

VICTORY

“These words are trustworthy and true, for the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.”

“See, I am coming soon!”

—Revelation 22:6-7

32 We Never Lose Hope

OUR HUMAN CONDITION

Wars and rumors of wars continue. Prejudice, crime, disease, and drugs pervade the planet. Weeping and pain and death are constant. Justice eludes us. Where is the victory? Where is hope?

ASSIGNMENT

Do not get bogged down in detail. You are listening to an urgent sermon by an inspired preacher pleading for repentance. You are hearing an exile on the sun-baked island of Patmos, urging the faithful to remain steadfast. You are reading an ecstatic vision of end times that is more like poetry than prose. Savor the imagery; rejoice in the exuberant shouts of victory. Don't be squeamish: Christians were and are living and dying in a world of war, famine, persecution, exploitation, and violence. Those who suffer for their faith cling closely to John's Revelation.

- Day 1 Revelation 1–3 (the seven churches)
- Day 2 Revelation 4–7 (the Lamb, six seals)
- Day 3 Revelation 8–12 (seventh seal, angels with trumpets, the woman and the dragon)
- Day 4 Revelation 13–16 (beast with seven heads, a new song, seven bowls of wrath)
- Day 5 Revelation 17–20 (doom of Babylon, bride of the Lamb, the Last Judgment)
- Day 6 Revelation 21–22 (new Jerusalem). Read and respond to “The Bible Teaching” and “Marks of Discipleship.”
- Day 7 Rest.

PRAYER

Pray daily before study:

“Praise the LORD, all nations!

Praise him, all peoples!

His love for us is strong,

and his faithfulness is eternal.

Praise the LORD!” (Psalm 117, TEV).

Prayer concerns for this week: