

Investigating God's Word...

Year Seven

**Revelation,
Ecclesiastes**

Sunday School Curriculum

Summer Quarter

Lesson Sequence

Summer Quarter

The **Lesson Sequence** gives the teacher an overview of the entire quarter.

The central goal of the *Investigating God's Word...* curriculum is to enable children the opportunity to read and study the entire Bible—from Genesis to Revelation—by the time they “graduate” from 6th grade.

Week One	Revelation 1:1-2:11
Week Two	Revelation 2:12-3:22
Week Three	Revelation 4-6
Week Four	Revelation 7:1-9:12
Week Five	Revelation 9:13-11:19
Week Six	Revelation 12-13
Week Seven	Revelation 14-15
Week Eight	Revelation 16-17
Week Nine	Revelation 18:1-19:10
Week Ten	Revelation 19:11-21:8
Week Eleven	Revelation 21:9-22:21
Week Twelve	Ecclesiastes 1-6
Week Thirteen	Ecclesiastes 7-12



Suggested Schedule

Welcome <i>Proverbs 2:12-15</i>	2-3 min.
Drill Time <i>The Ten Plagues</i>	5 min.
W.O.W! <i>Apocalypse</i>	5 min.
Historical Context <i>Timeline</i>	2-3 min.
Bible Investigation <i>Revelation 9:13-11:19</i>	25-30 min.
Lesson-At-Home <i>Revelation 11:15b</i>	2-3 min.

Lesson Five

Revelation 9:13-11:19

Overview

Revelation 9 continues the sounding of the trumpets of the Lord. When the sixth angel sounds his trumpet, four angels are released to kill a third of mankind. They send horses and riders out to inflict all sorts of injury and destruction on the people. The rest of mankind that were not killed still do not repent, sticking to their idols and vile practices.

In Revelation 10, John sees a mighty angel with a little scroll in his hand. John is told to eat the scroll which represents God's Word. It is sweet to his mouth, but sour to his stomach. John is then commissioned to continue his prophecy to the people.

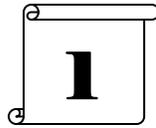
In the first half of Revelation 11, John is told to measure the temple. He then sees two witnesses who powerfully prophesy to the people for three and a half years. They are martyred by the beast, but are later resurrected to life and ascend into heaven. Then, the seventh angel sounds his trumpet. A loud voice declares that the kingdom of the world now belongs to Christ. The worship of Christ continues in the throne room in heaven. God's temple in heaven is opened and the ark of the covenant is seen. This last trumpet signals the Second Coming of Christ!

Preparation

Read and meditate on Revelation 9-11 this week.

Teaching Encouragement

In our reading today, you will see pictures of the Word of God and our required response to it. We are to "eat" God's Word because it is sweet to the taste. At the same time, God's Word is unsettling to the stomach because it contains declarations of God's wrath for sinners. Upon eating and digesting God's Word, we are to proclaim it as God's witnesses. Standing for God's Word has always brought persecution upon the witnesses of Christ, and this era is no different. God gives His people the power to preach and teach God's Word, and the resurrection life of Christ gives us freedom from sin and death. Share all of these pictures of God's Word with your students as you study today. Give thanks that you have been given God's Word to learn and teach!

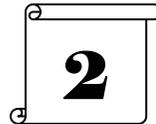


Welcome

Greet the students. Welcome visitors. To prepare the students for class today, read Proverbs 2:12-15

¹² Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse, ¹³ who leave the straight paths to walk in dark ways, ¹⁴ who delight in doing wrong and rejoice in the perverseness of evil, ¹⁵ whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways.

Say: *What will save you and me from following the ways of wicked people? [Wisdom.] Wisdom will keep us on the straight path following God, instead of being enemies of God. Who's ready to grow in wisdom today?*



Drill Time

Now, it's time for DRILL TIME, our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned in the past. Are you ready?

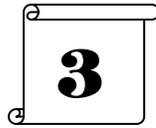
Today's question: *List the Ten Plagues the LORD brought on Egypt in order to deliver His people.*

Call on students or work together as a class.

Answer: Water turned to blood.
Frogs.
Gnats.
Stinging flies.
Death of Livestock.
Boils.
Fiery Hail.
Locusts.
Darkness.
Death of the Firstborn.

Say: *Our reading in Revelation last time reminded us of some of these plagues. As God brought TRIBULATION on Egypt to deliver Israel, He will deliver all His people from sin and death!*

The answer to today's Drill Time question is found in **Exodus 7-12**.



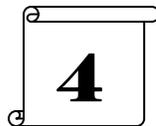
W.O.W!

Our *W.O.W!* (*Word of the Week*) this week is **APOCALYPSE**. **Write it on the board.** Can anyone tell me what this word means? **Allow answers.**

APOCALYPSE is actually the title of the Book of Revelation in its original language. *APOCALYPSE* literally means “unveiling” or “disclosure” of hidden things that are only known by God. That is a good way to describe the Book of Revelation, isn’t it? Of what we have read so far, we see God unveiling and revealing things about the future that He only knows.

So, the Book of Revelation is the only *APOCALYPTIC* literature in the New Testament. Do you know of any Old Testament books that contain *APOCALYPTIC* material? [Daniel, Ezekiel, Zechariah.] All *APOCALYPTIC* literature is difficult to understand since it uses such figurative pictures to describe hidden things.

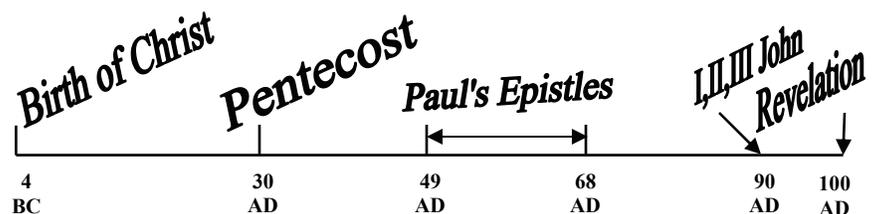
Do you remember the four horsemen that were revealed when the four seals were opened? They are often referred to as the Four Horseman of the *APOCALYPSE*. We will read more from this Book of *APOCALYPSE* today!

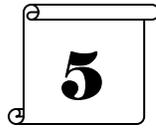


Historical Context

As you continue studying the Book of Revelation today, draw this timeline on the board.

Revelation Timeline





Bible Investigation

Have your students open their Bibles to Revelation 9.

Introduction: *We left off last time with the fifth trumpet being sounded by the angel of God. What judgment came upon the earth with that trumpet blast? [A satanic army of locusts tortured the enemies of God.] This was called the first “woe” upon the earth, with two more coming. We’ll read about those today.*

Let’s get started. Read Revelation 9:13-16.

¹³ The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the horns of the golden altar that is before God. ¹⁴ It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” ¹⁵ And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind. ¹⁶ The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million. I heard their number.

Discussion: *What happened when the sixth angel sounded his trumpet? [Four angels were released to kill a third of mankind.] That’s a lot of people! Have you noticed how all of these judgments wipe out one-third of things (land, seas, people, etc.)? God’s judgment is upon a significant portion of our world.*

Let’s read more. Read verses 17-19.

¹⁷ The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur. ¹⁸ A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths. ¹⁹ The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.

Discussion: *These remind us of the four horsemen of the APOCALYPSE, don’t they? They also remind us of the plagues the LORD brought on Egypt. Again, this is a picture of the judgment of God upon all who reject Him.*

Let’s finish this chapter. Read verses 20-21.

²⁰ The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols

that cannot see or hear or walk. ²¹ Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Application: *Did these horrible plagues cause people to repent and turn back to God? [No.] Isn't that sad? All throughout the history of the world, people have been plagued because of their sins. They have suffered as the consequence of their evil. They could have turned back to God, but they didn't. The point is: No one will turn to God unless God changes his or her heart by the power of the Spirit. We need a Savior because we will not turn away from sin and turn to God on our own—not even after great pain and suffering!*

Let's go to Chapter Ten. Read Revelation 10:1-4.

¹ Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. ² He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, ³ and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke. ⁴ And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down."

Discussion: *Now John sees another angel in his vision. What did he have in his hand? [A little scroll.] This scroll is a symbol of God's Word. The angel is preparing for the seventh trumpet to be sounded. But what is this scroll all about?*

Let's see what happens next. Read verses 5-8.

⁵ Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. ⁶ And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, "There will be no more delay! ⁷ But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets." ⁸ Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: "Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land."

Discussion: *We are still waiting for the seventh trumpet to sound. What will it announce? [The accomplishment of the mystery of God.] God is the only one who knows when it is time to reveal all of His mysteries. What does the voice from heaven tell John to do about the scroll? [Take the scroll from the angel.] What will he do with the scroll?*

Let's see. Read verses 9-11.

⁹So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, "Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey." ¹⁰I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour. ¹¹Then I was told, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings."

Discussion: *What did the angel tell John to do with the little scroll? [Eat it.] How did it taste? [It was sweet in his mouth but sour to his stomach.] The Word of God is sweet to the Christian, yet it is sour to all who reject Christ. What else was John told? [That he was to prophesy again about many nations.] John was an apostle of Jesus Christ and a messenger of God's Word.*

Application: *If you are a Christian, you too are called to share the gospel with the world. We "eat" the Word of God by learning it, loving it, and living it. God's message is sweet to His people, but it is a strong word of judgment to those who do not believe. We must take the "bad news" to the nations in order to plead with them to receive the good news of Jesus Christ!*

Now, on to Chapter Eleven. Read Revelation 11:1-4.

¹I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshippers there. ²But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months. ³And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." ⁴These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.

Discussion: *What was John told to do next? [Measure the temple of God and the altar; count the worshippers.] Then, who was given the power to prophesy? [Two witnesses.] There are those who believe that these are two real people who will prophesy about Jesus' return for 1,260 days. But, the text says these are the two "olive trees" and the "two lampstands," which could mean that these are not two real men.*

Application: *These two witnesses symbolize ALL of the witnesses of Christ throughout the ages. Just as we are to "eat" God's Word, we are to be witnesses for Christ wherever he puts us. God gives us the power to witness for Him and gives us a certain amount of time on earth to accomplish His work. Will you be a witness for Him?*

Let's see what happens next. Read verses 5-10.

⁵If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. ⁶These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want. ⁷Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. ⁸Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. ⁹For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. ¹⁰The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.

Discussion: *Do you see how it's hard to imagine that these are two real people? They certainly could be empowered by God to shut up the sky and have fire come out of their mouths, but it is more likely that this is just figurative language. God's witnesses are empowered and emboldened by God to speak God's Word, bring judgment on unbelievers, and preach the gospel of grace. What happens to these witnesses? [The beast from the Abyss kills them.] How do the people of the earth react to their deaths? [They celebrate!]*

Application: *Again, this is a picture of all Christians who are witnesses for Christ. We are given power to preach. We will endure persecution for the sake of Christ. The world will hate us and want us to stop preaching Christ. This has happened over and over again in the history of God's kingdom!*

Let's read on. Read verses 11-12.

¹¹But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. ¹²Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.

Discussion: *What happens next to these two witnesses? [They come back to life.] They are resurrected, and then ascend into heaven. What does this remind you of? [Christ's own resurrection and ascension.]*

Application: *This is a picture of what happens to all who are witnesses of Christ. We are raised with Christ since we died with*

Him. And, we will one day ascend to heaven to be with the LORD. What a great picture of the faithfulness of God to save His people!

*Listen to more. **Read verses 13-14.***

¹³ At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. ¹⁴ The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon.

Discussion: *We see more judgment on those who reject God's witnesses. This "second woe" actually causes some to glorify God in order to avoid destructions!*

*Now, for the seventh trumpet. **Read verses 15-18.***

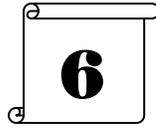
¹⁵ The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever." ¹⁶ And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying: "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. ¹⁸ The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great—and for destroying those who destroy the earth."

Discussion: *Do you hear what the seventh trumpet announces? It announces the Second Coming of Christ, to judge the living and the dead. Just as with the seven seals, the seven trumpets ends with the return of King Jesus. And again, we have the worship of God going on in the throne room of heaven!*

*Let's finish our reading for today. **Read verse 19.***

¹⁹ Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

Conclusion: *What does this remind you of? **Allow answers.** It reminds me of Mt. Sinai, the mountain where God met with Moses. This is another picture of God's holiness and his presence (the ark of the covenant shows us that too)! This Book of APOCALYPSE is certainly revealing the hidden things of God to us. As hard as it may be to understand, we can clearly see Jesus Christ is the King of the universe! We'll read more next time...*



Lesson-At-Home

Distribute the “Lesson-At-Home” bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (Revelation 11:15b) together.

Revelation 11:15b (NIV)

¹⁵ ... “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever.”

Say: *These were the words from heaven that were spoken when the seventh angel sounded his trumpet. It again confirms what all Christians know—that Christ is King and He will rule for ever and ever. Memorize this verse and keep on bending the knee to your King!*

Review the verse a couple of times.

Direct the students’ attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today’s lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week.

Close in prayer and dismiss the students.