

NOTES

1. Paper-writers, please note that a shorter article focused on one or up to three sub-topics is most helpful. Articles covering all the passages for the month may have sections removed by editors, so as to make the magazine a more efficient tool for those who consult it.

Papers should **not exceed 500 words**.

2. Papers should be typed with double spacing in the current *Bible Studies* format, i.e. beginning with **From Ourtown:** and on one side of A4 paper. Scripture references added in curved brackets should be written with the book titles abbreviated, a colon between chapter and verse(s), and a hyphen to indicate consecutive verses or a passage:

e.g., Romans chapter 9, verses 14, 15 and 19 to 23 would be typed (Rom. 9:14-15,19-23).

Where it is possible, we prefer contributions to be sent by e-mail. Attachments in Microsoft Word.docx format are preferred.

3. Editorial practice is to use the names of Biblical books in full when they form part of a sentence, but when given as a reference to use the Revised Version abbreviations. References to other works should include at least the title and the author, with preferably the publisher, place and date, with page number.

4. Contributors are asked to indicate the version of Scripture they are using; this greatly eases the task of checking quotations.

5. **Papers on the monthly subject** should be sent to:

P. Whitehouse, 1 Orchid Drive, Sheringham, Norfolk NR26 8UU,
or pbwhitehouse@btinternet.com, and should reach him NOT LATER than the 28th day of the third month prior to the date of publication; e.g. January's paper should arrive by October 28th.

6. **Special articles** of a study nature will be welcomed. **These and other correspondence** should be sent to: M. Archibald, 49 Kinpurnie Road, Oldhall, Paisley, Renfrewshire PA1 3HG Or mn.archibald@gmail.com

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Bible Studies SYLLABUS 2021 Revelation—The Victory Book Chapters 12–22



The unprecedented nature of recent world events has led some to wonder if this might presage the beginning of the 'things that must shortly come to pass' (Rev. 1:1 RV). Editors have therefore decided to devote 2021 to the continued study of this fascinating book in which our risen, glorified Lord revealed so many things about God's future purposes. Our studies will focus on the final dramatic scenes of this world's history, the unassailable nature of God's purposes and His gracious future plans for those who put their trust in Him.

While we may try to identify signs of things to come in current developments, we remind contributors that a sound exegetical approach is to back up argument with scripture and verse, rather than giving free rein to conjecture and guesswork. The wise words of a former editor of this magazine come to mind: 'Speculation in the interpretation of Holy Writ is a very doubtful method of dealing with the Scriptures. Many questions ... may be understood, when these events transpire, by those to whom they are revealed' (Notes on Revelation chapter 9, John Miller, *B.S.*, 1958 p. 148).

Editors are especially keen to encourage new writers. We invite contributors old and new, to commit themselves to the valuable discipline of writing a monthly paper. As Francis Bacon said: 'Reading maketh a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man.'

We request contributors to select and explore **no more than three of the topics suggested**, to minimise overlap between contributions. We welcome too, of course, thoughts on other points in the portion for the month not raised by the syllabus questions.

Please remember to take advantage of our 'Question & Answer' service, and feel free to follow up a debatable point via our 'Mail-box' section.

"Everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures' (Luke 24:44-45).

January The woman, the dragon and war in heaven (Chapter 12)
(Dan. 9:24-27; 10:13; 11:41)

- Explore the view that the woman is Israel and her child is Christ.
- Where to, and at what point, does the woman flee from the dragon?
- Is there a link between v.6 and vv.13-17?
- Comment on the significance of the downfall of 'the accuser of our brethren'.
- Discuss the role of Michael and his angels, the war in heaven and its outcome.

February The dragon, two beasts, and the image of the Beast (Ch. 13; Dan. 11:21)

- Show from Scripture, that 'the Beast' (v.7) is both a system and an individual person.
- Consider the scope of the dragon's authority; the authority given to each of the two beasts in this chapter and the authority of God.
- Does Luke 4:5-8 have any bearing on the authority given to the Beast in v.7?
- The suffering of God's saints and the place of perseverance and faith (v.10).
- The implications for those who take mark and/or number and for those who do not

March The Lamb and 144,000 on Mount Zion; five angels; the harvest of the earth
(Chapter 14; Mat.13:39, Is. 63:2-4)

- Where is mount Zion as spoken of in Revelation 14?
- Are the 144,000 (14:1) one and the same as the 144,000 in Chapter 7?
- Is 'the eternal gospel' (v.6) different from the one presented in the Gospels?
- Review the actions and interactions of the five angels in this chapter.
- Is the person sitting on the cloud (v.14) the Lord Jesus?

April Seven angels, seven plagues, and the song of victory (Chapter 15)

- Parallels between the deliverance of the Children of Israel in Ex.15 and the deliverance of those who sing the song of Moses and the Lamb in Rev. 15:3
- Are there lessons we can learn from the cloud that filled God's house on earth (Ex. 4; 1 Kin. 8), and the smoke that filled the heavenly temple (Is. 6; Rev. 15:8)?
- Comment on the appearance of the seven angels.
- Why is no-one able to enter the temple until the seven plagues are finished (15:8)?

May Seven bowls of wrath and Armageddon (Chapter 16; Ex. 7-12)

- Comment on the similarities between the plagues of Egypt and those of Rev. 16.
- What outcomes are achieved as each bowl of wrath is poured out?
- Is verse 12 the only scripture which refers to 'the kings that come from the east/sunrising'?
- The 'watching' and the 'keeping of garments' described in v.15. What would cause shame? Is there a correlation here with the ten virgins (Mat. 25)?
- Is the Valley of Jehoshaphat (Joel 3:2) synonymous with Armageddon (v.16)?

June The great harlot; emergence of the Beast; persecution of 'the harlot'
(Chapter 17; Dan. 11)

- What scriptural evidence is there to justify the pejorative terms: 'great harlot/prostitute' and 'fornication/sexual immorality'?
- Does the detailed account given in Daniel 11 shed any light on vv.9-13?
- Expound verses 15-18.

July The fall of Babylon the great (Chapter 18 & 19:1-5)

- Trace the references to Babylon in Scripture, culminating in its final judgement.
- How do we reconcile the prophecy of Is. 13:20 with the Babylon of Rev. 19?
- Give reasons why Babylon deserves such comprehensive condemnation, and comment on the response of heaven to its demise.

August Marriage of the Lamb; judgement of the Beast and false prophet (19:6-20)

- Where and when does 'the marriage supper of the Lamb' (v.9) take place and who will be invited? (cp. Mat. 8:11)
- How does 'the testimony of Jesus' correspond with 'the spirit of prophecy' (v.10)?
- Old Testament prophecies with a bearing on vv.11-21 (e.g. Zech. 14:4-5; Isa. 63:1-6).

October The millennial reign of Christ and the great white throne (Chapter 20)

- Paint a word picture of the impact on this world of Satan being bound for 1000 years and of the millennial reign of Christ on earth.
- Taking account of the 'first' resurrection (v.5), the resurrection of dead persons at the great white throne (vv.12-13) and the resurrection of believers in Christ (1 Thes. 4; 1 Cor. 15), can we say with certainty how many 'resurrections' there are and which groups of people are raised on each occasion?
- Comment on the effect of Satan's release, the final war against 'the camp of the saints' by 'Gog and Magog' and the outcome.

November The lake of fire, new heaven, new earth, New Jerusalem (Chapter 21)

- Will the new heaven and the new earth be a completely new creation or will it be a renewed edition of the present creation?
- Who are the inhabitants of the New Jerusalem and what significance should we attach to the names written on its gates and on its foundations?
- Comment on the construction, materials, function and purpose of the holy city.
- Trace the references to 'lake of fire' and comment on its place in Scripture.

December The river of life, tree of life, divine invitation and warning (Chapter 22)

- What are the key features of the eternal state as described in this chapter?
- What is meant by 'keeping' the words of this book (v.7)? What are the consequences of not keeping them?
- Elaborate on the divine invitations and warnings given in verses 17-19.