

Instructor Companion

To

Finding the End of the World

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How to Use This Guide

The purpose of this companion is to aid instructors in conducting courses based on material found in the book “Finding the End of the World” by Ron Braley.

Here, you’ll discover section, chapter, and division (part) themes along with thought-provoking questions and structure with which to facilitate training sessions. The format of instruction is as follows and is based on training sessions outlined in Appendix A of the study guide *Finding the End of the World*.

Overarching Section, Chapter, or Part Theme: This will provide the instructor with a firm grasp of the primary theme the author hoped to convey in that particular section, chapter, or part (chapter division).

Specific Learning Objectives: These will be important ideas, concepts, or facts contained within the overarching theme.

Thought-provoking Questions: These will help promote discussion and focus the instruction. Questions may provoke conflict or frustration, so provide boundaries and be prepared to manage volatile situations.

Possible Controversies or Conflicts: The purpose of here is to forewarn the instructor of potential challenges. For instance, several theories regarding the timing of the return of Christ exist, reminding us that complete agreement on various end-times topics is impossible. But, use the diversity in understanding and opinions to promote Spiritual growth, which will lead to increased faith.

Suggested Session Structure: Instructors are certainly encouraged to lead the session dynamically based on their environment and students’ needs. However, certain events should take place as outlined in a recommended structure.

Also included in each session companion for the instructor will be a reiteration of the following text students will also see as they progress through the study:

- RECOMMENDED READING
- Quick Reference
- FOOD FOR THOUGHT
- *Key points to remember*
- *Key Points or Considerations*
- SUMMARY
- SUPPLEMENTAL READING

I’ve included this information in the Instructor Companion to allow you to do a quick, thorough preview/review from a single source.

Feel free to forward corrections or improvements to endoftheworld@findingrevelation.com.

SESSION ONE

Chapter/Topic	Activities
Introduction	Read the Foreword and Introduction. Discuss group expectations and review course schedule.

Overarching Section, Chapter, or Part Theme: This is an introduction to the course.

Specific Learning Objectives:

- NASB or KJ Bible versions are excellent for this study.
- Take a literal approach to reading and interpreting Scripture.

Thought-provoking Questions:

1. What Bible translation do you or your students use?
2. What approach do you feel is best for Bible study?
3. Why is each student attending? What do they hope to achieve throughout the course?

Possible Controversies or Conflicts:

- Some may believe that a figurative – or spiritual – approach to study is best (instead of a literal one).
- There may be disagreement as to which translation is best. Focus on the advantages of using certain translations (such as the NASB or KJV) and disadvantages of those, like the NIV, that may be incomplete or provide faulty translations. Remind students that the most important outcome is an accurate study of Scripture.

Suggested Session Structure:

1. Open in prayer.
2. Discuss group expectations for the course.
3. Review the course schedule.
4. Ask thought-provoking questions to stir discussion (if necessary).
5. Closure, to include a preview of the next session and its requirements, and prayer.

SESSION TWO

Chapter/Topic	Activities
Chapters 1 & 2	Read chapters 1 and 2, the Quick References, and SUPPLEMENTAL READING. Answer Checkup questions for chapters 1 and 2. Group: Discuss answers to Checkup questions.

Overarching Section, Chapter, or Part Theme: Discover why studying Scripture and learning about this topic in particular are so important. Take a precursory look at end-times events the guide will cover throughout the study.

Specific Learning Objectives:

- Understand that confusion, deception, and spiritual death can be the result of weak or no faith.
- Discover why it’s important to learn and understand the conclusion of this age and all the events it comprises.
- Understand the sequence of the end of the age at a very high level to lay the ground work for the rest of the study.

Thought-provoking Questions:

1. Is it true that being scripturally illiterate can be problematic or even deadly?
2. How does the summarized view of the end of the world compare to what your students have always known or understood?
3. Have they ever considered that Revelation chapter 6 and Matthew 24 portray the same events or timeframes?

Possible Controversies or Conflicts:

- Your students will most likely have a wide variety of beliefs regarding this topic. Be patient and understanding, but encourage them to support their views with Scripture.

Suggested Session Structure:

1. Open in prayer.
2. Discuss lesson objectives and content.
3. Ask thought-provoking questions to stir discussion (if necessary).
4. Discuss questions and answers for chapters 1 and 2.
5. Closure, to include a preview of the next session and its requirements, and prayer.



- ✓ **Quick reference:**
 - False messiahs: Matthew 24:5 & Revelation 6:2
 - NOTE: Righteousness is suggested, but Christ's weapon is the sword, not bow. We'll discuss this further in Chapter Sixteen.
 - War/violence: Matthew 24:6 & Revelation 6:4
 - Famine/earthquake: Matthew 24:7 & Revelation 6:5-6
 - Seven-year period: Daniel 9:27 (one week of years)

- ✓ **Quick reference:**
 - Broken agreement: Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15
 - Three-and-a-half-year authority: Daniel 7:25
 - Great Tribulation: Matthew 24:9 & 21; Revelation 7:9-14

- ✓ **Quick reference:**
 - The mark: Revelation 13:16-18; 14:9-11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4
 - Darkening of the sun, moon, and stars: Matthew 24:29; Revelation 6:12-13

- ✓ **Quick reference:**
 - Gathering of believers: Matthew 13:30 & 24:30-31; 2 Thessalonians 2:1; Revelation 14:15-16

- ✓ **Quick reference:**
 - Warning/signs of God's wrath: Revelation 6:15-17 & 14:18-20; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-4; Matthew 13:39-43 & 49-50; Matthew 24:30
 - Half-hour of silence before God's wrath: Revelation 8:1
 - Sequence of God's wrath: Revelation 8:2-13; 9:1-21; 15:1-8; 16:1-21

- ✓ **Quick reference:**
 - 1,000-year reign of Christ: Revelation 20:1-10

- ✓ **Quick reference:**
 - Great judgment of God: Revelation 20:11-15

- ✓ **Quick reference:**
 - New heaven and earth: Revelation 21:1-27 & 22:1-5
 - Righteous shine like the sun forever: Matthew 13:43 & Daniel 12:2-3



SUPPLEMENTAL READING (Either the KJV or NASB version of the Bible is recommended; read at least three verses before and after scriptural references to understand the context better):

1. Falling away from the faith in the last days:

- a. Matthew 24:10
- b. 2 Thessalonians 2:3
- c. 1 Timothy 4:1
2. Being deceived:
 - a. Matthew 24:4, 5, 11, & 24
 - b. Mark 13:5 & 6
 - c. Luke 21:8
 - d. 2 Timothy 3:13 – 17
3. Consequences of false teaching:
 - a. Jeremiah 14:14 & 15
 - b. Jeremiah 23:32 – 34
 - c. Zechariah 10:2
 - d. Matthew 7:15-19
 - e. 2 Peter 2:1 – 10
 - f. Revelation 2:20 – 22
4. Warned to be watchful for Christ's return:
 - a. Matthew 24:37-51
 - b. Mark 13:32-37
 - c. Luke 12:35-46; 17:26 & 27; 21:28-36
 - d. 1 Thessalonians 5:2-23
 - e. 2 Timothy 4:1-4 and 3:1-3
 - f. 2 Peter 3:10-18
 - g. Revelation 3:3; 16:15
5. Consequences of taking the "mark of the beast": Revelation 13:16; 14:9 & 11; 16:2; 19:20
6. Revelation – for the church: Revelation 1:1; 22:9 & 16

SESSION THREE

Chapter/Topic	Activities
Chapters 3 & 4	Read chapter 3 and the SUPPLEMENTAL READING. Read chapter 4 and the Quick References. Answer Checkup questions for chapters 3 and 4. Group: Discuss perceptions of faith, and consequences of not knowing the gospel. Discuss answers to Checkup questions.

Overarching Section, Chapter, or Part Theme: Learn about what faith *is* and *how* to obtain (and keep) it. Knowing how to study effectively is critical!

Specific Learning Objectives:

- Learn these things about faith:
 - It’s built on hearing the gospel and responding.
 - A lack of it from having no exposure to the Gospel opens the door for deception and can cause a ‘falling away’ from the faith.
 - Being scripturally ignorant can be deadly.
- Learn these things about the study of Scripture:
 - Format and the use of tools.
 - Differences between prophetic and apocalyptic literature.
 - How to study (e.g. keep Scripture in proper context, take literally whenever possible, etc.).

Thought-provoking Questions:

1. Is faith really more of a *feeling* than something that has substance, support, and assurance?
2. What do your students think about the term “blind faith”?
3. Do your students pray for the guidance of God’s Spirit when studying Scripture?
4. Do they use tools when studying? Which ones, if so?
5. What are the dangers of not taking Scripture literally whenever possible? What examples can your students provide?

Possible Controversies or Conflicts:

- Some may be accustomed to “spiritualizing” Scripture in developing Sunday messages or explaining portions of the Bible. They may, therefore, take offense at the idea that a literal interpretation is vital.
- Early church fathers such as Augustine took great liberties with Scripture, often corrupting or hiding the authors’ messages through the practice of allegorizing or spiritualizing. Yet, many are affiliated with religious groups that favor or accept this type of activity (e.g. the Catholic Church, some reformist circles, etc.).

Suggested Session Structure:

1. Open in prayer.
2. Discuss lesson objectives and content.
3. Ask thought-provoking questions to stir discussion (if necessary).
4. Discuss questions and answers for chapters 3 and 4.
5. Closure, to include a preview of the next session and its requirements, and prayer.



✓ Quick reference:

- He that has ears let him hear (cf. Mark 4:9)
- Be swift to hear (cf. James 1:19)
- Jesus' promise to heal those who'll hear with their ears and see with their eyes (cf. Matthew 13:15)

✓ Quick reference:

- John's invitation to heaven for a vision of the end (cf. Revelation 4:1-11).
- Day of the Lord destruction as a "thief in the night" for those in darkness (cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:2-6).
- Day of the Lord destruction as a "thief in the night" for the unsaved; looking forward to the new heaven and earth that follows (cf. 2 Peter 3:13).



SUMMARY (Chapter Three): Faith is the assurance of what we can't see. We gain that assurance and therefore faith by learning the truth – God's Word. Build your faith by continually learning that truth. Otherwise you may not be adequately prepared when faced with difficult or potentially deadly choices. Increase your faith by reading God's Word daily and through regular fellowship with other likeminded believers to avoid being deceived. In the next section, we'll give you the tools to do that effectively.

SUMMARY (Chapter Four): Take Scripture literally whenever possible. Also, keep it within the context of the verse, then the passage, then the book, and then the whole of Scripture. Compare Scripture with Scripture (parallel lines within a theme or similar Scripture in multiple books). Use study tools, most of which you can find free of charge (or by donation) to increase your chances of producing accurate and timely interpretations.



SUPPLEMENTAL READING (Either the KJV or NASB version of the Bible is recommended; read at least three verses before and after scriptural references to understand the context better)

1. Mentoring for the purpose of (increasing) faith: Philippians 1:25
2. Faith grounded in hearing the gospel: Colossians 1:23
3. Faith *taught*; warning not to be spoiled by man's philosophy (strong faith will keep this from taking place): Colossians 2:7-8
4. Word of the Lord to keep us from going the way of wicked men without faith: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2
5. Faith and good doctrine are related: 1 Timothy 4:6-7
6. Learning the Scriptures to become wise unto salvation through faith (and all Scripture is inspired by God): 2 Timothy 3:14-16
7. Sound in faith to avoid fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth: Titus 1:13-14

SESSION FOUR

Chapter/Topic	Activities
Chapter 5	Read chapter 5. Group: Discuss the different historical/biblical eras.

Overarching Section, Chapter, or Part Theme: An introduction to the entire history of Israel, and an overview of the temple eras.

Specific Learning Objectives:

- Gain a better understanding of the history of Israel from its inception.
- Learn the context surrounding eras related to, or referenced in, prophetic or apocalyptic literature.

Thought-provoking Questions:

1. Did this lesson help to make to make more realistic any prophesies or portions of the Revelation your students have studied or heard before?
2. What do your students think about the reality of a future temple in Israel? Will it happen? Do they believe at this point in their study that it'll be necessary for the fulfillment of Scripture?

Possible Controversies or Conflicts:

- Not everyone believes that a physical temple will be necessary for end-times fulfillment of prophesy or apocalyptic writings. They may have been taught, as many have, that the Holy Spirit is the only temple we need. Unfortunately, this doctrine ignores Scriptural references to a physical structure that will be vital to the completion of this age and worship of God by Jews that haven't yet accepted that Jesus is the promised Messiah.

Suggested Session Structure:

1. Open in prayer.
2. Discuss lesson objectives and content.
3. Ask thought-provoking questions to stir discussion (if necessary).
4. Closure, to include a preview of the next session and its requirements, and prayer.

SESSION FIVE

Chapter/Topic	Activities
Chapters 6 & 7	Read chapters 6 and 7 and the Quick References for chapter 7. Answer Checkup questions for chapters 6 and 7. Group: Discuss “God’s chosen.” Despite Scripture references, there will most likely be differences of opinion. Discuss answers to Checkup questions.

Overarching Section, Chapter, or Part Theme: Discover who the chosen – or *elect* – of God are.

Specific Learning Objectives:

- Learn about special groups of end-times believers:
 - Remnant of Israel / the *woman* of Revelation 12
 - 144,000 from the Revelation
 - The two witnesses from the Revelation
 - Those beheaded for the faith (also from the Revelation)
- Take an in-depth look at who the “elect” of God have been and will be.

Thought-provoking Questions:

1. Who do the students believe the 144,000 will be? What have they been taught about this group?
2. Who do they believe the two witnesses of the Revelation will be?
3. What religious group currently practices beheading?
4. What have your students been taught about the elect of God? Have they been told that the term “elect” describes only the Jews as God’s people?

Possible Controversies or Conflicts:

- Several religious groups believe the group of 144,000 of the Revelation represents their particular cult or sect of Christianity. Examples include Seventh-day Adventists and Jehovah’s Witnesses. Be sensitive to this.
- Islam appears to condone the beheading of non-Muslims; this practice is carried out today. However, Scripture doesn’t definitely identify them as the ones beheading followers of Christ in the last days.
- There may be differences of opinion as to the identity of the two witnesses.

Suggested Session Structure:

1. Open in prayer.
2. Discuss lesson objectives and content.
3. Ask thought-provoking questions to stir discussion (if necessary).
4. Discuss questions and answers for chapters 6 and 7.
5. Closure, to include a preview of the next session and its requirements, and prayer.



✓ **Quick reference:**

- *Remnant of Israel*: Jeremiah 30:3, Joel 2:32, Jeremiah 23:3-6, Ezekiel 37:21-25, Isaiah 1:9, Romans 9:27-29, & Matthew 24:21
- *144,000 from the 12 tribes*: Revelation 7:3-8 & 9:4, & Revelation 14:1-5
- *Two witnesses*: Revelation 11
- *Beheaded*: Revelation 6:7-11 (seals 4 and 5) and Revelation 20:4-6

✓ **Quick reference:**

- The elect: wheat, woman, & offspring:
 - Jew and Gentile elect: Colossians 3:11-12
 - Wheat harvested: Matthew 13:24-39
 - Grapes harvested: Revelation 14:13-16
 - Elect gathered (harvested): Matthew 24:29-31
 - The *woman*: Revelation 12

✓ **Quick reference:**

- The bride:
 - Betrothal – Gentiles also as the chosen: Romans 11:24-25
 - Betrothal – Purchased by Christ’s sacrifice, not with silver and gold: 1 Peter 1:3-5 & 18-23
 - Betrothal – How to accept and enter into the covenant: John 3:16, Romans 10:9-10, & Acts 2:38
 - Betrothal – Covenant, sealed with wine: Matthew 26:27-29
 - Betrothal – Spiritual cleansing: Ephesians 5:25-27, 1 Corinthians 6:10-11, & Revelation 7:13-14
 - Betrothal – Bride’s vow: 1 Corinthians 6:20
 - Betrothal – Groom leaves/separation: Matthew 9:14-15
 - Betrothal – Father prepares home: John 14:2
 - Betrothal – No one but Father knows the ceremony day and hour: Mark 13:26-32
 - Wedding ceremony – Announcement by shout and trumpet: Matthew 24:30-31 & 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
 - Wedding ceremony – Wedding feast: Revelation 19:7-9
 - Afterward: Revelation 21:1-2 & 9-10



SUMMARY (Chapter Six): Let’s look at what we know and don’t know and what is untrue about the 144,000 of Revelation:

What we *know*:

1. The group will be 144,000 Jews who’ll be first-fruits unto Christ.

2. They'll be protected against God's wrath (e.g. the sixth trumpet judgment in Revelation 9:4). They'll also be seen with Christ during the time of God's wrath and will be with Him as He gains His kingdom at the seventh trumpet.

What we *don't know*:

1. Where the ten lost tribes of the kingdom of Israel are today, although there's much speculation on the subject. However, God has promised Israel to bring all the tribes back together at the end and protect a remnant.
2. Specifically, why Christ will select them—unless their purpose is to reign with Him in Jerusalem.

Unscriptural:

- The 144,000 will be Jews for Jesus evangelizing the world.
- The 144,000 won't be Jews but special evangelizing Christians.
- The 144,000 are symbolic and represent particular Christian denominations.

SUMMARY (Chapter Seven): The New Testament *elect* primarily refers to the bride of Christ as evidenced by the use of *eklektos* mostly in the context of the Christian and as a reference in apocalyptic literature. The woman in Revelation 12 refers to a portion of Israel and is significant for at least two reasons:

1. She – the remnant of Israel – is important to God, as He'll protect her during the time of Satan's wrath at the end.
2. Her offspring (made possible by God's covenant with Israel extended to gentiles) – those who hold to the testimony of Christ – will suffer during the wrath of Satan. This corroborates other Scripture indicating Christian believers will be subjected to the Antichrist's wrath during his three-and-a-half-year authority, which will be cut short with Christ's appearing and our gathering (cf. Matthew 24:21-22 and 29-31).

SESSION SIX

Chapter/Topic	Activities
Chapters 8 & 9	Read chapters 8 and 9 and the Quick References. Group: Compare and contrast beliefs and possibilities related to the Antichrist and Babylon (harlot and location).

Overarching Section, Chapter, or Part Theme: Learn about those who oppose God - especially certain end-times players.

Specific Learning Objectives:

- Explore the Antichrist’s characteristics (e.g. origin and empowerment by Satan) and different names/titles.
- Discover the composition of the Antichrist’s kingdom.
- Study the time of the Antichrist’s authority / covenant of death / Great Tribulation.
- Learn what Scripture has to say about the coming Great Tribulation.
- Discuss the ambiguity of the “mark of the beast”.
- Learn about the last-days “Babylon” and explore her origin and role in end-times events.

Thought-provoking Questions:

1. What do your students know or believe about the Antichrist? (Chapter 8)
2. What do they know or believe about the coming Great Tribulation? (Chapter 8)
3. What will the “mark of the beast” be or look like? (Chapter 8)
4. Which countries or regions will make up the Antichrist’s kingdom? How does what Scriptures say about this compare to what they may have been taught? (Chapter 8)

Possible Controversies or Conflicts:

- Popular doctrine and certain entertainment media dictate that the Antichrist will be European and that his kingdom will be made up of European countries. This is not Scriptural.
- Many try to identify the Antichrist by numbering his name, etc. Discourage this, as it’s a fruitless activity that detracts from scriptural truth.
- Denominations touting a pre-tribulation rapture doctrine have taught their members that there’ll be a seven-year period of tribulation following a rapture of believers. This is unscriptural and dangerous (as discussed in previous chapters). According to Scripture, the Great Tribulation will be no more than three-and-a-half years long. Followers of Christ will experience most if not all of that terrible time. Lovingly encourage those who argue for a pre-tribulation rapture and seven-year tribulation to produce Scriptural support for this belief.

Suggested Session Structure:

1. Open in prayer.

2. Discuss lesson objectives and content.
3. Ask thought-provoking questions to stir discussion (if necessary).
4. Closure, to include a preview of the next session and its requirements, and prayer.



✓ **Quick reference:**

- The Dragon – Satan: Isaiah 14:1-27; Revelation 12
- The Antichrist: Isaiah 28:1-19; Ezekiel 38; Daniel 7:7-25, 9:25-27; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-10; Matthew 24:15-26

✓ **Quick reference:** Ezekiel 16; Revelation 16-18



FOOD FOR THOUGHT: The mention of purple, gold, and jewels on the harlot by Old Testament prophets may be very significant – even beyond just confirming that the whore will most likely be Israel. God instructed her to make their priests' ephods and breastplates of these materials and stones (see above). In pages 28-29 of his book *The Islamic Antichrist*, Richardson quotes Islamic writings that tell of an end-times **peace agreement between the Muslim nations and Israel that will be mediated through a Jewish priest (a descendant of Aaron) and will last for seven years.**



Key points to remember (Chapter Eight):

1. The covenant will be between the Antichrist's kingdom (currently Islamic nations) and Israel.
2. The covenant will be for seven years.
3. The Antichrist will go against the agreement and persecute God's people (to include all believers in Christ) for nearly three and a half years during the second half of the covenant period.
4. Christ will cancel the covenant upon defeat of the Antichrist and the establishment of His kingdom on earth.

Key points to remember (Chapter Eight):

1. An agreement between the Antichrist and Israel will kick off a final seven-year period (see *Covenant of Death*).
2. Scripture doesn't shed light on what will happen during the first half of the seven-year period.
3. The Antichrist will be given authority to persecute and kill God's people for three and a half years during the second half of the seven-year period. This latter half is known as Jacob's

Trouble and the Great Tribulation. NOTE: Hal Lindsey and others incorrectly call the entire seven-year period “seven years of tribulation.”

4. The beginning of the second half will be earmarked by a dishonoring of the “*covenant of death*” and the Antichrist’s presence in the temple (see *Covenant of Death*).
5. The Antichrist will speak out against God and persecute His people (see *Tribulation & Beheading*).
6. A remnant of Israel (the woman) will be protected during the reign of the Antichrist.
7. The Antichrist’s reign will end with Christ’s appearing and his defeat.

Key points to remember (Chapter Eight):

1. The Antichrist will require everyone faithful to him to be marked with a number or name. This mark may be physical, but it may also be an understanding and carrying out of the Antichrist’s “law” in the same way the Israelites learned God’s commandments and acted upon them. Regardless, it will indicate an allegiance to the Antichrist and his kingdom.
2. This allegiance and marking will be necessary to buy or sell during the Antichrist’s reign.
3. Those not taking the mark will most likely be beheaded, but they’ll be resurrected and will reign with Christ if they are His.
4. The mark will most likely *not look exactly like 666*, which indicates the number of man three times.
5. The mark may not be a microchip since it isn’t an identifying mark per-se and would require insertion *into* the skin (the mark will be *on* the right hand or forehead or symbolic as described above).
6. Don’t waste your time trying to convert the names of world leaders into numbers for the sake of *counting the number of a name*.
7. Spend your time becoming more knowledgeable of God’s Word to ensure you won’t be deceived when the Antichrist appears and requires this mark.

Key points to remember (Chapter Eight):

1. The Antichrist will have a three-and-a-half-year authority over God’s people.
2. The three-and-a-half-year period will be a terrible time of tribulation never seen before or ever again.
3. Those who refuse the mark of the beast may be killed by beheading.
4. God will cut the three-and-a-half-year time of the Antichrist’s authority short.
5. The sign of the termination of the Antichrist’s authority and Christ’s return will be a complete darkening of the sun, moon, and stars.
6. The gathering of the church will follow the darkening.

Key points to remember (Chapter Eight):

1. The battle of Har-Magedon will happen after the sixth vial of God’s judgment, which will dry up the Euphrates River.
2. Christ and His armies will defeat the Antichrist at that battle. The amount of bloodshed will be extraordinary.

3. Satan will be bound and then released after 1,000 years to do battle one last time. God will then throw him into the lake of fire.

Key points to remember (Chapter Nine):

1. Israel was (and will be) the unfaithful bride of God and the only nation to be labeled as a harlot by Him.
2. The term *Babylon* is used in Revelation to represent Israel and the adulteries she has, and will, commit.
3. Israel has been responsible for the deaths of the prophets and others throughout history. Her final act of adultery (the covenant with the Antichrist/beast kingdom) will cause the death of many saints, including those who believe in Christ and walk in His ways.
4. God instructed His priests' garments to be made of purple, scarlet, gold, and jewels. This is the adornment of the harlot.
5. God will allow the Antichrist and his kingdom to make Israel "desolate and naked" during the three-and-a-half-year Great Tribulation period.

Key points to remember (Chapter Nine):

1. The ancient city of Babylon (and Iraq as a whole for that matter) is in ruins.
2. Israel, as we've learned, will most likely be the *whore of Babylon*. She lives in the land of Israel with the capital of Jerusalem.
3. Israel is a city built on seven mountains. But remember that Scripture also states that the mountains are seven kingdoms and therefore may not represent physical mountains at all.
4. Babylon in the New Testament figuratively represents tyranny; Zephaniah called Jerusalem the "tyrannical city."
5. Jerusalem is referred to as the *great city*, as the figurative *Babylon* of Revelation was by Jesus. The Antichrist and his kingdom will establish themselves in Jerusalem and reign from there in the last days.
6. End-times Babylon and Jerusalem are both listed in the context of God's wrath.



SUMMARY (Chapter Eight): The dragon is Satan—the principality who'll influence the Antichrist. Meanwhile, he continues to deceive and accuse Christians. While God is the Father of children of righteousness, Satan is the father of lies and of the children of disobedience. Certain wrath and destruction awaits him and those who refuse to follow Christ. Next we'll look at what Scripture has to say about the Antichrist.

SESSION SEVEN

Chapter/Topic	Activities
Chapter 10	Read chapter 10 and the Quick References. Answer Checkup questions for chapters 8, 9, and 10. Group: Explore other examples of “deceivers” in the world (generally) and within the church (specifically). Discuss answers to the Checkup questions.

Overarching Section, Chapter, or Part Theme: Learn to recognize those who mislead the elect of Christ and God.

Specific Learning Objectives:

- Discuss destructive agents within the body of Christ and learn to avoid their influence.
- Learn of the false messiahs and false prophet(s) spoken of by Jesus on the Mount of Olives.
- Rediscover how important it is to strengthen faith through knowledge of the Gospel.

Thought-provoking Questions:

1. Can you or your students give personal examples of false teachers or *tares*?
2. What can happen to those exposed to false teaching – especially if their faith is weak?
3. What judgment awaits false teachers?
4. What can your students do to protect themselves against false teaching?

Possible Controversies or Conflicts:

- There may be disagreements as to the makeup or identity of the end-times false messiah or False Prophet.

Suggested Session Structure:

1. Open in prayer.
2. Discuss lesson objectives and content.
3. Ask thought-provoking questions to stir discussion (if necessary).
4. Discuss questions and answers for chapters 8-10.
5. Closure, to include a preview of the next session and its requirements, and prayer.



✓ **Quick reference:** Revelation 13



FOOD FOR THOUGHT: According to the Qur'an (cf. Sura 9:29), pages 65-67 of *The Islamic Antichrist*, and wikiislam, the Muslim prophet Jesus Eesa al Maseeh):

1. Will judge the world.
2. Will defeat the Jewish Antichrist (Dajjal).
3. Will lead the Muslims, soldiers of Jesus, in battle against the Jews and Christians.
4. Will abolish the Jizyah tax thereby giving non-Muslims no choice but to convert to what will be the one-world religion of Islam or die.
5. Will demand worship of the Mahdi by everyone on earth.
6. Will support the Muslim Messiah (Mahdi), who will reign in Jerusalem as a subordinate.



Key points to remember (Chapter Ten):

1. People influenced by Satan infiltrate the church regularly – knowingly or unknowingly. They can take the form of false teachers, false prophets, or people who cause dissension and confusion from within the body of Christ.
2. Test what you hear or see to ensure it's from God and not a deception. The parable of the tares would also teach us to look for the character fruit of a true child of God as evidenced in the fruit of the Spirit.

Key points to remember (Chapter Ten):

1. False prophets have, and will, deceive the church. Be on the lookout for false teaching, inaccurate prophecies, a lack of spiritual fruit, sources of division in the church, etc.
2. *The False Prophet* will arise from what will most likely be a particular region or nation.
3. He'll work miracles and deceive many – even the *chosen* if possible.
4. The False Prophet will demand worship of the Antichrist as God.
5. He and the Antichrist will be destroyed when God throws them into the lake of fire at the battle of Armageddon.

SESSION EIGHT

Chapter/Topic	Activities
Chapters 11 & 12	Read chapter 11, and chapter 12 Part I. Start with the RECOMMENDED READING. <i>Group</i> : Discuss what you’ve learned from Daniel’s writings so far to include the focus on humility, authority, and Nebuchadnezzar’s status.

Overarching Section, Chapter, or Part Theme: This session provided an introduction to apocalyptic literature in Scripture and explored Daniel 2 and 4, verse by verse.

Specific Learning Objectives:

- Gain an understanding of “beast” kingdoms from the Babylonian Empire to the end-times kingdom of the Antichrist.
- Learn the value of submitting to God’s authority, or to those who He has placed in positions of authority over us.

Thought-provoking Questions:

1. Did Daniel really exist and receive prophecies from God, or was he a fictional character as some insist? (Chapter 11)
2. What do your students feel about the concept of submitting to authority? (Chapter 11)

Possible Controversies or Conflicts:

- Some may believe Daniel didn’t actually exist. Those who feel this way should be reminded of Jesus’s reference to his writings (cf. Matthew 24:15) and of the fulfillment of his prophecies (e.g. the coming to fruition of the different empires, crucifixion of Jesus, etc.).
- Members of the body of Christ often have difficulty submitting to the authority of church leaders.

Suggested Session Structure:

1. Open in prayer.
2. Discuss lesson objectives and content.
3. Ask thought-provoking questions to stir discussion (if necessary).
4. Closure, to include a preview of the next session and its requirements, and prayer.



RECOMMENDED READING:

1. Daniel 2 and 4
2. Review *Babylon Rule* under Chapter Five of this guide

SESSION NINE

Chapter/Topic	Activities
Chapter 12	Read chapter 12 Parts II and III. Start with the RECOMMENDED READING. Answer Checkup questions for chapter 12. Group: Discuss the timing from Daniel 9 and the sequence of events from chapter 11 through chapter 12. Discuss answers to Checkup questions.

Overarching Section, Chapter, or Part Theme: This session provides an in-depth verse-by-verse look at Daniel’s writings, which contain specific last days timing and information regarding the Great Tribulation. You’ll also find prophecies related to the Antichrist type/shadow and a historical summary from Daniel’s day until the new age.

Specific Learning Objectives:

- Learn about the coming Antichrist, his kingdom, and time of authority (Great Tribulation).
- Learn about this well-known shadow/type of the future Antichrist: Antiochus Epiphanes.
- Glimpse a summary of historical events that have already occurred, setting the stage for Antiochus Epiphanes’ rule, and events to come with the rule of *the* Antichrist.
- Understand the timing of Jesus’s sacrifice, Israel’s redemption, and the Great Tribulation of the last days.

Thought-provoking Questions:

1. Do you students believe that Daniel’s “week of years” equals a total of 490 years?
2. What characteristics do Antiochus Epiphanes and the Antichrist share? What are some of the differences between them?
3. Why do you or your students believe the religious leaders of Jesus’s day missed Daniel’s prophecy that the messiah would be “cut off” at about the same time Jesus was crucified and then resurrected?

Possible Controversies or Conflicts:

- Differences in beliefs about the time of the Great Tribulation may surface.
- Some (e.g. preterists) believe the events contained in Daniel’s apocalyptic writings have already occurred. This is unscriptural and doesn’t take into account some of the futuristic writings found in the Revelation and corroborated by Daniel’s prophecies.
- Some have been taught that chapters 7 and 8 describe the same person: the Antichrist. This is unscriptural.

Suggested Session Structure:

1. Open in prayer.
2. Discuss lesson objectives and content.

3. Ask thought-provoking questions to stir discussion (if necessary).
4. Discuss questions and answers for chapter 12.
5. Closure, to include a preview of the next session and its requirements, and prayer.



RECOMMENDED READING (Part II):

1. Daniel 7
2. Revelation 13:1-10

RECOMMENDED READING (Part II):

1. Daniel 8
2. Review *Mede-Persian* rule under Chapter Five of this guide
3. Review *Greek Rule* under Chapter Five of this guide

RECOMMENDED READING (Part III):

1. Daniel 9
2. Review *Term of Office* in Chapter Eight
3. Review *Covenant of Death* in Chapter Eight

RECOMMENDED READING (Part III): Daniel 11 and 12

SESSION TEN

Chapter/Topic	Activities
Chapter 13	Read chapter 13. Group: Discuss the common themes and select several chapters and verses related to those the group may be interested in to read and discuss further.

Overarching Section, Chapter, or Part Theme: This session compares and contrasts apocalyptic writings of Old Testament prophets.

Specific Learning Objectives:

- Learn of unveilings of the future common to several Old Testament prophets.
 - Characteristics of the Antichrist
 - The makeup of the Antichrist’s kingdom
 - End-times Babylon
 - Day of the Lord wrath
 - Darkening of the sun, moon, and stars prior to the Lord’s wrath
 - Great Tribulation
 - Battle of Armageddon
 - Christ’s kingdom
 - New heaven and earth
- Compare their apocalyptic writings to the Revelation given to John

Thought-provoking Questions:

1. Will there be one “Day of the Lord”, or does the reference pertain to many previous times of God’s wrath, as preterists suggest it does?
2. What do you or your students think it would’ve been like for the prophets to receive prophecies related to the current times of trouble and also future revelations in the same vision/message?

Possible Controversies or Conflicts:

- Some, such as preterists (those who believe all events portrayed in Old Testament apocalyptic writings and the Revelation have already occurred), believe there have been many “Day of Lord” events to substantiate their beliefs. This detracts from the scriptural concept that there will be a future day of reckoning for those who oppose God in the last days.
- Some, such as those who believe we live in a post-millennial figurative kingdom of Christ, disregard Old Testament scripture that details the future kingdom of Christ. Therefore, they also hold to a belief that Christ’s kingdom in the Revelation is figurative and that there will be no literal kingdom of Christ on earth. You’ll learn more about these beliefs in Chapter Seventeen of this guide.

Suggested Session Structure:

1. Open in prayer.
2. Discuss lesson objectives and content.
3. Ask thought-provoking questions to stir discussion (if necessary).
4. Closure, to include a preview of the next session and its requirements, and prayer.

SESSION ELEVEN

Chapter/Topic	Activities
Chapter 14	Read chapter 14 to include RECOMMENDED READING and SUPPLEMENTAL READING. Answer Checkup questions for chapter 14. Group: Compare and contrast the accounts given by Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Discuss the relevance of the Revelation to the church. Discuss answers to Checkup questions.

Overarching Section, Chapter, or Part Theme: Compare and contrast accounts of what Jesus said on the Mount of Olives regarding the end of the age to include the parables in Matthew 25. Introduce the Revelation given to John.

Specific Learning Objectives:

- Learn of the events that match seals one through three (Revelation 6).
- Discover other events in the Mount of Olives discourse that also match the other seals in Revelation 6.
- Identify teachings that misuse the parables of the fig tree and carrion eaters (vultures/eagles).
- Take an in-depth look at the three parables contained within Matthew 25.

Thought-provoking Questions:

1. Have you or your students ever heard that the signs given on the Mount of Olives were meant only for unsaved Jews as a foretelling of *their* salvation?
2. Who do you or they believe is being gathered in Matthew 24:31 – especially in light of the “elect” as discussed earlier in this study?
3. Do you or they agree that there’s a direct relationship between what Jesus told His disciples on the Mount of Olives (e.g. Matthew 24) and Revelation 6?
4. What does your class believe about the sheep and goat judgment foretold in Matthew 25 (cf. Matthew 25:31-46)?

Possible Controversies or Conflicts:

- Many have been taught that the Mount of Olives discourse was meant only for the Jews, and that it was a foretelling of their salvation, not ours as followers of Jesus. This is pushed largely to support the doctrine of a pre-tribulation rapture. Just remember that Jesus was speaking to His disciples (not unbelieving Jews), His words match what He later told the apostle John in the Book of Revelation, and Paul reiterated the spirit of this message when speaking to the gentile believers in Thessalonica (cf. 2 Thessalonians 2).
- There may be disagreements as to whether Jesus’ mention of the parable of the fig tree and vultures/eagles contained hidden meaning. Again, He was just using the parables to push the point that, “when you see this, then you will see that . . .” Encourage your students to keep things simple and to not make something out of nothing.

- There may also be disagreements as to the context of the sheep and goat judgment.
- Remember that Jesus was asked, and was answering, three different questions. Therefore, His response contained near-far events that would take place from His time through about 135 AD and then again at the time of the Antichrist and the gathering of followers of the Messiah. Unfortunately, some (such as preterists) believe that the inclusion of current events in Jesus's discourse meant that *all* events in His response would happen shortly thereafter. Many insist that His prophecies were indeed fulfilled at the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD.

Suggested Session Structure:

1. Open in prayer.
2. Discuss lesson objectives and content.
3. Ask thought-provoking questions to stir discussion (if necessary).
4. Discuss questions and answers for chapter 14.
5. Closure, to include a preview of the next session and its requirements, and prayer.



RECOMMENDED READING:

- Matthew 24 and 25
- Mark 13
- Luke 21



SUPPLEMENTAL READING (Either the KJV or NASB version of the Bible is recommended; read at least three verses before and after scriptural references to understand the context better):

1. Introduction by John: Revelation 1:1-9
2. Saints on earth and in Great Tribulation during the Antichrist's reign:
 - a. Revelation 13:7 & 10 (Antichrist at war with the saints, who must persevere)
 - b. Revelation 14:12 (further perseverance of the saints)
3. Closure: Revelation 22:7-21

SESSION TWELVE

Chapter/Topic	Activities
Chapter 15	Read chapter 15. Group: Discuss the different points made by Peter and Paul regarding the end times. Discuss why it would've been possible to believe the end had come.

Overarching Section, Chapter, or Part Theme: This session provides an overview of the majority of what Peter and Paul wrote concerning the end of the age.

Specific Learning Objectives:

- Understand the relationship between what Jesus told His disciples on the Mount of Olives and what Paul told gentile believers in Thessalonica (cf. Matthew 24 and 2 Thessalonians 2).
- Be reminded of the false teachings and falling away from the faith that will occur in the last days.
- Notice the association between the mention of Christ's "appearing" and our gathering and His "coming".

Suggested Session Structure:

1. Open in prayer.
2. Discuss lesson objectives and content.
3. Ask thought-provoking questions to stir discussion (if necessary).
4. Closure, to include a preview of the next session and its requirements, and prayer.

SESSION THIRTEEN

Chapter/Topic	Activities
Chapter 16	Read chapter 16 Parts I, II, and III. Start with the RECOMMENDED READING. Group: Discuss the letters to the churches, the seven seals, and the seven trumpet judgments.

Overarching Section, Chapter, or Part Theme: This session provides a verse-by-verse summarization of chapters 1 – 9 of the Revelation given to John by Jesus.

- **Part I:** An introduction to the Revelation, letters to seven churches of Asia Minor, and John’s ascension to heaven for viewing end-times scenes.
- **Part II:** Opening of each of the seven seals, revealing birth pang events, future great tribulation, and introduction of God’s wrath – most of which we’ve already seen in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21. We also see here the bride of Christ gathered from out of the Great Tribulation after the darkening of the sun, moon, and stars.
- **Part III:** The first half of God’s wrath on those remaining after the gathering (rapture): the seven trumpet judgments.

Specific Learning Objectives:

- Learn of behavior common to the seven churches.
- Observe the sequence of events portrayed by breaking the seals and how they compare to the signs already given to His disciples by Jesus on the Mount of Olives.
- Pay particular attention to those gathered out of the Great Tribulation (cf. Revelation 7:9-17) and the fact that the gathering has happened just after the complete darkening of the sun, moon, and stars (cf. Matthew 24:29-31 and Revelation 6:12-17).
- Understand that the seventh trumpet heralds:
 - The conclusion of the “mystery of God” (the time of the gentiles and their grafting into the kingdom)
 - The end of the 490 year period of Israel’s redemption as foretold by Daniel
 - The beginning of Christ’s kingdom
- The relationship between the judgments and apocalyptic writings of several Old Testament prophets as previously discussed in Session Ten.

Thought-provoking Questions:

1. Have you or your students ever been told that the seven churches and their letters are symbolic and represent certain “church ages”? What do you think of this?
2. Have you or your students ever been told that John’s invitation to heaven was symbolic of a pre-tribulation rapture?
3. Who does the group in the latter half of Revelation 7 represent? If not the bride of Christ, then whom?

Possible Controversies or Conflicts:

- A pre-tribulation rapture doctrine teaches these contentious points:
 - The letters and churches represent dispensational church ages
 - The letter to the church of Philadelphia contains proof of a pre-tribulation rapture
 - John's ascension to heaven was symbolic of a coming pre-tribulation rapture since it occurred before the breaking of the seals – all of which are seen as part of the Great Tribulation
- The 144,000 are seen by some as a symbolic reference to their particular denomination or belief system. That the list of tribes in Revelation 7 is slightly different than the original 12 is sometimes used as rationale for believing it's a symbolic list and not to be taken literally.
- Some have been taught that the 144,000 will be “Jews for Jesus” evangelizing the world.

Suggested Session Structure:

1. Open in prayer.
2. Discuss lesson objectives and content.
3. Ask thought-provoking questions to stir discussion (if necessary).
4. Closure, to include a preview of the next session and its requirements, and prayer.



RECOMMENDED READING (Part I):

1. Review the appropriate portion of Chapter Fourteen of this guide – *Part II: Introduction to the Revelation*
2. Revelation 1-4

RECOMMENDED READING (Part II):

1. Review the appropriate portion of Chapter Fourteen of this guide – *Part II: Introduction to the Revelation*
2. Revelation 5-7
3. Revelation 8:1

RECOMMENDED READING (Part III):

1. Review the appropriate portion of Chapter Fourteen of this guide – *Part II: Introduction to the Revelation*
2. Revelation 8:2-13
3. Revelation 9 & 10



Key Points or Considerations - Chapter Sixteen Part I (Revelation 1):

1. The Revelation was meant for the seven churches of Asia Minor in the “near” part of a near-far prophecy that spans current behavior and consequences as of 90 CE to the end of this age.
2. Seven lampstands are the seven churches of Asia Minor.
3. Seven stars are messengers from the seven churches of Asia Minor.
4. Christ’s weapon in apocalyptic writing is the sword.

Key Points or Considerations - Chapter Sixteen Part I (Revelation 4):

1. John is invited to heaven to view the end-times sequence of events. This is *not* symbolic of a pre-tribulation rapture of the church.
2. The 24 elders mentioned here are part of God’s hierarchy and not representative of a special few in a church raptured before the time of great tribulation of the Antichrist.



SMMARY (Chapter Sixteen Part I): Jesus told His disciples there’ll be false messiahs, wars, famine, and earthquakes leading up to the end. He also said that these things will increase in intensity and frequency as the end draws near. Jesus revealed the death and persecution they’d go through on account of Him from that time until the end. And He unveiled end-times events to come much later, including the tribulation of the Antichrist and gathering of believers. In Matthew’s account, we also read the parables and additional warnings to stay watchful and faithful. Finally, we saw in Matthew’s account a description of the great judgment of God at the very end of the age. Guess what? You’ll see all this again and in greater detail as we study the Revelation Christ gave to John roughly 60 years later. Although that particular part of our study won’t happen until Chapter Sixteen, the next part of this chapter will introduce the Revelation.



Key Points or Considerations - Chapter Sixteen Part II (Revelation 6):

1. Each of the six seals broken in this chapter reveals scenarios that parallel those given by Christ on the Mount of Olives (e.g. Matthew 24:5-30).
2. The first seal represents the false messiahs Jesus mentioned in Matthew 24:4-5, not *the* Christ or *the* Antichrist. It and the next two seal events are *birth pangs* that will happen with greater intensity and frequency as the end draws near (e.g. Matthew 24:5-8).
3. Christ’s weapon in apocalyptic writing is the sword (not bow).
4. The fourth and fifth seals depict the persecution and death that the Antichrist will be granted authority to execute (e.g. Matthew 24:10-26).
5. Seal 6 depicts the darkening of the earth and the mourning of those about to experience God’s wrath (e.g. Matthew 24:29-30).

Key Points or Considerations - Chapter Sixteen Part III (Revelation 9):

1. God's wrath will be just that – His judgment. This is regardless of whether we recognize elements that fit within our own frames of reference. It's best to continue to look at the execution of God's wrath in that light.
2. To follow point #1, the fact that China is the only country capable of having an army of 200 million soldiers doesn't make it the vehicle of destruction of trumpet judgment 6 as some believe.
3. God's wrath will be divided into three "woes." Trumpet judgment 5 will comprise the first one.

Key Points or Considerations - Chapter Sixteen Part III (Revelation 10):

1. The *mystery of God* is the inheritance of what was offered to Israel – the salvation of Christ – but has now been given to the rest of the nations (the gentiles).
2. The seventh trumpet will usher in Christ's kingdom, end the three-and-a-half-year authority of the Antichrist, and conclude the 490-year timeframe of Daniel's vision (cf. Daniel 9).
3. Some believe the seventh trumpet and the trumpet heralding Christ's appearance at the gathering of the bride will be the same thing. This doctrine therefore holds that the trumpet judgments will not be part of God's wrath and that all believers in Christ will experience those woeful judgments. We'll discuss this further in Chapter Seventeen of this guide, *Exploring End-times Positions*. Although a "trumpet" is common to both scenarios, my recommendation at this point is that you consider the seventh and final trumpet judgment and the trumpet blast at the gathering of the church as separate and unrelated events.

SESSION FOURTEEN

Chapter/Topic	Activities
Chapter 16	Read chapter 16 Parts IV and V. Start with the RECOMMENDED READING. Group: Discuss what chapters 11-13 have to say about the 1,260-day (3.5-year) period of the Antichrist's authority.

Overarching Section, Chapter, or Part Theme: This session details a lot of information related to the three-and-one-half authority of the Antichrist, the two end-times “harvests”, and the remainder of God’s wrath.

Specific Learning Objectives:

- Learn about the two witnesses.
- Learn about the three-and-one-half year authority of the Antichrist following losing the war in heaven.
- Glean characteristics of the Antichrist and his false prophet.
- Compare details of the Antichrist and his kingdom to those revealed by Daniel in chapter 7.
- Consider the trek to Petra as prophesied by Old Testament prophets to that foretold in chapter 12.
- Ponder the sequence of events portrayed in chapter 14. Compare the preaching of the Gospel to that similar step listed in Matthew 24 and the two harvests to those listed in Matthew 13.
- Receive an introduction to end-times Babylon.

Thought-provoking Questions:

1. Who do you or your students believe the two witnesses will be? Why?
2. Do you or your students believe the temple in chapter 11 will be a physical temple? Why? Why not?
3. Will the Gospel have to be preached to the entire world before Christ can return as some insist? Would that even be possible?
4. Many have been taught that the war in heaven had already happened by Adam’s time and that Satan has already been thrown to the earth as specified in chapter 12. What do you or your students think about this?

Possible Controversies or Conflicts:

- People may disagree on the identity of the two witnesses.
- Many have been taught that the Gospel must be preached to every inhabitant on planet earth before Christ can return. There are many problems with this train of thought, but it’s a deep-rooted Pentecostal tradition. You may wish to address the challenge associated with trying to make this happen, the fact that God’s timing is His, not ours, and that the preaching of the Gospel will be a discrete step that will take place at the very end (according to Scripture).

- Some have been taught that the seventh trumpet in chapter 11 and those listed in Matthew 24, 1 Corinthians 15:52, and 1 Thessalonians 4:16 are all the same. In reality, the seventh trumpet in the Revelation announces a portion of God’s wrath and is most likely separate from those in the other references. The others referenced by Jesus and Paul point to the trumpet call that will herald the gathering of Jesus’ bride – the church. It will probably be the last trumpet of Rosh Hashanah – the Feast of Trumpets. This is the author’s opinion.

Suggested Session Structure:

1. Open in prayer.
2. Discuss lesson objectives and content.
3. Ask thought-provoking questions to stir discussion (if necessary).
4. Closure, to include a preview of the next session and its requirements, and prayer.



RECOMMENDED READING:

1. Review the appropriate portion of Chapter Fourteen of this guide – *Part II: Introduction to the Revelation*.
2. Review section *Two Witnesses* in Chapter Six of this guide.
3. Review section *False Prophets* in Chapter Ten of this guide.
4. Revelation 11-13.

RECOMMENDED READING:

1. Review the appropriate portion of Chapter Fourteen of this guide – *Part II: Introduction to the Revelation*
2. Revelation 14-16



Key Points or Considerations - Chapter Sixteen Part IV (Revelation 11):

1. This is the only place in Scripture where we read about the two witnesses.
2. The temple John sees is on earth, not in heaven, nor is it a *spiritual* temple.
3. The seventh trumpet judgment will herald the end of the Antichrist’s reign and the beginning of the 1,000-year kingdom of Christ.

Key Points or Considerations - Chapter Sixteen Part IV (Revelation 12):

1. God put stars and resulting constellations in the heavens to signal events and seasons. Several constellations will align themselves just before the war in heaven.
2. Satan and “*the dragon*” represent the same being. He has had, and will continue to have, access to heaven until he’s cast down after the war in heaven (12:7-9).

3. The “*woman*” is a remnant of God that will be kept safe by Him during the three-and-a-half-year reign of the Antichrist. This may very well be the 144,000 also sealed by God for protection against His judgments (cf. Revelation 7:1-8).
4. This passage confirms that believers in Christ will suffer the wrath of Satan (through the Antichrist), sharply contrasting an opposing theory that all Christians will be gathered before this time in a pre-tribulation rapture.

Key Points or Considerations - Chapter Sixteen Part V (Revelation 14):

1. Verses 1-5 continue the vision of chapter 13 and describe the 144,000 as seen with Christ at the beginning of His kingdom and just before the execution of the seven bowls of God’s wrath.
2. Verses 6-7 depict the preaching of the gospel to all nations. This is most likely the end-times event Christ spoke of on the Mount of Olives (e.g. Matthew 24:14).
3. Verse 8 signals the destruction of figurative *Babylon*, which will be described further in Revelation 16, 17, and 18.
4. The two harvests in this chapter reflect the gathering of the elect (e.g. Matthew 24:30) and the destruction of the wicked (those not gathered by Christ) by the wrath of God. Both are represented as harvests of grapes.

SESSION FIFTEEN

Chapter/Topic	Activities
Chapter 16	Read chapter 16 Parts VI and VII. Start with the RECOMMENDED READING. Answer Checkup questions. Group: Discuss Babylon, the battle of Armageddon, and the new heaven and earth.

Overarching Section, Chapter, or Part Theme: This session concludes the study of the Revelation by presenting an in-depth look at end-times Babylon – both as an entity and a location, offering a glimpse of the end of the Antichrist and his false prophet, and highlighting the great judgment and new age to come.

Specific Learning Objectives:

- Complete the study of the Revelation.
- Understand end-times Babylon’s different roles as an entity and as a location.
- Learn details about end-times Babylon that may help in identifying her and the center of end-times activities.
- Learn about the marriage supper of the bride of Christ.
- Learn about the final judgment, Christ’s coming kingdom, and the new age.

Thought-provoking Questions:

1. Do you or your students hold to a traditional belief that end-times Babylon will be Rome and that the beast “she” rides will be the Catholic Church? What, if not?
2. What do you or your students think about the possibility of Israel playing the Babylon harlot and of Jerusalem as the location of the figurative end-times “Babylon”?
3. Are hell and the lake of fire always the same thing? What does your group think about the reality of the lake of fire?

Possible Controversies or Conflicts:

- Pre-tribulation rapture doctrine teaches that the church will return with Christ to defeat the Antichrist and his armies and to rule in Christ’s 1,000-year kingdom.
- Most end-times doctrines teach that Rome will be the last-days Babylon and that the beast she rides will be the Catholic Church. This long-standing tradition was born out of the atrocities, deception, and oppression of the early church of the Roman Empire.
- Many are told that there will be no literal 1,000-year reign of Christ.
- Some believe that we’re already living in the new age.

Suggested Session Structure:

1. Open in prayer.
2. Discuss lesson objectives and content.

3. Ask thought-provoking questions to stir discussion (if necessary).
4. Discuss questions and answers for chapter 16.
5. Closure, to include a preview of the next session and its requirements, and prayer.



RECOMMENDED READING:

1. Review the appropriate portion of Chapter Fourteen of this guide – *Part II: Introduction to the Revelation*
2. Review *Babylon – the Harlot* in Chapter Nine
3. Review *Babylon – the Great City* in Chapter Nine
4. Revelation 17-19

RECOMMENDED READING:

1. Review the appropriate portion of Chapter Fourteen of this guide – *Part II: Introduction to the Revelation*
2. Revelation 20-22



Key Points or Considerations - Chapter Sixteen Part VI (Revelation 17):

1. Israel's role throughout history as God's unfaithful bride and the description of her clothing and adornment make her an ideal candidate for the harlot.
2. The spiritual principality that will drive/influence the Antichrist's kingdom was also associated with one of the first five kingdoms to rule that region of the world: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, or Greece.
3. *Babylon*, the *great city* highlighted in verse 18, will most likely *not* be New York City or the World Bank as some suggest, but Jerusalem instead. The most compelling reason of several is that the Antichrist and his kingdom will rule the world during this time from that location.

Key Points or Considerations - Chapter Sixteen Part VI (Revelation 19):

1. Verse 15 serves as yet another reminder that the weapon of Christ is the sword (not the bow as is the weapon of false messiahs in seal 1 of chapter 6).
2. The bride of Christ and the group of warriors seen with Christ in verse 14 will *not* be the same, but rather distinct groups in heaven.

Key Points or Considerations - Chapter Sixteen Part VII (Revelation 20):

1. Yes, there *is* a lake of fire. As I said at the beginning of this study, we'll be in one group or the other in the end and will either join the rest of the bride of Christ in heaven or suffer the lake-of-fire judgment seen here.
2. Although *everyone* found in the Book of Life will be present in the New Jerusalem (cf. Revelation 21:27), there's no indication that anyone other than the 144,000 and those beheaded during the Antichrist's time will be with Christ on earth during His reign.

SESSION SIXTEEN

Chapter/Topic	Activities
Chapter 17	Read chapter 17. Group: Explore different end-times positions. Discuss personal views and supporting Scripture (only if comfortable doing so).

Overarching Section, Chapter, or Part Theme: Compare and contrast different end-times doctrines.

Specific Learning Objectives:

- Learn of the Biblical references to Christ’s appearing, coming, and revelation and understand they refer to the same era.
- Gain a better understanding of different end-times doctrines.
- Compare and contrast the different doctrines or theories.
- Look at existing challenges presented by a non-literal translation of Scripture.

Thought-provoking Questions:

1. Do your students believe the last days Scriptures have already been fulfilled?
2. Will Christ return for His bride before the Great Tribulation, or at the end (as a literal interpretation of Scripture suggests)?
3. Is Satan really “bound” already as some who take a spiritual approach to Biblical interpretation suggest?
4. Will there be a physical 1,000-year kingdom on earth led by Christ?
5. How can there be so many different theories on end-times events and Christ’s kingdom despite a single source inspire by God and His Spirit (the Bible)?

Possible Controversies or Conflicts:

- Whether the apocalyptic writings and prophecies have already been fulfilled (e.g. in 70 AD as believed by most preterists).
- The timing of Christ’s return in relation to the Great Tribulation.
- Whether there will be an actual, physical reign of Christ on earth.

Suggested Session Structure:

1. Open in prayer.
2. Discuss lesson objectives and content.
3. Ask thought-provoking questions to stir discussion (if necessary).
4. Closure, to include a preview of the next session and its requirements, and prayer.



Food for thought: What would be the point of Christ revealing end-times events to a church that wouldn't be present during that era?

SESSION SEVENTEEN

Chapter/Topic	Activities
Chapter 18	Course review and closure.

Overarching Section, Chapter, or Part Theme: This session presented a review of all material covered in the study guide.

Suggested Session Structure:

1. Open in prayer.
2. Discuss lesson objectives and content.
3. Ask thought-provoking questions to stir discussion (if necessary).
4. Closure, to include a preview of the next session and its requirements, and prayer.

APPENDIX A.2: Study Plan Template – Group

Week or Session	Chapter/Topic	Activities
1	Introduction	Read the Foreword and Introduction. Discuss group expectations and review course schedule.
2	Chapters 1 & 2	Read chapters 1 and 2, the Quick References, and SUPPLEMENTAL READING. Answer Checkup questions for chapters 1 and 2. Group: Discuss answers to Checkup questions.
3	Chapters 3 & 4	Read chapter 3 and the SUPPLEMENTAL READING. Read chapter 4 and the Quick References. Answer Checkup questions for chapters 3 and 4. Group: Discuss perceptions of faith, and consequences of not knowing the gospel. Discuss answers to Checkup questions.
4	Chapter 5	Read chapter 5. Group: Discuss the different historical/biblical eras.
5	Chapters 6 & 7	Read chapters 6 and 7 and the Quick References for chapter 7. Answer Checkup questions for chapters 6 and 7. Group: Discuss “God’s chosen.” Despite Scripture references, there will most likely be differences of opinion. Discuss answers to Checkup questions.
6	Chapters 8 & 9	Read chapters 8 and 9 and the Quick References. Group: Compare and contrast beliefs and possibilities related to the Antichrist and Babylon (harlot and location).
7	Chapter 10	Read chapter 10 and the Quick References. Answer Checkup questions for chapters 8, 9, and 10. Group: Explore other examples of “deceivers” in the world (generally) and within the church (specifically). Discuss answers to the Checkup questions.
8	Chapters 11 & 12	Read chapter 11, and chapter 12 Part I. Start with the RECOMMENDED READING. Group: Discuss what you’ve learned from Daniel’s writings so far to include the focus on humility, authority, and Nebuchadnezzar’s status.
9	Chapter 12	Read chapter 12 Parts II and III. Start with the RECOMMENDED READING. Answer Checkup questions for chapter 12. Group: Discuss the timing from Daniel 9 and the sequence of events from chapter 11 through chapter 12. Discuss answers to Checkup questions.
10	Chapter 13	Read chapter 13. Group: Discuss the common themes and select several chapters and verses related to those the group may be interested in to read and discuss further.
11	Chapter 14	Read chapter 14 to include RECOMMENDED READING and SUPPLEMENTAL READING. Answer Checkup questions for chapter 14. Group: Compare and contrast the accounts given by Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Discuss the relevance of the Revelation to the church. Discuss answers to Checkup questions.

Week or Session	Chapter/Topic	Activities
12	Chapter 15	Read chapter 15. Group: Discuss the different points made by Peter and Paul regarding the end times. Discuss why it would've been possible to believe the end had come.
13	Chapter 16	Read chapter 16 Parts I, II, and III. Start with the RECOMMENDED READING. Group: Discuss the letters to the churches, the seven seals, and the seven trumpet judgments.
14	Chapter 16	Read chapter 16 Parts IV and V. Start with the RECOMMENDED READING. Group: Discuss what chapters 11-13 have to say about the 1,260-day (3.5-year) period of the Antichrist's authority.
15	Chapter 16	Read chapter 16 Parts VI and VII. Start with the RECOMMENDED READING. Answer Checkup questions. Group: Discuss Babylon, the battle of Armageddon, and the new heaven and earth.
16	Chapter 17	Read chapter 17. Group: Explore different end-times positions. Discuss personal views and supporting Scripture (only if comfortable doing so).
17	Chapter 18	Course review and closure.