

REVELATION

*The CHURCH TRIUMPHANT
Through CHRIST
(the LAMB of GOD)*

Based upon Jim McGuigan's work on the book of Revelation

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Lesson Six

Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls

LESSON PLAN

1. Past, Present, or Future?
 2. The Old Testament
 3. Rome and God's People
 4. A Woman, A City, and Witnesses
 5. The Serpent and The Christ
 6. Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls
 7. Armageddon, New Jerusalem
 8. Numbers and Their Message
 9. Chapters 1-10 (Two Lessons)
 10. Chapters 11-22 (Two Lessons)
- Basic Background**
- Major Characters**
- Major Images**
- Putting it Together**

Background Review

- **Written nearly 2000 years ago**
- **Can't be used to predict things in our future**
- **Written mainly in pictures and images**
- **We aren't supposed to take the book literally**
- **“That's what John saw, now what does it mean?”**

Review of Major Characters

- **Rome**
 - **The Sea-Beast**
 - **The Earth-Beast**
 - **A Prostitute**
 - **A Great City**
- **God's People**
 - **144,000**
 - **Great Multitude**
 - **A Woman**
 - **A Glorious City**
 - **Two Witnesses**
- **Satan**
 - **A Dragon**
 - **A Fallen Star**
- **Jesus Christ**
 - **The Church's Leader**
 - **The Faithful Witness**
 - **The Resurrected Lord**
 - **The King of Kings**
 - **The Redeemer from Sin**

What We Will Learn

- **“Sealing” something means to protect it or keep it hidden**
- **The plagues of the trumpets and bowls symbolically say that Rome will be judged as Egypt was**
- **The measured temple says God’s people can’t be completely defeated**
- **The “lake of fire” is the “picture” way to speak of total and hopeless defeat for God’s enemies**

Seals and Sealing

- **Used mainly in 5:1-5,9 and 7:1-8**

Definition of “seal”

**A sealing instrument,
signet, ring or impression
To "seal up" a document
was to keep its contents
secure**

**To seal is to mark a thing
as belonging to you**

**To seal is to forbid the
unauthorized access**



Seals and Sealing

- **Only someone authorized can or powerful enough can remove seals**
- **Chapter 5 talking of the “little book” is just such a case**
- **There IS someone worthy to unseal the scroll**
- **Remember that to seal something is ...**
 - **To mark as belonging to someone**
 - **To forbid unauthorized use**
 - **To protect and/or keep hidden**

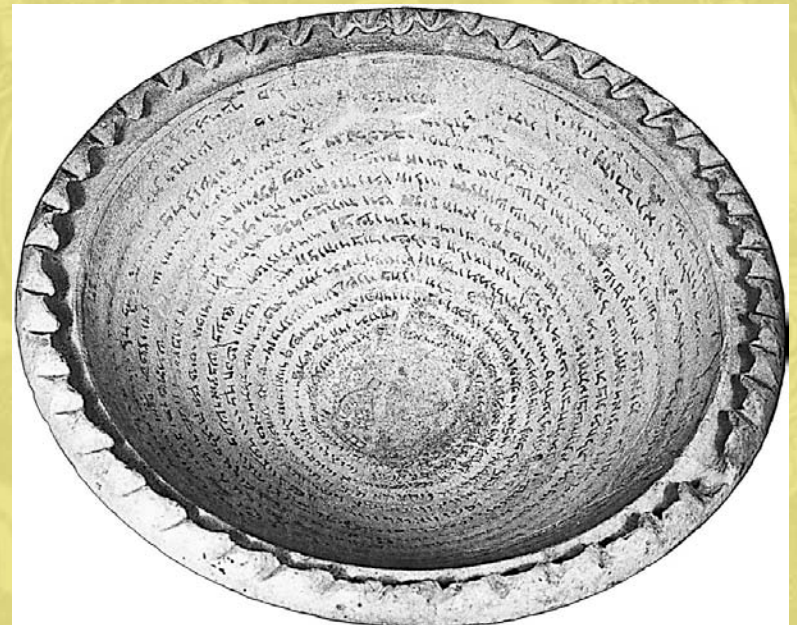
Trumpets

- **Revelation chapters 8 through 11**
- **Numbers 10:1-10** tells something of the purpose for trumpet blowing
 - **Call to attention for assembly, call to raise an alarm/warning, journeying of the camps, call to war**
- **Revelation uses the “alarm/warning” idea**



Bowls

- **Main reference is Revelation 15 & 16**
- **References use of bowls in temple worship**
 - Wine, oil, or incense poured out as offering
 - Blood or oil as part of sacrificial system
- **Therefore, a temple sacrificial system in which God is involved with the outpouring**
- **Remember, again, the plagues on Egypt**



Trumpets and Bowls

- **Purposeful figurative use of plagues against Egypt**
- **Plagues were used as a warning to Egypt to obey God**
- **Illustrates same intent with Rome but in a symbolic way**
- **Like Egypt, Rome doesn't heed warnings**
- **Like Egypt, Rome doesn't obey God**

Measuring the Temple

- **Example of interlude event (11:1-2)**
- **In order to separate the Holy and the common; give the Holy special significance**
 - **2 Sam. 8:1-2, Ezekiel 40:2ff, Zech. 2:1-5, Isaiah 28:16**
- **What is to be measured?**
 - **The temple, the altar**
 - **Those that worship in the temple**
 - **But not the outer court given to the Gentiles**

Measuring the Temple

- **The new covenant people of God are seen as the Temple of God**
 - **I Peter 2:5; Eph. 2:21; I Cor. 3:16**
- **What does it signify?**
 - **Protection of God's saints from judgment but not suffering**
 - **Rejection of the world**
 - **Even rejection of the worldly in the Church**

The Lake of Fire

- **Taken from Genesis 19 (Sodom and Gomorrah)**
 - These cities suffered utter destruction because of their immoral conduct
- **Also, Isaiah 34:8-10 (Edom)**
 - Suffers judgment because of their persecution of Israel
 - Isaiah used Sodom to illustrate the judgment against Edom

The Lake of Fire

**John, in turn,
uses an image
from these OT
references to
illustrate the
utter defeat and
loss suffered by
God's enemies**



The Church Triumphant

Pictures and Images Convey Messages

Main images studied thus far:

Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls,

the Measured Temple,

and the Lake of Fire

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Next Lesson:

Armageddon, New Jerusalem,
Etc., Etc.