

Revelation 17–22

Memory Verse: *He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away* (Rev. 21:4 NIV).

Background Helps:

With this lesson we bring to a close our study of Revelation, of the New Testament, and of our three-year tour through *The Book of Books*.

These last six chapters of Revelation contain the final two visions of the book. Notice the similarities and contrasts in the introduction to each vision in 17:1-3 and 21:9-10. The first vision (17:1–21:8) includes a description of Babylon, corrupt human civilization, and its destruction (chapters 17–18); the return of Christ and his defeat of the beast, the false prophet, and the devil (19:1–21:10); and the Last Judgment, along with a description of the final destinies of both the wicked and the righteous (21:11–22:8). The last vision (21:9–22:6), in contrast with the prostitute Babylon, describes the bride of the Lamb, New Jerusalem, the eternal home and destiny of believers.

Lesson Helps:

May I suggest that you make Revelation 19:11–21:8 the heart of your lesson? Sketch in order for your class these final events:

19:11-21	The Second Coming of Christ
20:1-10	The Millennium and the defeat of Satan
20:11-15	The Last Judgment
21:1-8	The New Heaven and Earth

Make very clear the two distinct eternal destinies that await every person. Challenge each student: Are you sure of spending eternity with the Lord? Or will it be the lake of fire? Notice the recurring title given to Jesus in these chapters: the Lamb (19:7, 9; 21:9, 14, 22, 23, 27; 22:1, 3). See John 1:29 and urge your students to trust Christ to take their sins away and to give them eternal life.

Assignment: