



## The Common Thread: Revelation, Part 2 "The Culmination of the Common Thread"

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### • Don't Be Afraid

- We have work to do, but it is not to be afraid of the character or the plan of One who died to free us from sin and fear. Neither is it to spend our years treating Revelation and OT prophecies like separate gospels in which America is the center, past prophecies already fulfilled in Persia, Babylon, Tyre, and Rome have no bearing, and where modern metrics and quantifications can decipher numbers and names so we can prepare ourselves to escape trouble.
- **Revelation 1:17-18 NIV**—" 17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. 18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades."
- **I John 4:17-19 NIV**— "17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. 19 We love because he first loved us."
- His love drives out fear of the day of judgment, so we must allow it to do so daily. Revelation can be a reminder that He is the Alpha and Omega who loved us first and who will set everything right for us in His own time, or it can conjure in our minds graphic imagery of our worst fears about suffering, death, and judgment.

## · **Conquer the Right One in the Right Way**

· There is an enemy, but he is not flesh and blood, so evaluate how many of your mental, spiritual, and physical energies are directed toward flesh and blood enemies.

· **Revelation 12:11 NIV**—" They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death."

· We act as if this is only physical death, but refusing to deny Christ takes more than just a moment of courage. The one who won't deny Christ is the one who continually dies to the ways of this world (anger, control, fear, contempt, outrage), choosing to live submitted to the Lamb and to live in peace under His blood. This produces a testimony, not just a one-time confession.

· Worry (fear) is not responsibility; it is sin—and sin no longer condemns me, so I no longer have to resign myself to live with it or for it. I can daily mirror Christ's death and resurrection, refusing to bear the marks of my enemy's ways.

· **Revelation 19: 6-8 NIV**—" 6 Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. 7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. 8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people.)