

Revelation - Chapter 1 Summary

Imagine John's incredible surprise to see Jesus, his friend, Lord & Savior again after these 70+ years had passed by. John, who called himself, "the one whom Jesus loved", the one who leaned on Jesus's chest at their Last Supper before Jesus's crucifixion, the one whom Jesus entrusted to care for His mother as He was on the Cross at Calvary, is now in his early 90's.

John the youngest disciple of Jesus is nearing the end of his life. He is the pastor & elder at the church in Ephesus and has been exiled to Patmos because of his faithful testimony to the saving Gospel of Jesus. Patmos, the equivalent of the modern day Alcatraz, is an island off the coast of Greece and about 40 miles offshore from modern-day Turkey. All alone, John does not know that eventually he will be freed to return to his beloved church and community.

Early Sunday morning all alone, as John is probably worshiping God, Jesus appears not as the suffering lamb on the cross but in all His glory.

There stands Jesus but this time He is:

- Wearing a long robe with a golden sash across His chest signifying His role as the Great High Priest of His people.
- He is standing in the middle of 7 golden lamp stands which represent the 7 churches He has a message for: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea
- His head and hair are as white as snow depicting the Ancient of Days or God the Father and Christ's work of chastening and purifying His church.
- His eyes are like a flame of fire penetrating to the very depths of His church.
- His feet burnished glowing bronze symbolizing His sacrifice for sin and divine judgment on it.
- His voice sounded like many waters. Earlier John had heard Him speak with a trumpet like voice but now He was speaking like the eternal God described in the book of Ezekiel affirming His deity.
- He has seven stars in his right hand representing the seven churches.
- In His mouth was a two-edged sword denoting judgment against enemies from inside the church.
- His face shone brilliantly like the sun depicting the glory of God through Christ that shines in and through His church, reflecting His glory to the world with Christ being ultimately glorified.

Jesus gave John a clear charge: to write everything he saw and heard and send it to the seven churches through each church's pastor. This wide distribution of the book guaranteed that the revelation from Jesus Christ would not only address believers in

John's own day, but it would continue to inform and encourage believers until Jesus returns.

Jesus commanded John to write about 3 things which is the outline for the book of Revelation:

- Past - Vision of Christ in all His current glory - Chapter 1
- Present - Message to 7 Churches which also applies to us today - Chapter 2-3
- Future - Events yet to take place - Chapter 4 -22

Jesus wanted John & future generations to know about His current glorified state, how to keep the faith, and what events would take place in the future. Through Jesus' proclamations in Chapter 1 we learn that Jesus:

- Is the first, the last, the living One
- He is the Alpha & Omega, the One Who was, Who is, & Who is to come, the Almighty - He is sovereign & transcendent over the past, present and future.
- He was dead & is now alive forevermore & has the keys to Hades & death - Christ lives forever in a union of glorified humanity and deity and has the authority to decide who dies and who lives. Those who have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior have already been delivered from death and Hades by Christ's sacrificial death on the cross.
- He is the faithful witness - the One who always speaks and represents the truth
- The firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth - Christ is the firstborn of all creation, He is the first to receive a resurrection body which is immortal. Of all who have ever been or ever will be resurrected, He is the premier One and the the promised descendant of David
- He loves us & released us from our sins by His blood on the cross.
- He has made believers in Him to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father
- The glory and dominion are His forevermore
- He is coming back
- When He comes back:
 - He will be robed in the Shekinah glory of God (*coming with the clouds*) and the brilliance of innumerable angels and the redeemed who accompany Him will be both an indescribable and terrifying event.
 - Everyone will see Him
 - The tribes of the earth will mourn over Him prompted by their terror over their impending judgement and doom. Those who have accepted Him as Lord & Savior will enter the Millennial Kingdom with Him
- The time is near for Him to come back
- Those who read, hear & heed the words of this book that John writes will be blessed

When John first saw Jesus he was so overwhelmed with Jesus's majesty he could not even stand. He said, " I fell on my face like a dead man". John, the elder, theologian, evangelist, apostle and elite member of Christ's inner circle was instantly terrified. Jesus in all His majesty did yet another incredible thing - He touched John & said "Do not be afraid".

What an incredible picture of the cross. We could not stand before God without our friend, Lord & Savior Jesus Christ who died to save us from our sins so that we could have new life here on this earth & spend eternity with God. Believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and you too will have eternal life.

Revelation - Chapter 2 & 3 - Summary

Christ's Message to the Seven Churches

John's heavenly vision continues and to his amazement, Jesus dictates a letter to each of the seven churches which were represented as the seven golden lamp stands. The message in the letters is clear: Jesus is giving a performance evaluation to these seven churches and He is pleased with many things they are doing but He has great concern and even rebukes them for areas they are falling short in their faith and service to Him.

Deeds

Jesus commends all the churches except for Sardis and Laodicea. Commendations include their good deeds, love, faith, service, hard work, perseverance, standing against false apostles and teachings, suffering, difficulty living where extreme pagan rituals and sacrifices were occurring while keeping His word, persecution and even death due to their Christian faith.

Jesus said the believers in Pergamum lived, "where Satan has His throne, probably referring to the altar of Zeus which was 120 by 112 feet contained within a colonnaded court that included a podium almost 18 feet high. In Smyrna most believers were destitute, had few possessions and many were slaves because of their faith.

In a way that only our Sovereign Lord can do, Jesus offers the believers at Smyrna hope and encouragement by reminding them that He transcends this world and empowers them to do the same, that even though they are living in material poverty they are spiritually rich, and the relentless attacks that are occurring will be limited in scope and temporary in duration.

Promises

Jesus promises to the true believers in each of the seven churches, that they will have their names written in the Book of Life, will receive the crown of life, will have a white stone with a new name and will be clothed in white garments, will be kept from the Tribulation Period prior to Jesus' second coming to the earth to set up His Millennial Kingdom, will rule with Christ and have authority over the nations in the Millennial Kingdom, will eat of the tree of life in the New Jerusalem, and spend eternity with Him and God in the new heavens and new earth.

Rebukes

Jesus appears as Divine Judge, & Executioner, sovereign Lord of the church, The Amen (truth), True Witness, and Ruler of God's Creation, as He issues his rebukes to the churches:

- One church has lost their love of Christ - The Church at Ephesus had endured through severe persecution, rejected false teachings, and had an incredible rich spiritual heritage including teaching from Paul and Timothy. Thirty-five years earlier, Paul had commended them for their love of Christ. The Church at Ephesus retained their purity of doctrine and life and maintained a high level of service, but their love for Christ was missing (Eph 1:15-16). Their failure was a matter of the heart (1 Cor 13:13; Eph 6:24).
- Three churches allowed false teaching
 - Compromising Church - The church at Pergamum believed they could participate in pagan feasts and sexual practices and still join the Church. As a result they were in danger of becoming intertwined with the world.
 - Tolerant, Permissive Church - The church at Thyatira was allowing false teaching and leading believers to take part in the sexual immorality that accompanied pagan religion and to eat food sacrificed to idols.
 - Dead Church - The church at Sardis made peace with the grossest form of pagan idolatry rather than standing out against it. As a result they became defiled, marked by inward decay and were now populated by unbelieving people playing church.

The heart of Christ's message to these churches is that Biblical truth and morality can't exist in a culture of worldly compromise. To lead other Christians into false doctrine or immoral living is a very serious sin, meriting the most severe punishment (Matthew 18:6-10).

- One church became lukewarm or useless - The church at Laodicea became so intertwined with the city of Laodicea, one could not tell it apart from its surroundings. All their wealth had made them self-sufficient, they were content with their wealth and they had no need for the Lord. They were unable to see their spiritual deficient. Christ told them they were: wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked (Rev 3:17). He was speaking of their spiritual state. In spite of all their riches, they lacked what matters most in life: a saving faith and relationship with Jesus Christ.

Christ was outside this apostate church and wanted to come in—something that could happen only if the people repented. The picture of Christ outside the Laodicean church seeking entrance strongly implies that there were few believers there or no believers at all.

Does it seem that the many or all of these conditions exist today for the church? Christ's message represent the Churches then and the Churches throughout all of the Church Age including now.

Chronological View

Although it is a deduction from text rather than explicitly stated it appears that the conditions represented in these seven churches also represent the chronological history of Churches throughout the Church Age. This also matches Scriptures in the New Testament describing the last days for the Church before Jesus returns.

The church at Philadelphia is characteristic of the true Church in the last days. This church has devoted its energy and efforts to spreading the Gospel and leading others to faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus had only commendation for their works and exhortation for them to continue despite their little strength and wealth. He had opened a door for them to proclaim the Gospel that would not be shut. The letter to the faithful Philadelphia church reveals that the holy, omnipotent God pours out His blessings on churches that remain loyal to Him.

The church at Laodicea was the last, most tragic, and also the most threatening of the seven letters written to the Churches. It has the grim distinction of being the only church that Christ offers nothing positive. Representing the church at the end of the age we can see many similarities to our churches today.

Christ's Solutions

Jesus did not just leave the churches with praise, exhortation, and rebuke. He gave solutions for the issues they faced. These issues are as relevant today as they were when John wrote the book of Revelation.

Christ's Warnings	Christ's Solution to Keep Your Spiritual Fires Burning
Losing love for Christ	Fresh devotion to Christ
Fear of suffering	Do not fear
Doctrinal compromise	Hold fast Biblical truths
Moral compromise	Hold fast Biblical moral standards
Spiritual deadness	Accept Jesus as Lord & Savior
Holding fast	Keep My Word
Being lukewarm or useless	Open the door, He will come in, Receive Him as Lord & Savior

Revelation - Chapter 4 and 5 Summary

Worship in Heaven and Triumph of the Lamb

In keeping with the outline that Jesus gave John in the first chapter of Revelation, John has seen the glorified Jesus as He is in Heaven and will be when He returns and the letters to the seven churches on how to keep their spiritual fires burning until Jesus returns. Now God unfolds to John the details of the future, “what will take place later.”

““Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things.”

(Revelation 1:19, NASB95)

John witnesses the throne room of God in all its splendor, worship in Heaven, and finally the Lamb, Jesus Christ, securing from God the title deed to the earth. The songs of worship in Heaven anticipate paradise lost becoming paradise regained. The events described in these two chapters anticipate the events about to strike the earth.

Although not explicitly stated in Revelation the Rapture of the Church has occurred and reference to the Church does not appear again until Chapter 19 and 22 (1 Cor 15:51-53; 1 Thes 4:16-17; Rev 19:7; 22:16). This means that in John's vision the Church Age has ended and the Church is not a participant in the scenes of the tribulation that follow. Saints who come to know the Lord during the Tribulation period are described as saved Israelites or saved Gentiles.

Throne of God

John sees an incredible and spectacular display of the throne and glory of God. The throne appears to be standing because it is not a physical structure but symbolic of the temple in heaven.

John sees jasper a clear stone indicating purity that will be in the foundation of the New Jerusalem (Rev 21:19-20) and carnelian a fiery blood red ruby representing Christ's blood sacrificed for the Church and God's blazing warmth about to be poured out on the rebellious world. There is also a green perfect circle around the throne representing eternal life.

In relation to the nation of Israel the jasper and carnelian are the first and last of the 12 stones on the breastplate of the high priest garments representing all 12 tribes before the throne of God. God's covenant relationship with Israel will remain intact.

Jesus is represented in several forms including the lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, the Lamb now standing as if slain before and having 7 eyes and 7 horns which are the 7 spirits of God (Rev 5:5-6).

The Holy Spirit is represented as the 7 lamps of fire burning before the throne which are the seven Spirits of God.

In Heaven, John witnesses God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Hymns

Around the throne of God there are 24 elders seated on 24 thrones, 4 living creatures (angels serving God also seen in the books of Ezekiel and Isaiah), a number of angels too large to count and the rest of creation.

Periodically the 4 living creatures give special glory and honor and thanks to God, the 24 elders join them in praise of recognizing God as the sovereign Creator of the universe. Casting their crowns before Him they testify had it not been for God's grace, salvation and goodness they could not have victory over sin and death; everything they had was from Him. Then for the first time since sin entered the world the angels are singing and then unable to contain their joy over their upcoming redemption all created things proclaim the blessing and praise of God and the Lamb, their honor, glory and dominion forever.

John then witnesses a scene that begins what will be a dramatic change in the course of history. God is holding in His right hand a scroll that is the title deed to the earth. The scroll has writing on both sides and is sealed up with seven seals. Unlike other deeds it does not record what Christ will inherit but how Christ will regain his rightful inheritance. Adam and Eve turned over the dominion of the earth that God gave them to Satan (2 Pet 2:19). The only One who can successively break the 7 seals as the scroll is unrolled is the One to whom the deed rightfully belongs: Jesus Christ. The slain Lamb now standing will regain His rightful inheritance by the divine judgements about to be poured out on the earth.

Although the scroll is a scroll of doom and judgement it is also a scroll of redemption. It tells how Christ will redeem the world from Satan and those with him. Ezekiel describes this same scroll in his vision of Heaven (Eze 2:9-10).

John viewed the great, culminating act of history, the act that will signal the end of man's day. The ultimate goal of redemption is about to be seen; paradise will be regained, Eden restored. Before John's wondering eyes the Lamb came and took the book right out of the hand of God who sat on the throne. Jesus, the worthy One has arrived to take back what is rightfully His.

“.....“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come.” (Revelation 4:8, NASB95)

““Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.” (Revelation 4:11, NASB95)

“And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. “You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”” (Revelation 5:9–10, NASB95)

“And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, “To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.” (Revelation 5:13, NASB95)

Revelation - Chapter 6 & 7 Summary Judgements Begin & Worship in Heaven

John's incredible visit to the throne room of God continues. John has just witnessed all of God's creation including the 4 living creatures, the 24 elders, a myriad of angels and all created beings in the universe in a mighty chorus of praise to God. Their praises begin with a hymn of creation ending with a hymn of redemption anticipating paradise lost becoming paradise regained.

Jesus, the only One worthy to open the title deed to the Earth and finish the redemption of mankind and the fallen earth, begins to break open the seals of divine wrath that signal the terrible judgements of God on the world at the end of the age, climaxing in the second coming of Jesus.

The seven seals on the title deed of the earth represent specific divine judgments that will be poured out sequentially on the earth. The opening of the seals occurs after the Church is raptured (Rev 3:10) during the Tribulation Period. Severe judgement is coming and God has everything under control. Within the seven seals are also the trumpet and bowl judgements. The seventh of each series opens a new series of judgements more severe than the last.

The Four Horsemen of the the Apocalypse:

- **First Seal: Rider on White Horse - False Peace**

- He will promise a golden age of peace and prosperity. In gratitude, the world will honor him and elevate him to the position of supreme leadership.

- **Second Seal: Rider on Red Horse - War**

- Peace is short lived as world wide war breaks out.

- **Third Seal: Rider on Black Horse - Famine**

- Desolation and despair will flood the world as famine and poverty result from world wide war.

- **Fourth Seal: Rider on Ashen Horse - Death**

- Death is followed by Hades as God gives them authority to kill one quarter of those living in the earth by sword, famine, pestilence and wild beasts.

- **Fifth Seal: Divine Judgment for the Martyrs Under the Altar**

- The Martyrs are slain (or slaughtered) during the Tribulation because of the Word of God & their testimony (Rom 11:25-26). The whole world will be worshipping Antichrist & those who don't will be considered blasphemers, persecuted and killed. Those who come to faith in Christ during the Tribulation period will face the greatest persecution the world has ever known (Matt 24:21).

- **Sixth Seal: Terror**

- A great earthquake shakes the entire globe.
The sun is veiled and the moon appears dark red from the putrid air and the heavens rain down meteors. There is no where to hide and all the peoples of the world panic. They acknowledge God's judgments but flee from God in frenzied fear. They will cry out to the rocks and mountains to fall on them; they would rather die than face the wrath of holy God.

As we are given a rest from the judgements in chapter seven, John describes the two groups who will be saved in the Great Tribulation:

The 144,000 Sealed Jews

One group of 144,000 Jews will be sealed symbolizing God's protection and ownership and then given special protection during the remaining divine judgements. They will be the most effective missionaries the world has ever seen. More people, both Jews and Gentiles, will come to know Christ during the Tribulation period than any other period in time. This will fulfill God's promise to His people through the prophets Ezekiel and Zephaniah.

The Great Multitude

The 144,000 are successful in their missionary work as John sees a "great multitude which no one could number, from all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb" (Rev 7:9). These are the ones who receive Jesus as Lord and Savior during the Tribulation Period. No longer under the altar they are standing and have received their vengeance from God and their reward. They are clothed in white robes symbolizing righteousness purchased by the blood of Christ and waving palm branches associated in Scripture with celebration, deliverance and joy.

In this age when Christianity is under siege, it is comforting to be reassured of the ultimate triumph of God's saving grace. The church will be delivered before the

Tribulation and great multitudes of people will be saved in the midst of the terrors of divine judgment, both Gentiles and Jews (Rom 11:26).

You too can escape the coming judgment during the Tribulation Period. God says in the Bible that He wants all to be saved. Confess with your mouth that you want Jesus to be your Lord and Savior and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead to die for your sins, you will be saved and spend eternity with God in heaven.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16, NASB95)

Revelation - Chapter 8 & 9 Summary

Trumpet Judgments

John continues to describe what he sees in heaven. The 144,000 Jews who will bring about the greatest revival ever known and the Great Multitude, those martyred during the Tribulation Period, now wearing white robes and waving palm branches have joined the twenty-four elders, the four living creatures, the Church and the angels all worshipping God and the glorified Christ.

Praise ceases as Jesus begins to open the first six seals of judgments. The judgments will extinguish all evil on the earth and then Jesus will return. The first four seals include horses and riders (the Four Horseman of the Apocalypse) which bring about false peace, then war, famine and death of one-fourth of the people on the earth. The fifth seal is God's divine judgment on those who have persecuted His people. John sees the martyred souls under the altar and they are given rest until it is time for God to avenge their deaths. The sixth seal is the greatest physical destruction ever known on earth and begins with a earthquake that shakes the entire globe resulting in worldwide panic.

Seventh Seal: Silence in Heaven & The Seven Trumpets First Seal

When Jesus breaks open the seventh seal there is silence in heaven for thirty minutes in reverence to the looming judgments coming from the seven trumpets. An angel approaches the altar and mingles the prayers of the martyred saints with incense. The time has finally come to answer those desperate pleas for God's intervention.

First Trumpet Blast: Devastation of the Earth

At the sound of the first trumpet blast, hail and fire, mixed with blood are thrown to the earth and one-third of the earth's vegetation and all its green grass are destroyed. This will likely trigger worldwide volcanic eruptions, violent thunderstorms, decimation of crops and forests, filling the air with smoke and ash. Though not directly aimed at human beings, it will indirectly affect food supplies, the global economy, and health on a massive scale. There is a parallel to the tenth plague in Exodus 9:18-26 where there was literal hail and fire.

Second Trumpet Blast: Devastation on the Sea

At the sound of the angel's second trumpet blast, a large burning object, something like a mountain, falls from the heavens and lands somewhere in the world's oceans with an explosive power far greater than that of an atomic bomb.

One-third of the seas will become blood due to the death of the fish of the seas and giant waves will destroy ships in one-third of the seas. Those who depend on ocean life for food would suffer hunger and hardship on an unprecedented scale. Economic chaos will result. This parallel's the plagues of Egypt in which the Nile River and all other bodies of water in Egypt were turned to blood when Aaron stretched out his rod over them (Ex 7:17-19).

Third Trumpet Blast: Waters Made Bitter

As the third trumpet blasts, a great star, possibly a heavenly body or mass from outer space burning as it enters the atmosphere of earth, falls on one-third of the rivers and fresh waters contaminating them with a bitter and poisonous substance, wormwood.

There is a parallel to the experience of the children of Israel at the waters of Marah in Exodus 15:23-25 and a contrast between Christ on the cross atoning for sin and making that which is bitter sweet and Christ coming in judgment that turns the vain hopes and ambitions of unbelievers into bitterness and despair.

Fourth Trumpet Blast: Heaven Darkened

As the fourth trumpet blasts, judgment shifts from the earth to the heavens. The heavenly bodies are hit with a plague from God so that one-third of the heavens are darkened. Temperatures will plunge drastically all over the world, weather patterns and tides will be severely disrupted leading to violent unpredictable storms, further destruction of crops, and loss of animal and human lives. Now all areas of the earth have been struck with catastrophe and the result will be anarchy and chaos. Rioting, looting and crime will exacerbate the horrors experienced around the globe.

Then John hears the loud voice of an eagle flying in midheaven at the height of the midday sun and visible to all, pronouncing a triple woe to the peoples of the earth about the judgments to come.

Fifth Trumpet: Demons Dominate

As the angel blew the fifth trumpet, Satan is permanently cast down to the earth and given the key to the abyss or bottomless pit releasing the vilest most malicious and powerful demons to attack but not kill those who have not accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior for five months. They will want to die but will not be able to. They will however, have the opportunity to repent and embrace the gospel.

The Sixth Trumpet: The Return of Death

At the sound of the sixth trumpet, 4 evil angels bound at the Euphrates river are released to kill a third of mankind. Today this would represent two billion people. Never since Noah as such a substantial proportion of the earth's population come under God's righteous judgment.

As distressing as it is to read of the horrific judgments it is even more disturbing to read that the survivors will close their ear to God's message of mercy and grace rejecting the preaching of the 144,000 missionaries, choosing instead to accept the wrath that will continue to increase in severity. John lists five sins representative of the defiance of those who refused to repent:

- Worshipping other gods and demons.
- Violent crimes like murders.
- Sorceries which is a Greek word from which the English words pharmacy and pharmaceuticals derive. During the Tribulation man will be reduced to rubble through their abuse of drugs.
- Immorality will prevail. Indescribable sexual perversions will be rampant in that day.
- People will refuse to repent of thefts as they compete for scarce supplies of food, water, clothing, shelter and medicine. There will be no consequences from civil authorities.

In these chapters we see God using an intensifying series of judgments to capture the world's attention for the purpose of redemption. If you are reading this it is not too late to be counted in the redeemed who will spend eternity with God. Do not harden your heart by turning away from God but confess with your mouth that you want Jesus to be your Lord and Savior and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead to die for your sins, you will be saved and spend eternity with God in heaven.

"while it is said, "Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me." (Hebrews 3:15, NASB95)

"that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation." (Romans 10:9–10, NASB95)

Revelation - Chapter 10 & 11 Summary

The Mighty Angel, Two Fearless Witnesses & The Seventh Trumpet

John has just experienced what is probably one of the longest periods of silence in heaven, thirty minutes, and then the seven trumpets were given to seven angels. God poured out His wrath as each trumpet blast sounded. There was devastation on the earth, then the seas, then the waters and then the heavens. The latter judgments produced demonic destruction of people. As the sixth trumpet sounds a total of over half of the world's population was killed (three billion using today's population count).

Limits are placed on the early judgments reminding us that God will still be exercising restraint allowing room for repentance and salvation even in the midst of wrath. The 144,000 Jewish missionaries will bring about the greatest revival every known.

Perhaps to give John and all readers since, time to assimilate the startling truths that have been revealed, John experiences the second interlude. John is also recommissioned for the second half of his prophetic role. During these interludes God comforts His people that He has not forgotten them, that He is still in control, and that they will ultimately be victorious.

The Little Book

John sees a massive angel arrive on a cloud with a rainbow around his head, face shining as brilliantly as the sun and feet like a pillar of fire. As he puts one foot on the sea and the other on the land he cries out in so loud he sounded like a lion roaring and seven peals of thunder rang out. John is instructed by God not to write down what the seven peals of thunder said. The angel then takes a vow before God that there will be delay no longer.

The angel has answered the question of the martyrs, "How long?" (Rev 6:10) and the prayers of the saints in Rev 8:3-5. The seventh trumpet is about to sound bringing the final judgment over a period of time which will include the seven bowl judgments (Rev 16:1-21).

The time of God's patience is seen as having ended. The final number of the redeemed will be fulfilled and the judgment of the wicked will soon be complete. Then the mystery of God will be fulfilled as God communicated to the Old Testament prophets. It is the end of the Gentile age and the destruction of Christ's enemies. Then the truth about God previously hidden will be revealed; the full manifestation of the divine power, majesty and holiness of God will be seen in the glorious return of Christ, the establishment of Christ's Millennial Kingdom and then the eternal state that will follow.

Measurement of the Temple

John witnesses several events that appear to occur during the last three and one half years of the Tribulation Period, the Great Tribulation. He sees the temple of God and also two unusual witnesses of God.

John is given a measuring rod, a bamboo-like cane that grew abundantly along the banks of the Jordan River and could reach a height of twenty feet. He is told to measure the temple of God which refers to the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies, the inner parts of the temple. John is told not to measure the outer court. The outer court will be trampled by Gentiles under Gentile domination for forty-two months.

John is told that there will once again be a temple in existence during the Great Tribulation or the last three and one half years of the Tribulation period. As of John's writing of Revelation the second temple in Jerusalem had already been destroyed in A.D. 70 by the Romans. John's vision therefore is the third temple. In the book of Ezekiel we see the fourth temple built during the Millennial Period. God Himself will be the temple in the eternal state (Rev 21:22).

Two Fearless Witnesses

John sees two fearless witnesses who will prophesy for exactly three-and-one-half years in Jerusalem, which has become so wicked and evil in the Tribulation it is described as "Sodom and Egypt" and also "where their Lord was crucified". This time period matches Daniel's prophesy of seven years and the seventieth week. Their ministry will likely go from the midpoint of the Tribulation until just before the sounding of the seventh trumpet.

They will preach the gospel, fulfilling Jesus' declaration that, "the gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matt 24:14). They will likely pronounce that the disasters falling on the world are the judgments of God and warn about God's final outpouring of judgment and that eternal hell will follow. They will also stop the rain for three-and-one-half years.

They will be hated and many will try to kill them. For three and one-half years they will have God's divine protection and no one will be able to kill them. When God lifts their divine protection they will be killed and laid in the streets of Jerusalem for everyone to see. The whole world will celebrate their death exchanging gifts in celebration. However, their worldwide party will be cut short when God brings the two witnesses suddenly back to life and they ascend into heaven.

Seventh Trumpet

Next the seventh angel blew the seventh trumpet and John hears a great symphony of voices expressing unrestrained joy that the power of Satan is to be forever broken and Christ is to reign supreme.

The seven bowls of judgement are contained in the seventh trumpet; the destruction of earthly power is already under way. Heaven rejoices as if the long-anticipated day when Christ will establish His kingdom had already arrived, although some time on earth must elapse before that actually happens.

Christ is declared to reign forever and ever. Christ will reign during the Millennial Period and then continue to reign in the new heaven and the new earth. Never again will the earth be under the control of humans.

Unbroken Fellowship

Also in the seventh trumpet is the promise to believers of unbroken fellowship with God forever. This fellowship is symbolized by the opening of the temple of God which is in heaven revealing the ark of His covenant. The covenant God has promised to men is now available in its fullness. This would have been unthinkable in the Old Testament temple when only the high priest entered the Holy of Holies once a year (Heb 9:7).

Then John hears again the sounds of judgment that are heard throughout the book of Revelation; flashes of lightning, sound and peals of thunder, earthquake, and hail storm. Heaven is the source of vengeance on unbelievers as well as covenant blessings for the redeemed.

Summary

The message of the seventh trumpet is that Jesus Christ is the sovereign King. The consummation of the ages will occur as Jesus takes his rightful rule of the earth away from Satan. At Jesus' second coming He will bring covenant blessings to the redeemed, but eternal judgment to those who reject Him.

If you have not accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, it is not too late. You too can be counted in the redeemed and spend eternity with God in Heaven. Please pray the Scripture below:

“that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”
(Romans 10:9–10, NASB95)

Revelation - Chapter 12 & 13 Summary

The War, The Beast & His Prophet

After John has witnessed God's wrath poured out in the Trumpet Judgments he experiences the second interlude. A massive angel vows before God that there will be delay no longer. Two fearless witnesses preach the gospel, fulfilling Jesus' declaration that, "the gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matt 24:14).

The seventh angel blew the seventh trumpet and John hears a great symphony of voices expressing unrestrained joy that the power of Satan is to be forever broken and Christ is to reign supreme. There is a promise given to believers of unbroken fellowship with God forever.

John will not see the results of the seventh trumpet until later in Chapter 16. He now sees a series of signs or symbols of events that will occur in Heaven and on earth during the Great Tribulation.

War in Heaven

There has been war in heaven since the fall of Satan and a third of the angels (Isa 14:12-14; Eze 28:11-18). Even though Satan was formally expelled from Heaven, God still allowed him to come and accuse all the saints before God.

Once again, probably at the beginning of the seven-year Tribulation Period but no later than the midpoint of the Tribulation, Satan wages war in Heaven with Michael, an angel of high rank who guards the people of Israel (Dan 10:13; 12:1). Michael and his angels are more powerful and Satan along with his evil host are cast down to earth. This is Satan's second and permanent expulsion from Heaven.

Warning Given to Earth & Sea

A warning is given to the earth and sea that Satan has great wrath because he has only a short period of time left. No longer having access to God to accuse believers, Satan will wage an unprecedented war on anyone belonging to God, especially Israel. The Jews have been hated, ridiculed and persecuted throughout all of history. This will be the worst and final wave of anti-Semitism that will roll over the world as God defends and protects His people.

Three Attacks on Jews & Believers of Christ

Enraged by his ejection from Heaven, Satan pursues and persecutes the Jews. God intervenes directly on the Jews behalf and John sees Israel escaping into the

wilderness on wings of the great eagle symbolizing God's strength (Isa 40:31) and protection (Deut 32:9-11; Psa 17:8; 57:1).

Just as God provided manna and quail in the wilderness to His people (Ex 16:12) God will again supernaturally feed His people for three and one-half years. While it is clear that God does preserve a godly remnant, Zechariah 13:8 indicates that two-thirds of Israel in the land will perish.

Frustrated by his defeat, Satan will launch a second attack on the Jews. Satan's attacking force will sweep toward the Jews' hiding place like a great flood. Once again, Satan will not prevail. Enraged that he has lost again, Satan turns his fury toward new targets. This time he attacks all of those who name the name of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and hold to the testimony of Jesus. As we will see, Satan also is defeated in this attempt.

Satan Sets Up His Earthly Kingdom

Satan will try to prevent Jesus from setting up His earthly kingdom by setting up his own kingdom under Antichrist. Together with the False Prophet, they will embody the sum total of all the world empires that have opposed God and His people throughout history.

John sees Satan as a great red dragon with seven heads, ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. Red describes Satan's vicious, deadly nature. He is depicted as the ruler of the world and seven-headed monster that represents seven consecutive world empires running their course under Satan's dominion: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome and Antichrist's future empire.

The ten forms represent the kings of the ten-nation confederacy who will rule under Antichrist. The shifting of the diadems from the dragon's heads to the beast's horns reveal the shift in power from the seven consecutive world empires to the ten kings under the final Antichrist. Satan is the counterfeit of God, the Father.

Antichrist Arrives - Beast from the Sea

John sees Antichrist as a wild vicious monster coming out of the sea summoned by Satan. His description is similar to Satan's, the red dragon. He incorporates all the ferocity, viciousness, swiftness and strength of all the past world empires. He will be unparalleled in human history.

He will be a gifted orator, an intellectual genius, possess great charm and charisma and have immense leadership power. He will make a seven-year covenant with Israel at the beginning of the Tribulation and then break his covenant halfway through and turn against Israel (Dan 9:27).

He will suffer a fatal wound to the head that will be healed. Devoid of hope, people will flock to him like desperate sheep, ready to do whatever he says. The whole world will be amazed, will follow after the beast, and quickly begin to worship him.

The ultimate in blasphemy will occur when he sits in the temple of God to proclaim that he is god. He will make war with the Tribulation saints on the earth and overcome them because they refuse to worship him. The result will be a worldwide slaughter of God's people like has never occurred in all of history (Rev 6:9-11; 7:9-17: 11:7; 17:6; Dan 7:25).

He will use force to begin a massive world war that continues until Christ returns. The war is a rebellion against the universal rule of Antichrist and comes at the very end of the Tribulation period. He will blaspheme God continually. He is the counterfeit of Jesus Christ.

False Prophet Arrives - Beast from the Land

John witnesses the rise of the beast from the earth who has two horns like a lamb and speaks like a dragon. This is the false prophet who will serve as the Antichrist's right-hand man. His mission will be to cause people to worship Antichrist. He will be a unifier of the world's religion and he will then lead the worldwide religion of Antichrist worship. He will be the counterfeit of the Holy Spirit.

He will perform miracles that will be deceitful and deceptive in their purpose. He will command the people to make an image to Antichrist and enable the image to speak. The world will engage in the most shocking, blatant idolatry ever seen. The blasphemous image will probably be set up on the temple ground in Jerusalem (2Thes 2:4) and will be connected with the abomination of desolation (Dan 9:27; 11:31; 12:11; Matt 24:15). The death sentence will be decreed for those who refuse to worship the image of Antichrist.

As a counterfeit to God's sealing of the 144,000 Jews, the false prophet marks the unsaved to preserve them from Antichrist's wrath against God's people. They will receive the mark of the beast or Antichrist on their right hand or forehead. No one, rich or poor, will be exempt from receiving the mark. The number of the mark of the beast is 666, the number of man three times; this is man showing himself that he is god.

No one will be able to buy or sell without it. The penalty for not taking the mark will be death. Antichrist's empire will maintain strict economic control over the world. He will now control religion, miracles, and money.

The Celebration

When Satan is cast from Heaven to the earth, a loud voice begins praise to God. It appears to be the shout of triumph of the tribulation saints longing for and anticipating their ultimate victory. The heavenly worshipers rejoice that the first step, Satan's defeat and final ejection from Heaven, has already taken place. The salvation, power, kingdom of God and the authority of His Christ has come. The Tribulation saints have overcome Satan because of the blood of the Lamb & word of their testimony.

If you have not accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, we encourage you to do so today while there is still time. You too can be counted in the redeemed and spend eternity with God in Heaven. Please pray the Scripture below:

"that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."
(Romans 10:9–10, NASB95)

Revelation - Chapter 14 & 15 Summary

Tribulation Announcements & Victory of the Lamb

Before the seventh trumpet sounds John witnesses a series of signs or symbols of events that will occur in Heaven and on earth during the Great Tribulation. Enraged by his ejection from Heaven, Satan attempts to wipe Israel and all believers in Jesus Christ from the earth. Although he is unsuccessful this will be the largest and deadliest of persecutions God's people has ever seen.

Satan then sets up his earthly kingdom, giving power to his Antichrist and False Prophet who together will cause the world to worship Antichrist. Antichrist will commit the ultimate in blasphemy when he sits in the temple of God to proclaim that he is god. The False Prophet will cause all the unsaved to receive the mark of the beast. Antichrist will begin to wage a massive world war that will continue until Jesus returns.

Then there is a celebration of the tribulations saints that the salvation, power, kingdom of God and the authority of His Christ has come. The Tribulations saints have overcome Satan because of the blood of the Lamb and word of their testimony.

Jesus standing on Mount Zion with the 144,000

John has just seen Jesus, as the Lamb, in a prophetic vision of Jesus' ultimate triumph following His second coming to earth when He joins the 144,000 on Mount Zion, the highest point in ancient Jerusalem, at the beginning of His Millennial reign.

The 144,000 were first seen at the beginning of the Great Tribulation. Nothing will be able to harm them, because God will seal them (Rev 7:3-4). In sharp contrast to the mark of the beast on the foreheads of the unsaved the 144,000 have the name of Jesus and God written on their foreheads. They are singing a new song joyously praising the Lord for their protection and triumph. They will remain chaste and completely loyal to the Lamb. They are the first fruits to God and to the Lamb, will only speak God's truth, and will proclaim the gospel. They will enter the Millennial Kingdom as living men.

Tribulation Announcements

Three angels flying in mid-heaven preach the everlasting gospel, pronounce judgment and promise doom. They also deliver God's last call to repentance before the final judgments fall and Jesus returns.

Everlasting Gospel

The first angel proclaims the everlasting gospel, announces that the hour of God's judgment has come, and commands the people of the earth to worship God. Here the everlasting gospel seems to be neither the gospel of grace nor the gospel of the

Kingdom, but rather the good news that God at last is about to deal with the world in righteousness and establish His sovereignty over it.

Judgment

The second angel announces the fall of Babylon, which will come later. Sadly, this implies that the first angel's message was largely rejected. The nations who participate in the spiritual corruption induced by Babylon, Antichrist's worldwide political, economic and religious empire, ultimately share her divine condemnation and judgment. The promise of judgment upon the evil Babylonian system is designed to bring comfort to those in trial during the Great Tribulation.

Doom

The third angel proclaims the sad doom of those who worship the beast. As unbelievers drink of the wine of spiritual immorality, they will also drink the cup of God's wrath. God's wrath here is described as full strength, untempered by the Lord's mercy and grace.

Blessing of the Saints

A blessing or encouragement is given to those who put their trust in Christ in the time of the Great Tribulation. The Holy Spirit repeats the blessing and adds the blessing of rest from their labors and that their deeds follow with them.

The Judgment of the Son of Man - Grain Harvest - 7 Bowl Judgments

John sees Christ participating in God's judgments on an evil world. Jesus is seen as the Son of Man. It is the last time Scripture refers to Jesus as Son of Man.

He is sitting on a brilliant, white cloud symbolizing His glory and majesty, waiting for the proper time to stand and begin the reaping which includes the seven bowl judgments. He wears a golden crown, the type worn by victors in war. He is seen as the triumphant conqueror over all His enemies (Matt 24:30). He is about to take possession of the entire earth. An angel announces the time has come and Christ reaps with his sharp sickle referring to the judgments at His second coming.

Angel With Sharp Sickle - Grape Harvest - Judgment of Armageddon

The time has come for the final harvest. An angel with a sharp sickle comes out from the altar in heaven and swings his sickle to the earth, harvesting the clusters of overripe grapes symbolizing the earth's wicked people. Their destinies had been sealed. They had rebelled against their Creator and Redeemer, taking the mark of the Beast, the ultimate sign of rebellion, and adopting a wicked lifestyle to match.

While the wheat harvest represents the sudden, swift intrusion of God's judgement into human history, the grape harvest signifies the severity of that judgment. The world armies will gather to battle Christ at His second coming in an area within a two-hundred mile radius outside of Jerusalem. The blood is said to flow up to the horses' bridles due to the carnage. This is a prophetic picture of the ultimate judgment of unbelievers at the second coming of Christ.

Seven Angels With Seven Bowl Judgments

Then John sees the Holy of Holies, the inner sanctuary where God's presence dwells, opens and out of the temple comes seven angels with seven plagues, the seven bowl judgments, the final and worst judgments of God. They contain the last of God's wrath. No one can enter into the temple until God is finished.

The song of the Lamb and the song of Moses are sung by the redeemed tribulation saints. Both songs speak of redemption. God's character is extolled as the omnipotent, immutable, sovereign, perfect and righteous Creator and Judge. This song closes with joyful anticipation of the Millennial reign of Christ, when all the nations will come and worship before God. We are assured of Christ's ultimate triumph and judgement of evil.

Today, the invitation is still open to those who will receive the grace of God by trusting in Christ and being saved from entering this awful period that may be impending for this present generation.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16, NASB95)

“while it is said, “Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me.” (Hebrews 3:15, NASB95)

“that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.” (Romans 10:9–10, NASB95)

Revelation - Chapter 16 & 17 Summary

Bowl Judgements, Doom of Babylon & Jesus' Victory

John has just seen Jesus, as the Lamb, in a prophetic vision of Jesus' ultimate triumph following His second coming to earth when He joins the 144,000 on Mount Zion, the highest point in ancient Jerusalem, at the beginning of His Millennial reign. Three angels flying in mid-heaven preach the everlasting gospel, pronounce judgment and promise doom. They also deliver God's last call to repentance before the final judgments fall and Jesus returns.

A blessing or encouragement is given to those who put their trust in Christ in the time of the Great Tribulation. Then John sees seven angels coming out of the Holy of Holies, where God's presence dwells, with seven plagues, the seven bowl judgments, the final and worst judgments of God.

God's Final Judgement: The Seven Bowls of Wrath

God commands the seven angels to pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God. Because the bowls are shallow, their contents are dumped all at once unleashing God's final judgment on the earth in rapid succession.

First Bowl of Wrath

The only people affected by the first plague were the people who, "had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image." They will think they have spared their lives by taking the mark. Now they will receive God's judgement in the form of a cankerous, contagious sore that is putrefying and incurable. Those who have received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior will not be affected by this plague.

Second & Third Bowls of Wrath

The second angel pours out his bowl into the sea and every living thing in the sea died. The third angel pours his bowl into all the fresh water and it is turned into blood. These judgments are similar to the first plague in Egypt (Exodus 7:20-24), the second trumpet judgment (Rev 8:8-9, and the star Wormwood in the first half of the Tribulation. This time the effects will be worldwide and much more intense since approximately 70 percent of the earth's surface is covered in oceans. No water will be safe to drink. This will cause unthinkable hardship and suffering.

The Fourth Bowl

Waiting for rains to quench their thirst, the inhabitants of the earth experience the fourth bowl of wrath. Like the fourth trumpet the fourth bowl is a judgment that affects the starry heavens, specifically the sun. Searing heat exceeding anything ever experienced

will scorch the earth's inhabitants so severely that it will seem that the atmosphere is on fire.

The Fifth Bowl

Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast and his kingdom became dark and the people were consumed by excruciating pain. This affliction is reminiscent of the plague of darkness God brought on Egypt (Ex 10:21-23). Their beloved beast will not be able to help them now.

One would think that such devastation would cause the people to repent, but sadly it does not. This is the last reference to their unwillingness to repent. The first five plagues were God's final offer and humanity's final opportunity for repentance. The bowls of wrath reveal that the minds, hearts, and wills of those who took the mark have been sealed in their sinful condition.

The Sixth Bowl

When his turn came, the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates. As a result its water was dried up and the way is prepared for the kings from the east to cross into Armageddon.

Three spirits of demons from the unholy trinity, Satan, Antichrist and the False Prophet, will seduce the kings from the east into making the difficult journey to their doom at Armageddon. The kings and their armies will be entering a deadly trap.

More than two hundred battles have been fought in that region. Here is where Saul and Josiah died. The Battle of Armageddon, will rage the entire length of Israel as far south as the Edomite city of Bozrah (Isaiah 63:1). Other battles will also occur in the vicinity of Jerusalem (Zechariah 14:1-3). Those who would gather to defy Christ's sovereign rule will suffer judgment for their rebellion.

Then Jesus speaks, giving a final warning that his coming will be sudden and un-announced. He also assures believers that they will not be forgotten and pronounces the third of seven beatitudes in Revelation. Those who are prepared for his arrival, those who have accepted Him as Lord and Savior, will be blessed.

The Seventh Bowl

Like the final seal and the seventh trumpet, the final or seventh bowl is introduced by the sound of voices, thundering, lightning and an earthquake greater than any previous one.

The shaking from the earthquake will be so severe that it will renovate and reconfigure the earth in preparation for the Millennial Kingdom. The final judgement also includes hailstones weighing 100 pounds which would destroy much that was still left standing by the earthquake. It will be the worst calamity in the world's history. Then God declares, "It is done". This is similar to Jesus' final words from the cross, "It is finished" (John 19:30). God's judgment of Christ on Calvary provided salvation for repentant sinners; the judgment of the seventh bowl brings doom to unrepentant sinners.

The Doom of Babylon

Next John witnesses the destruction of Babylon representing false religion and also the judgment of a woman, the symbol of Babylon, described as the "the great prostitute", who is seen sitting on many waters - the many nations ruled by Babylon.

The woman is called the mother of harlots because she represents an apostate worldwide religion. She is evil signifying the spiritual adultery of those who outwardly and religiously seem to be joined to the true God, but who are untrue to Him. Scripture makes it clear that the apostate church has eagerly sought and solicited the adulterous relation with the world political powers and therefore is primarily to be blamed. She will reap the penalty of her sin.

The Babylonian beast or Antichrist will turn around and utterly destroy the mother of harlots. He no longer wants a one world religion, he wants all to worship him. He no longer needs the help and power of the church. He wants to rule the world. He will strip her of all her finery, her flesh is eaten, and she is burned with fire. This will be the downfall of the apostate world church. Revelation 17:17 says God will put it in their hearts.

Jesus' Return

Antichrist and the ten nations who unite will wage war against the Lamb. The Lamb will return as King of kings and Lord of lords and overcome the Beast and the kings of the earth. Christ will be accompanied by those who have accepted Him as Lord and Savior ("the called and chosen and faithful" Rev 17:14).

Summary

In Chapters 16 and 17 we see the last of God's wrath poured out on an unrepentant earth. God then judges and destroys the apostate world religion. Antichrist rules for a brief time along with ten nations. Together they wage war against the Lamb who overcomes them along with the called and chosen and faithful.

Today, the invitation is still open to those who will receive the grace of God by trusting in Christ and being saved from entering this awful period that may be impending for this present generation.

“while it is said, “Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me.” (Hebrews 3:15, NASB95)

““For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16, NASB95)

“that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.” (Romans 10:9–10, NASB95)

Revelation - Chapter 18 & 19 Summary

Babylon Falls, Marriage Supper of the Lamb & Christ Returns

John has just seen God's final judgement, the seven bowls of wrath poured out on the earth by seven angels. God's final judgements are devastating to the entire earth and its inhabitants. The bowl judgements occur within a short period of time toward the close of the Great Tribulation.

John witnesses the destruction of Babylon representing the world's false religion. The Euphrates river is dried up preparing the way for the kings from the east to cross into Armageddon to wage war against the Lamb. A great earthquake renovates and reconfigures the earth in preparation for the Millennial Kingdom. The Lamb returns as King of kings and Lord of lords and overcomes the beast and the kings of the earth. Christ is accompanied by those who have accepted Him as Lord and Savior.

Babylon Falls

John sees another angel coming down from heaven so splendid that the earth was illumined with his glory. Everyone will not only see him but also hear him as he loudly announces that Babylon is fallen. This time the actual city of Babylon will fall. It will fall because of its demonic activity and sensuality. This event comes late in the Great Tribulation, just prior to the second coming of Christ.

Babylon is now inhabited by the two hundred million formerly bound demons that were released at the sounding of the sixth trumpet (Rev 9:13-16), the demons released from the abyss at the sound of the fifth trumpet (Rev 9:1-11), those cast from heaven with Satan (Rev 12:4,9) and those previously on the earth. They were successful in inspiring extreme human wickedness, from sexual immorality to unbridled luxury.

Another voice from heaven calls God's people to flee the doomed city, just as HIs people were urged to leave Babylon in ancient days (Jer 51:46). Her judgement is announced as a double portion because she has glorified herself and willfully sinned against God.

Her judgement will come in one day and will result in Babylon's complete devastation: pestilence, mourning and famine. After the three plagues, Babylon will be burned up with fire. The great city will be found no more (Rev 18:21) and will never rise again, as predicted by the Old Testament prophets (Isa 13:19-22; 14:22-23; Jer 50:13, 39: 51:37).

Those who profited from Babylon's wealth will mourn and wail hopelessly as the great city is devastated. The leaders including the ten kings who rule Antichrist's kingdom, the merchants of the earth, every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor that makes their living by the sea will be stripped of the key source of their finances. They will stand far off from the city because they fear the same judgment may befall them.

The Fourfold Hallelujah

Heaven's response to the annihilation of Babylon which represents the destruction of everything that is evil and demonic in the present world system is, "Hallelujah." So loud it sounds like roaring waters and thunder it is cried out four times.

Hallelujah, a common Old Testament exultation simply means praise the Lord. In its first Old Testament appearance, Hallelujah also expresses praise for God's judgment on the wicked oppressors of His people (Psa 104:35).

Hallelujah appears only four times in the New Testament all in Revelation chapter 19:1,3,4,6. Three groups cry hallelujah before God: the saints in heaven (Rev 19:1-3), the twenty-four elders before the throne of God (Rev 19:4), and the great multitude (Rev 19:6).

- Hallelujah! Full salvation has come. Babylon is gone and Jesus reigns. (Rev 19:1)
- Hallelujah! Justice has arrived. God's judgments are true and righteous as evidenced by the destruction of wicked Babylon. (Rev 19:2)
- Hallelujah! Rebellion is ended. Smoke "rises up forever and ever" indicates that this judgment is final and irreversible. The language is similar to that used of God's destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen 19:28) and Edom (Isa 34:10). The destruction of Babylon marks the end of human rule. The rebellion that began in the garden of Eden is finally ended and there will be no more false religion or injustice.
- Hallelujah! God is in control. The evil world system has been destroyed and God's kingdom has come in its fullness. For the Lord our God, the Almighty reigns.

Marriage of the Lamb Announced

The great multitude continues to rejoice and an announcement is made that the marriage of the Lamb has come. A marriage was the single greatest celebration and social event of the biblical world and lasted for days sometimes several weeks.

It is time for the third major aspect of the marriage; the wedding ceremony and marriage supper. The bride or church has made herself ready and is wearing fine, bright and clean linen. Having been presented glorified and spotless before God's throne, her righteous acts may be part of the reward given at the judgment seat of Christ.

An angel gives the fourth of seven beatitudes in Revelation. The blessing is given to those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb. Since the bride does not receive an invitation to her own wedding, the guests are not the Church. The guests at the marriage

supper of the Lamb are the redeemed of all the ages who were saved before or after the church age. The Old Testament saints will be there as guests as will all the Tribulation saints, glorified and still alive on earth and entering the Millennial Kingdom.

At Jesus' Last Supper on this earth He said to His disciples, "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom" (Matt 26:29). With the whole church glorified and united in the Kingdom of God, Christ will take His seat with the saints and enjoy that long-anticipated face-to-face fellowship with those He loves.

The Second Coming of Christ

This time heaven opens not to let John in, but to let Jesus out. The time has come at last for the full, glorious revelation of Christ. Jesus is about to receive the kingdom that the Father promised Him.

The first time Jesus came to earth He appeared in obscurity. This time John sees Jesus in all His splendid glory and majesty. He is riding a white horse, the sign of victory and triumph, His eyes are a flame of fire that will burn up all that is false as he gazes upon peoples hearts and minds. He will be wearing many crowns symbolizing His sovereignty. His robe is dipped in blood representing divine judgment upon evil people. A sharp word is flying from Jesus' mouth. Jesus will not triumph with physical weapons against His enemies, but with the Word of God, the one sure spiritual weapon.

His names are in keeping with His divine judgement that follows; Faithful and True, The Word of God, the name that no one knows except Himself, and KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Every knee will bow before Him when He returns to earth (Isa 45:23; Rom 14:11, Phil 2:10-11).

The armies in heaven dressed in fine white clean linen are following Him on white horses. An angel invites the birds to assemble for the great supper of God to eat the flesh of the kings of the earth and their armies which had assembled to make war against Christ and His army. The beast and false prophet are thrown alive into the lake of fire which is eternal hell and the rest were killed with Christ's sword which came from His mouth.

Jesus speaks and all the armies are obliterated. The saints will come not to fight with Jesus, but to reign with Him. Just as He spoke the world into being, He will speak the evil out of the world. There will be no war at all, just a word spoken from Christ. And the vultures descend and cover the scene.

The brief but catastrophic day of the Lord will result in an unprecedented slaughter, with uncounted millions of dead bodies (14:20). Even after the birds have eaten, it will still take seven months to bury the bodies (Ezekiel 39:12). This present age reveals the grace of God and suspended judgment. The age to come, while continuing to be a revelation of

the grace of God, will give conclusive evidence that God will bring every evil work into judgment and that those who spurn His grace must experience His wrath.

You too can be counted in the armies of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, at His Second Coming. Today, the invitation is still open to those who will receive the grace of God by trusting in Christ and being saved from entering this awful period that may be impending for this present generation.

“while it is said, “Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me.” (Hebrews 3:15, NASB95)

““For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16, NASB95)

“that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.” (Romans 10:9–10, NASB95)

Revelation - Chapter 20

The Reign of Christ

John has just seen God's final judgement, the seven bowls of wrath poured out on the earth by seven angels. The bowl judgments will be the most severe with plagues, all living things in the waters will be killed, the sun will scorch the earth's inhabitants, darkness will overcome the earth, the great river Euphrates will dry up to give way for the kings from the east to cross into Armageddon, and the final bowl will cause a great earthquake to renovate and reconfigure the earth in preparation for the Millennial Kingdom.

Babylon will be utterly destroyed as will Antichrist and the ten nations who unite to wage war against the Lamb. The Lamb returns as King of kings and Lord of lords and overcome the Beast and the kings of the earth. Christ will be accompanied by those who have accepted Him as Lord and Savior ("the called and chosen and faithful" Rev 17:14).

The Millennial Reign of Christ

This is one of the great chapters of the Bible. Jesus Christ establishes His Millennial Kingdom for a thousand years. Here is where hundreds of Old Testament prophecies will be fulfilled, such as Jeremiah 23:5-6:

"Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord, "When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land. "In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell securely; And this is His name by which He will be called, 'The Lord our righteousness.'" (Jeremiah 23:5-6, NASB95)

In John's vision he sees only the fact and duration of the millennial kingdom. The character of Christ's reign on earth is fully described in many Old Testament passages such as Psalm 72, Isa 2:2-4; 11:4-9 and many others.

From these Scriptures we learn that Christ's reign will be over the entire earth, Israel is regathered and brought back to her ancient land, the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord, there will be no more war, His Kingdom will be peaceful and tranquil with economic justice for all along with physical health and well-being. There will be deliverance from satanic oppression and evil, the natural ferocity of animals will be abated and God's prophetic word will be fulfilled.

After the purging experience of the Great Tribulation, those who survive become the citizens of the kingdom after the rebels are purged out (Eze 20:34-38). John saw God's people sitting on thrones reigning with Christ. Judgment is given to them to rule

subordinately over every aspect of life in the Millennial Kingdom and carry out His perfect will.

The martyred believers from the Tribulation were resurrected to reign with Christ for the thousand years. John calls the resurrection of the saints from all ages, the first resurrection. Israel is rejoined to God in the symbol of marriage, being transformed from an unfaithful wife to one who reciprocates the love of Yahweh.

Satan is bound with a great chain and thrown into the abyss for one thousand years. He will no longer be able to deceive the nations.

Gentiles who share in the Kingdom blessings have unparalleled spiritual and economic benefits, and the thousand-year reign of Christ is a time of joy, peace, and blessing for the entire earth. God's purpose in originally placing man in charge of the Garden of Eden will have its ultimate fulfillment in the Last Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will reign over the earth.

The Return of Satan

In God's perfect will, Satan will be released from the abyss after Christ has reigned for one thousand years. After his release Satan will lead a final rebellion of sinners. Even though the initial inhabitants of the Millennial Kingdom will be redeemed, they will still possess a sinful nature and will pass that sin nature on to their children.

Each generation born during the Millennial Kingdom will be in need of salvation. Despite the personal rule of Christ on earth, despite the most moral society the world will ever know, many will love their sin and reject Christ (Rom 8:7). Satan will set out on his final act of rebellion, deceive the nations, and gather Christ's enemies to come against Christ in battle.

Like Armageddon a thousand years earlier (Rev 19:11-21), there will be no battle. Fire comes down from Heaven and destroys God's enemies. They are instantly exterminated. Satan's forces will be killed and their souls will go into the realm of punishment awaiting their final sentencing to eternal hell. Satan is thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and false prophet have been for one thousand years. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever (Rev 20:10).

The Great White Throne Judgement

We now move to the most serious, sobering and tragic passage in the entire Bible. John describes a terrifying scene before him. Christ is seated on His throne of judgement and all the accused, the unsaved of all generations, are standing before Him.

Sitting on a white throne to depict His pure, holy and just nature Jesus will sit in final judgment of those who have rejected Him throughout the ages. Since their death the unsaved have been tormented in a place of punishment.

Now they are standing for their final sentence. Judgment is made on the basis of the books that are opened, both the book of life and the other books which are probably the divine records of their works. The Book of Life determines where they will spend eternity; their deeds will determine their degree of punishment in hell. This is the second death.

Uncreation of the Universe

At the same time as the Great White Throne Judgment, John describes another startling reality; the uncreation of the universe. The earth will still be tainted with sin and subject to the effects of the fall so it will be destroyed also. In its place God will create a new heaven and a new earth (Rev 21:1). The present earth will not be moved or reshaped. It will go out of existence. John states that “no place was found for them” (Rev 20:11).

Peter describes the final expression of the day of the Lord:

“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.”

While it may be difficult to understand why God releases Satan from the abyss where he was chained for one thousand years, it does reveal the incurable evil of the human heart that does not experience the saving grace of Christ. Satan’s release shows the power and necessity of the righteous judgment of God.

Those who reject God’s grace and mercy in this life will inevitably face His justice in the life to come. Unrepentant sinners will experience God’s justice at the great white throne judgment. Those who have accepted God’s grace and forgiveness of sins by believing in Christ will enter the new Heaven and new Earth.

There is only one way to avoid the terrifying future of hell. Those who confess their sins and ask God to forgive them on the basis of Christ’s substitutionary death on their behalf will be delivered from God’s eternal wrath (Romans 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9)

Revelation - Chapter 21 & 22

All Things New

Jesus has established His peaceful and just kingdom on earth and will reign for one thousand years fulfilling many Old Testament prophecies. Satan is chained and thrown into the abyss for one thousand years. Some believers in Christ will survive the Great Tribulation and enter into the Millennial Kingdom as citizens, the martyred believers from the Tribulation were resurrected to reign with Christ for the thousand years, and John saw God's people sitting on thrones reigning with Christ. Judgment is given to them to rule subordinates over every aspect of life in the Millennial Kingdom and carry out His perfect will.

After the thousand years, Satan will be released and will once again deceive the nations and cause the nations to rise up to battle Christ yet again. Like Armageddon a thousand years earlier (Rev 19:11-21), there will be no battle. Fire comes down from Heaven and destroys God's enemies. They are instantly exterminated. Satan's forces will be killed and their souls will go into the realm of punishment awaiting their final sentencing to eternal hell. Satan is thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and false prophet have been for one thousand years. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever (Rev 20:10).

Jesus is seen sitting on a white throne judging the unsaved of all the ages. The Book of Life determines where they will spend eternity; their deeds will determine their degree of punishment in hell. This is the second death.

John also reports another startling reality; the uncreation of the universe. The earth will still be tainted with sin and subject to the effects of the fall so it will be destroyed also. In its place God will create a new heaven and a new earth (Rev 21:1).

All Things New

History has ended, time will be no more, eternity has begun forever and ever. God will create a new realm for the redeemed and the holy angels to dwell forever. Not much information is given about the new heaven and the new earth's characteristics, vegetation, color or form. However, enough information is given that we know that the ordering of the new heaven and new earth will be radically different from the present earth.

There are twelve "No Moors" in the new heaven and new earth: no more sea, no more tears, no more death, no more mourning, no more crying, no more pain, no more thirst, no more wickedness, no more temple, no more night, no more closed gates, and no more curse.

No more terminal diseases, hospitals, disabilities, funerals. No more crime, courts or prisons. No more divorces, breakdowns or breakups. No more heart attacks, strokes, or debilitating illnesses. No more doctors, medications or surgeries. No more decay, decline and no waste. No famines, plagues, hurricanes, tornadoes, or devastating disasters. All human experience related to the original creation is gone forever. God has made all things new.

Its Capital

Heaven's capital will be the New Jerusalem. It will be the third city named Jerusalem in redemptive history. The new Jerusalem already exists and is where believers who die go to and where Jesus said he was going before them to prepare a place for them (John 14:1-3).

When God creates the new heaven and the new earth, the new Jerusalem will descend into the midst of the holy new universe and serve as the dwelling place of the redeemed for all eternity. (Mac Arthur pg 316). John compares the city to a beautifully dressed bride being made ready for the wedding. It is time for the consummation of the wedding - the eternal state for believers.

God's Dwelling Place

The supreme glory and joy of heaven is that God dwells there. No more will God be located far away from believers. No longer will His presence be veiled and no longer will believers not be able to behold His majestic glory. We will live in His glorious presence and enjoy His fellowship. We will see Him as He really is, worship Him, and serve Him.

Its Residents

Heaven belongs to those who are redeemed and are dissatisfied with their hopeless, lost condition and crave God's righteousness. Those are the same ones who have overcome or exercise a saving faith in Jesus Christ. God promises that He will be their God. Our adoption as sons of God will be fully realized (Rom 8:23).

The Outcasts

Those without genuine faith will not be in the New Jerusalem. Neither will the other unbelievers: the abominable, murderers, immoral persons, sorcerers, idolaters, and liars.

General Appearance

The most distinguishing characteristic of the capital city is that it is the throne of God. As such it radiates God's glory so much so that it does not need any other light. There will be no sun or moon to give light; God's glory will illuminate the entire city and its lamp is Jesus (Rev 21:23). Darkness and all the evil it signifies will be gone forever. John pictures the New Jerusalem as a huge, flawless diamond, refracting the brilliant glory of God throughout the new heaven and the new earth.

Exterior & Interior Design

The city is laid out as a square and has three gates on each side with an angel standing guard at each gate. The city walls are about 1,380 miles in each direction. Its length and width and height are equal. There will be plenty of room for all the redeemed.

The thickness of the walls was seventy-two yards and was made out of the same diamond-like stone, jasper. The city itself was also pure gold, like clear glass. The walls and buildings of the eternal city must be clear for the city to radiate the glory of God. This also means that the walls are not to keep people out like we have walls today. These walls are simply to radiate the glory of God.

The names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel are written on the gates. In contrast to Revelation 7:5-8, where the 144,000 are sealed for protection to proclaim the Gospel, the tribe of Dan is omitted and Joseph's son Manasseh is included, the original twelve sons are included here.

The foundation stones bear the names of the 12 apostles of Jesus. The names of the stones have changed through the centuries, making their identification uncertain. However these brightly colored stones refract the shining brilliance of God's glory into a spectrum of dazzling colors.

The gates were each made of a single gigantic pearl which would mean that they were nearly 1,400 miles high. All precious gems are metal or stones, but a pearl is a gem formed within the oyster and is the only one formed by living flesh. The pearl represents pain resulting in beauty, suffering crowned with glory.

When we read of this symbol of the pearl eternally embedded in the doorways of heaven, it should remind us that Christ's suffering had an eternal purpose and opened heaven for us (John 10:9; 14:6).

The streets are made of pure gold. We will walk on the material we hold in highest esteem. Gold will be trodden upon like asphalt. There will be no vanity, no materialism, no envy or greed. Best of all, no one will be poor in a city that paves its streets with gold.

It will contain a river of the water of life cascading down from the throne of God and of the Lamb in a dazzling never-ending stream. It is a symbol of eternal life and the constant flow of everlasting life from God's throne to His people.

It will also contain the tree of life. This is the celestial counterpart to the tree of life in Eden (Gen 2:9; 3:22-24). It symbolizes the blessing of eternal life.

There will no longer be any curse and we will serve God for all eternity. His name will be on our foreheads and we will reign with Them.

The city will be the dwelling place of the united people of God - Old and New Testament believers. The nations will be in the city as well as Israel and the Church. It is evident that the city is the dwelling place of the saints of all ages, the angels, and God Himself, forever.

Jesus' Final Message (Rev 22:7-21)

- Read and share this book - it is not to be hidden.
- The words in the Book of Revelation are prophecy.
- When He comes He will reward based on what we have done.
- Blessed are those who have accepted Him as Lord and Savior and will spend eternity in heaven with Him.
- If anyone adds to or takes away from the words of the prophecy of this book they will not be in heaven.
- Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega; the first and the last; the beginning and the end.
- He is the root and descendant of David, the Bright Morning Star.
- He is coming back.
- The time is near for Him to come back.
- When He comes it will be sudden and quick.
- Blessed are those who read and heed the words of the prophecy of this book.

Amen, Come Quickly Lord, Jesus!

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