



# DAILY READING NOTES TERM 4 2016

## VICTORY: REVELATION 6-22

Week	Passage	Theme
1	Revelation 1-5	Revelation recap – Worthy!
2	Revelation 6:1-8:5	Salvation and Judgement
3	Revelation 8:6-11:19	God and the Lamb will Reign Forever
4	Revelation 12:1-13:18	Defeated but Dangerous
5	Revelation 14:1-15:4	Bloody Victory
6	Revelation 15:5-16:21	Still Cursing
7	Revelation 17:1-19:10	The Wedding of the Lamb
8	Revelation 19:11-20:15	The Rider's Victory
9	Revelation 21	Glorious Beauty
10	Revelation 22	He is coming soon

**We want to encourage each other to be on mission to our non-Christian friends, family and contacts.**

Who are you on mission to?

Make a list and start praying for them (and yourself).

**Pray for three friends, once a week, for one minute (3-1-1).**

List the names of your family and friends here:

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## How to use this book:

### 1. PERSONAL READING

- Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day.
- Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day, and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His Word.

### 2. GROWTH GROUPS

- Take this guide with you to your Growth Group each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.
- Let your group know who you are on mission to.

### 3. CHURCH

- Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church.
- Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.

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# INTRODUCTION

## VICTORY-REVELATION 6-22

**Revelation has been called “the most misunderstood book in the Bible.” No doubt this is because of the amazingly rich imagery that runs through the entire book. It’s difficult to see whether one image chronologically follows the next image in the book, or is that image more like a prequel, or is it a repetition of the same event from a different perspective? It gets even more difficult as you try to work out when one image stops and the next one starts because Revelation is so highly interconnected. These complexities mean that many of the smaller details in Revelation are confusing, but there are several clear big ideas that really help us understand the more confusing parts.**

In the preface to his book, *The Throne, the Lamb & the Dragon*, Paul Spilsbury writes, “Anticipating a book of dark riddles and impenetrable mysteries, I discovered instead a clear and pointed message.”

### What is Revelation about?

Revelation is a vision. God gave the vision to Jesus, who gave it to an angel, who gave it to John, who, in turn, gave it to us! (Revelation 1:1-3) This means that what we read of John’s vision comes with God’s own authority. Ultimately, Revelation is a vision about God. It’s a vision about the grace and peace given to the church by God the Father, Son and Spirit (Revelation 1:4-5). This grace and peace has been won by the death of Jesus and will be fully received when He returns (Revelation 1:6-8). As Revelation describes who God is and what He has done, is doing, and will do, it builds our anticipation of the grace and peace we are receiving. At the heart of God’s plans is the Lamb. The Lamb’s victory over the Dragon is the victory that secures the salvation of His people.

### How should we understand the imagery in Revelation?

Revelation is a circular letter written to the seven churches specified in 1:4-11. It’s full of imagery that would have been familiar to its first-century audience, focusing on three particular spheres: 1. The Old Testament; 2. First-century mythology; and 3. First-century fears. For example, Revelation uses the Old Testament image of the devil as a dragon or serpent. First-century mythology held that the deceased emperor, Nero would return one day leading the Parthian army to defeat the Roman empire, an image picked up in Revelation 17:8 as “the beast who was and is not and is about to ascend from the bottomless pit.” First-century fears of Parthian invasion from the East are played upon in Revelation 9:13-19 as judgement comes from the

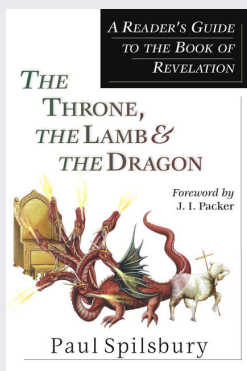


Euphrates River.

Does this mean we need to be experts in first-century mythology and history to understand Revelation? No doubt such an understanding may help us to appreciate the imagery more deeply. What it really means is that we shouldn't think that Revelation's images are portraying events that first-century people couldn't understand. We shouldn't expect to be able to identify the characters in all of the images with our contemporary world. The beast is not North Korea! Credit cards are not the mark of the beast! However, as images in Revelation represent first-century figures such as Nero, they have something bigger in view. The beast in chapter 17 that points to Nero, for example, also points beyond him to God's enemies in every age, including our own.

## When is Revelation set?

Revelation spans all of history. Some elements of the imagery represent the past (God's creation of the world, Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross); many elements represent the present age (Satan's restricted power because of Jesus' death on the cross, the death of many martyrs); and other elements represent the future (Satan's final attack, which Jesus will defeat, and the wedding between Christ and His bride, the church). If we don't remember the significance of Jesus' victory at the cross, we may misinterpret all of the victories in Revelation as if they are awaiting us in the future. If we downplay the reality of a future judgement then we may mistakenly think that many of the victories in Revelation have already passed, and have wrong expectations for life now.



## SUGGESTED READING

### *The Throne, The Lamb & The Dragon, Paul Spilsbury*

This little book is a great explanation of lots of the themes and big ideas of Revelation. It will help you to understand what each of the images in Revelation means, and where they come from. Revelation isn't just a jumble of puzzling images, but they fit together to tell one coherent story. It's a true story, not just about the future, but life now. It's only 151 pages long, and includes suggestions for other reading if you want to learn more.

# WEEK 1: REVELATION 1-5 RECAP

**Before we jump into Revelation 6, let's catch up on the first five chapters of the book. The rest of this week will focus on John's great vision of God and the Lamb in chapters 4-5 – the heart of almost everything that happens in the whole book – but just for today we'll go right back to the beginning.**

## DAY 1

### Read Revelation 1:1-8

Let's see what we can learn about Revelation from the start of the book.

1. In the first few verses, we see that there were four sources of this revelation. Which is the original source?
2. Revelation constantly enlarges our view of God – Father, Son and Spirit. How many different ways is God described here, and what are those descriptions?
3. There are very clear distinctions in Revelation about who should be worshipped and who mustn't be. Who is worshipped in these verses, and why?

**Prayer.** Ask God, the source of this revelation, to enlarge our view of Him so that we'd be driven to worship.

# WORTHY!

## DAY 2

### Read Revelation 4

The imagery in this chapter is remarkable. At the centre is the Lord God Almighty, who is surrounded by circles of amazing creatures.

1. Try to describe or draw what John saw. What is in each layer surrounding the throne?
2. Why do these creatures worship the One on the throne?
3. What does this scene tell us about the Lord God Almighty?

**Prayer:** Join the creatures in praising God for who He is and what He's done.

# WEEK 1: REVELATION 1-5 RECAP

## DAY 3

### Read Revelation 5

1. The elder's description that John hears in verse 5 may lead you to expect to see something different to what John sees in verse 6. What is so glorious about a slain Lamb?
2. Why is the Lamb worthy to open the scroll?
3. Why is the Lamb worthy to be included in the worship received by Him who sits on the throne?

**Prayer:** Join the creatures in praising the Lamb for who He is and what He's done.



# WORTHY!

## DAY 4

Revelation constantly uses borrowed imagery to make a point. Revelation 4 and 5 particularly draw on the imagery in Daniel 7.

### Read Daniel 7:9-14

1. What does Daniel 7:9-14 have in common with Revelation 4 and 5?
2. What extra dimension does Revelation 5:6, 9 and 12 add to the picture of the Son of Man in Daniel 7:13-14?
3. If a Jewish person (who was familiar with Daniel 7) read Revelation 5 for the first time, how might they react?

**Prayer.** Ask God to help people understand that the death of the Son of Man wasn't a defeat, but victory.

# WEEK 1: REVELATION 1-5 RECAP

## DAY 5

Revelation 4 and 5 provide such a rich and awesome picture of God and the Lamb.

Today, simply read and enjoy Revelation 4 and 5 again, and then use the praise and songs of the creatures to praise God again for who He is and what He's done. They praise Him day and night! The only thing that interrupts their praise is that when Jesus appears, the song changes.

# WORTHY!

## NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

# WEEK 2: REVELATION 6:1-8:5

## DAY 1

### Read Revelation 6:1-8

1. The opening of the seven seals of victory from the scroll is a description of what's currently happening in our world. The opening of the seals results in astounding suffering in the world. Who brought on this suffering?
2. What kind of judgement does each of the four riders bring to the world?
3. Using your knowledge of the rest of the Bible (perhaps Luke 13:1-5), why would the Lamb do something like this?

**Prayer:** Ask God to bring about repentance across the whole world, that suffering would lead people to fear God and the Lamb's judgement.

# SALVATION AND JUDGEMENT

## DAY 2

### Read Revelation 6:9-17

1. Chapter 6 finishes with a picture of the worldwide defeat of the enemies of God and the Lamb as an answer to prayer! Why did they pray for this?
2. Why would Christians hesitate to ask God to judge the earth and avenge the blood of martyrs?
3. The opening of the sixth seal of victory is a sign that the opening of the final seal is not far off. What hope do people have of withstanding the great day of the wrath of Him who sits on the throne and of the Lamb?

**Prayer:** Ask God for two things: that the great day of vengeance would come quickly, but that He'd delay a little longer so more people can come to faith in Jesus and withstand the day of judgement.

# WEEK 2: REVELATION 6:1-8:5

## DAY 3

Revelation frequently uses special numbers. The most popular numbers are 7, 4, 12 and 3. There's no magical code behind them, but they're generally used to communicate something like the idea of 'completeness' or 'entirety'. '7' just refers to completeness, '4' often refers to the entire world (four corners, four winds), and '12' often describes the full number of the people of God (12 tribes of Israel, 12 disciples). This just means that we don't need to take the numbers literally, but figuratively. Also  $3+4=7$ , and  $3\times 4=12$ , which is unimportant but cool. Revelation 7 is a great example of the figurative use of numbers:  $12 \times 12,000$  describes the full number of the people of God (the fact that this is chapter 7 is insignificant because the chapter numbers were added long after the letter was written).

### Read Revelation 7:1-8

1. Why are the angels holding back the wind?
2. Who is sealed?
3. What happens to those who are sealed?

**Prayer.** Thank God for the way He delays the final day of judgement in such a way that His servants can be spared.



# SALVATION AND JUDGEMENT

## DAY 4

Some religious groups believe that the 144,000 described in yesterday's passage are a special group of exactly 144,000 people. They believe this group receives special treatment in heaven (generally they get bigger castles, and more Ferraris!).

### Read Revelation 7:9-17

1. If this is the same group as in yesterday's passage, how does verse 9 challenge the conclusion that this group is exactly 144,000 people?
2. In Revelation 5:5-6, John hears about the Lion of the tribe of Judah but sees a Lamb. Then John hears about the tribes of Judah and sees a multitude from every nation. Could this multitude be the same group as the 144,000 from the tribes of Judah?
3. Worship (serving God) is the only activity of the people in white robes. Why do they worship?

**Prayer:** Use the praise of the people in white robes to praise God and the Lamb for salvation!

# WEEK 2: REVELATION 6:1-8:5

## DAY 5

### Read Revelation 8:1-5

1. Finally, the seventh seal of victory is opened by the Lamb and the prayer of Revelation 6:10 is being answered. What in Revelation 8:1-5 shows us that the opening of this seal is an answer to prayer?
2. The Lamb opened the seal, but what is the ultimate source of the fire hurled down on the earth by the angel? Does Revelation 4:5 help?
3. With the completion of the seven seals of victory, not much actually happens. The seventh seal begins a series of seven trumpets, which repeat the same events as the seals but more intensely. The completion of the trumpets also begins another series of images which repeat the same events again more intensely, and so-on. Revelation really is just repeating the same idea over and over and over. What do you think that idea might be so far?

**Prayer.** Ask God to help you see reality from His perspective, and that you'd be able to interpret everything you see in the light of 'the real world' displayed in Revelation.

# SALVATION AND JUDGEMENT

## NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

# WEEK 3: REVELATION 8:6-11:19

Last week we saw that the opening of the seven seals of victory released trials that believers had to pass through. Today we'll start to look at seven trumpets of victory. Many of the ideas we read about in the seals passages are repeated in the trumpets passages, but there are some differences. Rather than releasing trials to be endured, the trumpets and the woes they trigger are primarily about punishment. The first six trumpets are sounded in the time we live in today, and the seventh trumpet will be sounded at the final judgement in the future.

## DAY 1

### Read Revelation 8:6-13

1. What indications are there in the passage that these punishments are restrained?
2. The consequences of the first four trumpets of victory might seem familiar. When God rescued Israel from Egypt, He did it in a similar way. You might like to see that for yourself:
  - a. The first trumpet corresponds to Exodus 9:22-25
  - b. The second and third to Exodus 7:20-25
  - c. The fourth to Exodus 10:21-23.
3. God's purpose in the Exodus plagues was to harden Pharaoh's heart so that he would not release Israel (Exodus 4:21) and to give God the opportunity to display how powerful He is compared to the Egyptians (Exodus 10:1-2). Could God be doing the same thing through the trumpets in Revelation 8?

**Prayer.** Praise God for His amazing strength against His enemies, and His protective love for His people. You might like to use Psalm 136 as a guide.

# GOD AND THE LAMB WILL REIGN FOREVER

## DAY 2

### Read Revelation 8:13-9:12

1. Just as in Exodus, the trumpet-punishments get more intense as they continue. The fifth trumpet of victory brings greater woes than the first four. Again this trumpet relates to one of the Exodus displays of God's power (Exodus 10:12-15). Just as in the Exodus plagues, how does the fifth trumpet show God's restraint?
2. This trumpet releases some very strange locusts on the Earth. They're ruled by the angel Abaddon/Apollyon (which means 'Destroyer'), but their power is restricted in two ways.
  - a. How is their power restricted against God's people?
  - b. How is their power restricted against everyone else?

**Prayer:** Ask God to continue to restrain His righteous punishment from people who don't yet trust Jesus. Ask for time and opportunities for them to hear the gospel.

# WEEK 3: REVELATION 8:6-11:19

## DAY 3

### Read Revelation 9:13-21

1. The sixth trumpet of victory releases some terrifying riders. Look at how they're described and try to imagine twice ten thousand times ten thousand killing a third of humanity. How would you describe this scene?
2. Does God's judgement against humanity seem fair?
3. Why do you think the survivors of this massacre won't repent? What's their attitude towards God?

**Prayer:** Plead with God again to bring His enemies to worship Him rather than continue down the path they're on.



# GOD AND THE LAMB WILL REIGN FOREVER

## DAY 4

### Read Revelation 10:1-11

1. Who does this mighty angel remind you of with his clouds (Revelation 1:7), rainbows (Revelation 4:3), face like the sun (Revelation 1:16) and fiery legs (Revelation 1:15)?
2. John's recommissioning in 10:9-11 repeats Ezekiel's commissioning in Ezekiel 2:8-3:3. The sweetness of the scroll in the mouth refers to the privilege and joy it is for John to speak God's words, even words of judgement. The lasting bitterness refers to his grief over the way that people will ignore God's words. Thinking about God's judgement has two simultaneous but opposite effects on John.

How does thinking about judgement change when it's from the perspective of:

- a. God, who has been sinned against?
- b. The world, which continues to sin against God?
- c. Believers, who have been spared the judgement they deserve?

**Prayer:** Pray in response to God's judgement, and the many different responses that it should bring about in us, for God's glory, for the world's salvation, and for our own thankfulness.

# WEEK 3: REVELATION 8:6-11:19

## DAY 5

A lot has happened since the sixth trumpet of victory sounded in 9:13. In chapter 11, we see the end of the second woe (the second woe spans 9:12-11:14) and the beginning of the third (which starts in 11:15). It begins with two mysterious figures.

### Read Revelation 11:1-19

1. These two witnesses are probably Moses and Elijah (Malachi 4:1-6). Why are they hated in Revelation 11?
2. God's purposes appear to fail, but then everything turns around to an amazing victory. How is this like the time we live in now?
3. This isn't the first time we've seen lightning, rumblings etc. Compare 11:19 with 4:5 and 8:5. On each occasion, God is appearing to execute the final judgement. After each of these appearances, the amazing visions reset, and start again from another perspective. Can you summarise what's been described with the seven trumpets of victory?

**Prayer.** Ask God to help us see that the time we live in is coming to an end, and to deeply understand what the end will look like.

# GOD AND THE LAMB WILL REIGN FOREVER

## NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

# WEEK 4: REVELATION 12:1-13:18

Revelation 11:17 briefly introduced the beast. The rest of Revelation will focus a lot on the conflict between the two witnesses and the beast. This week we'll look at chapters 12 and 13, which zoom in on that conflict. Today's passage shows that this conflict is really the story of the gospel. We'll see over these two chapters that the child represents Jesus, the Dragon represents Satan, and the woman doesn't represent Mary, but the people of God who follow after the firstborn son.

## DAY 1

### Read Revelation 12:1-9

1. The symbols of three-and-a-half days, and 1260 days (or 3.5 years), were used in chapter 11 to refer to the time between the apparent victory of the beast and the ultimate victory of God (11:9-11). What timeframe does the three-and-a-half symbol refer to in 12:5-6?
2. Are we currently living after, during, or before the three-and-a-half days/years?
3. The three-and-a-half days/years refers to the time between Jesus' ascension and His return to judge, the time that we currently live in.<sup>1</sup> How does this picture, painted in 12:1-9, change the way we view Satan's work in the world today? How does it affect the way we view hostility against Jesus today?

**Prayer.** Praise God that He's set the time when the Lamb will return to conquer! Ask Him to help you change areas in your life that aren't consistent with the reality of where history is heading.

<sup>1</sup>This time is a time of 'tribulation' predicted in Daniel 7, 9 and 12.

# DEFEATED BUT DANGEROUS

## DAY 2

Yesterday, we saw how Satan's attempts to destroy Jesus had been thwarted by God. Ultimately, Satan himself was defeated. Today, John looks at that same scenario from a different perspective, with Satan's frustration brought into view, and we see him turning his anger against Christians.

### Read Revelation 12:10-17

1. This passage begins with a song. The song is a mix of rejoicing and mourning. What's the reason for rejoicing, and what's the reason for mourning?
2. Verse 14 describes the same event as verse 6. The woman is protected for three-and-a-half 'times'. During this time, Satan goes to war against the people of God. These people are described in a similar way in verses 11 and 17. What's the similarity, and how does it help us to know what to expect as we wait for Jesus' return?
3. Salvation is already here (verse 10). Satan has already been triumphed over 'by the blood of the lamb' (verse 11). However, there is still a period remaining when Satan is dangerous. In what ways do you personally need to be careful of letting go of the testimony about Jesus?

**Prayer:** Praise God for the great salvation He's already achieved in Jesus. Ask Him for abundant help as you hold fast to your testimony about Jesus.

# WEEK 4: REVELATION 12:1-13:18

## DAY 3

A lot of the imagery in Revelation comes from the book of Daniel, especially in the chapters we're looking at this week. The symbolic numbers '4' (which represents the entire world) and '3.5' (which represents a very specific period in history) make key appearances. Daniel 7:15-28 is an interpretation of a dream Daniel had, and the interpretation itself was given to Daniel in a dream! The original dream is recorded in 7:1-14.

### Read Daniel 7:15-28

1. At the end of this dream, the kingdom of God is described as an everlasting kingdom. All of God's enemies have had their power taken away. But Daniel describes himself as "deeply troubled". Apart from the confusing nature of a dream with so much imagery, what does the dream say about the future that is troubling?
2. The time before the court sits (verse 26) and takes away the power of God's enemies is a time of incredible distress for God's people. They're taken into the hands of God's enemies for three-and-a-half 'times' (verse 25). How should knowing that Satan's rule is limited to exactly three-and-a-half times help us to endure while we're 'in' the three-and-a-half times?
3. John's vision in Revelation 12 is very similar to Daniel's in Daniel 7. How does knowing that God's plan hasn't changed between Daniel and Revelation change the way we might feel about the time we live in?

**Prayer.** Given that Satan has been defeated by the blood of the Lamb, but still has a limited time of influence, ask God to help you endure these troubling times and hold fast to Jesus until the end.



# DEFEATED BUT DANGEROUS

## DAY 4

Now that the Dragon's attempts have been frustrated, it attempts to use two beasts to attack Christians. The first beast, in today's passage, is a combination of the four beasts from Daniel 7, which each represented an ancient kingdom. This beast is a superpower, representing all of the evil systems of the world – political, military, social, economic and religious. Historically, the first beast represents Rome, with her world-conquering armies and blasphemous claims of divinity.

### Read Revelation 13:1-10

1. Verses 3 and 4 show that the beast is being set-up as a replacement Jesus and replacement God. How does a miraculous recovery from an apparently mortal wound setup the beast as an alternate Jesus?
2. Every person in the world is described as worshipping the Beast and the Dragon, except for those written in the Lamb's book of life. How are those written in the Lamb's book of life protected?
3. How many years does 42 months add up to? What is this number meant to remind us about the power of God's enemies?

**Prayer:** Verses 9 and 10 show that captivity and death are real possibilities for those who don't worship the beast. Plead with God for patient endurance and faithfulness, even in the face of imprisonment and death.

# WEEK 4: REVELATION 12:1-13:18

## DAY 5

The second Beast is a public-relations consultant for the first Beast. Historically, it stands for the Roman Imperial cult, the state-sponsored and state-enforced worship of the Roman Emperor. It has control over worship and over the economy.

### Read Revelation 13:11-18

1. Are all forms of devotion and worship good and pure? Which aren't?
2. This Beast performs miracles like Elijah! (1 Kings 18). Sometimes miracles are done by those with the Spirit of God, other times they're done by those with the spirit of the Dragon. How can we tell the difference?
3. The number of the Beast doesn't stand for VISA card (of course, we all know it stands for MasterCard...). In fact, it's the number of a particular historical man's name, the Roman Emperor Nero Caesar<sup>2</sup>. But as with every other image in Revelation, Nero represents something that goes beyond his immediate historical setting; he represents God's enemies in every age. Could the number '666' represent just one current worldwide figure, or can you see aspects of over-reaching state powers, which seize what rightly belongs to God and Christ in many kingdoms?

**Prayer:** All people who don't know Christ worship the first beast at the call of the second beast. Some blindly, others knowingly, but none innocently. Ask God to spare many more from this false-worship by the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>2</sup> See Paul Spilsbury's, *The Throne, the Lamb & The Dragon*, pages 99-104.

# DEFEATED BUT DANGEROUS

## NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

# WEEK 5: REVELATION 14:1-15:4

Last week we saw that the only thing that could protect us from false worship of the Beasts and the Dragon is a connection with the Lamb (13:8). This week we'll see that once the three-and-a-half times, days or years have passed, not only will the Lamb have protected His people, but His victory will be shockingly one-sided. There will be a lot of blood in this week's passages.

Last week we were introduced to the challengers in one corner. Today, we'll be introduced to the reigning champion.

## DAY 1

### Read Revelation 14:1-5

1. Rather than standing where the Dragon stood by the sea, the Lamb stands on Mount Zion, the true city of God in the Old Testament, often connected with the end of the age. How else is the Lamb contrasted with the Dragon and the Beasts?
  - a. Tattoos (compare 14:1 and 13:16-17)
  - b. Origin of the Beasts (13:1 and 13:11)
  - c. Origin of the Lamb (14:2 and 14:5)
2. Last week, people could only purchase things if they worshipped the Beast by marking themselves symbolically with '666'. In today's passage, Jesus makes it possible for us to worship Him by purchasing us with His blood! Look at how Jesus' death (referred to as 'redemption' in verse 3) brings about a new song, just as in Revelation 5:6-10! Could Revelation 14:3 be describing the same event as Revelation 5:9, but in more detail?

**Prayer:** Thank God that, even though we still live in a time where Satan has some power, Satan's power has been ultimately and decisively dealt with by the Lamb. Ask for patience to wait faithfully for the final victory.

# BLOODY VICTORY

## DAY 2

### Read Revelation 14:6-13

1. The first angel commands people to fear and worship God. What are the two reasons given for:
  - a. Why does the angel call people to fear God?
  - b. Why does the angel call people to worship God?
2. The second angel declares the coming defeat of Babylon. In the time of Daniel, Babylon was to Israel what Rome became to the church – an ungodly world power calling for Israel to worship Babylon's gods. Sometimes authors even called Rome by the name 'Babylon'. This is a declaration of the future defeat of the Beast from chapter 13. How do you feel about the news that defeat is coming for the powers of our world?
3. The third angel declares God's judgement against those who worship the Beast. How does the intensity of God's judgement in verses 10 and 11 compare to the judgement by the Beast in 13:10, 15 and 17? Which is more terrifying?

**Prayer:** Ask God for patient endurance in keeping His commands and remaining faithful to Jesus (verse 12). Thank God for the security and reward that we have, even in death (verse 13).

# WEEK 5: REVELATION 14:1-15:4

## DAY 3

Today's passage is a picture of two events. The double-image comes from Joel 3:13. First, in Revelation 14:14-16, the harvest of the 'firstfruits', which is the harvesting of the first sheaves of a grain harvest, indicating that the harvest to follow would be plentiful. The second image, in verses 17-20, is a wine vintage – the gathering and treading of grapes. Some people think these two agricultural events are actually just one harvest. See what you think. What difference would it make?

### Read Revelation 14:14-20

1. Could the two images in today's passage be related to two images from earlier in Revelation 14?
  - a. See the "great winepress of the wrath of God" (14:19) with the "wine of God's fury" (14:10).
  - b. See the firstfruits of the grain harvest (14:16) with those gathered by the Lamb, "purchased from among mankind and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb" (14:4).
2. In the rest of the Bible, the images of grain harvests and reaping are used to describe salvation (except that sometimes threshing and the burning of chaff are included, to describe judgement). In Revelation 14:
  - a. how many stages are there to the grain harvest (verse 16)?
  - b. and how many stages are there to the vintage (verses 19-20)?



# BLOODY VICTORY

Another reason to see today's passage as describing two events is this: the collector of the firstfruits is 'one like a son of man', however, the collectors of the grapes are angels. The description 'one like a son of man' comes from Daniel 7:13-14, where this 'one' comes specifically to receive his universal kingdom. Therefore, while Jesus is described as a judge in other passages (e.g. in Revelation 14:20, Jesus treads the winepress), the title 'one like a son of man' emphasises Jesus' kingship over His own people. The two events described in today's passage will happen at the same time, but our prayers will be different as we consider the two different events.

**Prayer:** Because the coming of the "one like a son of man" means the salvation of Christians, pray that God would bring the Lord Jesus soon. Because the coming of the two angels means the bloody judgement of those who aren't Christians, pray that God would wait just a little longer, that they might believe.

# WEEK 5: REVELATION 14:1-15:4

## DAY 4

Psalms 11:5 says, "The LORD examines the righteous, but the wicked, those who love violence, he hates with a passion."

God's hatred of violence is complex. God's love for His own people sometimes leads him to act incredibly violently, such as in yesterday's passage – Revelation 14:20, where God's enemies are "trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of [300 kilometres]." In today's passage, we see the connection between the salvation of God's people, and the destruction of God's enemies.

### Read Isaiah 63:1-6

1. This glorious figure says that he's "trodden the winepress alone" (verse 2). Verse 5 repeats the same idea with more detail. What does this tell us about ourselves, if salvation was achieved entirely by this figure?
2. His actions are described as "redeeming" (verse 4) and "saving" (verse 5). However, there are other motivations repeated more times in this passage. Some people might call anger, wrath and vengeance 'negative' motivations. How is it good that this figure acts so violently out of this combination of motivations?
3. Isaiah 63 goes on to describe God as the Lord of "compassion and many kindnesses", a God of "love and mercy" (63:7-9). God's violence against His enemies is actually compassion and kindness to God's people, as He rescues them in love and mercy from their oppressors. Do you struggle to praise God for His violent salvation (if so, why)?

**Prayer.** Ask God to give you clarity about His actions and motivations in salvation, that you'd be able to praise Him wholeheartedly for all that He will do.

# BLOODY VICTORY

## DAY 5

God's violent victory over His enemies in yesterday's passage means salvation and life for His people. Today we'll see that God's people aren't just from one nation, but from all over the world.

### Read Revelation 15:1-4

1. This song is called the 'song of God's servant Moses and of the Lamb'. It's an interpretation of the song of Moses in Exodus 15:1-18. It particularly brings out the world-wide salvation that God brings. What are the three ways that this song highlights the global nature of God's salvation?
2. Only Israel had God's Law in the Old Testament. How does the inclusion of 'the Lamb' in the description of the song (verse 3) help to expand the vision of God's salvation beyond the nation of Israel? In other words, how does the Lamb create the opportunity for people to become God's people?
3. Verse 1 introduces the seven last plagues, which will begin to be released in tomorrow's passage. Moses and plagues are key features of the exodus from Egypt. How is it good (so good that it's worth singing about) that God would release plagues on the Earth?

**Prayer:** Join in with the song of those who had been victorious over the Beast and its image, and over the number of its name. If you have a harp, you might be able to sing it!

# WEEK 6: REVELATION 15:5-16:21

The seven angels with the seven last plagues of victory were introduced in Revelation 15:1 “with them God’s wrath is completed.” Verses 2-4 then returned to the joyful victory of those who serve the Lamb. In 15:5-8, we return to the seven angels with the seven last plagues of victory to see a summary of what they do.

## DAY 1

### Read Revelation 15:5-8

1. Where do these angels come from in this passage?
2. Where do the four living creatures come from in Revelation 4?
3. If God’s temple (where the angels come from), and God’s throne (where the four living creatures come from) are the ultimate source of the seven last plagues of victory, it shows that God Himself is the source of the judgement and suffering about to be poured out in Revelation 16. If you accept that God would never be unfair, what do these plagues tell us about the guilt of God’s enemies?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you have a clear understanding of how terrible it is to sin against Him, and that this understanding would help you to live a more holy life.

# STILL CURSING

## DAY 2

Yesterday, we saw that the plagues of Victory of Revelation 16 come from God Himself. Today, we'll see how severe God's judgement is, but also how fair it is. There are three charges made against God's enemies in this passage.

### Read Revelation 16:1-9

1. From the passage, what have God's enemies done in relation to the Beast, and why is that worthy of God's anger?
2. What have God's enemies done in relation to God's people, and why is that worthy of God's anger?
3. What do God's enemies continue to do, and why is that worthy of God's anger?

NB: We will revisit this passage again in two days.

**Prayer:** Thank God for the two thousand years that have passed since Christ's death, which have given people the opportunity to repent and be spared God's fair anger.

# WEEK 6: REVELATION 15:5-16:21

## DAY 3

We've seen that a lot of the imagery in Revelation is taken from the Old Testament. However, it's not just that imagery, but also human nature has stayed the same from the time of the Old Testament, until our present time – the time that much of Revelation 16 describes. Today we'll see the expectation in Daniel 12 that people won't stop being wicked, even in the face of God's judgement. This final chapter of Daniel begins halfway through a prophecy Daniel was delivering to King Darius.

### Read Daniel 12

1. How can you tell that verses 1-4 are talking about the same time periods spoken about in Revelation?
  - a. The time before the final judgement
  - b. The time of the final judgement
2. Verse 10 shows that even as God's judgement is announced and approaching, 'the wicked will continue to be wicked'. How could this change the way we think about what kind of punishment is fair?
3. The symbolic idea of 'three and a half' (here in verses 7, 11 and 12) is familiar to us after reading Revelation 11 and 12 where it describes the time between Jesus' ascension and His return to judge. We can't know when Jesus will return (because three and a half is symbolic) but we are told how to live while we wait. What does Daniel 12 add to our understanding of how we should wait?

**Prayer.** Ask again for God's help in understanding that His judgements are fair, and praise Him for the everlasting life that He offers in Jesus instead of judgement and everlasting contempt!

# STILL CURSING

## DAY 4

Two days ago, when we first looked at this passage, we saw that God's judgement is fair because of the severity of God's enemies' sin. We saw the same thing in Daniel 12 yesterday, that the wicked continue to be wicked. Today, we'll consider the severity of God's judgement.

### Read Revelation 16:1-9

1. Two of the plagues of victory are about blood. How does turning the sea, rivers and springs into blood punish God's enemies, and why has He chosen this particular punishment?
2. The plagues are meant to remind us of the ten plagues God sent upon Egypt in Exodus 7-12. Those plagues were a warning – Pharaoh must free Israel or worse judgements will come. Is there any mention of these plagues in Revelation 16 being a warning?
3. Verses 5-7 seem like a strange place to burst out in song. What's the song all about?

**Prayer:** If vengeance was up to us, our judgements wouldn't be perfectly 'true and just'. Thank God that 'vengeance belongs to the Lord', so that His enemies who refuse to repent will be punished exactly as each one deserves.

# WEEK 6: REVELATION 15:5-16:21

## DAY 5

The lead up to the seventh, and last, of the last plagues of victory is like a great story or movie reaching its climax. The kings of the whole world gather to fight back against God's judgement!

### Read Revelation 16:10-21

1. What is strange about the sixth plague? What's its purpose?
2. Verses 13-16 describe the gathering for battle. Who is going to be in this fight?
3. Verses 17-21 describe the battle itself. How close is the fight?

**Prayer:** Praise God for His wisdom and power – that He'd prepare the earth for this final battle, and that it will be a whitewash – Jesus wins, for us!



# STILL CURSING

## NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

# WEEK 7: REVELATION 17:1-19:10

This week's passage focuses on the sixth and seventh bowls of victory from chapter 16. It begins with an astounding image of Babylon – symbolised by the Great Prostitute. Babylon itself is a symbol of an ungodly world power calling Israel and the nations to worship Babylon's gods in exchange for economic safety.

## DAY 1

### Read Revelation 17:1-6a

1. Who has the Prostitute influenced?
2. What makes her so alluring to kings and the nations?
3. When looked at with the eyes of Revelation in verses 5-6, what do you make of her beauty?

**Prayer:** The image of the Great Prostitute is distressing. You might like to join with the martyrs' prayer in 6:10, and also ask that our neighbours wouldn't be deluded by wealth and immorality.

# THE WEDDING OF THE LAMB

## DAY 2

The Great Prostitute sitting on the Beast astonished John – but the angel explains to him what's going on in these next verses. Surprisingly, he doesn't focus on the Prostitute, but the Beast that she depends on.

### Read Revelation 17:6b-18

1. How is the Beast similar but different to Jesus in verse 8?
2. The Prostitute may be riding the Beast, but how does her power compare to the Beast's power?
3. How does the power of the Beast compare with the Lamb (verse 14) and God (verse 17)?

**Prayer:** Ask God that we wouldn't be seduced or terrified by His enemies, but that we'd be able to wait until He has victory over them.

# WEEK 7: REVELATION 17:1-19:10

## DAY 3

Life in a wealthy nation is dangerous for Christians because we're regularly tempted to abandon God and live for comfort and wealth. Today we'll see that the Great Prostitute of chapter 17 offered much more than she could really give.

### Read Revelation 18:1-8

1. How does the Prostitute's condemnation also show that her allies are guilty, especially in verse 3?
2. Verses 4-7 call Christians to stop committing adultery with 'the Prostitute'. What could this adultery be describing?
3. What do verses 7-8 tell us about the contrast between what the Prostitute says, and God's plan for her?

**Prayer:** Thank God for His answer to the prayer of the martyrs in Revelation 6:10, and ask Him to help you stop if you're sinning in ways that give you wealth.

# THE WEDDING OF THE LAMB

## DAY 4

This passage is all about the destruction of the Prostitute who had intoxicated the inhabitants of the earth with the wine of her adulteries. People will be shocked when their security is taken away from them.

### Read Revelation 18:9-24

1. How many times do people in this passage remark at the speed in which the Prostitute was destroyed?
2. How different is the response of the people of God to be, than the responses of the various people of the earth when they consider the destruction of the Great Prostitute (especially in verses 19 and 20)?
3. What are all of the descriptions from verse 21-24 saying about the destruction of the prostitute?

**Prayer:** "Rejoice over her, you heavens! Rejoice, you people of God! Rejoice, apostles and prophets! For God has judged her with the judgment she imposed on you." Revelation 18:20

# WEEK 7: REVELATION 17:1-19:10

## DAY 5

The destruction of the Prostitute is rejoiced over in Revelation 18 and 19. Her defeat isn't merely the defeat of another one of God's enemies, but it means that a great event between Christ and the church is about to happen!

### Read Revelation 19:1-10

1. What is God praised for in 19:1-5?
2. What is God praised for in 19:6-8?
3. What's the difference in 'ranking' between John and the mighty angel, as described in 19:10?

**Prayer:** Praise God that His immense power doesn't just mean destruction, but salvation!

"Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the Great Prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants." Revelation 19:1b-2

# THE WEDDING OF THE LAMB

## NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

# WEEK 8: REVELATION 19:11-20:15

Last week we saw that God was going to defeat the Great Prostitute, Babylon. This was a promise so great that John worshipped the messenger! Today we'll see the One who is truly worthy of our worship, and His violent defeat of all of God's enemies.

## DAY 1

### Read Revelation 19:11-21

1. Who is the Rider, and how can you tell?
2. The Rider looks drastically outnumbered as the Beast, and the kings of the Earth, and their armies gather. How evenly matched is the confrontation?
3. What do you think about the violence attributed to Jesus here, and His statement in Matthew 5:38-39?

**Prayer.** Thank God that we're protected from Jesus' wrath because He is faithful and true to His promises.



# THE RIDER'S VICTORY

## DAY 2

Revelation 20 is probably the most misunderstood chapter in the most misunderstood book of the Bible. The centre of confusion is the question, when? Specifically, what's the order of events in this chapter, and when do they start and finish? It's important to remember that so far in Revelation, God has described the same events over and over again, using different images each time. The seven seals of victory describe God's judgement of His enemies and salvation of His people, with the seventh seal of victory revealing the ultimate destruction of God's enemies. The seven trumpets of victory described God's judgement of His enemies and salvation of His people, and the seventh trumpet of victory describes the ultimate defeat of God's enemies. The seven plagues of victory describe God's defeat of His enemies, in response to the prayers of His people, and the seventh plague of victory describes their final destruction. So the timeline in Revelation is like a series of circles, focussing in again and again on God's victory. Revelation 20 describes the same events again from a different angle. The question that Revelation wants you to ask isn't about chronology; instead, it wants us to ask, will the martyrs who were faithful to Jesus ever be vindicated?

### Read Revelation 20:1-3

1. Do you think the thousand years described here is symbolic or not? Does the use of numbers throughout Revelation so far push you one way or the other?
2. What is Satan restricted from doing throughout the thousand years?
3. Why do you think "he must be set free" in verse 3?

**Prayer:** Praise God for His wisdom as He unravels His complex and precise plan throughout history.

# WEEK 8: REVELATION 19:11-20:15

## DAY 3

Today's passage answers the question, will the martyrs who were faithful to Jesus ever be vindicated? It's a question that matters for us as we consider risking our comfort, reputation, and potentially our lives for the sake of holiness and the gospel.

### Read Revelation 20:4-6

1. The symbolic thousand-year reign of those faithful to Christ begins as Satan's symbolic thousand-year imprisonment begins. This isn't referring to a time in the future; victory over Satan was achieved when Jesus died on the cross, saving His people from Satan's power. What is our role during the symbolic thousand-year reign?
2. How does it change the way we think about life to know that we're living between two great victories: 1. Jesus' victory over sin, death and Satan at the cross, and 2. His return to bring an end to His enemies?

**Prayer:** As you are a priest, ask God to bless those around you who haven't shared in the first resurrection. That means, ask God to help people who aren't Christians to understand the significance of Jesus' death and resurrection! Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them.

# THE RIDER'S VICTORY

## DAY 4

Have you thought much about what the final battle between God and Satan will look like? Revelation describes it in a range of ways, but it's very different to a 'great battle' in the movies we watch.

### Read Revelation 20:7-10

1. There is a common pattern to how Revelation describes the 'final battle'. Stage 1: God punishes Satan without destroying him; 2. Satan gathers allies to fight God; 3. Satan and his allies attack God and His people; 4. The battle. How long does the battle actually last in verses 9 and 10?
2. God's defeat of Satan is so one-sided and effortless. What sort of confidence should that give us now when we suffer for obeying God?
3. It was so easy for God to defeat Satan. Why hasn't God done it yet? What could He be waiting for? It definitely isn't a lack of strength to beat Satan!

**Prayer:** God's patience in defeating Satan gives people on the Central Coast, Australia, and throughout the whole world an opportunity to escape God's anger. Pray that God would stretch out the thousand years for many more years, so that many more people would escape!

# WEEK 8: REVELATION 19:11-20:15

## DAY 5

God's defeat of Satan isn't the end. When Satan is destroyed, we realise that Satan was never the one to be afraid of; God himself is terrifying!

### Read Revelation 20:11-15

1. Can you describe what verse 11 is describing?
2. The book of life is also called the Lamb's book of life (Revelation 13:8). Jesus says that He will acknowledge everyone whose name is written in His book (Revelation 3:5). How can you have your name written in the Lamb's book of life?
3. The lake of fire is a symbol for Hell. Although Hell may not actually be a lake of fire, what do you learn about Hell from verses 14 and 15, and also similar descriptions in 20:10 and 14:10-11?

**Prayer.** Ask God for a clear understanding about what will result in people going to Hell, and boldness to help other people understand if they're in danger.

# THE RIDER'S VICTORY

## NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

# WEEK 9: REVELATION 21

**“Hallelujah!**

**For our Lord God Almighty reigns.**

**Let us rejoice and be glad**

**For the wedding of the Lamb has come,  
and his bride has made herself ready.” Revelation 19:6-7.**

## DAY 1

### Read Revelation 21:1-8

1. In Revelation so far, Christians have been suffering and waiting. Waiting for victory over their enemies, and, ultimately, to be with God Himself. What are the consequences for God's people of God coming to dwell with them?
2. What are the consequences for the physical creation when God dwells with His people?
3. What are the consequences for God's enemies when God dwells with His people?

**Prayer:** Praise God for being the beginning and the end, and ask Him to help you look forward until the time He makes everything new.

# GLORIOUS BEAUTY

## DAY 2

Lots of people who claim to be God's prophets come up with fantastic visions of the future. But it's rare that those visions are very connected with what the Bible says. Yesterday we read about the time that God comes to dwell with His people, and, today, see how strongly the prophecy of Revelation is connected with Old Testament expectations in Isaiah.

### Read Isaiah 65:17-25

1. How is this passage in Isaiah similar to Revelation 21:1-8?
2. How is this passage in Isaiah different from Revelation 21:1-8?

**Prayer:** Praise God that His plans don't change, and that they're full of mercy and healing.

# WEEK 9: REVELATION 21

## DAY 3

Previously, an angel had taken John to see the Prostitute who'd seduced the nations, and it was a horrible sight (Revelation 17). Today, perhaps the same angel takes John to see something more beautiful than the Prostitute was horrible.

### Read Revelation 21:9-14

1. What is the Bride of the Lamb?
2. What might verse 12 mean about Old Testament Christians' inclusion in the Bride of the Lamb?
3. What might verse 14 mean about New Testament Christians' inclusion in the Bride of the Lamb?

**Prayer:** Thank God for the way His plans have included both Old Testament and New Testament Christians together in His heavenly city.



# GLORIOUS BEAUTY

## DAY 4

Yesterday we saw that the Bride of the Lamb is actually a city – a new Jerusalem! Today we'll see some of the splendour of the Bride of the Lamb.

### Read Revelation 21:15-21

1. Why do you think there's so much detail about the dimensions and jewellery of the new Jerusalem?
2. How big is the city? For a reference, Australia is about 2,000 stadia from east to west.
3. Can you imagine a cube-city with the dimensions and splendour of the New Jerusalem?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you remember the glory of the new Jerusalem during the day-to-day activities that fill our lives.

# WEEK 9: REVELATION 21

## DAY 5

Yesterday we saw the massive size of the New Jerusalem and her beautiful jewellery as the Bride of the Lamb. Today, as we move into the centre of the city, it just gets better!

### Read Revelation 21:22-27

1. Earlier, in Revelation 21:9-14, we saw that the New Jerusalem included both Old Testament and New Testament Christians. There's some continuity between the Old Testament and the New Testament worlds. What's the Old Testament building that's strikingly missing from the New Jerusalem?
2. How are the replacements for the temple, the sun and the moon better than the temple, the sun and the moon?
3. If "nothing impure will ever enter it", how can the nations and the kings of the earth enter in verses 24 and 25?

**Prayer:** Thank God for the fact that He and the Lamb will be in the New Jerusalem, and that we'll live alongside them for the rest of eternity.

# GLORIOUS BEAUTY

## NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

# WEEK 10: REVELATION 22

The Bible finishes as it started. Genesis begins with the beautiful creation story and the garden of Eden. Eden was destroyed by human rebellion and God's curse in Genesis 3, but it is finally restored in Revelation 22. And it's no mere restoration, it's a renovation, an upgrade. And it's all because of the Lamb.

## DAY 1

### Read Revelation 22:1-5

1. Who does the throne belong to in verses 1 and 3?
2. How does this passage compare to Revelation 14:9-10?
3. How different is this view of reality to the view we get in our daily lives?

**Prayer:** Thank God for removing His curse from Genesis 3, and for doing it at the cost of the life of the Lamb.

# HE IS COMING SOON

## DAY 2

Yesterday's passage began the conclusion of Revelation. We've made it back to Eden, but it's so much better than it used to be. Today, the prophecy is all but finished, and the final encouragements begin. John makes a familiar old mistake though.

### Read Revelation 22:6-11

1. How similar are the words in verses 6 and 7 to Revelation 1:1-3?
2. What does verse 7 tell us about when Jesus will return? What doesn't it tell us?
3. What do verses 8 and 9 tell us (again) about who can be worshipped?
4. If you have some extra time, you could try and count how many times in Revelation the Lamb is worshipped!

**Prayer:** Ask God to give you certainty that everything described in Revelation is as trustworthy as God is, even in the face of painful (or pleasing) temptation to reject it. Ask for His help in keeping the words of the prophecy of Revelation.

# WEEK 10: REVELATION 22

## DAY 3

Jesus made a quick statement in yesterday's passage that He was coming soon, but He expresses similar ideas in today's passage with much more detail.

### Read Revelation 22:12-17

1. What is it about Jesus' description of Himself that means it's not just acceptable, but necessary, to worship Jesus?
2. How can someone have the right to the tree of life?
3. Can you remember from Revelation 7:13-14 how someone can wash their robes?

**Prayer:** Along with the Spirit and the Bride, ask Jesus to come! Ask Him to come for every reason you can think of.

# HE IS COMING SOON

## DAY 4

Isaiah 40 was written for a group of people very much like the group of people that Revelation was written for. Isaiah 40 was written to the people of Israel when they were living captive under the rule of Babylon, away from the country of Israel. Some remained faithful to God, others didn't. They were suffering greatly, and waiting for God to rescue them. Revelation is written to people who have already been rescued by the Lamb. They're away from their ultimate home, the New Jerusalem. They're suffering for remaining faithful to Jesus. And they're waiting for Jesus to come and finish their rescue.

### Read Isaiah 40:1-11

1. What is being promised in Isaiah 40?
2. When does the shepherd-God ultimately come to rescue Israel from Babylon?
3. Israel couldn't have known that God would actually save them, except for His promise. What reasons do we have for believing that God will actually save us, and how solid are those reasons?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you trust His promises, even when they seem far off. Ask for help to trust that Jesus will come soon.

# WEEK 10: REVELATION 22

## DAY 5

Today we'll look at the final four verses of Revelation. For the third time in this chapter, Jesus says that He is coming soon.

### Read Revelation 22:17-21

1. Why do you think there are such strong consequences for adding something to the prophecy of Revelation, or for taking something away from it?
2. Jesus says He is coming soon, three times in this chapter! Why might He be repeating Himself?
3. Did you manage to work out the exact date that Jesus will return?

**Prayer:** Pray, "Come, Lord Jesus!" and ask that God would give all of His people throughout the whole world, all of the help that they need to faithfully wait for Him, by living as witnesses every day, even if they lose their lives because of Christ. Come, Lord Jesus!



# APPENDIX

## STRUCTURE OF THE MAIN VISION OF REVELATION

### Level 1      Level 2      Level 3

The throne scene (Revelation 4-5)

The seal-openings (Revelation 6:1-8:5), including first pause (Revelation 7)

The trumpet blasts (Revelation 8:6-11:19), including second pause (Revelation 10:1-11:14)

The woman and the dragon (Revelation 12)

The two beasts (Revelation 13)

The Lamb and the 144,000 (Revelation 14:1-5)

The three angels (Revelation 14:6-13)

The two harvests (Revelation 14:14-20)

The plague bowls (Revelation 15-16)

The great prostitute (Revelation 17)

The fall of Babylon (Revelation 18)

Rejoicing in heaven (Revelation 19:1-10)

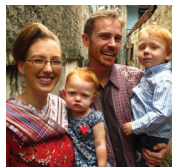
The rider on the white horse (Revelation 19:11-21)

The millennium (Revelation 20:1-10)

Final judgement (Revelation 20:11-15)

The new cosmos (Revelation 21-22:7)

# EV MISSION PARTNERS



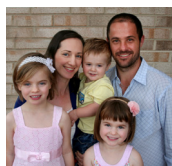
## **Derek and Anna - Southeast Asia (OMF)**

Derek and Anna (Liam, Jasmine and Juliet) are working in theological education and cross-cultural worker mobilisation in Southeast Asia. Derek continues with his classes in a local Bible college and is starting to train people to reach out to minority ethnic groups where there is no church. They are also trying to reach out to their local community, developing friendships and reading the Bible with those interested.



## **Colin and Jill Bakon - SIM: Latin American Ministry**

Colin's two roles are in church mobilisation in Latin America where he is raising up national teams to run Kairos, with special focus this year on Ecuador and Peru. He is also working with a taskforce in SIM (Serving In Mission), to mobilise for new initiatives within SIM. This will see work happening in areas where there is no church, and development of missionaries being sent out from all countries where SIM works in Africa, Asia and Latin America.



## **Craig and Samantha McCorkindale - Cambodia (CMS)**

The McCorkindales replace the Vinks (CMS) who have now returned to Australia and are in residence at SMBC. Craig and Samantha, along with their children, are going to Cambodia in early 2017. In their first year in Cambodia, they will both begin formal language learning as they connect in with the community. Craig will be forming relationships at Phnom Penh Bible School, where he plans to teach. Pray that deputations would go well as the McCorkindales visit their partnering churches. We're asking Growth Groups who have been supporting the Vinks to transfer this support to the McCorkindales. Come along to CMS Coastal Mission day, 15 October, to meet the McCorkindales in person.



## **Paul and Sandra King - Strasbourg, France (CMS)**

Paul and Sandra are thriving in their university ministry in Strasbourg and somewhat newer ministry in a local church plant. They serve alongside French Christians in the University Bible Group (GBU), involving the training of Uni students in evangelism, discipling, and teaching the Bible. The church planting work includes a coffee shop and teaching English to connect the church with people in the community.



### **Martin and Jen Shadwick - AFES Newcastle Uni**

Martin and Jen (Hannah and Evie) work full time with AFES at Newcastle University discipling and training Christian students. Martin continues to lead the AFES staff team, who work with both local and overseas students including a ministry to Muslim students. Pray for wisdom in balancing ministry and family life, and for new partners to help them continue in this important ministry.



### **Jono and Grace Wright - AIM**

Jono and Grace Wright, with their kids, are working amongst Aboriginals in Camooweal and the surrounding communities along the Sandover Highway. They are with Australian Indigenous Ministries (AIM). Their ministries include preaching at Sunday meetings, weekly Bible study groups, weekly prayer meetings, Sunday School, Scripture in the local primary school, weekend Bible schools and also an itinerant ministry.



### **The Geneva Push**

Geneva Push is an Australian Church Planting Network aiming to inspire, equip and unleash a new generation of church planters dedicated to evangelising churches into existence. It has set in place a high quality assessment process and provides ongoing support and training through coaching structures, mentoring and ongoing conferences to ensure the biggest impact as planters.



### **Liam and Lucy Doyle - Lake Mac Church**

Liam and Lucy Doyle head up the church plant in Lake Macquarie and are now mentored through the Geneva program. There is a great range of ages, and despite differences - like age, education and nationality - they enjoy a real sense of warmth, friendship and love as they hear God's word together and help each other follow Jesus. Pray for a good mentor relationship with Dave Sheath from Lakes Evangelical Church.



### **Jai and Jay-Ellen Wright - MAKE Church, Mackay**

Jai and Jay with their four children (Amber, Ebony and Kade and Jett) have planted the MAKE church in Mackay. They are continuing to develop depth in the church through leadership development and have two new MTS workers to help with this task. They are longing to see a community of people who are permanently living in Mackay actively living out their faith as a witness to all who live there.

