

# At the Appointed Time

## OVERVIEW

### Preparing the Teacher

We have yet to see the conclusion of the plan of God for the world. It is a conclusion that will be greater and more glorious than anything we could possibly imagine (**1 Cor. 2:9**). The book of Revelation gives us a glimpse of that conclusion, which exalts the Lord Jesus Christ in all His glory as the worshiped Lamb, the righteous Judge, and the victorious King. Revelation also contains specific messages for believers—instructions to prepare us for our part in the consummation of God’s plan.

As you prepare to teach your students about the plan of God for the end times, meditate on **Revelation 1:3** and **22:6–21**. Notice not only the sobering responsibility that is yours in teaching these truths but also the blessings in store for those who obey them. Pray that the Lord will give you and your students ears to hear and hearts to understand.

### Preparing the Materials

- 165: Sheet of parchment paper [E]
- 170: Four hymnals
- 174: *Foxe’s Book of Martyrs* by John Foxe [O]
- 177: Pictures of buildings with pillars
- 178: Three foam cups, each containing a small amount of tea—one hot, one iced, and one at room temperature

# Unit 10 At the Appointed Time

Theme, Memory Verse, and Principle	Lesson Number	TE Page	Worktext Page(s)	Lesson Title	Scripture or Focus	Connections
<b>Unit 10a Pictures of Christ Before His Coming</b>  Revelation 1:3  <i>Those who read, hear, and obey God's Word are blessed.</i>	161	346	238–40	One Like the Son of Man	Revelation 1	
	162	348	241–43	The Worthy Lamb	Revelation 4–11, 16	
	163	352	244–45	Protector of His Own	Revelation 12–15, 19	
	164	354	246–47	God Is in Control	Application Story	
	165	355		Unit 10a Activity		
<b>Unit 10b Pictures of Christ After His Coming</b>  Revelation 15:3–4  <i>God's perfect character and works call for Christians to praise Him.</i>	166	356	248–49	The Conquering King	Revelation 19:11–21	
	167	358	250–51	The Important Book	Revelation 20	Writing
	168	360	252	The Light of the City of God	Revelation 21–22	
	169	362	253–55	Prophet Focus: Zechariah	Zechariah	Timeline: Zechariah
	170	365		Unit 10b Activity	Review	
<b>Unit 10c Christ Speaks to the Churches (Part 1)</b>  Revelation 2:4–5  <i>If a Christian's love for God has grown cold, he needs to repent.</i>	171	366	256–57	Returning to Your Number One Love	Revelation 2:1–7	Timeline: John the Apostle
	172	368	258–59	Be Faithful Until Death	Revelation 2:8–11	
	173	370	260	Do Not Tolerate Evil	Revelation 2:12–29	
	174	372	261–62	Faithful Follower: John Foxe (Part 1)	Biography	
	175	374		Unit 10c Activity		
<b>Unit 10d Christ Speaks to the Churches (Part 2)</b>  Revelation 3:19–20  <i>If Christians respond to God's loving discipline and repent of their sin, they will enjoy His fellowship.</i>	176	375	263–64	Awake from Deadness	Revelation 3:1–6	
	177	377	265–66	Hold Fast to God's Word	Revelation 3:7–13	
	178	379	267–68	Repent of Lukewarmness	Revelation 3:14–22	Writing
	179	381	269–70	Faithful Follower: John Foxe (Part 2)	Biography	
	180	383		Unit 10d Activity	Review	

Bible Doctrines	Skills/Applications
<p><b>The Doctrine of the Bible</b></p> <p><i>Proofs for Inspiration</i></p> <p>The Bible is accurate in its prophecy (Num. 23:19).</p>	<p><b>Foundational</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Realize that God promises blessing for those who read, hear, and obey His messages</li> <li>• Know that God never changes; He is always the same</li> <li>• Recognize Christ's authority to rule and judge</li> <li>• Realize that angels have different duties</li> <li>• Know that God is righteous</li> <li>• Know what will happen to those who rebel against Christ</li> <li>• Recognize the difference between serving God out of duty and serving Him out of love</li> <li>• Realize that Christ could return at any time</li> </ul>
<p><b>The Doctrine of God</b></p> <p><i>Nature and Attributes of God</i></p> <p>The Father is God (John 6:27). The Son is God (Titus 2:13). The Spirit is God (Acts 5:3–4). God is righteous (Ps. 145:17).</p>	<p><b>Practical</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recall facts and details</li> <li>• Interpret Scripture</li> <li>• Write a descriptive paragraph</li> <li>• Read a timeline</li> <li>• Use a concordance</li> <li>• Identify keywords</li> <li>• Develop an appreciation of art</li> <li>• Learn the sequence of end times events</li> <li>• Match descriptions to the correct symbols of Revelation</li> </ul>
<p><b>The Doctrine of Man</b></p> <p><i>Final State of Man</i></p> <p>Redeemed humans have security (Rev. 21:4).</p>	<p><b>Personal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a biblical attitude toward the future</li> <li>• Trust God to take care of the future</li> <li>• Develop Christlike thoughts</li> <li>• Know how to guard the mind from sinful thoughts</li> <li>• Be ready—watching and waiting for Christ's return</li> <li>• Develop a desire to be faithful through trials</li> <li>• Learn the importance of standing for the truth of God's Word</li> <li>• Develop principles about making godly choices about entertainment</li> <li>• Recognize the danger of being spiritually dead</li> <li>• Recognize the need for Christians to repent of lukewarmness</li> <li>• Develop dependability</li> <li>• Become more Christlike in thoughts and actions</li> <li>• Develop the Bible reading habit</li> <li>• Apply Bible knowledge to everyday life</li> </ul>
<p><b>The Doctrine of the Church</b></p> <p><i>Functions of the Local Church</i></p> <p>Officers should teach members (Eph. 4:11–16) and guard them from false doctrine (1 Tim. 1:3–4).</p>	
<p><b>The Doctrine of Angels and Satan</b></p> <p><i>Organization</i></p> <p>Angels worship God (Rev. 5:11), were used to reveal God's will (Luke 1:13), and exercise God's judgments (Acts 12:23).</p>	
<p><b>The Doctrine of the End Times</b></p> <p><i>The Rapture</i></p> <p>The Rapture will be instantaneous and may occur at any time (Matt. 24:42).</p> <p><i>The Tribulation</i></p> <p>One of the purposes of the seven years of the Tribulation is for the judgment of an ungodly world to take place (Rev. 6:15–17). The Antichrist will emerge (Rev. 13:1). Christ will appear with great glory (Matt. 24:27–31).</p> <p><i>The Millennium</i></p> <p>The saints will rule with Christ for a thousand years (Rev. 20:6). Satan will be bound (Rev. 20:2).</p> <p><i>Ages to Come</i></p> <p>There will be judgment of sin and punishment in the lake of fire (Rev. 20:13–15). There will be a new heaven and a new earth (Isa. 65:17).</p>	

# Pictures of Christ Before His Coming

## Unit 10a

### PREVIEW

#### Doctrines

- **161:** The Bible is accurate in its prophecy (Num. 23:19).
- **162:** One of the purposes of the Tribulation is for the judgment of an ungodly world to take place (Rev. 6:15–17).
- **163:** The Rapture may occur at any time (Matt. 24:42).
- **163:** The Beast (Antichrist) will emerge (Rev. 13:1).

#### Skills and Applications

- Learn Revelation 1:3
- Recall facts and details
- Interpret Scripture
- Learn the sequence of end times events
- Match descriptions to the correct symbols of Revelation
- Realize that God promises blessing for those who read, hear, and obey His messages
- Know that God never changes but is always the same
- Develop a biblical attitude toward the future
- Trust God to take care of your future
- Develop the Bible reading habit
- Apply Bible knowledge to everyday life

LESSON

161

## One Like the Son of Man

### Materials

- Charts 1 and 38 (“The Bible Reading H.A.B.I.T.” and “The Seven Churches in Revelation”)
- Unit 10 bookmark [E]

### Music

Select a unit song. Some songs that correlate with the first half of this unit are “I Gave My Life for Thee,” “Trust and Obey,” “Trust His Word,” “Be Still My Soul,” and “Count Me.” Lesson 171 suggests other songs that deal more closely with the theme of the last ten lessons.

### Memory Verse: Revelation 1:3

**Principle:** Those who read, hear, and obey God’s Word are blessed. Read aloud Revelation 1:3 as the students read silently.

- ▶ What prophecy is John referring to in this verse? **the book of Revelation**
- ▶ What two reasons does the verse give for taking in and obeying the words of this book? **Whoever does so will receive a blessing, and the time for the book’s fulfillment is near.**

Direct the students to mark the location with their Unit 10 bookmarks and to highlight the verse in their Bibles (optional).

### Bible Account

#### Preview Background Information

##### The Book of Revelation

The book of Revelation was written by the apostle John, probably around AD 95 or 96, when he was living in exile on the island of Patmos. The book describes the vision Christ gave John at that time—a vision of prophecy or things to come. The Lord showed John many unusual things related to Christ’s return and God’s eternal kingdom. This book contains more promises of

blessing than any other book in the Bible—promises to those who read the book and blessings for all those who have trusted in the Lord, eternal life in an eternal home, and many more.

### The Seven Churches

The churches named in Revelation 1 were located in Asia Minor. These were not the only churches there, but they were specially selected to receive this specific revelation from Christ.

### The Seven Stars and Candlesticks

Many believe that the seven stars, or “angels” of the seven churches, are the pastors of these churches. The word *angel* means “messenger” and was commonly used to refer to pastors in John’s day. A synonym for the Greek word for *candlestick* is *lampstand*.

### Two-Edged Sword

The sharp two-edged sword that is seen coming out of Christ’s mouth throughout the book of Revelation is a symbol of His judgment.

## Introduce the Bible Account

Discuss God’s design. Read aloud **Revelation 13:8**.

When did God design His plan for redeeming His people? **before the foundation of the world, before the world was created and Adam sinned**

► Who is the central figure in this plan? **Jesus Christ**

Point out that when Jesus was born, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again, He fulfilled the requirement for the redemption of those who trust in Christ. People are still being saved as they have been throughout past centuries; God’s work on earth still continues. God’s plan for the world will be complete only when He has judged the earth, defeated Satan, and brought all believers to their eternal home in the new heaven and the new earth. Just as Jesus Christ is central to God’s plan for redemption, He is also central to God’s plan for completing His redemptive work on earth and ushering in eternity. Explain the background information about the book of Revelation.

(Note: Lessons on the end times present the premillennial, pre-tribulational position.)

## Teach for Understanding

Read **Revelation 1** or use the following retelling of the passage. Listening question: **What do the lampstands represent? the churches**

### One Like the Son of Man

John wrote a letter to seven churches in Asia, telling them about the things Christ had shown him in his vision. We know this letter as the book of Revelation. But the truths in Revelation are not meant only for these seven churches; they are meant for all believers: “Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand” (**Rev. 1:3**).

John’s vision began when he heard a voice behind him like the sound of a great trumpet. “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending” (**Rev. 1:8**), the voice said. “Whatever you have seen, write in a book.” Christ named the seven churches John was to write to: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.

*Share the background information about the seven churches and point out their locations on Chart 38 (“The Seven Churches in Revelation”).*

When John turned to see who was speaking to him, he saw seven gold lampstands. Among the lampstands stood a magnificent figure, like the Son of Man (**Rev. 1:13**). He was clothed in a garment reaching down to His feet, and across His chest was a golden sash. His hair was like white wool—as white as snow. His eyes were like flames of fire. His feet were like bronze when it glows in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. Seven stars were in His right hand, and a sharp two-edged sword came out of His mouth. His face shone like sunlight.

John fell, or perhaps even fainted, at the feet of this glorious figure and did not move. Then John felt a hand on him, and the person said, “Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death” (**Rev. 1:17–18**). This was Christ Himself, the one who had come to earth, died for our sins, and risen again. He had conquered death and hell. Now John was seeing the Lord Jesus, whom he had walked and talked with on earth, in all His glory in heaven.

Jesus told John to write the things he had seen, the things which are, and the things which will be. Then Jesus explained the meaning of the seven stars and seven lampstands that John saw. The seven stars represented the angels, or messengers, of the churches Christ had named. The seven lampstands represented the churches themselves. Jesus wanted John to instruct these believers about His Second Coming and to warn them to be ready.

How do we know that Jesus Christ was the one John saw in his vision? **Jesus referred to Himself as the first and the last; the one who lives, and was dead, and is alive forevermore; and the one who holds the keys of hell and death.**

- What did Jesus tell John to do? **write the things he saw**
- What did Christ say He had conquered? **death and hell**
- When is that good news? **Those who trust Christ will never experience the agony of hell. They will live with God forever. God will be exalted with His redeemed around Him.**
- How did John know what the seven stars and seven lampstands represented? **Christ told him.**
- What is the book of Revelation about? **Christ’s return and God’s eternal kingdom**

## Get the Bible Reading H.A.B.I.T.

Name \_\_\_\_\_



**H**ave a special time set aside each day to read your Bible. If possible, make it the same time every day.

**A**sk God to teach you from His Word. Remember to thank Him for helping you to understand and apply it.

**B**e still and pay attention to what you are reading.

**I**nvestigate the Scripture by asking yourself questions about it.

**T**ake time to look up words and ideas you do not understand.

After you read the Scripture for each day, write the date in the box.

At the Rapture, Christ will bring with Him those believers who have died . . .	... and those who are alive will be caught up to meet Him.	God's judgment will come on the earth when no one expects it.	Christians should not be surprised but should be watching for Christ's return.	Christians should be encouraged by God's promise to save them from His wrath.
1 Thess. 4:13–15	1 Thess. 4:16–18	1 Thess. 5:1–3	1 Thess. 5:4–7	1 Thess. 5:8–11
The Lord is coming someday to judge the ungodly.	These ungodly people will be mockers, worldly, and without the Spirit.	Christians should continue praying and watching for Christ's coming.	Christians should have compassion on the lost and seek to win them to Christ.	God is able to keep Christians from falling; He is worthy of glory now and forever.
Jude 1:14–16	Jude 1:17–19	Jude 1:20–21	Jude 1:22–23	Jude 1:24–25
The Lord is faithful; He will help Christians to love Him as they should.	Christians must withdraw themselves from any Christian who is unruly.	Christians should warn an unruly Christian as a brother, not treat him as an enemy.	Christians should keep away from those who promote false doctrine.	Christians should be steadfast, always abounding in the work of the Lord.
2 Thess. 3:3–5	2 Thess. 3:6–9	2 Thess. 3:14–15	Romans 16:17–18	1 Corinthians 15:58
Christians must be serious, self-controlled, prayerful, and loving.	Christians should be joyful when trials come.	Christians should glorify God when He allows them to suffer for the faith.	Christians should commit their souls to the keeping of their faithful Creator.	The Lord chastens Christians because they are His children and He loves them.
1 Peter 4:7–8	1 Peter 4:12–13	1 Peter 4:14–16	1 Peter 4:17–19	Hebrews 12:5–7

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Redemption: God's Grand Design

## Bible Study Methods

Devotional

Name \_\_\_\_\_



No other Bible study method will be effective unless the **devotional method** is used with it. This very personal method points the Christian to scriptural truth as it is applied to him. By the teaching of the Holy Spirit, a believer is able to claim God's promises, pray according to God's will, avoid error in his thoughts and words, and

do what is right and good. The Holy Spirit will help the believer make application to different aspects of his life as he studies the same Scripture again and again. The goal of this kind of Bible study is the completing and the perfecting of the believer's likeness to Jesus Christ. Pray for God to use His Word in your life.

Choose one of these Scriptures and write how you can apply it to the areas of your life that are shown on the bulletin board.

Follow God's Directions Exactly

Do Not Be Lazy; Be Diligent

Do Not Just Say That You Love Others; Show It

Joshua 6:1–3, 12–16, 20

Proverbs 12:14, 24, 27

1 John 3:11–18



Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 161 239

LESSON

162

## The Worthy Lamb

### Materials

- Revelation of the End Times Timeline (on the Teacher's Toolkit CD)

### Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

### Memory Verse: Revelation 1:3

Practice the memory verse. Read **Revelation 1:3** aloud. Display or emphasize the words *read*, *hear*, and *obey*. Point out that these are the three things the memory verse tells us to do with God's Word (see **Josh. 1:8; Ps. 119:9–11; Prov. 22:17–18; 1 Tim. 4:15** for similar verses). Remind the students that this is something the Lord wants them to be doing every day.

- How has your obedience to God's Word been a blessing to someone else?
- How has your obedience to God's Word kept you out of trouble?
- How has your obedience to God's Word glorified God?

## Worktext page 238

**D**evelop the Bible reading habit. Encourage each student to do the Bible reading. Display Chart 1 ("The Bible Reading H.A.B.I.T.") as a reminder to the students as they do their Bible reading.

## Worktext page 239

**D**irect a devotional Bible study. Explain that this is a fourth method of Bible study. Previous methods studied were the synthetic or survey method, the analytical method, and the topical method. Read the information about the devotional method of study. Encourage the students to choose a passage to study and apply to their lives. (*Note:* You may want to do this activity together or allow students to do it instead of the H.A.B.I.T. page. Invite students to tell what they learn.)

## Worktext page 240

Locate information in the Bible to complete similes describing aspects of Christ.

**John's Vision of Christ**  
Revelation 1:10–20

Name \_\_\_\_\_

The appearance of Christ in heaven was very different from John's memory of Jesus in His human form on earth. Even though John knew that Jesus was the Son of God, seeing Him in His glory must have been an amazing sight!

Read Revelation 1:10–20. Complete the similes that describe the features of Christ.

1. Head and hair white like wool

2. Eyes like a flame of fire or blazing fire

3. Face like the sun shining in full strength

4. Voice like the sound of many waters or rushing waters

5. Feet like fine brass or bronze

Answer the questions.

6. Christ appeared to John in this glorious form to give him important messages to write down for all believers. One part of this message was a warning about future judgment on the earth. What object coming out of Christ's mouth in the vision illustrates judgment? sharp two-edged sword

7. Why do you think John fell down when he saw Christ in his vision?  
Possible answers include John was afraid; he realized he was in the presence of the glorified Son of God.

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Redemption: God's Grand Design

## Bible Account

### Preview Background Information

#### The Rapture

The Rapture is the event of Christ's return for Christians. We do not know when Christ will come; He could come at any time. Christ will take those who belong to Him (saved people) out of the world right before the Tribulation begins. A shout, the voice of the archangel, and the trumpet of God will be heard. The bodies of believers who have already died will rise first; then the living Christians on earth will rise up and join Christ in the air. Christ will not come down to earth at this time but will meet believers in earth's atmosphere (**1 Thess. 4**).

#### The Judgment Seat (Bema) of Christ

After the Rapture, the service that Christians have done for God while living on earth will be reviewed in heaven. Christians will stand before God to give an account of the way they have used every aspect of their lives (the time, talents, resources, and opportunities God gave them) on earth. The sin of those who have trusted Christ as Savior is covered by His blood, so this will be a time of receiving rewards according to their faithfulness. This is sometimes called the *Bema*, which is the Greek word translated as *judgment seat* (**Rom. 14:10; 1 Cor. 3:5–8, 11–15; 2 Cor. 5:10**).

#### The Tribulation

During the seven years following the Rapture there will be worldwide horror and the judgments of the seals, trumpets,

and bowls (**Matt. 24; Mark 13**). During this time, evil will reign under the satanic governing of the Beast or Antichrist (**1 John 2:18**), who will claim to be God and will demand to be worshiped by all. Many people will trust Christ during the Tribulation. They will be called tribulation saints (**Rev. 6–7, 13**). Many of those who refuse to worship the Beast will be persecuted and put to death, but some will survive.

#### The Second Coming

The Beast will persecute especially the Jews, God's chosen people. Near the end of the Tribulation, the Antichrist will attack and try to destroy the remaining Jews and Jerusalem. When it seems likely that the Antichrist will succeed, Christ will appear in glory to throw the leaders and their wicked armies into the lake of fire. The unconverted Jews that still remain will then see Christ and His wounds from the cross, repent, and trust in Jesus as their Savior (**Zech. 12–14; Rom. 11:26**).

#### The Millennium

Jesus Christ will usher in the Millennium with His Second Coming (**Matt. 16, 24–25; Mark 8; Luke 17, 21**) and will reign on the earth for a thousand years of peace. The Jews will live and worship in Palestine. Satan will be bound and cast into the bottomless pit (the abyss) for a thousand years. The nature of wild animals will conform to God's will and become gentle, and the earth will be fruitful everywhere (**Isa. 35**). It will be a joyous time of peace and singing. Christ will show His power and His glory over Satan. At the end of the thousand years, Satan will be let loose for a while and will organize a rebellion against Jerusalem. God will send fire down to destroy all those who follow Satan's lead. Satan will be judged and thrown into the lake of fire forever.

#### The Great White Throne Judgment

After the Millennium, the unsaved will be judged for their sin. They will stand before the throne of God with no place to hide. They will have no excuse and will understand that the Bible and the saved people standing with the Lord were right. The Book of Life will be opened, but no unsaved person's name will be found in it.

#### Eternity

Punishment for the unsaved will be unimaginable eternal torment in the lake of fire (**Rev. 20**), but those who have trusted Christ will live forever with God. He will create a new heaven, a new earth, and a new Jerusalem as His dwelling place with His people (**Rev. 21–22**). There will be eternal happiness, praise, and worship of God as the saved reign with Him forever.

#### The Seven-Sealed Scroll

The "book" in John's vision was actually a scroll, or rolled-up parchment. Scrolls were sealed with wax, and then rings were impressed on them to protect them from being opened by anyone other than the owner. This scroll had seven seals, indicating that after it was written, it was rolled up partway and sealed, and then rolled up further and sealed, and so on, until the seventh seal closed the entire book. This scroll represented God's plan for the world. Since only Christ could open the book, He alone possessed the right to perfect the plan of God for the world.

## Twenty-Four Elders

The twenty-four elders are symbolic of Christians. In **1 Chron. 25**, King David appointed twenty-four divisions of Levites to take turns in performing the ceremonial duties in the temple, representing all of the Levitical priesthood. These twenty-four elders mentioned in Revelation represent the whole heavenly priesthood who are the redeemed saints—those who have died in the Lord or who have been caught up at the Rapture of the church. Revelation says that these redeemed ones will be dressed in white and crowned. These crowns are representative of victory, and the elders will be casting these crowns before the throne and worshiping the Lamb.

## Cherubim

The category of angels called cherubim represents God's holy presence. When God banished Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden after they sinned, He placed cherubim there to guard the tree of life (**Gen. 3:24**). In the Old Testament tabernacle, God's glory dwelled between the cherubim in the holy of holies (**Exod. 25**).

## Rainbow

The appearance of the throne of God is described in terms of colored gems: jasper (probably like a diamond), sardius (a red stone), and emerald (a green jewel). We may only surmise that the rainbow effect around the throne of God was created by the blending of these colors as they refracted the light of God's glory. Since the days of Noah, the rainbow has been a symbol of God's faithfulness.

## Seven Horns and Seven Eyes

The seven horns of the Lamb are a symbol of perfect power, and the seven eyes represent His perfect wisdom and omniscience.

## Introduce the Bible Account

**Discuss the order of events in the end times.** Display the Revelation of the End Times timeline to review the order of events during the last days. Share the background information to fill in details about each event. Explain that the events foretold in the Bible account will take place during the Tribulation, after Christians have been taken to heaven in the Rapture.

## Teach for Understanding

**Read Revelation 4–11, 16** or use the following retelling of the passages. **What do God's judgments on the earth during the Tribulation reveal about Him? He is righteous, and His judgments are deserved and right.**

## The Worthy Lamb

The next scene in John's vision was a door standing open in heaven. John heard a voice calling him up, and then he was immediately before the throne of God.

A rainbow encircled the throne, and around the throne were four cherubim who continually worshiped God calling out "Holy, holy, holy." Joining the cherubim were twenty-four elders with golden crowns, each seated on a throne,

speaking to God: "You are worthy to receive glory and honor and power because all creation is Yours."

God held a scroll sealed with seven seals in His right hand. Then John heard an angel ask, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to break the seals?"

No one in all of heaven and earth was found worthy, and John began to cry because no one was worthy to open the scroll.

Then one of the elders told him to stop weeping and look to the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David. He is the one who is worthy to break the seals.

When John looked toward the throne, he saw a Lamb standing among the cherubim and elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, and John could see marks on its body showing that it had been slain. The Lamb was the Lord Jesus Christ.

When the Lamb took the scroll out of God's hand, the cherubim and elders fell down before Him, praising God and singing that He was worthy to take the scroll and to open the seals because He was killed and has redeemed us to God by His own blood. Thousands and thousands of angels joined in the praises, singing, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing" (**Rev. 5:12**).

The Lamb began opening the seals. Every one contained a judgment from God that would punish the earth. A wicked ruler would conquer the world, and there would be war, famine, earthquakes, darkness, death, and collisions with falling stars, or meteorites. True believers would be killed because of their faith.

After all the seals were opened, angels began blowing trumpets, each one signaling another judgment. After seven trumpets were sounded, John saw seven more judgments poured out on the earth from bowls by angels. The skies would rain hail, fire, and blood. A third of the earth would be burned, and the water would turn to blood. Locusts and plagues would destroy people. The sun would become so hot that it would scorch people with its fire. All of these judgments and more would take place during the Tribulation.

At one point in this vision, an angel praised God with a loud voice confirming that God is righteous in bringing this justice to earth.

During the Tribulation, God will give His enemies a taste of what they deserve for having rejected Jesus Christ, who is worthy of all honor, glory, and praise. Those who trust Him during the Tribulation will suffer greatly, but will be comforted in His presence for eternity in the end.

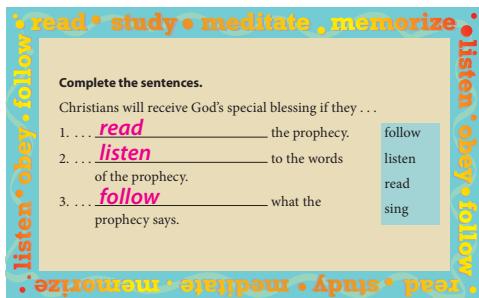
- **How is God described? He is sitting on a throne and is being praised continuously. Heavenly beings describe Him as holy, holy, holy, and worthy of glory, honor, and power. He is the God of creation.**
- **What makes Jesus worthy to open the scroll and carry out God's plan for the world? He was slain because of our sins; He has redeemed us to God by His blood.**

## Blessings Multiplied

Revelation 1:3

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Some people avoid reading and studying the book of Revelation because they think it is hard to understand. While this may be true, God gives His children a special blessing to encourage them to study His Word. When you come across an event or symbol you do not understand, realize that God can be trusted, and that what He prophesies will come to pass.



Answer the questions.

4. What is prophecy? (Use the glossary.)

**"a prediction, usually from God"**

5. Why is God the only one who can accurately prophesy about the future?

**He alone is omniscient; He knows the past, present, and future.**

6. What are three blessings for Christians that you can think of that come from obeying God's Word?

**Possible answers include peace, joy, and making right choices.**

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Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 162 241

## Symbols of Revelation

Revelation 4–11; 16

Name \_\_\_\_\_

A symbol is a representation for something else. When you see a symbol, you know that it shows where a moving vehicle must stop. A symbol shows an area designated to benefit those who are disabled. Symbols are used throughout the book of Revelation as pictures to help people understand what John saw in his vision.

Match each symbol to its description. Use the verses to check your answers.

**A** 1. This object coming out of Christ's mouth is a symbol of His judgment (Rev. 1:16–18).

**B** 2. God would speak with Moses at this place (Exodus 25:22).

**C** 3. These lights symbolize the seven churches that shine in a world of sin (Rev. 1:20).



Fill in the correct number, matching the symbol on the timeline to its description below.



4. This thousand-year period will be a time of peace when Christ will reign over the earth.

5. This is Christ's imminent return for Christians, both dead and alive, preceded by a shout and the trump of God.

6. This is the time without end when believers will worship Christ as their Savior and King.

7. This is the time of rejoicing when the Lamb and His bride are united forever.

8. This seven-year period will be a time of great trouble and judgment on the earth.

9. This is the place and time unbelievers will be judged for their sin and sent eternally to the lake of fire.

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## Worktext page 242

Develop an understanding of the symbols in Revelation.

- How was the Lamb described? **He had seven horns and seven eyes, and marks on His body showed that He had been killed.**
- Who is the Lamb? **Jesus Christ**
- How many judgments are contained in the scroll that Jesus opened? **seven**
- What will life be like during the Tribulation? **It will be very harsh, and many will die.**
- What do God's judgments on the earth during the Tribulation reveal about Him? **that He is a righteous God; that His judgments are deserved and right**
- How can a person be ready for the Rapture to take place? **He must be trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ completely for salvation; he should not be keeping sin in his heart but should repent so that he would not be ashamed to meet the Lord.**

## Worktext page 241

Develop an understanding of the memory verse.

**True and Righteous Judgments**  
Revelation 5–6

Name \_\_\_\_\_

When God gave His only Son, Jesus, as a sacrifice for mankind's sins, He demonstrated His loving character. When God judges those who have rejected His gift of salvation, He will demonstrate His powerful justice. God cannot tolerate sin. It was because of sin that His Son suffered. His holiness demands that sin be punished. Jesus Christ has the authority as the crucified and risen Lamb of God to execute judgment on all those who have rejected His personal sacrifice for them. Every judgment He pronounces on sin will be righteous and just.

**Use Revelation 5:1–10 to answer the questions.**

1. Why was John sad? He realized that no one was worthy to open the seal on the scroll.
2. Who began the judgments by opening the seven-sealed scroll? Christ, the Lamb of God
3. Why is He worthy to open the book? He was slain and has redeemed us by His blood.

**Read Revelation 6:1–17; 8:1. Write the number of the seal on the correct judgment.**

**Answer the questions.**

4. What have unbelievers done to deserve these judgments? sinned against God and rejected Christ
5. According to Revelation 6:15–17, did the unbelievers realize what was happening to them? yes
6. Is it possible to hide your actions or whereabouts from God? no
7. When these judgments take place, where are those who have trusted Christ as Savior? with Him in heaven

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## Bible Account

### Preview Background Information

#### Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Many believe that the marriage of the Lamb will take place in heaven with Christ and the saints He redeemed before the Tribulation. In **Ephesians 5:25–27**, Paul uses the relationship of a husband and wife as a comparison to Christ and the church, His bride. The church, washed in the blood of the Lamb, is presented to Christ as a perfect, holy bride. Whether the marriage supper of **Revelation 19:9** follows immediately or at a later time is unclear.

#### Introduce the Bible Account

**Discuss fears about the end times.** Point out that people often have fears when the end times are being discussed. Assure the students that if they have truly trusted Christ as their Savior, they have nothing to fear. God promises that those who have put their trust in Christ will be delivered from the wrath to come (**Rom. 5:9; 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9**). Invite any students who have questions about their relationship with Christ to talk with you after this lesson.

#### Teach for Understanding

**Read Revelation 12–15, 19** or use the following retelling of the passages. Listening question: **What will happen to Christians already in heaven before the Tribulation? They will be judged at the Judgment Seat (Bema) of Christ and united with Him for eternity.**

## Protector of His Own

*Read aloud 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17.*

The Bible tells us that at the beginning of the Rapture, Christ will not come to earth, but will descend only to the earth's atmosphere to meet the Christians who are alive at that time. They will go to be with the Lord in heaven. The Lord will continue to save people who are alive during the Tribulation period who put their trust in Him.

In **Revelation 13**, John records his vision of a Beast rising up out of the sea. This Beast was empowered by the dragon, or Satan, to conquer and rule over the whole earth. This Beast is known as the Antichrist because he will try to deceive people into worshiping him and believing that he is Christ. The Beast will pressure all people to have a mark put on their right hands or foreheads, and he will forbid people to buy or sell unless they have his mark.

John then saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion with a crowd of 144,000 people around Him singing His praises. These were the people that Christ had redeemed from the earth during the Tribulation. They had not taken the mark of the Beast; they had gained victory over Satan and had been saved. They sang a song of praise to God: "Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints" (**Rev. 15:3**). But of those who

## Worktext page 243

Interpret Scripture about God's judgments.

LESSON

163

## Protector of His Own

### Materials

- Revelation of the End Times timeline from Teacher's Toolkit CD

### Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

### Memory Verse: Revelation 1:3

**Practice the memory verse.** Read **Revelation 1:3** aloud. Ask for volunteers to recite the verse.

- What event is John talking about that is soon to come? **the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ (the Rapture)**
- What phrase in 1:1 signifies that something is soon to come? **"which things must shortly come to pass"**

## Holy Matrimony

Revelation 19:1–10

Name \_\_\_\_\_

The Bible uses the beautiful picture of marriage between a man and a woman to symbolize the closeness of the bond between Christ and His church in heaven. Only those who have trusted in Christ are members of the redeemed church. These believers are called the **bride of Christ** in the book of Revelation.



**Read the verses and complete the chart to find the comparisons between earthly marriage and the marriage that will take place between Christ and His bride, the church.**

*Answers will vary.*

Earthly Marriage	Verses	Heavenly Marriage
The husband-to-be is responsible to prepare a place for himself and his bride to live.	John 14:2–3	<b>Christ has gone to prepare a place in heaven for believers.</b>
The bride is traditionally married in a white dress that symbolizes her purity.	Revelation 19:7–8	<b>Believers will be dressed in white, fine linen to symbolize their righteousness in Christ.</b>
Wives are commanded to be obedient to their husbands.	Ephesians 5:22–24	<b>Believers are commanded to submit themselves to Christ, who is the Head of the church.</b>
Husbands are commanded to love their wives sacrificially.	Ephesians 5:25	<b>Christ loved the church so much that He gave His life for it.</b>



List several ways for a person to prepare for the events of the end times.  
I can prepare for the end times by... *Answers will vary.*  
**trusting Christ alone for my salvation from sin;**  
**telling others about the salvation offered in Christ; growing in my love for and knowledge of Christ; loving others as myself.**

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had worshiped the Beast and received his mark, an angel said, "The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God ... and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone [sulphur]" (14:9–10) forever.

In **Revelation 19**, John tells how he was given one more glimpse of the Lamb and those He has redeemed. He heard a voice of a great multitude, as loud as rushing water or thunder, saying, "Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready" (19:6–7).

The bride had been given fine linen, clean and white, to wear to the marriage supper. The linen was the righteousness of saints.

Who is this bride? She represents those that Christ has redeemed. In heaven, after the Rapture and the Judgment Seat (Bema) of Christ have taken place, Christians will be united with Christ for all eternity.

**Display the Revelation of the End Times timeline to review the time and place of these events.**

The celebration of the marriage of Christ and His bride will be a celebration full of indescribable joy. One of the angels in John's vision told him to write these words: "Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb" (19:9).



## God's Protection

Name \_\_\_\_\_

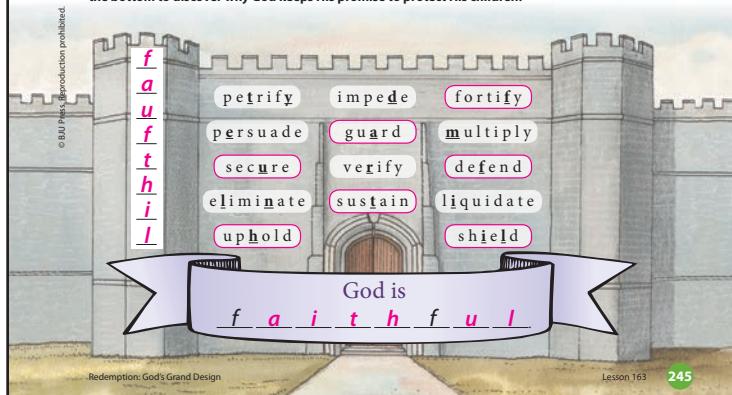
God loves and protects His children. He can bring them safely through the most frightening circumstances. He can use even fearful events as a way to bring unsaved people to fear Him and ultimately trust Him for salvation. God may allow Christians to experience physical persecution, but their souls are His, and they will spend eternity with Him.

**Read the verses and answer the questions about God's faithful protection of His children.**

- What promise is given in Leviticus 25:18–19? **If they obey God's laws, they will have safety and plenty of food.**
- Psalm 4:8 says that belief in God's protection enables believers to do what? **to sleep in peace**
- What does Psalm 32:7 say God will do for Christians in times of trouble? **protect them**
- Read Psalm 121. Copy one verse from this psalm that is an encouragement to you about God's protection. **Answers will vary.**

- According to Proverbs 22:3, what is a Christian's responsibility in time of trouble? **prepare the best he can; trust God to keep him safe**

Circle the seven synonyms for **protect** and write the underlined letters in the box provided on the left. Then unscramble those letters to complete the sentence at the bottom to discover why God keeps His promise to protect His children.



**How do we know that people on earth will be saved during the Tribulation?** In John's vision, he saw Christ surrounded by 144,000 who had come out of the Tribulation, had been faithful to Him, and had refused to accept the mark of the Beast.

**What is the attitude of these people in John's vision?** They are thankful, and they praise and glorify Christ.

► What will eternity be like for those who do not trust Christ as Savior, but worship the Beast? They will drink the wine of God's wrath and be tormented with fire and brimstone (sulphur) forever.

► What will happen to Christians already in heaven before the Tribulation? They will be rewarded at the Judgment Seat (Bema) of Christ and will be united with Him for eternity.

**If Christ is your Savior, how often do you thank Him for what He has done for you?**

**What are you doing to help others to know Christ as their Savior?**

## Worktext page 244

Interpret Scripture to compare the heavenly marriage with Christ to an earthly marriage.

## Worktext page 245

Apply Bible knowledge to everyday life.

 Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

 Memory Verse: Revelation 1:3

**Practice the memory verse.** Locate **Revelation 1:3** and select a volunteer to recite the verse aloud. Ask other volunteers to explain the verse or to say it in their own words.

## Application Story

## Introduce the Application Story

**Reflect on God's control even in hardship.** Ask students to tell of a time when a Christian they know has passed through a hard time, but has praised God for His control, care, and comfort through that trial.

## Teach for Understanding

**Read or tell the following story.** Listening question: **What was the answer Jim was looking for?** **God will protect, take care of, guide, and comfort His children until He takes them home.**

## God Is in Control

Jim had sat there many times before, in the back seat of his dad's car, crawling along in traffic jams. But Jim's mind would run a thousand miles a minute, with so many thoughts and questions vying for explanations and answers that he felt like he was getting nowhere too. He just wished he could settle it all and be content. One thought kept poking through the rest, and Jim kept grabbing at it, wanting it to be the answer to silence all the others.

They had left early that morning, packed and ready for a day with their cousins at the park. They had been planning this outing for weeks, but now they were going to be late.

What happened next happened so fast. First, Dad hollered and then the brakes screeched; Mom screamed, and car horns blared. Their car swerved and violently jerked everybody to the right, causing Jenny to hit her head on the window. When the car came to a halt, little did Jim know how God had controlled the events. Dad turned around to be sure nobody was hurt. Jenny was crying, but she was OK.

Dad got out to check on the people in the other cars. Some were hurt, but the police and medical personnel were soon on the way. As they waited on the side of the road, Dad explained that a car up ahead of them had blown a tire, and the driver lost control. Now a multi-car pileup blocked the road just yards from where their car had safely stopped.

The police and medical personnel were helping those in need. Jim watched silently. But his mind was buzzing with questions—not about what had happened but about what could have happened. The thought kept coming back to his

mind like a bug attracted to a light. "What if it were me on one of those stretchers? Or Mom? Or Dad? Or Jenny?"

Mom's hugs of comfort were doing their job. But even more than that, her words helped. "It's times like these that you can't plan for. It's a blessing to know that because we've trusted Christ as Savior, He has everything under control and it will be OK."

While waiting for the workers to clear the road, Jim's parents talked about God being their Shepherd. "We can't know what the future holds, but God is always in control," Dad said.

Then it clicked. Jim's mind went back to Sunday when his Sunday school teacher had recited **Psalm 23**. "The Lord is my shepherd," he had quoted. Now it all made sense. No matter where God leads His children, no matter what happens to Christians, God is their Shepherd, and He will be with them to guide them and comfort them—no matter whether it's almost having an accident, losing a game, or scoring the winning touchdown! Jim thought, "Ever since I trusted Christ as Savior, I've been in God's hands, and I can trust Him through whatever happens."

Dad finished talking and then suggested they sing a song. There on the side of the road, they quietly reminded themselves of God's promise to take care of them while life lasts, all the way up through death.

When we all get to heaven,  
What a day of rejoicing that will be!  
When we all see Jesus,  
We'll sing and shout the victory!

As the song says, God will protect, take care of, guide, and comfort His children until He takes them home. Back in the car, in the back seat, Jim's mind was racing again, but not with questions. Now he had the one answer he had been looking for: "God is on the throne as King," Jim thought, "and He's in my heart as Savior and Shepherd. God is in control."

- **What was the answer Jim was looking for? **God will protect, take care of, guide, and comfort His children until He takes them home.****
- **The song states that when all Christians get to heaven, it will be a wonderful day of rejoicing. Why will they rejoice then? **All battles of personal growth and challenge will be over, and their being in heaven seals for them that God has won the victory in their lives.****
- **What should Christians do about rejoicing in God before they get to heaven? **Christians should praise God every day, all day (Ps. 103:1–5).****
- **Is there anything in your life that you find it hard to praise or thank God for?**
- **Read Genesis 50:20 and Romans 8:28–29. What can we learn from these verses about what God is doing through even any difficult or distressing event in our lives that is caused by other people's decisions? **Whatever happens, God can use it for good.****

### What Does God Say About My Future?

Name \_\_\_\_\_



#### The world around you is changing rapidly!

It is a challenge to keep up with the fast pace of technology, politics, and cultural issues. Much of what you hear on the news can be very discouraging, unfair, and chaotic! What are you to do? Trust in the one person you can depend on. As a Christian, you have a heavenly Father who loves you and is never surprised by anything.

Read the verses and write one lesson about God that is taught in each verse. **Answers will vary.**

Proverbs 15:3 **God is everywhere and sees everything that happens.**

Ecclesiastes 3:14 **God's work will last forever.**

Malachi 3:6 **God never changes.**

#### You have an exciting future!

Christians have many wonderful promises from their heavenly Father. As you look forward to growing up, getting your driver's license, finding a job, going to college, or getting married, keep in mind that God already knows what is going to happen to you and has good plans for your life (Jer. 29:11). God loves you and promises to give you joy if you will trust Him to guide you. If you are a Christian, you can look forward to spending eternity with God.

Read the verses and fill in the blanks. Then unscramble the letters in the boxes to discover how a Christian can face the future with confidence.

Psalm 84:11 God is a sun and **s h i e l d**. No good **t h i n g** will He withhold from me if I obey Him.

Psalm 33:11 The plans of God's heart will **s t a n d** firm forever.

Philippians 1:6 I can be (synonym of **sure**) **c o n f i d e n t** that God, who has started a good work in my life, will do what it takes to finish it.

As a Christian, I can have complete **faith** that God is trustworthy and in control of my future.

#### God is immutable!

When we refer to God's character as **immutable**, we mean that He never changes. No matter what has happened, no matter what is happening now, and no matter what will happen in the future, God's holy character is always the same. Knowing that God never changes brings great security and stability to a Christian!

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### Something to Think About

My Future

Name \_\_\_\_\_



#### Looking Back

It is a great encouragement to a Christian to see what God has already done in his life. He can see how God has protected him, provided for him, and blessed him. Seeing how God has been faithful in the past motivates Christians to trust God to lead them in the future.

Think about how you have seen God working in your life in the past. Complete the statements.

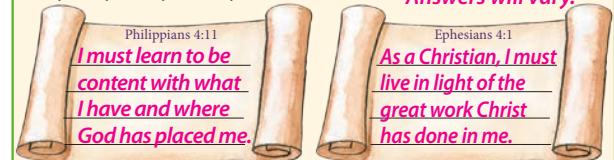
I know that God protected me when **Answers will vary.**

God has blessed me with \_\_\_\_\_

#### Living Now

You can look back at what has happened in your life, and you can look forward to what you hope will happen. However, God has a reason for the here and now. You have the responsibility to find out what God's will is for you today and obey it. Do not get in a hurry to jump into the future. Live for God today, and soon you will find that you can meet the uncertainties of the future with confidence because you are in God's will.

Read the verses and write one sentence about each one explaining what your responsibility is for today.



#### What About Me?



#### Looking Forward

Christians should have the assurance that God will be with them throughout their lives on earth and that they will be with God for all eternity. That is definitely a future to look forward to!

Take time at home to think about your attitude toward your future. Consider the following questions.

- Can I look forward to a future with God for eternity? Do I?
- Am I trying to grow up too fast, and am I missing what God has for me today?
- Do I have a true desire to find and do God's perfect will for my life?
- Am I trusting Christ with my future?
- How am I affecting the futures of those around me for the gospel?

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Explain that we are not ruined by other people's decisions. We are ruined by making the wrong decisions about other people's decisions. (Read **Phil. 4:4, 6–9, 13; 2 Cor. 3:18; 9:8; 12:7–10.**)

## Worktext pages 246–47

(Note: These pages may be saved for use with Lesson 165 to allow time for in-depth discussion.)

**Develop a biblical attitude toward the future.** Read page 246 and discuss what God says about Himself. Choose volunteers to read aloud the Scripture passages.

**Evaluate how a Christian should live today and look forward to his future with God in heaven.** Discuss how God has worked in the students' lives. Read the Scripture passages given on page 247 that explain the daily responsibilities of Christians. Encourage each student to read the "What About Me?" section at home and think about his attitude toward the future.

LESSON

165

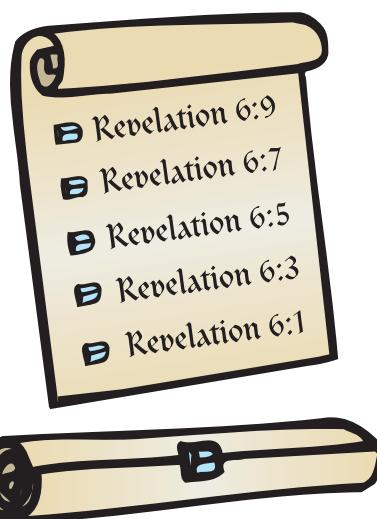
## Unit 10a Activity

### Materials

- Sheet of parchment paper [E]

**Guide an art activity.** Display the following references: **Revelation 6:1; 6:3; 6:5; 6:7; 6:9; 6:12; 8:1.** Give each student a sheet of parchment paper, instructing him to write the seven references,

evenly spaced apart, down the length of the sheet. Explain that these references mark the places in Scripture where each of the seven seals is opened. Direct the students to draw a picture depicting each of the seven-sealed judgments. If students are not able to draw all the elements of each judgment, encourage them to draw something simple to help them remember what each seal stands for. Encourage the students to write at the bottom of the sheet a sentence about what they can be thankful for in relation to the plagues of the seals.



# Pictures of Christ After His Coming

## Unit 10b

### PREVIEW

#### Doctrines

- 171: Christ will appear with great glory (Matt. 24:27–31).
- 171–72, 174: God is righteous (Ps. 145:17).
- 172: Satan will be bound (Rev. 20:3).
- 172: The saints will rule with Christ (Rev. 20:6).
- 172: The final judgment of sin is the lake of fire (Rev. 20:13–15).
- 171–73: Angels worship God (Rev. 5:11), exercise God's judgments (Acts 12:23), and were used to reveal God's will to humans (Luke 1:13).
- 174: There will be a new heaven and a new earth (Isa. 65:17).

#### Skills and Applications

- Learn Revelation 15:3–4
- Know that God is righteous
- Recognize Christ's authority to rule and judge
- Know how to guard your mind from sinful thoughts
- Develop Christlike thoughts
- Be ready, watching, and waiting for Christ's return
- Realize that angels have different duties
- Learn the sequence of end times events
- Know what will happen to those who rebel against Christ
- Recall facts and details
- Write a descriptive paragraph
- Read a timeline
- Apply Bible knowledge to everyday life

LESSON

166

## The Conquering King

#### Materials

- Revelation of the End Times timeline (available on the Teacher's Toolkit CD)

#### Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

#### Memory Verses: Revelation 15:3–4

**Principle:** God's perfect character and works call for Christians to praise Him. Locate and read aloud **Revelation 15:3–4** as the students read silently.

- ▶ What words are used to describe God's works? **great, marvelous, mighty, just, holy, true, and so on**
- ▶ What names are used for God Himself? **Lord God Almighty, King, Lord**
- ▶ What should our response be to God's mighty works? **We should fear Him, give Him glory, and worship Him.**

Direct the students to mark the location with their Unit 10 bookmarks and to highlight the verses in their Bibles (optional).

#### Bible Account

##### Preview Background Information

###### The Beast and the False Prophet

The Beast in the book of Revelation is also known as the Anti-christ (**1 John 2:18**). The book of Daniel says that this man will

rise to power, establish a peace treaty with Israel, rebuild the temple, and cause the Levitical sacrificial system to be reestablished. Revelation 13 says that he will suffer a mortal wound and recover. As a result, he will be worshiped by many. The False Prophet will work alongside him, promoting him and encouraging people in their worship of him. Eventually, the Beast will break the peace treaty with Israel and lead the nations in a war against Israel, which will culminate in the Battle of Armageddon.

### Winepress

The book of Revelation often describes God's anger as "wine" and the outpouring of His wrath as "treading the winepress." In Bible times, wine was made by workers trampling on grapes in large stone containers. The juice that was extracted ran through a narrow channel into a smaller vat where it was collected to be made into wine. Usually the grape harvest was associated with joy and abundance; but Revelation uses it as a symbol of God's fierce wrath, a fearful time when Christ will trample His enemies underfoot and blood will flow like juice from the grapes.

### Introduce the Bible Account

#### Discuss God's hatred of sin.

- ⦿ How does God view sin? **Sin is an offense to His holiness; He is disgusted by it. Sin must be punished.**
- ⦿ How should Christians view sin? **They should hate what God hates (Phil. 2:5; Eph. 4:22–24; 5:18; 2 Cor. 3:18).**

Display the Revelation of the End Times timeline, pointing out the Battle of Armageddon and Christ's return to earth. Explain that this battle will have already begun and will reach its climax with the coming of Christ to earth. Point out that the sword represents Christ's judgment of the world. Share the background information about the Beast and the False Prophet (optional).

### Teach for Understanding

Read Revelation 19:11–21 or use the following retelling of the passage. Listening question: **What does everything happen according to? Christ's promise**

### The Conquering King

After John had observed the marriage of the Lamb, he saw heaven open. Sitting on a white horse was one who was called Faithful and True. It was the Lord Jesus Christ, and the time for His Second Coming had arrived.

John saw that Christ was not coming quietly and peacefully. He was coming to judge and make war against His enemies. His eyes were like a flame of fire. On His head were many crowns, and he had a name written on Him that no one knows except Jesus Himself. His robe had been dipped in blood. We know this was Christ because John identifies Him as the Word of God.

*Read aloud John 1:1–3, 14.*

Behind the Lord Jesus was an army from heaven, clothed in clean, white linen. All the people in His army were riding on white horses, and they were ready to fight for their Captain against all the nations of the earth.

Christ will demonstrate His sovereign authority over all earthly kings and leaders. He will judge the sinful nations with fierce wrath. In John's vision, a sharp sword was coming out of Christ's mouth, and His title was written on His robe and on His thigh—King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

John saw an angel standing in the sun. The angel called out to all the birds. "Come," he said, "and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God" (**Rev. 19:17**). He told the birds to come and eat the flesh of kings, captains, mighty men, horses, and their riders—of everyone. This would be a loss of life of devastating proportions.

The Beast and the kings of the earth were leading the armies that opposed Christ. They gathered together to make war against Christ and His army. The Beast and the kings were totally deceived, thinking they could win against God. How could they have really thought that they'd have even a small chance against the mighty power of the Lord?

The Beast and his helper, the False Prophet who had encouraged others to worship the Beast, were seized and thrown alive into the lake of fire burning with sulfur. The rest of the wicked armies were killed by the sword that came from the mouth of Christ. The angel's promise to the birds came true; that day they feasted on the bodies of Christ's enemies who died in the battle.

One of the angels had promised that those who worshiped the Beast and received his mark would "drink of the wine of the wrath of God." When the Lord Jesus Christ comes, He will punish these worshipers of the false Christ, just as He promised (**Rev. 14:9–10**).



- ▶ What names or titles are given to Christ in this account? **Faithful and True, Word of God, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, a name only Jesus Himself knows**
- ▶ What will be Christ's purpose in coming to earth with His army? **to judge and defeat His enemies in battle**
- ▶ What is one thing that the Beast (Antichrist) and the leaders of the earth are deceived about? **They think they can defeat Christ.**
- ▶ How will the Beast and the False Prophet be defeated? **They will be thrown into the lake of fire.**
- ⦿ What does this account show us about Christ's character? **He hates sin; He punishes those who reject Him; He is just and righteous.**
- ⦿ What does everything happen according to? **Christ's promise**
- ⦿ Is it possible that some people who are alive right now, people that you know, will be in the deceived armies that will fight against Christ and lose? **Yes, it is very possible.**

**Power in the Name**  
Revelation 19:11–21  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Answer the questions. You may use your Bible for help.

- What is the name of the place where the great battle between Christ and the world's armies will take place? (Rev. 16:16) Armageddon or Har-Magedon
- Describe the leader of the armies of heaven in the Battle of Armageddon. Include the names given for Christ (Rev. 19:11–13).  
Christ is called Faithful and True and the Word of God; He is riding a white horse and has blazing eyes with many crowns on His head; He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood.
- What will happen to the Beast and False Prophet in this battle? (Rev. 19:20)  
They will be captured and thrown alive into the lake of fire.
- What will happen to the people who reject Christ and worship the Beast? (Rev. 19:21)  
They will be killed with the sword of Christ; the birds will eat their flesh.

Believers can have full confidence in the name of Jesus (Ps. 9:10). His name is powerful and speaks of His holy character. The day is coming when unbelievers who take His name in vain and treat it lightly will be confronted with the truth of the power found in the name of Jesus.

Match the verses to the correct statement describing the power found in the name of Jesus.

<u>C</u> 5. Acts 16:18	A. Forgiveness of sins is given in His name.
<u>D</u> 6. Acts 9:29	B. We will have life if we believe in His name.
<u>E</u> 7. Acts 3:6–7	C. His name has the power to cast out demonic spirits.
<u>A</u> 8. Acts 2:38	D. His name enables His servants to preach boldly.
<u>B</u> 9. John 20:31	E. People were healed in His name.

**Read Philippians 2:9–11 and answer the questions.** Answers will vary.

- How does this passage describe the name of Jesus?  
a name above every name
- Who will bow at the sound of this name someday?  
every person in heaven, on earth, and under the earth

**When will you bow and confess?**  
You have a choice either to confess this truth now and join the family of God . . . or to wait until later, when you will be forced to bow your knee and admit that Christ is Lord. He will be victorious at last, whether you cooperate with Him or not. Christ lovingly urges you to come now, before it is too late. If you have never given Christ the control of your life, won't you do it today?

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**Angelic Activity**  
Matthew 28:1–8  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Angels were created by God and play very important roles in the world. They are mentioned throughout the Bible as supernatural beings who have been given specific tasks by God. While angels usually appeared to people in the form of humans, the Bible describes many different kinds of angels.

Read Isaiah 6:1–4 to fill in the blanks.

- What kind of angels did Isaiah see around the throne of God? seraphs or seraphim
- What were the angels in Isaiah's vision doing? telling one another about God's holiness
- Describe the angels. Each had six wings.
- What did they say? "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of His glory."
- What does that mean? God is perfectly holy, and His glory fills the earth.

Read the clues and verses to discover the names of these angels.

6. I was given the privilege of announcing Jesus' coming birth to Mary (Luke 1:26–28). <u>Gabriel</u>	7. I am the type of angel that was assigned to guard the Tree of Life after Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden of Eden for their sin (Gen. 3:24). <u>cherub or cherubim</u>
8. I led God's angels in a heavenly battle against Satan and won (Rev. 12:7–8). <u>Michael</u>	

Use your glossary to find another word or phrase for angel.

- Angel means heavenly messenger.

**Redemption: God's Grand Design**

Lesson 166 249



## Worktext page 248

Recall facts about end times and locate information in the Bible.

## Worktext page 249

Locate information in the Bible about angels.

LESSON

167

## The Important Book

### Materials

- Revelation of the End Times timeline

### Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

## Memory Verses: Revelation 15:3–4

Practice the memory verses. Locate Revelation 15:3–4 and ask a volunteer to read the verses aloud.

- What characteristics of God are listed? **He is just (righteous), true, and holy.**
- Because God is just, true, and holy, how should His character affect our thoughts, words, and actions?

Lead the students in a discussion of the following Scriptures:  
**1 Corinthians 10:13–14; 2 Corinthians 10:3–5; Psalm 19:14; 17:14; 101:3.**

## Bible Account

### Preview Background Information

#### The Bottomless Pit

The Greek word for *bottomless pit* is also sometimes translated as *abyss*. The word has been used to refer to the underworld or the ocean under the earth. **Romans 10:7** tells us it is the place of the dead, and **Luke 8:31** indicates that it is home to demons. In **Revelation 9:11**, we are told that the abyss is ruled by an angel called Apollyon (or *Abaddon* in Hebrew), whose name means "Destroyer."

#### The Dragon

Revelation pictures Satan several times as a dragon. **Revelation 12** describes him as a huge red dragon with seven heads and ten horns. In the allegory, this dragon attempts to destroy a woman's child but is unsuccessful because the child is caught up to God. The dragon, as the narrative relates, has been thrown out of heaven by Michael and his angels. This dragon is identified as "that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan" (12:9). This portion of Scripture refers to Satan's failed attempt to destroy the Lord Jesus Christ. **Revelation 13** reveals that this dragon is the empowering force behind the Beast (Antichrist). Revelation

20 indicates that the dragon will be bound and locked away for a time after Christ has defeated the Beast and his False Prophet.

## Introduce the Bible Account

**Discuss the Millennium.** Display the Revelation of the End Times timeline, pointing out that the Millennium will occur after Christ's Second Coming.

## Teach for Understanding

Read Revelation 20 or use the following retelling of the passage. Listening question: **What is one reason you would not want any of your family or friends on Satan's side?** **Answers will vary.**

### The Important Book

After the Battle of Armageddon was over, John saw an angel come down from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He took hold of Satan, bound him with the chain, and threw him into the pit. Then he shut the pit and sealed it. Satan would remain locked in that pit for a thousand years, unable to deceive the nations. We know this period of a thousand years as the Millennium.

Next, John saw thrones, and the people sitting on them were given power to judge the earth. Some of the people in John's vision were those who had been faithful to the Lord Jesus during the Tribulation. They were believers who had been killed because they trusted in Jesus and would not worship the Beast or take his mark. These Christians will reign with Christ for a thousand years.

The picture of Christ in this vision was as a King ruling over the whole earth. Many other Scripture passages give us more detail about Christ's reign as King. It will be a time of righteousness on the earth and a time when the whole world will be at peace.

When the thousand years of Christ's reign are over, Satan will be let out of the bottomless pit and will once again deceive the nations. Even after experiencing Christ's reign of peace and righteousness, there will be people who turn against His rule and join Satan. They will surround the city where the saints are gathered.

These people will be punished with a horrible judgment from God. Fire will come down from heaven and kill them. Satan will be cast into the lake of fire, where the Beast and the False Prophet have been since the Battle of Armageddon.

Then God will judge the dead—all those who have died without Christ. God will sit on a huge white throne, and the dead will stand before him. In John's vision of this future event, he saw books being opened. The dead were judged by what was written in the books about the things they had done. Another book called the Book of Life was also opened. In the Book of Life were written the names of all those who had trusted in Jesus Christ for salvation. If anyone's name was not written in the Book of Life, that person was thrown into the lake of fire.

- ▶ What will the Millennium be like? Possible answers include that it will be a time of peace on the earth; Christ will rule righteously; Satan will be bound and unable to deceive people; saints will rule with Christ; the faithful dead from the Tribulation will be resurrected.

At the end of the thousand-year period, Satan will be let loose. At that point, there will be people who, even after experiencing Christ's perfect reign of peace and righteousness, will turn against Christ's rule and join Satan. What does this tell us about the nature of our hearts? **They are deceitful above all things and desperately wicked (Jer. 17:9).** We are naturally the enemies of God (**Rom. 3:9–18**). The only way we can have righteousness is by God's intervention to change us (**Phil. 2:13**).

- ▶ What should knowing what we are really like cause us to do every day? **We should deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow Christ (Luke 9:23–24); we should put away the ways of the old life, renew our minds with God's Word, and put on the new ways of the new life in Christ (Eph. 4:22–24).**

▶ What will happen to those who rebel against Christ at the end of the Millennium? **They will be burned with fire from heaven.**

▶ What will happen to the dead whose names are not written in the Book of Life at the Great White Throne Judgment? **They will be thrown into the lake of fire.**

▶ What is one reason you would not want any of your family or friends on Satan's side? **Answers will vary.**

▶ As you know your own heart, are you sure that you have put your trust in Christ for salvation? Do not require a verbal response, but invite students who are uncertain to talk with you afterward.

### Writing Connection (optional)

**Write a descriptive paragraph.** Direct the students to write a paragraph describing what they think the world will be like when it is free from Satan's influence and is under Christ's rule.

**Songs of Praise**  
Revelation 15:3–4

Name \_\_\_\_\_

The Bible records many instances when God's people sang praises to Him for His faithfulness to them. A grateful heart of praise is a natural response to God's goodness. Songs of praise and worship to God and the Lamb will continue throughout eternity.

**Using the references and clues, write who sang or will sing these songs of praise to God.**

1. I sang this song of praise when I was given wonderful news from God about how I would serve Him (Luke 1:46–55).  
**Mary**

2. We sang this song of praise when God miraculously delivered us from Pharaoh's army (Exod. 15:1–19).  
**Moses and the Israelites**

3. We will sing this song after the Tribulation when we are united with Christ (Rev. 14:3).  
**144,000 redeemed during the Tribulation**

4. I sang this song of praise when God delivered me out of the hand of my enemies (2 Sam. 22:1–51).  
**David**

5. We will sing this new song of praise to the Lamb, who is worthy to open the sealed scroll (Rev. 5:8–10).  
**the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures**

6. We will sing this song of praise and worship to the Lamb in heaven (Rev. 5:13).  
**every creature in heaven, on earth, and under the earth**

**Songs of praise are full of adjectives describing the works and character of God. Read Revelation 15:3–4 and list the adjectives used to describe God and His actions.**

Descriptions of God's Character  
**almighty**  
**holy**

Descriptions of God's Actions  
**great**  
**marvelous**  
**just or righteous**  
**true**

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**Marvelous Millennium**  
Revelation 20

Name \_\_\_\_\_

The **Millennium** will be a marvelous time for God's people. Although sin will still be present in the world, Christ's righteousness will prevail.

**Use Revelation 20:1–6 to answer the questions.**

1. How long will the Millennium be? **one thousand years**

2. Where will Satan be? **imprisoned in the bottomless pit or abyss**

3. What will the earth be like during the Millennium? **The earth will be peaceful and free from Satan's deception during this time.**

4. What will happen to the people who were beheaded because they served Christ and would not worship the Beast? **They will live and reign with Christ during the Millennium.**

After the peaceful Millennium, Satan will be released from the bottomless pit and will go back to deceiving people. Amazingly, there will be those who reject Christ at that time even after living under His peaceful, prosperous reign.

**Read Revelation 20:7–10 and answer the questions.**

5. What will the people who choose to reject Christ after the Millennium attempt to do to God's people?  
**They will surround the people of God and plan to defeat them in battle.**

6. What will happen to those who go to battle against God's people?  
**Fire will come down from heaven and destroy them.**

7. What will happen to Satan?  
**He will be thrown into the lake of fire, where he will be tormented forever.**

**Do you know anyone who has never put his trust in Christ? What can you do to help that person?**

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Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 167 251

## Worktext page 250

Develop further understanding of the memory verses.

## Worktext page 251

Recall details about the Bible account.

LESSON

168

## The Light of the City of God

### Materials

- Revelation of the End Times timeline

### Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

### Memory Verses: Revelation 15:3–4

Practice the memory verses. Select a volunteer to read aloud Revelation 15:3–4.

- **What are the main divisions of the memory verses? (Note: Divide the verse into sections as you understand it.)**
- **What is the significant thought in each section? Answers will vary.**

## Bible Account

### Preview Background Information

#### New Jerusalem

The new Jerusalem is described in **Revelation 21–22**. It will descend from heaven after the Millennium. This city will be the dwelling place of God and His saints for all eternity.

### Introduce the Bible Account

Discuss the importance of being prepared.

- If an important guest were coming to stay in your home, what would you and your family do to prepare for him? **Answers could include cleaning the house and preparing special food.**

Remind the students that someday the Lord Jesus will call for His followers to meet Him in the air. Since nobody but God knows the exact time that Christ will come, Christians need to keep their lives clean and live in righteousness as though each day might be the day of His coming (**1 John 2:28**).

### Teach for Understanding

Read **Revelation 21–22** or use the following retelling of the passage. Listening question: **What was John's last desire? He welcomed Christ's coming.**

## The Light of the City of God

After all unsaved people were judged at the Great White Throne Judgment, John saw a new heaven and a new earth. There was no longer a sea. As he watched, he saw the new city of Jerusalem coming down out of heaven, glorious in appearance like a bride adorned for her husband.

A loud voice from the throne was heard to say, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God" (**Rev. 21:3**).

The voice went on to say that God would wipe away all tears from the eyes of His people. There would be no more death, no sorrow, no crying, and no more pain. God would make all things new.

An angel gave John a closer look at the city. The city was filled with the glory of God; it was pure gold and shone like a crystal jasper stone. It had a massive high wall with twelve pearl gates, on which were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. The names of the twelve apostles were written on the city's foundations. It was immense and perfectly cubical, measuring fifteen hundred miles in length, width, and height. Jewels of every kind glistened on its foundations.

In the middle of the city was God's throne, and a pure river of the water of life flowed from it. Both sides of the river were lined with trees, all the same kind—the tree of life. They produced fruit continuously, every month of the year. The leaves of this tree were for the healing of the nations. Everyone in this city could see the face of God, and His name was on their foreheads.

John noticed that certain things were missing. The city had no temple because God and the Lamb were its temple. There was no need for the sun, moon, or lamps because the glory of God illuminated it and the Lamb was its light. There was never any night there. Nothing unclean was ever allowed to come into it. The curse of sin was no longer present in this city.

The angel told John to write to the churches about the things he had seen. He was to write that Christ was coming quickly, bringing to each person the reward that he deserved. Those who were clean and prepared for Christ's coming would be blessed; they would have the right to the tree of life.

Jesus Himself, "the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star" (**22:16**), spoke to John. He told John that what the angel had told him was for the benefit of the churches. As John's writing drew to an end, he gave an invitation from the Spirit and the bride. "Let him that is athirst come," he wrote. "And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely" (**22:17**).

John reminded his readers once more that Jesus would come quickly. This was such an inviting thought to John that he added his own affirmation: "Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (**22:20**).

### In the City of God

Revelation 21

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Things will be very different in the city of God! Life on this sin-filled earth will be over, and God's mighty justice will prevail over sin and death. Revelation gives a beautiful description of God's holy city. Believers can look forward to living there with great joy and anticipation.

Read the verses from Revelation to complete the chart.

Things Not Found in the New Heaven and Earth	
21:1	There will be no <u>sea</u>
21:4	There will be no ... <u>tears, death,</u> <u>mourning or sorrow,</u> <u>crying or grief,</u> <u>or pain</u>
21:22	There will be no <u>temple</u>
21:23	There will be no <u>sun</u> or <u>moon</u>

Answer the questions.

- What will provide light in the city? (Rev. 21:23) the glory of God and the Lamb
- Why do you think there will be no temple or church in the city of God? (Rev. 21:22)  
God Himself is the temple; Christians can worship Him face to face.

Read the description of the city of God in Revelation 21:10–21. Write a paragraph describing it to someone who has not read these verses. **Answers will vary.**  
The city of God shines with the glory of God like the brilliance of a jewel. It has a high wall with twelve gates and twelve angels at the gates. The shape of the city is a large cube. The walls are made of pure gold, as pure as glass. The foundations of the city are decorated with every kind of precious stone. The twelve gates are made out of pearl. The street of the city is pure gold like transparent glass.

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- What will not be in the new heaven and the new earth? **death, sorrow, crying, pain, sin, temple, the need for light, anything unclean, the curse of sin**
- What will be in the new heaven and the new earth? **God's presence, His throne, the new Jerusalem, the water of life, the tree of life, God's glory and beauty**
- Who will be the light in the city of God? **the Lamb, Jesus**
- What does God promise to those who prepare for His coming? **They will be blessed; they will have the right to eat from the tree of life.**
- Of all the wonderful aspects of the new Jerusalem, what is the most wonderful aspect of it to you? **Answers will vary, but help the students to understand that God's presence is the most pleasing aspect because He is our life.**
- What was John's last desire? **He welcomed Christ's coming.**
- What thoughts does the topic of Christ's coming stir in your heart?

### Worktext page 252

Locate information in the Bible, and write a descriptive paragraph.

## Prophet Focus: Zechariah

### Materials

- Timeline and picture of Zechariah

### Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

### Memory Verses: Revelation 15:3–4

**Practice the memory verses.** Read **Revelation 15:3–4** aloud to the students. Allow volunteers to recite the verses. Invite other volunteers to tell what the verses mean, or to rephrase the verses in their own words.

## Prophet Focus: Zechariah

### Preview Background Information

#### Horns

Usually belonging to an animal such as the ram, horns often appear in prophecies to symbolize the power and pride of kings or national authorities. In Zechariah, they refer to some of the nations that had fought and oppressed the Israelites.

#### Myrtle Trees

The myrtle tree of Jerusalem grew to about ten feet tall under favorable conditions. The petals of its blooms were snow-white, edged with purple, and gave off a very pleasant aroma.

### Introduce the Prophet Focus

**Explain the historical background of Zechariah's prophecy.** Jerusalem had fallen to Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians in 586 BC, and most of the Jews who had lived there were taken captive to Babylon. In 539 BC, the Persians conquered the Babylonian Empire. Cyrus, the Persian king, allowed some Jews to return to Jerusalem under the leadership of Zerubbabel to rebuild their temple. The prophets Zechariah and Haggai were among this number. Zechariah prophesied to the Jews who were rebuilding the temple. His prophecies encouraged spiritual reform in the Israelites' hearts and perseverance in their work. They also revealed future events that concerned Israel.

### Teach for Understanding

Read or tell the following account based on the ministry of the prophet Zechariah. Listening question: **When will many of Zechariah's prophecies be fulfilled? not until Christ's Second Coming (the beginning of the Millennium) when Christ will bring peace to the whole earth**

## King over All

Just as John was shown visions of the future, Zechariah, an Old Testament prophet, was also given revelation from God about things to come. In one night, God showed Zechariah eight visions. Each vision was meant to teach the Israelites something about themselves, about God, or about their future.

The first vision Zechariah saw was of a man on a red horse, standing among some myrtle trees.

*Explain the background information about myrtle trees (optional).*

Behind him were red, brown, and white horses. An angel spoke to Zechariah and told him that these horses had gone throughout the whole earth. They had found the world peaceful and at rest.

In his second vision, Zechariah saw four horns. He also saw four craftsmen who had come to throw the horns down. God used both of these visions to indicate that even though the wicked nations around Israel were now at peace, He would punish them for exalting themselves against the land of Judah and hurting His people.

*Explain the background information about horns (optional).*

Zechariah's third vision was of a man measuring the city of Jerusalem. An angel in the vision promised that someday Jerusalem would contain a "multitude of men and cattle" (**Zech. 2:4**). God would someday restore, extend, and bless the land of Israel.

In Zechariah's fourth vision, he saw Joshua the high priest being cleansed from his sin and clothed with new, clean garments. In the same way that Joshua was being cleansed, God would cleanse Israel from its sin.

Zechariah's fifth vision showed a golden lampstand between two olive trees. The lampstand was provided with golden oil through pipes that were fitted into the trees. God used the vision to promise that Zerubbabel, a descendant of David, would finish building the temple through the power of God. The two trees represented those who have been anointed to stand beside the Lord of the whole earth.

In Zechariah's sixth vision, he saw a flying scroll. The scroll represented God's Word and His curse on those who break His laws.

His seventh vision was of a woman held captive in a basket used for measuring dry goods. An angel explained that the woman was a picture of wickedness. Two other women with wings came and carried the basket up into the air. The angel said that the women would set the basket down and build a house for it in the land of Babylon. In the end times, the Lord will remove Israel's sin and set up His kingdom in Israel. But the land of Babylon will be destroyed for its wickedness.

Zechariah's eighth vision was of four chariots. These chariots once again symbolized God's judgment on the nations that had rebelled against Him and harmed Israel.

Zechariah reminded the Israelites of their need to repent. Their ancestors had ignored former prophets and rebelled against God. He told them to return to Him; then He would return to His people. God was jealous for them and their commitment to Him.

God refers many times to the Messiah in the book of Zechariah. Only the books of Psalms and Isaiah have more Messianic prophecies than Zechariah.

Some of Zechariah's prophecies about Christ were fulfilled during His first coming. The prophet encouraged Jerusalem to rejoice because her King was just and could save. He said that Christ would be humble and would ride on a donkey's colt. Five hundred years later, Christ fulfilled this prophecy when He entered Jerusalem. Zechariah also predicted that Israel would reject Christ, the Good Shepherd, and that He would be sold for thirty pieces of silver.

Many of Zechariah's prophecies will not be fulfilled until Christ's Second Coming (the beginning of the Millennium), when Christ will bring peace to the whole earth. People from every nation will come to Jerusalem to seek God. Though Israel tried to destroy Christ, they will one day worship Him as King over all.



- What were Zechariah's visions meant to teach the Israelites? **things about themselves, about God, and about their future**
- ➲ How does Zechariah's prophecy relate to the study of the end times? **Zechariah prophesies some things that will take place at Christ's Second Coming (the beginning of the Millennium).**
- When will many of Zechariah's prophecies be fulfilled? **not until Christ's Second Coming (the beginning of the Millennium) when Christ will bring peace to the whole earth**
- ➲ What encouragement can we receive from the prophecies that have not yet been fulfilled? **God has not completed His work yet, so we should not be discouraged by what we see now (thinking that the wicked will not be punished and the righteous will not be rewarded).** We should not judge what we see by what we see, but by what the Word of God says about what we see. What God promised, He will fulfill in His own way in His time. Christians walk by faith and not by sight (**2 Cor. 5:7; Rom. 15:13**).

## Timeline

Place Zechariah on the timeline. Select a student to attach the card for Zechariah (ca. 520 BC) to the large classroom timeline, marking the approximate time of his visions. Direct each student to attach the Zechariah card to his individual timeline.

### Prophet Focus

Zechariah (ca. 520 BC)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Zechariah was given revelation from God about things to come. God showed Zechariah eight visions in the same night. Each vision was meant to teach the Israelites something about themselves, about God, or about their future. You can read about these visions in Zechariah 1–6.

God used the first two visions to show the people of Israel that He would punish them for exalting themselves against the land of Judah and hurting His people. Zechariah's third vision revealed that God would someday restore, extend, and bless the land of Israel. In Zechariah's fourth vision, he learned that God would cleanse Israel from its sin, and his fifth vision showed him that God would raise up Zerubbabel to finish building the temple. Zechariah's sixth vision pictured God's Word and His curse on those who break His laws. His seventh and eighth visions revealed that God would remove Israel's sin, set up His kingdom, and judge the nations that had rebelled against Him and harmed Israel. Zechariah reminded the Israelites of



their need to repent.

In Zechariah's writings, he refers to Christ as the Branch. Some of Zechariah's prophecies about Christ were fulfilled during Christ's earthly ministry. Many of Zechariah's prophecies will be fulfilled at Christ's Second Coming. Christ will bring peace over the whole earth during a period of time called the Millennium. People from every nation will come to Jerusalem where Christ will reign. Though Israel tried to destroy Christ, they will one day worship Him as King over all.

Use the information to complete the sentences.

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>G</b> | 1. Zechariah was given eight _____ from God.                                   |
| <b>F</b> | 2. Zerubbabel would be the one to finish building the _____.                   |
| <b>C</b> | 3. Some of the visions were meant to teach the Israelites about their _____.   |
| <b>B</b> | 4. During the Millennium, _____ will reign from the city of Jerusalem.         |
| <b>D</b> | 5. _____ will be over the whole earth during the Millennium.                   |
| <b>E</b> | 6. Zechariah's sixth vision was about God's curse on those who _____ His laws. |
| <b>A</b> | 7. Zechariah's special name for Christ is the _____.                           |

- A. Branch  
B. Christ  
C. future  
D. Peace  
E. break  
F. temple  
G. visions

Read the verses and complete the statements. *Answers will vary.*

8. Zechariah 9:9 This prophecy was fulfilled when **Christ entered Jerusalem riding on a colt.**
9. Zechariah 14:9 This prophecy will be fulfilled when **Christ reigns over the whole earth during the Millennium.**

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Lesson 169 253

## Worktext page 253

Recall information about the prophet Zechariah.

### What Does God Say About My Thoughts?

Name \_\_\_\_\_



**God created people with the ability to think and make decisions.**

Your mind is capable of imagination, memorization, and reasoning. Because thoughts have a powerful influence on emotions and actions, the Bible teaches Christians to fill their minds with God's Word so that they can make choices that are pleasing to God instead of seeking things to please themselves.

Read the verses and answer the questions.

**Matthew  
22:37**

1. With what three parts does Jesus say a person should love God?  
**heart      soul      mind**

**Romans  
12:2**

2. What part of a Christian must be made new? For what purpose?  
**the mind; so that he can know God's will**

**Romans  
8:5-8**

3. What is the difference between people who live according to their sinful nature and people who live according to the Spirit?

**People who live according to their sinful nature have their mind set on what their flesh desires. People who live according to the Spirit want to please the Spirit.**

4. The mind controlled by the sinful nature leads to **death**

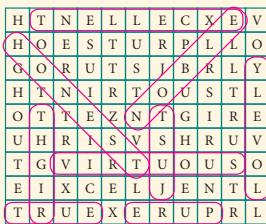
5. The mind controlled by the Spirit leads to **life** and **peace**

What kind of thoughts should a Christian think?

Because a Christian wants to please God, he should be careful to put right thoughts into his mind. This means that he does not allow his eyes to see or his ears to hear things that God hates. Not only does he avoid sinful things, he also daily fills his mind with the Word of God so that his mind will be ready to make right choices.

Read **Philippians 4:8** to discover the kinds of things Christians should think about. Circle the words in the puzzle.

I must think on things that are  
true      honest  
just      noble  
right     pure  
lovely    virtuous  
excellent



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### Something to Think About

My Thoughts

Name \_\_\_\_\_



**How can a Christian guard his thoughts from sin?**

God's Word gives Christians instructions on how to discipline their thoughts. The Bible says that every imagination of our sinful mind is evil (Gen. 8:21) and that Christians must walk according to holiness with a renewed mind (Eph. 4:23-24).

Read the verses to complete the sentences about guarding your mind from sinful thoughts.

**Matthew  
15:19**

1. I must realize that evil thoughts come out of my **heart**.

**2 Corinthians  
10:5**

2. I must take captive every **thought**, and make it obedient to Christ.

**Colossians  
3:2**

3. I must set my **mind or affection** on holy things, not on worldly things.

**Philippians  
4:13**

4. I can do all things through **Christ** who gives me strength.

Your mind is greatly influenced by what you see and hear.

Christians are daily bombarded with sinful messages. Satan will tempt you to think about sinful things that do not please God. You must be on guard!

Read each scenario and choose the answers that would please Christ.

Scenario	Which response pleases Christ?
While Derek was waiting in line to pay for the gas his mom had pumped, he noticed a magazine with sensual pictures on the rack in front of him.	<input type="radio"/> He continued to look at the magazine but did not buy it. <input type="radio"/> He looked away but continued to think about the pictures. <input checked="" type="radio"/> He looked away and asked God to help him think pure thoughts.
Elisa's mom dropped her off at the library with instructions to choose three good books to check out. As Elisa was looking for her books, she noticed a romance novel that she knew her mom would not approve of.	<input type="radio"/> She looked through the book, but she did not plan to check it out. <input checked="" type="radio"/> She did not pick up the book and was thankful her mom wanted her to please Christ. <input type="radio"/> She did not look at the book but was irritated with her mom for having strict standards.
While Ryan and Dustin were watching TV, a commercial for a violent, immoral program began.	<input type="radio"/> They watched the commercial. <input type="radio"/> They muted the sound so their parents would not hear it. <input checked="" type="radio"/> They changed the channel to avoid hearing and seeing impure things.

### What About Me?

Take time at home to evaluate what you think about.

- Do I give in to the temptation to think about impure things?
- Do I ask God to help me fight impure thoughts?
- Have I memorized God's Word to help me fight temptation?
- Do I think about and watch for Christ's return?

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 169 255

## Worktext pages 254–55

(Note: These pages may be saved for use with Lesson 170 to allow time for in-depth discussion.)

**Develop Christlike thoughts.** Read page 254 and discuss what God says Christians should think about. Select volunteers to read aloud the Scripture passages.

**Evaluate your thoughts.** Read page 255 and discuss how to guard your mind from sinful thoughts. Evaluate the scenarios together. Encourage each student to read the "What About Me?" section at home and evaluate what he thinks about.

**Materials**

- Four hymnals

**Study hymns about heaven.** Point out that many hymns have been written about heaven and what it will be like to live there. Divide the students into four groups and give each group a hymnal. Assign each group one of the following hymns to study.

“Saved by Grace” by Fanny Crosby

“Face to Face” by Carrie Breck

“My Saviour First of All” by Fanny Crosby

“O That Will Be Glory” by Charles Gabriel

Instruct each group to read the words of the assigned hymn and answer the following questions.

• What words and phrases does the hymnwriter use to describe heaven? **Answers will vary.**

• What is the hymnwriter most looking forward to about being in heaven? **seeing Jesus**

Choose a student from each group to share his findings with the class. Ask volunteers to tell what they learned or how their thinking about heaven has changed. Invite each group to choose one stanza from their hymn to sing or recite for the class.

**Unit 10a–10b Review**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the letters of the correct answers.

- What is the theme of the book of Revelation? [Lesson 161]
  - a. Christ's return and God's eternal kingdom
  - b. the comfort of religion
  - c. the good effects of being a Christian
  - d. the unsatisfactory results of addictions
- In the second part of John's vision, only Christ was able to open the scroll with seven seals. What is Christ depicted as, and what do the seals represent? [Lesson 162]
  - a. a lion / blessings
  - b. a lamb / judgments
  - c. a soldier / swords
  - d. a tree / rotten fruit
- Who will Christ receive as His bride in heaven during the marriage supper of Christ? [Lesson 163]
  - a. Old Testament prophets
  - b. Abraham (“the friend of God”) and David (“the man after God's own heart”)
  - c. redeemed saints
  - d. the angels who defeat the Beast (Antichrist)
- What will the Beast (Antichrist), the False Prophet, and Satan have in common? [Lesson 166]
  - a. They will be thrown into the lake of fire.
  - b. They will be the same person.
  - c. They will overcome Christ.
  - d. They will have a second chance.
- Christ will judge people at the Great White Throne Judgment and throw them into the lake of fire because their names are not written in a certain book. What is the name of that book? [Lesson 167]
  - a. the Book of Purity
  - b. the Book of Good Works
  - c. the Book of Love
  - d. the Book of Life

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Half-Unit Reviews

Bible 6

Lessons 161–70

**Unit 10a–10b Review**

**Review of Lessons 161–70.** A reproducible copy of the review questions (without answers) is available on the Toolkit CD under Half-Unit Reviews. Answers can also be found on the Toolkit CD.