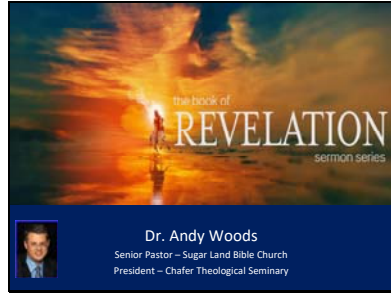
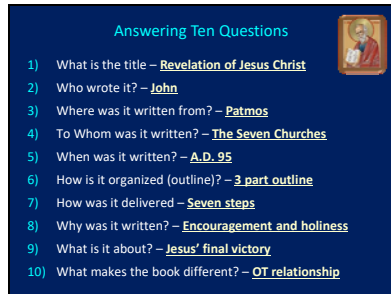


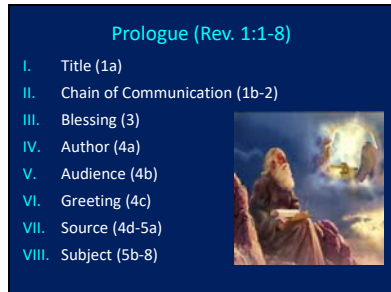
Slide 1



Slide 2



Slide 3



Slide 4

Revelation 1:19


“Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things [*meta tauta*].”



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Revelation 1:19


- Seen (Chapter 1)
- Are (Chapters 2–3)
- After these things (Chapters 4–22)



Slide 6

Revelation 1:19

- Seen (Chapter 1)
- Are (Chapters 2–3)
- After these things (Chapters 4–22)



Slide 7




Slide 8

DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES Revelation 2-3		
CHURCH	SCRIPTURE	DESCRIPTION
Ephesus	2:1-7	Loveless
Smyrna	2:8-11	Persecuted
Pergamum	2:12-17	Compromised I
Thyatira	2:18-29	Compromised II
Sardis	3:1-6	Dead
Philadelphia	3:7-13	Missionary
Laodicea	3:14-22	Man-centered

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Pattern of the Letters in Revelation 2-3

1. Destination
2. Description of Christ (Rev. 1)
3. Commendation
4. Rebuke
5. Exhortation to change
6. Consequence
7. Exhortation to listen
8. Promise to overcomers (Rev. 21-22)



Slide 10

DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES Revelation 2-3		
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Laodicea	3:14-22	Man-centered

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Smyrna
Revelation 2:8-11

1. Destination (8a)
2. Description of Christ (8b)
3. Commendation (9)
4. Rebuke
5. Exhortation (10a-c)
6. Consequence (10d)
7. Exhortation to listen (11a)
8. Promise to overcomers (11b)



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Smyrna
Revelation 2:8-11

1. **Destination (8a)**
2. Description of Christ (8b)
3. Commendation (9)
4. Rebuke
5. Exhortation (10a-c)
6. Consequence (10d)
7. Exhortation to listen (11a)
8. Promise to overcomers (11b)



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Smyrna
Revelation 2:8-11

1. Destination (8a)
2. **Description of Christ (8b)**
3. Commendation (9)
4. Rebuke
5. Exhortation (10a-c)
6. Consequence (10d)
7. Exhortation to listen (11a)
8. Promise to overcomers (11b)




Slide 16



Slide 17

2. Description of Christ
(Rev. 2:8b)


1. I am the first (*prōtos*) and the last (*eschatos*) (1:17)
2. I was dead and have come back to life (*zōō*) (1:18)



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2. Description of Christ
(Rev. 2:8b)


1. I am the first (*prōtos*) and the last (*eschatos*) (1:17)
2. I was dead and have come back to life (*zōō*) (1:18)



Slide 19

2. Description of Christ
(Rev. 2:8b)

1. I am the first (*prōtos*) and the last (*eschatos*) (1:17)
2. I was dead and have come back to life (*zaō*) (1:18)



Slide 20

Why God Became Man 

- To restore God's original purpose for man (5-8)
- To taste death for every man (9)
- To bring many to glory (10-13)
- To break Satan's rule over humanity (14)
- To remove the fear of death (15)
- To become our merciful high priest (16-17a)
- To make a complete purification for sin (17b)
- To sympathize with those tested (18)

Adapted from J. Dwight Pentecost, Faith That Endures (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2000), 60-71.

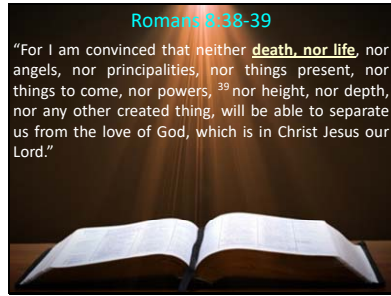
Slide 21

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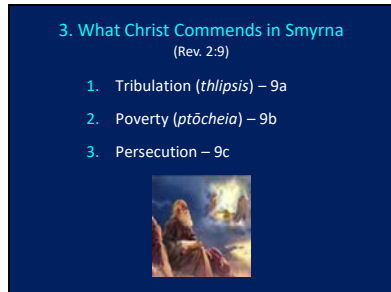
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Slide 23




Slide 24



Slide 25

3. What Christ Commends in Smyrna
(Rev. 2:9)


1. **Tribulation (*thlipsis*) – 9a**
2. Poverty (*ptōcheia*) – 9b
3. Persecution – 9c



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Pretribulationism **is not** Escapism


- Trials (John 16:33)
- Man's wrath (2 Tim. 3:12)
- Satan's wrath (Eph. 6:11-12)
- World's wrath (John 15:18-19)



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3. What Christ Commends in Smyrna
(Rev. 2:9)


1. Tribulation (*thlipsis*) – 9a
2. **Poverty (*ptōcheia*) – 9b**
3. Persecution – 9c



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Revelation 2:9


"I know your tribulation and your **poverty** (but **you are rich**), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan."



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Ephesians 1:3


"Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed** us with **every spiritual** blessing in the heavenly places in Christ."



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3. What Christ Commends in Smyrna
(Rev. 2:9)

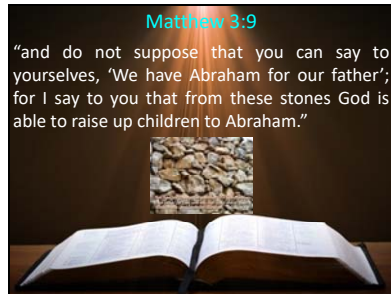
1. Tribulation (*thlipsis*) – 9a
2. Poverty (*ptōcheia*) – 9b
3. **Persecution – 9c**



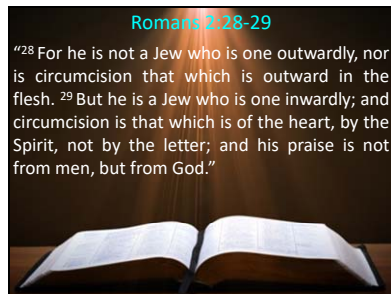
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Slide 33



Slide 34

Romans 9:6

"But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel."




Descendants of Israel
Israel of God

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Zechariah 13:8-9

⁸"It will come about in all the land," Declares the LORD, "That two parts in it will be cut off and perish; But the third will be left in it." ⁹"And I will bring the third part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, 'They are My people,' And they will say, 'The LORD is my God.'"



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Smyrna
Revelation 2:8-11

1. Destination (8a)
2. Description of Christ (8b)
3. Commendation (9)
4. Rebuke
5. Exhortation (10a-c)
6. Consequence (10d)
7. Exhortation to listen (11a)
8. Promise to overcomers (11b)



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Revelation 2:8-11

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4. So What? - Points of Application!

Rev 2:10

"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."





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4. So What? - Points of Application!


Rev 2:10

"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."



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Robert Thomas
Revelation 8 to 22: An Exegetical Commentary
(Chicago: Moody Press, 1992), 408.



Robert Thomas observes that, "no number in Revelation is verifiably a symbolic number."



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Slide 42

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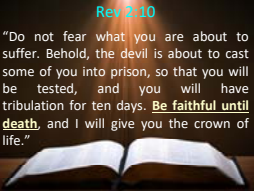



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4. So What? - Points of Application!

Rev 2:10

"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. **Be faithful until death**, and I will give you the crown of life."

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Smyrna
Revelation 2:8-11

1. Destination (8a)
2. Description of Christ (8b)
3. Commendation (9)
4. Rebuke
5. Exhortation (10a-c)
6. **Consequence (10d)**
7. Exhortation to listen (11a)
8. Promise to overcomers (11b)

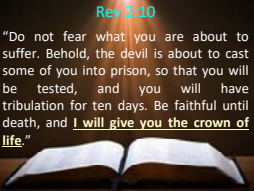



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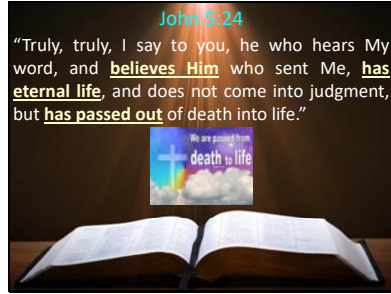
5. Consequence

Rev 2:10

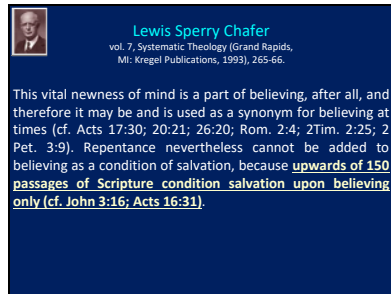
"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and **I will give you the crown of life.**"

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Scripture's Five Crowns (Rev 4:10: 3:11; 2 John 8)		
Scripture	Crown	Purpose
1 Cor. 9:24-27	Incorruptible	Gaining mastery over the flesh
1 Thess. 2:19-20	Rejoicing	Soul winning
Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10	Life	Enduring trials
1 Pet. 5:2-4	Glory	Shepherding God's people
2 Tim. 4:8	Righteousness	Longing for His appearing

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Smyrna
Revelation 2:8-11


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7. **Exhortation to listen (11a)**
8. Promise to overcomers (11b)



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Deuteronomy 6:4-7

⁴ **"Hear, O Israel!** The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!...⁶ These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall **teach** them **diligently** to your **sons** and shall talk of them when you **sit** in your house and when you **walk** by the way and when you **lie** down and when you **rise** up."



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Smyrna
Revelation 2:8-11

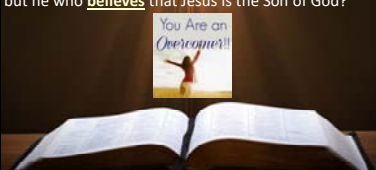
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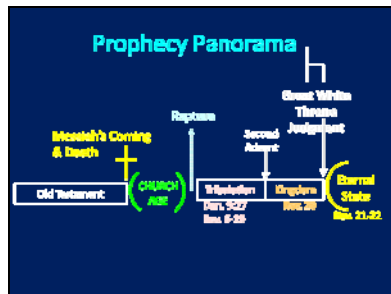
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1 John 5:4-5

⁴For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"




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Penalty of Sin

- Death – Gen. 2:17; Ezek. 18:20; Rom. 6:23; Jas. 1:14-15
- Death = separation
- Three types of death
 - ◆ Spiritual (Isa. 59:1-2; Eph. 2:1)
 - ◆ Physical (Gen. 3:19)
 - ◆ Eternal or Second (Rev. 2:11; 20:6, 14; 21:8)



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Two Rules of Interpretation



- Search the immediate context
 - ◆ Walvoord: 26X
- Search the remote context
 - ◆ Old Testament
 - ◆ Thomas: 278 / 404 verses

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Conclusion



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Smyrna
Revelation 2:8-11

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"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace." (NIV)

8a

Matthew 11:10-This is the one about whom it [k]is written, 'Behold, I send My messenger [l]ahead of You, Who will prepare Your way before You.'

Luke 9:52-and He sent messengers on ahead of Him, and they went and entered a village of the Samaritans to [af]make arrangements for Him.

Jas. 2:25-In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?

Polycarp: The aged pastor of Smyrna, Polycarp, a convert and pupil of John, was burned at the stake in A.D. 168 in that city because he would not renounce his faith in Christ. The Roman proconsul promised him, “Swear by Cesar and I will release thee. Revile Christ.” As recounted in the oldest written account of a Christian martyrdom outside the New Testament entitled *The Martyrdom of Saint Polycarp*, the serene Polycarp replied as he was led to the stake to be burned, “Eighty-six years I have served him, and he never did me any wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?...I am a Christian.” *The Martyrdom of Saint Polycarp*, Bishop of Smyrna, as Told in the Letter of the Church of Smyrna to the Church of Philomelium. Sections 9-10.

<https://www.ccel.org/ccel/richardson/fathers.vii.i.iii.html>

Acts 19:10-This took place for two years, so that **all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord**, both Jews and Greeks.

Matt. 2:11-After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and **myrrh**.

8b

Rev. 1:17-When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, “Do not be afraid; **I am the first and the last**

Rev. 1:8-“I am **the Alpha and the Omega**,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who [f]is to come, the Almighty.”

Rev. 1:18-and the living One; and **I [I]was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore**, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

Heb. 2:15-and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

9

John 2:23-25-23 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing.24 But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, **for He knew all men, 25 and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.**

2 Cor. 8:2-that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their **deep poverty overflowed** in the wealth of their liberality.

2 Cor. 8:9-For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became **poor**, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

Rev. 3:17-Because you say, “I am **rich**, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,” and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and **poor** and blind and naked.

Matt. 19:23-24-23 And Jesus said to His disciples, “Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of

heaven. 24 Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

In **California**, a sharp looking businessman stands up at a luncheon to give his testimony: “Before I knew Christ, I had nothing. My business was in bankruptcy, my health was ruined, I had lost the respect of the community, and I had almost lost my family. Then I accepted Christ as my savior and Lord. He took me out of bankruptcy and now my business has tripled its profits in the last three years. My blood pressure has dropped to normal, and I feel better then I felt in years. And best of all, my wife and children have come back, and we are a family again. God is good – praise the Lord!”

In **China**, an old and dishelved former university professor gives his testimony: “Before I met Christ, I had everything. I made a large salary, lived in a nice house, enjoyed good health, I was highly respected for my credentials and profession, and had a good marriage and beautiful children. Then I accepted Christ as my savior and Lord. As a result, I lost my post at the University, lost my beautiful house and car, and spent five years in prison. Now I work for a subsistence wage at a factory, and I live in pain from my neck that was broken in prison. My wife rejected me because of my conversion. She took my children away, and I have not seen her or them for 10 years. But God is good, and I praise Him for His faithfulness.” Randy Alcorn, **Money, Possessions, and Eternity**, pps. 119-120.

Rev. 3:9- Behold, I [e]will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will

make them come and bow down [f]at your feet, and make them know that I have loved you.

Gen. 15:6-Then he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Rom. 11:28-**From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake**, but [k]from the standpoint of God's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers.

John 8:44-**You are of your father the devil**, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks [n]a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of [o]lies.

2 Cor. 11:13-15-For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as **apostles** of Christ. 14 No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as **servants of righteousness**, whose end will be according to their deeds.

Gen. 3:7-Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves [b]loin coverings.

Gen. 3:21-The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

Rev. 3:9-Behold, I [e]will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will

make them come and bow down [f]at your feet, and make them know that I have loved you.

Rev. 3:17-18-Because you say, “**I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,**” and **you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,** 18 I advise you to **buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich,** and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.

1 Pet. 1:6-7- 6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by **various trials,** 7 so that the [d]proof of your faith, being more precious than **gold which [e]is perishable, even though tested by fire,** may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

10

Matt. 13:39-and the **enemy** who sowed them is **the devil,** and the harvest is the [u]end of the age; and the reapers are angels.

Matt. 16:21-23-21 From that time [r]Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. 22 Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “[s]God forbid it, Lord! This shall never [t]happen to You.” 23 But He turned and said to Peter, “**Get behind Me, Satan!** You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on [u]God’s interests, but man’s.”

Eph. 4:26-27-Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not give **the devil [s]an opportunity.**

2 Cor. 12:7-10-7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, **a messenger of Satan to [b]torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!** 8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. 9 And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast [c]about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with [d]insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

Rev. 19:20-And the **beast** was seized, and with him the **false prophet** who performed the signs [h]in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the **lake of fire** which burns with [i]brimstone.

Rev. 20:1-3- Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain [a]in his hand. 2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

Rev. 20:10-And **the devil** who deceived them was thrown into the **lake of fire** and [f]brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Luke 22:31-32-31 “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has [d]demanded permission to sift you like wheat; 32 but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

Job 1:8-12-8 The Lord said to Satan, “Have you [c]considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, [d]fearing God and turning away from evil.” 9 Then Satan answered the [e]Lord, “Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face.” 12 Then the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your [f]power, **only do not put forth your hand on him.**” So Satan departed from the presence of the Lord.

Job 2:3-6-3 The Lord said to Satan, “Have you [a]considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man [b]fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him to [c]ruin him without cause.” 4 Satan answered the Lord and said, “Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. 5 However, put forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse You to Your

face.” 6 So the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your [d]power, **only spare his life.**”

Ezek. 28:13-“You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your [e]settings and [f]sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were **created** They were prepared.

Ezek. 28:15-You were blameless in your ways From the day you were **created** Until unrighteousness was found in you.

Matt. 10:28-31-28 Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in [x]hell. 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a [y]cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.

Prov. 29:25-The fear of man [m]brings a snare, But he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.

2 Tim. 1:7-For God has not given us a spirit of [f]timidity, but of power and love and [g]discipline.

Matt. 25:23-His master said to him, ‘**Well done, good and faithful slave.** You were **faithful** with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

1 Cor. 4:2-In this case, moreover, it is required [a]of stewards that one be found **trustworthy**.

Isa. 64:6-For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

Eph. 2:8-9-8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and [h]that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

John 12:42-Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be [p]put out of the synagogue.

Rev. 3:11-I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

Matt. 10:32-33-32 “Therefore everyone who [z]confesses Me before men, I will also confess [aa]him before My Father who is in heaven. 33 But whoever [ab]denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.

Matt. 10:1-4-Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

2 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; and [a]James the son of Zebedee, and [b]John his brother; 3 Philip and [c]Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; [d]James the son of Alphaeus,

and Thaddaeus;⁴ Simon the [e]Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Him.

Matt. 10:5-7-5 These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: “Do not [f]go [g]in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans;⁶ but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And as you go, [h]preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven [i]is at hand.’

11

1 Pet. 1:6- In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for **a little while**, if necessary, you have been distressed by various **trials**.

2 Cor. 4:17-For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison

Rom. 8:18-For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Rom. 6:23-**For the wages of sin is death**, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rev. 20:6-Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the **second death** has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Rev. 20:14-Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is **the second death, the lake of fire**.

Rev. 21:8-But for the cowardly and [d]unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers

and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in **the lake that burns with fire and [e]brimstone, which is the second death.**

Conclusion

Num. 6:24-26-The Lord bless you, and keep you;
25 The Lord make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you;
26 The Lord lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.'