

#### Mandate/Assignment

In March 2025 after my 69<sup>th</sup> Birthday I was talking to my husband about the New President elect and while having a discussion I heard these words

- "You will be used to usher in the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming".
- After my conversion in April 1977 the very assignment was marked out for me.
- I became instantly interested in end time events after reading Matthew 24. From then until such a time as this...
- This power point is a visual representation of the book ALL ABOUT THE 2<sup>ND</sup> COMING by Herbert Lockyer Sr which was edited by Herbert Lockyer Jr. and first Printed in 1998. The Expositors Bible commentary, The Life Application Bible and the Grant Jeffreys Prophecy Bible are also incorporated. Very limited google information that is biblically sound and finally few side bar notes from my personal accumulated readings.
- The presentation could not be done without the work done by my husband Jim who without all his efforts and time and experience this would be impossible to make happen.

#### Introduction

- Prophecy is not a subject we can study at will, as a person might pursue hobby.
- We are commanded to study prophecy as and aspect of divine revelation" Do your best to present yourself ro God as one approved... who correctly handles the word of truth" (2 Tim 2:15)
- Unless we give ourselves to an understanding of eschatology, we do not correctly handle the Scriptures.
- The study of prophecy, it will be found, both gladdens and saddens. As we contemplate the glorious future of both the church and the Jews, we are thrilled. Truly, the best is yet to be!
- On the other hand, as we meditate upon the certain and terrible judgment awaiting the godless, sorrow fills our heart.
- Prophecy, however, demands the recognition of seven principles, and because of quickened interest in the doctrine of last things, we need to consider these principles for our particular study.

#### Seven Principles of Prophetic Study

- 1. It is essential to have had an experience of the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit.
- 1 Corinthians 2:14 tells us that those who are not believers, or "natural men," cannot understand spiritual truths because they are not able to receive them or discern them through the Holy Spirit. The things of the Spirit, like the gospel, are considered foolishness to them.
- In Psalm 25:14, which reads "The secret of the Lord is with those who fear him; and he will show them his covenant," means that God shares his inner counsel and his promises (covenant) with those who have a deep reverence and respect for him.
- This "fear" isn't about being afraid of God, but rather a reverential awe and respect that leads to obedience and a close relationship with him.

#### 2 One must believe the Bible to be the Prophetic Word

2 Peter 1:9 states that a person who lacks the qualities of goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love is shortsighted and blind, having forgotten they were cleansed from past sins. This highlights the importance of cultivating these qualities in a Christian's life as they are signs of a genuine and growing relationship with God.

### • 3 There must be complete reliance upon the Holy Spirit, whose prerogative it is to show us things to come.

John 16:13 speaks of the Holy Spirit, the "Spirit of truth," guiding believers into all truth. This guidance is not a mere imparting of information, but a deeper revelation of God's truth, illuminating and transforming the believer's understanding. The Spirit will reveal what Jesus has already revealed and will also tell believers about future events.

#### 4. Grasp the broad prophetic outline.

It will greatly help to remember that as we distinguish the dispensations, the Scriptures harmonize, Briefly stated, future events are grouped around the return of Christ, for His church and her judgment at the bema, the marriage supper, and her share in the governmental control of the earth.

## 5. When studying prophecy, guard against extremes of interpretations and applications.

We only drag the truth into disrepute when we treat the Bible as a prophetic curiosity shop.

Prophecy does not consist in choosing dates, forecasting future events, and interpreting signs like in Isaiah 31:5 **Metaphor of a Hovering Bird:** 

The verse uses the imagery of a bird hovering over its nest to illustrate God's protective and loving nature.

Just as a bird vigilantly watches over its young, so too will God watch over Jerusalem.

In all phases of Bible study, we must first discover the interpretation of the text and then make our application.

It is against all the rules of Bible interpretation to confine ourselves to application or, as is often the case, to allow the imagination full play

when comes to application.



## • <u>6. We must keep our eyes on the Lord Jesus around whom all prophecy moves.</u>

- Revelation 19:10 emphasizes that the core of prophetic understanding and witness is rooted in the testimony about Jesus.
- The angel, a fellow servant, clarifies that the spirit of prophecy is synonymous with bearing witness to Jesus, and therefore he, as a servant, is not to be worshiped.
- This verse highlights the importance of Jesus' message and his authority in prophecy and salvation.
- We must keep our eyes on the Lord Jesus around whom all prophecy moves.

#### 7. We can secure the utmost spiritual good from the study of prophecy only if we associate it with practical aims

- 1 Corinthians 13:2 states that if someone possesses the gift of prophecy, understands all mysteries and all knowledge, and has faith that can move mountains, but lacks love, they are essentially nothing.
- Paul is emphasizing that even the greatest spiritual gifts are meaningless without love.
- 1 John 3:2-3 states that believers are already God's children and what they will be has not yet been fully revealed.
- However, they know that when Christ appears, they will be like him because they will see him as he is.
- Those who have this hope will purify themselves, just as he is pure.

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#### First: His Garments Rev 1:13

"Dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet."



Hebrews 5:5-6 So Christ also glorified not himself to be made a high priest, but he that spake unto him, Thou art my Son, This day have I begotten thee: 6. as he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever After the order of Melchizedek.

#### Second: His Head and Hair Rev 1:14

"His head and hair were white like wool as white as snow"



## Third: His eyes (Rev 1:14) "His eyes were like blazing fire"



- All who see the Lord when He returns in His glory will see His eyes flashing forth as a flame of fire (Rev 19:19)
- Revelation is a book of fire, for the word "fire" occurs nineteen times in it. Those flamelike eyes of Christ always fixed on the moving scene of human life, and untiring in reading human hearts and the true meaning of all human events and actions will burn up all that is alien to their holy gaze.
- "Nothing in all creation is hidden from Gods sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account" (Hebrews 4:13)



# Fifth: His Voice (Rev 1:15-16) "His voice was like the sound of rushing waters out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword"

- We group voice and mouth because they go together, one being necessary to the use of the other.
- Voice and sound in 1:15 are both translated from the same Greek word, phone. The book of Revelation is a book of the voice, which John uses fifty-five times.
- The thunderous voice that John heard corresponds to the voice of "the Ancient of Days", described by Daniel as "the voice of a multitude" (Daniel 10:6)

#### Sixth: His Right Hand (Rev1:16)



- "In his right hand he held seven stars... He placed his right hand on me... The seven stars that you saw In my right hand." (Revelation 1:16-17,20)
- Revelation 1:16 describes a vision of Jesus Christ holding seven stars in His right hand, symbolizing His authority and care over the church. The seven stars are interpreted as the angels or messengers of the seven churches, representing divine guidance and protection.
- Additionally, the verse highlights Christ's sovereignty and power, depicted by a sharp double-edged sword coming from His mouth, emphasizing the authority of His word.
- Overall, this imagery conveys profound truths about Christ's exalted nature and His relationship with the church.



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#### REVELATION



(Revelation 2 &3)

- A pattern is followed in each of the messages to the seven churches.
  - 1. Salutation
  - 2. Christ's self designation
  - 3. Commendation of good
  - 4. Condemnation of evil
  - 5. Counsel (warning & exhortation)
  - 6. Promise of reward to those who overcome
  - 7. Invitation to Hear

#### • This represents the entirety of the *Church Age*, as we shall see

- There have always been churches leaving their first love (Ephesus *Apostolic*
- Churches enduring persecution and trial (Smyrna-The Martyr Church,)
- Churches in worldly practice (Pergamum-The State Church)
- Churches tolerating sin (Thyatira-The "Papal Church")
- Churches allowing gross sin (Sardis-The "Reformation Church)
- Churches with only a little power (Philadelphia-The Missionary Church
- Churches denying the deity of Christ (Laodicea The "Apostate Church"



#### First Letter:

#### Ephesus-First Love (Revelation 2:1-7)

"Love for Love is but justice and gratitude
Love for no Love is favor and Kindness
But Love for hatred is a most divine temper"
-Auth unknown

#### The Location and History

- The name "Ephesus" means "desirable" or "first love" and fittingly describes the first century of church history, which was generally characterized by deep love and ardent zeal for Christ, and by unflinching opposition to false teachers and doctrines.
- Ephesus was the center of a large Christian population. The main body of pastors in the area had stood solidly against all heresy, firmly excluding false teachers from the church. But the church John knew and dearly loved had left her early zeal. We find in Acts 20:17-31 the passage from the New Testament of the Bible.
- In this passage, Paul sends for the elders of the church in Ephesus and tells them about his life and ministry. He talks about how he served the Lord with great humility and with tears, and how he was tested by the plots of his Jewish opponents.
- He also warns the elders to watch out for themselves and for all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made them overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son.
- The letter to Ephesus here in Revelation describes the condition of the church thirty-five years later.

- At Paul's first brief visit he found a ready ear among the Jews in Acts 18.
- At a second visit, however, opposition drove him from the synagogue (Acts 19)
- Ephesus was now given over to idolatry and to a prevailing heresy that Christians could freely participate in the immoralities of heathen festivals.
   Many Christians left their first love.\*

## The Letter to the "angel" of the church in Ephesus Write: Revelation 2:1-7

- "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands.
- 1. I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.
- 2. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.
- 3. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.
- 4. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

- 5. But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
- 6. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God."

The angel, we understand, is the moral or spiritual representative of each church.

In each of the letters the speaker is the risen Lord, and the revelation of Himself is adapted to the need of each church.

## The sevenfold commendation for the Ephesian church

- 1 hard work
- 2 perseverance
- 3 intolerance toward wickedness
- 4 testing false claims
- 5 persevering
- 6 enduring hardship
- 7 not growing weary

#### "yet I hold this against you"

- In Christs message to this church the first love of betrothal to Christ had been forsaken.
- There was pure doctrine and perfect church order, but a lamentable lack of love.
- The love of Christ is the motive of all acceptable service (John 21:15-17)
- That the very best in service is of little value if love is lacking?
- With the first love went the first works. Love yearns for love, for where there is true love, there is also true labor.



#### Location and History

- Smyrna was a serious rival of Ephesus, some forty miles to the North, attractively built in John's day, it was called "the beautiful"
- Smyrna is also famous as the birthplace of the Greek poet Homer
- Its bishop, Polycarp, was martyred there in 168Ad when he was ninety years old.
- The name Smyrna means "myrrh" which was used to embalm the dead
- Smyrna was also called "the gateway of the Martyrs"\*

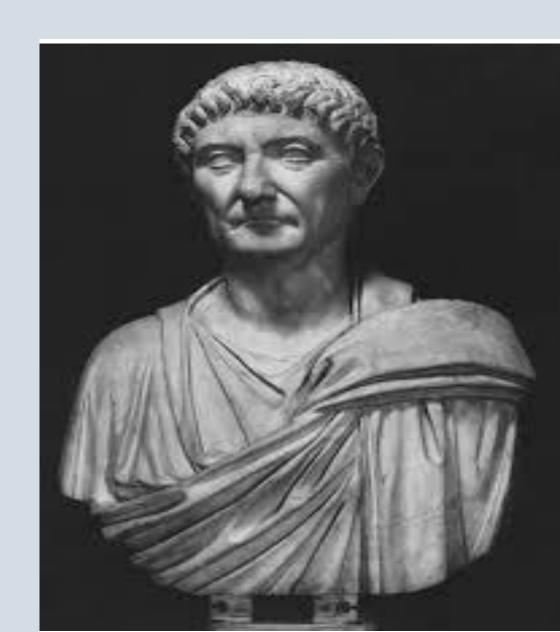
#### To the angel of the church in Smyrna write

#### Revelation 2:8-11 states:

- "To the angel of the church in Smyrna write":
- These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.
- I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.
- Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days.
- Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.
- Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.
   The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death."\*

#### The List of persecutions for the "ten days"

- 1. Under Nero AD 64-68
- 2. Under Domitian AD 90-95
- 3. Under Trajan AD 104-117
- 4. Under Aurelius AD 161-180
- 5. Under Severus AD 200-211
- 6. Under Maximus AD 23-37
- 7. Under Decius AD 250-253
- 8. under Valerian AD 257-260
- 9. Under Aurelian AD 270-275
- 10. Under Diocletion AD 303-312



## Third Letter: Pergamum-State Church Revelation 2:12-17

#### "Sen. Sam Ervin Jr.:

"Political freedom cannot exist in any land where religion controls the state, and religious freedom cannot exist in any land where the state controls religion".

#### History and Location

- The city of Pergamum, or Pergamos, was the ancient political capital of Asia. Famous for its learning, culture, and science, it had a two-hundred thousand volume library, second only to that of Alexandria, Egypt.
- The city has been described as a combination of a pagan cathedral city, a university town, and a royal residence. The art of preparing skins of animals for writing upon was perfected in Pergamum
- The city was the seat of emperor worship and was preeminent in idolatry-hence the designation "where Satan has his Throne" (2:15).

- The New Testament does not record the founding of the church here. By the third century the church had passed the martyr stage and was receiving imperial favors.
- Emperor Constantine united church and state by making Christianity the state religion.
- Pergamum means "twice married," a fit description of the disastrous union between the church and the world.
- Since this fatal marriage, the church and the state system have never been separated.
- Decreasing spirituality has led to increasing worldly favor.\*

### To the angel of the church in Pergamum write

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.

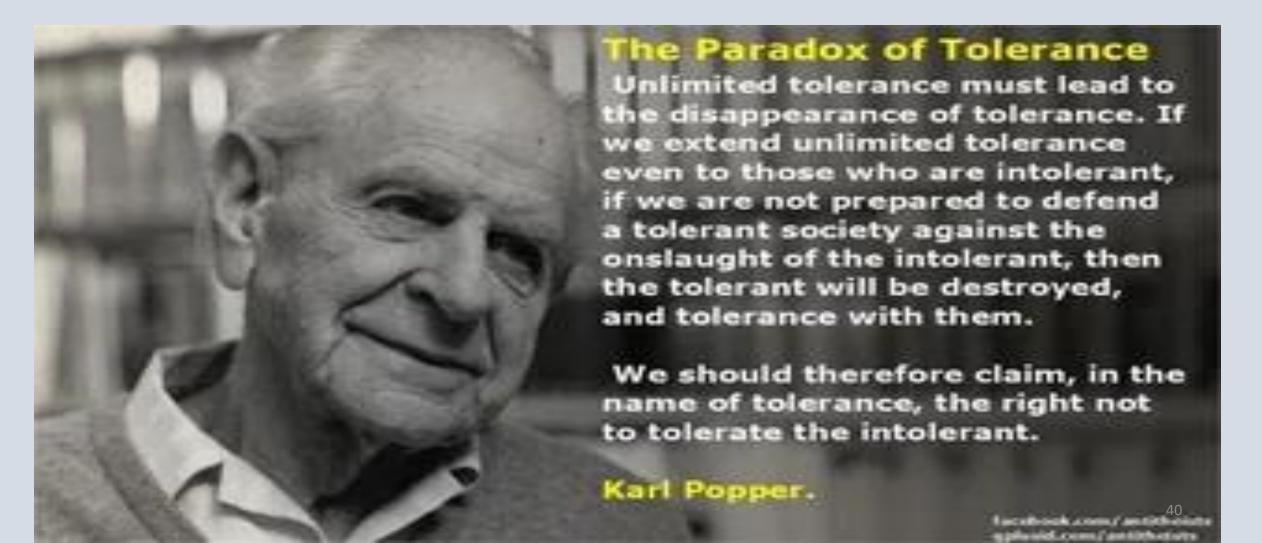
- <sup>13</sup> I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.
- <sup>14</sup> Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality.
- <sup>15</sup> Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.
- <sup>16</sup> Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.\*



#### The City of the Faithful Martyr

- "You did not renounce your faith in me (Jesus), even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city-where Satan Lives"
- The fidelity of the saints in Pergamum, even with martyrdom before them, is illustrated in faithful Antipas, who died for the Lord whom he dearly loved.
- In an intimacy of love and a blaze of glory unique even for Revelation, Christ draws out the name of Antipas.
- It means "one against many" and this courageous Christian dared to stand alone and seal his witness with his life's blood.

## Fourth Letter: Thyatira- Roman Church (Revelation 2:18-29)

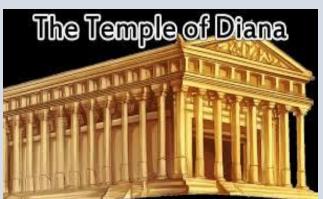


#### History and Location

- Travelers have asserted that the road from Thyatira to Pergamum is one of the most beautiful in the world.
- Within the city was a magnificent temple of Diana.
- It was also the home of Jezebel the notorious and influential woman teacher who openly and militantly endorsed immoral living.
- The history of the church at Thyatira might be traced back to the riverside prayer meeting described in Acts 16, since Lydia was a native of Thyatira.

She was probably instrumental in founding the church on her return

home.







- The city's deity was Tyrimnas, a sun god, who was generally depicted as a warrior riding forth to battle, armed with a double-edged battle axe the symbol of smashing military power.
- Such a deity might presumably be deemed most appropriate for a pagan military town.
- It is most significant then, that the character in which Christ is introduced to the church of Thyatira is that of One 'whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze' (2:18)

## To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: (Revelation 2:18-29)

- 18. These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze.
- <sup>19</sup> I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.
- <sup>20</sup> Nevertheless, I have this against you: You <u>tolerate</u> that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.
- <sup>21</sup> I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling.
- <sup>22</sup> So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways.

- <sup>23</sup> I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.\*
- <sup>24</sup> Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets, 'I will not impose any other burden on you,
- <sup>25</sup> except to hold on to what you have until I come.'
- <sup>26</sup> To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—
- <sup>27</sup> that one 'will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery'—just as I have received authority from my Father.
- <sup>28</sup> I will also give that one the morning star.
- <sup>29</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches

### **Takeway**

- To those in Thyatira not influenced by Jezebel and her fornications a share in the rule of Christ was promised. Deeds based on love play a prominent part in the letter.
- The Morning Star is Christ Himself (see 22:16), and all overcomers are to possess Him fully.
- What a future awaits those who have Christ in their hearts as the Harbinger of the coming glorious day!\*.



### **History and Location**

- Looked at from a little distance to the north in the open plain, Sardis wore an imposing, commanding, impregnable aspect, as it dominated that magnificent broad valley of the Hermus from its robber stronghold on a steep spur that stands out boldly from the great mountains on the south.
- But, close at hand, the hill is seen to be but mud, slightly compacted, never trustworthy or lasting, crumbling under the influences of the weather ready to yield even to the blow of a spade.
- It was an appearance without reality, promise without performance, outward show of strength betrayed by want of watchfulness and careless

confidence.



## To the angel of the church in Sardis write (Revelation 3:1-6)

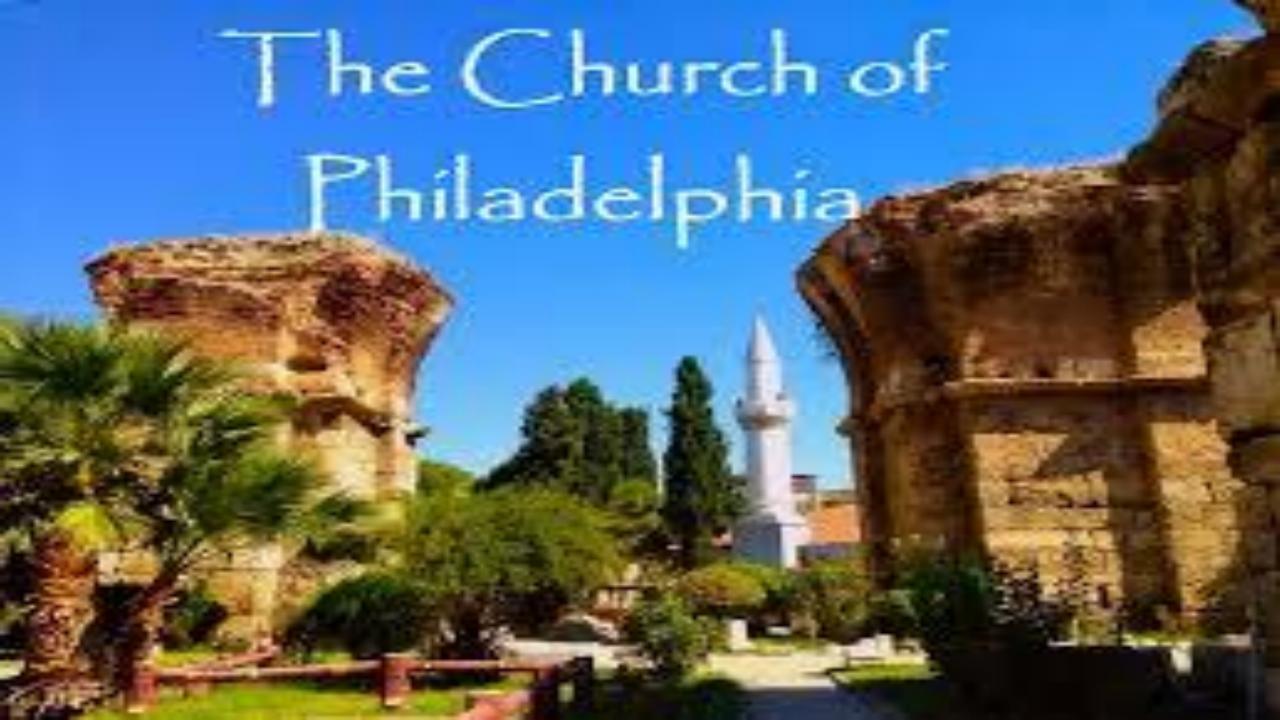
- 1. These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.
- <sup>2</sup> Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God.
- <sup>3</sup> Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.
- <sup>4</sup> Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy.

- <sup>5</sup> The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels.
- <sup>6</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

# Sixth Letter: Philadelphia-Missionary Church (Revelation 3:7-13)

The church which is not a missionary church will be a missing church when Jesus comes.

FB Meyer





## To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

- 7 These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.
- <sup>8</sup> I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.
- <sup>9</sup> I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.
- <sup>10</sup> Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

## To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

- <sup>11</sup> I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.
- 12 The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.
- 13 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

### **Takeaway**

- In this letter also, Christ's Second Coming is used as an incentive to hold fast. May we be determined to retain our crown!
- Overcomers are to be made a pillar in God's temple. Though of little strength on earth, they are to be fashioned into massive, glorious pillars in heaven and will share Christs ultimate victory.
- Then identification with the king will be complete.
- Even if they have no name here, they are to have a new, secret name in heaven.
- All who are truly saved by grace are in the register of the living because they have eternal life

# Seventh Letter: Laodicea- Today's Church (Revelation 3:14-22)

The modern church is producing passionate people with empty heads who love the Jesus they don't know very well.

**Voddie Baucham** 

### **History and Location**

- Laodicea received its name from Laodice, wife of Antiochus II, the Syrian monarch. Laodicea was near Colosse, where the Christians received a letter from Paul.
- Four references in Colossians (2:1; 4:13, 15,16) prove that the Apostle Paul was familiar with the church at Laodicea.
- The city itself was a great banking center and a producer of black, glossy wool garments; its medical school was famous for a powder that cured ophthalmia.
- But the fame and splendor of Laodicea have been laid in the dust, for the city is now the scene of ruin and desolation

## To the angel of the church in Laodicea write (Revelation 3:14-22)

- <sup>14</sup> These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation.
- <sup>15</sup> I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!
- <sup>16</sup> So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.
- <sup>17</sup> You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.
- <sup>18</sup> I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

# To the angel of the church in Laodicea write (Revelation 3:14-22)

- <sup>19</sup> Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.
- <sup>20</sup> Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.
- <sup>21</sup> To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.
- <sup>22</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."\*

### **Takeway**

- The Laodicean church has abundant material wealth, yet Christ declares it to be pitiable and bankrupt.
- We have the "you are" of lukewarmness, the "you say" of selfcomplacency (the church was with out passion or emotion), and the "you are" of the Lords infallible and terrible indictment.
- Like many a modern church, Laodicea is correct but conscienceless.
- Christ's contempt for such a condition is seen in His drastic treatment of the church:
- "I am about to spit you out of my mouth." Such a travesty of His church is loathsome to Christ

#### **SUMMARY**

- Ephesus: "I will come to you and remove your lampstand" (2:5)
- Smyrna: "I will give you the crown of life" (2:10)
- Pergamum "I will soon come to you" (2:16)
- Thyatira: "Hold on to what you have until I come" (2:25)
- Sardis: "I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you" (3:3)
- Philadelphia: "I am coming soon" (3:11)
- Laodicea: "I stand at the door and knock" (3:20)



## Prayer-Protests similarity to the messages sent to the Seven Churches (Revelation 2:3)

- Six times over in the book of Malachi we have the key-word "Wherein"., used as a challenge to God in response to His rebukes.
- The "Wherein "of a despised love (1:2) is placed alongside of Ephesus, leaving her first love (Revelation 2:4)
- The "Wherein" of a despised name (1:4) is compared with those in Smyrna who say they are Jews, but are not Judaism before "the name" (Rev 2:9)
- The "Wherein" of a despised order (1:7) appears again in Pergamos where man's order was preferred to God's order (Revelation 2:14)
- The "Wherein" of despised patience (2:17) is seen in Thyatira who had space to repent but not (Revelation 2:21)
- The "Wherein" of a *despised welcome* (3:7) is akin to those who in Sardis who had a name that they lived but were dead. (Revelation 3:1-3)
- The "Wherein of a despised portion (3:8) foreshadows those in Laodicea who deemed themselves rich and in need of nothing (Revelation 3:15)

### **Broader Meaning Summary**

- Ephesus indicates ecclesiastical pretension and departure from first love, characterizing the close of the apostolic period (first love church, first century)
- Smyrna brings us to the period of the martyrs, concluding with the last persecution under Diocletian (persecuted Church, A.D. 92-315)
- Pergamum reveals the decreasing spirituality and increasing worldliness common to the reign of Constantine and stemming from his public patronage of the church (state church, 315-500)
- Thyatira covers the Middle Ages with their cruel persecution of the saints of God (Roman Church 500-1500)

- Sardis represents God's intervention by means of the Reformation, the light of which is still burning (1500-1700)
- Philadelphia is related to the nineteenth century with its vast expansion of missionary activities (missionary church, 1700-1900)
- Laodicea portrays the present general state of the professing church (Lukewarm church, 1900-) \*

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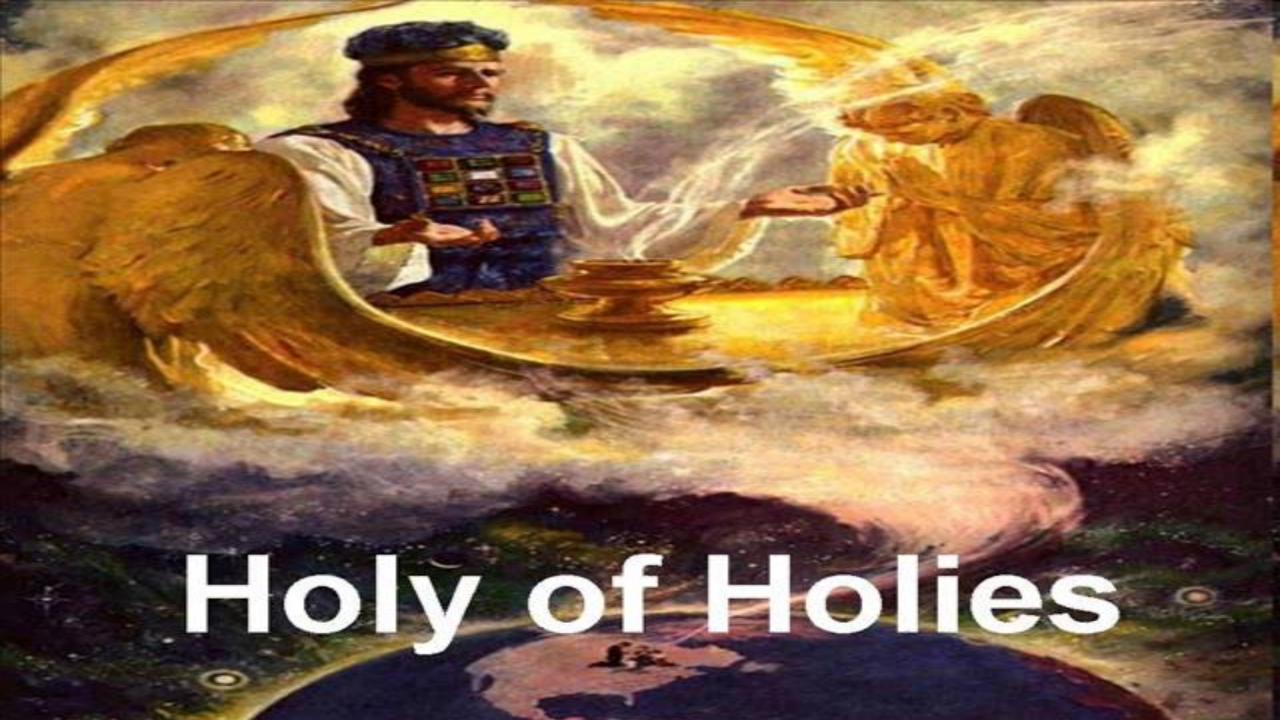




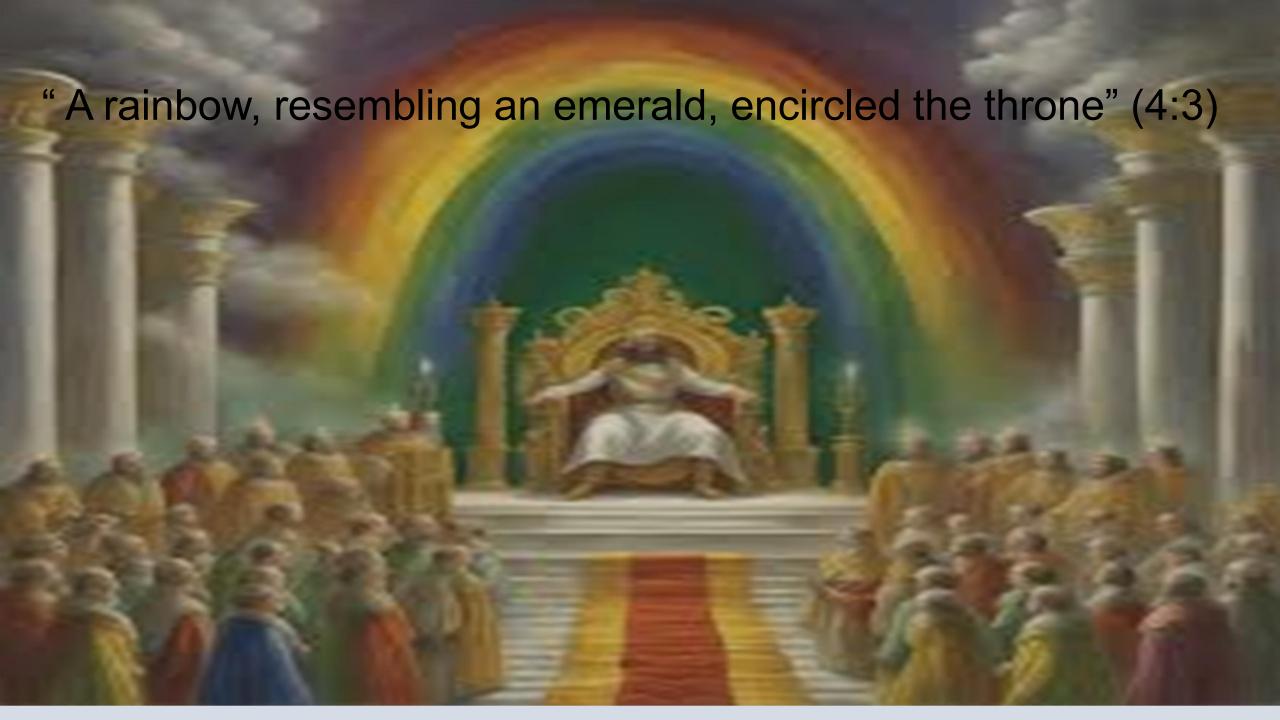
#### The Throne room Revelation 4:1-11

- 1 After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me !like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."
- **2** At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.
- **3** And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.
- **4** Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.

- **5** From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God,
- 6 and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind:
- 7 the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight.
- 8 And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,



- Twelve times in this chapter the word "throne" is mentioned.
- Altogether it occurs thirty-eight times throughout Revelation, making this book "the throne room of the Bible."
- And the 'thrones "of Revelation make a profitable Bible Study. The book opens and closes with a throne (1:4 ' 22:3)
- The throne of 4:2 is preparatory to the judgments beginning in chapter 6 and ending in chapter 20
- The throne before us is "in heaven" (4:2), speaking judgments that are righteous and holy. "The Lord has established His throne in heaven"



The Twenty-four Elders Fall Down Before Him Who Sits On The Throne, And Worship Him Who Lives For Ever And Ever. They Lay Their Crowns Before The Throne And Say:

Revelation 4-10



# The Scroll with Seven Seals (Revelation 5:1)



Revelation 5:1 states: "And I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals."

In the Book of Revelation, the scroll with seven seals symbolizes God's judgment on sin and wickedness.

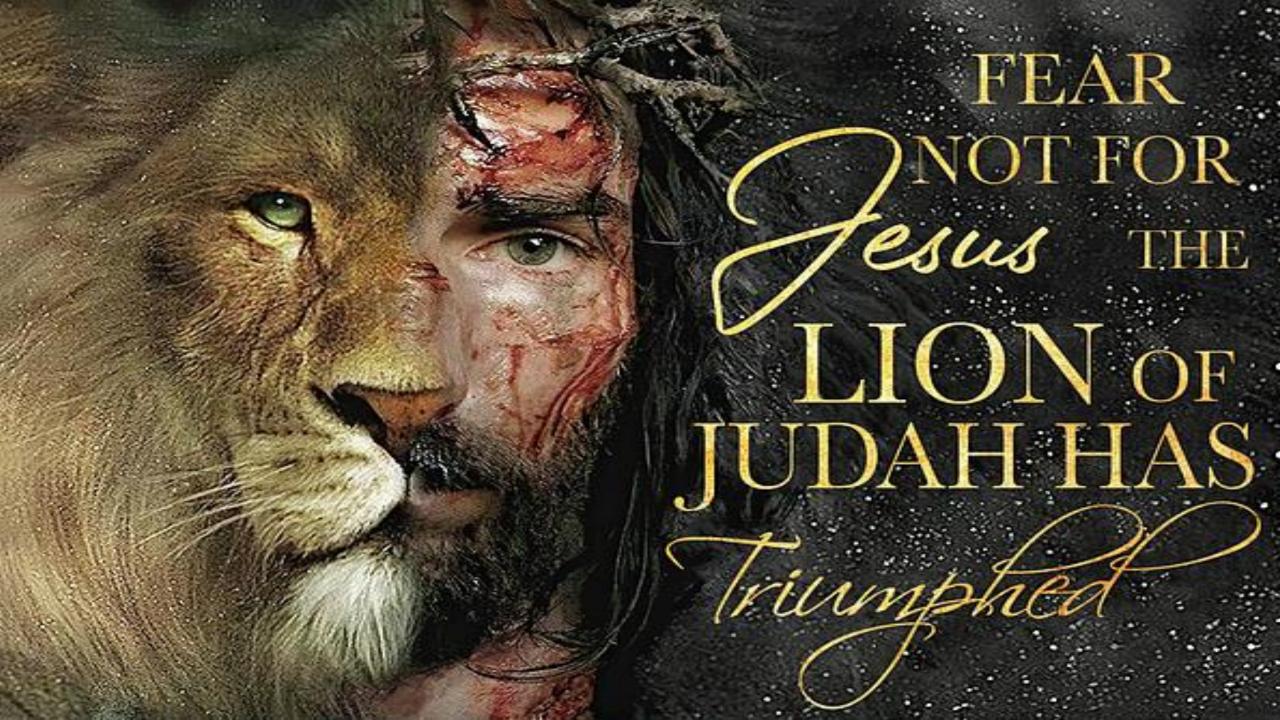
It is described as being written on both sides and sealed with seven seals, representing the complete and final nature of God's plan.

The scroll is held in God's right hand, and no one in heaven, earth, or the underworld is initially found worthy to open it.

# ON SCHOL

REVELATION 5

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#### **ELABORATION CHAPTER 5**

#### Ransomed by His Blood:

The core meaning revolves around Jesus's sacrifice on the cross. His blood is the price paid to redeem people from the penalty of sin and restore them to God.

#### Universal Redemption:

The passage emphasizes that Jesus's sacrifice was not limited to a specific group of people. He died for all nations, tribes, and languages, showing God's love for the entire human family.

#### •Kingdom of Priests:

The redeemed are not just forgiven; they are also appointed as a "kingdom of priests," implying they will have a special role in God's service and reign with Christ.

#### •New Song:

The new song signifies the joy and wonder of redemption. It's a fresh expression of praise, acknowledging God's grace and the transformative power of Jesus's sacrifice.

#### •Worthy to Open the Scroll:

The scroll represents God's plan for the world. Jesus's worthiness to open it underscores His authority and victory over sin and death

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### THE SEALS (CHAPTER 6)



# The Lamb opens the Scroll (Revelation 6:1)

I WATCHED AS THE LAMB OPENED THE FIRST OF THE SEVEN SEALS

When the Lamb, Jesus Christ, opens the first seal, one of the four living creatures like a lion, ox, man, and eagle, says, "Come!".

Then, a white horse appears, with a rider who has a bow and is given a crown, signifying conquest.

- Think of a telescope with three sections: the middle section is drawn out from the first section, and the third section from the middle section.
- Out of the seals the trumpets judgment and out of the trumpet's judgement then the bowls judgement.
- Because the judgment period stretches from chapter 6 to chapter 20, we need to note the connection between the seals, the trumpets, and the bowls. The judgments of the seal are successive.
- The seals cover a larger area than the trumpets, but the trumpets are more sever and searching.
- The Lamb opens the seals, the angels blow the trumpets, and God empties out the bowls. The 7 seals then, include the entire judgment period.

# First Seal: The White Horse-Conquest (Revelation 6:1-2)

Revelation 6:1-2 KJV And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a how, and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

- The identity of the rider of the white horse is a matter of contradictory exposition
- The Bible references a white horse in the book of Revelation, specifically in two contexts:
- The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse (Revelation 6:2) and the return of Christ (Revelation 19:11).
- In the first instance, the white horse and its rider symbolize conquest and a deceptive force.
- In the second, the white horse represents Christ's ultimate victory and reign, as he is described as "Faithful and True" and "King of king



- We believe that the rider in this first seal is not the same person who appears as King of Kings and Lord of Lords in 19:11-16\*
- These two riders have nothing in common beyond a white horse no more proof that they are symbolic of Christ than are the white horses in Zechariah 1:8 and 6:3-6
- We have no hesitation in affirming that the rider of the white horse is the antichrist (the first beast of 13:1-10)
- White, the color of the horse, denotes the victorious power of the rider.



- The antichrist (The first rider on white horse), a great political leader and military strategist, will produce a series of successive conflicts. With his genius for conflict and conquest, this universal dictator will have wisdom to settle all national and international unrest and disorder.
- The white horse rider has a crown given him (by whom we are not told).
   Christ is not given any crown; many diadems adorn His brow by divine right and conquest (Revelation 19:12)
- Then people will cry "peace and safety" but terrible destruction will be just around the corner, as the 2ND rider indicates
- Other contrasts to note; the rider in the first seal comes out of the earth, but Christ descends from the opened heavens (Rev 13:1;19:11)
- It seems that False authority characterizes all that is related to this white horse rider.

# Second Seal: The Red Horse –War (Rev 6:3-4)

<sup>3</sup> When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!"

<sup>4</sup> Then another horse came out, a fiery red one.



- Describes the second of the four horsemen of the Apocalypse.
- When the second seal is opened, a red horse appears, and its rider is given power to take peace from the earth and cause people to kill each other.
- The rider also has a great sword. The devastation of modern wars is appalling, and if the world should experience a nuclear war, the destruction of life and property would be colossal.
- Treaties, pacts, and covenants will be torn up as scraps of paper. Life will be terribly cheap, for human beings will be but dung or manure for the earth, fit only for fertilizer (see Ezekiel 39)



- The rider's name is not explicitly stated, but the third living creature calls out,
- "Come and see," followed by a voice declaring,
- "A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see that you do not harm the oil and the wine."
- This passage is understood to represent famine and scarcity.



## Fourth Seal: The Pale Horse-Death (Rev 6:7-8)

- When he broke open the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature cry out, "Come forward." & I looked, and there was a pale green\* horse. Its rider was named Death, and Hades accompanied him.
- The beasts of the earth (6:8) are the wild beasts who will complete the destruction. All such beasts have the culmination of their cruelty in the beast.
- In wrath God remembers mercy, so the rider's authority is limited to "the fourth part of the earth" that is, the political empire. The fourth world empire was the Roman Empire and covered a large area of the earth.

### Fifth Seal: The Martyrs (Revelation 6:9-11)



- <sup>9</sup> When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.
- <sup>10</sup> They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"
- 11 Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.\*

## Sixth Seal: Earthquake- Tribulation (Rev 6:12-17)\*

- <sup>12</sup> I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red,
- <sup>13</sup> and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind.
- <sup>14</sup> The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.
- <sup>15</sup> Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains.
- <sup>16</sup> They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!
- <sup>17</sup> For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?"

- The scene now described is both terrible and exalted.
- We have the premonition of coming events: natural convulsions and human consternation
- A picture of social chaos in which nature shares the violent disruption, general catastrophe, and universal terror.
- Black represents the darkening power of Satan.
- The sun stands for the complete authority of government, while the moon symbolizes dependent authority and the stars picture still lesser authorities\*\*





#### The Great Tribulation (Rev 6:17)

For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?

- Now the great Tribulation is about to begin. "The Lord takes vengeance on his foes and maintains his wrath against his enemies" (Nahum 1:2).
- These days of revolution and slaughter are the forerunner of the tragic time of the Tribulation. People will Pray, but not to God, from whose face the horrified multitudes will flee. Instead, they will pray to the mountains (6:16).
- Their only safety is hiding in the Lamb, not from Him.\*
- The classes of people named in verse 15 include kings and princes (the rulers), chief captains (the military), rich and strong (the influential), bondslaves (the oppressed), and freemen (all the rest).

### How the Sixth Seal Corresponds to Isaiah 2:12

They hide from God just as Adam tried to do in the Garden of Eden. As with Adam, so it will be with a guilty world when the Lord prepares to come in glory. (Note how this sixth seal corresponds to the prophecy of Isaiah 2:12)

<sup>2:12</sup> The LORD Almighty has a day in store for all the proud and lofty, for all that is exalted.

(and they will be humbled)

**See also** *Isaiah* 2:17-22; *Isaiah* 13:6-13; *Isaiah* 24:1-6, as well as *Psalm* 2 *Nahum* 1:6\*

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# Sealing of 144,000 Jews (Revelation 7:1-17) And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes (Rev 7:17)

- Revelation 7:1-8 describes the sealing of 144,000 from the twelve tribes of Israel, protected from the coming tribulation.
- Four angels hold back the winds while another angel seals God's servants. Specifically, 12,000 from each of the following tribes are sealed:
- Judah, Reuben, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Simeon, Levi, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin
- Revelation 7:9-17 describes a great multitude, too numerous to count, standing before the throne and the Lamb, representing all nations, tribes, peoples, and languages.

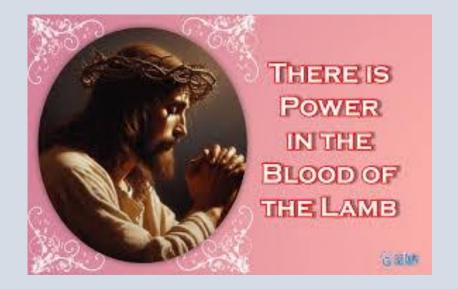
- They are clothed in white robes, carrying palm branches, and cry out "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb".
- The angels and elders also worship God, and the passage concludes with a promise of God's protection and care for this multitude, including being led to springs of living water and having their tears wiped away.
- Moreover, The vast, unnumbered multitude of Gentile (7:9-17)
- This is in sharp contrast to the more limited and exactly defined number of Jews.
- This palm bearing Gentile multitude must not be confused with either the church or Israel.
- This is the mighty ingathering of souls that Joel predicted when he said that the day of the Lord whoever called upon Him would be saved (Joel 2:30-32).

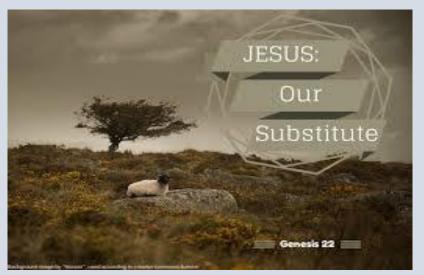
- The innumerable company represents the fruit of an extensive work of grace begun after the translation of the church and continued through the future prophetic week of seven years deemed out of every nation (Rev 5:9-10).
- This great multitude is clearly identified in verse 14 as having come out of "the tribulation, the great one"

### Will the Holy Spirit Depart with the church?

- Some people teach that the Holy Spirit will be completely with drawn from the earth once the church is caught up to meet the Lord in the air.
- But because the Spirit is always virtually connected with human salvation, He must be the active Agent in the great revival among those on the earth after the rapture.
- In 7:14 the word is "come," not "came,". John is recording not a past act but a present action, and these who keep coming are blood washed, so the Spirit must be near, since He is always the One to apply the efficacious blood of the Lamb.

- The phrase "in the blood of the Lamb" should read "through the blood of the Lamb" implying "because of".
- Nothing can ever be made white by washing it in blood.
- All who stand before the throne of God are eternally secure because of all Christ accomplished on their behalf, and their acceptance of Him as their Substitute.
- This great saved multitude will not form part of the church but will have a place before the throne.







- C. I. Scofield remarks" They are not of the priesthood, the church, to which they seem to stand somewhat in the relation of the Levites to the priests under the Mosaic Covenant."
- We cannot regard this saved company as a heavenly one, for what Is presented is an earthly scene.
- All the people of earth who pass into the millennium must be those who acknowledge the Lamb as their Lord.

Millennial blessing, however, are to be shared by this white-robed

throne (7:15,17)





- For these Tribulation saints there are manifold rewards, as John clearly indicates (7:14-17); 14:13;15:2-4; 20:4) The rewards include:
- To be before the throne of God
- To serve God continually in His temple
- To have God forever in their midst
- To be delivered from future hunger and thirst
- To have the Lamb as their Shepherd to feed and lead them
- To experience rest from their labors
- To be commended for their faithful work
- To have harps of God and sing upon the sea of glass
- To reign with Christ forever.

#### Seventh Seal-Silence (Revelation 8:1)

- "There was silence in heaven for about half an hour"
- Why does a whole chapter intervene between the sixth and seventh seal, breaking the orderly sequence of events?
- One answer is that the sixth seal (6:12-17) announced such appalling judgement that people will think this horror is the great day of the wrath of the Lamb.
- But it is not.
- So, before the seventh seal is opened in preparation for further and more sever judgments, the veil is drawn aside to introduce two great groups of people redeemed by grace even while judgment is desolating the earth.

- When this seventh seal is opened and all the contents of the previous six seals are completed,
- there will be silence in heaven, and not elsewhere
- This seal of silence is somewhat startling, since we have little silence to the book, as a whole.

Indeed, Revelation is a book of speech, thunder, voices, and

a fast-moving action.



## What is the significance of this silence, the only content of the seal?

- It represents a brief pause during which the course of divine judgment is suspended. God is reluctant to smite, for He has no pleasure in the death of the wicked.
- The silence also indicates a pause between two series.
- This seventh seal is a unique conclusion to all the terrible judgments of the other seals and a fitting interlude between them and the terrible events of the seven trumpets to follow.
- It is a stillness before the storm, a calm before catastrophe.
- It is a solemn sign that the Lord is about to leave His holy place to punish the earth. It foreshadows the terrible nature of coming anguish

- This silence is in heaven, seeing that the source of earth judgments is the throne set in heaven.
- As to the "half an hour," it simply signifies a brief period during which judicial action is suspended. Half an hour will be long enough.
- It will seem like centuries to those who wait breathlessly for the Lord to smite!
- When the silence is over, His work of judgment will be a short one, "The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished.
- His way is in the whirlwind and the storm, and clouds are the dust of his feet" (Nahum 1:3)\*

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### The Angels (Revelation 8:2-6)

- The fact that the word "angel" occurs over seventy times in Revelation proves how prominent angel ministry is in the unfolding of God's final purposes for the world.
- His angels are the media of His manifold operations.
- In this church age we are not dependent upon angels, since the Holy Spirit is the Administrator of the affairs of the church and acts as the Executor of the Godhead, the true Vicar of Christ.
- But after the rapture of the church the angels are again conspicuous in the execution of divine edits.
- Angels are mentioned more often in Revelation than in any other book of the Bible.

- In this gospel age the angels are ministering spirits, sent forth for those who shall be heirs of salvation (Hebrews 1:13-14).
- In the section of Revelation that deals with the preparation for an execution of Christ's judicial authority, almost every phrase has its angel or angels, as the summary shows:
- An angel is the intermediary between Christ and John in the conveyance of the book of Revelation (1:1-4).
- Angels are the moral representatives of the seven churches (1:20; chapters 2 and 3)
- An angel challenges the universe to bring forth One competent enough to fulfill the righteous counsels of God relating to the world (5:2)
- Angels are a numberless throng that worships and praises Christ as the slain Lamb (5:11-12)
- Angels are given power to control natural elements (7:1)

- Angels have authority to seal those who are true servants of God (7:2-3)
- Angels are trumpeters, each of the seven trumpets having its own angel (chapter 8)
- Angels are identified with the seven bowls of divine wrath (chapter 6)
- Angels are allies of God in the heavenly war against hellish forces (chapter 12)
- An angel proclaims the everlasting gospel (14:6)
- An angel announces the dread news of the fall of Babylon (14:8)
- An angel thunders forth the terrible doom of the worshipers of the beast (14:9)
- An angel comes out of the temple (14:15), and another angel comes out of the altar 14:18)
- An angel is the guardian of the waters- a symbol of the peoples of earth, who are controlled by the angel under the govering hand of God (17:15)who acquiesces in divine judgment

### Seven Angels with Seven Trumpets (8:2)

 Angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them. (Revelation 8:6)

In Joshua 6, the seven trumpets of ram's horn that were sounded by the seven priests on seven successive days announced and achieved the overthrow of Jericho.

The priests blew their trumpets together; the angels blow theirs one by one.

Out of the impressive silence of the seventh seal, the seven trumpets emerge with their increasingly severe judicial mission.

- The first four trumpets describe the civil and ecclesiastical condition of the revived western Roman Empire.
- The fifth trumpet or first woe is related to apostate Judaism The sixth trumpet or second woe is associated with the guilty, godless inhabitants of the Roman world.
- The seventh trumpet or third woe suggest the universal effects of God's judgments.

As to the seven seals, the seven trumpets, and the seven bowls, these are not identical judgments executed concurrently.

They present three different series of judgments experienced successively during the great tribulation, of Daniel's seventieth week.\*

### Another Angel (8:3-5)

- Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar...took the censer,...and hurled it on the earth. (Revelation 8:3,5)
- Before we examine more closely the announcements of the seven angels, we must identify the separate angel-"another angel"- who appears in their company (8:3-5).
- Is this just another angel or is it someone in particular? Whenever the phrase "another angel" appears in Revelation, the Greek word *allos is* used-another of the same kind.
- Most expositors believe that the expression "the angel of the Lord," wherever it occurs, implies the presence of deity in angelic form, and sometimes even in human form (Gen 18:1-14, etc)

- As there is only one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all,
- we are convinced that this Angel-Priest, whose action at the altars is of a mediatorial character, is Christ,
- our Great High Priest "after the order of Melchizedek" (Heb 7:17)
- The phrase "after the order of Melchizedek" is a key concept in the New Testament, primarily found in Hebrews 7:17.
- It refers to a priesthood established by God that is distinct from the Levitical priesthood of the Old Testament and signifies the eternal priesthood of Jesus Christ
- Hence then, this Angel-Priest must surely be the Mediator, Jesus Christ; for no other can add efficacy to the prayers of the saints.





- Blood signifies dreadful slaughter, life forfeited by sin but claimed by a holy God, and complete apostasy form God and truth (Leviticus 3:17; 17:10-14; Revelation 14:20; 16:3)
- Hail and fire mingled with blood present a fearful combination. Such a trinity expresses a terrible manifestation of divine wrath upon the earth and its inhabitants.
- Trees symbolize human greatness and pride (Ezekiel 31; Daniel 4; Revelation 8:7.
- Our righteous God hates human pride and will overtake the high and mighty of the earth with judgement.
- Grass, symbolic of temporary prosperity (and likewise of human frailty), here describes the desolation of so many people, even though they had the "green grass" of a highly prosperous condition (Isaiah 40: 6-7; James 1:10; 1 Peter 1:24)

• A key takeaway is that these trumpets are a sign of God's judgment and a warning of the impending Tribulation period.

# Second Trumpet: The Sea Turns to Blood (Revelation 8:8-9)

- A third of the sea turned into blood. (Revelation 8:8)
- Comparing Scripture with Scripture, we find that the sea is used of the restlessness of human nature and also of peoples in a state of anarchy and confusion (Isaiah 57:20); 13:1).
- Ships represent travel and commerce (Genesis 49:13)
- The sea becoming blood corresponds to the plague that overtook the Nile River (Exodus 7:17-21).
- Just as the ever-restless sea symbolizes the masses of earth in rebellion because of the absence of a strong hand to rule them, the bloodlike sea describes the fearful destruction that will overtake them.
- Make the sea impassable, and the world's main highway

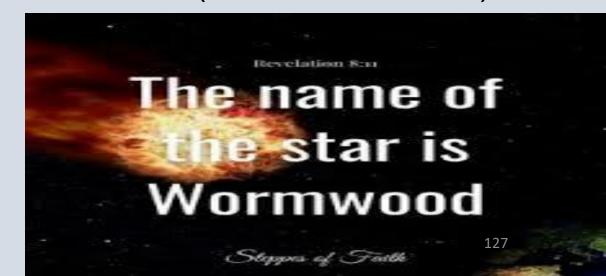
- A tremendous ship-building program replaced this dreadful toll of sunken ships.
- In the Tribulation days, however, with men and materials destroyed, such replacement of losses will not be possible.

# Third Trumpet: Water Becomes Bitter (Revelation 8:10-11)

- A third of the waters turned bitter. (Rev 8:11)
- Rivers and fountains of waters suggest sources of profitable pleasure or of nations acting under turbulent influences (Rev 16:4-5); 17:15; Jeremiah 2:13;; Joel 3:18).
- But as the third angel sounds, earth's pleasure-producing sources go to war against rebellious people.
- The meteor, with its gaseous vapors covering the fresh water supply, will be absorbed by a third of the waters, rivers, and fountains, recalling what happened in the first Egyptian plague.

- Earth is to reap the bitter fruits of sin, as essential supplies are contaminated by this plant.
- In times of war, nations experience how detrimental it is to have their natural and communal supply of water polluted or cut off.
- Under these circumstances the wonder is not that many died but that any lived.
- Every earthborn pleasure has bitter "wormwood" in it, and in the Tribulation judgment a third part of the earth, instead of finding life in fountains of water, finds death.
- Conversely, God is able to make bitter waters sweet (Exodus 15: 25-27).





 The geographical area affected by the blight of bitterness is the third part, suggesting that the steps of God from mercy to judgment are always slow, reluctant, and measured.

### Fourth Trumpet: The Sun, Moon, and Stars Are Darkened Revelation 8: 12-13)

- And a third of the sun was struck...the moon...the stars... the day...and a third of the night. (Revelation 8:12)
- The judgment of the fourth trumpet will be hard on those lovers of astrology who believe their life is regulated by the movement of the sun, the moon, and the stars.\*









- During World War II the British people were accustomed to blackouts during disastrous air raids.
- But all they could do was to extinguish artificial lights.
- They could not stop the heavenly lights from shining.
- During a blackout it seemed ironic, to hear an air warden shout to a house-holder,
- "Put out that light"!
- While above a most brilliant moon was sending out its light as usual, making visible so much for the raiders to see.
- But a divine blackout is coming, and when God withdraws the rays of sun, moon, and stars, the earth will experience a darkness it will dread.

- There is a verse that contains a loud and universal announcement of three woes that usher in the three last trumpets.
- These solemn woes indicate the severity of further judgments, and their terrifying effect.
- These last three trumpets will result in a new quality and degree of divine displeasure and consequent disaster.
- The woe is threefold because the three worst judgements are yet to come.

# Fifth Trumpet; The Stars Fall to Earth (Revelation 9:1-11)

- I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. (Revelation 9:1)
- With the sounding of the last three trumpets we pass from the visible to the invisible.
- The previous trumpets dealt with material surroundings; things seen by the human eye; this fifth trumpet deals with the spiritual realm.
- A sad sight is presented under this judgment, but worse is yet to come.
- In the verses before us we have one of the most fearsome descriptions of devastation ever penned, as the fifth angel goes forth to exercise a frightful mission.

- Here again the star falling to earth has been variously identified.
- Some say it indicates Satan being cast out of heaven, or the antichrist;
   or the false prophet, or a religious or political system.
- Others would like to believe that the fallen star may be the antichrist,
- Satan's chosen instrument to inflict such scenes of cruelty ad bloodshed depicted by John.
- To this expelled one is committed "the key to the shaft of the Abyss" (9:1)- the prison house of demons.
- Possession of "the key" means doleful power and authority to execute death.
- The smoke arising out of the abyss results in a most devastating army of locusts.
- Lets review this again more closely.



- Revelation 9:7-11: Describes the appearance and tormenting nature
  of the locusts. They are described as having the appearance of horses
  prepared for battle, crowns of gold, faces like men, hair like women,
  teeth like lions, and iron breastplates.
- They also make a sound like chariots and horses rushing into battle.
   Their torment is like that of scorpions, and people seek death but cannot find it.
- Revelation 9:11: Identifies the king of these locusts as Apollyon (Destroyer).
- The passage paints a vivid picture of a demonic army, not literal locusts, tormenting mankind during the end times.
- The locusts are symbolic of God's judgment on those who reject Him. <u>BibleRef.com</u> provides a summary of this event, while <u>Bible Gateway</u> offers the text in different versions. <u>Bible Project</u> also provides an interpretation of the fifth trumpet



- The locusts have teeth like lion's teeth (9:8)
- The locusts have, as it were, breastplates of iron (9:9)
- These hellish agents of torture are immune from personal destruction.
   Destitute of all feeling, on the come, showing no pity.
- Humans are helpless to pierce their defense.
- Any effort to drive them back will be useless.
- No human weapon will be strong enough to keep them back.\*



- The locusts' wings make a sound like chariots in battle(9:9)
- Humans will not be able to overcome or force back their deserved judgment by the might of their own armaments for the armies of terror will march down upon them from all sides.
- In Joel 2:5 a similar description of the utter hopelessness of resistance against the oncoming armies of destruction

• The locusts have stings In their tails (9:10) Charmed into sin, only to be destroyed by its lionlike teeth, the sinner who follows after sin is sure to

receive its scorpion like sting.

- The locusts have a king (9:11)
- These destructive forces that John depicts are under the devil, who is the king of the infernal powers of hell.
- While the antichrist will be the personification of Satan's malignant influence, the commander of the locust army is Satan himself.

- This vivid picture reveals Satan as "a destroyer of nations"
- Satan is not just the king but is also the spirit of destruction that inspires these dreadful hosts. (Jeremiah 4:7)-
- not only of corrupt Christendom but also of apostate Judaism.

### Sixth Trumpet: An Army of Two-Hundred Million (Revelation 9:12-21)

The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million (Rev 9:16)

- describes the sixth trumpet judgment, where 200 million demonic horsemen are released,
- causing a third of mankind to be killed by plagues of fire, smoke, and sulfur.
- Despite these plagues, the remaining people refuse to repent and continue in their sins, worshiping demons and idols,
- and engaging in wicked acts like murder, magic, and sexual immorality.

#### Here's a more detailed breakdown:

- •Verse 12: "The first woe has passed; behold, two woes are still coming after these things.".
- •Verse 13: The sixth angel blows his trumpet, and a voice from the golden altar instructs him to release the four angels bound at the Euphrates River.
- •Verse 14: These four angels are described as being ready for this specific hour, day, month, and year.
- •Verse 15: The released angels are tasked with killing a third of mankind.
- •Verse 16: The number of mounted troops is given as two hundred million.

The horses and their riders are described, with fiery red, dark blue, and sulfur-yellow breastplates, and the horses having heads like lions.

- •Verse 18: A third of mankind is killed by the plagues of fire, smoke, and sulfur that come from the mouths of the horsemen.
- •Verse 19: The power of the horses is described as being in their mouths and tails, with their tails like snakes having heads that inflict injury.
- •Verse 20: Despite the plagues, the remaining people do not repent, continuing to worship demons and idols and engaging in wicked acts.
- •Verse 21: They are unwilling to repent of their murders, sorceries, sexual immorality, or thefts.

- As J. Stafford Wright expresses it;
- John now sees all the horrors of war.
- In his day armed cavalry were some of the most terrible forces, and he sees these first.
- But as he looks, he is aware that these are no ordinary horses, but strange monsters that destroy with smoke that comes from their mouths, and from other mouths at the end of serpent like tails.
- There is no doubt that John was allowed to see the destroying instruments in the form of artillery.
- Under the inspiration of Satan, and turns everything to his own destruction, and war succeeds war.

- They are described with fiery red, dark blue, and yellow-sulfur breastplates, suggesting the fury and destructive nature of the plagues that will follow.
- The horses, with lion-like heads and mouths that emit fire, smoke, and brimstone, represent the immense power and devastation these forces will inflict.

 This imagery serves as a warning of God's righteous judgment and a call for believers to live in a way that honors Him, knowing that His justice will ultimately prevail.





- •Fiery red, dark blue, and yellow-sulfur breastplates: These colors symbolize the intensity and destructive power of the cavalry.
- •Lion-like heads: The lion is a symbol of strength, kingship, and judgment.
- •Fire, smoke, and brimstone: These elements represent the destructive power and plagues that will be released upon the earth.
- •Apollyon (Destroyer): The king of the cavalry, whose name is Apollyon, meaning "Destroyer," further emphasizes the destructive nature of these forces.
- •War imagery: The Bible often depicts horses in connection with war, and these horses are clearly prepared for battle.

- In Revelation 9:19, the "power of the horses" is described as being in their mouths and their tails.
- This imagery suggests a dual threat: physical destruction and spiritual harm.



- •Mouths: The verse states that fire, smoke, and sulfur came out of the horses' mouths, causing a third of mankind to be killed. This symbolizes physical destruction and the devastation of divine judgment.
- •Tails: The tails of the horses are described as being like serpents with heads, and they are said to inflict wounds. This imagery is often interpreted as representing a spiritual or moral corruption, suggesting that the horses also inflict spiritual harm and damage.
- •Combined Threat: The combined power of the horses, both in their mouths and tails, indicates a comprehensive and devastating force of divine judgment, impacting both the physical and spiritual aspects of humanity.
- •Context: This verse is part of a broader vision of judgment in Revelation, where God uses various instruments to punish those who have not repented. The horses, along with the previous imagery of locusts and other plagues, are part of this ongoing divine judgment.

- Describing the end-time period of the Gentile age. Jesus declared that "iniquity" shall abound." Here we have summarized some of the gross forms of iniquity during those last days.
- They worship demons. Demonism, Satan worship, and black magic are widespread today. We live in a demonized world. John predicts the time when the demon host will be worshipped openly and universally
- They worship idols. The rest of the people have lifeless idols\*, according to their station in life. The rich have gods of gold and silver. The middle class have idols of brass and stone, The poor have idols of wood. Satanism and idol worship give rise to evil deeds





- They are murderers, "Nor did they repent of their murders." Our Lord said that Satan was a murderer from the beginning; he was the instigator of Cain's murder of his brother, Abel.
- Since that first murder in the world, countless millions of people have been murdered, including a vast host of believers as martyrs for their faith.
- In our time the daily toll of murders is frightening, but in the time that John describes, when murderers are satanically energized, the practice will be even more habitual.
- They are sorcerers. Witchcraft and illicit dealings with spirits (which is an integral part of spiritism or spiritualism) have made rapid strides over the last fifty years and cast a grim shadow on the future.
- We have certainly come to a drugged age, when various drugs are warping the minds of multitudes, especially many of the youth of our time. Repentance will be far from the narcotic addicts of the Tribulation era.

- They are fornicators. When God and justice are rejected, and when general wickedness prevails, what else can be expected but indulgence in the wildest forms of unbridled lust?
- Easy divorces make a mockery of the safeguard and bulwark of the marriage tie. Unions are broken almost as quickly as they are made.
   Our low moral standards are a shadow of the corrupt condition of the world when the sixth trumpet is to sound.
- They are thieves. Never before in the history of the world has thieving been as widespread as it is today. Thefts from stores, banks, and other business concerns have reached an appalling number.
- The mass of people not killed by hells horsemen will have little respect for each other's rights. The gospel of the day will be,"
- Each for himself, and the devil take the rest. "People will live to enrich themselves at the expense of their neighbors. International gangsters, who have no regard for the property of others, will become more common as the age deteriorates.\*

- Before we approach the parenthesis between the six and seventh trumpets, let us review the meaning of the first six trumpets
- The first four trumpets show us humans as citizens of a sin-blighted world; everything above and around them tells of the curse brought by their fall.
- The fifth trumpet presents humans as the actual sinners and shows us the whole world "lying in the wicked one." Humans sin and are therefore of the devil, and their sins bring hell-sent torments.
- The sixth trumpet makes it clear that judgments come upon sinners by virtue of the fixed law that sin must inevitably bring suffering.
- The divinely inflicted judgments remind us that God is angry with the wicked every day. Under the sounding of this trumpet the positive infliction of God's judgments upon humanity is symbolized.
- Because humans are left without excuse, their escape for punishment is impossible.

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## THE LITTLE SCROLL (CHAPTER 10)



- Between the sixth and seventh trumpets we have an impressive and significant parenthesis, containing one of the most profound yet simple sections of Revelation.
- In it, John sees the mighty angel, the little book, the measuring rod, the two witnesses, and the earthquake.
- Things are now drawing to a close. The first half of Daniels seventieth Week is nearly spent;\*
- The world is now in open rebellion against God and His people, upon whom the beast and the antichrist pour out their fury.
- But before the last dregs of the Lord's vengeance are drunk by the Gentile and Jewish apostates and their followers, this consoling vision breaks through the dark clouds of judgment.
- It is a stern reminder to the world that, in spite of the raging of the wicked, the government of the earth is the just claim of the Creator- a claim that will now be made good in power.
- The vision is also designed to strengthen and console believers, and especially suffering believers, for the same power that will crush the enemy will exalt the sufferers to honor.

## The Mighty Angel (10:1-7)

• Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea...said, "There will be no more delay." (Revelation 10:6)

#### The Mighty Angel:

This angel is described with powerful imagery: a cloud, a rainbow, a face like the sun, and legs like fiery pillars. While some interpret this angel as Christ, many commentators say it is more likely an archangel or a powerful angelic being sent by God, according to some interpretations.

#### The Little Scroll:

This scroll, held open by the angel, represents God's plan and purpose. It is a separate scroll from the one with seven seals in chapter 5.

#### Standing on Sea and Land:

• This pose symbolizes the angel's authority over the entire earth and the universality of his message.

#### The Seven Thunders:

 The seven thunders are a mysterious element. Their voices are heard after the angel shouts, but John is told to seal up their words. This suggests that some aspects of God's plan are not meant for human understanding at this time.

#### "No More Delay":

• The angel's oath signifies that the final fulfillment of God's plan is imminent, specifically when the seventh trumpet is sounded. This is a key point, indicating that the end times are approaching.

## The Bittersweet Book (10:8-11)

- It tasted sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour. (Revelation 10:10)
- the "bittersweet book" refers to the scroll John is given, which is both sweet in the mouth and bitter in the stomach.
- This signifies the mixed nature of God's message, containing both good news
- (salvation, hope, and promise)
- and bad news
- (judgment, tribulation, and consequences)
- for those who reject God.

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# GOO'S WORD OUR FINAL AUTHORITY



#### The Two Witnesses (11:3-4)

- And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days. (Revelation 11:3)
- the two witnesses symbolize God's true message and the church's testimony, facing persecution and ultimately resurrection.
- They represent a final warning to the world and a call to repentance before God's ultimate judgment.
- Some interpretations identify them with specific biblical figures like Moses and Elijah or Peter and Paul, while others see them as symbolic representations of God's word, the church, or the martyrs.

# Seventh Trumpet: Christ Will Reign Forever (Revelation 11: 15-19)

- The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said,
- "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever." (Revelation 11:15)
- The trumpet judgments close with judgment action over the whole earth.
- Here is the storm of divine wrath that has its origin in heaven.
- Short, sharp, and decisive judgments are indicated by the combination of destructive elements.
- Natural forces are unleashed by their Creator to mete out His righteous wrath upon all who persist in resisting His claims. God now operates in terrible might and majesty.



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#### **Seven Persons Revelation 12**

- A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven. (Revelation 12:1)
- The close of Revelation 11 left us with the tragedy and triumph of the two faithful witnesses.
- Chapter 12 for this study and in 13 in next section will bring us to the rise and reign of the two foul beasts.
- The unity of these two dramatic chapters is reflected in the fact that almost every verse of the original text begins with the conjunction "and" (31 in all).
- Chapters 12 and 13 form one connected prophecy.
- The stage is set and the drama of the ages is about to begin, the clash of heavenly, human, and hellish forces.
- Christ receives authority and adoration in chapters 4 and 5, where we have the *divine* setting of judgement.



- There are different identifications of "the woman clothed with the sun."
- Some say it is the Virgin Mary. (Mary was indeed the Jewish woman who brought forth the Man-child, Jesus).
- Others identify the sun-clothed woman as the church, the mother of us all. Still others say that Christendom is meant
- We believe that the woman here is Israel.
- National Israel is often referred to as a married woman (Isaiah 54: 1-6; Jeremiah 3:1-11; Hosea 2:14-23).



- Jesus came out of the tribe of Judah.
- It is true that both Israel and the church stand closely related to Christ-Israel as the mother and the church as the wife.
- It was Israel, however, who became the mother of the Messiah (Isaiah 9:6; Micah 5:2; Romans 9:5, etc)
- A passage like Isaiah 54:1 is very expressive:
- "Sing, O barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labor;
- because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband, "says the LORD."
- To hold that the woman is the church would mean that she brought forth Christ. But it was *His* anguish that produced the church.

#### Clothed with the sun

Here we have Israel depicted as the bearer of divine, supernatural light and authority.

Or the sun can stand for Christ, whom Israel will yet recognize as the Sun of Righteousness.

#### The moon under her feet

- As the moon is subordinate to the sun and derives its light from the sun, all Israel's glory and influence are derived from the One who brought her into being.
- The moon shines at night; Israel is to give her light, her bright witness, amid the world's gathering darkness in the Tribulation era.

#### A crown of twelve stars on her head

- By the twelve stars we understand the twelve tribes of Israel.
- In Josephs dream (Genesis 37:9) the future glory of these tribes is symbolized in the same way.
- Israel's future glory and rule, therefore, are portrayed here.

• She is yet to be invested with the splendor and fullness of

governmental authority on earth.

• Twelve, as we know, is the number of government.



### Crying out in pain

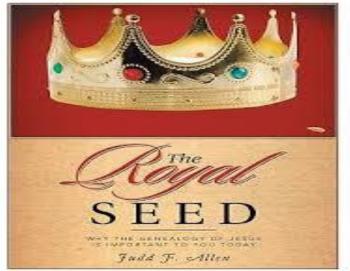
- The metaphor of childbirth is common in Scripture (John 16:21) (Galatians 4:19: etc.
- The woman's travail may refer to Israel's coming hour of trial.
- But before the great Tribulation, the Messiah, the Manchild is born.
- The prophet Micah confirms this in a clear and unmistakable passage. After referring to the birth of the Messiah(5:2), he adds,
- "Therefore, Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites" (vs 3).
- The travail of the woman is at least two thousand years after the birth of the Messiah and refers to their sorrow in the coming Tribulation.

# Second Person: THE Red DRAGON-Satan (Revelation 12:3-4)

- An enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his head. (Revelation 12:3-4)
- Without doubt this great red dragon represents Satan in his worst character. John expressly identifies the devil as the dragon in 20:2.
- Both Pharaoh and Nebuchadnezzar are spoken of as great dragons because of their cruelty and haughty independence (Ezekiel 29:3); Jeremiah 51:34)- perhaps recalling the Old Testament crocodile or leviathan.
- "Dragon" appears ten times in Revelation and is a fitting symbol of God's chief adversary in his role as the relentless persecutor and murderer of multitudes of saints and sinners.
- Job gives us a most remarkable description of a dragon, "he is king over all that are proud" (Job 41:1-34; see also Isaiah 27:1). \*
- The term is used of Satan only in the book of revelation. It suggests the hideousness and horror of his rule, the insatiable violence represented by the dragon.

- The terrible spectacle of the dragon standing before the woman, waiting to devour her newborn child, is easily interpreted.
- It was not the woman but her child whom the monster was bent on destroying, just as Pharaoh tried to murder all the male children of Israel (Exodus 1:15-22).
- What a fascinating study it is to trace Satan's efforts to destroy Israel, the royal seed that was to produce Christ, and then to destroy Christ Himself!
- As soon as Jesus was born, there was a satanic effort to destroy Him

during the slaughter of the innocents (Matthew 2:16)



## Third Person: The Son of the Woman-Christ (Revelation 12:5-6)

- The male child.("a son, a male," vs 5) as the original expresses it, *surely represents Christ*, who was born to rule (Genesis 3:15; Psalm 2:9; Revelation 12:5; 19:15; Psalm 110:1,5).
- Yet there are teachers who see in the child a group out of Israel, the first fruits to God from Israel out of the Tribulation.
- The 144,000 sealed Jews, for example, are identified with Christ in a special way, and because of their relation to persecution they are sometimes thought to be the child here.
- Revelation 12:6 describes the "woman" fleeing into the wilderness, where she is protected and nurtured by God for 1,260 days.
- This passage is part of a larger vision in Revelation 12, which depicts a conflict between the "woman" (representing God's people or the church) and a "dragon" (representing Satan

# Fourth Person: Michael (Revelation 12:7-12)

And there was war in heaven (vs7)

- After the complete picture of the first six verses given under the two signs, we come to the climax of age-old antagonisms.
- The book of Revelation is a book of wars, and here in the war in heaven we have one of the most dramatic battles.
- At last the prophetic word of Isaiah is about to be fulfilled-"In that day the LORD will punish the powers in the heavens above and the kings on the earth below" (Isaiah 24:21)
- The most significant battle in all of world history is now to be staged. What a spectacle! Forces heavenly and hellish are to clash in the grim conflict.

# Michael and his angels fought against the dragon Rev 12:7-8)

- Michael is peculiarly the prince or presiding angel of the Jewish nation.
- This grand leader of the unfallen angel warriors, who is to force the usurper from the heavens, is mentioned five time in Scripture (Daniel 10:13,21;12:1; Jude 9; Revelation 12:7)
- The dragon and his angels lost their place in heaven. (Revelation 12:7-8)
- Our Lord refers to Satan and the rebellious angels under his command in Matthew 25:41), while Paul reminds us of Satan's ability to appear as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14)
- He is the archangel of the fallen angels.

- With this "war in heaven" the climax is reached in the struggle between invisible and visible forces, and the outcome of this battle is the overthrow of the dragon and his angels.
- The sixfold description given of Satan and his work is worthy of our special notice. He is called at least six prominent names.
- The great dragon: This diabolical fiend has always been conspicuous for his remorseless cruelty. Legend paints the dragon as a monster in form and appearance outside the limits of the animal kingdom, a combination of superhuman craft and cruelty.

What a sad day it will be for the inhabitants of earth when this hellish

foe roams abroad unchecked.



- The ancient serpent: The allusion here is to Genesis 3:1,4, where we have the record of Satan's first and successful attempt to destroy God's purposes and mar human happiness. "Ancient" refers to Satan's first historical connection with the human race.
- The title "serpent" speaks of our enemy's subtlety, deceit, cunning, an craft (2 Corinthians 11:3). The degradation of the serpent even in millennial days is hinted in Isaiah 65:25)
- The devil: This personal name is from diabolos, a Greek word meaning "one who throws down, slanders, tempts."

 Such a name represents all that the devil stands for. The devil throws down, debauches, and destroys, but Christ elevates from the dunghill to

a position among princes.



- Satan: "Satan" is the Hebrew term for "adversary," especially in a court of justice. This twofold designation, Greek and Hebrew, marks the twofold objects of his accusation, which include the elect Gentiles and the elect Jews. Both names prove Satan to be an actual, historical being.
- The deceiver: The special work of Satan is stated. With the accumulated wisdom and cunning of millennia, he is able to deceive the inhabited earth.
- To act as the master deceiver is the devil's aim and occupation. Artful in his beguiling, he often succeeds in getting us to deceive ourselves (1 John 1:8).
- In Tribulation days he will attempt to deceive the elect by miraculous signs (Matthew 24:24; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12.) The last glimpse of Satan in the Bible is as the deceiver (Revelation 20:8,10)

# e devil is raccuser. advocate.

## Fifth Person: The Male Child (Revelation 12:13-17)

The dragon... pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child (vs 13)

- After the episode of 12: 7-12) we resume the discourse from 12:6. With his sphere of operation now restricted to earth, Satan gives himself to the destruction of the woman, the line of Judah from which the male child came.
- The bitter persecution of the last half of Daniel's future prophetic week now begins (Daniel 7:25).
- Now that the dragon is confined to the earth, he seeks to work vengeance on Judah, which is restored to the land and represents the whole nation of Israel before God.
- Both the male child and the God fearing Jews will be delivered from the murderous hate of the devil.

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# Sixth Person: The Sea Beast- Dictator (Revelation:13:1-10) I saw a beast coming out of the sea. (vs 1)

- The whole of Revelation 13 is devoted to a description of the nature and activities of two fearsome and awe-inspiring beasts.
- The earth is now the scene of satanic operations, and God-fearing Jew and Gentiles become the objects of the devil's murderous intentions.
- His principal ministers of deceit and cruelty are two beasts, actual men who use their delegated power efficiently on behalf of their hellish master.
- Those who follow the two beasts known as the sea beast and the false prophet are Beast worshipers who are clearly defined as those whose names are not in the divine register belonging to the slain Lamb.
- The elect "live in heaven" (13:6) and are heavenly: the worshipers of the beasts are "all inhabitants of the earth" (13:8) and are earthly.

# Summary of the First beast's character and characteristics by Finis Jennings Dake author of the Dake reference Bible

- He will be a man who will possess the talent and leadership of all previously gifted conquerors and leaders.
- In addition to these natural gifts, he will possess the miraculous power of attracting people of every class,
- fascinating them with his marvelous personality, successes, superhuman wisdom, administrative and executive ability,
- and bringing them under his control through well-directed flattery and masterly diplomacy.
- He will be endued with the power of Satan in the exercise of these gifts until the world will wonder after him and worship him as God.

### H. Lockyer explains further

- God Himself, including His name and His dwelling place with all its inhabitants, will be cursed by the beast.
- We can understand the blasphemy against those in heaven, since they rejoiced over the dragon's expulsion from heaven (12:10)
- The faithful saints on earth are to be given over to the power of the beast, who will be allowed to wreak his vengeance upon them and overcome them.
- His authority to kill or spare will be unlimited in range and extent, as seen in the mention of the four divisions of the human race. (13:7).
- The dragon, enraged over his defeat in the war in heaven, now pours out this rage upon the saints on earth.

- Punishment with retribution in kind is the principle indicated for friends and foes alike.
- Whether saints or sinners, we reap what we sow.
- Saints crushed under the rule of the beast are not to resist. Here is the patience or endurance of the saints.
- They must bear their appointed sufferings and thereby triumph.
- As those whose names are written in heaven and as those who dwell there, the weapons they wield are not carnal but spiritual No hellish or human power can rob them of moral victories.
- Trusting in the vengeance of God, the saints of the Tribulation use their captivity as a means of grace, knowing that an eternal captivity in the lake of fire is to be the portion of the beast.
- All who cause God's people to suffer must face retributive justice. With what
  measure they use it shall be measured to them again (Matthew 7:2);
  Jeremiah 15:2).

### Consider the following contrasts:

#### • Christ

•

- Son of Man
- Son of God
- Son of Righteousness
- Superhuman
- Very God
- Redeemer
- King of Kings
- Agent of God
- Humble
- Sacrificing

#### Antichrist

- Son of sin
- Son of Satan
- Son of perdition
- Superman
- Claims to be God
- Destroyer
- World dictator
- Agent of Satan
- Proud
- Tyrannical



#### **Contrasts**

- First Beast
- Out of sea (unsettled state)
- Tool of Satan
- Satan's vice-regent
- Secular power
- Has ten horns
- A Gentile?
- Paramount in authority
- Glorifies himself
- Appears first
- Rules from Rome
- Noted for brutal power
- Political head
- False deity

#### **Second Beast**

Out of earth (ordered government)

Tool of first beast

Beast's vicar

Spiritual power

Has two horns

A Jew?

Subordinate to first beast

Defies the first beast

Appears second

**Rules from Palestine** 

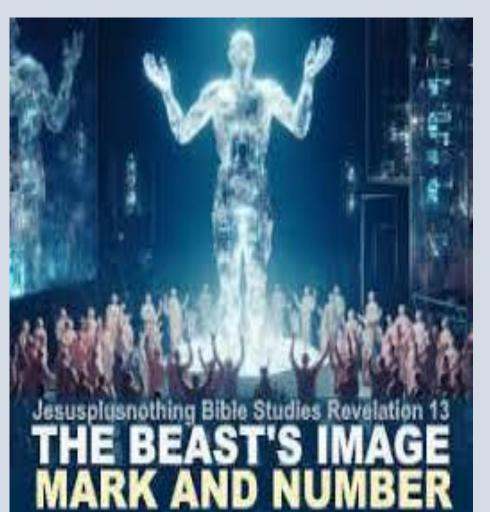
Note for cunning wisdom

**Ecclesiastical head** 

False prophet

#### Comparisons

- Both beasts are from below, not from above
- Both beasts are faithful allies; they act as one
- Both beasts are to suffer the same doom
- Both beasts are mimics of the Lamb.
- Both beasts are actual persons.



#### The Activities the earth beast

- Comparing Scripture with Scripture, we find these features of the works of the earth beast:
- He exercises all the authority of the first beast (Rev 13:12; Rev 17:9-13; Daniel 7:8)
- He carries out the will of the first beast (Rev 13:13; 17:13; 2Thess2:11)
- He empowers an image of the first beast (Daniel 3)
- He demands absolute worship of the first beast (Zech.11:15-17)
- He shares the doom of the first beast (Rev 17:13-14; 19:19-21)

### **Takeaway**

- Present-day events and the movements of todays nations are preparing the world for the beasts universal, commanding influence.
- The lack of ability on the part of today's rulers to govern adequately is preparing the way for this satanically inspired dictator.
- If Christ's return for His own is not far away, then these very beasts may be alive on earth today.
- But before they are fully revealed to the world, we shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air.
- Praise God, the church will not witness the beast worship and agony of the great Tribulation!
- Our present obligation is to seek and save the lost around us in order to spare them from the horrors of the age to come and from a more terrible fate forever.
- -H. Lockyer

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#### Seven Words (Revelation 14: 1-20)

I looked, and there before me was the Lamb. (vs 1)

- As a whole the chapter contains a contrast between the Lamb and the 144,000 sealed Jews, between the nations and the antichrist,
- between the six angels and their announcements, and between the two sickles and their vintage.
- First Word: The Singers and Their Song (Revelation 14:1-5)
- They sang a new song before the throne. (vs 3)
- Second Word: An Angel- Good News (Revelation 14:6
- He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory." (vs-7)
- A Glad Announcement- Good News
- A Great Audience- "To Those Who Live on the Earth"





#### **Takeaway**

- H. Lockyer states "As we watch the movements of opposing armies in our own day, it seems as if the East will soon become a very important theater of war.
- On every side of Israel tremendous forces are poised. Is such a gathering of powers a forerunner of what will happen when the Deliverer of Israel will crush the embattled nations of the earth?
- Without doubt the earth is becoming ripe for God's vintage in its strongest form, and as we see this day approaching, it is imperative for us to warn the ungodly to flee from the wrath to come. \*
- Today is still the day of grace, and as it lingers, we must be seech the wicked around us to be reconciled to God.

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### The Seven Plagues (Rev 15:1-8)

I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues, (vs 1)

- Severe and final chastisements are about to be inflicted in sharp and rapid succession.
- As the sin of man reached to climax in the man of sin, so now the judgments of God are to fall from the God of judgments.
- Within the chapters before us we have the details regarding God's judgments preceding His great day of wrath..

#### **Chapter 15 revolves around three weighty phrases:**

- 1. The wrath of God (15:1,7)
- 2. The harps of God (15:2)
- 3. The Glory of God (15:8)



### 1. The Wrath of God: With them God's wrath is completed. (Revelation 15:1)

- We have come to the final cycle of judgmental visitation.
- Of course, the bowls do not bring the end of divine wrath, since further strokes of vengeance are to fall when Christ comes in person (Rev 19:11-21).
- At this point we have the conclusion of God's providential judgments.
- These bowls are filled up, or completed, meaning finished or consummated.
- To God the future is as certain as the past, so sure of accomplishment is His Word.

## 2. The Harps of God: They held harps given them by God and sang the song of Moses. (Revelation 15:2)

- Commenting on this unique scene, F.B. Meyer says:
- Those who were brought up under the dispensation of Moses, and the followers of the Lamb in the present dispensation, together with all holy souls who have overcome, shall constitute one vast choir.
- But search the Song of Moses as you will, you will fail to find one note that equals this in sublimity.
- Here are the saints of God, trained in distinguishing the niceties of righteous and holy government and behavior, enabled from their vantage ground in eternity to survey the entire history of the divine dealing,
- adoring Him as King of the ages and acknowledging that all His ways had been righteous and true.
- What confession! What an acknowledgment!"

## 3. The Glory of God. The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power (Revelation 15:8)

#### H. Lockyer states:

Pentecost witnessed the pouring out of the Spirit, and with such an effusion there was the manifestation of blessing.

But now we have come to another pouring out: unmixed fury is about to descend upon the earth.

The fullness of divine wrath is emptied into every bowl, which in turn is poured out without reserve upon a guilty world.

The prayer of the suffering Jewish remnant is answered in the seven terrible plagues about to fall. "Pay back into the laps of our neighbors seven times the reproach they have hurled at you, O Lord." (Psalm 79:12).\*

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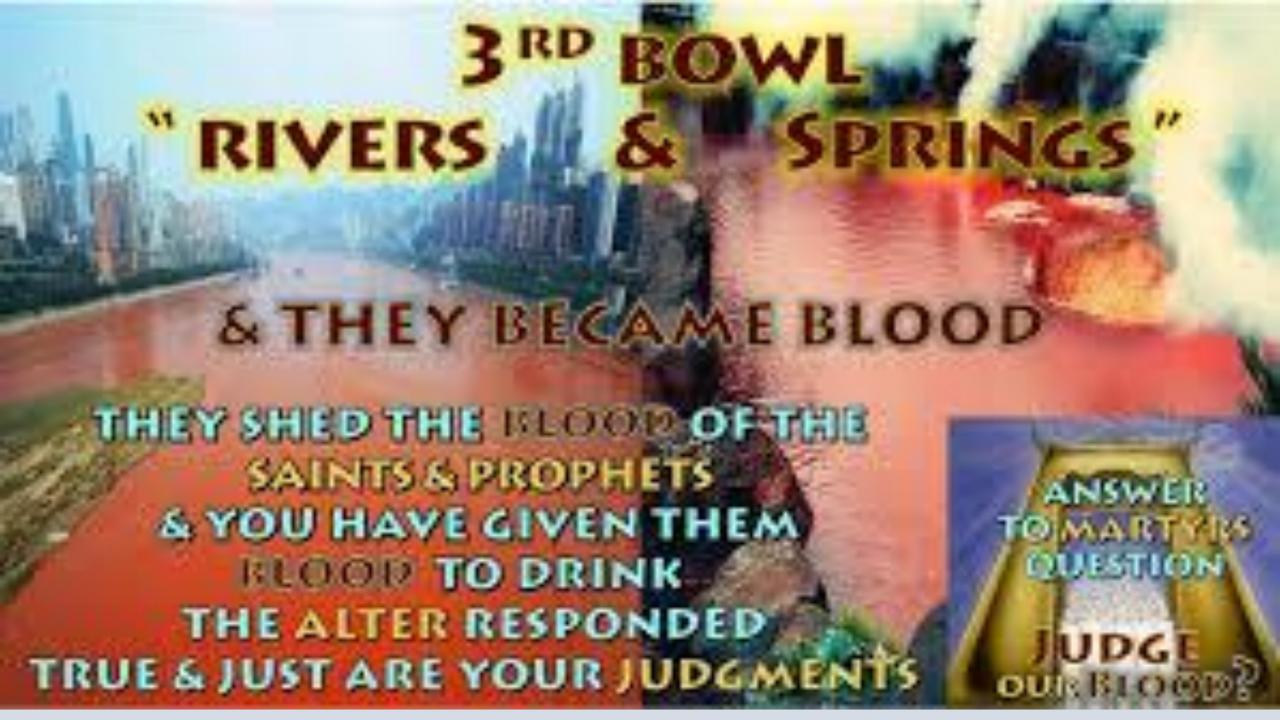


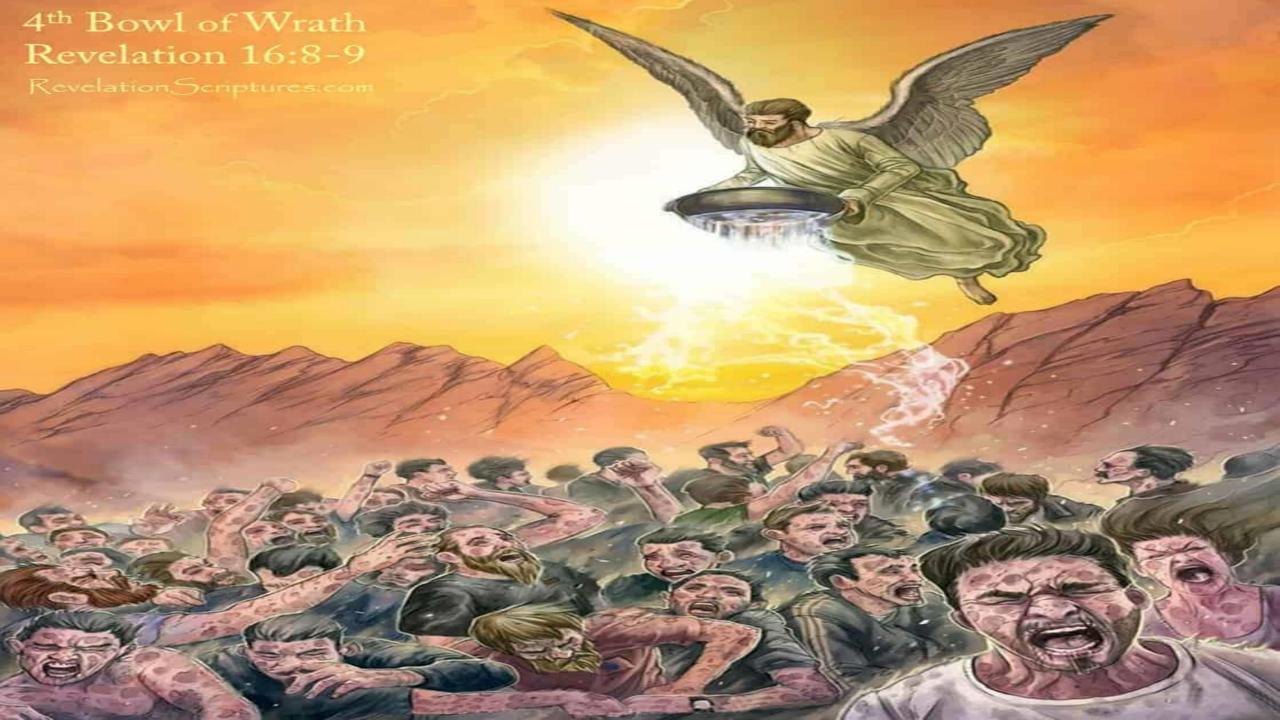


















GREAT EARTHQUAKE

GREAT CITY SPLITIMO 3 PART CITIES OF THE NATIONS FELL

BABYLON

REV 19:2

HE HAS CONDEMNED

THE GREAT PROSTITUTE

& AVENCED THE

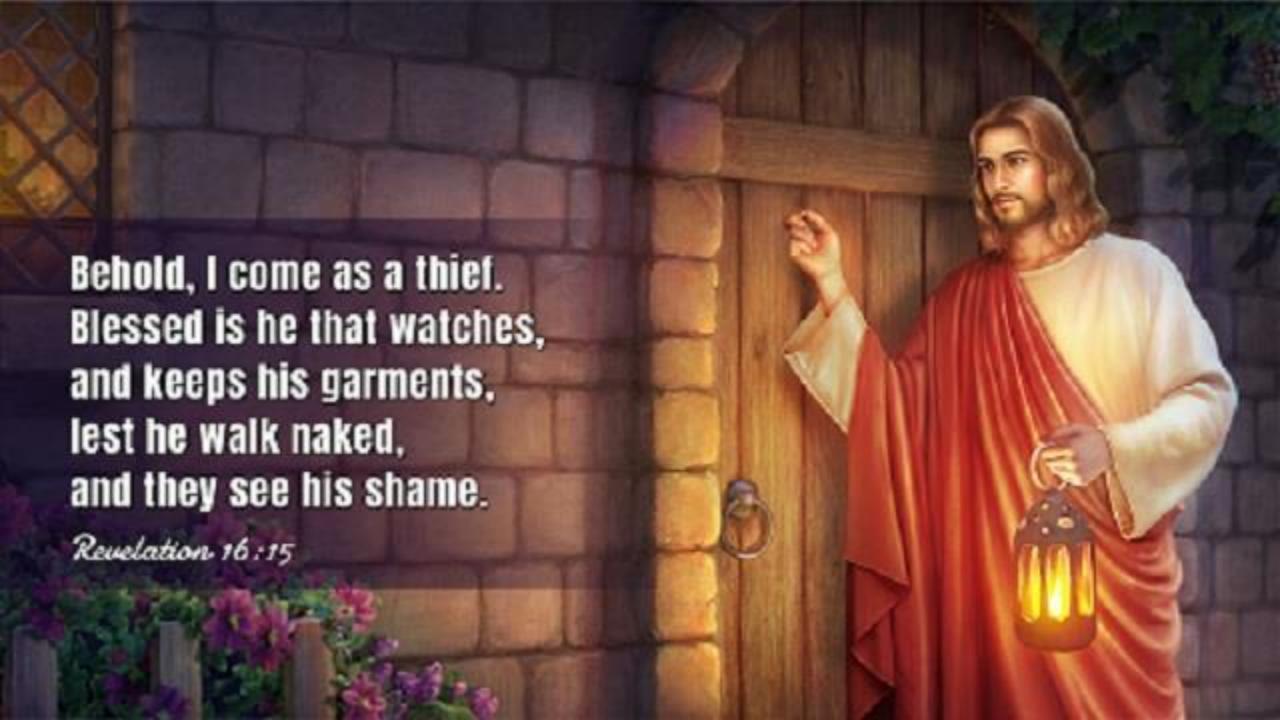
JUDGED BLOOD OF HISSERVANTS







## THREEUNCLEAN SPRIS LIKE FROGS. REWELATION 1693



- Here we have a parenthesis of great spiritual importance.
- It is not a message for the church, even though the underlying principle
  of blessedness being associated with watching (and shame with
  careless living) is applicable to saints of all times.
- Rather, the "behold" and the "blessed" are related to Tribulation saints.
- Around them will be multitudes asleep in moral and spiritual darkness.
   Living in a state of false security, they congratulate themselves on their "peace and safety."
- But suddenly and unexpectedly- as a thief in the night-the Lord will surprise and destroy the peoples gathered by satanic agency against the Lord and His Anointed.
- Those who believe that the church is to go through the great Tribulation make much of this verse, but Christ is not coming for His church as a thief.

- He returns for the church as the Bridegroom, since the church is His bride
- With the coming of a thief there is dread and fear that our possessions will be robbed and our goods destroyed (1 Thessalonians 5:2,4; Matthew 24:43;2 Peter 3:10).
- We are not of the night nor of darkness, therefore we have no fear of our Lord's return.
- Of course, we must endeavor to have garments without stain, and a life without shame and moral nakedness.
- But the danger for the saints living at the time when the unclean spirits are operating is that of neglect.
- By neglecting the advent hope, they expose themselves to angels and a godless world as "naked" or publicly lacking divine direction and protection.
- Bishop Lightfoot suggests that this exhortation to watchfulness may allude to a Jewish custom in the service of the temple.

- Twenty-four wards or companies were appointed night by night to guard the various entrances to the sacred courts.
- One individual was appointed as captain or marshal over the others, and he was called the "man of the mountain of the house of God."
- His duty was to go around the various gates during the night to see that his subordinates were faithful to their charge.
- Each wakeful sentinel was expected to hail his appearance with the password. "Thou man of the mountain of the house, peace be unto thee!"
- If, through unwatchfulness and slumber, this was neglected, the offender was beaten with the staff of office, his garments were burned, and he was branded with shame.



- These signs and tokens of retributive anger are visited upon the earth in the form of the greatest earthquake the earth has ever experienced.
- All up until this point will fade into insignificance alongside this unparalleled upheaval (see Hebrews 12:25-26)

#### City Split into Three Parts

- The great city split into three parts (Revelation 16:19)
- This Judgement calls forth blasphemy instead of repentance!
- Hardening of conscience is the effect of persisting in sin.
- The tragedy is that people do not become broken and contrite (repentant) but remain unchanged.
- With the display of God's judgmental power, they should have turned and glorified Him. Instead, they perish, cursing God.

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#### Seven Final Judgments Revelation 17-20

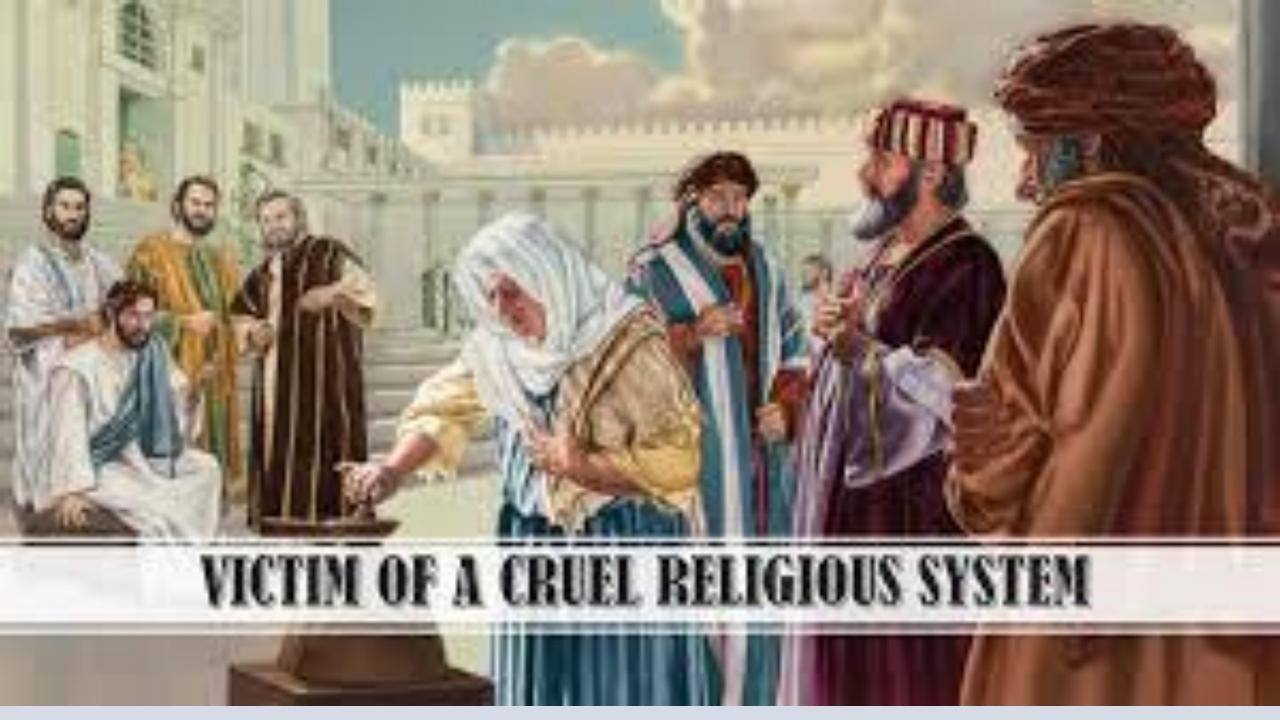
The fury of the wrath of God Almighty. (Rev 19:16)

- In the highly dramatic chapters, we are now to consider, Christ as the Conqueror moves swiftly in the subjugation of all His foes.
- What fast-moving action we have in this section!
- How majestic is the scene of our omnipotent Lord taking to Himself His power and reigning supreme!
- Once He rises to deal with all antagonistic forces none will be able to withstand His might.
- With a rod of iron, He will break the strongest enemy.

### The First Judgment: Babylon\*

Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute (Revelation 17:1)

- An introductory word is necessary on the close relationship between this chapter and the one we will look at after this, since each chapter deals with Babylon from a different viewpoint.
- Brief notices of Babylon's destruction are given in 14:8 and 16:19, but chapters 17 and 18 fill in the details of God's judgment upon a guilty religious system.
- Chapter 17 is for the destruction of ecclesiastical Babylon; and chapter
   18 is for the destruction of political Babylon



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## THE FALL OF BABYLON (CHAPTER 18)



#### The history and prophecy of Babylon Summary

- 1. Nimrod was its founder (Gen10:8-10). Its first queen (and symbol of a wicked system and a city) was Semiramis I.
- Being the first of all idolatrous cities, Babylon is the most suitable emblem for the enormous guilt and the extensive and withering influences of apostate Christendom.
- 2. When Babylon was an inferior kingdom ruled by Assyria, it helped her against Judah (2 Kings 17:24)
- 3. It is prophesied as being Judah's captor (2 Kings 20:16-18; Jeremiah 25:9-11)
- 4. It was chosen by God to chasten Judah (1 Chronicles 9:1; Jeremiah 25:9)
- 5. It was to be severely punished for its sins (Jeremiah 25:12-14; Daniel 5)
- 6 It will be prominent again as a symbol under the antichrist (Revelation 17:5, 18)

- Babylon is distinguished in Scripture as being subject to the Lord's vengeance, since she is prominent as the enemy and enslaver of His people.
- The martyrdom of the righteous, commencing with the death of Abel and gathering intensity throughout the ages, reaches its final concentration of martyrdoms and reign of terror in Revelation 17 and 18.
- The announcement of Babylon's destruction (18:21-24) is preceded by a divine call to the saints to delight in God's judgment (18:20).
- Rejoicing over Babylon's ruin may not appear to be very heavenly, but the execution of righteous justice always elicits the approval of God's own people.
- Heaven rejoices over just vengeance upon the great harlot and the beast.

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### Interlude-Hallelujah!

I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting "Hallelujah!" (Revelation 19:1)

- The call to rejoice anticipates the hallelujah chorus (19:1-8) that comes between the second and third judgements.
- These four hallelujahs (19:1,3,4,6) constitute the only place in the Bible where this word is used.
- The repeated Old Testament phrase "praise the Lord" is a translation of the Hebrew "hallelujah" and was first uttered over God's punishment of the wicked (Psalm 104:35).
- Here the four hallelujahs are the response of the host of heaven and the godly saints of earth to the divine destruction of Babylon.

## REVELATIONS 19:1 (Hallelujah, Salvation & Glory)

#### The Return of the King of Kings (19:11-16)

On His robe and on His thigh, He has His name written: "KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS." (Rev 19:16)

- As to the identity of the Rider of the white horse, there is no doubt: He
  is the Redeemer returning in glory.
- His names correspond to all that He is in Himself, and to the nature of His judgments.
- He is called Faithful and True, the Word of God, King of Kings. And Lord of Lords.
- The diadems encircling His brow are royal ones, different from the mock ones on the head of the beast.
- The striking phrase, "robe dipped in blood" (19:13) refers to the blood of Christ's enemies, who are not sprinkled with the blood of Calvary.
- Jesus Himself is the final and perfect revelation of God (Hebrews 1:1-4)

- Zechariah predicted the Second Coming.
- "Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle.
- On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west,
- forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south.
- Jesus described His Second Coming in (Matthew 24: 27-31)\*

### The Second Judgment: The Kings

The kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war (Revelation 19:19)

- Revelation 16:16 and 19:19 both describe a gathering of forces, but they depict different events:
- Revelation 16:16 described the demonic spirits gathering kings and armies at Armageddon, while Revelation 19:19 shows the beast and the kings of the earth gathering to war against Jesus and his army
- Opposing the armies of the beast and the kings of the earth are the armies of the Rider on the white horse, and there is never any doubt about the outcome. (19:19-21)

#### The Third Judgment: The Beast

Thrown alive into the lake of burning sulfur. (Revelation 19:20)

- As for the lake of fire, we do not claim to know all that is implied by such eternal suffering.
- Granted that the language may be symbolic, the reality must be far more terrible than the figure used. Jesus was a "hell fire" Preacher.
- To Him, eternal punishment was a terrible reality, though He had no pleasure in the eternal misery of sinners.
- He died upon the cross that men might not perish but have everlasting life instead. It is our urgent task to warn the lost to flee from the wrath to come.

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# The Fourth Judgment: The False Prophet

The lake of burning sulfur, where... the false prophet had been thrown. (Revelation 20:10)

- United in their defiance of God, these two powerful and pernicious persons are now united in their doom.
- The false prophet, although the murderer of multitudes who would not worship the image of the beast, will not be permitted to die.
- Even his professed miraculous power cannot now save him from being cast alive into the lake of fire. No doubt the everlasting punishment of the false prophet will be all the worse because of his religious pretensions.
- The doom of the beast and the false prophet represents the end of a false statecraft and a false priestcraft. Both these personages suffer together because they fought together against the Lamb.

#### The Fifth Judgment: Satan

He seized...Satan and bound him for a thousand years. (20:10)

- After his final, postmillennial work of deception the devil is "thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, to be tormented day and night forever" (vs 10).
- There he joins the deluded devotees, who had already endured the flames for a thousand years. With them he enters into eternal torment (20:10).
- At last, the trinity of evil imitating the Trinity of heaven reap their unrelieved doom.
- The devil, along with the beast and the false prophet, are together forever in the lake of fire.
- No wonder the devil strives to keep people from reading this final book of the Bible! It is heavy with his deserved doom, and he does not want those he deceives to know of his terrible future.

## The Sixth Judgment: Gog and Magog

#### Gog and Magog-to gather them for battle (Revelation 20:8)

- Judgment, however, is swift: fire comes down from heaven and devours the multitudes (20:9).
- Fire, as we know, is related to all God's judgments, even the judgment of the saints at the judgment seat of Christ "the fire will test the quality of each man's work." (1 Corinthians 3:13) In their final conflict, there is no battle, no fighting.
- The Almighty God sends a consuming fire to immediately destroy all the deceived and brutalized nations.
- The last attack God and against "the camp of God's people, the city He loves" (20:9) ends in complete failure, and hell enlarges it's mouth to receive the hordes of earth whom the devil has deceived and led in rebellion
- No wonder we go on to read of a new earth-one without the devil forever!



# The Seventh Judgment: The Great White Throne (Revelation 20: 11-15)

- <sup>11</sup> And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.
- 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.
- <sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.
- <sup>14</sup> And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.
- <sup>15</sup> And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

#### The Judge

- The Father...has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. (John 5:26-27)
- How different will be the church's sight of that face!
- "They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads" (22:4).
- And Christ's saints are to be honored by participation in this judgement.
- "To carry out the sentence written against them This is the glory of his saints." (Psalm 149:9)

#### The Case

- Whoever does not believe stands condemned already. (John 3:18)
- The courts of democratic countries attempt to offer criminals a fair trial. This court in heaven, however, is not set up to discuss the pros and cons of any sinner's case but to carry out a sentence already declared.
- Unsaved people, here and now, are condemned already (John 3:18).
- In that future day the dead will be raised and made to stand before the Judge, not to be judged as to their guilt or innocence, but to receive the ratification of a condemnation already pronounced.
- Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son (John 3:18)
- Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him. (John 3:36)

- This judgment is called "eternal" (Hebrews 6:2) because its consequences are eternal.
- It also acts as a guarantee that sin will never be allowed to invade God's new creation.
- The children of God are happy to know that they will never face such condemnation:
- "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1)
- By our acceptance of Christ, who bore our condemnation, we are saved from sin and its just and eternal punishment.

## Several Objects of Judgment

#### The Earth and the Heaven

- There will be a quick disappearance of the old creation because the One sitting upon the throne was its Creator, and therefore it immediately obeys His command.
- Why will the earth vanish?
- Because it was the scene of sin and rebellion, and it bore the stain of the Judge's blood. Humans held onto it for many centuries, but now it flees away.
- Why does the heaven also vanish?
- The aerial heavens cannot remain, since they were polluted by Satan, the prince of the power of the air.
- How can the heavens continue if they are not clean in God's sight?
- Among the new creations are a new heaven and new earth (Rev 21:1); see also (Isaiah 65:17; 66:22; 2 Peter 3:7; 10-13; Hebrews 1:10-11,12).



#### • The Dead:

- By this group we are to understand all the dead in sin, whether dead spiritually or physically.
- The godless on earth at the time when this throne is set up are immediately transferred to it, while the dead in hell are raised and made to appear with them.
- Here they stand like condemned prisoners at the bar, awaiting their sentence of doom.
- "All ranks and degrees of sinners are to appear at this awesome throne, as indicated by the phrase "great and small" (Rev 20:12)
- He is no respecter of persons.
- The proud and mighty, as well as the insignificant, are to enter the lake of fire. In 21:8 we are told who will find their place "in the lake which burneth thru eternity"

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# The Class of People at the Great White Throne Judgment

- The Fearful (The Cowardly-CJB): These people were full of fear while on earth. They were always afraid to confess Christ, to identify themselves with the gospel and live for the Lord. Their hearts failed them. Though courageous enough in other realms, they were cowards when it came to receiving Christ as their Savior.
- numerous class, found in all ranks. Jesus Himself declared that travelers on the broad road are many. It is sad to realize that so many men and women are unbelievers. So many of our centers of secular learning produce polished pagans. The natural mind simply will not receive and believe the message of the crucified and risen Savior. (hence the Message of The Cross)\*

- The Abominable (The Vile-CJB): By this group we are to understand all who are morally filthy. The corruption of Noah's days is here again. Wars bring with them the liberation of detestable forms of sin.\*
- **The Murderers**: Statistics inform us that murders are on the increase. Jesus called Satan a murderer and the parent of all who destroy the lives of others. What a day of reckoning awaits those butchers and executioners in the world who **wantonly** kill innocent men, women, and children.
- adverb: wantonly
- 1. in a <u>deliberate</u> and <u>unprovoked</u> way. "they wantonly destroyed property" in a <u>reckless</u> way. "he was wantonly extravagant with his money"
- 2. in a <u>lustful</u> or sexually <u>unrestrained</u> way. "she pressed herself against him wantonly" kill innocent men, women and children!

# FORNICATION

**EZEKIEL 16:15-16** 

#### 1. Placing Other Things Before God:

- <u>Materialism</u>: Excessively focusing on wealth, possessions, or accumulating material goods, letting these things take precedence over one's relationship with God and spiritual growth.
- <u>Career/Ambition</u>: Prioritizing career advancement, success, or personal ambition above one's relationship with God and spiritual calling.
- Pleasure/Recreation: Making entertainment, leisure activities, or pursuit of personal pleasure the primary focus, neglecting spiritual disciplines and seeking God's will.

#### 2. Turning to False Gods or Beliefs:

 <u>Seeking Occult/New Age Practices</u>: Consulting horoscopes, engaging in divination, or participating in practices that contradict biblical teachings about God and spiritual guidance.

#### 3. Distorting True Worship:

- Works-Based Faith: Emphasizing human effort, good deeds, or religious rituals as the primary means of earning God's favor or salvation, rather than relying on grace and faith in Jesus Christ.
- <u>Sensationalism and Entertainment:</u> Treating church services or worship as a form of entertainment, prioritizing emotional highs or experiences over genuine worship and spiritual growth.
- <u>Seeking Signs and Wonders for Self-Gratification</u>: Focusing on miraculous experiences or spiritual gifts for personal validation or to manipulate others, rather than to glorify God and serve His purposes.

#### 4. Compromising Faith with Worldly Values:

• Conforming to Societal Norms that Contradict Christian Values: Adopting behaviors, attitudes, or values that go against biblical principles, such as embracing materialism, sexual immorality, or a lack of compassion for the needy.

 Mixing with Unbelievers and Partaking in Unrighteous Practices: Forming close friendships with those who do not share Christian beliefs and actively participating in their ungodly behaviors, potentially leading to spiritual compromise and a weakened faith.

#### • 5. Neglecting Spiritual Disciplines:

- <u>Prayerlessness</u>: Neglecting regular prayer and communion with God, leading to a weakened spiritual connection and vulnerability to temptation.\*
- Neglecting Bible Study: Failing to read and meditate on God's Word, resulting in a lack of spiritual knowledge and discernment, and susceptibility to false teachings.
- Forsaking Christian Fellowship: Isolating oneself from other believers and neglecting opportunities for mutual encouragement and accountability within the Christian community.
- <u>Important Note:</u> The concept of "spiritual fornication" is open to different interpretations within Christianity. While some traditions emphasize a literal connection to idolatry, others understand it metaphorically as a broader term for unfaithfulness and misplaced devotion in one's relationship with God

## Deeper Dive into Spiritual Fornication

- Spiritual fornication, in a Christian context, refers to a believer's unfaithfulness to God, drawing parallels to marital infidelity
- It's a metaphorical description of turning away from God and pursuing things that take His place in one's heart and life.
- Here are some examples of spiritual fornication, illustrating how it can manifest:
- 1. Idolatry (Worshipping False Gods or Things):
- Materialism: Placing excessive value on material possessions, wealth, and financial security, prioritizing them over spiritual growth and devotion to God.
- <u>Power and Control</u>: Seeking power, authority, and control over others, rather than submitting to God's will and serving others with humility. 258

- <u>Self-Worship</u>: Becoming consumed with oneself, one's appearance, talents, or achievements, and prioritizing self-gratification over God's glory.
- 2. Worldliness (Adopting Values and Practices of the Secular World):
- Pursuing Sensual Pleasures: Prioritizing worldly pleasures, entertainment, and fleeting experiences over seeking God and living a life that pleases Him.
- <u>Conforming to Unbiblical Cultural Norms</u>: Adopting the values, attitudes, and behaviors of the surrounding culture that contradict biblical teachings and principles.
- Seeking Approval from the World: Seeking acceptance, praise, and validation from the world rather than from God.

- 3. Spiritual Adultery (Unfaithfulness in Relationship with Christ):
- <u>Lukewarmness</u>: Being indifferent or apathetic towards God and spiritual matters, lacking zeal for the things of God.
- <u>Lack of Devotion:</u> Neglecting prayer, Bible study, and fellowship with other believers, thus neglecting one's relationship with Christ.
- <u>Secret</u> Sins: Engaging in hidden sins or activities that violate one's conscience and grieve the Holy Spirit.
- Important Note:
- It's crucial to remember that spiritual fornication is not about outward actions alone but primarily a matter of the heart's affections and priorities.
- While the Bible does use strong language to describe this sin, the goal is not condemnation but a call to repentance and a return to faithful devotion to God.

- **The Sorcerers** (Those involved with the Occult and Drugs-CJB): We have already drawn attention to the fact that this word is connected with our English word "pharmacy".
- Long ago drugs played an important part in witchcraft, and once again
  we have a drunken, drugged, doped society! In this category we can
  place all those who are identified with <u>spiritism</u> and <u>demonism</u>.
- Spiritism encompasses a diverse range of practices, primarily involving communication with spirits and healing through mediums.
- It is a philosophical and spiritual belief system that post the existence of spirits and their ability to communicate with the living.
- Demonism, in various contexts, refers to the belief in and worship of demons.
- This can include the idea of demons as supernatural beings associated with evil, or as a personification of negative emotions or behaviors. In spiritual or religious beliefs, demonism might involve the practice of incantations, rituals, or offerings to specific demons for various purposes, according to Wikipedia

#### **Key Practices:**

- •<u>Mediumship:</u> Individuals with special faculties, known as mediums, communicate with or elicit physical responses from disembodied spirits. This can involve <u>psychography</u> (automatic writing) or channeling spirits for healing.
- •<u>Seances</u>: A method of gathering to communicate with spirits, often with the assistance of a medium.
- •<u>Healing Practices</u>: Some Spiritist practices involve channeling spiritual energy through other forms to balance spiritual energies.
- •<u>Study and Education</u>: Spiritist centers often host study groups, lectures, and educational programs for children, based on the teachings of Allan Kardec. \*

- •Community Outreach: Many Spiritist centers also engage in charitable activities and community outreach.
- •Examples of Spiritist Phenomena:
- •Physical Manifestations: Strange noises, knocking sounds, or objects moving without apparent cause, such as table-turning.
- •Communication with the Dead: Mediums may claim to be in communication with deceased individuals, relaying messages or providing information.
- •Healing Powers: Some Spiritists claim to possess healing powers, channeling energy to alleviate physical or mental ailments.
- •It's important to note that Spiritism is a diverse belief system with various practices and interpretations.



AFALSE WITNESS VILL NOT GO UNPUNISHED, AND A LIAR WILL BE DESTROYED. PROVERBS 19:9

# Death and Hades (Revelation 20:14)

- Death, or the grave, held the bodies of the lost, while Hades held their spirits, now bodies and spirits are united, and their eternal bodies of shame and in their eternal spirits the condemned go out to the death of death.
- Revelation 20:14 spoke about the present abode of the lost until the more fearful eternal Judgment of the lake of fire.
- Death and Hell quickly follow their occupants into the lake of fire.
- The Lord Jesus who holds... the keys of death and Hades (Rev 1:18) becomes the final depository of all that was contrary to God and to Jesus Christ.
- The term "the lake of fire" occurs five times in Revelation, and we should consider the significance of this final abode of Satan, the beast, the false prophet, the dead, death, and hell.

- Some argue that the language is only figurative and that actual flames are not meant.
- If this is so, then the reality symbolized must be even more terrible than the figure, "Remember," says Bible Scholar Broadus,
- That language may be highly figurative without being fictitious. Only
  ascertain what the figures of Scripture were designed to mean, and
  that meaning is as certainly true as if stated in plain words.
- Thus, the fire that cannot be quenched may be called a figure, if you choose;
- yet it assuredly means that in hell there will be something as bad as fire, as torturing as fire to the earthly body-nay, the reality of hell, the most impressive imagery that earthly things can afford.



Many will say to me on that day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?"

Then I will tell them plainly, "I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!"

Matt. 7:22-23



Matthew 7:22

...'Lord, Lord,
have we not prophesied in Your name,
cast out demons in Your name,
and done many wonders in Your name?'

WHO WAS THIS VERSE WRITTEN TO?

- •The Claim: Many will come to Jesus on the final day, claiming to have performed miracles, cast out demons, and prophesied in His name. They will use Jesus' name as a means of recognition and claim to have done good works in his service.
- •The Rejection: Jesus will respond by stating, "I never knew you," indicating that these individuals were not truly followers or believers in Him.
- •The Reason: The reason for their rejection is that they are described as "workers of lawlessness". This implies that their actions were not motivated by a true faith and obedience to God's will.
- •The Warning: This verse serves as a warning to not rely solely on outward religious practices or claims of association with Jesus, but rather to focus on true faith and obedience to his teachings.
- •Importance: This passage highlights the importance of genuine faith and the consequences of hypocrisy and empty religious claims

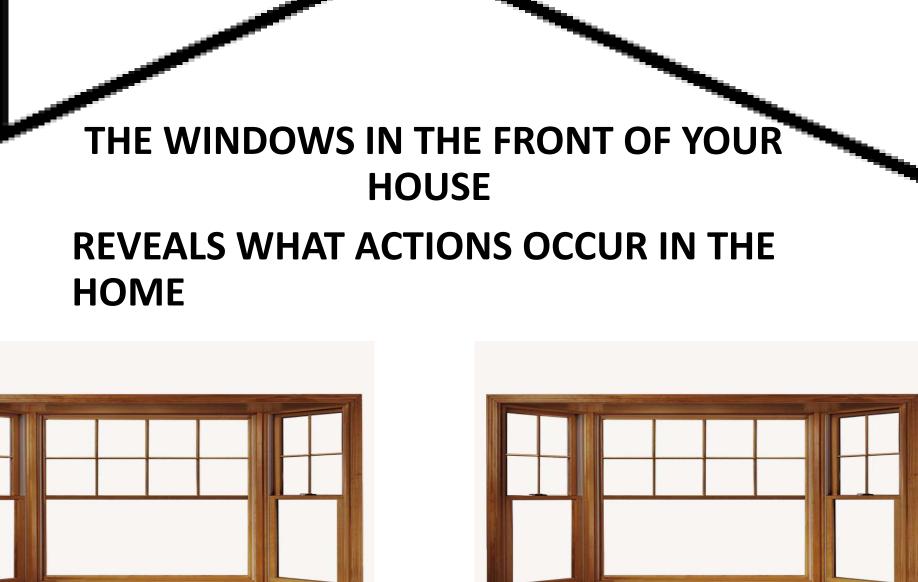
#### A Deeper Dive Into Matthew 7:22-23

- Superficial Faith: Outward religious activity and miraculous deeds are not enough to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The verse warns against a superficial faith that relies on actions or professions without obedience and transformation.
- "In that day": This refers to the Day of Judgment, when individuals will stand before Christ.
- "Lord, Lord": The repetition of "Lord, Lord" suggests urgency and desperation from those who believed they were following Jesus but will be rejected.
- "Prophesy, drive out demons, perform miracles": These are impressive and extraordinary deeds, but they cannot substitute for genuine faith and obedience to God's will.

- **True Discipleship:** A relationship with Christ is emphasized, characterized by knowing and being known by Him and living out His transformative grace. It is about doing the will of the Father in heaven, as stated in the preceding verse, Matthew 7:21.
- Context: Matthew 7:22 is part of a larger section of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:15-23) where Jesus warns against false prophets and underscores the importance of examining people by their "fruits" their actions and character rather than by outward appearances or claims of miraculous powers.
- Significance: This verse reminds that true faith is not solely based on outward actions or accomplishments but on a genuine, heartfelt relationship with Jesus Christ, marked by obedience and surrender to God's will. It calls people to examine their own hearts and ensure their faith is authentic and rooted in Christ.\*

# 4 Windows of Self Examination

A Message by Jim and Maria Adapted from the book "Approach to Biblical Healing" By Chester and Betsy Kylstra



## Window 1



# Things you and God know about,

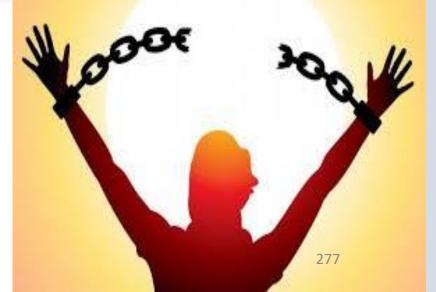
## Window 2

Things you and God and others know about you. This is the arena of CURSES, SOUL TIES GENERATIONAL INIQUITIES



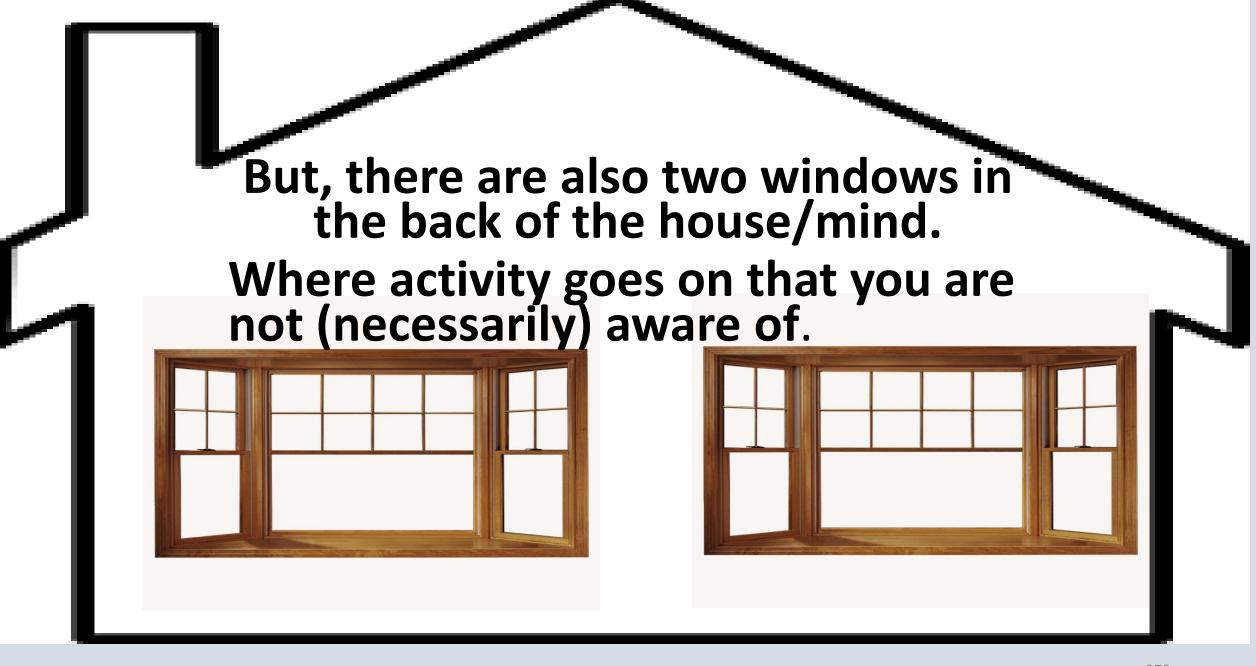






# These things you can deal with openly,

(if you choose to)



### Window 3



What only God knows about you.

# Window 4 What God and others



know about you, but of which you are not aware.

- This is where ha-satan weaves his web and snares the unaware and unsuspectingly most effectively;
- just like a spider weaves its web.





- When you realized you are entangled in one of ha-satan's web,
- by this I mean, when you wake up to the fact that you are not being the reflection of The Lord Jesus





 Shown by the love you moment; STOP!



• And ask Yahweh for deliverance out of ha-satan's web. If you delay one moment you are only furthering your own misery. For ha-satan only comes to steal, kill, and destroy.



BUT



- We now come to the somewhat difficult question of the various records that John mentions as being before the Judge as He deals with the condemned persons standing at the throne.
- "Books," "another book," "the book of life" (20:12), and elsewhere), and the "Lamb's book of life" (21:27) are terms to be distinguished and interpreted.
- "Books"(20:12) implies that more than one set of records is in heaven. By these books we can understand the record of the works of the people about to be judged.
- "The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books" (20:12).
- The Lord is keeping a faithful record of the thoughts, deeds, and words of sinners. Nothing is too trivial to set down."
- That sinners might be enabled to view aright their own standing; as sinners, yet sons; sons still, however sinful"

- Christ has control of this register, as indicated in Revelation 3:5 (see also 13:8; 17:8; 21:27).
- The Lamb's book of life is the golden record of those belonging to the Lord. Names in this book were written long before the events of the great white throne.
- Donald G. Barnhouse notes the following points on the various books in heaven:
- "Books" is a plural form. There is more than one set of books kept in heaven.
- There are at least two records in heaven concerning the believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- There is one which is the roll of the elect chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, and this is called "the Lamb's book of life" (Rev 21:27) or simply "the book of life" (Phil 4:3; Revelation 13:8, etc.).
- It was of this that the Lord spoke to His disciples when He told them that they were to rejoice that their names were written in heaven (Luke 10:20).



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I AMARE OF AM THEAQUINED PROCESSES.

AND TWEN SPACE PAREN US & MAIN SPACES

WILLIAM WHO SERVES MEET.

- In our passage it is evident that there are books which concern the unsaved...
- The easiest to describe is the book of the records of the life and works of the unsaved. Here we read in no uncertain terms that the deeds of the unbelievers are recorded in heaven.
- How this is done we do not claim to know or venture to guess. .
- This should be not difficult for us to believe when man himself is able to record great symphonies and speeches and reduce whole libraries to microfilms.
- The fact is there. God states it. The unbeliever may scoff at it, but he
  will be judged by it.
- Then there is another book which concerns the unbeliever, and which is called also "the book of life," though it is evidently very different from the Lamb's book, but are blotted out of the book.
- This is evident from a study of certain passages of the Scriptures.

- It would seem that there is a book, something like a census record, in which the names of every individual to whom physical life is given are recorded, and that these names are blotted out of the book, leaving at the end a checklist which would be identical with the list in the book of the elect, chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world.
- We have already seen (3:5) that one of the promises made to the bornagain ones (for who is the overcomer but he that believes that Jesus is the Son of God-1 John 5:4,5) is that their names shall never be blotted out of the book of life.
- This would indicate that some names are blotted out, and since the names of the elect cannot be blotted out, it must be the names of the lost that are in that book, along with the names of the saved, and that the names of the lost are blotted out.
- This would be further indicated by the statement in the last paragraph of the Bible (Rev 22:19) that the names of those who subtract anything from the whole of God's revelation in the Scriptures shall be subtracted from the book of life.



### the revelation

performed by Karen Heimbuch with the London Symphony Orchestra original score composed and conducted by Michael Harriton



### **Seven New Things**

- With Satan and sin and sinners forever removed, with death and hell vanquished, and with Christ recognized and revered as Lord of all, a perfect age begins in which God becomes all in all.
- At last, the eternal state appears. Gloom has been banished, and glory begins. An everlasting sunrise ushers in a new creation, for the world's last dark day has gone. Human history has been consummated, and God's new order is now introduced.
- These last chapters of Revelation compose a fitting close to God's eternal purpose and marvelous provision for His own people (Ephesians 2:7)
- Here we are at the goal of all revelation! Satan's purpose throughout the ages was to separate God from humanity, but God is ultimately victorious. At long last every divine purpose for humanity's eternal well-being is realized and every divine promise is fulfilled.





# First: New Heaven I saw a new heaven...the first heaven... had passed away.(Revelation 21:1)

- There are three heavens referred to in Scripture
- 1 The **third heaven**, or actual heaven, is the place to which Paul was caught up into the immediate presence of God. It is the region of divine glory and the dwelling place of angels and saints (2 Corinthians 12:1-5)
- 2. The **second heaven**, or astronomical heaven, is the setting of sun, moon, and starry host (Job 38:31-33)
- 3. The **first heaven**, or atmospheric heaven, is the air around and above us. Satan is referred to as the prince of this region (Ephesians 2:2)



# Second: New Earth A new earth...the first earth had passed away(Revelation 21:1)

- Truly it will pass with little regret. The old earth must disappear because it has witnessed human sin and violence.
- It has also been soaked with the blood of millions of martyrs, stained by the blood of the Redeemer and drenched with the tears of godly men and women.
- The new earth will never experience sin, sorrow, or slaughter.
- Some scholars suggest that the new heaven is to be the abode of the redeemed saints in glory, while the new earth is to be the abode of the redeemed ones saved in the tribulation who passed into the millennium.
- But no matter which view we hold, the time from the first creation of the new creation spans the Bible. The first creation is the sphere and scene of first things.
- Sin, commenced in heaven by Lucifer, has wrecked the first creation. The new creation is altogether different, as shown by a study of John's "no mores." Human language is inadequate to describe all that he sees in heaven so he tells us what will not be in heaven:

### What will not be in heaven:

- 1. No hunger or thirst (7:16)
- 2. No sun or heat (7:16;21:23;22:5)
- 3. No tears or crying (7:17; 21:4)
- 4. No sea (21:1)
- 5. No death (21:4)
- 6. No sorrow (21:4)
- 7. No pain (21:4)
- 8. No temples (21:22)
- 9. No moon (21:23)
- 10. No night (21:25; 22:5)
- 11. No sin (21:27;22:15)
- 12. No curse (22:3)
- 13. No lamps (22:5)



#### Third: New Jerusalem

## I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem. (Revelation 21:2)

- It is a literal city Everything suggests literalness- gold, streets, dimensions, stones. This city comes down, for it is impossible to build a holy city here. In this new home of the church all the materials are provided by God. (The prostitute and the city of Babylon are Satan's counterfeit of 21:2, which is a summary of 21:9-11)
- It is a heavenly city It comes down out of heaven, since it is for heavenly people. Without a heavenly nature (which the Holy Spirit makes possible in regeneration), one cannot respond to his eternal environment. "Instead, they were longing for a better country- a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them" (Hebrews 11:16)

- It is a home city The city John so fully describes is to be the eternal home of Christ and His own, whose glorified bodies will correspond to Christ's.
- Others, of course, will also share this glory(21:24-26), but the church will be as a wife at home.
- The word "dwell" (Psalm 23:6) means to be "at home". What a prospectat home with the Lord forever!
- It is a vast city The figures used for this city stager the imagination. The length and width and height of this cubelike city are equal:12,000 stadia(about 1,500 miles).
- Government perfection is suggested by the constant repetition of the number 12. There are twelve gates, angels, tribes, foundations, apostles, precious stones, and pearls.
- The twelve gates are identified with Israel (21:12) and the twelve foundations with the church(19:14; see also Ephesians 2:20)

- It is "a glorious city The Glory of God is to be its light: "It shone with the Glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal" (21:11). The Lamb is to be the lamp-that is, the source of all necessary illumination.
- There will be no need of natural lights. The mention of a "measuring rod" (21:15) implies that when God measures a thing, He intends to use what belongs to Him. And everything will measure up to His requirements for the glorified; His church will be adorned with eternal loveliness.
- It is a capital city God's eternal home is to be in this capital city of the new creation, more resplendent than any renowned capital in the world today. This is the center of divine presence and government in the universe of God and the Lamb.
- With each view of the city the Lamb is named, and the sevenfold reference to Him(21:9;14,22,23,27; 22:1,3) indicates that even through Christ delivers up the kingdom to the Father, He nevertheless shares it with the redeemed.





### Sixth: New Light

#### The glory of God gives it light. (Revelation 21:23)

- The gates of the new city will never be shut.
- Police will be unnecessary to guard the city dwellers, since there will be no more thieves.
- Nations can come and go.
- All that accompanies sinful darkness disappears. Everything natural and artificial has vanished.
- Truly the prospect of such perfect provision overwhelms us! Amid the darkness of this present world, we are to "shine like lights" (Philippians 2:15),
- and in the new world we shall still shine as we reflect Christ's eternal glory.

### **Seventh: New Paradise**

## Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. (Revelation 22:14)

- The Bible which opens with a tree of life in the garden (Genesis 2:9) closes with another tree of life (Revelation 2:22), this one in the midst of a street, signifying no seclusion or exclusion.
- All are to have access to this tree-its monthly fruits are for the saints. And its healing leaves are for the nation.
- As well, in Genesis 2:18-25 God created a material home for humans within a garden.
- Now we have a garden surpassing the first one in every way.
- The ultimate triumph of Christ can be presented in this way:

- In Genesis "In the beginning God created the heavens and earth."
- In Revelation: "I saw a new heaven and a new earth."
- In Genesis "The darkness he called night."
- In Revelation: "Death shall be no more."
- In Genesis "I will greatly multiply your pain."
- In Revelation: "Neither shall there be any more pain"
- In Genesis "Curse is the ground for your sake."
- In Revelation "There shall be no more curse."
- In Genesis "Driven from the tree of life."
- In Revelation The tree of life appears
- In Genesis: Abraham sought the foundation of city.
- In Revelation: The city is brought to final perfection and glory.

### the revelation

performed by Karen Heimbuch with the London Symphony Orchestra original score composed and conducted by Michael Harriton



### Seven Final Things (Revelation 22:6-21)

- Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near. (Revelation 22:10)
- Revelation is a book of lasts. In this last section of the last book of the Bible, seven last things stand out.
- First: Final Witness (Revelation 22: 6-13)
- I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. (Revelation 22:8)
- This may refer to the crowning vision that John had of the new paradise(22:1-7),
- the consummation of the revelation of Jesus Christ (1:1).
- But these verbs of experience also confirm the authenticity of Revelation as a whole.



- Third: Final Divine Testimony (Revelation 22:16, 18-20)
- I, Jesus (Revelation 22:16)
- Alive forevermore, Christ confirms all the prophecies of the book of Revelation, which are divinely designed to reveal Him in all His glory and majesty.
- The phrase "I, Jesus" declares Him to be the Jesus of all history. What a calm yet emphatic assertion of dignity this is: "I, Jesus have sent my angel to give you this testimony" (v16). The personal pronoun is emphatic.
- Also, He is both Root and Morning Star.
- A root is of the earth and symbolizes His humanity, but the star is from above and speaks of His deity. If the words of Jesus mean what they say, then to tamper with any part of this sublime book is tragic.
- To mutilate any part of is (or any part of the Bible, for that matter) merits divine judgment.

- Fourth: Final Heavenly Invitation (Revelation 22:17)
- Yes, I am coming soon. (Revelation 22:20)
- To rightly understand John's triple use of "come," we must examine each in its context. The first two means "Come Thou!" The first is a double "come": The Spirit and the bride say "Come!"
- Whom are they addressing? The One who, three times in the chats, says, "I am coming soon" (22:7,12.20).
- The Holy Spirit speaks through His Bride, the church, and joins with her in response to the voice of Him who is coming as the Morning Star.
- Then the individual saint (as well as the saints collectively) says, "Come!"
- Do we have a strong personal desire to welcome thirsty ones to come and take of the living waters before it is forever too late.

# I AM COMING QUICKLY

Revelation 22



## Come, Lord Jesus

Revelation 22:20

## Seventh: Final Benediction (Revelation 22:21)

- The Last book of the Bible, so heavy with wrath and judgments, ends with grace, not curse (as the Old Testament ends). "Amen!"
- So be it. The absolute certainty of truth is confirmed, and all the glories of eternity are to be ours through grace alone.
- Thus, the book that begins with "the revelation of Jesus Christ" ends with the grace of the Lord Jesus. As Christina Rosetti expresses it:
- "All that lies between has not effected towards ourselves its purpose unless we conclude the whole matter in a culmination grace by fearing God and keeping His commandments."
- The hour is late; the sands of time are sinking. May we be found living as children of the dawn, with our faces turned toward the eternal sunrise!
- May the things of earth grow strangely dim in the light of such glory and grace!\*

### **Takeaway**

As we linger amid the shadows, may we be found singing with Robert Murray McCheyne (1813-43)

"I Am Debtor"

When this passing world is done, When has sunk yon glaring sun, When we stand with Christ in glory, Looking o'er life's finished story; Then Lord, shall I fully know -Not till then-how much I owe. When I stand before the throne, Dressed in beauty not my own:

When I see Thee as Thou art, Love Thee with unsinning heart: Then Lord, shall I fully know-Not till then-how much I owe. Chosen not for good in me, Wakened up from wrath to flee: Hidden in the Savior's By the Spirit sanctified: Teach me, Lord, on earth to show, By my love, how much I woe.



## Conclusion Now Is the Time of Harvest

It is no easy task to peer ahead through the veils of time to assess the condition of both church and world when the Lord returns in triumph at that Second coming.

Our work is made significantly easier by the teachings of the Scriptures, but even so,

the appropriate biblical texts provide us mainly with tantalizing hints or vague teachings concerning the extent and effectiveness of evangelism as the Second Coming approaches.

# The clear signs...

Mark 13:28-31

- Religious deception and false claims
- Multiplication of false prophets and teachers
- Violence
- Famine
- Pestilences and diseases
- Persecution of the believers
- Backsliding and Luke-warmness

### Our Focus Today

### CERTAINTY OF CHRIST'S SECOND COMING

• Mark 13:24-27; John 14:1-3; 1Thess 5:1-4

### CLEAR SIGNS OF CHRIST'S SECOND COMING

• Mark 13:28-31; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; Matt. 24:4-13

### PREPARATION FOR CHRIST'S SECOND COMING

Mark 13:32-37; Mtw 24:42; 25:13; 1 Thess.
5:6,23

### Our Preparation

#### We must:

- Ensure that our Christian experiences are intact
- Watch and pray
- Be holy and blameless
- Be busy in the work of the Lord
- Guard against last days deceptions and compromise
- Take heed to the warning of Christ
- Be sober and spiritually alert

Mark 13:32-37

### **Closing Statement**

- Christ our Life by T. Austin- Sparks
- "When Christ, who is our life, shall be manifested..." (Colossians 3:4)
- One of the mains objects of the Holy Spirit is to get believers really identified with Christ as the risen and exalted Lord, and to make His risen life real in their experience. As the age moves toward its consummation- the manifestation of Christ-two features will become increasingly evident. On the one hand *things*, men, movements, institutions, organizations, etc., will predominate and draw multitudes after them, and will attach the crowds to themselves. One the other hand, with a growing disappointment and disillusionment over these, a minority will turn to the Lord Himself to find Him alone as their life.
- Three elements will inhere in all this. One is the unmistakable development of the principle of Antichrist; that which will supplant Christ, or intend to do so. The second is the alternative to the whole Christ in man-made Christianity, and imitation life born and carried on by its own momentum. The third, a deep and genuine quest for reality, truth, and inward knowledge of the Lord Himself. In the first case it will be the naked worship of man in human power; a tremendous overflow of humanism, the wonder and glory of man. The third will be Christ altogether as the life.

- If the Christian is attached to some *thing*, such as a teaching, a tradition, an institution, a movement, or person, the end will certainly be a limitation of life and eventually confusion and disappointment, perhaps worse. The New Testament makes it unmistakably clear and emphatic that the destiny of all is to be "Christ all and in all. " We *must* learn that a true work of the Spirit of God is to attach everything to Christ Himself. He, Christ, must be the life of our spirit, the "inner man," so that we *are strong n the Lord*: not in ourselves, not in others, nor in things. We shall have to survive adversity by His strength within alone.
- Christ will have to be the life of our mind. Perplexity will find us without the power to explain and understand, but the Spirit will teach and lead.
- Christ will need to be life for our bodies. There is such a thing as Divine life for the physical body. Not always does the Lord choose to heal the body, but He does always want to be its life, even in suffering, to fulfill His purpose.

- It is the Lord Himself, and for this to be so, it often has to be against a background of natural inability.
- The power of His resurrection is the law of union with Christ, from beginning to end. Days of terrific pressure are upon the Lord's people. Their enemy is taking very little off-time.
- The only sufficiency is in the Lord Himself as our life.
- Barnabas exhorted the believers at the beginning that "with purpose of heart they should cleave unto the Lord" (Acts 11:23).
- There is an utterness about this that will be pressed upon us until the time "When Christ, who is our life shall be manifested."

### "WE SHALL BEHOLD HIM!"



#### Names of Wars In The Bible\*

- 1. The War of Extermination
- 2. The First War of Gog and Magog
- 3. The Conventional War of the Tribulation
- 4. The Nuclear War of the Tribulation
- 5. The War In the Heavens
- 6. The War Against The Jews And Saints
- 7. The Middle East Campaign of Ainti-Christ (Daniel 11)

(Psalm 83)

(Ezekiel 38 & 39)

(Revelation 6)

(Revelation 8 & 9)

(Revelation 12)

(Revelation 12)