

APOCALYPSE

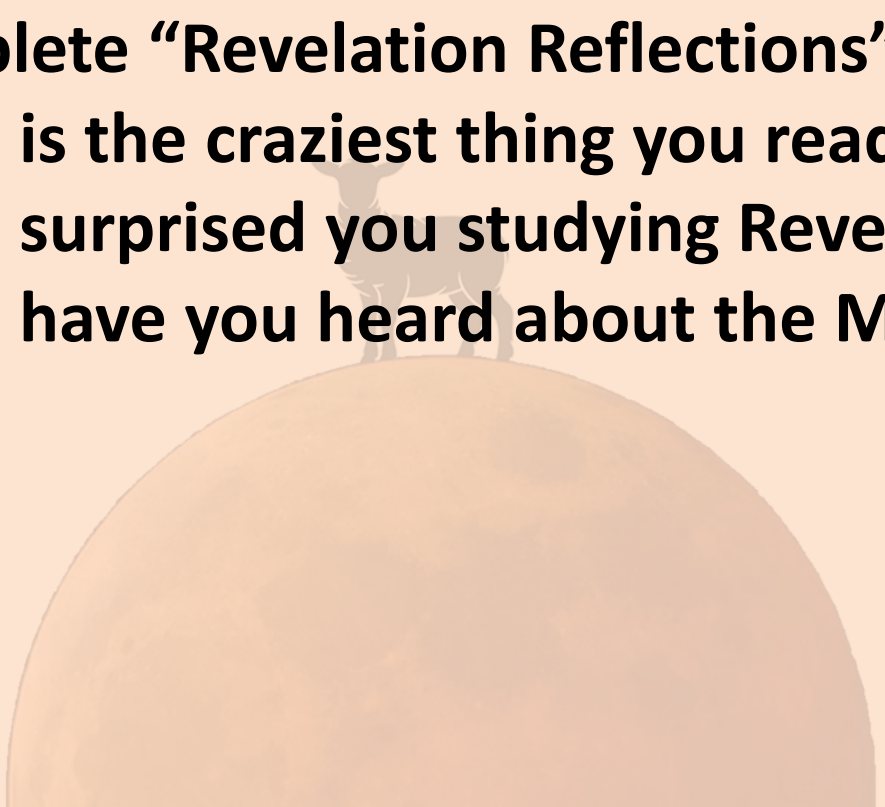


APOCALYPSE

Welcome!

- **Please make sure you have the handouts.**

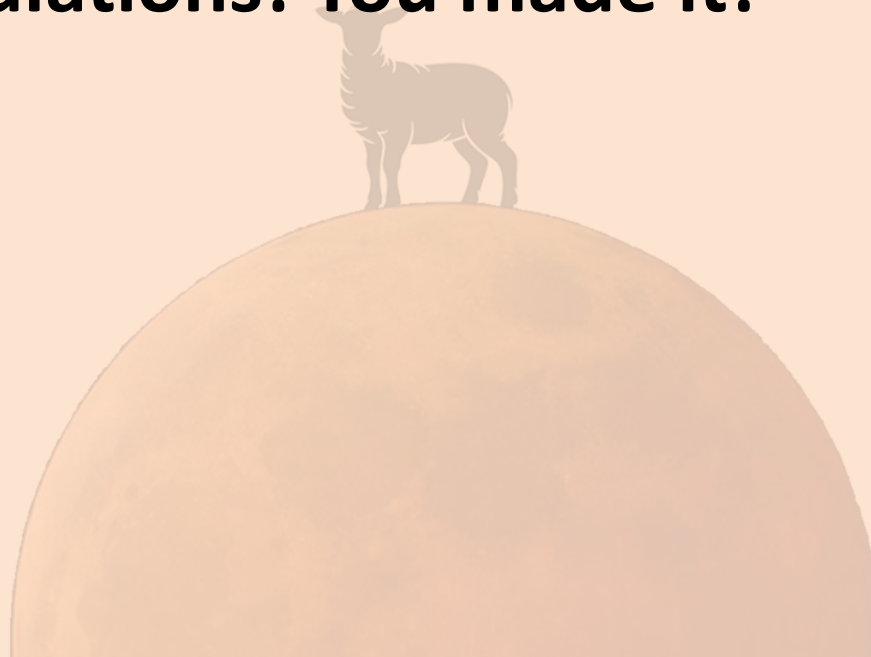
With a person next to you, discuss:

- 1. Complete “Revelation Reflections” worksheet**
 - 2. What is the craziest thing you read?**
 - 3. What surprised you studying Revelation?**
 - 4. What have you heard about the Millennium?**
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Class Schedule:

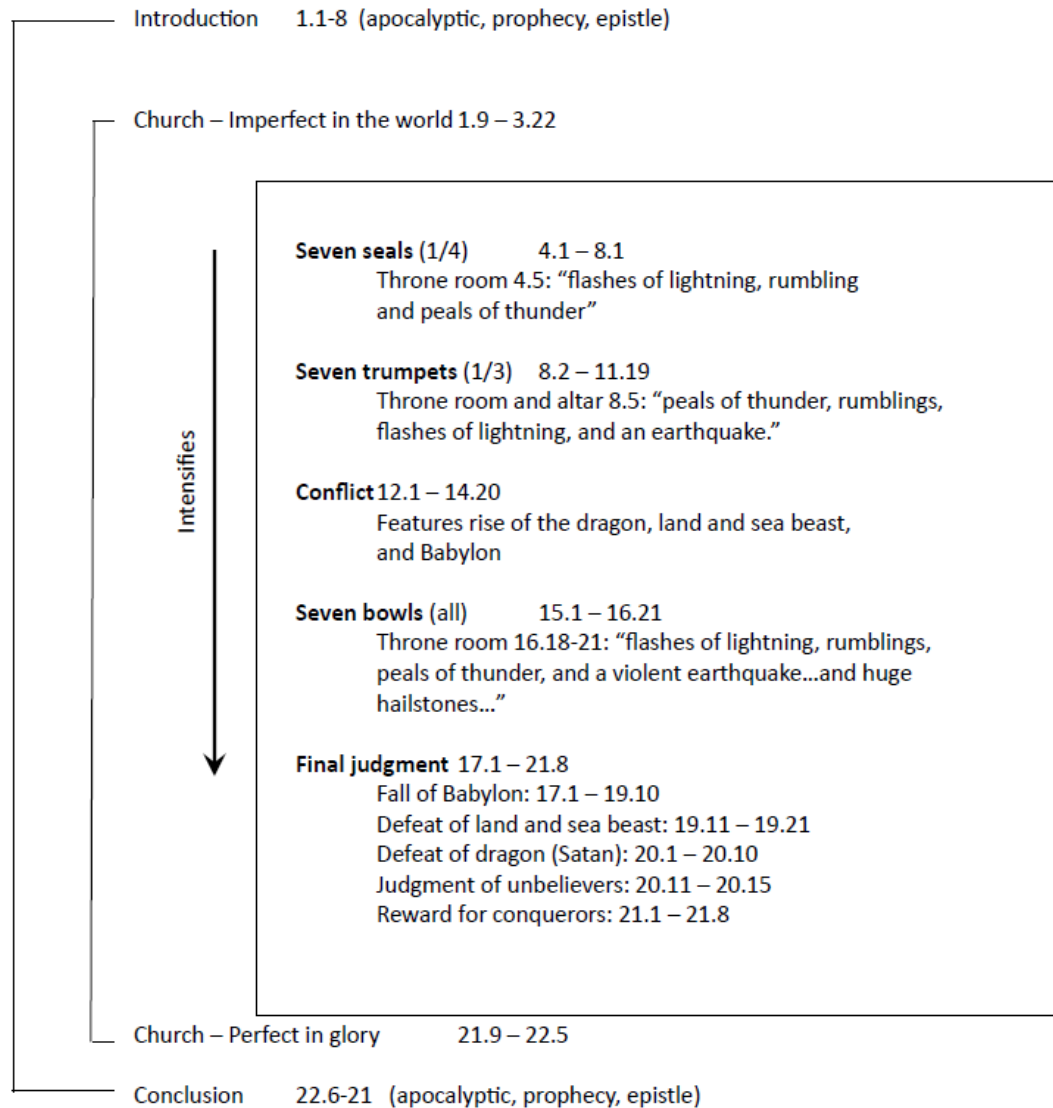
This is the last week!

Congratulations! You made it!



APOCALYPSE

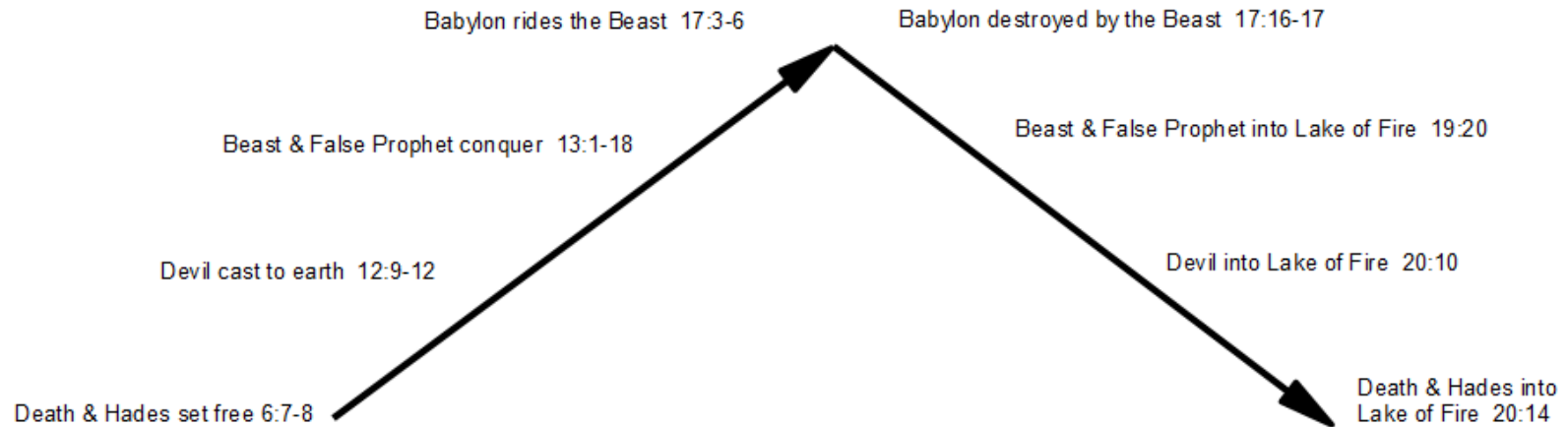
Breakdown of Revelation



Layout of Revelation 17-22

Woman/City #1	Revelation	17:1-14	Judgment of Babylon/Whore	see Revelation 17:1-3
		17:15-18	<i>The Beast destroys the Whore</i>	
Song #1	Revelation	18:1-24	Funeral dirge for Babylon	
Song #2	Revelation	19:1-8	Praises from Heaven	
Feast #1		19:9-10	Wedding supper of the Lamb	
		19:11-16	Warrior on the White Horse	
		19:17-21	Supper of God – <i>defeat of Beast & False Prophet</i>	
Feast #2	Revelation	20:1-6	The Millennium	
		20:7-10	Gog & Magog war - <i>Devil into Lake of Fire</i>	
		20:11-15	The White Throne Judgment	- <i>Death and Hades Into Lake of Fire</i>
	Revelation	21:1-8	New Heaven & New Earth	
Woman/City #2		21:9-26	Holy City/Bride of Christ	see Revelation 21:9-10
		22:1-7	The River of Life	
		22:8-21	Epilogue	

The Rise & Fall of Evil in Revelation



Revelation tells of the victory of Christ and the defeat of evil.

Two Songs

Funeral Dirge – Revelation 18:1-24

“Come out of her, my people, so that you do not take part in her sins, and so that you do not share in her plagues; for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.”

-Revelation 18:4-5

Key points of chapter 18:

- Babylon's fall is coming
- Get out, separate
- Those cooperating with Babylon will lament

Three Groups of mourners

- Kings (9-10)
- Merchants (11-17a)
- Sailors (17b-19)



Two Songs

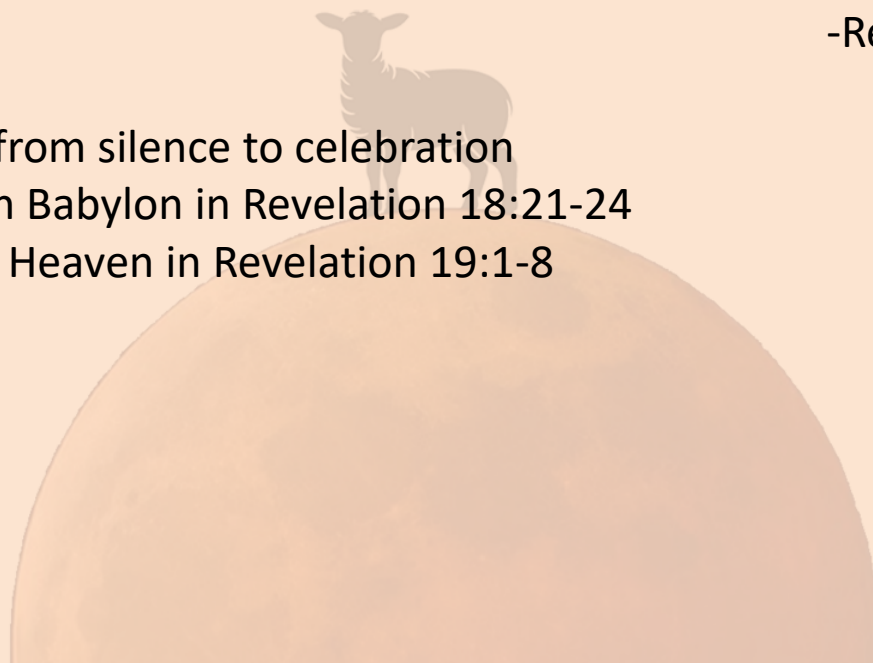
Song of Rejoicing in Heaven– Revelation 19:1-8

“After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, ‘Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power to our God, for his judgments are true and just; he had judged the great whore who corrupted the earth with her fornication, and he has avenged on her the blood of his servants.’”

-Revelation 19:1-2

There is a move from silence to celebration

- Silence in Babylon in Revelation 18:21-24
- Paises in Heaven in Revelation 19:1-8



Two Feasts

Wedding Supper of the Lamb– Revelation 19:9

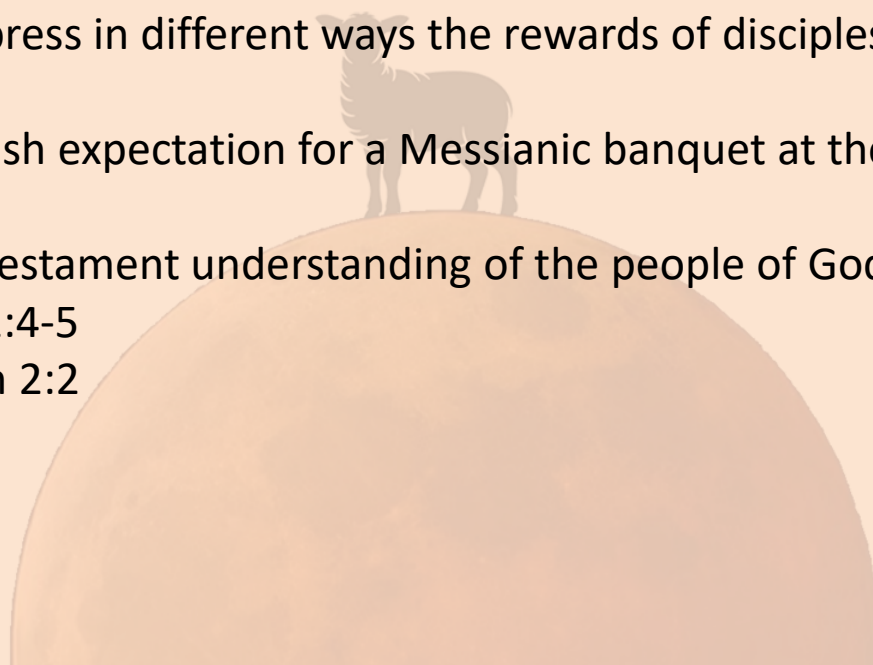
The Beatitude of 19:9 is the 4th one of 7 in Revelation

- “And the angel said to me, ‘Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’ And he said to me, ‘These are true words of God.’” Revelation 19:9
- See Revelation 1:3, 14:13, 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, 22:7, 22:14
- They express in different ways the rewards of discipleship

There was a Jewish expectation for a Messianic banquet at the end of time

There is an Old Testament understanding of the people of God as a bride.

- Isaiah 62:4-5
- Jeremiah 2:2
- Hosea



Two Feasts

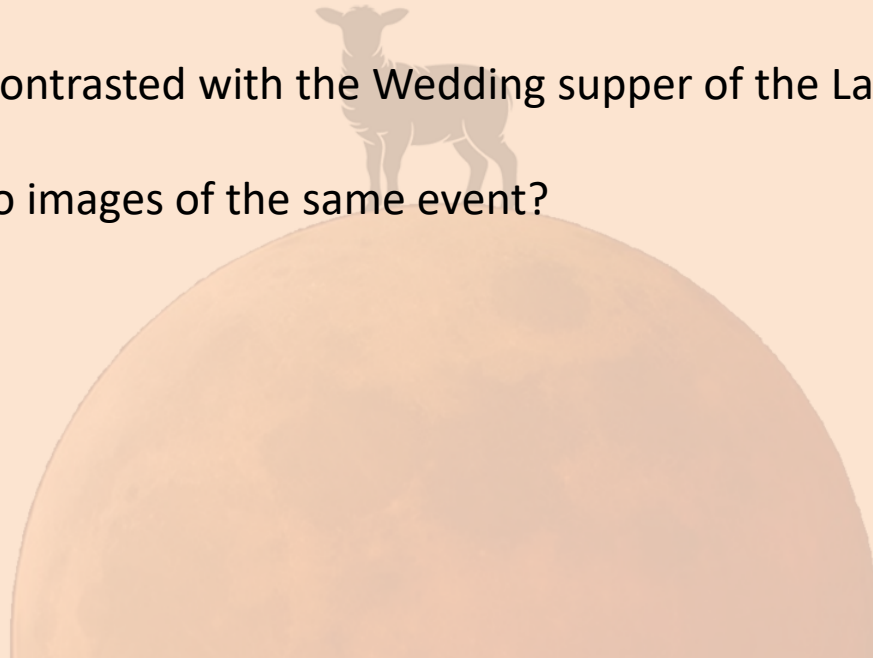
Supper of God – Revelation 19:17-21

“Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly in midheaven, ‘Come, gather for the great supper of God, to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of the mighty, the flesh of horses and their riders – flesh of all, both free and slave, both small and great.’”

Revelation 19:17-18

This banquet is contrasted with the Wedding supper of the Lamb

Could this be two images of the same event?



The Two Cities of Revelation

The New Jerusalem

- The chaste bride, wife of the Lamb (21:2,9)
- New Jerusalem's splendor is the glory of God (21:11-21)
- The nations walk by New Jerusalem's light, which is the glory of God (21:24)
- The kings of the earth bring their glory to New Jerusalem (21:24)
- Uncleaness, abomination, and falsehood are excluded (21:27)
- The water of life and the tree of life for the healing of the nations (21:6, 22:1-2)
- Life and healing (22:1-2)
- God's people called to enter the New Jerusalem (22:14)
- Mother of faithful, who keep commandments of God and testimony of Jesus (12:17)
- New Jerusalem has glory of God like a rare jewel (21:11)
- Wearing bright, pure linen (19:8)

Babylon the Great

- The whore with whom the kings of the earth fornicate (17:2)
- Babylon's splendor is from exploiting her empire (17:4; 18:12-13, 16)
- Babylon's corruption and deception of the nations (17:2; 18:3, 23; 19:2)
- Babylon rules over the kings of the earth (17:18)
- Babylon's abominations, impurities, deceptions (17:4, 5; 18:23)
- Babylon's wine which makes the nations drunk (14:8; 17:2; 18:3)
- The blood of slaughter (17:6; 18:24)
- God's people are called to come out of Babylon (18:4)
- Mother of whores and abominations (17:5)
- Adorned in gold and jewels and pearls (17:4)
- Clothed in purple and scarlet (17:4)

Two Women/Cities

The Whore/Babylon

“Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, ‘Come, I will show you the judgment of the great whore who is seated on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and with the wine of whose fornication the inhabitants of the earth have become drunk.’ So he carried me away in the spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns.”

-Revelation 17:1-3

Seated on the Beast

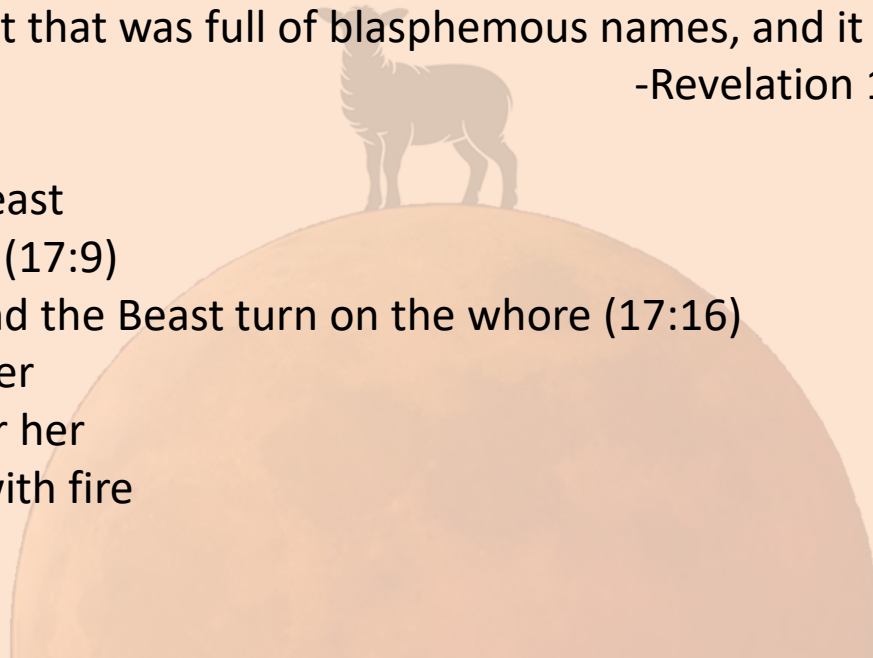
Seated on 7 hills (17:9)

The ten horns and the Beast turn on the whore (17:16)

Strip her

Devour her

Burn with fire



Two Women/Cities

The Whore/Babylon

“They seek to show people something in a way they would not normally see it:
“If people can be persuaded to think that what appears impressive is actually ridiculous, that what seems glamorous is really garish, and that what appears desirable is in fact ludicrous, they will be more ready to resist it.”

-Koester

Here they were supposed to think of Rome as:

- Dignified lady – but she was portrayed as a whore
- Virtuous woman – drunken
- On an elegant steed – an outrageous 7 headed beast
- With golden cup full of finest wine – full of vile sewage
- Pretentious lady is actually a buffoon



Two Women/Cities

The Bride/New Jerusalem

“Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, ‘Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.’ And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.”

-Revelation 21:9-10

Compare 22:8-9 with 19:10

“Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

-Revelation 19:10

“And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me; but he said to me, ‘You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your comrades the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God!’”

-Revelation 22:8-9

Two Women/Cities

The Bride/New Jerusalem

Boundaries of the holy

- Walls of Jasper 21:18
- Statements of exclusion: Revelation 21:8, 21:27, 22:3, 22:15

City as a place and as a people

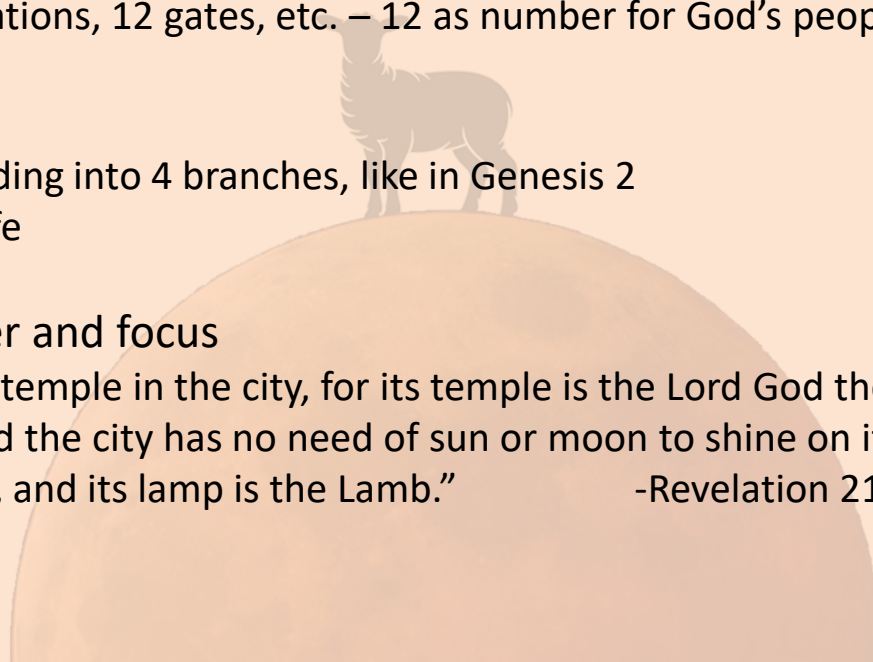
- 12 foundations, 12 gates, etc. – 12 as number for God's people

Restored Eden

- River dividing into 4 branches, like in Genesis 2
- Tree of Life

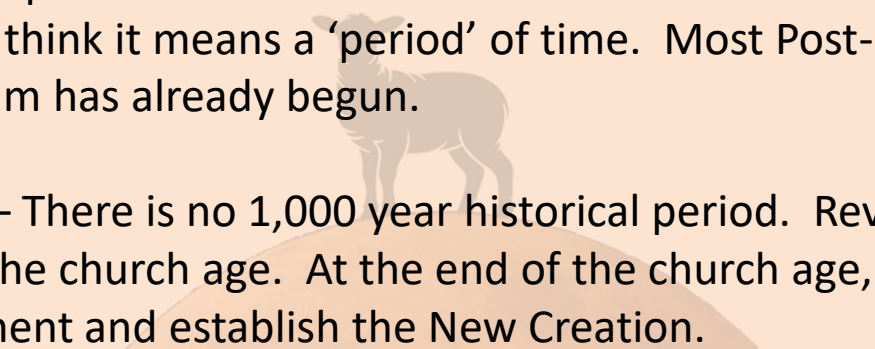
God as the center and focus

- “I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb.”
-Revelation 21:22-23



The Millennium

Three positions: *(When does Christ return?)*

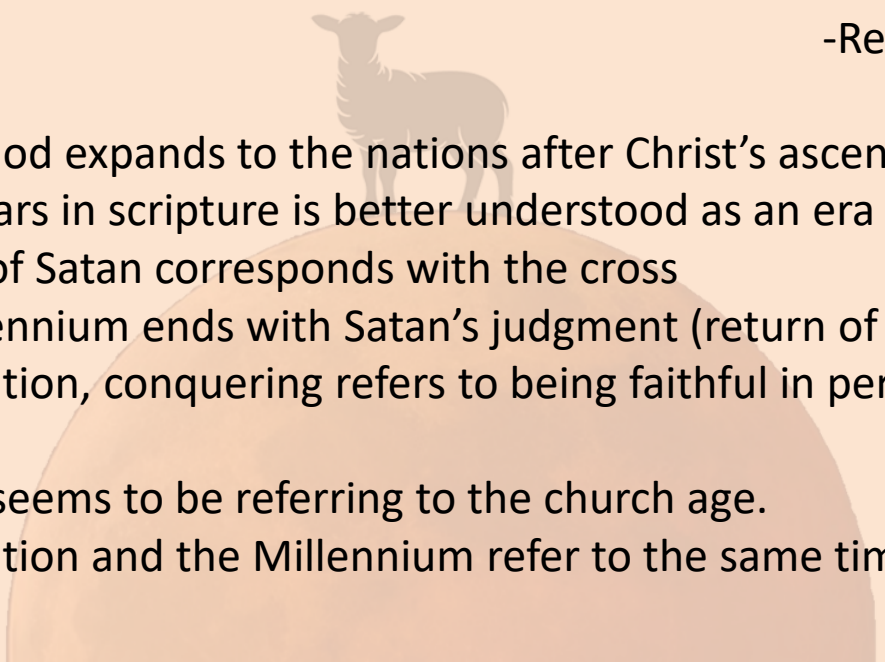
1. Pre-millennial – Revelation 20 describes the return of Jesus at the end of a tribulation period. Jesus reigns for a literal 1,000 years. Then judgment.
 2. Post-millennial – Revelation 20 describes Christ's return at the close of a millennium of peace or Christian dominance. Some believe it is a literal 1,000 years, others think it means a 'period' of time. Most Post-Millennials believe the Millennium has already begun.
 3. A-millennial – There is no 1,000 year historical period. Revelation 20 is giving an image of the church age. At the end of the church age, Christ will return in final judgment and establish the New Creation.
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The Millennium

What does this period refer to?

“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the pit, and locked and sealed it over him, so that he would deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be let out for a little while.”

-Revelation 20:1-3

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- Plan of God expands to the nations after Christ's ascension
 - 1,000 years in scripture is better understood as an era
 - Binding of Satan corresponds with the cross
 - The millennium ends with Satan's judgment (return of Christ)
 - In Revelation, conquering refers to being faithful in persecution

The Millennium seems to be referring to the church age.

Could the Tribulation and the Millennium refer to the same time period?

Revelation Reflections:

- What is the biggest takeaway for you about Revelation?
- If someone came to you asking about Revelation, what sorts of things would you tell them or show them?
- What surprised you most about Revelation?
- What did you like the best about Revelation?

