

Looking Ahead –

No class – next Sunday, May 14 – Mother’s Day
 No class – May 28 – Memorial Day weekend.

Summer schedule:

We will meet 4 times –

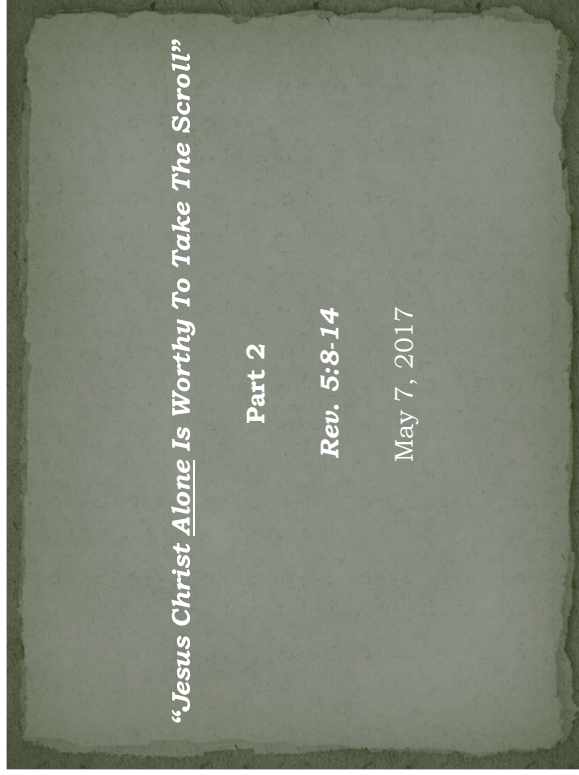
June 4

June 25

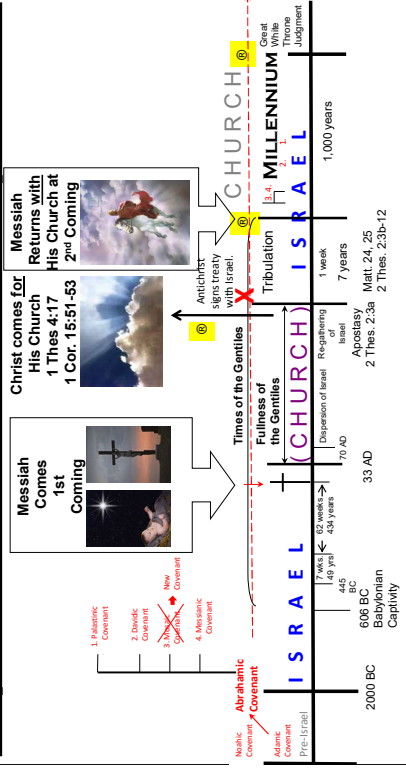
July 9

July 23

We will resume our regular weekly schedule Sept. 10.



Comprehensive Biblical View of Future Prophetic Events



Gen. 1 → Gen. 12 → Acts 2 → Rev 6 → Rev 19 → Rev 22

☉ = Resurrection

Rev 5:1-7

- 1 I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.
- 2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?"
- 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it.
- 4 Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it;
- 5 and one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals."
- 6 And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.
- 7 And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

Observations –

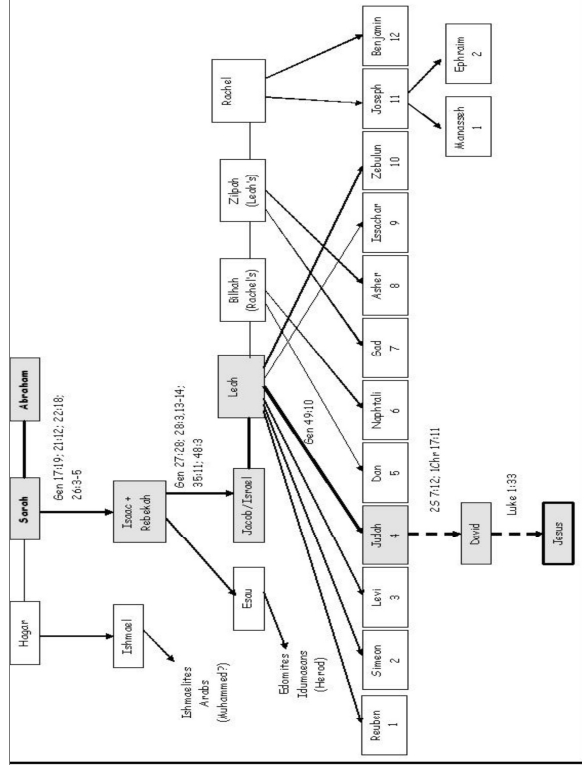
1. Christ is there when the call goes out by the angel.
2. John knows that Christ is there.
3. Christ does not immediately respond to the call.
 Why not? Because He wants John to think this through and understand that there is no one who is qualified . . . only Christ. His delay intensifies and heightens the moment.
 Not unusual for the Lord Jesus to do this:
 - Raising of Lazarus (delay of 4 days)
 - Jairus' daughter (has conversation with another woman who was healed)
 - Storm at sea (Jesus slept)
4. Notice similar wording between vs. 3 and vs. 13
 3 And no one **in heaven or on the earth or under the earth** was able to open the book or to look into it.
 13 And every created thing which is **in heaven and on the earth and under the earth** and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying,
 *So it appears that vs. 3 refers to “created beings” that the call goes out to. Those things created therefore all had to be disqualified in order for the supremacy of Christ ALONE to shine forth. No created being would ever be qualified to take the scroll and execute the contents.

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The One Who Has Overcome (Defeats the Kingdom of Darkness)

- "Overcome" is the Greek verb νικᾶω which means "to win a victory, come off victorious, to conquer, be victorious over one's enemies." The tense is aorist. It is what grammarians call a **cumulative (not culminative) aorist** which views an event or series of events from the standpoint of an accomplished act.

"Overcome"

- Cumulative aorist tense – describes a cumulative series of events in 1 word. (● ● ● ● ● = ●)
- Aorist tense – describes an event that happened in time. (●)

"John drove the car on Monday."

Aorist - "John drove the car to work on Monday." (●)

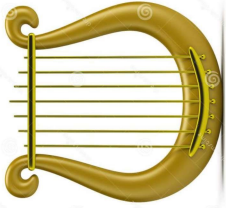
Cumulative aorist – "John drove the car to work, back home from work, to the bank, to the grocery store, and to the gas station on Monday." (● ● ● ● ● = ●)

"has overcome"

- not once – i.e. temptation
- but several times and every time – sin, temptation, Satan, demons, death, Hell = "has overcome"

Rev 5:8-14

- 8 When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.
- 9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.
- 10 "You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."
- 11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands,
- 12 saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."
- 13 And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."
- 14 And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped.



Harp

- In Psalm 33,71,92,98,147, 149, & 150, harps are a part of worship.
- But the harp not only was used for accompaniment in worship but it was used for the accompaniment of prophecy in the O.T. (1 Chron. 25:1; 1 Sam. 10:5; 2 Kings 3:15)

1 Chron 25:1

25 Moreover, David and the commanders of the army set apart for the service some of the sons of Asaph and of Heman and of Jeduthun, who were to prophesy with lyres, harps and cymbals;

1 Sam 10:5

5 "Afterward you will come to the hill of God where the Philistine garrison is; and it shall be as soon as you have come there to the city, that you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with harp, tambourine, flute, and a lyre before them, and they will be prophesying.

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Prayers of the saints

"Incense was burned in the tabernacle and temple and gave off a pleasing odor that ascended upward to God. The incense portrayed the person and work of Jesus Christ who alone satisfies the character of God and is pleasing to Him. Biblical praying and praise to God through the Lord Jesus Christ fills the area with a sweet atmosphere and aroma which calls attention to God's glory and to Christ's person."

- Hampton Keathley, III
Studies in Revelation

*Whenever the priest went in to burn incense, the people prayed and the incense symbolized the prayers of the people.

Ps 141:2

2 May my prayer be counted as incense before You;



Observations –

1. That the bowls are golden stresses the value of prayer to us and especially to God.
2. That the bowls are full, indicates the extent and abundance of their prayer and worship.
3. These are prayers by believers for Christ to return, for Him to deliver us, for Him to come quickly, to not delay, to judge Satan and his followers, and to free mankind and creation from its curse.

Matt 6:10

10 'Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

Rev 8:3-5

- 3 Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne.
- 4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand.
- 5 Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

The Lamb here receives honor as being worthy for four things He has done:

1. His substitutionary death.
2. He **“purchased”** - ἀγοράζω) – redemption from the slave market of sin of a people for God, including those yet to be saved. His death becomes the means of a believers salvation.
3. His blood that was shed for us.
4. He has redeemed a people from:
 - **“every tribe”** – same descent
 - **“every tongue”** – same language
 - **“every people”** – same race
 - **“every nation”** – same culture

Col 3:11

11 in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

** Christ's ability to redeem a people for God His Father, to bring them from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light, gives Him the right, makes Him worthy, to execute the Father's plan to reclaim the earth.

Rev 5:8-14

8 When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

9 **And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation."**

10 "You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

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Kingdom – the sovereign rule of God over His saints who will in turn reign with Him.

Priests - those who have complete access to God's presence – to worship, to praise, to serve Him.

1 Peter 2:5,9

5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION,

Rev 20:6

6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

** **Here is the reclaiming of the earth. The dominion of the earth will be given to the saints. Righteous people will hold the offices; will fill places of trust and responsibility; will have a controlling voice in all that pertains to human affairs in God's kingdom.**

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- **“myriad” = 10,000 – highest number in the Greek language meaning an infinite number. So you have an infinite number times an infinite number.**
- Therefore the number is beyond calculation.
- As far as John can see.

Rev 5:8-14

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- **“voice” is singular. No one is late in hitting a note or a word, and no one is early. The timing of each voice with all other voices will be perfect.**
- Everything about their voice is perfect:
 - 4 qualities to a voice:
 - Substance
 - Mood
 - Tone
 - Word Choice
- The sound will be beyond spectacular.

The Ministry of Angels

1. **Worship and praise to God**—This is their main activity in Heaven (Isaiah 6:1-3; Revelation 4-5).
2. **Messengers**—They serve as messengers to communicate God's will to men. Examples –
 - they helped reveal the law to Moses (Acts 7:52-53).
 - They gave instructions to Joseph about the birth of Jesus (Matthew 1-2), to the women at the tomb, to Philip (Acts 8:26), and to Cornelis (Acts 10:1-8).
3. **Providers**—God used angels to provide physical needs such as food for Hagar (Genesis 21:17-20), Elijah (1 Kings 19:6), and Christ after His temptation (Matthew 4:11).
4. **Protectors**—Keeping God's people out of physical danger, as in the cases of Daniel and the lions, and his three friends in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3 and 6).
5. **Deliverers**—they delivered God's people out of danger. They released the apostles from prison in Acts 5, and Peter in Acts 12.

6. **Gave strength and encouragement**—Angels strengthened Jesus after His temptation (Matt 4:11), encouraged the apostles to keep preaching after releasing them from prison (Acts 5:19-20), and told Paul that everyone on his ship would survive the impending shipwreck (Acts 27:23-25).
7. **Answer prayer**—God often uses angels as His means of answering the prayers of His people (Daniel 9:20-24—Gabriel sent to Daniel; 10:10-12—Michael sent to Daniel; Acts 12:1-17—Peter released from prison).
8. **Caring for believers at the moment of death**—In the story of Lazarus and the rich man, we read that angels carried the spirit of Lazarus to “Abraham's bosom” when he died (Luke 16:22).
9. **Executioners**—Angels are sometimes used by God to punish sin. An angel of the Lord went forth and destroyed an Assyrian camp (2 Kings 19:20-34). At the time of Moses and the Exodus, the Egyptian firstborn were killed by angels.
10. **Ministers to the believers**—“Are they [angels] not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?” —Hebrews 1:14. The verb “minister” means to attend to the needs of someone.

Rev 5:8-14

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The Lamb is -

- **“worthy to receive power.”** Recognition for His omnipotence to be able to execute the Father’s plan.
- **“and riches”** Recognition for owning the wealth of the universe and now to reclaim it.
- **“and wisdom”** Recognition for His ability to perfectly execute the Father’s plan.
- **“and might”** Recognition for the use and demonstration of His power.
- **“and honor”** refers to the value and respect which is due to Christ because of Who He is and what He has and will accomplish for the glory of God.
- **“and glory”** refers to the public display of adoration that should be credited to Christ.
- **“and blessing.”** refers to the praise that should be given to the Lord because of His wonderful acts of redemption.

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***Endless blessing, endless honor, endless praise,
endless glory, and endless worship belong to
God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.***

5 Hymns of Praise – Rev. 4,5

#1 Rev 4:8

8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say,

"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY,
WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME. "

#2 Rev 4:10-11

10 the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

11 "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

#3 Rev 5:8-10 (Hymn + instrumentation)

8 When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

9 And they sang a new song, saying,

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10 "You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

#4 Rev 5:11-12

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#5 Rev 5:13

13 And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying,

"To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."

This final scene in heaven is a striking contrast to what is going to take place in chapters 6 to 19. In heaven, there is worship, contentment and joy. On earth, there is pain, suffering, anxiety, stress, horror, and fear.

Phil 1:23-24

23 But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better;

24 yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.



Michael Card
1957 -

Michael Card was born in Madison, Tennessee as the son of a doctor and grandson of a Baptist minister. He received Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Biblical Studies from Western Kentucky University, and was awarded the university's "Distinguished Alumni Award" in 1997. His studies in physics and astronomy allowed him to support himself while a student by working for six years at a planetarium. As of 2005, he is working on a Doctorate of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Classical Literature.

Card never intended to be a professional musician. He got his start when his professor and mentor, William L. Lane, asked Card to write some music to accompany weekly sermons at their church. His friend, musician Randy Scruggs, then asked him to record a demo tape so Scruggs could get a job as a producer. The record label agreed to hire Scruggs as long as his first project was to produce an album featuring Card. Since then Card has released nineteen original albums and at least six compilation albums.

Despite his success in music, Card has always maintained that his music career is secondary to his calling as a Bible teacher. He has at times distanced himself from the CCM industry by criticizing the promotion of personalities over musical content and the shifting emphasis away from God in order to sell more albums. Card's most famous song is "El Shaddai", which was recorded by Amy Grant as well as by Card himself. Other popular Card songs include "Immanuel", "Joy in the Journey", and "Heal Our Land". "Heal Our Land" was commissioned as the 1993 National Day of Prayer's theme song.

You Are Worthy

1. I wept, for none was worthy to open the scroll
Or to look upon what it contained
Then a voice said, "See the Lion of the Tribe of Judah"
So I looked to the Lion
And saw a Lamb that was slain
2. You are worthy to take up and open the scroll
For You are the Lamb that was slain
Glory and honor to the One on the throne
To the Lamb Who lives and reigns
3. Worthy is the Lamb that was slain
To receive power, wealth, wisdom, and strength
And honor and glory and praise evermore
Worthy is the Lamb that was slain
4. From every tribe and language
Every people and nation
Your blood purchased men for God
You won them a kingdom by Your salvation
And made them priests to serve our God
To serve our God