Bible Study # 99
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Book of Revelation Series—Revelation 19—22

It has taken us five and one-half years to complete, but we **are at the point of concluding this series of Bible studies this evening.** We **are down to the last four chapters of the last book, the book of Revelation.** I think we've had some of you who have been here for just about all of this. You've had the opportunity to go through the entire Bible, and that's good.

We've gone through the Bible in terms of books. After we've covered Bible study questions next time, I think we are going to get into a study of doctrines of the Bible. We will go into some things in that regard. No matter how many times you study the Bible, there's always more there that you can go back through, but this has given us an opportunity to go through it systematically.

There is one thing I would like to mention as we finish up the material for this evening. The last couple of Bible studies were focusing on the mid-section of Revelation—particularly the material involving the successions of the beast power and the things of that sort. The last time, as we were going through Revelation 17, we looked at the seven revivals of the Roman Empire that were to be dominated by the church—the woman of Revelation. Of course, that was pointed out on the chart that I handed out and in the Bible studies. That series of succession began with the Imperial Restoration in the west by Justinian (the Eastern Roman emperor) in 554 A.D. That is when the "deadly wound" was healed (Revelation 13:3). That's what's called the "Imperial Restoration."

Now, I would like to give you a little bit of background. We said that these were the specific revivals and the church dominated them. What is our basis of drawing that conclusion?

I have a couple of books I want to quote from. One is a volume entitled *The Age of Faith* by Will Durant. It's part of a multi-volume history. The other is an interesting book. It's entitled *The Bad Popes*. If they looked at all of them, perhaps the book could be longer than this, but it focuses in on seven medieval popes. It's not a religious attack on them. It focuses in on certain crisis periods of the medieval church. There are some interesting quotes. I will share a few of them with you.

When the Roman Empire collapsed in the West in 476 A.D. (if you look at your chart), that was prophetically called the "deadly wound." At that point, the Roman Empire became divided between two successor states: the Heruli under Odoacer (also known as Odovacar) and the Vandals.

The Vandals took over the southern part of Italy and North Africa. They had come through Rome a little earlier. What they did to Rome is why the word "vandal" is in our English vocabulary today. That was originally the name of the people, but what they did to Rome has sort of given meaning to their name. Now, we talk about people "vandalizing" things, which means they did "like the Vandals did." So, you can get a pretty good guess as to the way the Vandals did things. The Vandals wound up occupying the Western Roman Empire in terms of North Africa and up into the southern "boot" of Italy.

The Heruli under Odoacer came down and occupied the northern part of Italy and Rome. The Eastern Roman emperor recognized (he sort of de facto) those rulers as patricians and gave them a title and a rank. While they took the title "king" and ran the empire themselves, they continued the Latin language and many of the outward trappings of the Roman government. So, in that sense, they were a part of the Roman order but were greatly at odds with the papacy. The reason was that they were adherents, not to Catholicism, but to a particular brand of religion called Arianism. The Arians had certain heresies that they introduced. They were opposed to the doctrine of the trinity, which was fine, but their own explanation and approach in the other direction was just about as wrong as the Catholics. They introduced a different set of heresies.

The Vandals and the Heruli both claimed to be Christians but were Arians, not of Catholic persuasion. This, of course, was a considerable threat to the primacy of the bishop of Rome and the brand of Christianity to which he adhered. So, he besought Zeno, the emperor in the East (in Constantinople), to send troops to uproot and get rid of the Heruli and the Vandals. The emperor in the East didn't have any troops to send, but he paid the Ostrogoths (a Germanic people up north of Italy) to invade. They were also Arians. He paid them to invade and to cast out the Heruli, which they did.

His successor, Justinian, sent troops into North Africa at the behest of the pope and cast the Vandals out of North Africa. In the meantime, as Theodoric (who was the king of the Ostrogoths)

took over, the situation continued. Again, the papacy considered itself threatened. He appealed to the emperor Justinian. There was a war of about 18 years duration called the Gothic War that finally ended in 553 A.D. By that point, all three—the Vandals, Heruli and Ostrogoths—had been uprooted from the Western Roman Empire.

If you remember Daniel's vision, when he saw the seventh head (the Roman head of the beast), it had ten horns. Then there was a "little horn" that came up out of it that had the first three horns plucked up (Daniel 7:7-8). The "little horn" was the papacy, which at his behest had the first three successive states, the Vandals, Heruli and Ostrogoths, "plucked out" because their brand of Christianity was a different brand. They were Arians as opposed to Catholic in their doctrine. So, this was the case.

Then 554 A.D. is called the date of the "Imperial Restoration." Here is what the Imperial Restoration entailed. In 554 A.D., Justinian promulgated a decree. He had cast out the Vandals, Heruli and the Ostrogoths. How was he going to govern Italy? He promulgated a decree requiring that "fit and proper persons, able to administer the local government, be chosen as governors of the province by the bishop and chief persons of each province" (Durant, pp. 519-520).

The bishop of Rome was now given the "deal" that was cut. When Justinian cast out the Vandals, Heruli and the Ostrogoths, he acquiesced to the right of the pope to choose the rulers in Italy. In that sense, they were to be subservient, looking to him as emperor in the East, but the actual rule in Italy was to be done by those who were chosen by the pope. It marked the Imperial Restoration. The imperial powers—the powers of the Roman Empire—were restored. The power of the emperor was restored in the West.

That situation continued along for a short period of time. Justinian died and another group of people, called the Lombards, invaded Italy from the north. They invaded northern Italy and came down and took Rome. They were content to rule as vassals of the Roman emperor in the East, and they continued to send tribute to him. They were allowed to exercise power on behalf of the Eastern Roman Empire. This situation continued down.

Of course, the Imperial Restoration under Justinian was the first restoration. That continued for a period of time, and then an issue came up in 726 A.D. This is about 170 years later. Here is what arose.

This is quoting from the book entitled *The Bad Popes*, "The primitive Christians had attacked image worship as the work of the devil and there had been wholesale destruction of every type of idol when Christianity had at last triumphed. But over the succeeding centuries, the images crept back appearing under new names, but to the critical eye was an identical role [Which, of course, is exactly right; all the old pagan insignias continued.]. It was the Christians of the East who first began to feel that much of the pagan religion that their forefathers had destroyed at such cost in martyrs' blood was insensibly being restored. Disturbed by the mockery of the neighboring Muslims, a decree was issued."

Trouble came up. Let's come down. Roman emperor Leo, III solved the problem.

"In 726 A.D., the Eastern Roman emperor Leo, III, issued an edict commanding the breaking of all images throughout the empire in the West as well as the East." –The breaking of the idols.

Gregory II was pope. He was in the 11th year of his reign. He wrote two letters to the emperor defying the edict and urging him to return to "the true path." This meant idol worship. The result was that finally in 731 A.D., a decree was issued by the pope at Rome pronouncing to "excommunicate all those who would attack the images of the saints." Things had come to a head over the issue of idol worship. There was a decline of Byzantine power in the East. The pope sort of severed the situation when he excommunicated the emperor and his adherents to the East for wanting to break idols. Oh, that was terrible to break all these pretty images!

Now he was faced with difficulty because the Lombards were making the situation even worse. They were pouring in. He sought to the Franks, to a man by the name of Pippin. In 755 A.D., the pope made a long journey to the Frankish court and besought Pippin to come down. Pippin, who was king of the Franks, came in and drove out the Lombards. The situation continued along.

Pippin is not very well known, but his son, Charlemagne, is much better known. Fifty years later there continued to be problems. The Lombards were coming in and Rome was threatened. Finally, Charlemagne came in and cleaned out things.

I will read this quote, "Charlemagne had hastened to Rome at the appeal of Pope Leo, III, to put down a rebellion. In return, on Christmas day 800 A.D., Leo crowned him emperor of the West."

To give you a couple of details out of the other book, *The Age of Faith*, "Christmas day, Charlemagne, wearing the tunic and the sandals of a Roman patrician, knelt before St. Peter's altar in prayer. Leo suddenly produced a jewel crown and set it on the king's head. The congregation cried out, 'Hail to Charles the Augustus, crowned by God, the great peace-bringing emperor of the Romans.' The royal head was anointed with holy oil. The pope saluted Charlemagne as emperor and offered him the act of homage that had previously been reserved for the emperor in the East."

First, there was the resurrection under Justinian; now, the resurrection under Charlemagne. This created a problem because now there were two emperors. The emperor in the East was a little bit miffed at the fact that somebody else was claiming to be Roman emperor, but finally in 812 A.D. (12 years later), the Greek emperor recognized Charlemagne as co-emperor of the Romans; Charlemagne gave certain portions of Italy to the Eastern Empire.

A couple of other quotes, "Charlemagne and his advisors conceived of this new authority as a revival of the imperial power."

It was a revival, a restoration, of the Holy Roman Empire. That's what was taking place.

The situation continued. After Charlemagne's death, it says, "One hundred fifty years passed since Charlemagne had been crowned emperor of the West by the pope. During the century and a half, the crown of the empire had become the debased pretext for faction and war, even sort of a hollow title that continued on. Finally there were, again, invasions by revival of some of the Lombards and again invasions of Northern Italy. The pope again needed to look for a champion. This time he looked to Otto the Saxon German king. Otto came in, invaded Italy at the pope's behest and finally reached Rome in 961 A.D. and cast out the Lombards at the behest of the pope."

Then we are told, "Above the shrine of Peter, Otto knelt and received that crown, whose weight eventually crushed the crown of the German kingdom. On February 2, 961 A.D., the Holy Roman Empire came into being tying Italy and Germany together."

Otto was crowned. We could go through the other revivals. I am not going to go through them all, but you can come down to the Habsburgs ("Hapsburgs" in English). The final emperor to be crowned in the 1500s was Charles V. Charles the Great and the pope, having come in at his behest, again crowned the Habsburg emperor. You can go through the story of the crowning of Napoleon by the pope. The restorations of the empire are very much tied together. I think it is good to realize that even from secular sources we can document the outline that we have utilized.

Let's continue. We covered Revelation 18 last time. We covered the destruction of the Babylonian system as it is outlined here.

Revelation 19:1-4, "After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude [angels] in heaven, saying, 'Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power to the Lord our God! For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her.' Again they said, 'Alleluia! And her smoke rises up forever and ever!' And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, 'Amen! Alleluia!'"

Verses 7-9, "'Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.' And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, 'Write: "Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!"'…."

The bride represents the Church, the firstfruits, which are God's called out people. You could go through Hebrews 11 and start out with righteous Abel all the way down through Enoch, Noah, Abraham and down through the centuries, down through the New Testament era and all the way down to our time and the time immediately ahead of us. We are told that the wife has made herself ready. 'She is arrayed in fine linen, clean and white, which is the righteousness of the saints.'

The priests of ancient Israel wore white linen robes. Those things have significance. The white linen was symbolic of righteousness. We have to put on God's righteousness.

Psalm 119:172, "…all Your commandments are righteousness." It is righteousness that has to come from God because it's not just the commandments in the letter. It goes beyond the letter to the spirit of the law as Christ magnified and amplified it. Those who will be in the marriage supper are clothed with fine linen.

That is the danger being pointed out to the Laodiceans in Revelation 3.

Revelation 3:17, 'they are poor and wretched and miserable and naked and blind.' They have taken off their clothes and are too blind to know it. That's the problem you see.

Verse 18, they are told that they need two things: 'they need to anoint their eyes with eye salve that they can see, and they need to get some white garments that the shame of their nakedness may not be revealed.' What do they need to be covered with? –With righteousness! We are told that any Laodiceans who are going to be a part of this are clearly those who have gotten spiritual sight where they could see; you can't work on a problem you don't see. The most dangerous problems are the problems you don't see. You can never work on something you don't see. The greatest affliction of the Laodiceans is that they don't see their condition. They are spiritually blind to the state they are in because if they could see themselves for what they were, then they could work to rectify the rest of it. Any of the Laodiceans that are going to be in this group are: 1) those who have gained some spiritual sight to where they could take stock of themselves and see what Christ sees, and then 2) to have obtained spiritual garments from God to obtain righteousness.

The Church collectively is described symbolically as the bride of Christ. The firstfruits are at the marriage supper of the Lamb. John was overwhelmed with this.

Revelation 19:10, "And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, 'See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'"

Jesus provided the testimonies (witness) that is the spirit of prophecy. The spirit is what gives life. God breathed into Adam the breath of life or the spirit of life, and Adam became a living soul. He didn't *have* a soul; He *was* a soul. What gives life and animation to prophecy is the testimony of Jesus—that which Jesus Christ bore witness of. Of course, the book of Revelation together with Matthew 24 and the parallel accounts are the backbone of the prophetic witness that Jesus bore. Much of the book of Revelation is direct quotation from Jesus Christ.

Revelation 1:1, "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place." It was given as a revealing, as an unveiling.

Daniel 12:9-10, Daniel was told, "…'Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. …none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.'" It was intended to be opened up; that was the whole purpose. God didn't give all this section of the Scriptures (a third of the Bible) to have a padlock on it until after Christ returned. If that was the case, He could have saved Himself (and us) the trouble and the extra space in the Bible.

We can only understand prophecy in the context of the gospel message that Jesus Christ brought and the specific things that He gave which provide so much of a framework.

Revelation 19:11-13, "Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God."

"The Word of God" is a name that John uses throughout much of his writings in reference to Jesus Christ.

John 1:1-3, you read, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."

Verse 14, as you come down, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." The "Word of God" is a reference to Jesus Christ.

Revelation 19:14-16, "And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it he should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

Christ is going to have to strike (KJV, "smite") the nations. He is going to have to rule the nations with a rod of iron. Why? –Because at the time of His return, there are many that are still going to be rebellious. Human will is a very difficult thing to break, and it's the reason as to why many of these horrible events have to occur. Before you can come to a point of total and unconditional surrender to God, you have to come to a point where you recognize that your life, managed by you, is not good. Your life is unmanageable by you. You must admit that things are out of control and you can't fix it yourself. You have to be at the "end of your rope" to where you are ready to turn loose of self-will and unconditionally surrender.

It's interesting that in working with alcoholics, they say the first step an alcoholic has to take is to come to a point of admitting that they are powerless over their addiction and that their lives have become unmanageable. They have to recognize and accept the hopelessness of their condition. That is an interesting parallel because God draws a parallel with the world as on a spiritual drunk.

Revelation 17:2, "'with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.'" He says that all nations have become drunk on the wine of the great harlot. The world has been intoxicated with the false doctrines and teaching of the false religious system.

Behavior that is controlled by intoxication is behavior that is out of control. It's exaggerated. It lacks balance and proper perception. That's a pretty good description of the state of the world. It's out of control. Behavior and conduct is exaggerated. There is a lack of perception of what's normal and what's appropriate. The world is going to have to hit bottom. The world is going to have to come to a point where people are at the "end of their rope." They will have to finally come to take that first step and to realize that they are absolutely powerless to fix it because they don't know how to fix it.

People don't think that right now. Oh, they think, 'We have a new president in there and he's going to solve it. We have a new governor in; he'll fix it.' How many have we already had? How many of them have fixed it? How many presidents have we already had, and how many leaders do we have around the world that were going to fix it? Back in the 1950s, the nation of Somalia thought all it had to do was get its independence from France and their problems would be solved—they'd have independence and they'd have freedom.

Look around the world. In effect, the whole world is going to have to be in that sort of "basket-case" condition for people to realize it's not in man to direct his own steps.

Jeremiah 10:23, "…the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps."

That's why Christ is going to have to come back with a rod of iron.

Isaiah 66:2, he's not going to use the rod of iron on those who have a 'humble and contrite spirit and tremble at His word.' The rod of iron is reserved for those who are still puffed up and cocky and "nobody's going to tell me; I know what I am going to do" attitude. They are going to find out that God says, 'No, your time is over.' The sun will have set on man's six-day week. The millennial Sabbath will have started.

Revelation 19:16, God is going to say, 'Your time is over. Christ is coming back as King of kings and Lord of lords.'

Revelation 19:19, "And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army." These armies have converged at Armageddon; suddenly they are going to turn their weapons on the returning Jesus Christ. This sort of reminds you of Psalm 2.

Psalm 2:4, "He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; …." You know, little puny man!

They are going to come together. You know what Christ is going to do?

Revelation 19:20, He's going to pick up the beast and the false prophet. He will carry them and throw them alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. Suddenly, the emptiness of that system is going to be shown. These two individuals, the beast and the false prophet that ride atop of it, are going to be picked up and cast in that lake of fire.

Evidently, this lake of fire is in the Valley of Hinnom outside of Jerusalem. It is between Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives, known in New Testament parlance as Gehenna.

There's a great earthquake that's going to hit at the time of Christ's actual return. The Mount of Olives splits in two (Zechariah 14:4-5)—tremendous earthquake activity.

Where are you going to get a lake of fire? That sounds like some sort of volcanic activity or something of that sort. A vast crater opens up and all of this bubbling, molten magma begins to come up. Instead of spewing out, it's just going to be coming up and bubbling up. We know there are things like that on earth. There are geysers that come up under tremendous pressure and all sorts of things.

When this gigantic earthquake hits, it's going to shift things around in such a way that there is actually going to be a lake of fire that is going to be there in this valley outside Jerusalem. The first two candidates for it are the beast and the false prophet. That sort of gets everybody else's attention. By the time the armies are consumed and the beast and false prophet are thrown in the lake of fire, then it's a matter of looking around and saying, 'Okay, anybody else have any questions?'

All of a sudden, you are going to find that everybody is in a listening mode. Rebellion is not going to be tolerated. This lake burning with fire is going to be there throughout the Millennium. It will be there as a symbol of what's going to happen to individuals who are incorrigible, individuals who cannot be taught and will not submit.

Evidently, these two are the only ones tossed into this lake of fire at this time because the armies are consumed. They are literally consumed by the birds, by the buzzards and things of that sort. In fact, you can go back in other scriptures and find that there's going to be other things that come in. In one case, there's going to be an invasion and it takes seven months to clean up after that and to do all the burial (Ezekiel 39:11-14).

When Jesus Christ returns there are these great dramatic events that surround His return.

Revelation 20:1, "Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit [The bottomless pit is a great chasm as far down as can be imagined or measured; there's no discernable bottom, certainly, by human beings.] and a great chain in his hand."

Verses 2-3, "He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, …." This is not the lake of fire. It's a bottomless pit.

We read in Revelation 18:2 that when Rome is destroyed in these atomic blasts, there is a great crater that is left that becomes the habitation of every demon and every foul spirit. So, this is clearly the bottomless pit. There are caverns that are uncovered there that stretch down into the depths of the earth. Satan and his demons are confined there. They are not confined physically in the sense they couldn't get out; they are confined to that geographic location and are not able to get out because God doesn't allow them out. Undoubtedly, God places angels there and Satan is not allowed to come out throughout this thousand years.

Verses 3-6, continuing "…and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."

It's interesting that this is the first place in the Scriptures that clearly defines the reign of the Messiah as being of one thousand-year duration.

There is a brief allusion in Psalm 90:4. The term "thousand years" is mentioned, but it's a very vague poetic allusion. Peter quotes and paraphrases this section from Psalm 90 in 2 Peter 3:3-9 where he talks about scoffers thinking that the Lord delays His coming, that all things continue as they were and it's way off somewhere. They think it's remote and God's not going to intervene.

Peter goes through in 2 Peter and outlines it in a more definitive way. He gives a much clearer allusion to the fact of the parallels between the thousand years as with a day in God's plan. When you put it together with the allusions of the Old Testament to the reign of the Messiah being like a Sabbath, you certainly get an implication.

Isaiah 14:7 and other places allude to that. You get something that's implied, but you don't get a real clear-cut statement that the time of the Messiah is one thousand years. Peter explains and draws the allusion of the week—"one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years is as one day." The Jews, to whom Peter wrote, were very familiar with the fact that the time of the Messiah was compared to a Sabbath.

Isaiah 14:7, "'The whole earth is at rest and quiet; they break forth into singing.'" That is the expression that is used. The whole earth is at rest or is observing a Sabbath because the word "Sabbath" is the Hebrew word for "rest." The whole world is Sabbatizing and they break forth into singing.

The allusion was understood, but you have to get to Revelation 20 (the very end of the Bible) before God really spells it out clearly. There is a progressive revealing of truth. But the progressive revealing is in the Bible.

A lot of worldly religions think the progressive revealing is the fact that the Bible was fine for its day, but as time goes on, people become a little smarter and they figure out a little more. The Catholics take that approach. That's the way they

justify changing up the Bible with their own tradition. When they talk about progressive revelation, they mean that every generation understands things a little differently; each generation's experience sort of adds to it and God reveals through that.

God's revelation to man is complete in the Bible. Progressive revelation, from a Biblical standpoint, is the fact that God didn't tell everything there was to reveal in Genesis. You have to get to the book of Revelation before you get the end of the story. There is a progressive revelation, but the progressive revelation is between Genesis 1:1 and Revelation 22. There are more details that are continually added through the story, and when you get to the end of Revelation, we have everything we need.

We are going to notice that a little later. There's not some other revelation apart from the Bible. There may be deeper understandings of the Bible. But many of the Protestants believe that Biblical revelation isn't enough.

The flak going on today is that a lot of pressure is on the Catholic Church about ordaining women to the priesthood, and the same issue has come up in many of the Protestant churches. Their concept is that Biblical revelation isn't enough. They say, 'They didn't do it back then, but we have progressed a lot. Obviously, God should have changed with the times, has changed with the times and He would do it now. He just didn't do it back then.' The Bible is not where they go.

The Catholics are sort of in a "pickle" on it because they don't want to ordain women. But if you will notice, they don't quote Scripture as proof. They just say they have the model that Christ didn't choose any women for the 12 apostles, and they lay claim to the apostolic succession. They don't quote Scripture. They don't quote 1 Corinthians 14:34 and others about women not preaching in the churches. The reason is because…

[Editorial Comment: Some wording was lost when the tape was turned over.]

…sort of inference from other things and ignore the plain teachings of Scripture on it. They don't call on the strongest verses because if they started calling on verses to prove that, then people would pretty soon start calling on verses to prove a lot of other things, like images in the church and things of that sort. They don't want to get into having to cite chapter and verse on things.

The mindset of people tells us a little bit of the way people look at things. What it amounts to is people are reading contemporary culture back into the Bible. They operate under the illusion that somehow everything that is changed in human culture represents progress.

2 Timothy 3:13, well, the Bible says, "But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." The Bible doesn't teach historical progress in the sense of moral and cultural progress. It prophesizes that there would be technological progress, but there's a vast difference between technological progress and moral and cultural progress.

Some people say the solution to all the problems is education. It's interesting. Do you know what the first totally literate society in history was? In the late 19th century, Germany had total literacy—and they also had Adolph Hitler. Education didn't solve all their problems. Everybody in Germany could read and write. They prided themselves in being the first totally literate society. They had total, 100 percent, literacy. It's not a matter of if you can read; it's what you read. If you were reading Hitler's *Mein Kampf* rather than the Bible, you'd be better off if you couldn't read.

The whole foundation underlying the world's approach is faulty. The whole foundation on which our society is built is faulty. In Ezekiel 13:14, it talks about the foundations being uncovered. They are going to be uncovered and shown the hallow shells that they are.

We are going to reign for a thousand years. We could go back to the Old Testament and go through a lot of things about what those thousand years are going to be like. Revelation does not give us those details because they are found elsewhere.

Revelation provides the testimony of Jesus Christ, which is the spirit of prophecy (Revelation 19:10). It gives us a means of putting everything else together and making sense of it. If you had the book of Isaiah and you didn't have the book of Revelation, you wouldn't be able to put it together in terms of what's going to happen—when and what these periods are going to be. You'd know that there was a time of the Messiah, but you wouldn't know when and you wouldn't know after what.

If you go through some of the Old Testament prophesies, in some of these books you find a chapter here that talks about "this," and then it skips over to "something else." It does not go through sequentially; it's topical. It will talk about the Tribulation here, and it will talk about

the Millennium there. Then it will talk about the Day of the Lord, then about the Tribulation again, and then about something else. It just kind of hops, skips and jumps around.

When you understand the book of Revelation, then you have a framework. You can go back and plug in those chapters where they fit because you have a framework of a sequence of events. You have to have the book of Revelation to understand the sequence of events, and you have to have Matthew 24 to understand the book of Revelation. That's where the seals are opened up. It gives a broad outline. Now, there are details we are not going to understand until we get right down to the time. We will understand at the appropriate time, but there's a broad outline, and the closer we get to the events, the more details we will understand.

Revelation 20:7-8, "Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, …." This is Gog and Magog spiritually because Gog and Magog physically are in one corner of the earth over in the East.

You read in the book of Ezekiel (Ezekiel 38) that just a few years into the Millennium there is an invasion of the Middle East from the areas of the Far East—Gog and Magog, the areas of what used to be called Soviet Central Asia, China, Mongolia, up into Siberia, some of the vast gigantic areas of the East. They are going to come in at the beginning of the Millennium and they are going to have to be put to a stop.

At the end of the Millennium when Satan goes out to deceive the nations, they are spiritually Gog and Magog. In other words, these are people at the end of the Millennium that still have the same mindset that some did at the beginning. The ones at the beginning haven't learned yet. They are going to be resurrected and dealt with.

God is going to have to get their attention. Nothing can get their attention so much as being struck dead. Then when they wake up, they'll be ready to listen. Christ can do that. He wakes them up and says, 'Alright, now that I have your attention, let Me explain some things to you.' All of a sudden, they are very receptive.

Here are these people at the end of the Millennium; spiritually speaking, they are still in this attitude.

Verse 8, continuing, "…to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea." It's an undefined number. It gives the idea that there will be a number of them.

Satan is loosed. God does things to test His people. God ultimately sets a choice before everyone.

Deuteronomy 30:19, Moses told Israel, "'…I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, …'" God said, 'I set before you a choice.' And He even told them what to choose. God gives us a choice, but He tells us what to choose. He defines what the choice is. He says, 'I set before you a choice—good and evil, life and death.'

Verse 19, continuing, "…choose life, that you and your descendants may live…" God compelled them to choose.

It's easy to go along when all the pressures are that way. But how much is internalized? It's an incredible thing. We read this, and I am amazed every time I read it because during the Millennium, people are going to have the Bible. They are going to be taught out of the Bible. They are going to read this in the Bible, so how in the world could somebody be deceived? They will have been reading in Revelation 20 how Satan is going to be turned loose at the end of the Millennium and he's going to deceive the people. How could people be deceived?

Brethren, there are prophecies in the Scriptures. There are prophecies in Jude and 2 Peter and other places about deception that is going to occur. There are many warnings to the Church in the Bible.

Matthew 24:48-50, Jesus mentions, "'But if that evil servant says in his heart, "My master is delaying his coming," and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of…'"

I can remember reading that scripture years ago and wondering, 'How in the world? The closer we get to the time, why would anybody say, "My Lord delays His coming"? How would that scripture apply to anybody? How could people in the Church wind up doing that?'

There are warnings that are there. It's amazing how we can sometimes be blindsided. The real key comes down to what we are internalizing—what we are putting in ourselves and to what extent we are walking with God personally. Are we going along in order to get along? Going with the flow is one thing, but it's a vastly different thing from walking with God. It's vastly different.

God is going to put us in situations. He wants it clearly evidence how many of us are simply

going along in order to get along and how many of us are walking with Him.

It's going to come up at the end of the Millennium. A lot of people are going along. As long as the devil is locked up, they'll go along. They are not giving any trouble. But when Satan is loosed, they are receptive to it. They get caught up in it. That should be a lesson for all of us.

Revelation 20:9, "They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city [This is evidently referring to Jerusalem.]. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them."

Verse 10, "And the devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*." If you have a King James or New King James Bible, notice the "are." It says, "…where the beast and the false prophet *are*." You'll notice the word "are" is in italics. There's no verb in the Greek. "The beast and the false prophet" simply modify "the lake of fire and brimstone." The emphasis in the verse is that the devil is cast into the same lake of fire that the beast and the false prophet were thrown into a thousand years earlier.

Now the translators, operating under the illusion that man has an immortal soul, supplied the word "are" to make it more readable in English because they assume the beast and the false prophet were still there. But that's reading something into the Bible. The Bible just defines the fact that the devil is thrown into the same lake of fire the beast and the false prophet were thrown into a thousand years earlier. You have to go elsewhere in the Bible to find out what happened to the beast and the false prophet.

Ezekiel 18:4, you're told, "'…the soul who sins shall die.'" The beast and the false prophet died. They were burned up. The devil doesn't burn up. He's just thrown into the same lake of fire that they were thrown into earlier.

Revelation 20:10, continuing, "…And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever." He's going to be tormented. He'll be tormented because he's spirit. He is not tormented by the fire; it's not that the fire burns him. He's tormented because he is going to see the destruction of everything for which he worked.

The book of Jude indicates that he and the demons ultimately are going to be exiled into some further reach of outer space.

Jude 13, they are referred to as, "…wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever." –Perhaps some black hole out there somewhere. Science thinks they have discovered black holes in the universe. They don't know what they are for. Perhaps that's what they are for.

He's going to be cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:11-12, "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened [The books of the Bible are opened.]. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books."

Verses 13-14, "The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." This is a period of judgment at the end.

I went into that in detail in Pensacola, Florida on the morning of the Last Great Day, so I am not going to go back into detail this evening for lack of time.

This culminates God's working with man. At this point, every human being who has ever lived has had an opportunity for salvation. They have either accepted that opportunity or have rejected it. At the end of this time, whoever is not found written in the Book of Life is cast into the lake of fire. The Book of Life is opened again at the beginning of this time when the dead, the small and great, are raised. The first resurrection is better (Hebrew 11:35) because if you are raised in the first resurrection, you're raised to immortality. You don't have to worry about a second death. There is a mortal resurrection and a second death. The Book of Life is opened so that there is a choice. At that point, you have an opportunity to either have your name written in or not. At the end of this period of judgment, if your name isn't in there, you go into the lake of fire. If your name is in there, then you enter into life.

2 Peter 3:12, Peter describes, "…the heavens will be dissolved being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?" The earth is purged with fire. The earth will have been cleansed twice: once by water and once by fire. It was cleansed by water in the days of Noah; it will be cleansed by fire in the future. You can wash something with water, but you have to use fire in order to sterilize it. God is, in effect, going to sterilize the earth because everything that has ever in any way been tainted with sin is obliterated. The only

thing that survives is that which has been made spirit.

Revelation 21:1, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea." The sea was totally vaporized when the earth burned. All of the elements melted with a fervent heat.

If you do a little reading in science, you'll find out what kind of temperatures we are talking about where literally the air catches fire. Exactly what transpires and the things involved in that is just an amazing thing.

Verses 2-5, "Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.' Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I made all things new' And He said to me, 'Write, for these words are true and faithful.'"

New Jerusalem comes down. That is compared to a bride because that's going to be the dwelling place for the bride of Christ—the Church. The Church was married to Christ a thousand years earlier (Revelation 19:7-9). When the New Jerusalem that's adorned like a bride comes down, that will be the dwelling place of the Church, of the firstfruits. The rest of the earth will be inhabited by all of the other billions that have come into the God Family. We will see that as we come down.

Verse 6, this is a time when all who are there will have free access to the water of life. It's a time of eternal life.

Verse 7, we are told, "'He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.'"

Verse 8, those who won't be there are mentioned, "'But the cowardly [KJV, "fearful"], unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.'"

The fearful are the first mentioned. Everyone has fears. This is not saying that if you are ever afraid of anything you won't be in the Kingdom. Why are the fearful excluded? These are people who don't simply have fears. Everybody has fears. What do your fears do?

Remember Israel who came out of Egypt. Why didn't that generation enter the Promised Land? –Because they were afraid to follow where God led. The spies came back and told them about the giants. Their fears paralyzed them and they wouldn't follow where the Spirit led (Numbers 13:31-33; Numbers 14:1-9).

God had been leading them. Remember? –A pillar of fire by night and a cloud by day (Exodus 14:19-20). They wouldn't follow.

You can't get into the Kingdom if you won't follow God. You can't get there if you quit going. When fear takes control, it produces either paralysis or panic. Everybody has fears, but what do our fears do? As long as we keep following God, keep putting one foot in front of the other and following Him, we will get there. These are things that keep people out. They are being paralyzed or panicked by their fears and turning away from God.

"The unbelieving [They do not believe God.], abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers.'" The Greek word is "pharmakon" or "pharmakeia." It would certainly include the whole realm of the drug culture and the terribly devastating spiritual effects that something like that has.

"Idolaters, and all liars.'" People can't hold on to those patterns of conduct and be in the Kingdom. That's not what God wants to perpetuate forever. We have to be willing to follow Him. We have to believe Him. We have to be willing to change the way we live, think and act. It doesn't mean that we attain perfection in the flesh on our own strength. It means that we don't want to hold on to the world's way. We put those things to death.

Verses 9-10, "Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, 'Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.' And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God…"

Jerusalem is the dwelling place of the bride.

Verse 11, "having the glory of God. And her light was like a most precious stone, like jasper stone, clear as crystal." It's described here.

Verse 12, "Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel…"

God had a plan from the beginning. In the book of Genesis, you read that Jacob had 12 sons. In the book of Revelation, you read that the New Jerusalem has 12 gates named for those 12 sons. It's not an accident that Jacob had 12 sons. God didn't look down one day and notice this guy had 12 sons and was so impressed with that, He decided to build a city and name the gates after them. God had a plan in mind from the beginning.

Why were there 12 tribes of Israel? Why are there different branches of the human family? Why are there different races and ethnic groups? Why are some of these things? Is it accident? Is it evolution? No, God had a plan in mind. Before He ever started He knew where He was going to end up.

God had a Family in mind—a great universe-ruling Family that is organized and has a structure to it. The whole structure is a family structure.

When God placed animals on the earth, we are not told that God originally created a male lion and a female lion and that all the lions that ever existed descended from them. Or that back in the Garden of Eden, God made only one bull and one cow and that every cow on earth is descended from those two. There's no indication that God did that or that God only created two fish or whatever it was.

But God created two people, a man and a woman. Why? It's not important that all the dogs be related or that all the lions be related, but God is building a Family. He could have created many different people. He could have created 1,000 people simultaneously and put them in groups in different places. He chose to start with two because it was His purpose that every human being that would ever live be a part of the same family descended from Adam and Eve. We are all part of the same family, one family grown great. God made Adam and Eve.

Your children bear whatever heritage you have. That's just the way we are. If a man and a woman are Oriental and they get married and have children, their children have Oriental heritage and appearance. If two people are white, if two people are black or whatever it may be, God built that in. God did it in a way people would have never thought of. It was important that everybody be related. We all go back to Adam and Eve. We are all part of one family because God is building a Family. There's a family relationship. God designed it that way.

But He built in something unusual. He built in the genetic heritage in the ovum that was inside Eve's body. He built in the genetic blueprint to give rise to all of the different races and groups because that was a part of God's plan, too. It was His plan that there would be one family that would sub-divide into various other families but would be a part of the same family.

Verse 24, it's interesting because we can see as we come down a little bit further, "And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light [speaking of the New Jerusalem], …." The Greek word for "the nations" is "*ethnos*." That's part of the organizational structure. The Church—the bride, the firstfruits—which is called out of every nation, is going to be there in the New Jerusalem. But then all the other millions and billions that come in after the firstfruits are described as being structured using the family patterns because all of the various ethnic groupings are just branches of the same family. It's like one family.

Can you imagine the White Throne Judgment? It will be like a giant family reunion. When people are resurrected in one particular area, you will literally be able to line it up. Here is old Grandpa and Grandma. They are the progenitors of this whole branch of the family. You have the next generation, the next generation, the next generation, perhaps coming down for 20, 30, 40 generations. All these generations come down; it all comes down.

There's a family structure that God has built in. God is building a Family. He has devised things to where there is a family structure that is built in, over and over and over because the family ultimately originates with God. God created the first two human parents. They gave rise to everyone else, and that is subdivided into various identifiable families. Those families maintained identity and come down as various families. All ultimately become a part of one spiritual family. We started out as one physical family, and we wind up bound together as one spiritual family.

God knew where He was going before He ever started. It's not an accident. It's not happenstance; it's not blind chance or evolution. God had a destination in mind. It's not going to be some giant mob scene where He has billions of people sort of swarming around. There's structure and there's organization.

The whole topography of the earth has changed at this point.

Verse 16, we are told the city is 12,000 furlongs for length, breadth and height. Twelve thousand furlongs is like 1,500 miles. That is centered evidently where Jerusalem is today, but the

whole topography of that area has totally changed.

Here's a city that stretches 1,500 miles. That's like from El Paso, Texas to Atlanta, Georgia. That's 1,600 miles. That is a vast area. If you took something 1,500 square miles and set it down in the United States, it would take up almost half the country; between a third and a half of the whole country would be taken up by a city that size.

Verse 17, the wall around it is 216 feet in height. That's like a 21-story building that surrounds it. This is going to be an incredible city.

Verse 21, there are streets of gold and brilliance. The gold is translucent. It's almost like you can see through it and, yet, it's gold.

Verse 14, it describes the foundations that are visible, the stones that are there and the 12 apostles have their names in the foundation. It's not an accident that there were 12 apostles. It's not that Christ couldn't find 15 or something else. There was a structure that's built in. Twelve is the number of organization. God structures His whole government on the number 12. His Family into eternity is structured on the number 12.

Verses 12-13, we are told there are 12 gates. The gates are the access to the city. There are 12 gates and each gate is a giant pearl (v. 21). It is just incredible. These gates of pearl—can you imagine a pearl that's equivalent to 21 stories tall? It's a vastly incredible thing. It so boggles our minds that we can't even imagine it.

Verse 25, "Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there)." God, Himself, is there. The brilliance of the Father, of Christ and of the firstfruits is there. This is a brilliant glowing place, a city like you have never seen.

There are 12 gates, so that means everybody who enters into the presence of God in the New Jerusalem comes in through one of the 12 gates. That's a structure based on the 12 tribes. Everybody is assigned to one of the 12 gates, to one of the 12 tribes. Everybody has free access to come and go because everybody is part of the Family.

The whole earth is transformed. There must be smaller versions of this city all over.

A garden spot, that we cannot begin to imagine, has been made the headquarters of the universe. There's a government structure that starts with the firstfruits. The structure that God has imposed stretches to all humanity as a part of a great extended family structure. God is building a Family. There is a universe into which we will expand with the New Jerusalem serving as the headquarters. Why are there so many stars? How many of them have their own solar systems? We don't know. Why is all this spread out there? We are told that God will put all things under our feet.

Hebrews 2:8, "'You have put all things in subjection under his feet.' For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him." The Moffatt translation renders "all things," "the universe." We are told He has not withheld anything. Here we are in this vast plan.

Revelation 22:1, "And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb."

Verse 2, we see the tree of life here.

Verse 3, there's no more curse.

The book of Revelation provides the answer to what we encounter in the book of Genesis. In the book of Genesis curses are introduced. First came sin and then came curses. God provides the solution to sin. When He solves the problem of sin, He solves the problem of pain and sorrow. The curse that came upon mankind will be removed. It's amazing how Genesis and Revelation correspond when you put them together.

Here are two books written in two different languages, composed across a time span of over 16 centuries; yet, they so perfectly correspond together. They are written by two men in totally different cultures, totally different languages, separated by a period of 16 centuries. Sixteen centuries ago was the fall of Rome. That's a long time.

Genesis opens with the garden. It opens with the river, with the tree of life, with man being expelled, being cut off from God and being denied access to the tree. It introduces the curse.

Here in the book of Revelation, we read of a reversal of all those things.

Verses 3-7, "And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. And there shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. Then he said to me, 'These words are faithful and true.' And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. 'Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.'"

John was so overwhelmed.

Verses 8-14, "Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. Then he said to me, 'See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.' And he said to me, 'Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still. And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last. Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.'"

The way to have access is through keeping the commandments, "Blessed are those who do His commandments." If Christ did away with the commandments, why is the very last thing we are told in the book of Revelation, "Blessed are those who do His commandments." If you want to be blessed, you need to keep the commandments. People think the commandments were nailed to the cross.

It's interesting. What's the last thing God tells us in the Old Testament, right before it starts the New Testament?

Malachi 4:4, "'Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.'"

Immediately, people turn the page. They get to the book of Matthew and they say, 'Well, we can certainly forget the law of God, the Law of Moses which was commanded in Horeb.' The last thing God tells us in the Old Testament, "Remember the Law of Moses My servant, which I commanded him in Horeb."

You get to the book of Revelation (the last book of the Bible) and you find that the saved are singing the song of Moses (Revelation 15:3-4).

The last thing He says now, "Blessed are those who do His commandments." They will be the ones who have access to the tree of life and enter into the gates and into the city.

Verse 15, "But outside [KJV, "without"] are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie." The outside is excluded—not that these are sort of outside the wall, but "without" in the sense of excluded, not a part of them. "Dogs" is a slang term referring to "false prophets." It originally referred to "male prostitutes." It was a Hebrew slang-term in that way. Then it became a term that the Jews used to make reference to false prophets who, in a sense, sold themselves for hire. You know, preach "whatever" for a price.

Verse 16, "'I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.'" He is the Root from which David sprang and the Offspring, in the sense of the descendant.

Verse 17, this is the time when everyone who is thirsty can come and drink of the water of life.

Verses 18-21, "For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming quickly.' Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."

The scripture clearly shows that the book of Revelation is to be the finality, the capstone of the Bible. There's no room to add anything. You don't add anything else to the Bible.

There's no room for the book of Mormon or something else that was purported to be some later revelation. There's no room to add on some other revelation later. The book of Revelation is the end. That's the concluding part of the Bible.

When you come to the end of the book of Revelation, you obviously have come to the end of the story. You are on the brink of eternity. You are standing on the threshold of eternity as a part of the Family of God. Everything you need to know to be a part of the Family is given. Our minds can't fully grasp and comprehend all the details of what it's going to be like to be a part of that Family, but you see, if we get this far, the rest of it is taken care of. We have everything we need to know to get this far.

"He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming quickly.'" He is going to come. He is going to bring to culmination the very plan and purpose of God. We have it outlined here for us.

I hope that this has been a helpful series for you, as we have gone through, concluding now with the book of Revelation and wrapping up

our Bible study series. With that, we will be concluded.

I see we have an announcement:

Mr. Rice: Mr. Ogwyn, on behalf of the Lafayette congregation, they asked me to present this card for all of your dedication and hard work in presenting this Bible study series and for the many years of hard work. They have a reception planned after Bible study.

Mr. Ogwyn: I don't get caught speechless very often, but thank you very, very much. That's…very pleased, thank you.