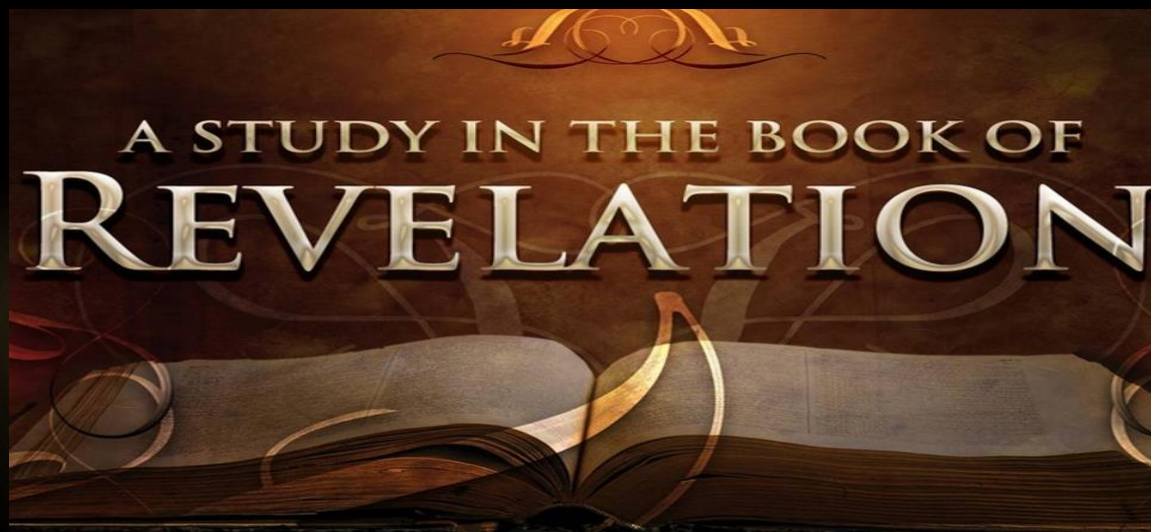


# SRMBC FAMILY BIBLE STUDY



## SRMBC May - Jul Bible Study Schedule

Date	Subject	Scripture
5/1/2019	Lesson 1: An Illustrated Letter from Jesus	Revelation 1
5/8/2019	Lesson 2: Pardon My Speaking the Truth	Revelation 2
5/15/2019	Lesson 3: My Dear Compromised People	Revelation 3
5/22/2019	Lesson 4: Worship the All-Powerful Lamb	Revelation 4 – 5
6/5/2019	Lesson 5: The Beautiful Wrath of God	Revelation 6
6/12/2019	Lesson 6: Living Faithfully Through the Holocaust	Revelation 7, 16
6/19/2019	Lesson 7: Cheer Up! The Worst Is Yet to Come!	Revelation 8 – 9
6/27/2019	Lesson 8: The Last Word on Witness	Revelation 10 - 11
7/3/2019	Holiday (Independence Day)	No Study
7/10/2019	Lesson 9: Conflict with the Accuser	Revelation 12 – 13
7/17/2019	VBS	No Study
7/24/2019	Lesson 10: Doing Mission in Hard Times	Revelation 14 – 15
7/31/2019	Lesson 11: Tearing Down Strongholds	Revelation 17 – 18
9/11/2019	Lesson 12: Are You Going to the Wedding?	Revelation 19
9/18/2019	Lesson 13: The Last Battle	Revelation 20
9/25/2019	Lesson 14: God Dwelling With His People	Revelation 21 – 22

## SRMBC Family Bible Study

### Revelation - The Triumph Of God Lesson 11: **Tearing Down Strongholds** Revelation 17 – 18

#### The Apostle John – The Book of Revelation

- **Author:** Revelation 1:1,4,9 and 22:8 identify the author as the apostle John.
- **Date of Writing:** The Book of Revelation was likely written between A.D. 90 and 95.
- **Purpose of Writing:** The Revelation of Jesus Christ was given to John by God (while in exile on the Isle of Patmos) to tell his servants about the last days before Christ's return, the final judgment of sin and Satan and the new heaven and new earth.

##### The Book Of Revelation:

- Gives us a glimpse of heaven and the glories awaiting those who keep their robes white.
- Informs us on the Great Tribulation and the final fire that unbelievers will face for all eternity.
- Records the defeat of Satan and the doom he and his angels are bound for.
- Shows us the worship and service of all creatures and angels of heaven and the promises of eternal life with Jesus in the New Jerusalem.



John on the Isle of Patmos

**Group Discussion:** What do you find most seductive about the culture and civilization in which you live?

A Simple Plan: "Finding Money"



When **Hank**, his socially challenged brother, **Jacob**, and his good friend **Lou** find a crashed plane and discovers a dead pilot and a duffel bag containing **\$4.4 million in cash**.

Hank's first instinct is to turn the money in to the proper authorities, but Jacob and Lou attempt to persuade him otherwise.

### Questions:

- Hank's 1<sup>st</sup> instinct is to turn the money in – Do you agree with him? Why?
- What were some of the "excuses" Lou and Jacob use to justify keeping the money?
- How are some of the "excuses" used to justify giving into worldly/sinful temptations today?
- From a Christian perspective, what advice would you give to them?
- How can we overcome the worldly temptations that we face?

## Revelation 17:1 – 4 (NKJV)

### The Scarlet Woman and the Scarlet Beast

1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,

2 with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.

## Revelation 17:5 – 7 (NKJV)

5 And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

### The Meaning of the Woman and the Beast

7 But the angel said to me, “Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.

## Revelation 17:8 – 10 (NKJV)

8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

9 “Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.

10 There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time.

## Revelation 17:11 – 14 (NKJV)

11 The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.

12 “The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.

13 These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”

## Revelation 17:15 – 18 (NKJV)

15 Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

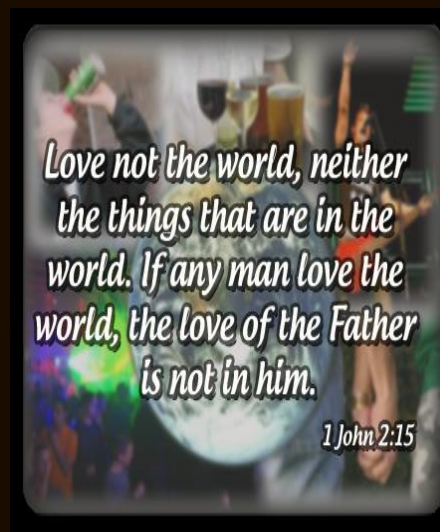
16 And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

17 For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.

18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.”

## 1. What is so deceptively attractive about the evil cultures and world systems depicted here?

Spiritual Attraction	Temptation
17:2 with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”	Lust of the Flesh
17:4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.	Lust of the Flesh and Lust of the Eyes
17:12 The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.	The Pride of Life



## 2. What do you think the prostitute and Babylon represent in John's vision? What is the relationship of the prostitute and Babylon (17:5)?

- The prostitute represents satanic influences of sexual immorality (adultery) with spiritual infidelity (Jer. 3:9; Eze. 16:32).
- The prostitute and Babylon depict a world system that is habitually and commercially motivated towards Idolatry and Immorality.
- Babylon is prophetically depicted in Nebuchadnezzar's Statue Vision (Dan. 2:24 – 47).
- In John's day "Babylon" is represented by Rome – some believe that the Roman Empire will be revived as a fulfillment of End Times prophecy.



### 3. What is the relationship of the prostitute and the beast (17:7-8)?

- John identifies the prostitute with Babylon—the Old Testament symbol of a world empire exercising control over many nations.
- At the heart of it all is the Red Dragon (Satan, Rev. 12), who is the real motivating power of the beast.
- The harlot represents the sum total of pagan culture and idolatrous political power and false religion as she “rides” on the beast (17:7)



*“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” (Eph. 6:12)*

### 4. What is the relationship of the ten coming kings and the beast (17:12-14)?

- The meaning of the “ten horns” (17:12) is not so obvious (EU, UN, etc.).
- What is clear is that are future kings that, along with the prostitute get their power from the beast (17:12).
- Whoever they are, their reign will be brief and unimportant because the Lamb is supreme and will triumph.
- As we are the Lamb’s followers will triumph along with Him (17:14).



12 "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. 13 "These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

The Ten Horns of the Beast - Rev. 17

## Revelation 18:1 – 5 (NKJV)

### The Fall of Babylon the Great

1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.

2 And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!

3 For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury."

4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.

## Revelation 18:5 – 8 (NKJV)

5 For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

6 Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her.

7 In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.'

8 Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.



## Revelation 18:9 – 13 (NKJV)

### The World Mourns Babylon's Fall

9 “The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning,

10 standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’

11 “And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore:

12 merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble;

13 and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men.

## Revelation 18:14 – 18 (NKJV)

14 The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all.

15 The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,

16 and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls!

17 For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.’ Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance

18 and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What is like this great city?’

## Revelation 18:19 – 22 (NKJV)

19 “They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.’

20 “Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!”

### Finality of Babylon’s Fall

21 Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore.

22 The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore.

## Revelation 18:23 – 24 (NKJV)

23 The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.

24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.”

## 5. Another angel announces the fall of Babylon (18:1-8). Why is it important for God's people to "come out of her" (18:4)?

- Compromising with the world, while it may bring temporary pleasures/success will ultimately bring dissatisfaction.
- We can either love Christ or love the things of this world, but not both. God deserves and has commanded us to love Him.
- The Babylon system is not going to stand under the judgement of God – we don't want to be caught up in the destruction.



1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.  
2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

*"They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world." (John 17:16)*

## 6. How does the prostitute see herself (18:7-8)? What do we learn from this about the influence of evil in this world?

### How The Prostitute Sees Herself

- She glorifies Herself – sees herself perfect without fault.
- Greedy and selfish – living in ultra prosperity without regard for God or others.
- Full of herself and believes she is in total control of everything

### What We Learn About Evil

- Evil is deceptive - it sounds good on the surface.
- Evil is arrogant/prideful – It is all about me.
- Evil eventually will be judged swiftly and completely by God.



**The Prostitute  
of  
Revelation 17 – 18**

## 7. How do you think the demise of our own culture would be greeted?

- **The Kings:** 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'
- **The Merchants:** 'Alas, alas, that great city... in one hour such great riches came to nothing.'
- **Every Shipmaster:** 'What is like this great city?' ...in one hour she is made desolate.'

People today are so in love with the World System - because it brings the pleasures we enjoy. It stands to reason that world would lament its destruction as well.



**Note:** In Rev. 18:20 - "John is not gloating over the city's downfall. He is appealing to Christians to see the realities of the situation and to act accordingly" - Leon Morris

## 8. What have you learned about resisting the temptation to compromise in a dangerously hostile society or a deceptively friendly one?

### Hostile Society :

- As the coming of Christ gets closer, the world becomes more hostile to the church.
- Now more than ever it is time to stand up for God and His truth.
- No matter how intense the attacks against our faith, God's will and word is going to prevail in the end.

### "Friendly" Society:

- The most dangerous enemy is not the one that growls at you, but the one that "smiles" at you.
- Compromise – even a small one, with the world brings destruction and pain that far outweighs any good.
- Just because something looks good, sounds good or feels good doesn't mean it **is** good or Godly

## Keys For Living

- *Even though we are believers, saved and filled with the Holy Spirit, evil is still all around us. We must be diligent in prayer, worship and the Word – depending on the Lord, lest we fall.*
- *Although evil seems to be increasing, God's true and right ways are always the same. Despite every temptation, God has promised to give us a way of escape or the grace to bear up under it (1 Cor 10:13).*
- *Christians can be encouraged that this evil and rebellious world will not stand. Jesus has already won the victory and the Father has set a time when He will bring all things under His righteous rule.*



QUESTIONS

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