



Hunger For Truth

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HUNGER FOR TRUTH
MINISTRIES

Proverbs 7:2 – Matthew 5:6 – John 8:32 – II Timothy 3:16-17 – Hebrews 4:12
“Let us Hunger For Truth”

Please note that back issues of Hunger For Truth are viewable and printable at:
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It is our desire that Hunger For Truth edifies, blesses and encourages you in your walk with the Lord. Thank you all for taking the time to read this and for your prayers for us. We greatly appreciate your comments and we praise God for each and every one of you.

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The Book of Revelation (Chapter 17) (Dr. Thomas Strouse)

The following is **part 17** of a study on the book of Revelation by Dr. Thomas Strouse who is Pastor of Bible Baptist Church and Theological Seminary in Cromwell, CT (www.bbc-cromwell.org). It is a syllabus written by Dr. Strouse. It is the HFT editors desire that this study helps you grasp the deep truths within this incredible book! Please look for a chapter from this syllabus posted in upcoming issues of Hunger For Truth. We trust this will be edifying and convicting as well as a blessing and encouragement to readers. Thank you for reading. We praise God for the privilege of being able to share this study with you. May God richly bless!

The Book of Revelation / Thomas M. Strouse / Revelation 17
CHAPTER 17

Background

The vision describes the Lord's wrath upon the ecclesiastical and political forms of the Babylonian system of Satan. This parenthetical interlude of chapters 17 and 18 summarizes the judgment on the Antichrist's system from the mid-point of the Tribulation, and connects chapter 16 with chapter 19.

Exposition

Rev. 17:1-18

The Vision (Rev. 17:1-6)

The woman in the vision, in contrast to the woman of chapter 12, will be the harlot church of the ecumenical movement, having embraced the pagan babylonianism. The ecumenical movement of all world religions will persecute believers unto death.

The Interpretation (Rev. 17:7-18)

The angel revealed the mystery of the woman, who will be the religious system headed up by the Antichrist. Babylonianism was the religion of five fallen kings (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, and Greece), the one current king (Roman), and the one coming king (revived Roman system). At the outset of the Great Tribulation, when the Antichrist will demand to be worshiped, the kings will hate the harlot religion and worship the satanic beast.

Theological Concerns

Satan's religion has not changed in over 6000 years. As the founder of pantheism, he offered deathlessness ("reincarnation") and deification ("humanism") to Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:4-6). All world religions (and hence babylonianism) may be reduced down to these two common tenets of satanic religion. He will pose as the first reincarnated god-man, represented by the "perfect" 666.

Textual Issues

Rev. 17:4—some MSS omit "*her fornication.*"

Summary of Chapter Seventeen

The Lord's judgment on religious Babylon is allowing it to run her course and culminating in satanic worship by her devotees.

Salvation is Free, but not Easy (By: Bro. Tim Dunkin)

"And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!" (Mark 10:24)

It is not uncommon to hear easy believers and others who reject biblical repentance make statements along the line of, "It's easy to be saved!" or, "salvation is easy!" Those who use these kinds of phrases will then try to claim that those who hold to biblical repentance, i.e. those who believe the Scriptural truth that lost

sinner must turn FROM sin and TO God to be saved, are “making it hard” for people to get saved or are “throwing up roadblocks” against souls. This sort of argument is the result of a loose approach to the Scriptures, one which tries to confute the concept of salvation being “free” for it being “easy.”

The fact of the matter is that salvation is not easy. I will get to what I mean by this in just a moment. However, I first want to make very clear that saying that salvation is not easy is NOT the same thing as saying that it is not free, nor is it teaching “works salvation.” Very clearly, the Scriptures teach that salvation is free. There is no work or law that can be done or kept that will “earn” salvation. Salvation is a FREE gift given to whosoever will call upon the Lord in repentance and put their faith and trust in Him. Salvation, justification from sin, is completely and totally the result of God’s unmerited favour and grace toward the lost soul which turns to Him,

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.” (Titus 3:5)

“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.” (Galatians 2:16)

“But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.” (Romans 4:5)

And so many more verses could be given that prove the Biblical truth of salvation by grace through faith.

However, when we talk about the question of whether salvation is “easy,” grace and faith are not really what we’re talking about, despite the efforts by the easy believers to confute the two notions.

“Easy” salvation is a concept that exists in our modern society because it appeals to the fleshly desires of modern Americans (and others). Ours is a society that wants everything “easy.” We want to be able to get our meals in minutes; we want to be able to surf the internet, do our banking, shop, and everything else at the touch of a button on a Smartphone. We don’t like difficulty. We don’t like to be held back from anything – the way needs to be smooth, with no hitches, or else we get mighty unhappy. I’ve seen too many instances, where adults out in a public place have thrown temper tantrums because there was some snag or holdup in getting what they wanted at a restaurant, bank, store, or other venue, to believe that this is not a widespread tendency among our people. So the concept of “easy” salvation peddled by the Hyles/Schaap/easy believism crowd, is tailored to appeal to that sort of selfish, me-first mentality.

However, as our passage above shows, salvation is not “easy.” Instead, salvation requires the willingness of a person to put away the sin that they have hitherto wanted to hang onto, and to be willing to turn to God through His Son Jesus Christ instead – i.e. biblical repentance. That’s what is often so hard. People love their sin, people want to hang onto it. They may want Jesus too, but when it comes to making the choice between Him or the sin He hates, they will choose the sin He hates far too often. Overcoming that desire to hang onto sin is a step of faith and trust that is not “easy.” Salvation remains free and open to the lost sinner, but choosing it instead of loving sin is what is “hard.”

We see the object example par excellence in the passage from which the verse at the beginning is drawn. I am sure that most of you reading this are familiar with the story. A rich young ruler comes to Jesus, asking what he must do to be saved. Jesus lists off several of the Ten Commandments that concern man’s relations with other people (one being conspicuously absent) – don’t kill, don’t steal, don’t commit

adultery, don't lie, honour your parents. The young man says that he does all these. Jesus then tells him that he still lacks one thing, and instructs him to go out, give away all he has to the poor, and then follow Him. The young man is unwilling to do this, goes away downhearted, and regrettable, still as lost and on his way to hell as he was before he came to Jesus.

Some points to make about this incident:

1) Jesus was not telling this young man that the act of giving away his money and possessions would save him. There is no works-based salvation here.

2) This young man **came to Jesus**. He was seeking Him out. This young man knew that he "needed Jesus in his life," as the easy believers are so fond of saying. Yet, despite this acknowledgement, he still went away lost. Simply acknowledging the need for Jesus did not save him, contrary to the type of salvation taught by many easy believers.

No – what we see here is that Jesus put His finger right on the one area of this young man's life of which he really needed to repent before he could be saved – which was covetousness (this being the one Commandment Jesus didn't mention in His original statement to the man). This young man went away sad because he loved money. He loved his possessions. These were the things he loved more than God, and therefore they were idols in his heart, and therefore were sin. This covetousness was the sin that this young man refused to repent of. This covetousness is what made salvation so hard for this young man. He wanted his possessions rather than God.

There was another man in the Scripture for whom salvation was hard – but yet he eventually obtained it by God's grace, this being Paul (Saul).

"And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." (Acts 9:5)

Jesus as much as says that salvation for Saul was hard. "It is **hard** for thee to kick against the pricks." God was pricking Saul's heart, God was working on him to repent of his rejection of Jesus Christ as Messiah, or his persecution of God's churches, and to turn to this same Jesus and be born again. Saul could not be saved until he turned FROM sin and TO God through His Son. Saul may have been a very religious man, but he was still lost. His zeal could not save Him. Repenting of sin and trusting on Jesus (Paul went from hating the name of Jesus to calling Him "Lord") was what saved Saul. But it was a tough row to hoe for Saul – He had to turn his back on all his standing, his reputation within his religious community, his authority and popularity as a zealous "protector of the Jewish faith." He had to give all that up and "count them but dung" (Phil. 3:8) that he might win Christ. Paul had to repent. Repentance was hard for Saul, but when he did, the free grace of God then saved him easily and wholly!

We see another example in Scripture, this time of a young woman, who had to make the difficult choice to repent and turn to God, but when she did, she was gloriously saved – Ruth,

"And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God."
(Ruth 1:16)

Think about this for a minute. Do you realize what Ruth did here? She was turning her back on literally everything she had ever been and known for her entire life prior to this point. Her people were Moabites – enemies of Israel and their God, pagans who worshiped their own complex pantheon of false deities, people with customs, laws, and behaviours that were often at odds with what the laws of Israel taught. And she chose God over all that. "...and thy God my God." I can't think of a more stark and

beautiful picture of repentance unto salvation – she left *everything* EVERYTHING and turned to God. She left the idols, the sinful practices, the ways of her people – and chose God over it all.

What cheap foolishness is this “salvation is easy” garbage that the easy believers teach, where you can be saved by just praying 1-2-3-repeat-after-me and never having to turn from sin and to God. What a slander against God’s true saints throughout all ages, as well as against the holiness of God Himself.

No, my friends – salvation is not easy. It involves making some very difficult choices. Will we choose self or God? Will we choose sin or God? Will we choose our idols or God? But the soul who makes that choice to trust on God will then find that while not easy, salvation IS free, the FREE grace gift of a loving God who freely forgives all who come to Him in repentance and faith.

A Father's Love: Malachi (By: Pastor Cas Reeves)

The book of Malachi speaks specifically to the nation of Israel. It is a Father’s concern for His children; His rebukes and promises to Israel are lessons to be learned by all Christians today.

- I. God calls and promises His children, Israel, from the basis of love (1:1-5)
- II. God calls His children, Israel, to honor from contempt (1:6-14)
 - A. In offerings (7-8)
 - B. In service (13-14)
- III. God calls His children, Israel, to give glory or be cursed (2:1-2)
 - A. With a view of the future (3)
 - B. With a view of the past (4-6)
 - C. With a view of the present (7-9)
- IV. God calls His children, Israel, to give an account (2:10)
 - A. For mixed marriages (2:11)
 - B. For divorce (2:15-16)
 - C. For calling evil good (2:17a)
 - D. For doubting God (2:17b)
 - E. For disregarding His ordinance (3:7)
 - F. For robbing God (3:8-12)
 - G. For words against God (3:13-15)
- V. God promises to give His children, Israel, (3:1-6; 4:1-6):
 - A. A messenger, a Messiah, and justice (3:1-6)
 - B. A sure and complete judgment (4:1,3)
 - C. A strength for those who fear His name (4:2)
 - D. A sign (4:5-6)

These lessons give us reasons to repent of our sins and to return to serving the Lord our Savior and God. The final call reminds us that His children are to: “Remember ye the law...” (4:4).

Only Jesus Saves! (John 14:6)

Faith – By: Pastor Cas Reeves

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17).”

The Scripture defines **faith** as “... *the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen*” (Hebrews 11:1). This means that when you trust in something which you cannot see, there will be an evidence of that faith or trust in your behavior. There are many kinds of faith, and they all qualify under this definition. For example: you have a faith that your car will start and stop. This faith is demonstrated every time you go to start your car or step on the brake. If you take out a loan, both the borrower and the lender demonstrate a faith that it will be paid back.

Where did this ability to **believe** come from? It is an inherent part of our nature that God created within us. Each person’s faith is unique to him and belongs to him. When Adam was created, we see that God created him with the ability to believe when He commanded him saying, “...*of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die*” (Genesis 3:16-17). Therefore, from the creation of man, we understand that every person is endowed with the ability to **believe**. Whether this belief is in God or something else, men do **believe**.

Now where does **saving faith** come from? We do not believe as the Calvinist believes that man is so dead in sins that he is without ability to believe, and therefore God must give him faith to believe. No, mankind already has the ability to believe, and he demonstrates it all the time in various ways. The **saving faith** comes when men focus their faith on God’s report, and then they believe it. “*So then faith cometh by hearing (the report), and hearing (the report, news) by (through) the word of God*” (Romans 10:17). In other words, to be saved from sin and to live forever, a person must receive Jesus Christ as his Savior. This focus of one’s faith comes from hearing the report, or news, of God the Father’s salvation for all through the Scripture. This focuses one’s faith and helps them to properly believe. And when this happens correctly, it will be seen in the Believer’s behavior.

This endowed ability to **believe** or have **faith** by our Creator is found throughout the New Testament scriptures by the use of the Greek personal pronoun. For example: Jesus said to the woman with the issue of blood, “*Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole* (saved - perf) (Matthew 9:22). To Philemon, the Apostle Paul writes, “*Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints; That the*

communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus” (Philemon 1:5-6). And James the brother of Jesus writes, “... shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works” (James 2:18). The Apostle John also writes: “And this is His commandment, That we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as He gave us commandment” (1 John 3:23). “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith” (1 John 5:4). “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God” (1 John 5:13).

Finally, all men are endowed with the ability to have faith and to believe God’s report regarding the salvation that is provided for all men through His Son, Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul writing to Timothy said, *“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief” (1 Timothy 1:15). And again Paul says, “...God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:3-4). Then during the ministry of Jesus Christ on earth, He declared, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life” (John 6:47). Have you placed your faith in God’s report and believed on His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ for your eternal life?*

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). -CAR

:) Children For Christ :)

The Lord of Glory...He Came

Memory Verse: John 1:1 – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Dear reader, we just finished celebrating Christmas. We remembered the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! This is not to be done just during Christmas season! No, not at all! We should focus on His birth, life, suffering, death, burial and resurrection year round! Here are just a few reasons why:

Please fill in the blanks and read the verses: (*The first letter of the word is given*)

1. Jesus was B_____ to D_____ and He is coming again! (John 1:1-34)
2. He is the L_____ W_____ (John 1:1-3,14)
3. He is the L_____ of G_____ (John 1:1, Luke 2:7-11) (He is THE Lord, THE Christ, THE Messiah!)
4. He is the L_____ of the W_____ (John 1:4-9, 1 John 1:5-6)
5. He is the L_____ G_____ (John 1:4, Genesis 1:3-4)

6. He is the L_____ of G_____ (John 1:29)

Answers: Born, Die, Living, Word, Lord, Glory, Light, World, Life, Giver, Lamb, God

Consider This: (Quotes)

“The Lord does not cease to love, because in order to do so He would have to cease being Himself!”

“Your temper: Use it, don't lose it!”

“All anger that is manifested externally begins internally.”

“Words can hurt as much, if not more, than sticks and stones.”

“Words hurt and the pain lingers. Once the words are spoken, there's no getting them back.”

“Angels—like all other intelligent creatures—were designed to render worship to God, not receive worship themselves...” – *John M.*

Praises and Prayer Requests

Praises

- Praise God for His blessings in 2014 and for another year to serve our Precious Lord and Savior in 2015!

Prayer Requests

- Childrens King James Bibles and gift packages being delivered to over 16,000 orphaned children in St. Petersburg Russia by Missionary Jon Zwingel and his wife this Christmas season!
- Mike Jordan (Being discipled by Bro. Lacroix)
- Salvation of Brother Andrew Lacroix's family
- Salvation of Wendy and friend Ben, Jacob, Kaitlyn, Sybil and Bernice (Family of Craig Glickman)
- Kelly Freeman (Cystic Fibrosis)
- Job needs for Brother Craig
- Sarra Family (Missionaries to Zambia Africa) (John – Health needs – back, liver) (Coming to the states on furlough in winter of 2015!)
- Wisdom regarding developing the new location for Heritage Baptist Church in Norwood, MA center.
- Sherrie (Sister of Bro. Craig's Fiancee Tash) (Lymph Nodes) (Heart issues)
- Wedding for Bro. Craig and Sister Tash on May 2, 2015
- Abby Lafreniere (ALS) (Wife of Pastor John Lafreniere, church planter to Fairfield, CT)
- Dr. Michael Thompson (Member of Heritage Baptist Church of Norwood, MA) (Brain cancer)
- Pastor Gary Freeman (Race Street Baptist Church in Catasauqua, PA) who is battling colon cancer
- Missionary Tim Hawes (To Papua New Guinea) (Church Planting, Bible Translation, Agricultural Development)
- Brother Bill Moore of Heritage Baptist Church (Health needs)
- Needs of the body at First Bible Baptist Church of Plainville, CT
- Needs of the body at Heritage Baptist Church of Norwood, MA
- Needs of the body at Community Baptist Church of Quakertown, PA
- Needs of the body at Race Street Baptist Church of Catasauqua, PA
- Needs of the body at Heartland Baptist Church of Alliance, NE
- Needs of the body at New Hope Baptist Church of Lynn, MA
- Needs of the body at Chester Baptist Church of Chester, MA

Hunger For Truth is a bi-monthly e-newsletter publication edited by Bro. Craig Glickman who is a member at First Bible Baptist Church of Plainville, CT where the Pastor is Thomas Benson and Bro. Andrew Lacroix who is a member of Heritage Baptist Church of Norwood, MA where the Pastor is Steve Hathaway.

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***Thank you for reading this. We praise God for all our dear brothers and sisters in Christ and we greatly appreciate your prayers. May each and every one of you be richly blessed as we serve our precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!***

***His Servants,  
Craig Glickman      Andrew Lacroix  
Prov. 3:5-6          1 Thes. 5:18***

