

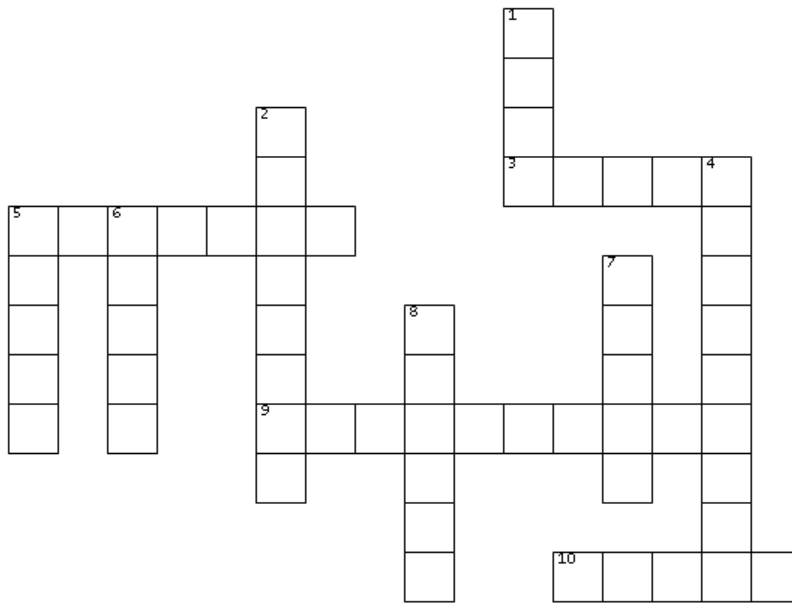
Revelation
Lessons 29-30
Revelation 17

Memory Verse – Revelation 22:16 – *“I Jesus have sent mine _____ to testify unto you these things in the _____. I am the root and the offspring of _____, and the bright and morning _____.”*

Memory Verse for the Next Lesson – Revelation 22:17 – *“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”*

Passage to Read for the Next Lesson – Revelation 18 (Notice Lessons 31 and 32 will be combined.)

Review – Taken from Revelation 16



ACROSS

3. The voice from under the _____ is probably from the martyred saints mentioned in Revelation 6:9-11.
5. The city of _____ comes up in the mind of God as especially deserving His judgment. (Revelation 16:19)
9. The _____ that began with the seventh bowl is like nothing ever experienced before. (Revelation 16:18)
10. Only the realm of the _____ experiences the darkness. (Revelation 16:10)

DOWN

1. The word _____ can be substituted for the word "great."
2. Even when _____ by the sun, people still refuse to give God the glory that is His due as Creator. (Revelation 16:9)
4. Even in his wrath, God's judgments are called _____ in Revelation 16:5.
5. Because they had shed so much of this during the Tribulation, people must drink water that looks like _____. (Revelation 16:5-6)
6. The "vials" of Revelation 16 are really _____.
7. This word is used 11 times in Revelation 16.
8. The sixth bowl includes "spirits of devils" sent out to _____ the nations to Armageddon. (Revelation 16:14)

Revelation 17:1-18

Revelation 16:19's "...and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath..." requires some explanation. Thus chapters 17 and 18. What exactly has Babylon done to be singled out among all the cities of the world for this kind of attention?

Chapter 17 deals with what the city represents (her sin), and Chapter 18 deals with the city's destruction (her judgment).

Revelation 17:1-2

The imagery used in this chapter is not pleasant, but it is instructive. A harlot lures men away from their covenant relationship with their wives – not for love but for gain. Throughout this chapter the harlot seems to represent idol worship. According to this imagery, instead of properly worshipping the Creator, idols are worshipped. The kings represent political power; the harlot represents idolatry.

Revelation 17:3-6

These verses contain a description of the harlot. The first is that she sits on the back of the beast. This seems to represent an alliance between false religion and political power. Idolatry that is supported by the power of the civil government is of benefit to both. The name "Babylon" reminds us of Genesis 11:1-9 where this kind of alliance was first described. With the power and permission of the civil government, false religion institutes fierce persecution against the saints.

Revelation 17:7-13

Although these verses are meant to reveal valuable information on the vision John sees, there are many interpretations of their meaning. Suffice it to say that the beast is the one who uses and benefits the most from these alliances (Rev. 17:13).

Revelation 17:14

The alliance of civil government and idolatry is made possible because they have a common enemy – God and His saints. The book of Revelation reveals the final outcome of that struggle – God wins.

Revelation 17:15-18

This alliance is only seen today on a small scale compared to what is to come during the Seventieth Week of Daniel (the Tribulation). Once civil government is finished using false religion, it will turn on its former ally and destroy it.