

## CHAPTER 4

**A**FTER this I looked, and, behold, a door *was* opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard *was* as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and *one* sat on the throne.

3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and *there was* a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

4 And round about the throne *were* four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

6 And before the throne *there*

*was* a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, *were* four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

7 And the first beast *was* like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast *was* like a flying eagle.

8. And the four beasts had each of them six wings about *him*; and *they were* full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all

things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

## CHAPTER 5

**A**ND I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

6. And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

7 And he came and took the

book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four *and* twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them,

heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, *be* unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four *and* twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

## CHAPTER 6

**A**ND I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.

2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

3. And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.

4 And there went out another horse *that was* red: and *power* was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

5 And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that

sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and *see* thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

7 And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.

8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

9. And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until

their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they *were*, should be fulfilled.

12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

## CHAPTER 7

**A**ND after these things I saw four angels standing on the

four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: *and there were* sealed an hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

5 Of the tribe of Juda *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad *were* sealed twelve thousand.

6 Of the tribe of Aser *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nepthalim *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses *were* sealed twelve thousand.

7 Of the tribe of Simeon *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi *were* sealed twelve

thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar *were* sealed twelve thousand.

8 Of the tribe of Zabulon *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin *were* sealed twelve thousand.

9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and *about* the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, *be* unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

13. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou

knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

## CHAPTER 8

**A**ND when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

4 And the smoke of the incense, *which came* with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast *it* into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

7. The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

8 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;

9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

10 And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;

11 And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

12 And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

13 And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

## DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

The key word of chapter 4 is throne. The Book of Revelation makes it clear that it is the throne of God that rules in the universe, not the throne of men. Everything from chapter 4:1 through the remainder of the book is prophecy.

The fact that John is “caught up” at this point is another evidence that the Church will not go through the Tribulation. Note how this experience pictures the Rapture: Heaven is opened to receive God’s child; there is a voice of a trumpet; it is a sudden event; it comes at the end of the Church Age outlined in chapters 2 and 3; it introduces John to the throne-room of heaven; and it signals the beginning of God’s judgment on the world. John is called up and he sees the glory of the throne (chapter 4:2,3). The Person on the throne is most likely God the Father. The Spirit is represented by the lamps before the throne (chapter 4:5).

The Son comes to the throne in chapter 5:6. John uses precious gems to symbolize the glory of the Father. Jasper is a clear stone, speaking of God’s purity; sardine is red, speaking of God’s wrath and judgment; and the emerald is green, a color associated with grace and mercy. All of these stones were found on the beautiful breastplate of the High Priest (Exodus 28:17-21).

In chapter 5:1-5 we read about the sealed book. The word “book” means, of course, “scroll,” since they did not have bound books in those days. Some students think the scroll contains the judgments of chapters 6—9. The fact that the scroll is written on both sides shows that nothing can be added or changed. The destiny of this sinful world is already determined.

In chapter 5:6-10, John looked for a Lion but he saw a Lamb. In the two names, Lion and Lamb, we have the two-fold emphasis in Old Testament prophecy. As the Lion, Christ conquers and reigns; as the Lamb, He dies for the sins of the world. It is worthy to note that Christ is called “the Lamb” 29 times in the Book of Revelation. In fact, the entire Bible could be summarized by tracing the theme of “the lamb.” Isaac asked, in Genesis 22:7, “Where is the Lamb?” and John the Baptist answered, “Behold the Lamb of God” (John 1:29). Now John writes “Worthy is the Lamb.”

In chapter 6 we enter into the first half of Daniel’s 70th week (Daniel 9:27), that seven-year period of Tribulation. The Lamb has taken the sealed book (His title deed to creation) and is about to open the seals and declare war on this godless world. With the

opening of each of the seals in heaven, an important event takes place. It would be very interesting to compare these seals with what Christ taught about the end times in Matthew 24. The first seal is opened and the Antichrist rises to power (verses 1,2); the second seal is opened and wars break loose (verses 3,4); the third seal is opened and famine breaks loose (verses 5,6); the fourth seal brings Death riding a pale horse and Hades rides with him (verses 7,8). Death claims the body, and Hades the soul. The fifth seal is the seal of the martyrs. These people are those who were saved after the Rapture, but who paid for their testimony with their lives. Their murderers were, at that time, still alive on the earth, and they had not been judged. These martyred saints pray for vengeance. It is true that saints in this age are told to pray for those who persecute them. This is what Christ, Stephen, and Paul did. But this period will be a time of judgment, when God will be answering the prayers of His people for deliverance and vengeance. The sixth seal opens a time of world chaos (verses 12-17). As we read of the opening of these seals, we should make every effort to get our lost friends and loved ones into the fold of Christ. If you are not saved, the truths of the prophecies of chapter 6 should move you to immediately fall upon your knees, repent of your sin, and ask Christ to save you today.

## PROVERB FOR TODAY

“He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated” (Proverbs 14:17).

## HYMN FOR THE DAY

### CHRIST RETURNETH!

*H. L. Turner, 19th century*

The promise of Christ’s return has been a source of much comfort to God’s people through the centuries. Although Christians may disagree on some of the specifics related to future prophecy, most will agree on these basics: Christ will return personally—Acts 1:11; His return will be visible—Revelation 1:7; He will come in power and glory—Mark 13:26; and His coming will consummate His salvation and judgment—John 5:21-29; Hebrews 9:27, 28. The anticipation of Christ’s coming places a responsibility upon believers both individually and corporately even now: To live lives of purity (1 John 3:3) and to be involved in getting the gospel to every nation before His return (Matthew 24:14; Mark 13:10).

“Christ Returneth” first appeared in Ira D. Sankey’s Gospel Hymns, No. 3 in 1878. It has since been wide-

ly used to impress and challenge God's people with the truth of the imminent return of their Lord.

*It may be at morn, when the day is awaking,  
when sunlight thru darkness and shadow is breaking,  
that Jesus will come in the fullness of glory  
to receive from the world His own.*

*It may be at mid-day; it may be at twilight;  
it may be, perchance, that the blackness of midnight  
will burst into light in the blaze of His glory,  
when Jesus receives His own.*

*O joy! O delight should we go without dying,  
no sickness, no sadness, no dread and no crying,  
caught up thru the clouds with our Lord into glory,  
when Jesus receives His own.*

Chorus:

*O Lord Jesus, how long, how long  
ere we shout the glad song  
Christ returneth! Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Amen, Hallelujah! Amen.*

### **TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING**

Spend this month reviewing the previous 13 lessons. For today, review Memory Verse Assignment 30 (found on page 9).

### **ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY**

**1846**

#### **IOWA WAS ADMITTED TO THE UNION.**

Let us pray today for our Christian friends in Iowa and for the preachers who serve there. Let us pray for God's work there today.

**1856**

#### **WOODROW WILSON WAS BORN.**

Woodrow Wilson was a President of our great nation. He was the founder of the League of Nations, yet, led America from the League of Nations. He was a man of wisdom. I think he was a Christian. The thought should lead us to pray for our President again today. We have prayed for him many times through the year. Let us end the year holding him before the Lord and asking God to give him wisdom and spiritual discernment.

Then let us thank God for Woodrow Wilson. It is said that his last words were: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16).

### **ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY**

**1816**

American Colonization Society organized in hall of the House of Representatives.

**1918**

Death of George H. White (66) last of the post-Reconstruction congressman, Philadelphia.

Sixty blacks were reported lynched in 1918.

Spingarn Medal awarded to William Stanley Braithwaite, poet, literary critic and editor, for distinguished achievement in literature.



## **MEMORY VERSE ASSIGNMENT 30 (for review):**

Please spend time reviewing these memory verses. If you have been completing the assignments in the TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING, then you already have spent a week memorizing the Scriptures below. Now it's time to review!

### **EVIDENCE OF DIVINE INSPIRATION: SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY OF SCRIPTURES**

#### **The earth a round ball. (740 B.C.)**

(        ) Isaiah 40:22

It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants therefore are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in.

#### **The earth hangs out in space on nothing. (1600 B.C.)**

(        ) Job 26:7

He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.

#### **Night time on one part of the globe when Christ returns.**

(        ) Luke 17:34

I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.

#### **Day time on the other part of globe when Christ returns.**

(        ) Luke 17:36

Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

#### **Christ holds the earth in its orbit.**

(        ) Colossians 1:17

And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. (hold together)