**TIME ALONE WITH GOD**

Ingredients:

* Half an hour, every day.
* Quiet, so you focus on yourself and on God;
* Prayer, worship, thanksgiving, as your response to God
* Word, so you can ponder His truth
* Life, people and events, so you are aware of Him in these situations

Method:

* Time – a fixed time when you are unlikely to be interrupted is best but more important is to actually start having such a time with God.
* Quiet – A simple method is to be quiet until you are aware you are in God’s presence before you start to respond to Him.
* Word – Read and be familiar with what is said. Meditate on the Word: “What does it say?” “What does it mean?” “How should I respond?” You may use the questions to help you or set them aside.
* Life – Use the time to also be aware of the things that are happening, inside you and around you. Bring these before God and speak to Him.

# Monday and Tuesday

[**REVELATION 20:1-6**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2020&version=NIV)

Remember this is your time alone with God. It is a time to tell God what is on your mind (thinking back over the past day), listen to him speak to you (reading and meditating on a bible passage), and finally, to respond to him (prayer). The questions are there to help you do this. Ignore them if they do not help. If your time is limited, I suggest that you don’t do everything in one go but spread them over the two days.

1. Take time to be quiet so you can focus on your time alone with God. Recall and briefly write down any significant things that happened or occupied you during the past day. Share with God what you thought or felt. Pray also for those he has laid on your heart.
2. Read [REVELATION 20:1-6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2020&version=NIV). Write down what you think the passage is about and what it says to you. Feel free to use the questions in “Further Thoughts” to help you think over the text.
3. What is God saying to you? Write down a prayer in response.

**Further Thoughts**

1. *“He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended.”* Who will be locked up? What will that accomplish?
2. *“I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge.”* Who are these people?
3. *“This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.”* What will be their role?
4. John prophesied that there will be a first resurrection of martyrs who would reign with Jesus as priests of God and of Christ. In that period, Satan will be locked up “to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended.” Nothing is said about the reason for the thousand years but it is clear that at this point, Satan is completely defeated and these followers of Jesus (the martyrs) enter a new era. What can you learn from this prophecy? How do you feel, that this is something that John saw in the future?

# Wednesday and Thursday

[**REVELATION 20:7-10**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2020&version=NIV)

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1. Take time to be quiet so you can focus on your time alone with God. Recall and briefly write down any significant things that happened or occupied you the past day. Share with God what you thought or felt. Pray also for those he has laid on your heart.
2. Read [REVELATION 20:7-10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2020&version=NIV). Write down what you think the passage is about and what it says to you. Feel free to use the questions in “Further Thoughts” to help you think over the text.
3. What is God saying to you? Write down a prayer in response.

**Further Thoughts**

1. *“When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore.*” These are people who have no trace of being influenced by Satan yet who are quick to stand in his corner when the time comes. What would they represent?
2. *“They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God’s people, the city he loves.”* What do they seek to do?
3. *“But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”* What will be the outcome?
4. *“In number they are like the sand on the seashore.”* These are people who have lived in the time of the thousand years, free from the devil’s interference, and would surely have known and tasted what “God’s people” stand for. Yet they now show that they have no love for them and would seek to destroy them. What would happen to them? What does this reveal about the judgement of God?

# Friday and Saturday

[**REVELATION 20:11-15**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2020&version=NIV)

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1. Take time to be quiet so you can focus on your time alone with God. Recall and briefly write down any significant things that happened or occupied you the past day. Share with God what you thought or felt. Pray also for those he has laid on your heart.
2. Read [REVELATION 20:11-15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2020&version=NIV). Write down what you think the passage is about and what it says to you. Feel free to use the questions in “Further Thoughts” to help you think over the text.
3. What is God saying to you? Write down a prayer in response.

**Further Thoughts**

1. *“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.”* What do you think it means that “the earth and heavens fled from his presence and there was no place for them”? If there was no place for them then what happens to them?
2. *“And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life.”* What is taking place, with open books? Which is the most important book? Why?
3. *“Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.”* What does it mean that death and hades were thrown into the lake of fire? What does this tell you about them? What does the lake of fire represent? What happens to anything that enters this domain?

1. Note that this judgement is about life or death; not about rewards. How can a person’s name be written in the book of life?

# Sunday

**THE END**

*“And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”*

Revelation 20 is about outcomes, while chapters 21 and 22 are about new beginnings. As you spend time reading Revelation, keep in mind that it is the outcome that is most important. The details in the preceding chapters are just details and may be relevant or not relevant to you.

What John tells us in this chapter is that there will be a final reckoning; a final opportunity for mankind to make his stand: for God or against God. There is no longer any “in-between” as everything else has been removed. Satan has been thrown into the Abyss and locked up, “to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended.” In that thousand years, Christ and his disciples would rule. And then for one last time, one last test, Satan would be released.

Here is justice at its most fair, giving the soul one last chance. Yet, John tells us that those who joined Satan “in number they are like the sand on the seashore.” I think it is because when you have spent your lifetime on the side of evil, evil you become.

And then the devil and all who follow him will be dealt with decisively.

*They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God’s people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

This is the final reckoning. This is when God calls out time. This is when the wheat has been safely separated from the weeds and the weeds are gathered and thrown into the fire.

After this point, the only question will be whether your name is in the book of life.

For all of us, that is the most important question.

*“Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.”*

1. Review the answers/thoughts you wrote down in the past week. Read the short sharing above. Does it add anything to your own thoughts?
2. What is God saying to you? Write down a prayer in response.