His coming Kingdom. (Rev. 3:11, Heb. 6:10)

### **Judgment of the Nations (Sheep and the Goats):** Matthew 25:31-46

This occurs after the Tribulation period for the people who are still alive at that time. Those who have showed their faith in God by treating Israel favorably, showing comfort and aid during the tribulation (the sheep) will be invited to enter the Millennial Kingdom. Those who followed the Antichrist's lead and persecuted Israel (the goats) will be sentenced to hell. As always, during the Tribulation, salvation is received only through faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

### **Judgment of Living Israel:** (Ezekiel 20:31-44, Matthew 25:1-30)

Before the Messiah can begin to reign, there must be a judgment to determine which living Jewish people will be allowed to enter into the Messiah's Kingdom. Only those who are spiritually regenerated believers will be allowed in. Those claiming only to be physical descendants will be judged as non believers. Each one will meet Jesus face to face in the "wilderness of the peoples" after Christ returns to earth at the close of the Tribulation. (Ezekiel 20:35, 39:28)

### **Judgment and Reward of Resurrected Tribulation and Old Testament Believers:**

(Rev. 20:3-5, Daniel 12:2, Isa 26:19) Those who were martyred during the Tribulation period, who had not worshipped the Beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads will be resurrected and live and reign with Christ on earth for 1000 years. Many believe this also includes OT saints who are not technically part of The Church, but of the Nation of Israel. Other's believe the OT saints are resurrected along with the church during the Rapture.

**Judgment of Satan and the Fallen Angels:** (1 Cor 6:2-3, 15:24-26, Rev. 20:1-3,7-10, 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6)

Paul states Christians will judge the Angels and the only Angels facing judgment would be the fallen angels serving with Satan. Some have already been imprisoned and are awaiting judgment according to Jude 1:6. This final judgment will occur at the end of the Millennium when Satan is released from his binding for a short time and then thrown into the Lake of Fire along with all other opposing demonic and spiritual forces.

**Great White Throne Judgment** (Rev. 20:11-15)

This final judgment of unbelievers takes place at the end of the Millennium (1000 year earthly reign of returned Christ) and after the destruction of the current heavens and the earth but before the creation of the New Heavens and the New Earth and the throwing of Satan and his demonic hordes into the Lake of Fire. All unbelievers from all time, those whose names are not listed in the Book of Life, are judged for their sins and sent to the Lake of Fire. This is the resurrection of the unjust, the resurrection to the second death. (Rev 20:5-6, 12-14, John 5:29) They did not participate in the first resurrection of the dead to new life provided through faith in Jesus. Their bodies were resurrected from death and their souls were resurrected from Hades, the place of torments where they have been waiting since their first death. Like Believers whose souls were united with their new glorious bodies at the Rapture, the unbeliever's souls will be united with their new eternal bodies at the Great White Throne Judgment before they are thrown into the lake of fire for eternity.

## Eternity Now

Finally, in chapters 21-22, John writes the last of the canon of Scripture. Here he describes the New Heaven and the New Earth. In it is the holy city of the New Jerusalem. There will no longer be any crying or tears, pain, mourning, or death because, *"the first things have passed away"* (21:1). Only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life can enter this place to live eternally with Jesus Christ who sits on His throne.

*"Come. And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost."* Rev 22:17

Most of the Bible's 66 books portrays the world in the throes of deep suffering because of sin. Revelation portrays the final answer to that problem, a hope that Jesus will once and for all heal the wounds wrought by sin, reign for 1000 years on earth, and then recreate the world into a place that represents God's original design. The Bible begins in Paradise and ends in Paradise. There is hope beyond our momentary trials and struggles of our earthly lives.

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death 'or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'" He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."* Rev 21:3-5

*I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.* Rev 21:22-24

*"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.*

*"Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.*

*"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."  
The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life. Rev 22:12-17*

*He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."  
Amen.  
Come, Lord Jesus Rev 22:20*



## *Numbers and Symbols and More*

The intent of this overview of prophecy and the End Times is not to present an in depth critique or commentary. The reader is urged to study the Book of Revelation on their own with good commentaries, and other resources in hand. There are a wide range of opinions on much of the specific details in the book. We should seek the Holy Spirit's guidance on what we need to know from our study for our own lives and spiritual growth.

The following is as reference list of many of the symbols and numbers and their meaning in Biblical prophecy, including the Book of Revelation.

### **Symbolic Meanings:**

Babylon: Rome, Apostasy, confusion  
Beast: Kingdom, government, political power  
Blood: Life  
Blue: Law  
Bow: Success in battle against evil  
Crowns: Kingship  
Day: Year  
Dove: Holy Spirit

Dragon: Satan or his agent  
 Eagle: speed, power, vision, vengeance, protection  
 False Prophet: Apostate Religious leader  
 Gold: True riches of heaven  
 Fruit: works, actions  
 Fire: Holy Spirit  
 Horn: King or Kingdom  
 Horse: Strength and power in battle  
 Jezebel: Immorality, Idolatry, Apostasy  
 Lamb: Jesus, sacrifice  
 Lion: Jesus, powerful king,  
 Locusts: destruction  
 Merchants: Advocates of Babylon's teachings  
 Morning star: Jesus  
 Mystery of God: The Gospel  
 New Jerusalem: Holy City of Heaven  
 Oil: Holy Spirit  
 Purple: Royal  
 Red: Sin, corruption  
 Second Death: Lake of Fire  
 Serpent: Satan  
 Stars: Angels, messengers  
 Sun: Jesus, the gospel  
 Sword: Word of God  
 Time: Year  
 Times: 720 days  
 Trumpet: Warning of God's approach  
 Tree: People, Nations  
 Waters (Seas): Inhabited area – People, Nations  
 White: Purity, righteousness  
 Winds: Strife, commotions, winds of war  
 Wormwood: Sorrow, bitterness  
 Wrath of God: last 7 plagues (Bowls)

### **Symbolic Numbers:**

1: Singularity, God  
 2: Duality, contrary or complementary, unity and division, the truth of God's Word  
 3: Perfection or Holiness, Trinity, God's mighty actions, numerical signature of God  
 3.5: half of 7, things in process, incomplete  
 4: Totality or the world, directions, Numerical signature of nature, creation  
 6 : Imperfection, Man, evil, man created on 6<sup>th</sup> day, worship of man  
 7: Totality of perfection, completeness, most common in prophecy  
 8: New life or resurrection, 8 people saved on ark, circumcision on 8<sup>th</sup> day  
 10: Completion, law and restoration, 10 Commandments  
 12: Human completion, months, tribes, apostles, church and God's authority.  
 40: Very long time, wilderness wandering, Christ's temptation, days of rain, generation, times of testing  
 50: Power and celebration, Jubilee year, Pentecost (50 days after resurrection)  
 70: God's administration of the world, 70 elders, 70 years in exile, Daniel's 70 weeks, Human leadership and judgment  
 144: 12 x 12, perfection completion  
 666: number of the beast,  
 1000: Immensity, fullness of quality

### **Series of 7's:**

Days of Creation  
 Days in a week  
 Musical notes

Colors in a Rainbow

**7's in Revelation:**

7 Blesseds in Revelation  
 7 Mountains  
 7 Kings  
 7 Churches  
 7 Seals, Trumpets, Bowls  
 7 Candlesticks, Stars, Spirits  
 A lamb with 7 horns and 7 eyes  
 7 lamps, thunders

**Parallels between the True and the Counterfeit:**

God the Father vs. Satan  
 Jesus Christ, the Lamb vs. The Beast (Antichrist, a fake, not divine, all human)  
 Holy Spirit vs. The False Prophet (gives power to do lying signs and wonders and causes people to worship the Antichrist)  
 Woman attacked by Dragon/Bride/New Jerusalem vs. The Prostitute/Babylon  
 2 Witnesses/144,000 sealed Jewish believers vs. demonic armies who do signs and wonders

**Cast of Characters:**

Mystery Man – One like the Son of Man – Jesus, the Lion and the Lamb  
 The 7 Churches  
 The 24 Elders  
 Great Multitude  
 The mighty Angel  
 Four Horseman  
 The two Witnesses  
 144,000  
 7 Angels blowing trumpets  
 Pregnant woman  
 The Red Dragon  
 The Wings of a great Eagle  
 The Beast and his mark  
 The False Prophet  
 200 million man army  
 Rider on a White Horse/Faithful and True

*Blessings (Beatitudes) of Revelation*

**Rev 1:3** Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

**Rev 14:13** Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."

**Rev 16:15** "Look, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed."

**Rev 19:9** Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" And he added, "These are the true words of God."

**Rev 20:6** Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

**Rev 22:7** "Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll."

**Rev 22:14** "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city."

## *Promises of Revelation*

- Those who read the words of this prophecy and who hear it and take to heart what is written in it will be blessed (1:3).
- Jesus Christ loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father (1:5-6).
- Christ is the Living One who was dead, but is alive for ever and ever, and holds the keys of death and Hades (1:18).
- "I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will go in and eat with him, and he with me. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne" (3:20-21).
- Christ was slain, and with his blood he purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (5:9).
- "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever" (11:15).
- "Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years" (20:6).
- "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away" (21:4).
- "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son" (21:6-7).
- "The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!' Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life" (22:17).

## *Why Read the Book of Revelation?*

1. Revelation, like all Scripture, is "profitable" (2 Timothy 3:16).
2. Revelation reveals Jesus Christ like no other book (Revelation 1-22).
3. Revelation deals with "things, which must soon take place" (Revelation 1:1).
4. Revelation is the one book that promises a blessing to all who will read it (Revelation 1:3).
5. Revelation contains unique warnings and challenges to the church (Revelation 2:1-3:22).

6. Revelation discloses conditions that will be present in the end-times (Revelation 6:1-19:21).
7. Revelation is NOT to be sealed up (Revelation 22:10)

### *Resources for Future Study*

Below are just a few of the numerous books on prophecy, the End Times and the Book of Revelation. Revised versions and new volumes are released every year. For serious students, it is recommended to read a variety of authors and viewpoints.

Any books by Joel C Rosenberg, both fiction and nonfiction as well as [joelrosenberg.com](http://joelrosenberg.com)

*The Prophecy Answer Book* by David Jeremiah

*God's Final Word* by Ray Stedman

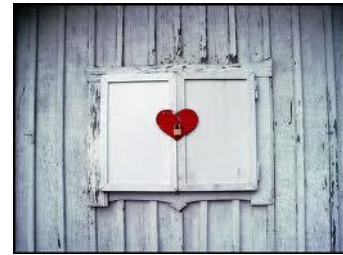
*Revelation for Everyone* by N.T. Wright

*The End* by Mark Hitchcock



# journal

## 12.7 Nitty Gritty



1. **As Children of God, New Creations, we now manifest His Glory** to the rest of mankind. We are human vessels full of His Glory; everything we become or accomplish finds its source in Him.
2. **The Glory of God is manifested** by the totality of all his attributes together. It's all that He is, all that emanates from his character, his mysterious, beautiful, magnificent, overwhelming being.
3. **God's Glory is the end of all things.** It's a big deal in the Bible.
4. **No one can see God's face and live.** His holiness will not allow it. Instead, He reveals His Glory to us, His Holiness on display in a way we can perceive it.
5. **His Glory appears as a likeness of familiar things**, but it is so much more than a bright light or twinkling cloud.
6. **To see God is to see a likeness of His Glory.** He must veil it, mute it, limit it, or we would die.
7. **Creation is one of the most obvious displays of His Glory.** Because of this we are without excuse.
8. **Sin has distorted the glory God has given to mankind.** We have exchanged our glory for His and hide from Him in shame like Adam and Eve.
9. **Idolatry worships the object through which God's Glory is manifested** as if the object is the source of the glory. God will not be mocked since all glory comes from Him. The glory of Man will fade away, the Glory of God is eternal.
10. **Jesus is the ultimate manifestation of God's Glory** and the hope of Glory for all Believers. The Hope of Glory is that we will share in His resurrection and our Heavenly Inheritance, that we will emerge from darkness into light, and become more like Jesus, eventually seeing Him as He truly is.
11. **Glorify God and Enjoy Him forever!**
12. **Extra Credit Reading:** *There are No Mansions in Heaven*, by Stan & Margie Osterbauer

# closure

## Because it matters what we think about God

We have come to the end of **Perfect Ending**, the twelfth of the 12 OmniInfinity™ Journeys. This journey has caused us to **Remember** *all our Memory Verses* and **Read** Revelations 4, 5, 21, and 22.

We **Analyzed** by completing a Review of Biblical Genres and Writing Styles: Narratives, Wisdom, Poetry, Epistles, Promises and Discourses, **Investigated** a review of all God's attributes; and reviewed all the **Practices** we have learned. We took **Inventory** of our Journey so far and went **Adventuring** by finding a Life Verse. We were challenged in **More Cool Stuff** to learn about Prophecy and the End Times including the Book of Revelation and Jesus' Second Coming. And finally, **Lyrics** spoke to our hearts and souls as we pondered through music the impact of God's Glory and our entire OmniInfinity™ journey on our lives.

The **Journal** presented the **indescribable Glory of God**. We only experience it because He reveals it to us. His magnificent creation is often our first introduction to His Glory and because it is so obvious we are without excuse and cannot say we don't know He exists. **Humans are the crown of creation as He shared His glory with us** but our sin has diminished its beauty. Man even seeks to misrepresent God's glory within us as our own glory placing ourselves in His place. **Our only hope** is to realize that **Jesus, the ultimate manifestation of God's Glory** is our only pathway back to the Glory of God.

Now it's time to **think back** over this part of your journey and **reflect** on what you have discovered and learned. The sections below may help jog your memory. **Describe** the details of any areas that **apply** to you.

### *New Things I Learned*

### *Old Things I was reminded of*



### *Questions I have*

### *Areas I was challenged in*



### *First steps I took*

*Areas I would like to study more*

*“AHA!” moments*

*Dreams and visions*



# appendix

- [About the Journeys](#)
- [About Remembering](#)
- [About the Practices](#)

## about the journeys...

Welcome to **OmniInfinity™**.. a series of guided journeys leading to greater knowledge and understanding of the attributes of God and the Spiritual Practices necessary to gain this knowledge.

The only requirement is a willingness to learn and discover through a variety of activities. Some elements you may naturally be drawn to, some will challenge you, and some may be way out of the box for you. It is important to do them all, in order, completing one journey before moving on to the next.

There are twelve journeys or units, **each designed to be completed in two months** - either by yourself, with a friend or in a small group setting. It is important to remember we all start from different places, we start with what we know and move on from there, but we are all traveling together.

## journey elements

The following elements make up each journey and should be completed in order. Some of the elements require some advance planning, so you might want to review the entire contents of each journey before you begin. Use the Table of Contents to check off your progress.

**Remember:** One or more Bible verses to memorize for each journey unit.

**Read:** Throughout the twelve journey units you will read some of the most profound and well loved chapters in the Bible.

**Analyze:** A variety of Bible Study methods will be offered to help you analyze in greater depth a section of the Reading above. The goal of this section is to familiarize you with various ways to greater understand God's Word.

**Investigate and 10 things:** Each journey unit focuses on a group of God's attributes, defining terms, and completing a directed investigation page.

**Practice and Why?:** Part of growing in our relationship with God is the intentional practice of skills that have helped Christians from the beginning. Each journey unit will focus on one or more of these with instructions for developing each discipline skill. Some Practices involve doing a specific activity, while others require we stop doing certain things.

**Inventory:** A personal inventory will be completed regarding areas related to the attributes and skills studied in each unit, reviewing your personal history and evaluating your current practices and beliefs.

**Adventuring:** This section guides you to venture out into the world with a specific assignment to observe, interact with or impact your surroundings and neighborhoods. The intent is to allow God to reveal Himself through nature, media and other people.

**Lyrics:** You are encouraged to read the included song lyrics as poetry for your inspiration, go online and listen to the actual recordings and then reflect on the questions that follow.

**Journal and More Cool Stuff:** The author has included some musings and further information pertaining to the subject of each journey unit for your consideration, personal response and reflection.

**Closure:** At the conclusion of each journey there is a place to recap where you've been, what you learned, new thoughts, challenges, growing pains.....

*enjoy the adventure ...*

## *about remembering...*



Think of this exercise as a necessary foundation for future excellence – like practicing scales on the piano or doing wind sprints or swimming laps, taking your vitamins, or eating your vegetables.

We actually recall or remember all kinds of things we've memorized without really even trying. Can you think of any?

How about your phone number, email address, street address, zip code, social security number, birthday, names of your family, how to get to work, how to drive a car, that secret recipe....or how to spell or multiply, song lyrics, movie scenes, jokes, what someone was wearing, what car they drove, sports statistics, what chocolate tastes like, what the ocean smells like, and on and on.

### **Why do we remember what we remember?**

Recollection is just the tip of the memory iceberg. Within our marvelous and mysterious brain the memory works in collaboration with us and the world – it uses all our senses and emotions. We associate smells, colors, places, rituals, symbols, landmarks, even people, with memories and when we sense the trigger, we remember.

There are tremendous spiritual benefits from Remembering Bible verses:

- Strengthens our faith
- Shapes how we view the world
- Makes God's Word immediately accessible
- Guards our minds.....and that's just for starters.

Experts say that we will forget more in the first hour after our memory event than in one day, and more in the first day than the first month...What we remember for one month, will probably stay with us.....so the idea is to remember regularly for one month and we've got it.

Here are some suggestions to help you get started. We all learn differently – so don't be afraid to try some of the more unusual methods. Not only do we need to remember the verse, **we need to remember to work on remembering the verse.**

- Write the verse on several post it notes or index cards and put them where you will see them such as the car, the bathroom mirror, the kitchen sink, a bulletin board, your computer screen saver, your cell phone, by your bed....
- Make plans to spend five minutes, twice a day (usually as you get up and before bed) to review.
- Say it slowly, 15 times in a row, emphasizing each word.
- If you have already learned it in another translation, review that one. Once you know it in one, look it up in a couple of other translations to see what is different.
- Review it when you are waiting in line, or on hold on the phone.
- Sing it – make up a tune to go with it
- For extra credit, add the verse before and the verse after.

## about the practices...

The Spiritual Practices put us in a place where we are better able to interact with our environment and God. God can then reach inside our spirits and transform them.

Just as our body needs to eat, breathe, exercise, drink, sleep, etc., so our spiritual self needs to make sure it is being sustained, cared for, and trained.

The results include spiritual growth, a life controlled by the Holy Spirit, evidence of the fruit of the spirit, and the ultimate goal, living life like Jesus did.

### The Spiritual Practices are not:

- Meritorious laws that earn favor with God
- A way to show how spiritually mature we are
- Unpleasant or difficult

### Instead, they are:

- Intentional
- Activities we do that when practiced allow us to do activities we cannot now do.
- Adaptable to work with our temperaments and gifts
- Adjustable according to the rhythm and seasons of our lives

## There are two kinds

**Practices of Abstinence** - when we stop doing something that is perfectly normal to allow ourselves to focus more on God, His Word, and growing in godliness. These also help us resist our tendency toward sins of commission (when we do something we shouldn't do). We withdraw to breathe in all that God can provide to us, breaking the hold that the world has on our lives. Practices of Abstinence help ready us and create room for the Practices of Engagement.

**Practices of Engagement** - when we do certain activities that help us grow in Christ and obey his commandments. The Practices of Abstinence have opened up the time and broken up the preoccupations so we are now free to learn of, focus on, and practice those things that God commands us to do. These assist in keeping us from our tendency toward sins of omission (not doing the things we should do). We engage to breathe out all that God commands us. <sup>11</sup>

As their name implies, the Spiritual Practices are not one-time events, but skills to be learned and developed over time. So don't be discouraged in the beginning if you struggle with them or find them difficult. Make them a regular part of your life. In our Journeys we would rather **emphasize the actual practicing of the Practices** and not so much the reading about them.....and let you discover the benefits as they appear in your life.

## credits

All scripture references noted by NIV are taken from The Holy Bible, The New International Version, by International Bible Society, 1984, Zondervan Publishers, Grand Rapids.

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All lyrics, youtube videos, and song facts are credited within the Lyrics element and linked to their online sources.

### **Author's End Note:**

I want to thank you for journeying with us as you seek to know our Most High God in greater depth and become more like Him every day. OmniInfinity™ began in 2007 as a 12 week study I developed at the request of the Women's Ministry at the church we were attending. That initial group of 30 women and one man helped launch my own journey as I followed God's leading in writing and rewriting what I offer to others today.

I first want to thank my glorious God and Jesus Christ for this opportunity and the experience of creating something that I know will change lives for Him. My family, especially my husband, has been a source of constant encouragement and creative inspiration and I thank them so much. In addition, this would never have happened without the support of my church and its leaders, both men and women, who provided the space for me to create and launch.

Along the way there have been many who have provided that extra push and necessary confidence when I faltered and was ready to quit. God sent some to remind me to refocus my attention on Him and not on earthly praise. I was often reminded that anything worthwhile for Him does not happen without great resistance and attack. There were many naysayers and even to this day, when I share what I am doing, many quickly change the subject or their eyes glaze over.

While I do have a university degree, I do not have a seminary degree and in Christian circles that alone deems one less credible or untrained. However, in life experience and spiritual gifting I have much education. While I am a woman, I do not consider this effort a women's only experience. Many men have participated and seen much spiritual growth in their lives. I want to especially thank some very godly and well trained men, all pastors and teachers, who have also enthusiastically supported my writing journey.

I am often asked if this will ever be published in book form. While I love reading books and own many, both hard copy and digital, I do not wish OmniInfinity™ to be another book that gets put on the shelf and never opened. This is not a money making venture and I wish as many people as possible to have access to it. Because of this we offer it online to download for no cost. Use the digital copy or print it out and use it that way. God knows who needs to use it.

**Our only request is that you not sell it and or misrepresent the work as belonging to anyone else than the author.**

OmniInfinity™ is not your usual Bible study. It is much, much, more and it will also take more time than the popular 6 to 12 week studies we often join. Probably years more time. What started out as 11 week long units has become 12 journey units, each taking a minimum of 2 months each. There are no teaching videos or podcasts to watch and listen to. You have to do the work, engage the material, struggle to learn to feed yourself and let the Spirit transform your life.

And finally, I want to thank a special young woman, wife, mother and teacher. I have had the privilege of working through these journeys with her in a one on one mentoring relationship for many years. We are not done. Her growth is so encouraging and she has become a dear friend and fellow pilgrim. She was the first to graduate all 12 OmniInfinity™ journey units.

Once again To God Be the Glory, All thanks to Jesus!

And thank you once again: Greg, Tiffany, Josh, Sue, Bev, Kimberly, Fred, Marc, Jim, Matt, Saul, Phyllis, Ryan, Carrie, Mary Kay, Kathy, Keith, Sandy, Christi, Casey and extra special thanks to Tara.