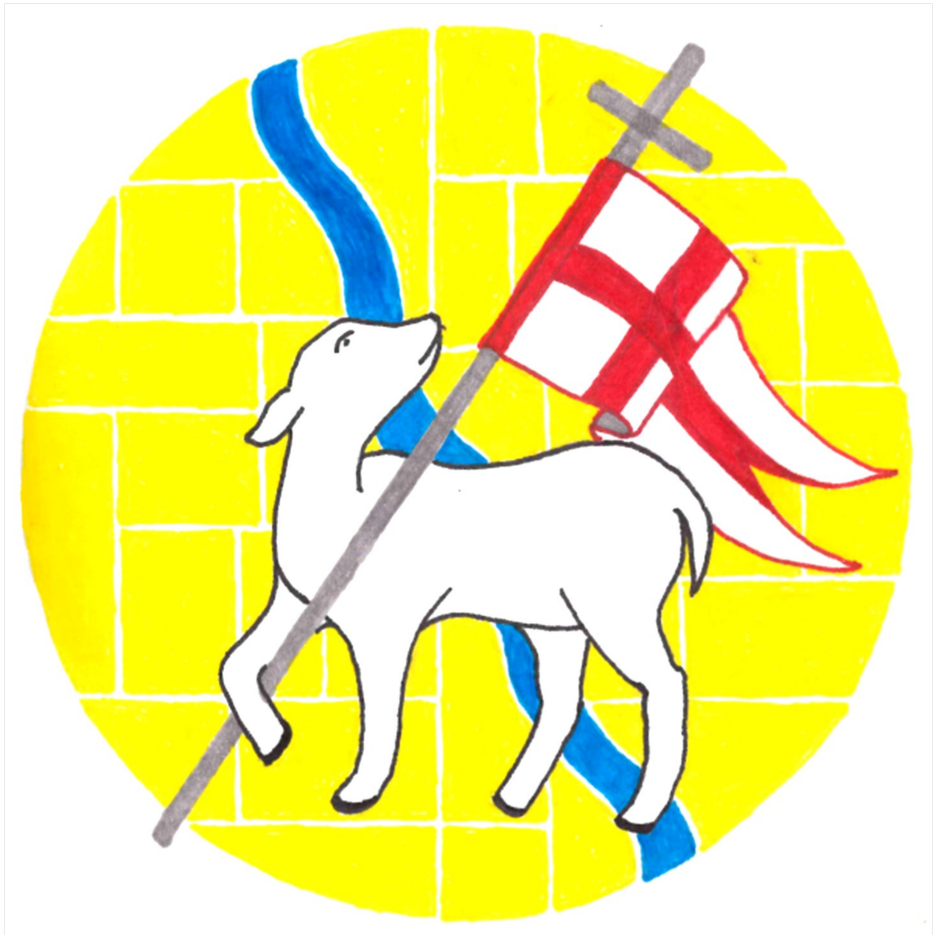


# *Reading Revelation Devotionally*

*Daily Devotions by Rose Kirby*



This devotional is free for use in personal and group settings.  
Do alter, sell, or present as your own work. Written, illustrated, and formatted  
by Rose Kirby. 2025



*Reading  
Revelation  
Devotionally*





Reading Revelation Devotionally



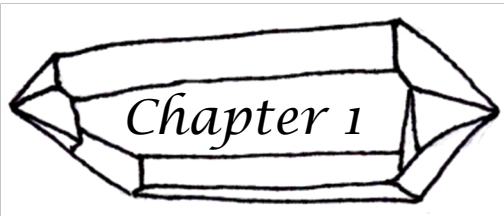
# Introduction

All the chaos in the world the past few years has many people considering the end times, which usually leads them to the book of Revelation. Unfortunately, there are a lot of bad applications drawn from Revelation, often from theories that are about five steps from what the book actually says. We tend to focus on trying to decipher every detail and put together a definitive timeline of future events, but people can fail to see the forest for the trees.

Personally, I've always loved the book of Revelation. Perhaps I'm weird, but there's a lot of beauty that people miss. I decided to study and write about Revelation, not to focus on trying to decipher the future, but to look for how the truths revealed apply to our lives today. This devotional book is to share what I learned with you.

Each day of this devotional book is dedicated to a chapter of Revelation. Start by reading the chapter, asking God to show you how it applies to our lives today. I'll share one thought that stood out to me and a suggested prayer. I hope you will join me in diving into what God has to say through the amazing book of Revelation!





**B**efore diving into the incredible visions John saw, he begins with three foundational truths. He wants the church to remember these truths as they consider what his visions mean. When we contemplate our troubled present or consider what the future holds, these truths must be our foundation.

1) Who God is: He is a Trinity. He is eternal—the beginning and the end. He is on the throne. Jesus specifically is faithfully pleading for us, the beginning of the resurrection, and the ruler over all earthly kings.

2) What Jesus has done for us: He freed us from our sins by giving His own blood on the cross. He made us His kingdom (His people) and priests (access to God and His representatives).

3) What Jesus is going to do: He will return in glory, so that everyone will see, and those who rejected Him will realize the truth and mourn.

Whatever today holds, whatever you think tomorrow might bring, I encourage you, and myself, to see it in light of these three truths.



## *Prayer:*

Lord of awesome glory, I bow before You. I praise You for who You are: the great and glorious eternal King. I praise You for what You have done for me: saving me from sin through Jesus' death and resurrection and making me part of your people, giving me access to You. I praise You for what You will do: for one day Christ will return and be revealed to all. Help me to remember these foundational truths when I look at the troubled present or difficult future. Give me the strength to endure tribulation, knowing that I am part of Your eternal kingdom. Guide me as I study this revelation of Jesus Christ, that I might learn and obey all You want me to. In the Name of Jesus, the faithful witness, the firstborn from among the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth, Amen!





## Chapter 2

*T*oday, from Revelation chapter two, I have two main truths I want to share with you:

1) God wants us to do good works and reject evil. Still, it's possible to do a lot of good things but lack love, like the church at Ephesus. Love is supposed to characterize us as Christ's church. We must do good works and reject evil AND live out of love for God and others.

2) Many people are worried about persecution these days, so it's a good time to think about how Jesus wants us to react when persecution comes. When Jesus addresses the local church that was enduring trials and hatred, He began by reminding them that He is the beginning and end and the one who conquered death. He assured them that He knew what they were facing and suffering. He urged them not to be afraid, because they had something so much better than anything that could be taken from them. Though they were poor, they were spiritually rich. Even if they were killed for their faith, they had the promise of eternal life! When we are intimidated by persecutions, or anything trial that tests our faith, let us hold firm to who Jesus is and the great blessings we have in Him that can never be taken away.



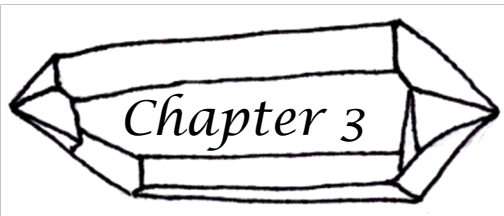


The combination of these two truths should remind us to continue in love even when we are persecuted, ridiculed, hated, or otherwise rejected because of our faith.

### *Prayer:*

Lord, thank You for the local church, the communities of faith You have given. Thank You that the church is built on the foundation of Jesus Christ and that who Your churches should be is built on what You have revealed about Jesus. Help my church to be faithful, love-filled, truth seeking, and enduring. Help me, as a church member and a servant of Christ, to be faithful, love-filled, truth seeking, and enduring. Thank You that I don't have to fear any persecution or trials that may come, because I have better riches and a better life with You. Help me to stand from and flee from sin. I confess that I do not always love as I should. Help me to love You and others as You have loved me. In the Name of Jesus, whose eyes are like a fiery flame and shoes feet are like fine bronze, Amen.





*H*ave you ever heard the saying, “If you’re far from God, it’s you who moved”?

The church in Laodicea gets a bad rap, and rightfully so. They focused so much on their earthly wealth that they became apathetic to spiritual things and to Jesus Himself. The thing we often miss is that Jesus loved the church in Laodicea! He wanted them back! Even in this letter, He pointed out that He was rebuking them because He loved them. They had moved. They had become so far away from God that Jesus is pictured as standing OUTSIDE the church. Yet the letter doesn’t end there. Jesus didn’t just accept that they had become distant from Him. He stood there and pounded on their door. He longed for fellowship with them, and would restore that fellowship with any of them who would respond to His calling and repent.

I’ve heard people say that the church of America has become like the church of Laodicea. I say that’s painting with an awfully broad stroke, but there are some churches in many places of the world that are like the church of Laodicea. Jesus still loves those churches. He wants them back. So, let’s pray for them.




If we're honest, we've all had times when we've wandered from Jesus. If you're far away from God right now, know that Jesus is knocking. He wants to be with you. I hope you will open the door.

### *Prayer:*

Lord, thank You for Your unending love that continues to pursue me! You know that there are times I have been apathetic, weak, or sinful. Thank You that You do not give up on me. Even when I have ignored You, You knock at my door and pursue restored fellowship with me. I thank You also that when I am faithful to You, and others reject me for that faithfulness, that You assure me of Your love, and will one day vindicate me, and promise that I will be with You for all eternity. Help me to remain faithful to You no matter the cost, not letting worldly things distract me and make me apathetic to You, nor falling into sin. Help me to be responsive to Your voice. In the Name of Jesus, the faithful and true witness, the originator of God's creation, Amen.





## Chapter 4

**I**'ve always loved Revelation chapter four. It's such a beautiful picture of the glory of God and the worship of Heaven. When I read through it again, I was convicted. Jesus invited John to see a Heaven's-eye-view of the future, and where did He start? In the throne room of Heaven. I know for me, it's easy to become so focused on the heaviness of the world - all the brokenness, the things that are going wrong - and become discouraged, especially during the last few year. I have to set my eyes on things above, on God. When we think about what is going on in the world today, or what may come tomorrow, we have to start with the foundation that God is on the throne. This chapter is an invitation to join in worshipping our great God. That is how we lift our eyes. That is how we deal with the trouble and brokenness and pain. We worship.

So I invite you to join me in worshipping God, who was, who is, and who is coming. A great song to start with is "How Great is Our God" by Chris Tomlin.

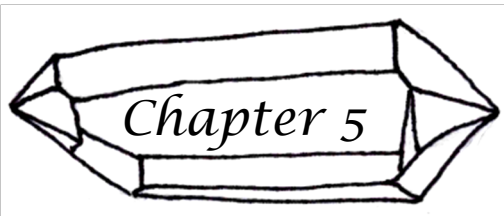


## *Prayer:*

"My God, You are great and glorious beyond anything I could imagine or conceive! Lord, You know that I am too often focused on all that is wrong in the world, allowing myself to become discouraged by the brokenness around me. Lift my eyes to things above, for You are still on the throne! Let me worship You: God, You are beautiful and valuable, beyond every precious stone! You are holy, holy, holy! God the Almighty One, You are from eternity to eternity! You are worthy of all glory, honor, and power. You have created all things and all that exists is by Your will! You are the King of Heaven, Name above every other Name! I praise You forever and ever! In Jesus' Name, Amen."

By Rose Kirby





**W**e know that as Christians, the Gospel is supposed to be our foundation, but it's easy to get caught up in so many things that we forget the glory of it. By the end of chapter five, we have not yet been given any prophecies of what comes next. First, we are introduced to the One who is worthy to open the scroll, though we already know Him: Jesus.

Jesus is pictured as a lamb that has been slain. He is worshiped by the entire host of Heaven, eventually joined by all creatures of the world, because He died and redeemed us by His blood. That is the great and wonderful reason that Jesus is worthy of all our honor, praise, and worship. Jesus died for you and rose again. That simple truth is the foundation of our faith. Whatever is happening in the world, whatever is coming in the future, no matter how bad it is – this truth can be our foundation every day. We are part of God's kingdom because Jesus redeemed us with His blood.

***Prayer:***

Lord, I worship You forever and ever. I praise Jesus for the victory You won through the cross! Thank You for giving



Your blood and Your life to redeem me for God! Thank You for making me a part of Your kingdom and a priest, access to You and making me Your representative to others. Your love and sacrifice are amazing! You are worthy of all glory, honor, power, and praise! God, help me to hold on to this great truth and worship forever. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

By Rose Kirby





## Chapter 6

**T**oday I'm just going to share my prayer from Revelation six.

### *Prayer:*

Lord, thank You that You remain sovereign. Nothing happens apart from Your knowledge and will. You know the right time to allow and cause each circumstance, and You know the right time to judge the earth. Help me to trust You with everything I go through or see in the world.

Lord, my heart is burdened for my brothers and sisters experiencing terrible persecution. I long for You to protect them and punish those who harm them, but I know that in Your sovereignty You allow some to die or suffer as witnesses, assured that You have a great reward and better life in store for them. Grant them supernatural peace and assurance that You are with them and see them.

While I many not face that level of persecution, I pray that any time I face any sort of persecution, You will help me to remember that it is to be expected in a world that has rejected You and that You see what is going on and will vindicate me when the time is right.



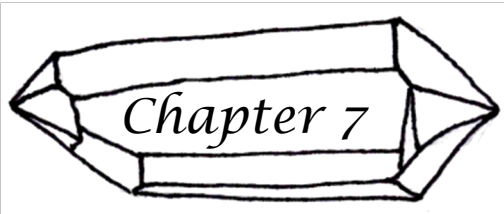


I long for the day when You will vindicate those who have suffered even more. On the other hand, by heart is also burdened for those who so far reject You and the Gospel of the Lamb. You are holy, and when Your wrath against sin comes, they will find no other hiding place, for the only hiding place is in Jesus Himself. I pray that You would open their eyes and they would hide themselves in Christ before it is too late.

Thank You that You have provided a hiding place, forgiveness of sin through faith in Jesus Christ, the Lamb who was slain but who rose and lives forever and ever. It is in His Name that I pray, Amen.

By Rose Kirby





*T*his passage is a beautiful picture of the glory of the church. We so easily get frustrated and bitter about the imperfections we see in the church in this life, especially the problems we may see in our local churches. Yet the church universal, the people of God, is an incredible thing to be a part of. We are washed and made pure in the blood of the Lamb! Because the Good News is for everyone in every tribe, language, and national, we belong to a world-wide, multi-cultural family, so much bigger than we ever realize.

The greater glory of the church is that one day we will be before the throne of God, worshiping and serving Him forever. He will be our eternal shelter and Christ our eternal shepherd. We will no longer face the problems of this world, like hunger and pain, and God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. What a hope as we struggle through the sorrows of this world!

In chapter five, we were invited to join the Heavenly chorus in worshiping God. Here in chapter seven, the church beings the worship, praising God for His salvation, and all the angels and heavenly creatures fall down in worship and join the song. As the church, let us live in hope that one day we



will be home with God forever! Let us lead the glorious worship of God, who has made us His, and Jesus, who washed us in His own blood!

### *Prayer:*

Lord, thank You that one day You will bring Your church home for good, and we will be with You and praise You forever! Help me to continually praise You now as I await that day. Thank You that You will one day wipe away every tear. Help me to hope in that when I am overcome by the sorrows of this world. Thank You that I have been washed by the blood of the Lamb and am holy and blameless in Your sight! I long for the day when I will be with You forever in Heaven and am grateful Your presence is with me even now. Thank You that I have been sealed with the Holy Spirit until that day.

Your church is such a wonderful thing to be a part of, filled with brothers and sisters from every tribe, tongue, and nation. Thank You that the Good News is for everyone around the world and thank You that I get to be a part of this beautiful, multicultural family! In Jesus' Name, Amen.





## Chapter 8

**J**esus said that God shows His love in that he sends rain and provides food for both the just and unjust. It's so easy, especially in today's world, to take for granted all the things we get from nature and forget that they all come from God's hand. The light of the sun, plants and good soil for growing, and the water we drink are all gifts from God.

Revelation eight tells of four judgements in which some of those things will be taken away, to reveal to those who reject God just how dependent on Him they are. There are many people who think they don't need God because they understand nature or because they live comfortably, forgetting that it was God who gave them everything they had. Let us not be like that. Let us remember today that every part of nature – even the water we drink and the sun's light we live by – are gifts from God, and we are totally dependent on Him.

### *Prayer:*

God, You are the one who controls nature and You give us so many good gifts through it. In today's world, where we

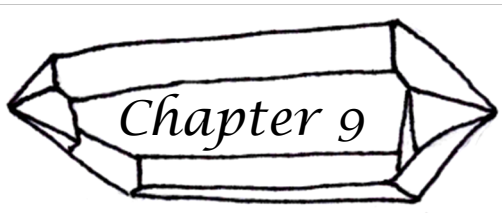


think we have control over so many things, it's easy to forget how dependent we are on You. You are the one who provides the light of the sun and the water we drink. Thank You for all of the things You give me every day. I'm sorry I take them for granted so often. Help me to remember that it is You who provides all those things.

Lord in Your grace and steadfast love, You continue to give those gifts even to people who hate You. I praise You for that grace! I know that when the time is right for Your judgement, You will take many of those things away to show people how dependent they are on You. While I long for the time that evil will be punished and destroyed, I know how terrible it will be for those who haven't repented. All of Heaven even falls silent at the thought of these judgements. Help me never to take these things lightly. Thank You that for now I get to be part of turning people back to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

By Rose Kirby





## Chapter 9

Sometimes we think that if we just had the perfect strategy in sharing the Gospel, we could make the world believe. Other people blame God, saying if He would only reveal Himself more clearly, then they would follow Him. In Revelation chapter nine, the plagues continue and grow worse, but also more clearly from God's hand. These plagues are to punish sin, but the end of the chapter also reveals that they ought to cause people to become aware of their sin and that they are guilty before God, causing them to repent. Unfortunately, most of the people don't.

It's a sad truth that sometimes people's hearts are hard, and no matter what we do or what they see, they won't turn. There's a line from a TV show I like, called *Once Upon a Time*, where one character says to another: "What's crazier than seeing and not believing? Because that's what you've been doing ever since you came to this town." There are people out there who won't believe, no matter how much they see.

That shouldn't stop us from sharing the Gospel. In fact, it can empower us. It's our job to speak the truth and teach the Gospel – yes, clearly, effectively, and with love – but it is not our job to make people believe. That has to be between them




and the Holy Spirit. So, we don't have to feel like failures when people reject our message. The good news is that right now the harvest is ripe and there are many people who are ready to turn to God when they hear the truth. So, don't be discouraged when someone doesn't believe you. Keep telling the Good News!

### *Prayer:*

“Lord, You are holy, therefore hating sin, and loving. You long for people to repent and turn back to You. Even when You send plagues and punishments, they are opportunities for people to see who You are, see their sin, and repent. Thank You that You gave me an opportunity to turn to You, and I thank You for the many others I know who have turned to You. I pray for those who have not yet repented, that they would see and understand and turn to You. Yet I know that not everyone will. Help me when I share the Gospel to remember that I cannot make anyone believe, that it's my job to speak truth, the Holy Spirit's job to convict, and their job to respond in faith. Let those who refuse not discourage me from telling the Gospel. In Jesus' Name, Amen.





## Chapter 10

**R**eading Revelation 10, I couldn't help hearing my dad's voice in my head. He's always saying that the point of prophecies like those in Revelation aren't so that we can diagram and figure out every detail of the future, but so that when the things prophesied happen, we can see that God knew and told us beforehand. That's what much of chapter 10 is about. There's even one point when an angel tells John not to write down one of the things he hears, because it's not for us to know. Then the angel declares that when the seventh trumpet sounds, God's hidden plan will finally be complete.

Several places in the New Testament talk about how Jesus and God's plan of salvation through Him were prophesied in the Old Testament, but people didn't fully understand how that would work or what it would look like. Once Jesus came, God's plan that was a mystery was finally revealed. This seems to be saying the same thing about the prophecies of Christ's return. We can't fully understand them, but God knows what His plan is, and at the right time, it will be revealed, and we will see how He told us these things beforehand.

We may only understand a book like Revelation in bits





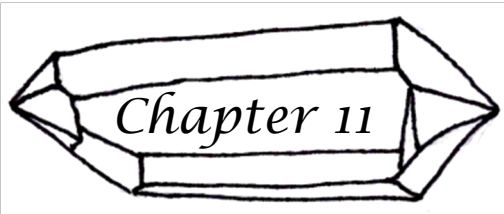
and pieces, but God knows His plan. That means we can trust Him with what we don't know. We can trust Him with the future.

### *Prayer:*

Lord, I don't know how all of these things will work out or exactly what the future will look like, but You do. You are sovereign and have a plan that is sure, and You will work it out just as You have intended. You have declared pieces of Your plan to Your people, but there are things we are not meant to know, at least not yet. Help me to trust You. Help me to be confident that whatever happens, it was already in Your plan and You will work it out for good.

Thank You for giving us these glimpses so that when these things come to pass, we can give glory to You. I mourn for those who will face judgement for rejecting You and continue to pray for changed hearts. Yet I rejoice for the time when I will be with You forever. In Jesus' Name, Amen.





*T*his chapter tells the story of two faithful witnesses in the midst of a world overrun by sin. These two stand with God and declare the truth to those who would rather destroy them than listen. At first, God supernaturally protects them, and no one can touch them.

When they are finished speaking the things God has told them to say, God allows them to be attacked and killed, their deaths rejoiced over and their bodies not even given a proper burial. Yet, just when the world thinks it has won, they are resurrected and then ascend into Heaven while their enemies watch them enter glory. After that, people finally see God's power and give Him glory.

Often we wonder why God does things like this. Why does He sometimes protect His people, even miraculously so, and other times allow suffering and death? Most times, we don't know. We may never know why God allowed one thing and stopped another, but we do know that He has a plan, and He doesn't make those decisions lightly.

We also know that He will use it all to reveal Himself to the world, and that He will welcome us home and reward us. Even when He allows things we wouldn't choose, He is



working in amazing ways. Let us continue to be faithful and trust Him.

### *Prayer:*

Eternal God, I thank You that You will reign forever and ever! I long for the day of Christ's return and the time when I will be with You for eternity. Yet I know it will be a terrible day for those who have rejected You, and it makes me grateful that You are patient, wanting everyone to come to repentance. In the meantime, help me to stand with You and trust You.

I do not always understand why You sometimes give supernatural protection and other times let suffering come, but You have a plan and will use it to reveal the truth. Help me to trust You, whatever happens. In the name of Jesus, the Messiah, Amen.





## Chapter 12

**S**ome people like to play “devil’s advocate” – to argue the opposing viewpoint to keep a debate going. Some do it just because they like getting people riled up, but others do it to test the strength of an argument.

This chapter shows us a heavenly courtroom, where Satan accuses followers of Jesus before God. Other passages picture Jesus as a defendant lawyer, ever pleading for us. At times, people get confused by this image, wondering if it means the Father is questioning His decision to save us, and Jesus has to convince Him to love us. The Bible is clear that Father loves us and always planned to save us through Jesus. I believe the point of this heavenly courtroom is that by allowing Satan to present his argument, God shows the strength of His plan of salvation, which gives glory to Him and confidence to us. We see believers win the case against Satan by two things:

1) The blood of Jesus – Our sin is covered by Christ’s death and resurrection. That is the basis of our faith. Every sin Satan brings up is forgiven, covered by the blood of the Lamb.

2) Their testimony – That is their story or their witness. Specifically in this passage, it is the story of their faithfulness to God in the midst of persecution. While believers are far from perfect, when we remain loyal to God, especially in the



face of persecution, it shows that God is changing us and that we are truly His people. What can Satan say against that?

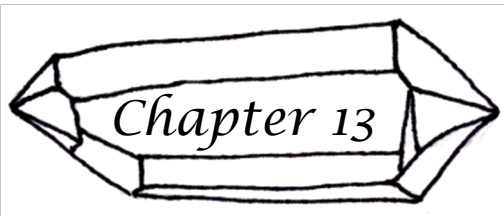
Sometimes we hear accusations from Satan in our hearts. We are accosted by everything we've done wrong, wonder if God really loves us, even question our salvation. This passage gives us confidence that Satan cannot defeat us. We combat his accusations with the knowledge that we are covered by the blood of Christ and our testimony of still serving God, if imperfectly. These truths also give us encouragement in the face of persecution, knowing God will use Satan's attacks to show him how wrong he is and show us to be God's children.

### *Prayer:*

Lord, thank You that You are with me whenever Satan accuses me or fights against me in any way! Thank You that Jesus' blood covers my sin and He is always interceding for me. Because of Him, I know that I have confident access to You. Help me to remain faithful to You whenever things become hard, Satan attacks me, or I face persecution. Thank You that You will turn those very attacks against Satan to show him how wrong he is. Help me to have confidence that though he can hurt me, he can never defeat me because I belong to You. Help me also to remain confident when I hear his accusations in my heart, to stand firm in Your forgiveness and love! In the Name of Jesus, whose blood covers me and gives me victory, Amen.

By Rose Kirby





*M*y favorite number is 13. There are several reasons it's my favorite, but one of them is that many people call it an unlucky number. Apart from thinking that's silly, I think it's unfair to a perfectly good number that people assume negative things about it for no reason.

I think Revelation chapter 13 is similar. It's a chapter that causes a lot of fear for people, because it's the chapter that talks about the beast (whom most people call the antichrist), his prophet, and his mark. People come up with a lot of . . . let's go with "interesting" . . . applications for this chapter, such as thinking if they can keep politics going the right way, they can avoid these things happening.

Ironically, this is the chapter that gives the most clear and specific application in the book. The end of verse 10 says that these things demand that the saints persevere and have faith. That's what God wants us to do in light of these things. He doesn't want us to live in fear or try to manipulate things we can't control. He wants us to persevere and have faith.


When things look bleak, we are persecuted, we feel the end is near, or simply as we wait for Christ's return – whatever happens, let us have faith and persevere!



## *Prayer:*

Lord, thank You that my name is written in the Lamb's book of life! I rejoice in that! May I live so that people see I am marked by Your Name. Lord, I know that there is evil in this world. There have been many evil leaders in the past and in the world today, and there will be more in the future, but I know that You are the One who is really in control. You may allow them power for a time, but in the end, You will uproot them. Help me not to live in fear of them. Help me instead to persevere and have faith, no matter what happens. In the Name of Jesus, the Lamb who was slain, Amen.





## Chapter 14

**R**evelation sets up a contrast between believers and the world. There are those who worship God and those who worship the beast. The people of the world take the mark of the beast, having his name inscribed on them. Believers are marked by the Name of Jesus and the Name of God the Father.

Thus, the mark of the beast isn't some secret thing that believers could accidentally take. Whether a literal mark or just a spiritual one, it's a clear choice of rejecting God.

The angels urge people to choose God, but many won't. In the end, those who refuse God will be judged. We who serve God will be with Him for eternity; even death cannot separate us from Him.

Again, the application is clearly stated: persevere. Yes, there is evil in the world, and we wonder how long before God sets everything right. One day He will. Until then, let us persevere in obeying Him and putting our faith in Him.

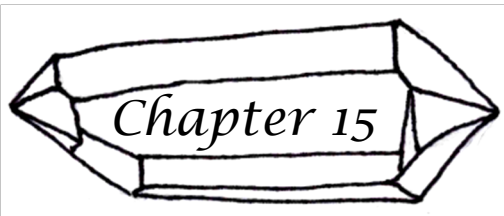




## *Prayer:*

Lord, thank You that one day You will rid the world of evil once and for all. I know that people have to make a choice between worshiping You and serving the enemy. I pray that many will choose to worship You. Thank You that You have saved me and sealed me with Your Holy Spirit, marked by Your holy Name. Help me, in Your Name, to persevere. Thank You that no matter how hard it becomes to persevere, nothing the world can do to me could ever separate me from You. Even if I die, I will be with You. Help me to remember that to be strengthened to persevere in obeying You and keeping my faith. In the Name of the Lamb, Jesus Christ, Amen.





**I** read a quote online one time, from a Camille Paglia: “The Earth is littered with the ruins of empires that believed they were eternal.” A reoccurring theme in Revelation, which comes again in this chapter, is that God is eternal. Like Nebuchadnezzar’s dream was to show him that his kingdom and the kingdoms that would come after him were not eternal, but God’s kingdom would be, the Roman Empire of John’s day was not eternal, and neither would the beast’s kingdom of his prophecy be, but God is.

Whatever we are going through, though it may feel like an eternity, is temporary. The One to whom we belong is eternal; He lives forever and ever. Our great hope is that we will have eternity with Him, and because of that hope we can persevere. This is not the end; the end is God.

This chapter talks about those who won the victory over the beast. Who are they? They are the ones of the last two chapters who refused to worship the beast or turn from Christ; they are the ones who persevered. It’s easy to forget, but our victory is in our perseverance. Let us remain, abide, in Christ, knowing that He is eternal, for that is our victory.



## *Prayer:*

Eternal God, I praise You that You live forever and ever. Help me to trust that whatever I'm going through, no matter how long it lasts, is temporary, but You remain, and I will be with You forever. Thank You that there is victory through perseverance. Help me therefore to persevere. I continue to praise You for all that You are: Your works are great and awe-inspiring. All Your ways are true. You are King over all the world. You alone are holy, and all nations will bow before You as Your righteousness is revealed. In the glorious Name of Jesus, Amen.





## Chapter 16

Something very interesting stood out to me in this chapter. One of the bowls the angels pour out on the world dries up the river, making a way for several kings to come for what appears to be lining up to fight against God. Why would God do that? All the other bowls are plagues, judgements against the sin of those who hate God. So why would one of them make it easier for people to fight against God? The answer is that God is going to show His glory and defeat them once and for all. There are so many times in our lives that we don't understand what God is doing, because it looks like He's letting the enemy win, but He is actually setting things up to show His glory and defeat Satan's plans.

It reminded me of a story a guest preacher at my church here in Uganda told one time. He was a missionary in Uganda before the dictator Idi Amin came into power. When Idi Amin took control, he kicked out all missionaries, parachurch organizations, and denominations other than the Catholics and Anglicans. Officials knocked on the door of this missionary's home and told him he had to leave the country. They would give his family plane tickets for wherever they wanted to go, but they had to leave. At first, he was angry and hurt and asked God, "How could You let this happen? You



lost; You let the enemy win!”

After a while, he accepted a position as a pastor of a church in the US, and there he learned a lot about discipling people and gained skills that he was able to bring back to Uganda after Idi Amin was removed. He realized that God had given him training he didn't know he needed and gotten someone who wanted to reduce Christianity to pay for the trip.

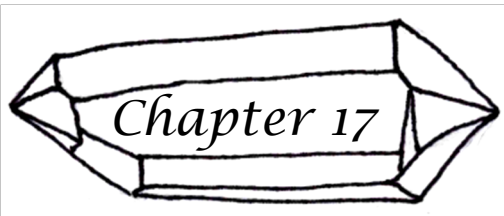
We may not always understand the things God does or allows, but we do have the promise that He will use all things for good. We may be surprised by how often what looks like defeats are actually God setting things up for a better victory. Let's trust Him.

### *Prayer:*

Lord, You are just and righteous. Thank You that one day You will destroy evil and vindicate Your people once and for all. Thank You that You will eventually destroy the systems that persecute Your people. Until then, help me to persevere, confident in the hope that You will do all You have promised in Your right time. Help me also to trust You when You do or allow things I don't understand, for sometimes what looks like a victory for the enemy is actually setting up for Your glory and power to be revealed. I praise You for You are eternal, wise, and just. Help me to stay alert as I wait for Your coming. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

By Rose Kirby





*T*here is so much confidence and assurance for God's people in this chapter. The beast that Babylon sits on, which is difficult to decode but is probably representative of a nation or national system that held power in the past and is coming up again, is contrasted with God's eternity. The nations, systems, and philosophies we see around us come and go and come back, but they are not eternal. God is. Jesus defeats the systems and kingdoms that fight against Him because He is still the King of kings and the Lord of lords. God's people are reminded that they are chosen, called, and their names were written in God's book before the foundation of the world. In the end, all the things going on are part of God's plan. None of them surprise Him, and He will use them all for His glory and to honor His saints.

Life is hard sometimes and things can feel entirely out of control. Trust me, when I first wrote this, I was going through a week full of things that seemed fully out of control and determined to fight against me. In all of it, Jesus is still Lord of lords and King of kings. That doesn't mean things will always work out the way we think they should, but whatever happens, He is with us and will use it for good. When the earth gives way, we can rest in these truths.



## *Prayer:*

Lord of lords and King of kings, thank You that You are in control and above all. Thank You that the nations, systems, and philosophies of this world are not eternal like You are, especially when they are entrenched in evil or trying to harm Your saints. Thank You that I am secure in You, called and chosen, my name written in Your book from the foundation of the world. Thank You that You are sovereign and in control; nothing surprises You or is outside Your plan. Help me to trust You and rest in these truths. In Jesus' Name, Amen.





## Chapter 18

*H*ave you ever heard the saying, “Rome wasn’t built in a day?” I read once that the original saying was, “Rome wasn’t built in a day, but it burned down in one.”

In Revelation 18, we are told that the prophetic city of Babylon will be destroyed in a single day. This prophetic city is said to be full of both luxury and sin. People often wonder how that can be – they wonder why evil people and systems prosper. Throughout history and throughout the Bible, people have asked this question. This and many other prophecies give an interesting answer: God is not blind to their sin or their prosperity. It is part of their offense – to pamper themselves and trust in their riches while destroying others and doing evil is terrible in God’s sight. It also won’t last.

Those who trust in riches or power never realize how quickly those things can be taken away. “Rome wasn’t built in a day, but it burned down in one.” God will take away their power and glory, and their punishment will be greater than their luxury. As followers of God, we can rejoice that what we see right now is not the end of the story. Evil may prosper for now, but it will fall.



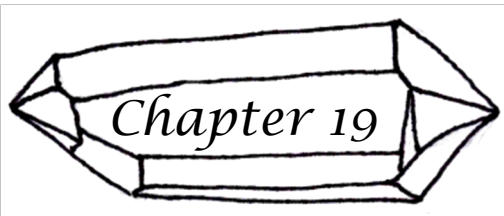


## *Prayer:*

Lord, I thank You that You do not turn a blind eye to the evil in this world. While in Your patience You allow it to go on for a time, You watch and take note of it all. Though evil may seem to prosper, You see the people and systems that live in luxury while oppressing others and promoting sin, and You will punish them accordingly. Help me to see beyond the surface – to not focus on what looks good materialistically or by worldly standards, but to see and evaluate spiritual truths. Help me never to trust in riches or power, for they are fleeting, but help me to trust in Your justice. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

By Rose Kirby





**R**evelation is full of worship songs. The opening scene of the throne room of Heaven begins with a song that the host of Heaven seems to have been singing for thousands of years, but soon they begin a new song as they recognize that Jesus is worthy to open the scroll. This begins a series of new songs throughout the book, each at a moment when something important happens, causing people and/or angels to break out in worship to God: Believers entering Heaven begin a new song praising God for salvation. The 144,000 sing a new song that only they know. Heaven sings when God takes back the world and when Satan is kicked out of Heaven. Here in chapter 19, there is another new worship song. This time, God is worshiped for judging evil.

God's judgement can be sad to us because we wish everyone would come to repentance and be saved. God does too. At the same time, we know that there is evil in the world – evil that deceives and corrupts others and that attacks our brothers and sisters – and we do and should long for God to bring justice. One day He will judge that evil, and we will rejoice that evil is destroyed. For now, that can comfort us when we see all the pain that evil causes and wonder “How long?”



## *Prayer:*

God, I praise You that Your judgements are true and righteous! Thank You that one day You will punish and put an end to evil, especially to evil that deceives people and persecutes Your saints. Help me to take comfort in that assurance when I am overwhelmed by the evil I see around me. Thank You for Jesus, the Faithful and True Victor!

Thank You that I am part of the bride of Christ and will be part of the marriage of the Lamb. Thank you that not only have You saved me, but You are working in me and have prepared good works for me to walk in, which will one day be celebrated. I pray that You would help me today and this week to walk in the good works that You have called me to, by Your power and Your strength. In the Name of Jesus, the Word of God, who is called Faithful and True, the King of kings and Lord of lords, Amen.





## Chapter 20

*T*his chapter tells of the reign of Christ after the time of tribulation. In the chapters leading up to this, we are told of believers being harshly persecuted, by the beast and the city called Babylon, for their love for Jesus. They are even put to death, and in a way that would shame them. In this chapter, they are rewarded. They are resurrected to reign with Christ!

Previous chapters told us that the beast, the mark, and the persecution of believers calls for endurance and faithfulness. Now comes the beautiful reminder that endurance and faithfulness will be rewarded. God sees what we go through. When we face trouble, hardship, or persecution in loving and serving Christ, when we endure more than we thought we could bear, we can know that one day we will be rewarded by Jesus. Whatever those rewards look like exactly, we know that we will be with Him and be honored for enduring for Him. The Bible tells us that Jesus endured the cross because there was joy set before Him. There is joy before us too, and that can encourage us and strengthen us as we endure.

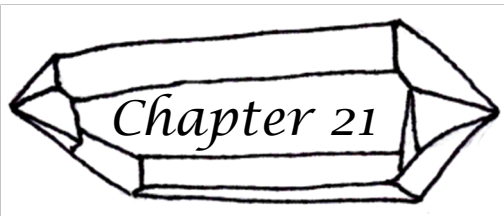


## *Prayer:*

Father, thank You that my name is written in Your book, and I have assurance that I am Yours! You are great and more powerful than I can even understand! Thank You that one day Satan, evil, and death itself will be shut away forever. It is so wonderful to know that the evil and pain of this world will not last forever.

I praise You that You are powerful to save, no matter how bleak things look, and that You reward Your saints who sacrifice for You. Help me to trust and endure when I face trouble for loving and serving You, keeping my eyes fixed on the joy before me – the joy that is with You forever. In the Name of Jesus, the King who will reign over the earth, Amen.





**I** love this chapter. There's so much here – I could spend a whole book on it: the promise of a new heaven and earth, full of beauty and God's presence, with no more pain or grief. I encourage you to read it slowly and take it all in for yourself, but there's one point that's really special to me that I'd like to focus on. God says that when He brings the new earth, He will wipe away every tear from His people's eyes. I love that image. We tend to think about heaven/the new earth being so great that we just forget about the pain of this life, but this is something more than that. It's an intimate and gentle healing. It tells us that God cares about our tears and the things that hurt us, just as the psalmist said that God keeps all his tears in His bottle. We face so much pain and heartache in this broken world, but one day God will lovingly comfort us, wiping our tears, healing our hearts, and then there will be no more pain or sorrow or crying. Let us hold tight to this beautiful assurance.

I also want to extend an invitation: This beautiful new heaven and earth is for those who have a relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. If you've never taken that step of faith, God is inviting you to Himself. You can have a friendship with Him now and the promise life in this new




earth with Him forever one day. John 3:15 (NKJV) says, “that whoever believes in Him [Jesus] should not perish but have eternal life.” You can believe in Jesus today and know that you will be part of this new earth.

### *Prayer:*

Lord, thank You for this incredible promise of the new earth that I will one day get to enjoy forever. Thank You that it will be a place of beauty, adorned with every precious stone and with Your glory. Thank You that all evil and pain and brokenness will pass away, and everything will be made new. I thank You most of all that You will be there and dwell with us fully, the whole city full of Your presence and You Yourself its sanctuary. I long for the day of being completely in Your presence. It is so amazing to know that You are a God who loves me intimately and that not only will the new earth have no more crying, mourning, or pain, but that You Yourself will lovingly wipe every tear from my eyes.

You, eternal God who sits on the throne over heaven and earth, have not only told me these things, but assured me that they are faithful and true! I praise You and thank You for this great assurance! Help me when I am discouraged or overwhelmed by the brokenness of this world, to remember this truth and take hope in the wonderful future I know is coming. In Jesus' Name, Amen.





## Chapter 22

**I**n Revelation 22, we reach the conclusion of the book.

First, we see the conclusion of what the new Jerusalem will be like. The zenith is that we will be with God, and He will be with us. We will serve Him and be marked as His forever. We will see His beautiful face, and God Himself will be our light. We will reign with Him for all eternity. That is the greatest, most beautiful assurance of what is to come.

As John's vision ends, there comes finally the "so what?" Jesus says that those who keep the words of this prophecy are blessed – that would be those who obey the applications of the prophecy. So, what is the application? What are we supposed to do in light of all this book has said? How are we supposed to live? It can be summed up in this: persevere and trust.

Terrible things will happen in the world – trials, the glorification of evil, persecution – but we see that God will punish evil, reward His people, and restore the world. Thus, we must hold tight to the Gospel and to serving God. Endure whatever it takes, knowing that the hard things are not the end. Trust that we belong to God and that one day He will punish evil and reward us. As we look forward to that day, let us live for Him, no matter what happens! That is the "so





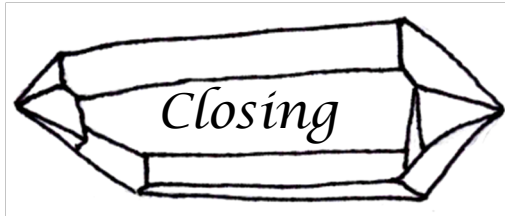
what?” of Revelation.

This book also ends with an invitation. Jesus says that the living water is a gift and that everyone who is thirsty is invited to come and drink. He says that those who wash their robes are blessed and will be part of the new heavens and new earth. Earlier parts of Revelation make it clear that the robes of the saints are washed in Jesus’ blood. He died and rose again to set you free from sin, to bring you to God, to give you living water. If you have never come to Him in faith before, if you are thirsty today, come and receive this new life!

### *Prayer:*

Lord, I can’t wait for the day of Christ’s return! Thank You that it is sure, and I will be with You to serve You and reign with You forever. Thank You that You will finally, fully heal all that was broken by sin, and I will be Yours for eternity. Until then, help me keep Your words by persevering and trusting, letting You change me and serving You no matter what. I pray many more will come to take the living water as a gift. May the grace of Jesus be with all the saints. In His Name, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End, the Bright Morning Star, Amen. Come!





*T*hank you for joining me in reading Revelation devotionally. This study was a great blessing to my heart, and I hope it has been to you as well.

I'd like to leave you with one last thought from looking at the book of Revelation as a whole. There is an important theme woven throughout Revelation. It shows up in the first chapter and last chapter and repeats constantly in between. The theme is this: God is eternal! He is the beginning and the end, the one who was and is and is to come.

Yes, we live in a world controlled and vandalized by sin, and the way I read the prophecies, it will get far worse before the end. Yet God WAS before all of this; He WILL BE after it all fades away; and He IS with us through it all and IS on the throne. Take heart weary warrior, for you serve an eternal God with an eternal plan!

### *Prayer:*

Eternal God, You are the one who was and is and is to come. You see the whole of the story, from beginning to end, for You are Yourself the beginning and the end. Help me to



remember this truth and take heart. Help me to persevere in trouble, assured that You have overcome the world. May Your church fulfill its duty to encourage and strengthen one another as we see the Day approaching. In the true and faithful Name of Jesus, Amen

By Rose Kirby





*T*his beautiful new heaven and earth described in the book of Revelation is for those who have a relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ.

There is evil in the world, but it is not only that some people are good and others are evil. We have all sinned, all done things that go against God's perfect way. Because God is holy, He must punish sin. The book of Revelation talks about God's future judgment of the world, but even now sin separates us from God. (See Romans 3:23 and 6:23)

Revelation tells again the story of what Jesus did to save us from sin. He suffered, died in our place, and rose again. As God the Son, He is the perfect sacrifice. He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. We see in the end of Revelation that one day He will return and renew the earth. (See 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 and Revelation 1:5)

John 3:15 (NKJV) says, "that whoever believes in Him [Jesus] should not perish but have eternal life." If you trust with all your heart that Jesus is the Lamb who died and rose for your sins, you will know Him here on earth, and be part of the new heavens and new earth when Christ returns.

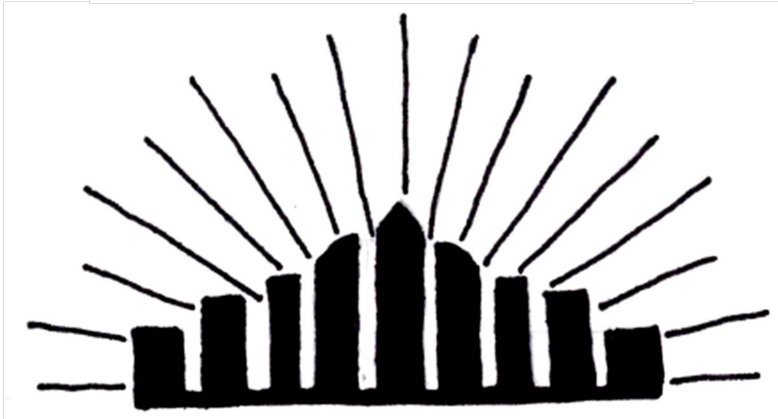
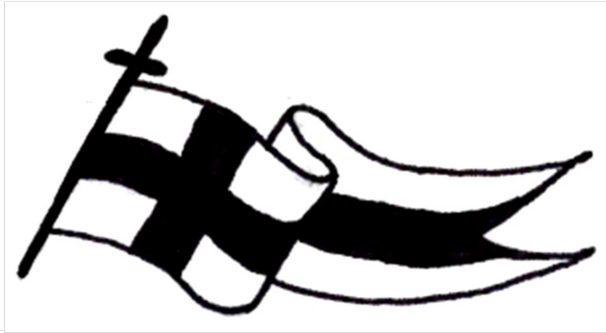


If you've never taken that step of faith, God is inviting you to Himself. You can have a friendship with Him now and the promise life in this new earth with Him forever one day. If you're ready to take that step, you can talk to God and tell Him that you believe in Jesus. Come!

It's best to pray in your own words, but your prayer might sound something like this: "Dear God, I am sorry that I have sinned and rejected You. Thank you for sending Jesus to save me. I believe that He died for my sin and rose again. Please forgive me, change me, and help me to serve You. Thank you for your forgiveness and grace! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

If you have accepted God's invitation , or you would like to know more about what that means, I encourage you to talk with someone. You might right out to a pastor or a friend who follows Jesus. I would also be happy to talk with you about this and be sure you will join us in the new Jerusalem. You can contact me at [JCskid316@gmail.com](mailto:JCskid316@gmail.com).





## *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*

**Thank you for reading and studying God's Word with me!**



Rose Kirby is a missionary in Uganda and a published author. Learn more about her ministry and read more of her writing at [RoseKirbyOnline.com](http://RoseKirbyOnline.com)

