Acts 2 Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson Nine: Jesus' Revelation to John, Part 2 - Revelation 4-18

1)	Describe the "throne scene" in chapters 4-5 (the place where the seven seals are broken and the viewpoint
	from which we observe the action that ensues in chapters 6-7).

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	b)	Sights and Sounds:
	c)	Action:
2)	a) b) c) d) e) f) Chapte sealing	arize the event(s) that corresponds with the opening of each of the six seals in Revelation 6. First seal: Second seal: Third seal: Fourth seal: Fifth seal: Sixth seal: or 7 is an interlude between the opening of the sixth and seventh seal of the scroll. Regarding the sof people: According to 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, Ephesians 1:13-14 and 4:30, what does it mean to be sealed (see also Revelation 14:3-4 with Romans 8:23 and James 1:18)?
	b)	How does the marking by this seal in Revelation 7 contrast with the "mark of the beast" in Revelation 13:16-17 (see Revelation 14:9-11; 16:2; 19:20)?
	c)	According to John 16:33 and Revelation 13:7 and 20:4, does the sealing of God's servants guarantee them freedom from all dangers and harm?

d) What significance is there for you today in the fact that God seals His own people?

Read Revelation 8:2 – 11:19 (The Seven Trumpets).

- 4) As with the seals, list the judgments that follow the sounding of each trumpet from Revelation 8 and 9.
 - a) First Trumpet:
 - **b)** Second Trumpet:
 - **c)** Third Trumpet:
 - d) Fourth Trumpet:
 - e) Fifth Trumpet:
 - f) Sixth Trumpet:
- 5) Revelation 10:1-11:14 is an interlude between the Sixth Trumpet and the Seventh Trumpet. In chapter 10, John tells us that some of the mysteries he was shown were not to be recorded (10:3-4), that there would be no further delay in God's program (10:1-2, 5-7), and that his call to prophesy further was affirmed (10:8-11). In chapter 11, we read about two witnesses who testify for three and a half years, are killed by "the beast," and are resurrected and taken to heaven in a cloud. Interpretations of this vary substantially. Regardless, a common thread woven throughout the book is illustrated through the two witnesses. Study the following passages and tell what underlying assurance John intended to give the churches of Asia (addressed in Revelation 2-3) and the church of Christ throughout time: Revelation 2:10; 6:9-11 and 8:3-4 with 7:9-10, 13-17; 7:2-3 with 14:1-5, 13-14 and 15:2-4; 11:3, 7 with 11:11-12.
- 6) According to Revelation 11:15-19, the sounding of the Seventh Trumpet is accompanied by an announcement, but it is not new. Find it also in Daniel 2:44; 4:3; 6:26; 7:14, 26-27; and Zechariah 14:9.
 - a) What is this wonderful announcement?
 - b) What personal insecurities do you need to evaluate in the light of this announcement and the "underlying assurance" you discovered in Question 5? (For some, this may require prayer and thoughtful consideration of behaviors rooted in fear or worry.)

Revelation 12-14: These chapters are an interlude between the Seven Trumpet Judgments and the Seven Bowl Judgments. They give us insight into the nature of the conflict, highlighting key characters in the drama.

- 7) The two main characters are clearly identified. Who are the "dragon" and the "Lamb", and which verses in these chapters reveal their identities?
- 8) Revelation 12-13 traces the conflict between Christ and the forces of evil from before the time of Christ's birth through the Last Days. Regarding the evil portrayed in chapter 13:
 - a) Who empowers the first beast (include verse number)?
 - **b)** What does he give each of the two beasts (include verse numbers)?

c) What impact do the beasts have upon the world (include verse numbers)? 9) After reading the alarming events of chapters 12-13, what comfort does chapter 14 hold for the persecuted church? How does this comfort you in your own circumstances today? Read Revelation 15-16 (The Seven Bowls). 10) Summarize each of the Seven Bowls (the seven last plagues). a) First Bowl: **b)** Second Bowl: c) Third Bowl: **d)** Fourth Bowl: e) Fifth Bowl: f) Sixth Bowl: g) Seventh Bowl: 11) Reread Revelation 9:20-21 and 16:9, 11 with Romans 1:18, 21, 24a, 26a, 28; 2:5-6; and 2 Peter 3:9. What do these verses teach about God and about sinful man? 12) In what specific ways has God been merciful and patient with you? Read Revelation 17-18. These chapters describe more fully the last two "bowls," explaining exactly what is

overthrown at God's command, "It is done!" (16:17).

13) Conservative scholars generally agree that the woman of Revelation 17 is not the same woman described in chapter 12. They also agree that the chapter 17 woman represents something more than a solitary human figure. However, a wide variety of ideas about her identity exist. Make a list of summarizing statements or phrases from Revelation 17 that give information about the woman's character and behavior (with regard to verses 9-14, consider general ideas without trying to explain the passage).

- **14)** Some scholars view "Babylon the Great" in Revelation 18 and the woman in Revelation 17 as one and the same. Others believe they represent different aspects of evil in human culture. As in Question 13, make a list of summarizing statements or phrases from Revelation 18 that give information about "Babylon the Great."
- **15)** Kings, nations, and people of the earth are said to commit adultery with both "the woman on the beast" in Revelation 17 (17:2) and "Babylon the Great" in Revelation 18 (18:3, 9).
 - a) What are some ways in which people in your culture figuratively "commit adultery"?
 - **b)** With regard to this adultery, God's people are told to "come out of her...so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues..." (Revelation 18:4). From what activity, pursuit, relationship, or false sense of security must you personally "come out?"