



ontrack devotions

APRIL

2023

REVELATION

MONTHLY PRAYER SHEET

"...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." James 5:16

Reach out...

How I will do it...

How it went...

Other requests...

Answered

How it was answered...

MONTHLY COMMITMENT SHEET

Name: _____

This sheet is designed to help you make personal commitments each month that will help you grow in your walk with God. Fill it out by determining

1. What will push you
2. What you think you can achieve

If you need help filling out your commitments, seek out someone you trust who can help you. Share your commitments with those who will help keep you accountable to your personal commitment.

Personal Devotions:

How did I do with my commitment last month? _____

I will commit to read the OnTrack Bible passage and devotional thought _____ day(s) each week this month.

Church Attendance:

How did I do last month with my attendance? _____

I will attend Youth/Growth Group _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend the Sunday AM service _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend the Sunday PM service _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend _____ time(s) this month.

Scripture Memory:

How did I do with Scripture memory last month? _____

I will memorize _____ key verse(s) from the daily OnTrack Devotions this month.

Outreach:

How did I do last month with sharing Christ? _____

I will share Christ with _____ person/people this month.

I will serve my local church this month by _____

Other Activities:

List any other opportunities such as events, prayer group, etc., that you will participate in this month. _____

Today you begin a journey that might be brand new for you, but one that you can be excited about. Today, you begin your journey through the book of Revelation. It is a book that everyone seems to be interested in, but a book that few have read through completely. As you begin, keep in mind some important points John gives to us as he begins this book. The first is that this book is the revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to John. It is not John's opinions or his own thoughts about the future. What you will be reading came directly to John from God. He simply wrote down what he saw (vs11). Second, it is important to know the reason God gave John this book. God wanted us to be able to know what will soon take place (vs1). This book is our glimpse of what is coming in the future. Third, it comes with a promise from God. John tells us that we will be blessed if we read it, hear it, and take to heart what it says (vs3). Although you may not catch everything your first time through, you will learn much that will excite and challenge you. Be faithful to your daily reading. Also, be faithful to apply to your life what you have read. Use today's questions to help you get started.

SAY WHAT?

What do you hope to gain from reading this book?

SO WHAT?

What do you hope to learn?

NOW WHAT?

What will you need to do to see these two goals take place?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 1

PROVERBS 5

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

Over the next seven days, we will be reading God's personal message to the seven churches. They were actual local churches at the time this book was written. In most cases, the letters contain positive and negative characteristics of the church. Today, we read about the church in Ephesus. This church had much to be proud of. They had persevered in the midst of hardship and did not tolerate wickedness. However, it was a church who had lost their first love. The joy and excitement they once had about their faith was gone. They were just going through the motions. God called them to remember how far they had fallen, repent, and do the things they used to do. Could this be true of you or your church? Have you or your church lost the fire and passion you once had? If so, remember, repent, and do the things you once did. Losing your first love is serious to God.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 2

REVELATION 2:8-11

REMAIN FAITHFUL

SAY WHAT?

What opposition do you face or could you be facing these next few months?

SO WHAT?

What could God desire to accomplish in your life through it?

NOW WHAT?

How can today's reading help you be faithful in the midst of opposition?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

Imagine that someone came to you and told you that you were going to be persecuted for following Jesus. What thoughts would run through your mind? That is exactly what happened to this church. The church in Smyrna had two characteristics they were known for. They were afflicted and poor. Yet, in spite of that, God said they were rich. They did not allow their afflictions or their poverty to cause bitterness or discouragement. God told them not to be afraid of what was ahead. God informed them that Satan would attack them. He would put some of the believers in prison and they would suffer for ten days. Their challenge? To remain faithful to God and He would give them the crown of life. It would have been comforting for those Christians to know that God was watching and knew exactly what was going on in their lives. He would help and reward them for their faithfulness. Are you experiencing any opposition in your life in which you need this encouragement? Your reward is waiting for you if you stay faithful!

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 2

How important is it to keep wrong beliefs about what the Bible teaches out of the local church? According to today's reading, it's crucial. God tells the church in Pergamum that there are some things He is pleased with among them. The letter states that He knows that they have remained true to Him. Even when one of their leaders was put to death, they did not renounce their faith but stayed true to what they believed. There was, however, something about this church that He did not approve of. In spite of all the positive things about them, there were those in their church who held to positions that are contradictory to what the Bible teaches. One group specifically mentioned was the Nicolaitans. They taught that a person had total sexual freedom once they became a follower of Jesus. Although these believers had not yet denounced Jesus in the midst of suffering, teaching the truths of the Bible was not a priority. God warned them that if they allowed this wrong teaching to continue, it would cause others to fall into sinful patterns of behavior. We often think that teaching the truth of what the Bible says is not something we should be concerned about. Each person can believe what he wants. The Bible reveals that is not true.

SAY WHAT?

What issues do people disagree on in the church?

SO WHAT?

What could wrong positions in those areas lead to?

NOW WHAT?

How can you protect yourself from wrong positions?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING

REVELATION 2

REVELATION 2:18-29

JEZEBEL

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

When John referred to a woman named Jezebel in this passage, was he referring to an actual woman in the church at Thyatira? Possibly, but that name most likely referred to a specific woman whose actions resembled those of Jezebel in the Old Testament. God saw this church and knew they had some good things going for them. They had a church of love and faith that resulted in service to others and perseverance in suffering. God told them that in the areas of service and perseverance, they had grown and increased. However, as in the case of the church of Pergamum, they tolerated a woman who led believers into sexual immorality and eating meat sacrificed to idols. What she taught led people into sin. We must never permit teaching that contradicts what the Bible says or is not found in Scripture. Are you faithfully following what the Bible says?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 2

Can you imagine being in the church at Sardis when this letter was read? Everyone gathered together after having been told that a letter had arrived from God. The church sat quietly, waiting to hear what God had to say about what was right and what was wrong with them. God began by reminding them He knew their deeds and was aware of their reputation for being spiritually alive. When people evaluated this church, it appeared obvious that God was at work and it was filled with spiritual life and power. The obvious conclusion would seem to be that God was pleased and proud. But the reality was that they were dead. They had fooled even themselves. His challenge was to "Wake up!" God warned that what life remained in the church was about to die. Could God say this about your life or your church? Do people think you are alive, but inside you know you are dead? As you take an honest look at your own life and your church, what do you see? Use today's questions to help you evaluate yourself and create a plan to respond to what you see.

SAY WHAT?

What signs of spiritual life and power do you see in your life?

SO WHAT?

What signs indicate that you could be close to dying?

NOW WHAT?

What are some steps you can take to begin to change?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 3

REVELATION 3:7-13

ONLY POSITIVE

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

What is the difference between this and the other letters we have read so far? Look at it again and see if you notice the difference. It is that God did not give a single negative statement about this church. I'm sure they were astonished to hear God approved of what they were doing and had no criticisms of them. He said He had given them an open door that no one would be able to shut. Although they had little strength, they still kept His Word and stayed true to His Name. It must have thrilled them to hear God say that those who opposed and criticized the church would one day publicly admit that God did love them. They had not only endured, but they had done so patiently. God's response was to keep them from the hour of trial—to take them away so they wouldn't have to face it. How would God evaluate you and your church? This passage should encourage us to see that it is possible to have a church about which God only makes positive statements. Could He describe your church this same way? Could He describe your life like this? What changes can you make in order for this to be said of you? What role can you play to begin the process?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 3

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

REVELATION 3:14-22

AVERAGE

SAY WHAT?

How would you rate your spiritual life as it is today on a scale of 0-10? Why that number?

SO WHAT?

How does God feel about where you are in your relationship with Him?

NOW WHAT?

What needs to change in order for you to move to a higher number?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

How would you rate your spiritual life? How do you think God feels about it? Many people evaluate their spiritual lives, and although they are not where they should be, they convince themselves that God is pleased that they are not on the low end. That is not how God responds, however. In this letter to the Laodiceans, God says that lukewarm or average is worse than cold. How do you think the Laodiceans felt when they realized what God's position on average is? Why is it so wrong to be average? Because it leads to wrong conclusions about the true condition of our heart. The average Christian is convinced that he is okay. In fact, he thinks he is rich and needs nothing. In reality, he is wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. God's counsel is for him to repent of his sin and come back to Him. What is God's opinion of where you currently are in your relationship with Him? What can you do about it?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 3

Why is the message the four creatures gave different from what the twenty-four elders said? Could it be that the four creatures viewed God differently than the elders? The creatures, who had not experienced redemption, saw the holiness of God. In fact, all creation can recognize God's purity, His majesty, and His holiness. But to those of us who have been redeemed, He is more than just holy, He is worthy. Their song does not have the joy that the song of the redeemed has. The elders had once been dead in their sins. They had no ability to please God or be cleansed from sin. The provision for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ was revealed to them, and they accepted God's gift. When they stood before the throne of God, they laid down their crowns and said, "You are worthy." How someone responds to God reveals his view of God and the value he places on the gift of redemption. What does your response to God reveal about how you view Him? Does your life demonstrate you believe He is worthy? Why not take some time today to express to God how you feel about all He has done for you.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 4

REVELATION 5:1-10

JESUS CHRIST

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

Who is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David? How did He triumph? The answer to both of these questions is found by looking closely at this chapter. The Lion of the tribe of Judah and the Root of David was the One who was slain. By His sacrifice, He made people of all nations to be a kingdom and priests of God. Who is the One who did all this? Jesus Christ. Because of what He did on the cross, He is worthy to not only open the scroll, but also to receive everything that belongs to God. He is worthy to receive power, wealth, strength, honor, glory, and praise. Jesus Christ did what no man could ever do. He did for you what you could never do for yourself. How have you responded to this truth? Hopefully, not only by worshiping and praising Him, but also by serving Him with your whole heart. After all He has done for us, is there a sacrifice too great or a task too menial to demonstrate our thankfulness and love? Is this how you live your life?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 5

In this chapter, we begin reading about how God is going to judge the world for its sinfulness. John reveals six of the seven seal judgments. They involve peace being removed from the earth and men beginning open war with each other. Famine covers the earth so severely that what once had been staples of life become luxuries. One-fourth of the population of the earth is killed by the sword, hunger, natural death, and wild beasts. There will also be major physical changes to the earth. The great earthquake will occur and the sun will be darkened like sackcloth. The moon will be reddened as blood and a meteor shower will pound the earth. Mountains and islands will be moved. It is hard to even imagine such devastation. What effect should these facts have on our lives? If you follow Jesus, are you thankful that you won't have to live through this? If you don't follow Jesus, what is stopping you?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 6

REVELATION 7:9-17

SALVATION

SAY WHAT?

Write down the names of people you would love to see follow Jesus.

SO WHAT?

What obstacles keep you from sharing Jesus with them?

NOW WHAT?

How will you go about sharing Jesus with them in spite of those obstacles?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

Why did God insert the account of the redemption of the 144,000 sealed Jews before describing the seventh seal? Maybe because it could be easy for one to assume, after reading about the seal judgments, that no one could get saved during such devastation. It is as if God stopped the account to let us know that in spite of what will occur on the earth, He will still save people. John tells us that 144,000 Jews will be saved, as well as "a great multitude that no one could count." This group will be made up of all kinds of people. What a comfort to know that no matter how awful the circumstances may seem to us, or how wicked this world may get, God is still able to reach out and save people. Do you follow Jesus? Is He pursuing you? How are you going to respond to Him? If you follow Jesus, who in your world needs Jesus and how will you tell them?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 7

Why was there silence in heaven after the seventh seal was opened? As you read this chapter, you realize silence is about the only reaction one could have in response to what will be taking place. How would you respond to such news? Can you imagine what it is going to be like to live on the earth during the Tribulation? Think about this seventh seal judgment. One third of the earth will be burned up, a third of the sea will be turned to blood and, as a result, a third of the creatures in the sea will die. Can you imagine the smell that is going to create? Also, a third of the rivers become bitter and even more people will die. After the fourth trumpet sounds, a third of all the light from the sun and moon will be turned dark. A third of each day will be totally black. How horrible it will be for those left trying to survive the judgment of God during these days. Reading this ought to cause all of us to ask some tough questions about where we will spend eternity.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 8

PROVERBS 7

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

How would you respond if you were living on the earth during the Tribulation period? Can you even imagine experiencing what you have read in Revelation up to this point? God's judgment, however, is not finished. Today we read about even more of God's judgment. John reveals that there will be demonic forces coming up out of hell that will torture people for five months. People will be in such agony that they will want to die, but will not be able to. According to verse 6, death will elude them. Four angels will be released and they will kill a third of all mankind. Keep in mind that these two events follow the events found in chapter 8. One would assume that people would flock to God in repentance, seeking His mercy. Do they? Not according to verse 20. They still do not stop worshiping demons and idols or repent. Sadly, we often do the same thing. God convicts us about sin in our lives, yet we refuse to repent. Could God be dealing with you right now about an area in which you need to repent and seek forgiveness?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 9

REVELATION 10:5-11

EAT IT?

SAY WHAT?

What are the most interesting things you have learned in Revelation so far this month?

SO WHAT?

What are the most difficult things you have learned about the future?

NOW WHAT?

What should your response be to what you are learning?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

What is God trying to communicate to us from this interlude between the trumpet judgments? As He did before, John apparently stops his description of the judgments to encourage us. In this chapter, John saw a book that contained the events yet to come. John was told not to reveal them. He was then asked to do something that must have seemed bizarre. The voice of heaven told him to get the scroll and eat it. The angel said that it would taste sweet in his mouth, but then grow sour in his stomach. What reason could there be for doing that? Could He be illustrating the truth of this entire book? The events of the future are interesting, however, when the reality of the future is comprehended, it sours in your stomach. This book ought to grieve our hearts. How have you responded to what you have read? What does your response tell you about yourself?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 10

With all that has gone on thus far in the Tribulation, we would think that the hearts of people would be softening. We would think that the survivors would be open to seeking God's forgiveness. However, in today's reading, we see that their hearts are, in fact, growing harder. We read that there will be two witnesses on the earth at this time. They will be a testimony to who God is and what He expects from them. The world will not respond well. For 1,260 days, the witnesses will preach and no one will be able to harm them. After the appointed days are up, they will be killed. The people's mockery towards God is demonstrated by the desecration of the witnesses' bodies. The world will turn their deaths into a holiday of gift giving and celebration. What contempt! But God will intervene and will raise them from the dead and call them to heaven. A major earthquake will occur, and 7,000 more lives will be lost. God desires that we allow His judgment in our lives to soften us and bring us to repentance, not to harden our hearts against Him. Are there ways you are like these people in your response to God? Where does your heart need to be softened?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 11

REVELATION 12:1-12

VICTORY ASSURED

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

What does this chapter mean? Let's examine the passage closely and see if we can understand what John wrote. First, the woman in this chapter represents the nation of Israel. It is from them that Jesus was born. The dragon is Satan. Satan tried, at the time of Jesus' birth, to destroy Him, yet was unable to do so. Instead, Jesus died for our sins and rose again the third day, accomplishing His purpose. Since Satan was unable to defeat the child, he turned his attention to the woman, the nation of Israel. In this chapter, we also learn that there will be a battle between Michael and God's army and Satan and his army. Satan will be defeated, probably in the middle of the Tribulation, and cast out of heaven. He will not be permitted there again. Satan will intensify his attack on the nation of Israel. God will provide refuge so that they will not be totally defeated. This is the beginning of the end for Satan and his army. God will be victorious against Satan, and will provide deliverance for His people. Our ultimate victory is guaranteed no matter what it might look like today!

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 12

Who is the first and second beast in this chapter? The first beast is commonly known as Antichrist. He is a man who will rule on the earth during the Tribulation and will be given his power and his throne by Satan himself. The second beast is known as the false prophet. His job will be to promote Antichrist and convince the world to worship him. Satan is attempting to counterfeit the Trinity with these two evil beasts. He will set himself up as God and Antichrist as Jesus. Satan will even deceive people into believing that Antichrist has died of a head wound and is then raised back to life. All this is designed to counterfeit what God has done. It would seem hopeless if we did not know that God was in total control. The saints are given great encouragement in verse 10 when they are told to have patient endurance and faithfulness. Likewise, when we face what may appear to be hopeless situations, we need faithfulness and endurance as we wait for God's solution. God is in control, even when it may look like He is not.

SAY WHAT?

What circumstances are you facing that seem to be hopeless?

SO WHAT?

What past situations have you faced that God delivered you from?

NOW WHAT?

How can you find comfort in your present circumstances after reading this passage?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 13

REVELATION 14:6-13

THREE ANGELS

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

The events that unfold in these last days seem to get more amazing with each passing chapter of Revelation. In this chapter, we read about the unique way that God will communicate the Gospel to people during the Tribulation. According to this chapter, God will send three angels who will fly around, calling out with a loud voice to people on earth. One will be calling for people to glorify God, one will proclaim that Babylon is fallen, and one will warn people not to worship the beast or get its mark. Why would God choose angels to communicate His message? In the midst of all the devastation that has gone on to this point, we would think that people would be ready to listen to an angel from heaven. But they won't, and will continue in their sin, refusing to humble themselves before God. The resulting judgment of God climaxes in the battle of Armageddon where the blood will be 4 feet deep for 180 miles (vs 20). Tragically, there are those who will reject God no matter the consequences. Are you following Jesus? If not, what will it take for you to surrender to a God who is in total control and loves you?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 14

Chapter 15 is another interlude before more judgments. In chapter 16, we will begin reading about the seven bowl judgments, which are even worse than what you have read so far. In verse 2, John looked across the sea and saw a group of people. Note how he described them. They were a group of people who were victorious over the beast. It could easily feel as if Satan will be victorious. There still will be those, however, who will stand for God and be victorious over Satan. In fact, there will even be some who will begin following Jesus. As we journey ahead in this book, and as the bowl judgments unfold, keep in mind that there will always be a group of people resisting Satan and standing for God. Are you one of those people who stand firm and follow Jesus? If not, today is great day to surrender to Him.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 15

REVELATION 16:1-16

HARD HEARTS

SAY WHAT?

How does God reveal to you areas in which you need to repent?

SO WHAT?

In what areas do you sense Him prompting you even now?

NOW WHAT?

How can you avoid developing a hard heart that refuses to repent?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

Why does God bring about these horrible judgments on the earth? We get part of the answer in today's reading. Imagine everyone having painful sores covering their bodies. Imagine the smell when every living thing in the sea dies, and the rivers and springs become blood. Imagine the agony and outcry when people are not just sunburned, but are scorched and seared. Why do all of these things happen? According to verse 6, it is because they have shed the blood of saints and prophets. They, even in the midst of all these judgments, have refused to humble themselves before God or even behave civilly to those who serve Him. Even verse 9 says that, in spite of their own physical pain from the sores and the sun, they refuse to repent or glorify God. These events end with an earthquake unlike any before it. Their response? Still no repentance. An unrepentant heart will lead to unbelievable hardness. Make sure you deal with your sin quickly and completely so you don't have an unrepentant heart.

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 16

This is one of the chapters in Revelation that can be confusing to read. It helps if we understand some of the symbols given here. The beast, as we learned earlier, is Antichrist. The harlot is a symbol of the false religion that has been the world religion during the Tribulation. John explains that, in the beginning of the Tribulation, this false religion will flourish in the system of the world referred to as Babylon. It will center in Rome and will include other religious groups besides the Roman Catholic church. For the first half of the Tribulation, this religion will reign unchallenged. But in the middle of the Tribulation, Antichrist will destroy this religion and will set himself up as the one to be worshiped. John describes for us what the religion of the Tribulation will look like and how the world will follow it until it's destroyed by Antichrist. In spite of all that has gone on to this point, people will still refuse the true God and will worship the beast. They will simply adopt the new religion. While it may look bleak, God's victory is just around the corner. In fact, those already in heaven are ready to go to war. Will that be you?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 17

SAY WHAT?

What circumstances do people face in this life that drain them of hope?

SO WHAT?

Why is it so hard to trust God in circumstances like those listed above?

NOW WHAT?

How can you use this passage to encourage others and yourself in difficult times?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

Today you have read the final aspect of the judgment of God on the world. In it, we find some important and interesting truths. During the Tribulation, Babylon will not only become the center of religion in the world, but it will also become the commercial center of the world. Chapter 17 has revealed how the religion of Babylon will end. Chapter 18 reveals how the economic and commercial aspects of Babylon will end. In spite of all the death and devastation on the earth so far, those remaining will continue to have hope because of the wealth and power of Babylon. Read verses 11-13 to see the kind of luxury items that will still be available in this city. God will destroy it, however, and they will finally realize that it is all about to end. As they see the city burning, they will know that Babylon and its power and wealth has fallen under the mighty hand of God. Fear will grip the hearts of people when they realize the end is near. God will always win. He's always victorious. Even in our lives today!

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 18

What a difference between this chapter and the other chapters we have been reading this month! Did you notice that as you read? Instead of gloom and doom, today we see the beginning of God's reign on the earth. As you read these events, remember that if you know Jesus as your Savior, you will be participating in them. After the destruction of Babylon, Jesus will come back to earth to set up His earthly kingdom. Heaven will begin its rejoicing, knowing that the time is almost here. Jesus will mount His white horse and come to earth to destroy Satan and his armies. The beast and false prophet will be captured and cast into the Lake of Fire. Imagine the armies of the earth gathering for one final battle, and the excitement they will feel as they all unite against God and His army. With this much might, they surely must believe God will be defeated. How that will all change when the beast and the false prophet are captured! God's kingdom will be ready to begin its rule. Are you excited to live in a world where God is ruling as King? Will you be there?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 19

REVELATION 20:1-10

JESUS' RULE

SAY WHAT?

Have you, by faith, trusted Jesus as your Savior?

SO WHAT?

If yes, what evidence do you see in your life that you have been truly saved? If not, why not?

NOW WHAT?

Based on your answers above, what should be your next step?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

Who are the rest of the dead referred to in verse 5? Where do the people who side with Satan at the end of the 1,000 years come from? To answer these questions, we must keep in mind some important facts. There are two resurrections mentioned in Scripture. The first one is of those who were saved when they died. That will take place at the Rapture. Those who have died without Jesus will not be resurrected at this time. John was referring to these unsaved people in verse 5. Only those who are saved will enter the 1,000 year reign. However, Christians who are alive on the earth at the end of the Tribulation will enter into the 1,000 year reign with their human bodies. These people will continue to have children throughout the 1,000 years. Although everyone will have to be obedient to Jesus and His rule during this time, there will be some who will not turn to Him for salvation. This proves that living in a perfect world and doing all the right things outwardly are not enough to make you a child of God. Man's heart changes only when he turns to Jesus for salvation. No amount of outward effort or conformity will do. Have you allowed God to change your heart?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 20

These last two chapters of Revelation address what it will be like in eternity for those of us who have accepted Jesus as our Savior. Chapter 21 deals with the city of Jerusalem, and chapter 22 shows the blessing for those who will be living on the new earth forever. It is amazing, as you read through it, to discover all the wonderful things God has prepared. What makes this city even greater is not the material used to build it, the construction, or even its size. What makes it great is who will be there. It is a city in which God will dwell. There will be no need for light, because His glory will shine. There will be no need for a temple, because He will be present for us to worship Him. Think about what it will be like to live there with your loved ones and friends, all the saints of the Bible, and especially Jesus Christ. It is going to be awesome! It is sobering, however, to realize there are those who will not be going to live in glory. If this is you, allow both the horrors of God's judgment and the glory of our eternal home, to motivate you to follow Jesus. If you follow Jesus, are you motivated to share Him with those around you? Either way, act today.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 21

REVELATION 22:6-21

SOON!

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

Well, your journey through the book of Revelation is over. You have just completed reading this amazing book. Hopefully, you leave it with a greater understanding of not only the end times, but of God as well. In the very first chapter, we read that blessings await those who read, hear, and take to heart the words of this book. If you follow Jesus, hopefully you have a greater motivation to serve Him more faithfully and a greater burden to reach the lost in your world with the message of salvation. If you don't follow Jesus, hopefully this book has caused you to evaluate why and what your next step should be. Take some time today to reflect on what God confronted you with as you read Revelation this month. Don't walk away from it unchanged! Take some time to jot down ways you are committed to change.

EXTRA READING
REVELATION 22

And they sang a new song,
saying: "You are worthy to
take the scroll and to open its
seals, because you were slain,
and with your blood you
purchased for God members of
every tribe and language and
people and nation."

REVELATION 5:9

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