

**Study Guide: The Fall of the World- The Eternal Condition of Eternity (Lesson 24) &
Two Witnesses (Lesson 1)**

Sunday PM-August 23, 2026

This study guide explores the transition from the eternal state of the New Jerusalem to the specific events involving the two witnesses during the tribulation. Based on the teachings from Revelation chapters 10, 11, 21, and 22, the following sections review the physical and spiritual characteristics of Heaven, the nature of God's judgments, and the roles of His appointed messengers.

Short-Answer Study Questions

1. According to the lesson, what is the symbolic meaning of the gates of the New Jerusalem being made of individual large pearls?
 2. Revelation 21:22 states there is no temple in the new city; what replaces the need for a physical temple?
 3. Describe the appearance and the source of the River of Life as seen in Revelation 22:1.
 4. The Tree of Life bears twelve fruits and yields its fruit every month. What does the number twelve represent in this context?
 5. What are the three specific promises given to believers in Revelation 22:3 regarding their life in the eternal state?
 6. The lesson mentions three primary ways believers will provide service to God in Heaven. What are these three activities?
 7. In Revelation 10, John is told to eat a little scroll. Explain why the scroll tasted sweet in his mouth but became bitter in his stomach.
 8. Why does God provide a "breath" or an interlude between the sixth and seventh judgments in the series of seals, trumpets, and bowls?
 9. Aside from John and the two witnesses, who are the other groups or entities mentioned as evangelizing or preaching the gospel during the tribulation?
 10. Describe the appearance and the duration of the ministry of the two witnesses as outlined in Revelation 11:3.
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Answer Key

1. The pearls represent the wounds of Jesus Christ. Just as an oyster creates a pearl only after being wounded by a piece of sand, the entry to Heaven was made possible only through the sacrifice and wounds of Jesus Christ at Calvary.
2. A physical temple is unnecessary because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple. Since God dominates everything and is present everywhere, believers no longer need to go to a specific location to worship Him.
3. The River of Life is described as a pure river of water that is clear as crystal. It proceeds directly from the throne of God and of the Lamb, symbolizing the continual flow of eternal life to the inhabitants of Heaven.
4. The number twelve represents completion. This is reflected in the tree yielding twelve different fruits, one for each month of the year, providing a complete and enhancing experience for those in the city.
5. The three promises are that there shall be no more curse (meaning no more sin), the throne of God and of the Lamb will be present with the people, and His servants shall serve Him.
6. Believers will serve God through perpetual worship, by growing in their knowledge of Him throughout eternity, and through fellowship with one another. This service is described as a "priestly service" rather than menial labor.
7. The scroll is bittersweet because it represents the final revelation of God. It is sweet because it leads to the glory of Jesus Christ and the establishment of His kingdom, but it is bitter because it involves the terrible final judgment of the unrighteous.
8. These interludes serve as a rest or a "respite" for humanity and the righteous. They allow people to catch their breath, recognize that God is still in control of the unfolding events, and understand that the righteous will ultimately be protected.
9. The 144,000 Jewish witnesses evangelize the world, leading to an innumerable number of saved Gentiles. Additionally, a supernatural angel flies through the sky, visibly and audibly preaching the gospel to everyone on earth.
10. The two witnesses are described as two olive trees and two lampstands standing before God. They are clothed in sackcloth and are given power to prophesy for 1,260 days, which is approximately three and a half years.

Essay Questions

1. **The Nature of Eternal Service:** Explain the distinction the lesson makes between "menial work" and "priestly service" in Heaven. How does the idea of "growing in knowledge" contribute to the concept of eternal joy?

2. **The Symbolism of the New Jerusalem:** Analyze the physical descriptions of the city—such as the transparent gold streets and the gates of pearl. How do these physical attributes point toward spiritual truths regarding Jesus Christ and the presence of God?
 3. **Divine Sovereignty in Judgment:** Discuss the significance of the "Mighty Angel" in Revelation 10 who stands on both the sea and the land. What does this image communicate about God's authority during the chaos of the tribulation?
 4. **The Bittersweet Scroll:** John's experience eating the scroll represents the dual nature of prophecy. Evaluate why the return of Jesus Christ is described as both a "sweet" hope for the believer and a "bitter" reality for the world.
 5. **The Progression of Judgments:** Using the concepts of the seals, trumpets, and bowls, describe how the intensity of God's judgment increases over time. Why might the seventh judgment in each series be preceded by a period of silence or rest?
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Glossary of Key Terms

- **Abomination:** Something that causes disgust or hatred, specifically regarding things that defile the holiness of God's presence.
 - **Berean:** A term referring to someone who studies the scriptures diligently and with an open mind to verify the truth of what is being taught.[^1]
 - **Calvary:** The site of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ; used here to represent His sacrifice and the "wound" that produced the "pearl" of Heaven.
 - **Gentiles:** People who are not of Jewish descent.
 - **Interlude:** A brief period or "window of opportunity" between major events of judgment intended for rest and reflection.
 - **Lamb's Book of Life:** The record containing the names of those who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ and are permitted to enter the New Jerusalem.
 - **Martyr:** A person who is killed because of their religious beliefs or testimony for Jesus Christ.
 - **Millennial Kingdom:** The thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ on earth.
 - **Sackcloth:** A coarse, dark fabric worn as a symbol of mourning or penitence; worn by the two witnesses during their prophecy.
 - **Tribulation:** A period of great distress and divine judgment upon the earth, involving the opening of the seven seals, trumpets, and bowls.
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Greek-Derived Terminology

Term	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
Berean	buh-REE-un	Originating from the Greek city of Beroia; describes those who "search the scriptures daily" (Acts 17:11).
Christ	KRYST	From the Greek <i>Christos</i> , meaning "The Anointed One."

[^1]: The term **Berean** is used to encourage students to have a "steadfast desire to grow in knowledge" by carefully examining the Word of God.