English: Translation Notes for Revelation

Formatted for Translators

©2022 Wycliffe Associates

Released under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

Bible Text: The English Unlocked Literal Bible (ULB)

©2017 Wycliffe Associates

Available at <https://bibleineverylanguage.org/translations>

The English Unlocked Literal Bible is based on the unfoldingWord® Literal Text, CC BY-SA 4.0. The original work of the unfoldingWord® Literal Text is available at [https://unfoldingword.bible/ult/](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Funfoldingword.bible%2Fult%2F&data=02%7C01%7Cmarv_lucas%40wycliffeassociates.org%7Cab3b29dbe7fc44554aeb08d8080e8e70%7C7baa11086adb4be299cf00a4872ab1cf%7C0%7C0%7C637268205914531190&sdata=SW2KxVr%2BcxHGAgMpv602NzoYenorfHi9bOs2SNzVpR4%3D&reserved=0).

The ULB is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

Notes: English ULB Translation Notes

©2017 Wycliffe Associates

Available at <https://bibleineverylanguage.org/translations>

The English ULB Translation Notes is based on the unfoldingWord translationNotes, under CC BY-SA 4.0. The original unfoldingWord work is available at <https://unfoldingword.bible/utn>.

The ULB Notes is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

To view a copy of the CC BY-SA 4.0 license visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>

Below is a human-readable summary of (and not a substitute for) the license.

**You are free to:**

* **Share**— copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format.
* **Adapt**— remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially.

The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms.

**Under the following conditions:**

* **Attribution**— You must attribute the work as follows: “Original work available at <https://BibleInEveryLanguage.org>.” Attribution statements in derivative works should not in any way suggest that we endorse you or your use of this work.
* **ShareAlike**— If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original.
* **No additional restrictions**— You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits.

**Notices:**

You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation.

No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material.

A picture containing text, clipart

Description automatically generated

TOC \o "1-2" \h \z \uRight-click to update field (doing so will insert table of contents).

Page left intentionally blank

## Chapter 1

# Revelation 1 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

This chapter explains how the Book of Revelation records the vision John received on the island of Patmos.

Some translations set quotations from the Old Testament farther to the right on the page to make them easier to read. The ULB does this with the quoted words in verse 7.

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Seven churches

John wrote this book to seven actual churches in Asia Minor, which is now the country of Turkey.

#### White

The Bible often speaks of something that belongs to a person as being "white." This is metaphor and metonym for that person living rightly and pleasing God. (See: and and righteous)

#### "the one who is, and who was, and who is to come"

God exists now. He has always existed. He will always exist. Your language may have a different way of saying this.

### Important figures of speech in this chapter

#### Blood

Blood is a metonym for death. Jesus "has released us from our sins by his blood." John means that Jesus saved us from our sins by dying for us.

### Other possible translation difficulties in this chapter

#### "He is coming with the clouds"

Jesus went into the clouds when he went up to heaven after God raised him from the dead. When Jesus returns, he will also be "with the clouds." It is not clear whether he will be sitting or riding on clouds or coming in the clouds or "with the clouds" in some other way. Your translation should express this in a way that is natural in your language.

#### "One like a son of man"

This refers to Jesus. You should translate the words "son of man" using the same words as you did in the Gospels for when Jesus called himself the "Son of Man."

#### "The angels of the seven churches"

The word "angels" here can also mean "messengers." This might refer to heavenly beings, or to the messengers or leaders of these seven churches. John uses the same word "angel" (singular) in verse 1 and in many other places throughout the book. Your translation should also use the same word.

## Links:

* [Revelation 1:1 Notes](./01.md)
* [Revelation intro](../front/intro.md)

#### Revelation 1:1

##### General Information:

This is an introduction to the book of Revelation. It explains that it is a revelation from Jesus Christ and it gives a blessing to those who read it.

##### his servants

This refers to people who believe in Christ.

##### what must soon take place

"the events that must happen soon"

##### made it known

"communicated it"

##### to his servant John

John wrote this book and was referring to himself here. Alternate translation: "to me, John, his servant"

#### Revelation 1:2

##### who testified about ... all the things that he saw

The word "who" refers to John. This tells what John did after he learned about the revelation. Alternate translation: "And John testified about ... all the things that he saw"

##### the word of God

"the message that God spoke"

##### the testimony of Jesus Christ

These words could refer to 1) the testimony that John has given about Jesus Christ. Alternate translation: "he has also given testimony about Jesus Christ" Or 2) the testimony that Jesus Christ has given about himself.

#### Revelation 1:3

##### the one who reads aloud

This does not refer to a specific person. It refers to anyone who reads it aloud. Alternate translation: "anyone who reads aloud"

##### obey what is written in it

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "obey what John has written in it" or "obey what they read in it"

##### the time is near

"the things that must happen will soon happen"

#### Revelation 1:4

##### General Information:

This is the beginning of John's letter. Here he names himself as the writer and greets the people he is writing to.

##### May grace be to you and peace

"May you receive grace and peace" or "May you experience grace and peace." This is a wish or blessing.

##### from the one who is

"from God, who is"

##### who is to come

Existing in the future is spoken of as coming.

##### seven spirits

The number seven is a symbol of completeness and perfection. The "seven spirits" refers either to the Spirit of God or to seven spirits who serve God.

#### Revelation 1:5

##### and from Jesus Christ

This continues the blessing from [Revelation 1:4](./04.md). Alternate translation:"and may grace be to you and peace also from Jesus Christ" or "and may Jesus Christ treat you kindly and enable you to live peacefully and securely"

##### the firstborn from the dead

"the first person to be raised from death, never to die again"

##### from the dead

The expression "the dead" describes all dead people together in the underworld. To come back from among them speaks of becoming alive again. Alternate translation: "from among all those who have died"

##### has freed us from our sins

"has released us from our sins"

#### Revelation 1:6

##### has made us a kingdom, priests

"has set us apart and begun to rule over us and he has made us priests"

##### his God and Father

This is one person. Alternate translation: "God, his Father"

##### Father

This is an important title for God that describes the relationship between God and Jesus.

##### to him be the glory and the power

This is a wish or prayer. Possible meanings are 1) "May people honor his glory and power" or 2) "May he have glory and power." John prays that Jesus Christ will be honored and will be able to rule completely over everyone and everything.

##### the power

This probably refers to his authority as king.

#### Revelation 1:7

##### General Information:

Here John quotes from Daniel and Zechariah.

##### every eye

Since people see with the eyes, the word "eye" is used to refer to people. Alternate translation: "every person" or "everyone"

##### including those who pierced him

"even those who pierced him will see him"

##### pierced him

Jesus's hands and feet were pierced when he was nailed to the cross. Here it refers to people killing him. Alternate translation: "killed him"

##### pierced

made a hole in

#### Revelation 1:8

##### "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "the one who is ... the Almighty."

This can be restated so that the quotation is not split. Alternate translation: "The Lord God says, 'I am the Alpha and the Omega, the one who is ... the Almighty.'" or "'I am the Alpha and the Omega, the one who is ... the Almighty,' says the Lord God."

##### the Alpha and the Omega

These are first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Possible meanings are 1) "the one who began all things and who ends all things" or 2) "the one who has always lived and who always will live." If the meanings are unclear to readers, you may consider using the first and last letters of your alphabet. Alternate translation: "the A and the Z" or "the first and the last"

##### who is to come

Existing in the future is spoken of as coming.

#### Revelation 1:9

##### General Information:

John explains how his vision began and the instructions the Spirit gave him.

##### your ... you

These refer to the believers in the seven churches.

##### I, John—your brother and the one who shares with you in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are in Jesus—was

This can be stated as a separate sentence. Alternate translation: "I, John, am your brother who shares with you in God's kingdom and also suffers and patiently endures trials along with you because we belong to Jesus. I was"

##### because of the word of God

"because I told others the word of God"

##### the word of God

"the message that God spoke." Translate as in Revelation 1:2.

##### the testimony about Jesus

"the testimony that God has given about Jesus." Translate as in Revelation 1:2.

#### Revelation 1:10

##### I was in the Spirit

John speaks of being influenced by God's Spirit as if he were in the Spirit. Alternate translation: "I was influenced by the Spirit" or "The Spirit influenced me"

##### the Lord's day

the day of worship for believers in Christ

##### loud voice like a trumpet

The voice was so loud it sounded like a trumpet.

##### trumpet

This refers to an instrument for producing music or for calling people to gather together for an announcement or meeting.

#### Revelation 1:11

##### Smyrna ... Pergamum ... Thyatira ... Sardis ... Philadelphia ... Laodicea

These are names of cities in the region of western Asia that today is modern Turkey.

#### Revelation 1:12

##### Connecting Statement:

John begins to explain what he saw in his vision.

##### whose voice

This refers to the person speaking. Alternate translation: "who"

#### Revelation 1:13

##### son of man

This expression describes a human figure, someone who looks human.

##### a golden sash

a piece of cloth worn around the chest. It may have had golden threads in it.

#### Revelation 1:14

##### His head and hair were as white as wool—as white as snow

Wool and snow are examples of things that are very white. The repetition of "as white as" emphasizes that they were very white.

##### wool

This is the hair of a sheep or goat. It was known to be very white.

##### his eyes were like a flame of fire

His eyes are described as being full of light like fire flames. Alternate translation: "his eyes were glowing like a flame of fire"

#### Revelation 1:15

##### His feet were like polished bronze

Bronze is polished to make it shine and reflect light. Alternate translation: "His feet were very shiny like polished bronze"

##### like polished bronze, like bronze that had been refined in a furnace

The bronze would be refined first and then polished. Alternate translation: "like bronze that has been purified in a hot furnace and polished"

##### furnace

a strong container for holding a very hot fire. People would put metal in it, and the hot fire would burn away any impurities that were in the metal.

##### the sound of many rushing waters

This is very loud, like the sound of a large, fast flowing river, of a large waterfall, or of loud waves in the sea.

#### Revelation 1:16

##### a sword ... was coming out of his mouth

The sword blade was sticking out of his mouth. The sword itself was not in motion.

##### a sword with two sharp edges

This refers to a double-edged sword, which is sharpened on both sides to cut both directions.

#### Revelation 1:17

##### fell at his feet like a dead man

John lay down facing the ground. He was probably very frightened and was showing Jesus great respect.

##### He placed his right hand on me

"He touched me with his right hand"

##### I am the first and the last

This refers to the eternal nature of Jesus.

#### Revelation 1:18

##### I have the keys of death and of Hades

Having the power over something is spoken of as having the keys to it. The implied information is that he can give life to those who have died and let them out of Hades. Alternate translation: "I have the power over death and over Hades" or "I have the power to give life to people who have died and to let them out of Hades"

#### Revelation 1:19

##### Connecting Statement:

The Son of Man continues to speak.

#### Revelation 1:20

##### stars

These stars are symbols that represent the seven angels of the seven churches.

##### lampstands

The lampstands are symbols that represent the seven churches. See how you translated this in Revelation 1:12.

##### the angels of the seven churches

Possible meanings are that these "angels" are 1) heavenly angels who protect the seven churches or 2) human messengers to the seven churches, either messengers who went from John to the churches or the leaders of those churches.

##### seven churches

This refers to seven churches that actually existed in Asia Minor at that time. See how you translated this in Revelation 1:11.

## Chapter 2

# Revelation 2 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

Chapters 2 and 3 together are usually called the "seven letters to the seven churches." You may wish to set each letter apart. The reader can then easily see that they are separate letters.

Some translations set quotations from the Old Testament farther to the right on the page than the rest of the text. The ULB does this with the quoted words of verse 27.

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Poverty and wealth

The Christians in Smyrna were poor because they did not have much money. But they were rich spiritually because God would reward them for their suffering. (See: spirit)

#### "The devil is about to"

Some authorities were about to take some of the Christians in Smyrna and throw them into prison and even kill some of them

#### Balaam, Balak, and Jezebel

Balaam, Balak, and Jezebel were people who lived long before Jesus was born. They all tried to harm the Israelites either by cursing them or by making them want to stop obeying God.

### Important figures of speech in this chapter

#### "Let the one who has an ear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches"

The writer knew that almost all of his readers had physical ears. The ear here is a metonym for hearing what God says and desiring to obey him.

### Other possible translation difficulties in this chapter

#### "The angel of the church"

The word "angel" here can also mean "messenger." This might refer to the messenger or leader of the church. See how you translated "angel" in [Revelation 1:20](../../rev/01/20.md).

#### "The words of the one who"

The verses with these words can be difficult to translate. They do not make complete sentences. You may need to add "These are" to the beginning of these verses. Also, Jesus used these words to speak of himself as if he were speaking of another person. Your language may not allow people to speak of themselves as if they were speaking of other people. Jesus began speaking in [Revelation 1:17](../../rev/01/17.md). He continues to speak through the end of Chapter 3.

## Links:

* [Revelation 2:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### Revelation 2:1

##### General Information:

This is the beginning of the Son of Man's message to the angel of the church in Ephesus.

##### the angel

Possible meanings are that this "angel" is 1) a heavenly angel who protects this church or 2) a human messenger to the church, either a messenger who went from John to the church or the leader of the church. See how you translated "angel" in Revelation 1:20.

##### stars

These stars are symbols. They represent the seven angels of the seven churches. See how you translated this in [Revelation 1:16]

##### lampstands

The lampstands are symbols that represent the seven churches. See how you translated this in [Revelation 1:12]

#### Revelation 2:2

##### I know ... your hard labor, and your patient endurance

"Labor" and "endurance" are abstract nouns and can be translated with verbs "work" and "endure." Alternate translation: "I know ... that you work very hard and that you endure patiently"

##### but are not

"but are not apostles"

##### you have found them to be false

"you have recognized that those people are false apostles"

#### Revelation 2:3

##### for my name

"Name" here is a metonym for the person of Jesus Christ. Alternate translation: "because of me" or "because you believe in my name" or "because you believe in me"

##### you have not grown weary

Being discouraged is spoken of as being tired. Alternate translation: "you have not become discouraged" or "you have not quit"

#### Revelation 2:4

##### I have against you the fact that

"I disapprove of you because" or "I am angry with you because"

##### you have left behind your first love

To stop doing something is spoken of as leaving it behind. Love is spoken of as if it is an object that can be left behind. Alternate translation: "you have stopped loving me as you did at the beginning"

#### Revelation 2:5

##### from where you have fallen

No longer loving as much as they used to is spoken of as haven fallen. Alternate translation: "how much you have changed" or "how much you used to love me"

##### Unless you repent

"If you do not repent"

##### remove your lampstand

The lampstands are symbols that represent the seven churches. See how you translated "lampstand" in [Revelation 1:12]

#### Revelation 2:6

##### Nicolaitans

people who followed the teachings of a man named Nicolaus

#### Revelation 2:7

##### Let the one who has an ear, hear

Jesus is emphasizing that what he has just said is important and may take some effort to understand and put into practice. The phrase "has an ear" here is a metonym for the willingness to understand and obey. Alternate translation: "Let the one who is willing to listen, listen to" or "The one who is willing to understand, let him understand and obey"

##### Let the one ... hear

Since Jesus is speaking directly to his audience, you may prefer to use the second person here. Alternate translation: "If you are willing to listen, listen to" or "If you are willing to understand, then understand and obey"

##### the one who conquers

This refers to anyone who conquers. Alternate translation: "anyone who resists evil" or "those who do not agree to do evil"

##### the paradise of God

"God's garden." This is a symbol for heaven.

#### Revelation 2:8

##### General Information:

This is the beginning of the Son of Man's message to the angel of the church in Smyrna.

##### the angel

Possible meanings are that this "angel" is 1) a heavenly angel who protects this church or 2) a human messenger to the church, either a messenger who went from John to the church or the leader of the church. See how you translated "angel" in Revelation 1:20.

##### Smyrna

This is the name of a city in a part of western Asia that today is modern Turkey. See how you translated this in [Revelation 1:11]

##### the first and the last

This refers to the eternal nature of Jesus. See how you translated this in [Revelation 1:17]

#### Revelation 2:9

##### I know your sufferings and your poverty

"Sufferings" and "poverty" can be translated as verbs. Alternate translation: "I know how you have suffered and how poor you are"

##### I know the slander of those who say they are Jews

"Slander" can be translated as a verb. Alternate translation: "I know how people have slandered you—those who say they are Jews" or "I know how people have said terrible things about you—those who say they are Jews"

##### but they are not

"but they are not real Jews"

##### a synagogue of Satan

People who gather to obey or honor Satan are spoken of as if they were a synagogue, a place of worship and teaching for the Jews.

#### Revelation 2:10

##### The devil is about to throw some of you into prison

The words "The devil" here are a metonym for the people who obey the devil. Alternate translation: "The devil will soon cause others to put some of you in prison"

##### Be faithful until death

"Be faithful to me even if they kill you." The use of the word "until" does not mean that you should stop being faithful at death.

##### the crown

"the winner's crown." This was a wreath, originally of olive branches or laurel leaves, that was put on the head of a victorious athlete.

##### the crown of life

Possible meanings are 1) "a crown that shows that I have given you eternal life" or 2) "true life as a prize like a winner's crown"

#### Revelation 2:11

##### Let the one who has an ear, hear

Jesus is emphasizing that what he has just said is important and may take some effort to understand and put into practice. The phrase "has an ear" here is a metonym for the willingness to understand and obey. See how you translated this phrase in [Revelation 2:7]

##### Let the one ... hear

Since Jesus is speaking directly to his audience, you may prefer to use the second person here. See how you translated this phrase in [Revelation 2:7]

##### The one who conquers

This refers to anyone who conquers. See how you translated this in [Revelation 2:7]

##### will not be hurt by the second death

"will not experience the second death" or "will not die a second time"

#### Revelation 2:12

##### General Information:

This is the beginning of the Son of Man's message to the angel of the church in Pergamum.

##### the angel

Possible meanings are that this "angel" is 1) a heavenly angel who protects this church or 2) a human messenger to the church, either a messenger who went from John to the church or the leader of the church. See how you translated "angel" in Revelation 1:20.

##### Pergamum

This is the name of a city in a part of western Asia that today is modern Turkey. See how you translated this in [Revelation 1:11]

##### the sword with two sharp edges

This refers to a double-edged sword, which is sharpened on both sides to cut both directions. See how you translated this in Revelation 1:16

#### Revelation 2:13

##### Satan's throne

Possible meanings are 1) Satan's power and evil influence on people, or 2) the place where Satan rules.

##### you hold on tightly to my name

"Name" here is a metonym for the person. Firmly believing is spoken of as holding on tightly. Alternate translation: "you firmly believe in me"

##### you did not deny your faith in me

"Faith" can be translated with the verb "believe." Alternate translation: "you continued to tell people that you believe in me"

##### Antipas

This is the name of a man.

#### Revelation 2:14

##### But I have a few things against you

"I disapprove of you because of a few things you have done" or "I am angry with you because of a few things you did." See how you translated a similar phrase in Revelation 2:4.

##### who hold tightly to the teaching of Balaam, who

Possible meanings are 1) "who teach what Balaam taught; he" or 2) "who do what Balaam taught; he."

##### Balak

This is the name of a king.

##### who taught Balak to throw a stumbling block before the sons of Israel

Something that leads people to sin is spoken of as a stone in the road that people stumble on. Alternate translation: "who showed Balak how to cause the people of Israel to sin"

##### be sexually immoral

"sin sexually" or "commit sexual sin"

#### Revelation 2:15

##### Nicolaitans

This was the name for a group of people who followed the teachings of a man named Nicolaus. See how you translated this in [Revelation 2:6]

#### Revelation 2:16

##### Repent, therefore

"So repent"

##### If you do not, I

The verb can be supplied from the previous phrase. Alternate translation: "If you do not repent, I"

##### wage war against them

"fight against them"

##### with the sword in my mouth

This refers to the sword in [Revelation 1:16]

#### Revelation 2:17

##### Let the one who has an ear hear

Jesus is emphasizing that what he has just said is important and may take some effort to understand and put into practice. The phrase "has an ear" here is a metonym for the willingness to understand and obey. See how you translated this phrase in [Revelation 2:7]

##### Let the one ... hear

Since Jesus is speaking directly to his audience, you may prefer to use the second person here. See how you translated this phrase in [Revelation 2:7]

##### To the one who conquers

This refers to anyone who conquers. See how you translated this in [Revelation 2:7]

#### Revelation 2:18

##### General Information:

This is the beginning of the Son of Man's message to the angel of the church in Thyatira.

##### the angel

Possible meanings are that this "angel" is 1) a heavenly angel who protects this church or 2) a human messenger to the church, either a messenger who went from John to the church or the leader of the church. See how you translated "angel" in Revelation 1:20.

##### Thyatira

This is the name of a city in a part of western Asia that today is modern Turkey. See how you translated this in [Revelation 1:11]

##### Son of God

This is an important title for Jesus.

##### who has eyes like a flame of fire

His eyes are describes as being full of light like a flame of fire. See how you translated this in [Revelation 1:14]

##### feet like polished bronze

Bronze is polished to make it shine and reflect light. See how you translated this in [Revelation 1:15]

#### Revelation 2:19

##### your love and faith and service and your patient endurance

The abstract nouns "love," "faith," "service," and "endurance" can be translated with verbs. Alternate translation: "How you have loved, trusted, served, and endured patiently"

##### your love and faith and service and your patient endurance

The implied objects of these verbs can be stated clearly. Alternate translation: "How you have loved me and others, trusted me, served me and others, and endured troubles patiently"

#### Revelation 2:20

##### But I have this against you

"But I disapprove of some of the things you are doing" or "But I am angry with you because of something you are doing." See how you translated a similar phrase in Revelation 2:4.

##### the woman Jezebel, who

Jesus spoke of a certain woman in their church as if she were Queen Jezebel because she did the same kinds of sinful things that Queen Jezebel had done long before that time. Alternate translation: "the woman who is just like Jezebel and"

#### Revelation 2:21

##### I gave her time to repent

"I gave her opportunity to repent" or "I waited for her to repent"

#### Revelation 2:22

##### I will throw her onto a sickbed ... into great suffering

Her having to lie in bed would be the result of Jesus making her very sick. Alternate translation: "I will make her lie sick in bed ... I will make suffer greatly" or "I will make her very sick ... I will make suffer greatly"

##### those who commit adultery with her into great suffering

Jesus speaks of causing people to suffer as throwing them into suffering. Alternate translation: "I will make those who commit adultery with her to suffer greatly"

##### commit adultery

"practice adultery"

##### unless they repent of her deeds

This implies that they have participated with her in her wicked behavior. By repenting of her deeds, they also repent of participating in her behavior. Alternate translation: "if they do not repent from doing the evil that she does" or "if they do not repent of participating in her deeds"

#### Revelation 2:23

##### I will strike her children dead

"I will kill her children"

##### her children

Jesus spoke of her followers as if they were her children. Alternate translation: 'her followers" or "the people who do what she teaches"

##### thoughts and hearts

The term "heart" a metonym that represents feelings and desires. Alternate translation: "what people think and want"

##### I will give to each one of you

This is an expression about punishment and reward. Alternate translation: "I will punish or reward each one of you"

#### Revelation 2:24

##### everyone who does not hold this teaching

Believing a teaching is spoken of as holding the teaching. Alternate translation: "everyone who does not believe this teaching"

##### does not hold this teaching

The noun "teaching" can be translated as a verb. Alternate translation: "does not hold to what she teaches" or "does not believe what she teaches"

##### deep things

Secret things are spoken of as if they were deep. Alternate translation: "secret things"

#### Revelation 2:25

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

#### Revelation 2:26

##### The one who conquers

This refers to anyone who conquers. See how you translated this in [Revelation 2:7]

##### does my works

"does what I command him to do"

#### Revelation 2:27

##### He will rule ... break them into pieces

This is a prophecy from the Old Testament about a king of Israel, but Jesus applies it here to those to whom he gives authority over the nations.

##### He will rule them with an iron rod

Ruling harshly is spoken of as ruling with an iron rod. Alternate translation: "He will rule them harshly as if striking them with an iron stick"

##### like clay jars he will break them into pieces

Breaking them to pieces is an image that represents either 1) destroying evildoers or 2) defeating enemies. Alternate translation: "He will defeat his enemies completely as if breaking clay jars into pieces"

#### Revelation 2:28

##### Just as I have received from my Father

Some languages may need to tell what was received. Possible meanings are 1) "Just as I have received authority from my Father" or 2) "Just as I have received the morning star from my Father."

##### my Father

This is an important title for God that describes the relationship between God and Jesus.

##### I will also give him

Here "him" refers to the one who conquers.

##### morning star

This is a bright star that sometimes appears early in the morning just before dawn. It was a symbol of victory.

#### Revelation 2:29

##### Let the one who has an ear hear

Jesus is emphasizing that what he has just said is important and may take some effort to understand and put into practice. The phrase "has an ear" here is a metonym for the willingness to understand and obey. See how you translated this phrase in [Revelation 2:7]

##### Let the one ... hear

Since Jesus is speaking directly to his audience, you may prefer to use the second person here. See how you translated this phrase in [Revelation 2:7]

## Chapter 3

# Revelation 3 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

Chapters 2 and 3 together are usually called the "seven letters to the seven churches." You may wish to set each letter apart. The reader can then easily see that they are separate letters.

Some translations set poetry farther to the right than the rest of the text to show that it is poetry. The ULB does this with verse 7.

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Seven spirits of God

These spirits are the seven spirits of [Revelation 1:4](../../rev/01/04.md).

#### Seven stars

These stars are the seven stars of [Revelation 1:20](../../rev/01/20.md).

### Important metaphors in this chapter

#### Look, I am standing at the door and am knocking

Jesus speaks of his desire to have the Christians in Laodicea obey him as if he were a man asking people in a house to allow him to enter and eat with them

#### "Let the one who has an ear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches"

The speaker knew that almost all of his readers had physical ears. The ear here is a metonym for hearing what God says and desiring to obey him.

### Other possible translation difficulties in this chapter

#### "The angel of the church"

The word "angel" here can also mean "messenger." This might refer to the messenger or leader of the church. See how you translated "angel" in [Revelation 1:20](../../rev/01/20.md).

#### "The words of the one who"

The verses with these words can be difficult to translate. They do not make complete sentences. You may need to add "These are" to the beginning of these verses. Also, Jesus used these words to speak of himself as if he were speaking of another person. Your language may not allow people to speak of themselves as if they were speaking of other people. Jesus began speaking in [Revelation 1:17](../../rev/01/17.md). He continues to speak through the end of Chapter 3.

## Links:

* [Revelation 3:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### Revelation 3:1

##### General Information:

This is the beginning of the Son of Man's message to the angel of the church in Sardis.

##### the angel

Possible meanings are that this "angel" is 1) a heavenly angel who protects this church or 2) a human messenger to the church, either a messenger who went from John to the church or the leader of the church. See how you translated "angel" in Revelation 1:20.

##### Sardis

This is the name of a city in the western part of Asia that today is modern Turkey. See how you translated this in [Revelation 1:11]

##### the seven spirits

The number seven is a symbol of completeness and perfection. The "seven spirits" refers either to the Spirit of God or to seven spirits who serve God. See how you translated this in [Revelation 1:4]

##### the seven stars

These stars are symbols that represent the seven angels of the seven churches. See how you translated this in [Revelation 1:16]

##### You have a name that you are alive

The word "name" here is a metonym for a reputation. Alternate translation: "You have a reputation for being alive" or "People think that you are alive"

##### alive ... dead

Obeying and honoring God is spoken of as being alive; disobeying and dishonoring him is spoken of as being dead.

#### Revelation 3:2

##### Wake up and strengthen what remains but is about to die

The good deeds done by the believers in Sardis are spoken of as if they were alive but in danger of dying. Alternate translation: "Wake up and complete the work that remains; otherwise what you have done will become worthless" or "Wake up. If you do not finish what you have started to do, your previous work will have been useless"

##### Wake up

Being alert to danger is spoken of as waking up. Alternate translation: "Be alert" or "Be careful"

#### Revelation 3:3

##### what you have received and heard

This refers to God's word, which they believed. Alternate translation: "God's word that you heard and the truth that you believed"

##### if you do not wake up

Being alert to danger is spoken of as waking up. See how you translated "wake up" on [Revelation 3:2]

##### I will come as a thief

Jesus will come at a time when people do not expect him, just as a thief comes when not expected.

#### Revelation 3:4

##### a few names

The word "names" is a metonym for the people themselves. Alternate translation: "a few people"

##### have not stained their clothes

Jesus speaks of sin in a person's life as if it were a stain on clothes. Alternate translation: "have not made their lives sinful"

##### will walk with me

People commonly spoke of living as "walking." Alternate translation: "will live with me"

##### dressed in white

White clothes represent a pure life without sin. Alternate translation: "and they will be dressed in white, which shows that they are pure"

#### Revelation 3:5

##### The one who conquers

This refers to anyone who conquers. See how you translated this in [Revelation 2:7]

##### will be clothed in white garments

This can be translated with an active verb. Alternate translation: "will wear white garments" or "I will give white clothes"

##### I will confess his name

He would announce that the person belongs to him, not simply say the person's name. Alternate translation: "I will announce that he belongs to me"

##### before my Father

"in the presence of my Father"

##### my Father

This is an important title for God that describes the relationship between God and Jesus.

#### Revelation 3:6

##### Let the one who has an ear hear

Jesus is emphasizing that what he has just said is important and may take some effort to understand and put into practice. The phrase "has an ear" here is a metonym for the willingness to understand and obey. See how you translated this phrase in [Revelation 2:7]

##### Let the one ... hear

Since Jesus is speaking directly to his audience, you may prefer to use the second person here. See how you translated this phrase in [Revelation 2:7]

#### Revelation 3:7

##### General Information:

This is the beginning of the Son of Man's message to the angel of the church in Philadelphia.

##### the angel

Possible meanings are that this "angel" is 1) a heavenly angel who protects this church or 2) a human messenger to the church, either a messenger who went from John to the church or the leader of the church. See how you translated "angel" in Revelation 1:20.

##### Philadelphia

This is the name of a city in the western part of Asia that today is modern Turkey. See how you translated this in [Revelation 1:11]

##### key of David

Jesus speaks of his authority to decide who may go into his kingdom as if it were King David's key.

##### he opens and no one shuts

"he opens the door to the kingdom and no one can close it"

##### he shuts and no one can open

"he closes the door and no one can open it"

#### Revelation 3:8

##### I have put before you an open door

"I have opened a door for you"

##### you have obeyed my word

Possible meanings are 1) "you have followed by teachings" or 2) "you have obeyed my commands"

##### my name

The word "name" here is is a metonym for the person who has that name. Alternate translation: "me"

#### Revelation 3:9

##### General Information:

The writer begins his sentence with "I will cause," but he does not finish the sentence by telling what he will cause "those who belong to the synagogue of Satan" to do. He begins the sentence again with "I will make them," where "them" refers to "those who belong to the synagogue of Satan."

##### synagogue of Satan

People who gather to obey or honor Satan are spoken of as if they were in a synagogue, a place of worship and teaching for the Jews. See how you translated this in [Revelation 2:9]

##### those calling themselves Jews but are not, but rather liars

"those calling themselves Jews when they are not Jews: instead, they are liars." These words further describe "those who belong to the synagogue of Satan."

##### bow down

This is a sign of submission, not worship. Alternate translation: "bow down in submission"

##### before your feet

Here the word "feet" represent the person before whom these people bow down. Alternate translation: "before you" or "to you"

##### they will know

"they will learn" or "they will admit"

#### Revelation 3:10

##### will also keep you from the hour of testing

"will also prevent the hour of testing from happening to you" or "will protect you so you do not enter the hour of testing"

##### hour of testing

"time of testing." This probably means "the time when people try to make you disobey me."

##### is coming

Existing in the future is spoken of as coming.

#### Revelation 3:11

##### I am coming soon

It is understood that he is coming in order to judge. Alternate translation: "I am coming to judge soon"

##### Hold to what you have

Continuing to believe firmly in Christ is spoken of as if it were holding something tightly. Alternate translation: "Continue to believe firmly"

##### crown

A crown was a wreath, originally of olive branches or laurel leaves, that was put on the head of a victorious athlete. Here "crown" stands for a reward. See how you translated "crown" in Revelation 2:10.

#### Revelation 3:12

##### The one who conquers I will make a pillar in the temple of my God

Here "The one who conquers" refers to anyone who conquers. See how you translated this in [Revelation 2:7]

#### Revelation 3:13

##### Let the one who has an ear, hear

Jesus is emphasizing that what he has just said is important and may take some effort to understand and put into practice. The phrase "has an ear" here is a metonym for the willingness to understand and obey. See how you translated this phrase in [Revelation 2:7]

##### Let the one ... hear

Since Jesus is speaking directly to his audience, you may prefer to use the second person here. See how you translated this phrase in [Revelation 2:7]

#### Revelation 3:14

##### General Information:

This is the beginning of the Son of Man's message to the angel of the church in Laodicea.

##### the angel

Possible meanings are that this "angel" is 1) a heavenly angel who protects this church or 2) a human messenger to the church, either a messenger who went from John to the church or the leader of the church. See how you translated "angel" in Revelation 1:20.

##### Laodicea

This is the name of a city in the western part of Asia that today is modern Turkey. See how you translated this in [Revelation 1:11]

##### The words of the Amen

Here "the Amen" is a name for Jesus Christ. He guarantees God's promises by saying amen to them.

##### the ruler over God's creation

Possible meanings are 1) "the one who rules over everything that God created" or 2) "the one through whom God created everything."

#### Revelation 3:15

##### you are neither cold nor hot

The writer speaks of the Laodiceans as if they were water. Possible meanings are 1) "cold" and hot" represent two extremes of spiritual interest or love for God, where "cold" is to be completely against God, and to be "hot" is to be zealous to serve him, or 2) "cold" and "hot" both refer to water that is useful for drinking or for cooking or healing, respectively. Alternate translation: "you are like water that is neither cold nor hot"

#### Revelation 3:16

##### I am about to vomit you out of my mouth

Rejecting them is spoken of as vomiting them out of the mouth. Alternate translation: "I will reject you as I would spit out lukewarm water"

#### Revelation 3:17

##### you are most miserable, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked

Jesus speaks of their spiritual condition as if he were speaking about their physical condition. Alternate translation: "You are like people who are most miserable, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked"

#### Revelation 3:18

##### Buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and brilliant white garments so you may clothe yourself and not show the shame of your nakedness, and salve to anoint your eyes so you will see

Here to "buy" represents receiving things from Jesus that have true spiritual value. The "gold refined by fire" represents spiritual wealth. The "brilliant white garments" represents rightousness. And the "salve to anoint your eyes" represents the ability to understand spiritual things. Alternate translation: "Come to me and receive spiritual wealth, which is more valuable than gold that is refined by fire. Receive from me righteousness, which is like brilliant white garments, so that you will not be ashamed. And receive from me wisdom, which is like salve for the eyes, so that you may understand spiritual things"

#### Revelation 3:19

##### be earnest and repent

"be serious and repent"

#### Revelation 3:20

##### I am standing at the door and am knocking

Jesus speaks about wanting people to relate to him as if he wanted them to invite him into their home. Alternate translation: "I am like one standing at the door and knocking"

##### am knocking

When people want someone to welcome them into their home, they knock on the door. Alternate translation: "I want you to let me come inside"

##### hears my voice

The phrase "my voice" refers to Christ speaking. Alternate translation: "hears me speak" or "hears me call"

##### I will come into his home

Some languages might prefer the verb "go" here. Alternate translation: "I will go in to his home"

##### and will eat with him

This represents being together as friends.

#### Revelation 3:21

##### The one who conquers

This refers to anyone who conquers. See how you translated this in [Revelation 2:7]

##### to sit down with me on my throne

To sit on a throne means to rule. Alternate translation: "to rule with me" or "to sit down on my throne and rule with me"

##### my Father

This is an important title for God that describes the relationship between God and Jesus.

#### Revelation 3:22

##### Connecting Statement:

This is the end of the Son of Man's messages to the angels of the seven churches.

##### Let the one who has an ear, hear

Jesus is emphasizing that what he has just said is important and may take some effort to understand and put into practice. The phrase "has an ear" here is a metonym for the willingness to understand and obey. See how you translated this phrase in [Revelation 2:7]

##### Let the one ... hear

Since Jesus is speaking directly to his audience, you may prefer to use the second person here. See how you translated this phrase in [Revelation 2:7]

## Chapter 4

# Revelation 4 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

Some translations set poetry farther to the right than the rest of the text to show that it is poetry. The ULB does this with verses 8 and 11.

John has finished describing the letters to the churches. He now begins to describe a vision that God showed him.

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Jasper, carnelian, and emerald

These words refer to kinds of special stones that the people in John's day considered valuable. It may be difficult for you to translate these words if people in your culture do not value special kinds of stones.

#### Twenty-four elders

Elders are church leaders. Twenty-four elders may be symbolic of the whole church through the ages. There were twelve tribes in Old Testament Israel and twelve apostles in the New Testament church.

#### Seven spirits of God

These spirits are the seven spirits of [Revelation 1:4](../../rev/01/04.md).

#### Giving glory to God

God's glory is the great beauty and radiant majesty that God has because he is God. Other Bible writers describe it as if it were a light so bright that no one can look at it. No one can give God this kind of glory, because it is already his. For people "to give glory" to God and for God "to receive glory" means that people are praising and worshiping God because of the glory he already has. (See: glory and worthy and worship)

### Other possible translation difficulties in this chapter

#### Difficult images

Such things as bolts of lightning coming from the throne, lamps that are spirits, and a sea in front of the throne may be difficult to imagine, and so the words for them may be difficult to translate.

## Links:

* [Revelation 4:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### Revelation 4:1

##### General Information:

John begins to describe his vision of the throne of God.

##### After these things

"Just after I had seen these things." Here "these things" refers to what John saw in (Revelation 2:1-3:22)

##### an open door in heaven

This expression stands for the ability that God gave John to see into heaven, at least by means of a vision.

##### speaking to me like a trumpet

How the voice was like a trumpet can be stated clearly. Alternate translation: "speaking to me loudly like the sound of a trumpet"

##### trumpet

This refers to an instrument for producing music or for calling people to gather together for an announcement or meeting. See how you translated this in Revelation 1:10.

#### Revelation 4:2

##### I was in the Spirit

John speaks of being influenced by God's Spirit as if he were in the Spirit. See how you translated this in [Revelation 1:10]

#### Revelation 4:3

##### jasper and carnelian

These are valuable stones. Jasper may have been clear like glass or crystal, and carnelian may have been red.

##### emerald

a green, valuable stone

#### Revelation 4:4

##### twenty-four elders

"24 elders"

##### golden crowns

These were likenesses of wreaths of olive branches or laurel leaves, hammered out in gold. Such crowns, made of leaves, were given to victorious athletes to wear on their heads.

#### Revelation 4:5

##### flashes of lightning

Use your language's way of describing what lightning looks like each time it appears.

##### rumblings, and crashes of thunder

These are the loud noises that thunder makes. Use your language's way of describing the sound of thunder.

##### seven spirits of God

The number seven is a symbol of completeness and perfection. The "seven spirits" refers either to the Spirit of God or to seven spirits who serve God. See how you translated this in [Revelation 1:4]

#### Revelation 4:6

##### a sea of glass

How it was like glass or a sea can be stated clearly. Possible meanings are 1) a sea is spoken of as if it were glass. Alternate translation: "a sea that was as smooth as glass" or 2) glass if spoken of as if it were a sea. Alternate translation: "glass that was spread out like a sea"

##### like crystal

How it was like crystal can be stated clearly. Alternate translation: "clear as crystal"

##### In the middle of the throne and around the throne

"Immediately around the throne" or "Close to the throne and around it"

##### four living creatures

"four living beings" or "four living things"

#### Revelation 4:7

##### The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature was like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle

How the head of each living creature appeared to John is expressed as a comparison with something more familiar.

##### living creature

"living being" or "living thing." See how you translated this in Revelation 4:6

#### Revelation 4:8

##### full of eyes on top and underneath

The top and bottom of each wing was covered with eyes.

##### who is to come

Existing in the future is spoken of as coming.

#### Revelation 4:9

##### the one who sits on the throne, the one who lives forever and ever

This is one person. The one who sits on the throne lives forever and ever.

##### forever and ever

These two words mean about the same thing and are repeated for emphasis. Alternate translation: "for all eternity"

#### Revelation 4:10

##### twenty-four elders

"24 elders." See how you translated this in [Revelation 4:4]

##### fall down

They purposely lie down facing the ground to show that they are worshiping.

##### They lay their crowns before the throne

These crowns looked like wreaths of olive branches or laurel leaves, hammered out in gold. The elders were respectfully placing the crowns on the ground, showing that they were submitting to God's authority to rule. Alternate translation: "they lay their crowns before the throne to show that they are submitting to him"

##### lay

Possible meanings are 1) to place or 2) to throw down forcibly, as of something worthless ("throw," Revelation 2:22). The reader should understand that the elders are acting respectfully.

#### Revelation 4:11

##### our Lord and our God

"our Lord and God." This is one person, the one sitting on the throne.

##### to receive glory and honor and power

These are things that God always has. Being praised for having them is spoken of as receiving them. Alternate translation: "to be praised for your glory, honor, and power" or "for everyone to praise you because you are glorious, honorable, and powerful"

## Chapter 5

# Revelation 5 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

Some translations set poetry farther to the right than the rest of the text to show that it is poetry. The ULB does this with the poetry in verses 9-13.

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Sealed scroll

Kings and important people in John's time wrote important documents on large pieces of paper or animal skin. They then rolled them up and sealed them with wax so they would stay closed. Only the person to whom the document was written had the authority to open it by breaking the seal. In this chapter, "the one who was seated on the throne" had written the scroll. Only the person called "the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David" and "the Lamb" had the authority to open it. (See: scroll and authority)

#### Twenty-four elders

Elders are church leaders. Twenty-four elders may be symbolic of the whole church through the ages. There were twelve tribes in Old Testament Israel and twelve apostles in the New Testament church.

#### Christian prayers

The prayers of Christians are described as incense. Christian prayers have a good smell to God. He is pleased when Christians pray.

#### Seven spirits of God

These spirits are the seven spirits of [Revelation 1:4](../../rev/01/04.md).

### Important figures of speech in this chapter

#### Metaphors

The "Lion of the tribe of Judah" and the "Root of David" are metaphors that refer to Jesus. Jesus descended from the tribe of Judah and the family of David. Lions are fierce, and all animals and people are afraid of them, so they are a metaphor for a king whom everyone obeys. The words "Root of David" speak of Israel's King David as if he were a seed that God had planted and of Jesus as if he were a root growing from that seed.

## Links:

* [Revelation 5:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### Revelation 5:1

##### Connecting Statement:

John continues to describe what he saw in his vision of the throne of God.

##### Then I saw

"After I saw those things, I saw"

##### the one who was seated on the throne

This is the same "one" as in Revelation 4:2-3.

##### a scroll written on the front and on the back

"a scroll with writing on the front and the back"

##### sealed with seven seals

"and it had seven seals keeping it closed"

#### Revelation 5:2

##### Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?

The person would need to break the seals in order to open the scroll. Alternate translation: "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?"

##### Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?

This can be translated as a command: "The one who is worthy to do this should come to break the seals and open the scroll!"

#### Revelation 5:3

##### in heaven or on the earth or under the earth

This means everywhere: the place where God and the angels live, the place where people and animals live, and the place where those who have died are. Alternate translation: "anywhere in heaven or on the earth or under the earth"

#### Revelation 5:4

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

#### Revelation 5:5

##### Look

"Listen" or "Pay attention to what I am about to tell you"

##### The Lion of the tribe of Judah

This is a title for the man from the tribe of Judah that God had promised would be the great king. Alternate translation: "The one who is called the Lion of the tribe of Judah" or "The king who is called the Lion of the tribe of Judah"

##### The Lion

The king is spoken of as if he were a lion because a lion is very strong.

##### the Root of David

This is a title for the descendant of David that God had promised would be the great king. Alternate translation: "the one who is called the Root of David"

##### the Root of David

The descendant is spoken of as if David's family were a tree and he were a root of that tree. Alternate translation: "the Descendant of David"

#### Revelation 5:6

##### General Information:

The Lamb appears in the throne room.

##### a Lamb

A "lamb" is a young sheep. Here is it used symbolically to refer to Christ.

##### seven spirits of God

The number seven is a symbol of completeness and perfection. The "seven spirits" refers either to the Spirit of God or to seven spirits who serve God. See how you translated this in Revelation 1:4.

##### sent out into all the earth

This can be translated with an active verb. Alternate translation: "which God sent out over all the earth"

#### Revelation 5:7

##### He went

He approached the throne. Some languages would use the verb "come." Alternate translation: "He came"

#### Revelation 5:8

##### the Lamb

A "lamb" is a young sheep. Here is it used symbolically to refer to Christ. See how you translated this in [Revelation 5:6]

##### twenty-four elders

"24 elders." See how you translated this in [Revelation 4:4]

##### fell down

"lay down on the ground." Their faces were toward the ground to show that they were worshiping the Lamb. They did this on purpose; they did not fall accidentally.

##### Each of them

Possible meanings are 1) "each of the elders and living creatures" or 2) "each of the elders."

##### a golden bowl full of incense, which are the prayers of God's holy people

The incense here is a symbol for the believers' prayers to God.

#### Revelation 5:9

##### For you were slaughtered

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "For they slaughtered you" or "For people killed you"

##### slaughtered

If your language has a word for killing an animal for a sacrifice, consider using it here.

##### with your blood

Since blood represents a person's life, losing the blood represents dying. This probably means "by your death" or "by dying."

##### you purchased people for God

"you bought people so that they could belong to God" or "you paid the price so that people could belong to God"

##### from every tribe, language, people, and nation

This means that people from every ethnic group are included.

#### Revelation 5:10

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

#### Revelation 5:11

##### ten thousands of ten thousands and thousands of thousands

Use an expression in your language that shows that it is a huge number. Alternate translation: "millions" or "too many thousands to count"

#### Revelation 5:12

##### Worthy is the Lamb, who has been slaughtered

"The Lamb, who has been slaughtered, is worthy"

##### to receive power, wealth, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and praise

These are all things that the Lamb has. Being praised for having them is spoken of as receiving them. This can be restated to remove the abstract nouns. See how you translated a similar sentence in [Revelation 4:11]

#### Revelation 5:13

##### in heaven and on the earth and under the earth

This means everywhere: the place where God and the angels live, the place where people and animals live, and the place where those who have died are. See how you translated this in [Revelation 5:3]

##### To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be

"May he who sits on the throne and the Lamb have"

#### Revelation 5:14

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

## Chapter 6

# Revelation 6 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

The author describes what happened after the Lamb opens each of the first six seals. The Lamb does not open the seventh seal until Chapter 8.

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Seven Seals

Kings and important people in John's time wrote important documents on large pieces of paper or animal skin. They then rolled them up and sealed them with wax so they would stay closed. Only the person to whom the document was written had the authority to open it by breaking the seal. In this chapter, the Lamb opens the seals.

#### The Four Horsemen

As the Lamb opens each of the first four seals, the author describes horsemen riding different colored horses. The colors of the horses seem to symbolize how the rider will affect the earth.

### Important figures of speech in this chapter

#### The Lamb

This refers to Jesus. In this chapter, it is also a title for Jesus.

#### Similes

In verses 12-14, the author uses several similes to try to describe the images he sees in the vision. He compares the images to everyday things.

## Links:

* [Revelation 6:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### Revelation 6:1

##### Connecting Statement:

John continues to describe the events that happened before the throne of God. The Lamb begins to open the seals on the scroll.

##### Come!

This is a command to one person, apparently the rider of the white horse who is spoken of in verse 2.

#### Revelation 6:2

##### he was given a crown

This can be translated with an active verb. Alternate translation: "he received a crown" or "God gave him a crown"

##### a crown

Crowns were wreaths of olive branches or laurel leaves and were given to victorious athletes to wear on their heads. The crown given to rider may have been hammered out in gold in the likeness of wreaths of olives branches or laurel leaves.

#### Revelation 6:3

##### the second seal

"the next seal" or "seal number two"

##### the second living creature

"the next living creature" or "living creature number two"

#### Revelation 6:4

##### came out—fiery red

This can the stated as a second sentence. Alternate translation: "came out. It was red like fire" or "came out. It was bright red"

##### To its rider was given permission

This can be stated with an active verb. Alternate translation: "God gave permission to its rider" or "Its rider received person"

##### This rider was given a huge sword

This can be stated with an active verb. Alternate translation: "This rider received a huge sword" or "God gave this rider a huge sword"

##### a huge sword

"a very large sword" or "a great sword"

#### Revelation 6:5

##### the third seal

"the next seal" or "seal number three"

##### the third living creature

"the next living creature" or "living creature number three"

##### a pair of scales

a tool used for weighing things

#### Revelation 6:6

##### A choenix of wheat for one denarius

Some languages might want a verb such as "cost" or "buy" in the sentence. There was very little wheat for all the people, so its price was very high. Alternate translation: "A choenix of wheat now costs one denarius" or "Buy a choenix of wheat with one denarius"

##### A choenix of wheat ... three choenices of barley

A "choenix" was a specific measure that was about one liter. The plural of "choenix" is "choenices." Alternate translation: "One liter of wheat ... three liters of barley" or "One bowl of wheat ... three bowls of barley"

##### one denarius

This coin was worth a day's wages. Alternate translation: "one silver coin" or "the pay for one day of work"

##### But do not harm the oil and the wine

If the oil and wine were harmed, there would be less of them for people to buy, and their prices would go up.

##### the oil and the wine

These expressions probably stand for the olive oil harvest and the grape harvest.

#### Revelation 6:7

##### the fourth seal

"the next seal" or "seal number four"

##### the fourth living creature

"the next living creature" or "living creature number four"

#### Revelation 6:8

##### pale horse

"grey horse." This is the color of a dead body, so its color is a symbol of death.

##### one-fourth of the earth

Here "the earth" represents the people of the earth. Alternate translation: "one-fourth of the people on the earth"

##### the sword

A sword is a weapon, and here it represents war.

##### with the wild animals of the earth

This means that Death and Hades would cause the wild animals to attack and kill people.

#### Revelation 6:9

##### the fifth seal

"the next seal" or "seal number five"

##### under the altar

This may have been "at the base of the altar."

##### those who had been killed

This can be translated with an active verb. Alternate translation: "those whom others had killed"

##### because of the word of God and the testimony which they held

Here "word of God" is a metonym for the message from God and "held" is a metaphor. Possible meanings are 1) holding the testimony refers to believing God's word and testimony. Alternate translation: "because of the teachings of scripture and what they taught about Jesus Christ" or "because they believed the word of God, which is his testimony" or 2) holding the testimony refers to testifying about the word of God. Alternate translation: "because they testified about the word of God"

#### Revelation 6:10

##### avenge our blood

The word blood here represents their deaths. Alternate translation: "punish those who killed us"

#### Revelation 6:11

##### Then each of them was given a white robe

Either God or an angel gave them a white robe. This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "Then each of them received a white robe"

##### they were told

Either God or an angel is speaking. This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "God told them" or "an angel told them"

##### until the full number of their fellow servants and their brothers who were to be killed, just as they had been killed, was made complete

Here "servants" and "brothers" refer to the same group. This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "until enemies have killed all of Christ's servants whom God had determined would die, just as those under the altar had died"

##### brothers

Christians are often spoken of as being one another's brothers. Females were among those spoken of here. Alternate translation: "fellow Christians" or "fellow believers"

#### Revelation 6:12

##### the sixth seal

"the next seal" or "seal number six"

##### as black as sackcloth

Sometimes sackcloth was made of black hair. People would wear sackcloth when they were mourning. The image of sackcloth is meant to lead people to think of death and mourning. Alternate translation: "as black as mourning clothes"

##### like blood

The image of blood is meant to lead people to think of death. How it was like blood can be stated clearly. Alternate translation: "red like blood"

#### Revelation 6:13

##### just as a fig tree drops its unripe figs when shaken by a stormy wind

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: ""just as figs do when a stormy wind shakes a fig tree and causes it to drop its unripe figs"

#### Revelation 6:14

##### The sky vanished like a scroll that was being rolled up

The sky was normally thought of as being as strong as a sheet of metal, but now it had become as weak as a sheet of paper and was easily torn and rolled up.

#### Revelation 6:15

##### the commanders

soldiers who command warriors during battle

##### caves

large holes in the sides of hills

#### Revelation 6:16

##### the face of the one

Here "face" represents "presence." Alternate translation: "the presence of the one" or "the one"

#### Revelation 6:17

##### the great day of their wrath has come

The day of their wrath refers to the time when they would punish wicked people. Alternate translation: "this is the terrible time when they will punish people"

##### has come

Existing now is spoken of as having come.

##### their wrath

"Their" refers to the one on the throne and the Lamb.

##### Who is able to stand?

Surviving, or staying alive, is spoken of as if it were standing. This question is used to express great sadness and fear that no one will be able to survive when God punishes him. Alternate translation: "No one can survive."

## Chapter 7

# Revelation 7 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

Scholars have interpreted parts of this chapter in many different ways. Translators do not need to fully understand what this chapter means to accurately translate its contents.

It is important to accurately translate the large numbers in this chapter. The number 144,000 is twelve times twelve thousand.

Translators should be aware that the tribes of the people of Israel are not listed in this chapter the same as they are generally listed in the Old Testament.

Some translations set poetry farther to the right than the rest of the text to show that it is poetry. The ULB does this with the poetry in verses 5-8 and 15-17.

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Worship

God saves his people and keeps them through times of trouble. His people respond by worshipping him. (See: worship)

### Important figures of speech in this chapter

#### The Lamb

This refers to Jesus. In this chapter, it is also a title for Jesus.

## Links:

* [Revelation 7:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### Revelation 7:1

##### General Information:

John begins to describe a vision of 144,000 servants of God who become marked with seals. Their marking takes place after the Lamb opens the sixth seal and before he opens the seventh seal.

##### the four corners of the earth

The earth is spoken of as if it were flat and square like a sheet of paper. The phrase "the four corners" refers to the north, south, east, and west.

#### Revelation 7:2

##### the seal of the living God

The word "seal" here refers to a tool that is used to press a mark onto a wax seal. In this case the tool would be used to put a mark on God's people. Alternate translation: "the marker of the living God" or "the stamp of the living God"

#### Revelation 7:3

##### put a seal on the foreheads

The word "seal" here refers to a mark. This mark shows that the people belong to God and that he will protect them. Alternate translation: "put a mark on the foreheads"

##### foreheads

The forehead is the top of the face, above the eyes.

#### Revelation 7:4

##### those who were sealed

This can be stated with an active verb. Alternate translation: "those whom God's angel marked"

##### 144,000

"one hundred forty-four thousand people"

#### Revelation 7:5

##### twelve thousand from the tribe

"12,000 people from the tribe"

##### twelve thousand from ... Judah were sealed

This can be translated in active form. See how you translated similar words in [Revelation 7:4]

#### Revelation 7:6

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

#### Revelation 7:7

##### Connecting Statement:

This continues the list of the people of Israel who were sealed.

#### Revelation 7:8

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

#### Revelation 7:9

##### General Information:

John begins to describe a second vision about a multitude praising God. This vision also takes place after the Lamb opens the sixth seal and before he opens the seventh seal.

##### a huge multitude

"a huge crowd" or "a great number of people"

##### white robes

Here the color "white" represents purity.

#### Revelation 7:10

##### Salvation belongs to

"Salvation comes from"

##### Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!

They were praising God and the Lamb. The noun "salvation" can be expressed with the verb "save." Alternate translation: "Our God, who sits on the throne, and the Lamb have saved us!"

#### Revelation 7:11

##### the four living creatures

These are the four creatures mentioned in Revelation 4:6-8.

##### they fell on their faces

Here "fell on their faces" is an idiom that means they lay down facing the ground. See how you translated "prostrated themselves" in [Revelation 4:10]

#### Revelation 7:12

##### Praise, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and strength be to our God

"Our God is worthy of all praise, glory, wisdom, thanks, honor, power and strength" or "We must give praise, glory, thanks, and honor to our God"

##### forever and ever

These two words mean basically the same thing and emphasize that the praise will never end.

#### Revelation 7:13

##### these, clothed with white robes

The white robes showed that these people were righteous.

#### Revelation 7:14

##### have come out of the great tribulation

"have survived the great tribulation" or "have lived through the great tribulation"

##### the great tribulation

"the time of terrible suffering"

##### They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb

People who have been made righteous by the blood of the Lamb are spoken of as if they have washed their robes in his blood. Alternate translation: "They have been made righteous by washing their robes white in his blood"

##### the blood of the Lamb

The word "blood" is used to refer to the death of Lamb.

#### Revelation 7:15

##### Connecting Statement:

The elder continues to speak to John.

##### they ... them

These words refer to those people who have come through the great tribulation.

##### day and night

These two parts of the day are used together to mean "all the time" or "without stopping"

##### will spread his tent over them

"will put his tent up over them." Protecting them is spoken of as if it were giving them shelter to live under. Alternate translation: "will shelter them" or "will protect them"

#### Revelation 7:16

##### They ... them

These words refer to those people who have come through the great tribulation.

##### The sun will not beat down

The sun's heat no longer causing people to suffer is spoken of as if the sun would not beat down on them. Alternate translation: "The sun will not burn them" or "The sun will not make them weak"

#### Revelation 7:17

##### them ... them ... their

These words refer to those people who have come through the great tribulation.

##### the Lamb at the center of the throne will

"the Lamb, who is standing in the middle of the area around the throne, will be"

##### For the Lamb ... will shepherd them

The elder speaks of the Lamb's care for his people as if it were a shepherd's care for his sheep. Alternate translation: "For the Lamb ... will be like a shepherd to them" or "For the Lamb ... will care for them as a person cares for his animals"

##### he will guide them to springs of living water

The elder speaks of what gives life as if it were springs of fresh water. Alternate translation: "he will guide them like a shepherd guiding his sheep to fresh water" or "he will guide them to life like a shepherd guiding his sheep to living water"

##### God will wipe away every tear from their eyes

Tears here represent sadness. Alternate translation: "God will wipe away their sadness, like wiping away tears" or "God will cause them to not be sad anymore"

## Chapter 8

# Revelation 8 General Notes

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Seven seals and seven trumpets

This chapter begins to show what happens when the Lamb opens the seventh seal. God uses the prayers of all believers to cause dramatic things to happen on earth. John then describes what happens when angels sound the first four of seven trumpets.

### Important figures of speech in this chapter

#### Similes

In verses 8 and 10, John uses similes to try to describe the images he sees in the vision. He compares the images to everyday things.

## Links:

* [Revelation 8:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### Revelation 8:1

##### Connecting Statement:

The Lamb opens the seventh seal.

##### the seventh seal

This is the last of the seven seals on the scroll. Alternate translation: "the next seal" or "the final seal" or "seal number seven"

#### Revelation 8:2

##### seven trumpets were given to them

They were each given one trumpet. This can be stated in active form. Possible meanings are 1) "God gave them seven trumpets" or 2) "the Lamb gave them seven trumpets"

#### Revelation 8:3

##### he would offer it

"he would offer the incense to God by burning it"

#### Revelation 8:4

##### the angel's hand

This refers to the bowl in the angel's hand. Alternate translation: "the bowl in the angel's hand"

#### Revelation 8:5

##### filled it with fire

The word "fire" here probably refers to burning coals. Alternate translation: "filled it with burning coals" or "filled it with coals of fire"

#### Revelation 8:6

##### General Information:

The seven angels sound the seven trumpets, one at a time.

#### Revelation 8:7

##### It was thrown down onto the earth

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "The angel threw the hail and fire mixed with blood down onto the earth"

##### a third of it was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "it burned up a third of the earth, a third of the trees, and all the green grass"

##### a third

"A third" is a fraction.

#### Revelation 8:8

##### The second angel

"The next angel" or "Angel number two"

##### something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "the angel threw something like a great mountain burning with fire"

##### A third

"A third" is a fraction.

##### became blood

Possible meanings are it 1) "became red like blood" or it 2) really became blood.

#### Revelation 8:9

##### the living creatures in the sea

"the things living in the sea" or "the fish and other animals that lived in the sea"

#### Revelation 8:10

##### a huge star fell from the sky, blazing like a torch

"a huge star that was blazing like a torch fell from the sky." The fire of the huge star looked similar to the fire of a torch.

##### torch

a stick with one end lit on fire to provide light

#### Revelation 8:11

##### The name of the star is Wormwood

Wormwood is a shrub that tastes bitter. People made medicine out of it, but they also believed that it was poisonous. Alternate translation: "The name of the star is Bitterness" or "The name of the star is Bitter Medicine"

##### became wormwood

The bitter taste of the water is spoken of as if it were wormwood. Alternate translation: "became bitter like wormwood" or "became bitter"

##### died from the waters that became bitter

"died when they drank the bitter water"

#### Revelation 8:12

##### a third of the sun was struck

Causing something bad to happen to the sun is spoken of as striking, or hitting, it. This can be stated with an active verb. Alternate translation: "a third of the sun changed" or "God changed a third of the sun"

##### a third of them turned dark

Possible meanings are 1) "one third of the time they were dark" or 2) "one third of the sun, one third of the moon, and one third of the stars became dark"

##### a third of the day and a third of the night had no light

"there was no light during one third of the day and one third of the night" or "they did not shine during one third of the day and one third of the night"

#### Revelation 8:13

##### because of the remaining trumpet blasts that are about to be sounded by the three angels

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "because the three angels who have not yet sounded their trumpets are about to sound them"

## Chapter 9

# Revelation 9 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

In this chapter, John continues to describe what happens when angels sound seven trumpets.

#### Woe

John describes several "woes" in the Book of Revelation. This chapter begins to describe three "woes" announced at the end of Chapter 8.

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Animal imagery

This chapter includes several animals: locusts, scorpions, horses, lions, and snakes. These animals represent different qualities or traits. For example, a lion is powerful and dangerous. Translators should use the same animals in their translation if possible. If the animal is unknown, one with similar qualities or traits should be used.

#### Bottomless pit

This image is seen several times in the Book of Revelation. It is a picture of hell as being inescapable and the opposite direction as heaven. (See: hell)

#### Abaddon and Apollyon

"Abaddon" is a Hebrew word. "Apollyon" is a Greek word. Both words mean "Destroyer." John used the sounds of the Hebrew word and wrote them with Greek letters. The ULB and UDB write the sounds of both words with English letters. Translators are encouraged to transliterate these words using the letters of the target language. The original Greek readers would have understood "Apollyon" to mean "Destroyer." So translators may also supply what it means in the text or in a footnote.

#### Repentance

Despite great signs, people are described as not repenting and so remain in their sin. People refusing to repent are also mentioned in Chapter 16. (See: repent and sin)

### Important figures of speech in this chapter

#### Simile

John uses many similes in this chapter. They help to describe the images that he sees in his vision.

## Links:

* [Revelation 9:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### Revelation 9:1

##### Connecting Statement:

The fifth of the seven angels begins to sound his trumpet.

##### I saw a star from heaven that had fallen

John saw the star after it had fallen. He did not watch if fall.

##### the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit

"the key that unlocks the shaft of the bottomless pit"

##### the shaft of the bottomless pit

Possible meanings are 1) "shaft" is another way of referring to the pit and describes it as long and narrow, or 2) "shaft" refers to the opening of the pit.

##### the bottomless pit

This is an extremely deep, narrow hole. Possible meanings are 1) the pit has no bottom; it continues to go down further forever or 2) the pit is so deep that it is as if it had no bottom.

#### Revelation 9:2

##### like smoke from a huge furnace

A huge furnace gives off a great amount of thick, dark smoke. Alternate translation: "like the great amount of smoke that comes from a huge furnace"

##### turned dark

"became dark"

#### Revelation 9:3

##### locusts

insects that fly together in large groups. People fear them because they can eat up all the leaves in gardens and on trees.

##### power like that of scorpions

Scorpions have the ability to sting and poison other animals and people. Alternate translation: "the ability to sting people as scorpions do"

##### scorpions

small insects with poisonous stingers on their tails. Their sting is extremely painful and the pain lasts a long time.

#### Revelation 9:4

##### They were told not to damage the grass on the earth or any green plant or tree

Ordinary locusts were a terrible threat to people because when they swarm, they can eat up all the grass and all the leaves on plants and trees. These locusts were told not to do this.

##### but only the people

The phrase "to damage" or "to harm" is understood. Alternate translation: "but only to harm the people"

##### the seal of God

The word "seal" refers a mark that would be left by a tool being pressed into a a wax seal. In this case it refers to mark that God would place upon the foreheads of his people. The people who do not have this mark do not belong to God. See how you translated "seal" in [Revelation 7:3]

##### foreheads

The forehead is the top of the face, above the eyes.

#### Revelation 9:5

##### They were not given permission

"They" refers to the locusts. (Revelation 9:3)

##### those people

the people whom the locusts were stinging

##### but only to torture them

Here the words "given permission" are understood. Alternate translation: "but only given permission to torture them"

##### to torture them for five months

The locusts would be allowed to do this for five months.

##### to torture them

"to make them suffer terrible pain"

##### the sting of a scorpion

A scorpion is a small insect with a poisonous stinger at the end of its long tail. The sting can cause severe pain or even death.

#### Revelation 9:6

##### people will seek death but will not find it

This can be restated to remove the abstract noun "death." Alternate translation: "people will try to find a way to die but will not find it" or "people will try to kill themselves but will not find a way to die"

##### will greatly desire to die

"will want very much to die" or "will wish that they could die"

##### death will flee from them

John speaks of death as if it were a person or animal that could run away. Alternate translation: "they will not be able to die" or "they will not die"

#### Revelation 9:7

##### General Information:

These locusts did not look like ordinary locusts. John describes them by telling how parts of them looked like other things.

##### crowns of gold

These were likenesses of wreaths of olive branches or laurel leaves, hammered out in gold. Examples actually made of leaves were given to victorious athletes to wear on their heads.

#### Revelation 9:8

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

#### Revelation 9:9

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

#### Revelation 9:10

##### They had tails

The word "They" refers to the locusts.

##### with stingers like scorpions

A scorpion is a small insect with a poisonous stinger at the end of its long tail. Its sting can cause severe pain or even death. See how you translated a similar phrase in [Revelation 9:3]

##### in their tails they had power to harm people for five months

Possible meanings are 1) they had power for five months to harm people or 2) they could sting people and the people would be in pain for five months.

#### Revelation 9:11

##### the bottomless pit

This is an extremely deep, narrow hole. Possible meanings are 1) the pit has no bottom; it continues to go down further forever or 2) the pit is so deep that it is as if it had no bottom. See how you translated this in Revelation 9:1.

##### Abaddon ... Apollyon

Both names mean "Destroyer."

#### Revelation 9:12

##### there are still two disasters to come

Existing in the future is spoken of as coming.

#### Revelation 9:13

##### Connecting Statement:

The sixth of the seven angels begins to sound his trumpet.

##### I heard a voice coming

The voice refers to the one who was speaking. John does not say who the speaker was, but it may have been God. Alternate translation: "I heard someone speaking"

##### horns of the golden altar

These are horn-shaped extensions at each of the four corners of the top of the altar.

#### Revelation 9:14

##### the four angels who had been bound

This can be stated with an active form. Alternate translation: "the four angels whom God had commanded someone to bind" or "the four angels whom God bound"

#### Revelation 9:15

##### The four angels who had been prepared for ... that year were released

This can be stated with an active form. Alternate translation: "The angel released the four angels who had been prepared for ... that year"

##### The four angels who had been prepared

This can be stated with an active form. Alternate translation: "The four angels whom God had prepared"

##### for that hour, that day, that month, and that year

These words are used to show that the time to release the angels is a specific, chosen time and not just any time. Alternate translation: "for that exact time"

#### Revelation 9:16

##### General Information:

Suddenly, 200,000,000 soldiers on horseback appear in John's vision. John is no longer speaking about the four angels mentioned in the previous verse.

##### 200,000,000

Some ways to express this are: "two hundred million" or "two hundred thousand thousand" or "twenty thousand times ten thousand." If your language does not have a specific number for this, you could also see how you translated a similar large number in [Revelation 5:11]

#### Revelation 9:17

##### fiery red

"red like fire" or "bright red." See how you translated this in Revelation 6:3.

##### out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and sulfur

"fire, smoke, and sulfur came out of their mouths"

#### Revelation 9:18

##### Connecting Statement:

John continues to describe the horses and the plagues brought upon humanity.

##### A third of the people

"One third of the people." See how you translated "A third" in [Revelation 8:7]

#### Revelation 9:19

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

#### Revelation 9:20

##### those who were not killed by these plagues

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "those whom the plagues had not killed"

##### the works of their hands

The word "hand" here is a metonym for the person whose hands they are. Alternate translation: "the deeds they had done"

##### things that cannot see, hear, or walk

This phrase reminds us that idols are not alive and do not deserve to be worshiped. But the people did not stop worshiping them. Alternate translation: "even though idols cannot see, hear, or walk"

#### Revelation 9:21

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

## Chapter 10

# Revelation 10 General Notes

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Seven thunders

John here describes the seven thunders as making sounds that he could understand as words. However, translators should use their normal word for "thunder" when translating these verses.

#### "The mystery of God"

This refers to some aspect of the hidden plan of God. It is not necessary to know what this mystery is to translate it. (See: reveal)

### Important figures of speech in this chapter

#### Simile

John uses similes to help him describe the face, legs, and voice of the mighty angel. Translators should understand other objects in this chapter, such as the rainbow and the cloud, with their normal meanings.

## Links:

* [Revelation 10:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### Revelation 10:1

##### General Information:

John begins to describe a vision of a mighty angel holding a scroll. In John's vision he is viewing what is happening from earth. This takes place between the blowing of the sixth and seventh trumpets.

##### He was clothed in a cloud

John speaks of the angel as if he were wearing a cloud as his clothing. This expression may be understood as metaphor. However, because very unusual things were often seen in visions, it might be understood as a literally true statement in its context.

##### His face was like the sun

John compares the brightness of his face with the brightness of the sun. Alternate translation: "His face was bright like the sun"

##### his feet were like pillars of fire

The word "feet" here refers to the legs. Alternate translation: "his legs were like pillars of fire"

#### Revelation 10:2

##### He put his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land

"He stood with his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land"

#### Revelation 10:3

##### Then he shouted

"Then the angel shouted"

##### the seven thunders spoke out

The thunder is described as if it were a person who could speak. Alternate translation: "the seven thunders made a loud noise" or "the thunder sounded very loudly seven times"

##### seven thunders

Thunder occurring seven times is spoken of as if it were seven different "thunders."

#### Revelation 10:4

##### but I heard a voice from heaven

The word "voice" refers to words spoken by someone other than the angel. Alternate translation: "but I heard someone speaking from heaven"

##### Seal up

People in John's day would write a message on a scroll and then seal the scroll so that only the person whom the writers wanted to open it were able to open it. This is a metaphor for keeping something secret. Alternate translation: "Keep secret"

#### Revelation 10:5

##### raised his right hand to heaven

He did this to show that he was swearing by God.

#### Revelation 10:6

##### He swore by the one who lives forever and ever

"He asked that what he was going to say would be confirmed by the one who lives forever and ever"

##### the one who lives forever and ever

Here "the one" refers to God.

##### There will be no more delay

"There will be no more waiting" or "God will not delay"

#### Revelation 10:7

##### the mystery of God will be accomplished

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "God will accomplish his mystery" or "God will complete his secret plan"

#### Revelation 10:8

##### Connecting Statement:

John hears the voice from heaven, which he had heard in Revelation 10:4, speak to him again.

##### The voice I heard from heaven

The word "voice" refers to the speaker. Alternate translation: "The one I heard speak from heaven" or "The one who had spoken to me from heaven"

##### I heard

John heard

#### Revelation 10:9

##### He said to me

"The angel said to me"

##### make ... bitter

"make ... sour" or "make ... acid." This refers to a bad taste from the stomach after eating something that is not good.

#### Revelation 10:10

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

#### Revelation 10:11

##### languages

This refers to the people who speak the languages. Alternate translation: "language communities" or "groups of people who speak their own languages"

## Chapter 11

# Revelation 11 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

Some translations set poetry farther to the right than the rest of the text to show that it is poetry. The ULB does this with the poetry in verses 15 and 17-18.

#### Woe

John describes several "woes" in the book of Revelation. This chapter describes a second and third "woe" announced at the end of Chapter 8.

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Gentiles

The word "Gentiles" here refers to ungodly people groups and not Gentile Christians. (See: godly)

#### Two witnesses

Scholars have suggested many different ideas about these two witnesses. Translators do not need to understand this passage to accurately translate it. (See: prophet)

#### Bottomless pit

This image is seen several times in the Book of Revelation. It is a picture of hell as being inescapable and the opposite direction as heaven. (See: hell)

## Links:

* [Revelation 11:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### Revelation 11:1

##### General Information:

John begins to describe a vision about receiving a measuring rod and about two witnesses that God appointed. This vision also takes place between the blowing of the sixth and seventh trumpets.

##### A reed was given to me

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "Someone gave me a reed"

##### given to me ... I was told

The words "me" and "I" refer to John.

##### those who worship in it

"count those who worship in the temple"

#### Revelation 11:2

##### trample

to treat something as worthless by walking on it

##### forty-two months

"42 months"

#### Revelation 11:3

##### Connecting Statement:

God continues speaking to John.

##### for 1,260 days

"for one thousand two hundred and sixty days" or "for twelve hundred and sixty days"

##### days, clothed in sackcloth

Why they will wear sackcloth can be made explicit. Alternate translation: "days, wearing rough mourning clothes" or "days. They will wear scratchy clothes to show that they are very sad"

#### Revelation 11:4

##### These witnesses are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that have stood before the Lord of the earth

The two olive trees and the two lampstands symbolize these people, but they are not literally the people. Alternate translation: "The two olive trees and the two lampstands that have stood before the Lord of the earth represent these witnesses"

##### the two olive trees and the two lampstands that

John expects his readers to know about them because many years earlier another prophet had written about them. Alternate translation: "the two olive trees and the two lampstands, told about in scripture, that"

#### Revelation 11:5

##### fire comes out of their mouth and devours their enemies

Because this is about future events, it can also be stated in the future tense. Alternate translation: "fire will come out of their mouth and devour their enemies"

##### fire comes ... and devours their enemies

Fire burning and killing people is spoken of as if it were an animal that could eat them up. Alternate translation: "fire will come ... and destroy their enemies" or "fire will come ... and completely burn up their enemies"

#### Revelation 11:6

##### to close up the sky so that no rain will fall

John speaks of the sky as if it had a door that can be opened to let rain fall or closed to stop the rain. Alternate translation: "to keep rain from falling from the sky"

##### the days that they prophesy

"the time that they prophesy." The word "days" here can refer to weeks, months, or years.

##### to turn

"to change"

##### to strike the earth with every kind of plague

John speaks of the plagues as if they were a stick that someone could hit the earth with. Alternate translation: "to cause all kinds of trouble to occur on earth"

#### Revelation 11:7

##### bottomless pit

This is an extremely deep, narrow hole. Possible meanings are 1) the pit has no bottom; it continues to go down further forever or 2) the pit is so deep that it is as if it had no bottom. See how you translated this in Revelation 9:1.

#### Revelation 11:8

##### Their bodies

This refers to the bodies of the two witnesses.

##### in the street of the great city

The city had more than one street. This was a public place where people could see them. Alternate translation: "in one of the streets of the great city" or "in the main street of the great city"

##### their Lord

They served the Lord, and, like him, would die in that city.

#### Revelation 11:9

##### three and a half days

"3 full days and one half day" or "3.5 days" or "3 1/2 days"

##### They will not permit them to be placed in a tomb

This will be a sign of disrespect.

#### Revelation 11:10

##### will rejoice over them and celebrate

"will rejoice that the two witnesses have died"

##### even send gifts to one another

This action shows how happy the people were.

##### because these two prophets tormented those who lived on the earth

This is the reason that the people will be so happy that the witnesses have died.

#### Revelation 11:11

##### three and a half days

"3 full days and one half day" or "3.5 days" or "3 1/2 days." See how you translated this in [Revelation 11:9]

##### a breath of life from God will enter them

The ability to breathe is spoken of as if it were something that can go into people. Alternate translation: "God will cause the two witnesses to breathe again and live"

##### Great fear will fall on those who see them

Fear is spoken of as if it is a object that can fall on people. Alternate translation: "Those who see them will be extremely afraid"

#### Revelation 11:12

##### Then they will hear

Possible meanings are 1) the two witnesses will hear or 2) the people will hear what is said to the two witnesses.

##### a loud voice from heaven

The word "voice" refers to the one who speaks. Alternate translation: "someone speak loudly to them from heaven and"

##### say to them

"say to the two witnesses"

#### Revelation 11:13

##### Seven thousand people

"7,000 people"

##### the survivors

"those who do not die" or "those who are still living"

##### give glory to the God of heaven

"say that the God of heaven is glorious"

#### Revelation 11:14

##### The second woe is past

"The second terrible event is over." See how you translated "The first woe is past" in Revelation 9:12.

##### The third woe is coming quickly

Existing in the future is spoken of as coming. Alternate translation: "The third woe will happen soon"

#### Revelation 11:15

##### Connecting Statement:

The last of the seven angels begins to sound his trumpet.

##### the seventh angel

This is the last of the seven angels. See how you translated "seventh" in [Revelation 8.1]

##### loud voices spoke in heaven and said

The phrase "loud voices" represents speakers who spoke loudly. Alternate translation: "speakers in heaven spoke loudly and said"

##### The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ

Here "kingdom" refers to the authority to rule the world. Alternate translation: "The authority to rule the world now belongs to our Lord and his Christ" or "Our Lord and his Christ are now the rulers of the world"

##### the world

This refers to everyone in the world. Alternate translation: "everyone in the world"

#### Revelation 11:16

##### twenty-four elders

"24 elders." See how you translated this in [Revelation 4:4]

##### fell upon their faces

This is an idiom that means they lay down facing the ground. See how you translated "prostrated themselves" in [Revelation 4:10]

#### Revelation 11:17

##### you, Lord God Almighty, the one who is and who was

These phrases can be stated as sentences. Alternate translation: "you, Lord God, the ruler over all. You are the one who is, and you are the one who was"

##### the one who is

"the one who exists" or "the one who lives"

##### who was

"who has always existed" or "who has always lived"

##### you have taken your great power

What God did with his great power can be stated clearly. Alternate translation: "you have defeated with your power everyone who has rebelled against you"

#### Revelation 11:18

##### General Information:

The words "you" and "your" refer to God.

##### Connecting Statement:

The twenty-four elders continue praising God.

##### were enraged

"were extremely angry"

##### your wrath has come

Existing in the present is spoken of as having come. Alternate translation: "You are ready to show your anger"

##### The time has come

Existing in the present is spoken of as having come. Alternate translation: "The time is right" or "Now is the time"

##### for the dead to be judged

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "for God to judge the dead"

##### the dead

This nominal adjective can be stated as a verb or adjective. Alternate translation: "Those who have died" or "the dead people"

##### the prophets, those who are believers, and those who feared your name

This list explains what "your servants" means. These were not three completely different groups of people. The prophets also were believers and feared God's name. "Name" here is a metonym for the person of Jesus Christ. Alternate translation: "the prophets, those who are believers, and those who fear you" or "the prophets and the others who are believers and fear your name"

#### Revelation 11:19

##### Then God's temple in heaven was opened

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "Then someone opened God's temple in heaven"

##### the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "I saw the ark of his covenant in his temple"

##### flashes of lightning

Use your language's way of describing what lightning looks like each time it appears. See how you translated this in Revelation 4:5.

##### rumblings, crashes of thunder

These are the loud noises that thunder makes. Use your language's way of describing the sound of thunder. See how you translated this in Revelation 4:5.

## Chapter 12

# Revelation 12 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

Some translations set poetry farther to the right than the rest of the text to show that it is poetry. The ULB does this with the poetry in verses 10-12.

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Serpent

The Book of Revelation uses imagery from the Old Testament. For example, John refers to Satan as the serpent. This image comes from the account of the Garden of Eden when Satan tempted Eve.

### Other possible translation difficulties in this chapter

#### "A great sign was seen in heaven"

By using the passive voice here, John does not say who saw this great sign in heaven. The translation may be difficult when the subject is unclear, if your language does not have a passive voice. Many English translations use the past tense here and say "A great sign appeared in heaven."

## Links:

* [Revelation 12:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### Revelation 12:1

##### General Information:

John begins to describe a woman who appears in his vision.

##### A great sign was seen in heaven

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "A great sign appeared in heaven" or "I, John, saw a great sign in heaven"

##### a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "a woman who was wearing the sun and had the moon under her feet"

##### a crown of twelve stars

This was apparently a likeness of a wreath made of laurel leaves or olive branches, but with twelve stars included in it.

##### twelve stars

"12 stars"

#### Revelation 12:2

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

#### Revelation 12:3

##### Connecting Statement:

John describes a dragon that appears in his vision.

##### dragon

This was a large, fierce reptile, like a lizard. For Jewish people, it was a symbol of evil and chaos.

#### Revelation 12:4

##### His tail swept away a third of the stars

"With his tail he swept away a third of the stars"

##### a third

"one third." See how you translated this in [Revelation 8:7]

#### Revelation 12:5

##### rule all the nations with an iron rod

Ruling harshly is spoken of as ruling with an iron rod. See how you translated a similar phrase in [Revelation 2:27]

##### Her child was snatched away to God

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "God quickly took her child to himself"

#### Revelation 12:6

##### for 1,260 days

"for one thousand two hundred and sixty days" or "for twelve hundred and sixty days"

#### Revelation 12:7

##### Now

John uses this word to mark a shift in his account to introduce something else happening in his vision.

##### dragon

This was a large, fierce reptile, like a lizard. For Jewish people, it was a symbol of evil and chaos. The dragon is also identified in verse 9 as "the devil or Satan." See how you translated this in [Revelation 12:3]

#### Revelation 12:8

##### So there was no longer any place in heaven for him and his angels

"So the dragon and his angels could no longer stay in heaven"

#### Revelation 12:9

##### dragon—that old serpent called the Devil or Satan, who deceives the whole world—was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him

The information about the serpent can be given in a separate sentence after the statement that it was thrown down to the earth. Alternate translation: "dragon was thrown down to earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. He is the old serpent who deceives the world and is called the Devil or Satan"

##### The great dragon ... was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "God threw the great dragon ... and his angels out of heaven and sent them to the earth"

#### Revelation 12:10

##### I

The word "I" refers to John.

##### I heard a loud voice in heaven

The word "voice" refers to someone who speaks. Alternate translation: "I heard someone saying loudly from heaven"

##### Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ

God saving people by his power is spoken of as if his salvation and power were things that have come. God's ruling and Christ's authority are also spoken of as if they have come. Alternate translation: "Now God has saved his people by his power, God rules as king, and his Christ has all authority"

##### have come

"have begun to really exist" or "have appeared" or "have become real." God is revealing these things because their time to occur has "come." It is not that they did not exist before.

##### the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down

This is the dragon that was thrown down in Revelation 12:9.

##### our brothers

Fellow believers are spoken of as if they were brothers. Alternate translation: "our fellow believers"

##### day and night

These two parts of the day are used together to mean "all the time" or "without stopping"

#### Revelation 12:11

##### Connecting Statement:

The loud voice from heaven continues to speak.

##### They conquered him

"They conquered the accuser"

##### by the blood of the Lamb

The blood refers to his death. Alternate translation: "because the lamb had shed his blood and died for them"

##### by the word of their testimony

The word "testimony" can be expressed with the verb "testify." Also, whom they testified about can be stated clearly. Alternate translation: "by what they said when they testified to others about Jesus"

##### even to death

The believers told the truth about Jesus, even though they knew that their enemies might try to kill them because of it. Alternate translation: "but kept testifying even though they knew that doing so might cause their death"

#### Revelation 12:12

##### He is filled with terrible anger

The devil is spoken of as if he were a container, and anger is spoken of as if it were a liquid that could be in him. Alternate translation: "He is terribly angry"

#### Revelation 12:13

##### the dragon realized he had been thrown down to the earth

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "the dragon realized that God had thrown him out of heaven and sent him to earth"

##### he pursued the woman

"he chased after the woman"

##### dragon

This was a large, fierce reptile, like a lizard. For Jewish people, it was a symbol of evil and chaos. The dragon is also identified in verse 9 as "the devil or Satan." See how you translated this in [Revelation 12:3]

#### Revelation 12:14

##### the serpent's presence

This is another way of referring to the dragon. Alternate translation: "the dragon's presence"

#### Revelation 12:15

##### serpent

This is the same being as the dragon mentioned earlier in Revelation 12:9.

##### poured water out of his mouth like a river so that

The water flowed from his mouth like a river flows. Alternate translation: "poured a very large amount of water out of his mouth so that"

##### river so that he might make a flood to sweep

"river; he was trying to make a flood that would sweep"

##### to sweep her away

"to wash her away"

#### Revelation 12:16

##### The earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon was pouring out of his mouth

The earth is spoken of as if it were a living thing, and a hole in the earth is spoken of as if it were a mouth that could drink up the water. Alternate translation: "A hole in the ground opened up and the water went down into the hole"

##### dragon

This was a large, fierce reptile, like a lizard. For Jewish people, it was a symbol of evil and chaos. The dragon is also identified in verse 9 as "the devil or Satan." See how you translated this in [Revelation 12:3]

#### Revelation 12:17

##### hold to the testimony about Jesus

The word "testimony" can be translated as a verb. Alternate translation: "continue to testify about Jesus"

#### Revelation 12:18

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

## Chapter 13

# Revelation 13 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

Some translations set poetry farther to the right than the rest of the text to show that it is poetry. The ULB does this with the poetry in verse 10, which is from the Old Testament.

### Important figures of speech in this chapter

#### Similes

John uses many similes in this chapter. They help to describe the images that he sees in his vision.

### Other possible translation difficulties in this chapter

#### Unknown animals

John uses different animals to try to describe what he saw. Some of these animals may not be known in the target language.

## Links:

* [Revelation 13:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### Revelation 13:1

##### General Information:

John begins to describe a beast who appears in his vision. The word "I" here refers to John.

#### Revelation 13:2

##### dragon

This was a large, fierce reptile, like a lizard. For Jewish people, it was a symbol of evil and chaos. The dragon is also identified as "the devil or Satan." See how you translated this in [Revelation 12:3]

##### The dragon gave it his power

The dragon made the beast as powerful as he was. He did not lose his power, however, by giving it to the beast.

##### his power ... his throne, and his great authority to rule

These are three ways of referring to his authority, and together they emphasize that the authority was great.

##### his throne

The word "throne" here refers to the dragon's authority to rule as king. Alternate translation: "his royal authority" or "his authority to rule as king"

#### Revelation 13:3

##### but that fatal wound had been healed

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "but that fatal wound had healed"

##### fatal wound

"deadly wound"

##### The whole earth

The word "earth" refers to the people on it. Alternate translation: "All the people on the earth"

##### followed the beast

"obeyed the beast"

#### Revelation 13:4

##### dragon

This was a large, fierce reptile, like a lizard. For Jewish people, it was a symbol of evil and chaos. The dragon is also identified as "the devil or Satan." See how you translated this in [Revelation 12:3]

##### he had given his authority to the beast

"he had caused the beast to have as much authority as he had"

##### Who is like the beast?

This question shows how amazed they were about the beast. Alternate translation: "No one is as powerful as the beast!"

##### Who can fight against it?

This question shows how much the people feared the power of the beast. Alternate translation: "No one could ever fight against the beast and win!"

#### Revelation 13:5

##### The beast was given ... It was permitted

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "God gave the beast ... God permitted the beast"

##### The beast was given a mouth that could speak

Being given a mouth refers to being allowed to speak. Alternate translation: "The beast was allowed to speak"

##### forty-two months

"42 months"

#### Revelation 13:6

##### to speak blasphemies against God

"to say disrespectful things about God"

##### blaspheming his name and his tabernacle, those who live in heaven

The words "those who live in heaven" describe "his tabernacle." John is speaking as though God's people were a tabernacle in which God dwells. Alternate translation: "blaspheming his name and those who live in heaven, who are like a tabernacle for him"

##### blaspheming his name

God's name is a metonym for God himself. Alternate translation: "blaspheming God"

##### his name and his tabernacle, those who live in heaven

Some modern translations read, "his name, his tabernacle, and those who live in heaven."

#### Revelation 13:7

##### authority was given to it

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "God gave authority to the beast"

##### every tribe, people, language, and nation

This means that people from every ethnic group are included. See how you translated a similar list in Revelation 5:9.

#### Revelation 13:8

##### will worship it

"will worship the beast"

##### everyone whose name was not written ... in the Book of Life

This phrase clarifies who on the earth will worship the beast. It can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "those whose names the Lamb did not write ... in The Book of Life" or "those whose names were not ... in the Book of Life"

##### from the foundation of the world

The author speaks of the world as if it were a building set on a foundation. Alternate translation: "from the time that God created the world"

##### the Lamb

A "lamb" is a young sheep. Here is it used symbolically to refer to Christ. See how you translated this in [Revelation 5:6]

##### who had been slaughtered

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "whom the people slaughtered"

#### Revelation 13:9

##### General Information:

These verses are a break from John's account of his vision. Here he give a warning to the people reading his account.

##### If anyone has an ear, let him hear

Jesus is emphasizing that what he is about to say is important. The phrase "has an ear" here is a metonym for the willingness to understand and obey. See how you translated a similar phrase in [Revelation 2:7]

##### If anyone ... let him hear

Since Jesus is speaking directly to his audience, you may prefer to use the second person here. See how you translated this phrase in [Revelation 2:7]

#### Revelation 13:10

##### If anyone is to be taken

This expression means that someone has decided who should be taken. If needed, translators may state clearly who decided it. Alternate translation: "If God has decided that someone should be taken" or "If it is God's will that someone should be taken"

##### If anyone is to be taken into captivity

This can be stated in active form. The noun "captivity" can be stated with the verb "capture." Alternate translation: "If it is God's will for the enemy to capture a certain person"

##### into captivity he will go

The noun "captivity" can be stated with the verb "capture." Alternate translation: "he will be captured" or "the enemy will capture him"

##### If anyone is to be killed with the sword

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "If it is God's will for the enemy to kill a certain person with a sword"

##### with the sword

The sword represents war. Alternate translation: "in war"

##### he will be killed

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "the enemy will kill him"

##### Here is a call for the patient endurance and faith of God's holy people

"God's holy people must endure patiently and be faithful"

#### Revelation 13:11

##### Connecting Statement:

John begins to describe another beast who appears in his vision.

##### it spoke like a dragon

Harsh speech is spoken of as if it were the roar of a dragon. Alternate translation: "it spoke harshly like a dragon speaks"

##### dragon

This was a large, fierce reptile, like a lizard. For Jewish people, it was a symbol of evil and chaos. The dragon is also identified as "the devil or Satan." See how you translated this in [Revelation 12:3]

#### Revelation 13:12

##### the earth and those who live on it

"everyone on the earth"

##### the one whose lethal wound had been healed

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "the one who had a lethal wound that healed"

##### lethal wound

"deadly wound." This was an injury that was serious enough that it could have made him die.

#### Revelation 13:13

##### He performed

"The beast from the earth performed"

#### Revelation 13:14

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

#### Revelation 13:15

##### He was permitted

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "God permitted the beast from the earth"

##### to give breath to the beast's image

Here the word "breath" represents life. Alternate translation: "to give life to the beast's image"

##### the beast's image

This is the image of the first beast that had been mentioned.

##### cause all who refused to worship the beast to be killed

"put to death anyone who refused to worship the first beast"

#### Revelation 13:16

##### He also forced everyone

"The beast from the earth also forced everyone"

#### Revelation 13:17

##### It was impossible for anyone to buy or sell unless he had the mark of the beast

"People could buy or sell things only if they had the mark of the beast." The implicit information that the beast from the earth commanded it can be stated clearly. Alternate translation: "He commanded that people could buy or sell things only if they had the mark of the beast"

##### the mark of the beast

This was an identifying mark that indicated that the person who received it worshiped the beast.

#### Revelation 13:18

##### General Information:

This verse is a break from John's account of his vision. Here he gives another warning to the people reading his account.

##### This calls for wisdom

"Wisdom is needed" or "You need to be wise about this"

##### If anyone has insight

The word "insight" can be translated with the verb "understand." Alternate translation: "If anyone is able to understand things"

##### let him calculate the number of the beast

"he should discern what the number of the beast means" or "he should figure out what the number of the beast means"

##### is the number of a human being

Possible meanings are 1) the number represents one person or 2) the number represents all of humanity.

## Chapter 14

# Revelation 14 General Notes

### Important figures of speech in this chapter

#### Harvest

Harvest is when people go out to gather ripe food from plants. Jesus used this as a metaphor to teach his followers that they need to go and tell other people about him so those people can be part of God's kingdom. This chapter uses the metaphor of two harvests. Jesus gathers in his people from the whole earth. Then an angel gathers in wicked people whom God will punish. (See: and harvest and faith)

## Links:

* [Revelation 14:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### Revelation 14:1

##### General Information:

The word "I" refers to John.

##### Connecting Statement:

John begins to describe the next part of his vision. There are 144,000 believers standing before the Lamb.

##### Lamb

A "lamb" is a young sheep. Here is it used symbolically to refer to Christ. See how you translated this in [Revelation 5:6]

##### 144,000

"one hundred forty-four thousand." See how you translated this in [Revelation 7:4]

##### who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "on whose foreheads the Lamb and his Father had written their names"

##### his Father

This is an important title for God that describes the relationship between God and Jesus.

#### Revelation 14:2

##### a voice from heaven

"a sound from heaven"

#### Revelation 14:3

##### They sang a new song

"The 144,000 people sang a new song." This explains what the sound was that John heard. Alternate translation: "That sound was a new song that they sang"

##### the four living creatures

"the four living beings" or "the four living things." See how you translated "living creature" in Revelation 4:6

##### elders

This refers to the twenty-four elders around the throne. See how you translated "elders" in Revelation 4:4.

##### No one could learn the song except for the 144,000

This double negative emphasizes that the 144,000 were unique. Alternate translation: "The only ones who could learn the song were the 144,000"

##### 144,000

"one hundred forty-four thousand." See how you translated this in [Revelation 7:4]

#### Revelation 14:4

##### have not defiled themselves with women

Possible meanings are 1) "have never had immoral sexual relations with a woman" or 2) "have never had sexual relations with a woman." Defiling oneself with women may be a symbol of worshiping idols.

##### they have kept themselves sexually pure

Possible meanings are 1) "they have not had sexual relations with a woman who was not their wife" or 2) "they are virgins."

##### follow the Lamb wherever he goes

Doing what the Lamb does is spoken of as following him. Alternate translation: "they do whatever the Lamb does" or "they obey the Lamb"

##### redeemed from among mankind as firstfruits

"Firstfruits" here is a metaphor for the first offering to be made to God in celebration of harvest. Alternate translation: "purchased out of the midst of the rest of mankind as a special celebration of salvation"

#### Revelation 14:5

##### No lie was found in their mouth

Their "mouth" refers to what they said." Alternate translation: "They never lied when they spoke"

#### Revelation 14:6

##### Connecting Statement:

John begins to describe the next part of his vision. This is the first of three angels who proclaim judgment on the earth.

##### every nation, tribe, language, and people

This means that people from every ethnic group are included. See how you translated a similar list in Revelation 5:9.

#### Revelation 14:7

##### the hour of his judgment has come

Here "the hour" represents the time that has been chosen for something, and the hour having "come" is a metaphor for now being the chosen time. The idea of "judgment" can be expressed with a verb. Alternate translation: "now is the time that God has chosen for judgment" or "it is now the time for God to judge people"

#### Revelation 14:8

##### Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great

The angel speaks of Babylon having been destroyed as if it had fallen. Alternate translation: "Babylon the great has been destroyed"

##### Babylon the great

"Babylon the large city" or "the important city of Babylon." This was probably a symbol for the city of Rome, which was large, wealthy, and sinful.

##### who persuaded

Babylon is spoken of as if it were a person, instead of a city filled with people.

##### to drink the wine of her immoral passion

This is a symbol for participating in her sexually immoral passion. Alternate translation: "to be sexually immoral like her" or "to get drunk like her in sexual sin"

##### her immoral passion

Babylon is spoken of as if it were a prostitute who has caused other people to sin along with her. This may well have a double meaning: literal sexual immorality and also the worship of false gods.

#### Revelation 14:9

##### with a loud voice

"loudly"

#### Revelation 14:10

##### will also drink some of the wine of God's wrath

Drinking the wine of God's wrath is a symbol for being punished by God. Alternate translation: "will also drink some of the wine that represents God's wrath"

##### that has been poured undiluted

This can be translated in active form. Alternate translation: "that God has poured full strength"

##### that has been poured undiluted

This means that the wine has no water mixed into it. It is strong, and a person who drinks much of it will get very drunk. As a symbol, it means that God will be extremely angry, not just a little angry.

##### cup of his anger

This symbolic cup holds the wine that represents God's anger.

#### Revelation 14:11

##### Connecting Statement:

The third angel continues to speak.

##### The smoke from their torment

The phrase "their torment" refers to the fire that torments them. Alternate translation: "The smoke from the fire that torments them"

##### they have no rest

"they have no relief" or "the torment does not stop"

#### Revelation 14:12

##### Here is a call for the patient endurance of God's holy people

"God's holy people must endure patiently and be faithful." See how you translated a similar phrase in Revelation 13:10.

#### Revelation 14:13

##### the dead who die

"those who die"

##### who die in the Lord

"who are united with the Lord when they die." This may refer to people who are killed by their enemies. Alternate translation: "who die because they are united to the Lord"

##### labors

difficulties and sufferings

##### their deeds will follow them

These deeds are spoken of as if they were alive and able to follow those who did them. Possible meanings are 1) "others will know the good deeds these people have done" or 2) "God will reward them for their deeds"

#### Revelation 14:14

##### Connecting Statement:

John begins to describe the next part of his vision. This part is about the Son of Man harvesting the earth. Harvesting the grain is a symbol of God's judging people.

##### one like a son of man

This expression describes a human figure, someone who looks human. See how you translated this in [Revelation 1:13]

##### golden crown

This was the likeness of a wreath of olive branches or laurel leaves, hammered out in gold. Examples actually made of leaves were given to victorious athletes to wear on their heads.

##### sickle

a tool with a curved blade used for cutting grass, grain, and vines

#### Revelation 14:15

##### came out of the temple

"came out of the heavenly temple"

##### the time to reap has come

Existing in the present is spoken of as having come.

#### Revelation 14:16

##### the earth was reaped

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "he reaped the earth"

#### Revelation 14:17

##### Connecting Statement:

John continues describing his vision about the earth being harvested.

#### Revelation 14:18

##### who had authority over the fire

Here "authority over" refers to responsibility to tend the fire.

#### Revelation 14:19

##### harvested the grapevine of the earth ... threw it

John describes the earth as a grapevine full of ripe grapes that the angel is harvesting. The grapevine is a metonym for the grapes on the vine, and the grapes are a metaphor for the people of the earth. Alternate translation: "harvested the earth as if he were a person harvesting grapes ... threw the harvest" or "took away the people of the earth as if he were a person harvesting grapes ... threw them"

##### threw it

"threw the grapevine," a metonym for the harvest from the grapevine, or "threw the harvest from the grapevine"

##### the great winepress of God's wrath

"the large winepress where God will show his wrath." A winepress is a large container in which people put grapes and then crush them to get the juice out. John is saying that the angel will take the people of the earth and put them where God will punish or destroy them because he is angry with them.

#### Revelation 14:20

##### winepress

This is "the great wine vat" of [Revelation 14:19](./19.md).

##### up to the height of a horse's bridle

"as high as the bridle on a horse's head"

##### bridle

a device made of leather straps that goes around a horse's head and is used for directing the horse

##### 1,600 stadia

"one thousand six hundred stadia" or "sixteen hundred stadia." A "stadium" is 185 meters. In modern measures this would be about "300 kilometers" or "200 miles."

## Chapter 15

# Revelation 15 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

In this chapter John describes events and pictures that occur in heaven.

Some translations set poetry farther to the right than the rest of the text to show that it is poetry. The ULB does this with the poetry in verses 3-4.

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### "Victorious over the beast"

Those who are "victorious over the beast" are spiritually victorious. While most spiritual battles cannot be seen, the Book of Revelation pictures spiritual battles as openly occurring.

#### "The temple having the tent of witness was open in heaven"

Scripture elsewhere indicates the earthly temple copied God's perfect dwelling place in heaven. Here John seems to refer to God's heavenly dwelling place or temple.

#### Songs

The Book of Revelation often describes heaven as a place where people sing. They worship God with songs. This illustrates that heaven is a place where God is always worshiped.

## Links:

* [Revelation 15:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### Revelation 15:1

##### General Information:

This verse is a summary of what will happen in 15:6-16:21.

##### great and marvelous

These words have similar meanings and are used for emphasis. Alternate translation: "something that greatly amazed me"

##### seven angels with seven plagues

"seven angels who had authority to send seven plagues on the earth"

##### which are the final plagues

"and after them, there will not be any more plagues"

##### for with them the wrath of God will be completed

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "for these plagues will complete the wrath of God"

##### for with them the wrath of God will be completed

Possible meanings are 1) these plagues will show all of God's anger or 2) after these plagues, God will no longer be angry.

#### Revelation 15:2

##### General Information:

Here John begins to describe his vision of the people who had been victorious over the beast and who were praising God.

##### sea of glass

How it was like glass or a sea can be stated clearly. Possible meanings are 1) a sea is spoken of as if it were glass. Alternate translation: "a sea that was as smooth as glass" or 2) glass if spoken of as if it were a sea. See how you translated this in [Revelation 4:6]

##### who had been victorious over the beast and his image

How they were victorious can be stated clearly. Alternate translation: "who had been victorious over the beast and his image by not worshiping them"

##### over the number representing his name

How they were victorious over the number can be stated clearly. Alternate translation: "over the number representing his name by not being marked with that number"

##### the number representing his name

This refers to the number described in Revelation 13:18.

#### Revelation 15:3

##### They were singing

"Those who had been victorious over the beast were singing"

#### Revelation 15:4

##### Who will not fear you, Lord, and glorify your name?

This question is used to show their amazement at how great and glorious the Lord is. It can be expressed as an exclamation. Alternate translation: "Lord, everyone will fear you and glorify your name!"

##### glorify your name

The phrase "your name" refers to God. Alternate translation: "glorify you"

##### your righteous deeds have been revealed

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "you have made everyone know about your righteous deeds"

#### Revelation 15:5

##### Connecting Statement:

The seven angels with the seven plagues come out of the most holy place. They were spoken of previously in Revelation 15:1.

##### After these things

"After the people finished singing"

##### the temple of the tabernacle of witness

The words "the temple" seem to refer either literally to a solid building or metaphorically to a tent or tabernacle. Possible meanings of "tabernacle of witness" are 1) "the tabernacle" is the place where the priests had set the "witness," also called "the ark of the testimony," or 2) the "tabernacle of witness" is another name for "the ark of the testimony."

#### Revelation 15:6

##### Out of the temple

This is the "temple" spoken of in [Revelation 15:5](./05.md).

##### the seven angels holding the seven plagues

These angels were seen as holding seven plagues because in Revelation 17:7 they are given seven bowls full of the wrath of God.

##### linen

a fine, expensive cloth made from flax

##### sashes

A sash is a decorative piece of cloth worn on the upper body.

#### Revelation 15:7

##### the four living creatures

"the four living beings" or "the four living things." See how you translated "living creatures" in Revelation 4:6

##### seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God

The image of the wine in the bowls can be stated clearly. The word "wrath" here refers to punishment. The wine is a symbol for punishment. Alternate translation: "seven gold bowls full of the wine that represents the wrath of God"

#### Revelation 15:8

##### until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed

"until the seven angels finished sending the seven plagues to the earth"

## Chapter 16

# Revelation 16 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

This chapter continues the vision of chapter 15. Together they give the seven plagues that complete the wrath of God. (See: wrath)

Some translations set poetry farther to the right than the rest of the text to show that it is poetry. The ULB does this with the poetry in verses 5-7.

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### "I heard a loud voice call out of the temple"

This is the same temple that was mentioned in chapter 15.

#### Seven bowls of God's wrath

This chapter reveals severe judgments. They are pictured as angels pouring out seven bowls of God's wrath.

### Other possible translation difficulties in this chapter

The tone of this chapter is meant to astonish the reader. Translations should not minimize the vivid language expressed in this chapter.

#### Armageddon

This is a Hebrew word. It is the name of a place. John used the sounds of the Hebrew word and wrote them with Greek letters. Translators are encouraged to transliterate it using the letters of the target language.

## Links:

* [Revelation 16:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### Revelation 16:1

##### Connecting Statement:

John continues to describe the part of the vision about the seven angels with the seven plagues. The seven plagues are the seven bowls of God's wrath.

##### I heard

The word "I" refers to John.

##### bowls of God's wrath

The image of the wine in the bowls can be stated clearly. The word "wrath" here refers to punishment. The wine is a symbol for punishment. See how you translated a similar phrase in [Revelation 15:7]

#### Revelation 16:2

##### poured out his bowl

The word "bowl" refers to what is in it. Alternate translation: "poured out the wine from his bowl" or "poured out God's wrath from his bowl"

##### painful sores

"painful wounds." These could be infections from diseases or injuries that have not healed.

##### mark of the beast

This was an identifying mark that indicated that the person who received it worshiped the beast. See how you translated this in Revelation 13:17.

#### Revelation 16:3

##### poured out his bowl

The word "bowl" refers to what is in it. See how you translated this in [Revelation 16:2]

##### the sea

This refers to all the salt water lakes and oceans.

#### Revelation 16:4

##### poured out his bowl

The word "bowl" refers to what is in it. See how you translated this in [Revelation 16:2]

##### rivers and the springs of water

This refers to all bodies of fresh water.

#### Revelation 16:5

##### the angel of the waters

These words could be a reference to 1) the third angel who was in charge of pouring out God's wrath on the rivers and springs of water or 2) another angel who was in charge of all the waters.

##### You are righteous

"You" refers to God.

##### the one who is and who was

"God who is and who was." See how you translated a similar phrase in Revelation 1:4.

#### Revelation 16:6

##### they poured out the blood of God's holy people and prophets

Here "poured out the blood" means killed. Alternate translation: "they murdered God's holy people and the prophets"

##### you have given them blood to drink

God will make the evil people drink the waters that he turned to blood.

#### Revelation 16:7

##### I heard the altar reply

The word "altar" here refers perhaps to someone at the altar. "I heard someone at the altar reply"

#### Revelation 16:8

##### poured out his bowl

The word "bowl" refers to what is in it. See how you translated this in [Revelation 16:2]

##### on the sun, and it was given permission to scorch the people

John speaks about the sun as if it were a person. This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "on the sun and caused it to severely burn the people"

#### Revelation 16:9

##### They were scorched by the terrible heat

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "The extreme heat burned them badly"

##### they blasphemed the name of God

Here the name of God represents God. Alternate translation: "they blasphemed God"

##### God, who has the authority over these plagues

This phrase reminds readers of something they already know about God. It helps to explain why the people were blaspheming God. Alternate translation: "God because he has the authority over these plagues"

##### the authority over these plagues

This refers to the power to inflict these plagues on people, and the power to stop the plagues.

#### Revelation 16:10

##### poured out his bowl

The word "bowl" refers to what is in it. See how you translated this in [Revelation 16:2]

##### the throne of the beast

This is where the beast reigns from. It may refer to the capital city of his kingdom.

##### darkness covered its kingdom

Here "darkness" is spoken of as if it were something like a blanket. Alternate translation: "it became dark in all his kingdom" or "all of his kingdom became dark"

##### They chewed

The people in the beast's kingdom chewed.

#### Revelation 16:11

##### They blasphemed

The people in the beast's kingdom blasphemed.

#### Revelation 16:12

##### poured out his bowl

The word "bowl" refers to what is in it. See how you translated this in [Revelation 16:2]

##### the Euphrates. Its water was dried up

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "the Euphrates. Its water dried up" or "the Euphrates, and caused its water to dry up"

#### Revelation 16:13

##### looked like frogs

A frog is a small animal that lives near water. Jews considered them unclean animals.

##### dragon

This was a large, fierce reptile, like a lizard. For Jewish people, it was a symbol of evil and chaos. The dragon is also identified in 12:9 as "the devil or Satan." See how you translated this in [Revelation 12:3]

#### Revelation 16:14

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

#### Revelation 16:15

##### Look! I am coming ... his shameful condition

This is in parentheses to show that it is not part of the vision about the spirits. Rather, this is something that the Lord Jesus said. It can be stated clearly that the Lord Jesus said this, as in the UDB.

##### I am coming as a thief

Jesus will come at a time when people do not expect him, just as a thief comes when not expected. See how you translated a similar phrase in [Revelation 3:3]

##### keeping his garments on

Living the right way is spoken of as keeping one's clothes on. Alternate translation: "doing what is right, like keeping his clothes on"

##### keeping his garments on

Some versions translate this as, "keeping his garments with him."

##### does not walk around naked

Walking around naked is a metaphor for living foolishly without knowing it. Alternate translation: "does not live foolishly"

##### they do not see his shameful condition

Here the word "they" refers to other people.

##### his shameful condition

This is a general term for anything of which a person should be ashamed. Here the shame is from living foolishly. Alternate translation: "those things of which he should be ashamed"

#### Revelation 16:16

##### They brought them together

"The spirits of the demons brought the kings and their armies together"

##### the place that is called

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "the place that people call"

##### Armageddon

This is the name of a place.

#### Revelation 16:17

##### Connecting Statement:

The seventh angel pours out the seventh bowl of God's wrath.

##### poured out his bowl

The word "bowl" refers to what is in it. See how you translated this in [Revelation 16:2]

##### Then a loud voice came out of the temple and from the throne

This means someone sitting on the throne or someone standing near the throne spoke loudly. It is unclear who is speaking.

#### Revelation 16:18

##### flashes of lightning

Use your language's way of describing what lightning looks like each time it appears. See how you translated this in Revelation 4:5.

##### rumblings, crashes of thunder

These are the loud noises that thunder makes. Use your language's way of describing the sound of thunder. See how you translated this in Revelation 4:5.

#### Revelation 16:19

##### The great city was split

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "The earthquake split the great city"

##### Then God called to mind

"Then God remembered" or "Then God thought of" or "Then God started to pay attention to." This does not mean that God remembered something he had forgotten.

##### he gave that city the cup filled with the wine made from his furious wrath

The wine is a symbol of his wrath. Making people drink it is a symbol of punishing them. Alternate translation: "he made the people of that city drink the wine that represents his wrath"

#### Revelation 16:20

##### Connecting Statement:

This is part of the seventh bowl of God's wrath.

##### the mountains were no longer found

The inability to see any mountains is metonymy expressing the idea that no mountains existed any longer. Alternate translation: "there were no longer any mountains"

#### Revelation 16:21

##### a talent

You may convert this to a modern measure. Alternate translation: "33 kilograms"

## Chapter 17

# Revelation 17 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

This chapter begins to describe how God will destroy Babylon.

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Prostitute

Scripture often pictures idolatrous Jews as adulterous people and sometimes as prostitutes. This is not the reference here. The translator should allow this illustration to be vague.

#### Seven hills

This possibly refers to the city of Rome, which was known as the city on seven hills. However, the translator should not attempt to identify Rome in the translation.

### Important figures of speech in this chapter

#### Metaphors

John uses many different metaphors in this chapter. He explains some of their meanings, but allows them to remain relatively unclear. The translator should attempt to do the same.

### Other possible translation difficulties in this chapter

#### "The beast you saw existed, does not exist now, but is about to come up "

This and similar phrases in this chapter contrast the beast with Jesus. Jesus is called "the one who is, and who was, and who is to come" elsewhere in the Book of Revelation.

#### Paradox

A paradox is a true statement that appears to describe something impossible. This sentence in 17:11 is a paradox: "the beast ... is itself also an eighth king; but it is one of those seven kings." The translator should not attempt to resolve this paradox. It should remain a mystery. ([Revelation 17:11](../../rev/17/11.md))

## Links:

* [Revelation 17:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### Revelation 17:1

##### General Information:

John begins to describe the part of his vision about the great prostitute.

##### the condemnation of the great prostitute

The noun "condemnation" can be expressed with the verb "condemn." Alternate translation: "how God will condemn the great prostitute"

##### the great prostitute

"the prostitute that everyone knows about." She represents a certain sinful city.

##### on many waters

If you need to, you can use a more specific word for the kind of water. Alternate translation: "on many rivers"

#### Revelation 17:2

##### with the wine of her sexual immorality the inhabitants of the earth became drunk

The wine represents sexual immorality. Alternate translation: "the people of the earth became drunk by drinking her wine, that is, they were sexually immoral"

##### her sexual immorality

This may well have a double meaning: sexual immorality among people and also the worship of false gods.

#### Revelation 17:3

##### carried me away in the Spirit to a wilderness

The setting changes from John being in heaven to being in a wilderness.

#### Revelation 17:4

##### pearls

beautiful and valuable white beads. They are formed inside the shell of a certain kind of small animal that lives in the ocean.

#### Revelation 17:5

##### On her forehead was written a name

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "Someone had written on her forehead a name"

##### Babylon the great

If it needs to be made clear that the name refers to the woman, it can be put in a sentence. Alternate translation: "I am Babylon, the powerful one"

#### Revelation 17:6

##### was drunk with the blood ... and with the blood

"was drunk because she had drunk the blood ... and had drunk the blood"

##### the martyrs for Jesus

"the believers who have died because they told others about Jesus"

##### astonished

amazed, surprised

#### Revelation 17:7

##### General Information:

The angel begins to explain to John the meaning of the prostitute and the red beast. The angel explains these things through verse 18.

##### Why are you astonished?

The angel used this question to gently scold John. Alternate translation: "You should not be astonished!"

#### Revelation 17:8

##### the bottomless pit

This is an extremely deep, narrow hole. Possible meanings are 1) the pit has no bottom; it continues to go down further forever or 2) the pit is so deep that it is as if it had no bottom. See how you translated this in Revelation 9:1.

##### Then he will go on to destruction

The noun "destruction" can be translated with a verb. Alternate translation: "Then he will be destroyed" or "Then God will destroy him"

##### he will go on to destruction

The certainty of what will happen in the future is spoken of as if the beast were going to it.

##### those whose names have not been written

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "those whose names God did not write"

##### since the foundation of the world

The author speaks of the world as if it were a building set on a foundation. Alternate translation: "since the creation of the world" or "since God created the world"

#### Revelation 17:9

##### Connecting Statement:

The angel continues speaking. Here he explains the meaning of the seven heads of the beast that the woman is riding.

##### This calls for a mind that has wisdom

The abstract nouns "mind" and "wisdom" can be expressed with "think" and "wise" or "wisely." Why a wise mind is needed can be stated clearly. Alternate translation: "A wise mind is needed in order to understand this" or "You need to think wisely in order to understand this"

##### This calls for

"This makes it necessary to have"

##### The seven heads are seven hills

Here "are" means "stand for" or "represent."

#### Revelation 17:10

##### Five kings have fallen

The angel speaks of dying as falling. Alternate translation: "Five kings have died"

##### one exists

"one is king now" or "one king is alive now"

##### the other has not yet come, and when he comes

Not having existed yet is spoken of as not yet having come. Alternate translation: "the other has not yet become king; when he becomes king"

##### he must remain for a little while

The angel speaks of someone continuing to be king as if he were remaining in a place. Alternate translation: "he can be king only for a little while"

#### Revelation 17:11

##### He belongs to the seven

Possible meanings are 1) the beast rules twice: first as one of the seven kings, and then as the eighth king or 2) the beast belongs to that group of seven kings because he is like them.

##### and is going to his destruction

The certainty of what will happen in the future is spoken of as if the beast were going to it. Alternate translation: "and will certainly be destroyed" or "and God will surely destroy him"

#### Revelation 17:12

##### Connecting Statement:

The angel continues speaking to John. Here he explains the meaning of the ten horns of the beast.

##### for one hour

If your language does not divide the day into 24 hours, you may need to use a more general expression. Alternate translation: "for a very short time" or "for a very small part of a day"

#### Revelation 17:13

##### These are of one mind

"These all think the same thing" or "These all agree to do the same thing"

#### Revelation 17:14

##### the Lamb

A "lamb" is a young sheep. Here is it used symbolically to refer to Christ. See how you translated this in [Revelation 5:6]

##### the called, chosen, and faithful ones

This refers to one group of people. The words "called" and "chosen" can be expressed in active form. Alternate translation: "the ones whom God has called and chosen, who are faithful to him"

#### Revelation 17:15

##### The waters you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages

Here "are" stands for "represent."

##### The waters

If you need to, you can use a more specific word for the kind of water. See how you translated "many waters" in [Revelation 17:1]

##### multitudes

large groups of people

##### languages

This refers to people who speak the languages. See how you translated this in [Revelation 10:11]

#### Revelation 17:16

##### make her desolate and naked

"steal everything that she has and leave her with nothing"

##### they will devour her flesh

Destroying her completely is spoken of as eating all her flesh. "They will destroy her completely"

#### Revelation 17:17

##### For God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by agreeing to give ... until God's words are fulfilled

They would agree to give their power to the beast, but it would not be that they want to obey God. Alternate translation: "For God has put it into their hearts to agree to give ... until God's words are fulfilled, and by doing this, they would carry out God's purpose"

##### God has put it into their hearts

Here "heart" is a metonym for desires. Making them want to do something is spoken of as putting it in their hearts to do it. Alternate translation: "God has made them want"

##### power to rule

"authority" or "kingly authority"

##### until God's words are fulfilled

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "until God fulfills what he said will happen"

#### Revelation 17:18

##### Connecting Statement:

The angel finishes speaking to John about the prostitute and the beast.

##### is

Here "is" stands for "represents."

##### the great city that has power to rule

The city having power to rule is a metonym for the leader of the city having power to rule. Alternate translation: "the great city whose leader has power to rule"

## Chapter 18

# Revelation 18 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

Some translations set poetry farther to the right than the rest of the text to show that it is poetry. The ULB does this with the poetry in verses 2-8, 10, 16-17, and 19-24.

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Prophecy

The angel prophesies about Babylon falling, which here means being destroyed. It is spoken of as having already happened. This is common in prophecy. It emphasizes that the coming judgment will certainly happen. The angel also prophesies that the people will lament over Babylon falling.

### Important figures of speech in this chapter

#### Metaphors

Prophecy frequently uses metaphors. This chapter has an apocalyptic style that is slightly different from that of the rest of the Book of Revelation.

## Links:

* [Revelation 18:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### Revelation 18:1

##### Connecting Statement:

Another angel comes down from heaven and speaks. This is not the angel mentioned in the previous chapter who spoke about the prostitute and the beast.

#### Revelation 18:2

##### Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great

The angel speaks of Babylon having been destroyed as if it had fallen. See how you translated this in [Revelation 14:8]

##### She has become

The pronoun "she" refers to the city of Babylon, which is spoken of as if it were a prostitute.

##### a prison

The word "prison" here is a metaphor for a secure place. This was probably a secure place where the unclean spirits feel safe, such as a refuge or hideout. Alternate translation: "a hideout"

#### Revelation 18:3

##### all the nations

The nations is a metonym for the people of those nations. Alternate translation: "the people of all the nations"

##### have drunk the wine of her immoral passion

This is a symbol for participating in her sexually immoral passion. Alternate translation: "have become sexually immoral like her" or "have become drunk like her in sexual sin"

##### her immoral passion

Babylon is spoken of as if it were a prostitute who has caused other people to sin along with her. This may well have a double meaning: literal sexual immorality and also the worship of false gods.

##### merchants

A merchant is a person who sells things.

##### from the power of her sensual way of living

"because she spent so much money on sexual immorality"

#### Revelation 18:4

##### General Information:

The pronouns "she" and "her" refer to the city of Babylon, which is spoken of as if it were a prostitute.

##### Connecting Statement:

Another voice from heaven begins to speak.

##### another voice

The word "voice" refers to the speaker, which is probably either Jesus or the Father. Alternate translation: "someone else"

##### from her

The pronoun "her" refers to the city of Babylon, which is spoken of as if it were a prostitute.

#### Revelation 18:5

##### Her sins have piled up as high as heaven

The voice speaks of Babylon's sins as if they were objects that could form a pile. Alternate translation: "Her sins are so many they are like a pile that reaches heaven"

##### has remembered

"has thought of" or "has started to pay attention to." This does not mean that God remembered something he had forgotten. See how you translated "called to mind" in Revelation 16:19.

#### Revelation 18:6

##### Pay her back as she has paid others back

The voice speaks of punishment as if it were payment. Alternate translation: "Punish her as she has punished others"

##### her ... she

The pronouns "her" and "she" refer to the city of Babylon, which is spoken of as if it were a prostitute.

##### repay her double

The voice speaks of punishment as if it were payment. Alternate translation: "punish her twice as much"

##### in the cup she mixed, mix double the amount for her

The voice speaks of causing others to suffer as preparing strong wine for them to drink. Alternate translation: "prepare for her the wine of suffering that is twice as strong as what she made for others" or "make her suffer twice as much as she made others suffer"

##### mix double the amount

Possible meanings are 1) "prepare twice the amount" or 2) "make it twice as strong"

#### Revelation 18:7

##### Connecting Statement:

The same voice from heaven continues speaking about Babylon as if it were a woman.

##### she glorified herself

"the people of Babylon glorified themselves"

##### For she says in her heart

Here "heart" is a metonym for a person's mind or thoughts. Alternate translation: "For she says to herself"

##### I am seated as a queen

She claims to be a ruler, having her own authority.

##### I am not a widow

She implies that she will not be dependent on other people.

##### I will never see mourning

Experiencing mourning is spoken of as seeing mourning. Alternate translation: "I will never mourn"

#### Revelation 18:8

##### her plagues will come

Existing in the future is spoken of a coming.

##### She will be consumed by fire

Being burned up by fires is spoken of as being eaten up by fire. This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "Fire will completely burn her up"

#### Revelation 18:9

##### General Information:

In these verses the word "her" refers to the city of Babylon.

##### committed sexual immorality and went out of control with her

"sinned sexually and did whatever they wanted just as the people of Babylon did"

#### Revelation 18:10

##### Connecting Statement:

John tells what people say about Babylon.

##### afraid of her torment

The abstract noun "torment" can be translated as a verb. Alternate translation: "afraid that they will be tormented as Babylon is" or "afraid that God will torment them as he torments Babylon"

##### Woe, woe

This is repeated for emphasis.

##### your punishment has come

Existing in the present is spoken of as having come.

#### Revelation 18:11

##### mourn for her

"mourn for the people of Babylon"

#### Revelation 18:12

##### precious stone, pearls

"many kinds of expensive stones." See how you translated these in Revelation 17:4.

##### fine linen

expensive cloth made from flax. See how you translated "linen" in Revelation 15:6.

##### purple, silk, scarlet

Purple is a very dark red cloth that is very expensive. Silk is a soft, strong cloth made from the fine string that silkworms make when they make their cocoons. Scarlet is an expensive red cloth.

##### every vessel of ivory

"all kinds of containers made of ivory"

##### ivory

a beautiful hard, white material that people get from the tusks or teeth of very large animals such as elephants or walruses. Alternate translation: "tusks" or "valuable animal teeth"

##### marble

a precious stone used for building

#### Revelation 18:13

##### cinnamon

a spice that smells nice and comes from the bark of a certain kind of tree

##### spice

a substance used to add flavor to food or a good smell to oil

##### bodies and souls of people

Possible meanings are 1) the parts of people are used figuratively to refer to people who are sold as slaves. Alternate translation: "slaves" or 2) the word "bodies" refers to slaves, and the phrase "souls of people" expresses the truth that slaves are real people. Alternate translation: "slaves, that is human souls"

#### Revelation 18:14

##### The fruit

"Fruit" here is a metaphor for "result" or "outcome." Alternate translation: "The result"

##### desired with all your might

"wanted very much"

##### vanished, never to be found again

Not to be found stands for not existing. This figure of speech can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "vanished; you will never have them again"

#### Revelation 18:15

##### General Information:

In these verses, the word "her" refers to the city of Babylon.

##### because of the fear of her torment

This can be restated to remove the abstract nouns "fear" and "torment." Alternate translation: "because they will be afraid of God tormenting them they way he torments her" or "because they will be afraid of suffering the way she is suffering"

##### weeping and mourning loudly

This is what the merchants will be doing. Alternate translation: "and they will weep and mourn loudly"

#### Revelation 18:16

##### the great city that was dressed in fine linen

Throughout this chapter, Babylon is spoken of as if it were a woman. The merchants speak of Babylon as being dressed in fine linen because its people were dressed in fine linen. Alternate translation: "the great city, which was like a woman dressed in fine linen" or "the great city, whose women were dressed in fine linen"

##### that was dressed in fine linen

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "that wore fine linen"

##### was adorned with gold

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "adorned herself with gold" or "adorned themselves with gold" or "wore gold"

##### precious jewels

"valuable gems" or "treasured gems"

##### pearls

beautiful and valuable white beads. They are formed inside the shell of a certain kind of small animal that lives in the ocean. See how you translated this in [Revelation 17:4]

#### Revelation 18:17

##### who make their living from the sea

The phrase "from the sea" refers to what they do on the sea. Alternate translation: "who travel on the sea to make their living" or "who sail on the sea to different places in order to trade things"

#### Revelation 18:18

##### General Information:

In these verses the word "they" refers to the sailors and seafarers, and the word "her" refers to the city of Babylon.

##### What city is like the great city?

This question shows that the merchants thought the city of Babylon was very important. Alternate translation: "No other city is like the great city, Babylon!"

#### Revelation 18:19

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

#### Revelation 18:20

##### God has brought your judgment on her

The noun "judgment" can be expressed with the verb "judge." Alternate translation: "God has judged her for you" or "God has judged her because of the bad things she did to you"

#### Revelation 18:21

##### Connecting Statement:

Another angel begins to speak about Babylon. This angel is not one of those who has spoken previously.

##### millstone

a large round stone used to crush grain

##### Babylon, the great city, will be thrown down with violence and will not be seen anymore

God will completely destroy the city. This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "God will violently throw down Babylon, the great city, and it will no longer exist"

##### will not be seen anymore

"no one will see it anymore." Not being seen here means that it will not exist. Alternate translation: "it will not exist anymore"

#### Revelation 18:22

##### The sound made by harpists, musicians, flute players, and trumpeters will not be heard anymore in you

Not being heard here means that they will not be there. This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "Harpists, musicians, flute players, and trumpeters will no longer make a sound in your city"

##### in you

The angel speaks as if he were talking to Babylon. Alternate translation: "in Babylon"

##### No craftsman ... will be found in you

Not being found there means that they will not be there. Alternate translation: "No craftsman ... will be in your city"

##### No sound of a mill will be heard anymore in you

The sound of something not being heard means that no one will make that sound. Alternate translation: "No one will use a mill in your city anymore"

#### Revelation 18:23

##### General Information:

The words "you" and "your" refer to Babylon.

##### Connecting Statement:

The angel who threw the millstone finishes talking.

##### The voices of the bridegroom and the bride will not be heard in you anymore

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "No one will ever again hear in Babylon the happy voices of a bridegroom and a bride"

##### will not be heard in you anymore

Not being heard here means that they will not be there. Alternate translation: "will not be in your city anymore"

##### your merchants were the princes of the earth

The angel speaks of important and powerful people as if they were princes. Alternate translation: "your merchants were like princes of the earth" or "your merchants were the most important men in the world"

##### the nations were deceived by your sorcery

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "you deceived the people of the nations with your magic spells"

#### Revelation 18:24

##### General Information:

The word "her" refers to Babylon.

##### In her the blood of prophets and of God's holy people was found, and the blood of all who have been killed on the earth

Blood being found there means that the people there were guilty of killing people. Alternate translation: "Babylon is guilty of killing the prophets and believers and all the other people in the world who were killed"

## Chapter 19

# Revelation 19 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

The beginning of chapter 19 concludes the topic of Babylon falling.

Some translations set poetry farther to the right than the rest of the text to show that it is poetry. The ULB does this with the poetry in verses 1-8.

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Songs

The Book of Revelation often describes heaven as a place where people sing. They worship God with songs. This illustrates that heaven is a place where God is always worshiped. (See: heaven)

#### Wedding celebration

The wedding celebration or feast is an important image in Scripture. Jewish culture often pictured paradise, or life with God after death, as a feast. Here, the wedding feast is for the Lamb, who is Jesus, and his bride, who is all his people.

## Links:

* [Revelation 19:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### Revelation 19:1

##### General Information:

This is the next part of John's vision. Here he describes the rejoicing in heaven over the fall of the great prostitute, who is the city of Babylon.

##### I heard

Here "I" refers to John.

##### Hallelujah

This word means "Praise Yahweh." Some modern versions translate it as "Praise the Lord."

#### Revelation 19:2

##### the great prostitute

Here John refers to the city of Babylon whose wicked people rule over all the people of the earth and lead them to worship false gods. He speaks of the wicked people of Babylon as if they were a great prostitute. Alternate translation: "that wicked city that was like a prostitute

##### who corrupted the earth

Here "the earth" is a metonym for its inhabitants. Alternate translation: "who corrupted the people of the earth"

##### He has avenged the blood of his servants from her hand

Here "the blood ... from her hand" is a metonym for her murdering people. The word "her" refers to the "prostitute," the city of Babylon. Alternate translation: "He has punished her for murdering his servants"

#### Revelation 19:3

##### They spoke

Here "They" refers to the crowd of people in heaven.

##### Hallelujah

This word means "Praise Yahweh." Some modern versions translate it as "Praise the Lord." See how you translated this in Revelation 19:1.

##### smoke rises from her

The word "her" refers to the city of Babylon, which is spoken of as if it were a prostitute. The smoke is from the fire that destroys the city. Alternate translation: "smoke rises from that city"

#### Revelation 19:4

##### twenty-four elders

"24 elders." See how you translated this in [Revelation 4:4]

##### the four living creatures

"the four living beings" or "the four living things." See how you translated this in Revelation 4:6

##### who was seated on the throne

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "who sat on the throne"

##### Hallelujah

This word means "Praise Yahweh." Some modern versions translate it as "Praise the Lord." See how you translated this in Revelation 19:1.

#### Revelation 19:5

##### a voice came out from the throne

Here John speaks of the "voice" as if it were a person. Alternate translation: "someone spoke from the throne"

##### Praise our God

Here "our" refers to the speaker and all God's servants.

##### you who fear him

Here "fear" does not mean to be afraid of God, but to honor him. Alternate translation: "all you who honor him"

##### both the unimportant and the powerful

The speaker uses these words together to mean all of God's people.

#### Revelation 19:6

##### Then I heard what sounded like the voice of a great number of people, like the roar of many waters, and like mighty crashes of thunder

John speaks of what he is hearing as if it were like the sound made by a very large crowd of people, a large body of rushing water, and very loud thunder.

##### Hallelujah

This word means "Praise Yahweh." Some modern versions translate it as "Praise the Lord." See how you translated this in Revelation 19:1.

##### For the Lord

"Because the Lord"

#### Revelation 19:7

##### Connecting Statement:

The voice of the crowd from the previous verse continues speaking.

##### Let us rejoice

Here "us" refers to all of God's servants.

##### give him the glory

"give God the glory" or "honor God"

##### wedding celebration of the Lamb ... his bride has made herself ready

Here John speaks of the joining of Jesus and his people together forever as if it were a wedding celebration.

##### Lamb

This is a young sheep. Here is it used symbolically to refer to Christ. See how you translated this in [Revelation 5:6]

##### has come

Existing in the present is spoken of as having come.

##### his bride has made herself ready

John speaks of God's people as if they were a bride who has gotten ready for her wedding.

#### Revelation 19:8

##### She was permitted to be dressed in bright and clean fine linen

Here "she" refers to the people of God. John speaks of the righteous acts of God's people as if they were a bright and clean dress that a bride wears on her wedding day. You can state this in active form. Alternate translation: "God allowed her to wear a dress of bright and clean fine linen"

#### Revelation 19:9

##### General Information:

An angel begins to speak to John. This is likely the same angel who began to speak to John in Revelation 17:1.

##### those who are invited

You can state this in active form. Alternate translation: "the people whom God invites"

##### the wedding feast of the Lamb

Here the angel speaks of the joining of Jesus and his people forever as if it were a wedding feast.

#### Revelation 19:10

##### I fell down at his feet

This means that John purposely lay on the ground and stretched himself out in reverence or submission. This action was an important part of worship, to show respect and willingness to serve. See how you translated "fell down" in Revelation 5:8.

##### your brothers

The word "brothers" here refers to all believers, male and female.

##### who hold the testimony about Jesus

Here holding stands for believing in or announcing. Alternate translation: "who speak the truth about Jesus"

##### for the testimony about Jesus is the spirit of prophecy

Here "spirit of prophecy" refers to God's Holy Spirit. Alternate translation: "for it is the Spirit of God who gives people the power to speak the truth about Jesus"

#### Revelation 19:11

##### General Information:

This is the beginning of a new vision. John begins to describe a rider on a white horse.

##### Then I saw heaven open

This imagery is used to signify the beginning of a new vision. See how you translated this idea in Revelation 4:1 and Revelation 11:19 and Revelation 15:5.

##### The one riding it

The rider is Jesus.

##### It is with justice that he judges and wages war

Here "justice" refers to what is right. Alternate translation: "He judges all people and wages war according to what is right"

#### Revelation 19:12

##### His eyes are like a fiery flame

John speaks of the rider's eyes as if they shone like a flame of fire.

##### He has a name written on him

You can state this in active form. Alternate translation: "Someone has written a name on him"

##### on him that no one knows but himself

"on him, and only he knows the meaning of that name"

#### Revelation 19:13

##### He is clothed with a robe that was dipped in blood

You can state this in an active form. Alternate translation: "He wears a robe that has blood on it"

##### his name is called the Word of God

You can state this in active form. "Word of God" here is a metonym for Jesus Christ. Alternate translation: "his name is called the Message of God" or "his name is also the Word of God"

#### Revelation 19:14

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

#### Revelation 19:15

##### Out of his mouth goes a sharp sword

The sword blade was sticking out of his mouth. The sword itself was not in motion. See how you translated a similar phrase in Revelation 1:16.

##### strikes down the nations

"destroys the nations" or "brings the nations under his control"

##### rule them with an iron rod

John speaks of the rider's power as if he were ruling with an iron rod. See how you translated this in [Revelation 2:27]

##### He tramples in the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty

John speaks of the rider's destroying his enemies as if they were grapes that a person tramples in a winepress. Here "wrath" refers to God's punishment of evil persons. Alternate translation: "He crushes his enemies according to the judgment of God Almighty, just as a person crushes grapes in a winepress"

#### Revelation 19:16

##### He has a name written on his robe and on his thigh:

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "Someone has written a name on his robe and thigh:"

#### Revelation 19:17

##### I saw an angel standing in the sun

Here "the sun" is a metonym for the light of the sun. Alternate translation: "Then I saw an angel standing in the light of the sun"

#### Revelation 19:18

##### both free and slave, the unimportant and the powerful

The angel uses these two sets of opposite-meaning words together to mean all people.

#### Revelation 19:19

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

#### Revelation 19:20

##### The beast was captured and with him the false prophet

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "The rider on the white horse captured the beast and the false prophet"

##### the mark of the beast

This was an identifying mark that indicated that the person who received it worshiped the beast. See how you translated this in Revelation 13:17.

##### The two of them were thrown alive

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "God threw the beast and the false prophet alive"

##### the fiery lake of burning sulfur

"the lake of fire that burns with sulfur" or "place full of fire that burns with sulfur"

#### Revelation 19:21

##### The rest of them were killed by the sword that came out of the mouth of the one who rode on the horse

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "The rider of the horse killed the remainder of the beast's armies with the sword that extended from his mouth"

##### the sword that came out of the mouth

The sword blade was sticking out of his mouth. The sword itself was not in motion. See how you translated a similar phrase in Revelation 1:16.

## Chapter 20

# Revelation 20 General Notes

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### The thousand-year reign of Christ

In this chapter, Jesus is said to reign for a thousand years, at the same time that Satan is bound. Scholars are divided over whether this refers to a future period of time or to Jesus reigning now from heaven. It is not necessary to understand this passage in order to translate it accurately. (See: prophet)

#### Final rebellion

This chapter also describes what happens after the thousand years are ended. During this time, Satan and many people will attempt to rebel against Jesus. This will result in God's ultimate and final victory over sin and evil. (See: sin and evil and eternity)

#### Great white throne

This chapter ends with God judging all people who ever lived. God separates people who believe in Jesus from those who do not believe in him. (See: judge and heaven and faith)

### Important figures of speech in this chapter

#### Book of Life

This is a metaphor for eternal life. Those possessing eternal life are said to have their names written in this Book of Life.

### Other possible translation difficulties in this chapter

#### Hades and the lake of fire

These appear to be two distinct places. The translator may wish to do further research to determine how to translate these two places differently. They should not be made the same as each other in translation. (See: hell)

## Links:

* [Revelation 20:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### Revelation 20:1

##### General Information:

John begins to describe a vision of an angel throwing the devil into the bottomless pit.

##### Then I saw

Here "I" refers to John.

##### bottomless pit

This is an extremely deep, narrow hole. Possible meanings are 1) the pit has no bottom; it continues to go down further forever or 2) the pit is so deep that it is as if it had no bottom. See how you translated this in Revelation 9:1.

#### Revelation 20:2

##### dragon

This was a large, fierce reptile, like a lizard. For Jewish people, it was a symbol of evil and chaos.

#### Revelation 20:3

##### sealed it over him

The angel sealed the pit to keep anyone from opening it. Alternate translation: "sealed it to prevent anyone from opening it"

##### deceive the nations

Here "nations" is a metonym for the people of the earth. Alternate translation: "deceive the people-groups"

##### the thousand years

"1,000 years"

##### he must be set free

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "God will command the angel to free him"

#### Revelation 20:4

##### General Information:

This is the next part of John's vision. He describes suddenly seeing thrones and the souls of believers.

##### who had been given authority to judge

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "whom God had given authority to judge"

##### who had been beheaded

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "whose heads others had cut off"

##### for the testimony about Jesus and for the word of God

"because they had spoken the truth about Jesus and about the word of God"

##### for the word of God

These words are a metonym for the message from God. Alternate translation: "for what they taught about the scriptures"

##### They came to life

"They came back to life" or "They became alive again"

#### Revelation 20:5

##### The rest of the dead

"All of the other dead people"

##### the thousand years were ended

"the end of the 1,000 years"

#### Revelation 20:6

##### Over these the second death has no power

Here John describes "death" as a person with power. Alternate translation: "These people will not experience the second death"

##### the second death

"dying a second time." This is described as eternal punishment in the lake of fire in [Revelation 20:14]

#### Revelation 20:7

##### Satan will be released from his prison

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "God will release Satan from his prison"

#### Revelation 20:8

##### They will be as many as the sand of the sea

This emphasizes the extremely large number of soldiers in Satan's army.

#### Revelation 20:9

##### They went

"Satan's army went"

##### the beloved city

This refers to Jerusalem.

##### fire came down from heaven and devoured them

Here John speaks of fire as if it were alive. Alternate translation: "God sent fire from heaven to burn them up"

#### Revelation 20:10

##### The devil, who deceived them, was thrown into

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "God threw the devil, who had deceived them, into" or "God's angel threw the devil, who had deceived them, into"

##### lake of burning sulfur

"the lake of fire that burns with sulfur" or "place full of fire that burns with sulfur." See how you translated this in Revelation 19:20.

##### where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "where he had also thrown the beast and the false prophet"

##### They will be tormented

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "God will torment them"

#### Revelation 20:11

##### General Information:

This is the next part of John's vision. He describes suddenly seeing a great white throne and the dead being judged.

##### The earth and the heavens fled away from his presence, but there was no place for them to go

John describes heaven and earth as if they were people who were trying to escape God's judgment. This means that God completely destroyed the old heaven and earth.

#### Revelation 20:12

##### the books were opened

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "someone opened the books"

##### The dead were judged

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "God judged the people who had died and now lived again"

##### by what was recorded

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "by what he had recorded"

#### Revelation 20:13

##### The sea gave up the dead ... Death and Hades gave up the dead

Here John speaks of the sea, death, and Hades as if they were living persons.

##### the dead were judged

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "God judged the dead people"

##### Hades

Here "Hades" is a metonym that represents the place where unbelievers go when they die, to wait for God's judgment.

#### Revelation 20:14

##### Death and Hades were thrown

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "God threw Death and Hades" or "God's angel threw Death and Hades"

##### the second death

"dying a second time." This is described as eternal punishment in the lake of fire in [Revelation 20:14]

#### Revelation 20:15

##### If anyone's name was not found written

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "If God's angel did not find a person's name"

##### he was thrown into the lake of fire

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "the angel threw him into the lake of fire" or "the angel threw him into the place where fire burns forever"

## Chapter 21

# Revelation 21 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

This chapter gives a detailed picture of the new Jerusalem.

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Second death

Death is a type of separation. The first death is physically dying, when the soul is separated from the body. The second death is being eternally separated from God. (See: death and soul and eternity)

### Important figures of speech in this chapter

#### Book of Life

This is a metaphor for eternal life. Those possessing eternal life are said to have their names written in this Book of Life.

### Other possible translation difficulties in this chapter

#### New heaven and new earth

It is unclear whether this is an entirely new heaven and earth or if it is remade out of the present heaven and earth. The same is also true of the new Jerusalem. It is possible this will affect translation in some languages. The word "new" in the original language means different and better than the old. It does not mean new in time.

## Links:

* [Revelation 21:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### Revelation 21:1

##### General Information:

John begins to describe his vision of the new Jerusalem.

##### I saw

Here "I" refers to John.

#### Revelation 21:2

##### like a bride adorned for her husband

This compares the new Jerusalem to a bride who has made herself beautiful for her bridegroom.

#### Revelation 21:3

##### a great voice from the throne saying

The word "voice" refers to the one who speaks. Alternate translation: "someone speak loudly from the throne saying"

##### Look!

The word "Look" here alerts us to pay attention to the surprising information that follows.

##### The dwelling place of God is with human beings, and he will live with them

These two phrases mean the same thing and emphasize that God will, indeed, live among men.

#### Revelation 21:4

##### He will wipe away every tear from their eyes

Tears here represent sadness. See how you translated this in [Revelation 7:17]

#### Revelation 21:5

##### these words are trustworthy and true

Here "words" refers to the message that they formed. Alternate translation: "this message is trustworthy and true"

#### Revelation 21:6

##### the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end

These two phrases mean basically the same thing and emphasize God's eternal nature.

##### the Alpha and the Omega

These are first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Possible meanings are 1) "the one who began all things and who ends all things" or 2) "the one who has always lived and who always will live." If the meanings are unclear to readers, you may consider using the first and last letters of your alphabet. See how you translated this in [Revelation 1:8]

##### the beginning and the end

Possible meanings are 1) "the one who began all things and the one who will cause all things to end" or 2) "the one who existed before all things and who will exist after all things."

##### To the one who thirsts ... water of life

God speaks of a person's desire for eternal life as if it were thirst and of that person receiving eternal life as if he were drinking life-giving water.

#### Revelation 21:7

##### Connecting Statement:

The one seated on the throne continues to speak to John.

#### Revelation 21:8

##### the cowards

"those who are too afraid to do what is right"

##### the detestable

"those who do terrible things"

##### the fiery lake of burning sulfur

"the lake of fire that burns with sulfur" or "place full of fire that burns with sulfur." See how you translated this in Revelation 19:20.

##### the second death

"dying a second time." This is described as eternal punishment in the lake of fire in [Revelation 20:14]

#### Revelation 21:9

##### the bride, the wife of the Lamb

The angel speaks of Jerusalem as if it were a woman who is about to marry her groom, the Lamb. Jerusalem is metonymy for those who believers who will inhabit it.

##### the Lamb

This is a young sheep. Here is it used symbolically to refer to Christ. See how you translated this in [Revelation 5:6]

#### Revelation 21:10

##### carried me away in the Spirit

The setting changes as John is taken to a high mountain where he can see the city of Jerusalem. See how you translated this phrase in [Revelation 17:3]

#### Revelation 21:11

##### Jerusalem

This refers to the "Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven" that he described in the previous verse and not to the physical Jerusalem.

##### like a very precious jewel, like a stone of crystal-clear jasper

These two phrases mean basically the same thing. The second emphasizes the brilliance of Jerusalem by naming a specific jewel.

##### crystal-clear

"extremely clear"

##### jasper

This is a valuable stone. Jasper may have been clear like glass or crystal. See how you translated this in [Revelation 4:3]

#### Revelation 21:12

##### twelve gates

"12 gates"

##### were written

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "someone had written"

#### Revelation 21:13

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

#### Revelation 21:14

##### Lamb

This refers to Jesus. See how you translated this in Revelation 5:6.

#### Revelation 21:15

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

#### Revelation 21:16

##### twelve thousand stadia

"12,000 stadia." You may convert this to modern measures. Alternate translation: "2,200 kilometers"

#### Revelation 21:17

##### 144 cubits

"one hundred forty-four cubits." You may convert this to modern measures. Alternate translation: "66 meters"

#### Revelation 21:18

##### The wall was built of jasper and the city of pure gold

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "Someone had built the wall with jasper and the city with pure gold"

##### pure gold, like clear glass

The gold was so clear that it is spoken of as if it were glass.

##### jasper

This is a valuable stone. Jasper may have been clear like glass or crystal. See how you translated this in [Revelation 4:3]

#### Revelation 21:19

##### The foundations of the wall were adorned

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "Someone adorned the foundations of the wall"

##### jasper ... sapphire ... agate ... emerald

These are valuable stones. Jasper may have been clear like glass or crystal. See how you translated it in [Revelation 4:3]

#### Revelation 21:20

##### onyx ... chrysolite ... beryl ... topaz ... chrysoprase ... jacinth ... amethyst

These are all valuable gems.

#### Revelation 21:21

##### pearls

beautiful and valuable white beads. They are formed inside the shell of a certain kind of small animal that lives in the ocean. See how you translated this in [Revelation 17:4]

##### each of the gates was made from a single pearl

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "someone had made each of the gates from a single pearl"

##### pure gold, like transparent glass

The gold was so clear that it is spoken of as if it were glass. See how you translated a similar phrase in [Revelation 21:18]

#### Revelation 21:22

##### Lord God ... and the Lamb are its temple

The temple represented God's presence. This means the new Jerusalem does not need a temple because God and the Lamb will live there.

#### Revelation 21:23

##### its lamp is the Lamb

Here the glory of Jesus, the Lamb, is spoken of as if it were a lamp that gives light to the city.

#### Revelation 21:24

##### The nations will walk

The words "the nations" are a metonym for the people who live in the nations. "Walk" here is a metaphor for "live." Alternate translation: "The people from all the different nations will live"

#### Revelation 21:25

##### Its gates will not be shut

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "No one will shut the gates"

#### Revelation 21:26

##### They will bring

"The kings of the earth will bring"

#### Revelation 21:27

##### nothing unclean will ever enter into it, nor anyone

This can be stated in positive form. Alternate translation: "only what is clean will ever enter, and never anyone"

##### but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "but only those whose names the Lamb wrote in his Book of Life"

##### the Lamb

This is a young sheep. Here is it used symbolically to refer to Christ. See how you translated this in [Revelation 5:6]

## Chapter 22

# Revelation 22 General Notes

### Structure and formatting

This chapter emphasizes that Jesus is coming soon.

### Special concepts in this chapter

#### Tree of life

There is probably an intended connection between the tree of life in the Garden of Eden and the tree of life mentioned in this chapter. The curse that began in Eden will end at this time.

### Other possible translation difficulties in this chapter

#### Alpha and omega

These are the names of the first and last letters in the Greek alphabet. The ULB spells out their names in English. This strategy can serve as a model for translators. Some translators, however, may decide to use the first and last letters in their own alphabet. This would be "A and Z" in English.

## Links:

* [Revelation 22:1 Notes](./01.md)

#### Revelation 22:1

##### Connecting Statement:

John continues to describe the new Jerusalem as the angel shows it to him.

##### showed me

Here "me" refers to John.

##### the river of the water of life

"the river flowing with life-giving water"

##### the water of life

Eternal life is spoken of as if it were provided by life-giving water. See how you translated this in [Revelation 21:6]

##### the Lamb

This is a young sheep. Here is it used symbolically to refer to Christ. See how you translated this in [Revelation 5:6]

#### Revelation 22:2

##### the nations

Here "nations" refers to the people who live in every nation. Alternate translation: "the people of all nations"

#### Revelation 22:3

##### There will no longer be any curse

Possible meanings are 1) "There will never be anyone there that God will curse" or 2) "There will not be anyone there who is under God's curse"

##### his servants will serve him

Possible meanings of "his" and "him" are 1) both words refer to God the Father, or 2) both words refer to both God and the Lamb, who rule together as one.

#### Revelation 22:4

##### They will see his face

This is an idiom, meaning to be in God's presence. Alternate translation: "They will be in God's presence"

#### Revelation 22:5

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

#### Revelation 22:6

##### General Information:

This is the beginning of the end of John's vision. In this versethe angel is speaking to John. This can be shown clearly as it is in the UDB.

##### These words are trustworthy and true

Here "words" refers to a message. See how you translated this in [Revelation 21:5]

##### the God of the spirits of the prophets

Possible meanings are 1) the word "spirits" refers to the inward disposition of the prophets and indicates that God inspires them. Alternate translation: "God who inspires the prophets" or 2) the word "spirits" refers to the Holy Spirit who inspires the prophets. Alternate translation: "God who gives his Spirit to the prophets"

#### Revelation 22:7

##### General Information:

This is the beginning of the end of John's vision. Jesus is speaking. This can be shown clearly as it is in the UDB.

##### Look!

Here Jesus begins to speak. The word "Look" adds emphasis to what follows.

##### I am coming soon!

It is understood that he is coming in order to judge. See how you translated this in Revelation 3:11. Alternate translation: "I am coming to judge soon!"

##### the words of the prophecy of this book

Here "words" refers to a message. Alternate translation: "the prophetic message of this book"

#### Revelation 22:8

##### General Information:

John tells his readers about how he responded to the angel.

##### I fell down to worship at the feet

This means that John purposely lay on the ground and stretched himself out in reverence or submission. This action was an important part of worship, to show respect and willingness to serve. See how you translated similar words in Revelation 19:10.

#### Revelation 22:9

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

#### Revelation 22:10

##### Connecting Statement:

The angel finishes speaking to John.

##### Do not seal up ... this book

To seal a book was to keep it closed with something that makes it impossible for anyone to read what was inside without breaking the seal. The angel is telling John not to keep the message a secret. Alternate translation: "Do not keep secret ... this book"

##### the words of the prophecy of this book

Here "words" refers to a message. See how you translated this in [Revelation 22:7]

#### Revelation 22:11

##### General Information:

This page has intentionally been left blank.

#### Revelation 22:12

##### General Information:

As the book of Revelation is ending, Jesus gives a closing greeting.

#### Revelation 22:13

##### the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end

These three phrases share similar meanings and emphasize that Jesus has existed and will exist for all time.

##### the Alpha and the Omega

These are first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Possible meanings are 1) "the one who began all things and who ends all things" or 2) "the one who has always lived and who always will live." If these meanings are unclear to readers, you may consider using the first and last letters of your alphabet. See how you translated this in [Revelation 1:8]

##### the first and the last

This refers to the eternal nature of Jesus. See how you translated this in [Revelation 1:17]

##### the beginning and the end

Possible meanings are 1) "the one who began all things and the one who will cause all things to end" or 2) "the one who existed before all things and who will exist after all things." See how you translated this in Revelation 21:6.

#### Revelation 22:14

##### Connecting Statement:

Jesus continues giving his closing greeting.

##### those who wash their robes so that

Becoming righteous is spoken of as if it were washing one's clothing. See how you translated as similar phrase in [Revelation 7:14]

#### Revelation 22:15

##### Outside

This means they are outside the city and not allowed to enter.

##### are the dogs

In that culture the dog was an unclean, despised animal. Here the word "dogs" is derogatory and refers to people who are wicked.

#### Revelation 22:16

##### to testify to you

Here the word "you" is plural.

##### the root and the descendant of David

The words "root" and "descendant" mean basically the same thing. Jesus speaks of being a "descendant" as if he were a "root" that grew out of David. Together the words emphasize that Jesus belongs to the family of David.

##### the bright morning star

Jesus speaks of himself as if he were the bright star that sometimes appears early in the morning and indicates that a new day is about to begin. See how you translated "morning star" in [Revelation 2:28]

#### Revelation 22:17

##### Connecting Statement:

This verse is a response to what Jesus said.

##### the Bride

Believers are spoken of as if they were a bride about to be married to her groom, Jesus.

##### Come!

Possible meanings are 1) that this is an invitation for people to come and drink the water of life. Alternate translation: "Come and drink!" or 2) that this is a polite request for Jesus to return. Alternate translation: "Please come!"

##### Whoever is thirsty ... the water of life

A person's desire for eternal life is spoken of as if it were thirst and of that person receiving eternal life as if he were drinking life-giving water.

##### the water of life

Eternal life is spoken of as if it were provided by life-giving water. See how you translated this in Revelation 21:6.

#### Revelation 22:18

##### General Information:

John gives his final remarks.

##### I testify

Here "I" refers to John.

##### the words of the prophecy of this book

Here "words" refers to a message. See how you translated this in [Revelation 22:7]

##### If anyone adds to them ... God will add

This is a strong warning to not change anything about this prophecy.

##### that are written about in this book

This can be stated in active form. Alternate translation: "which I have written about in this book"

#### Revelation 22:19

##### If anyone takes away ... God will take away

This is a strong warning to not change anything about this prophecy.

#### Revelation 22:20

##### General Information:

In these verses John gives his and Jesus's closing greetings.

##### The one who testifies to these things says

"Jesus, who testifies to these things, says"

#### Revelation 22:21

##### with all

"with every one of you"