The Revelation to John

The official name from the
Oxford Annotated Introduction

The Book of Revelation

- *One of the most quoted but misunderstood Books of the Bible*
- *The Language is vivid, memorable and confusing*
- *It has always been controversial.*
  - *Some early versions of the Bible even excluded the Book*

St. John's Introduction to the Revelation Chapter 1: Verses 1-3

- The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified *it* by his angel unto his servant John:
- 2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.
- **3** Blessed *is* he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time *is* at hand.

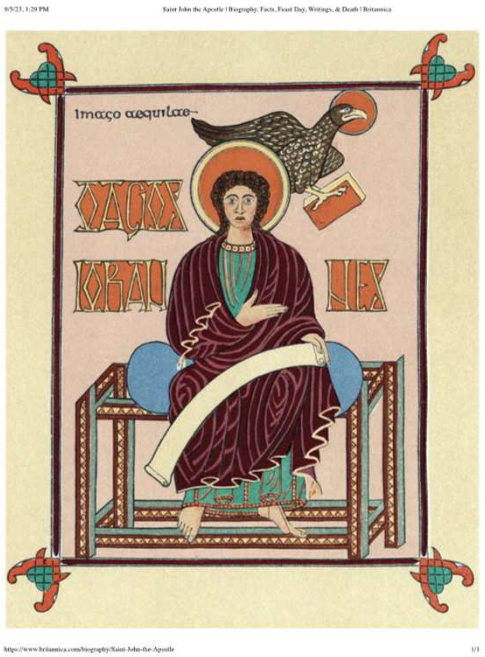
So, Who is St. John?

- The beloved Apostle, one of the inner circle of 3
- Brother of St James, Sons of Boagernes, fisherman, well known to the Sanhedrin
- Also known as St John the Evangelist, or John the Divine
- The Apostle who was at the foot of the Cross, to whom Jesus gave the care of His Mother
- Missionary to Asia, primarily to the Jews, with some overlap with St Paul.

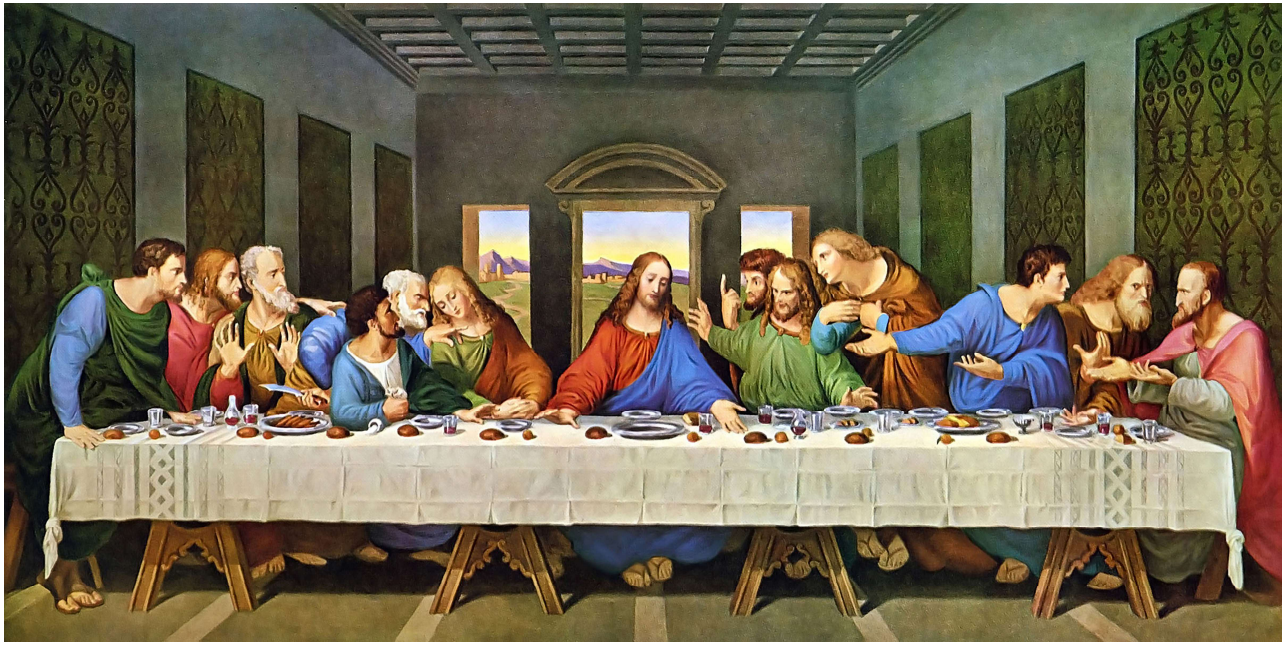
Statue of a young St John



Icon of St John from the eastern Orthodox Tradition



St John at the Last Supper by Leonardo da Vinci



Mysteries of St. John
Martyr, but died of Old Age?
Lived forever, dead and buried, Assumed ?

- St John at the Latin Gate
- Martyred by Emperor Domitian, who succeeded Nero.
- Dropped into a vat of boiling oil
- Survived, and then was exiled to the Greek island of Patmos

St John at the Latin Gate by Charles LeBrun



The Assumption of St. John by Taddeo Gaddi



Introduction to Revelation Section 2

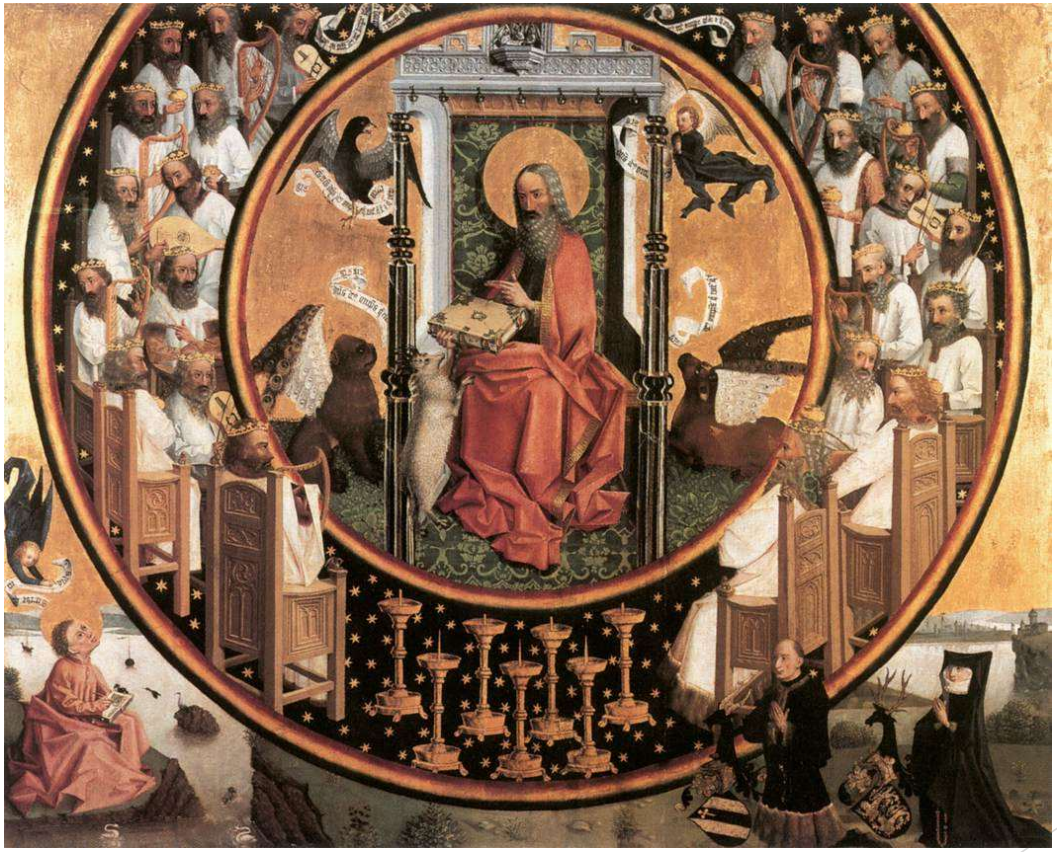
Genre of Revelation

- Prophetic
  - Not a guarantee of the future
  - Warning – continued behavior will lead to this judgment
- Apocalyptic
  - Pertaining to the end times from the Greek – Unveiling or revelation
  - Dualistic. Good vs Evil. No gray shades. Ultimate judgement
- Symbolic
  - The symbols are traditional, from Apocalyptic Old Testament writings
  - Some numerology or Cabalah, but at the most basic level
- Encrypted
  - Coded to protect writers and readers from persecution by Rome
  - Either Domitian or a resurrected Nero
  - Again, familiar biblical to Jews (John's ministry), just not to Roman gentiles

St John on Patmos by Hieronymus Bosch



Vision of St John on Patmos unknown painter



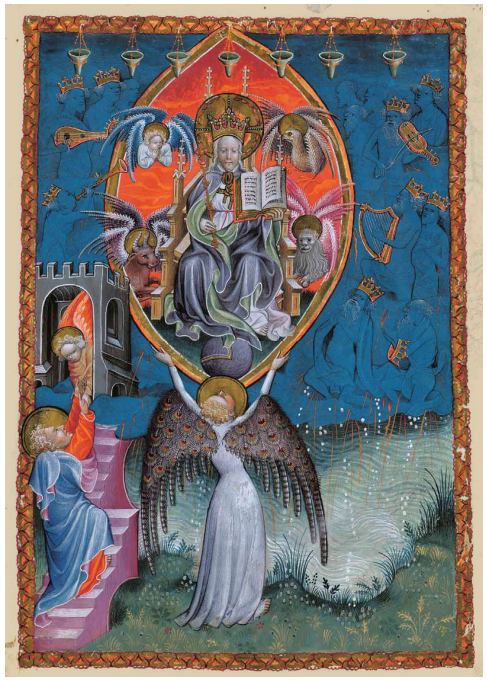
Outline of Revelation

- Two separate sections
  - First is a message to the Churches under St. John's care (Cure)
    - 7 Churches
  - Second is a series of 7 visions
    - Some disagreement about where each section begins or ends but agreed on 7
    - The last Vision has 7 sections
    - Why the number 7
      - 7 was the numerological or Cabalah-istic number of perfection
        - Cabalah was originally a way of discerning God's authorship
        - Balance of style, content and wording that was perfect in a way only God could author
      - Perfection = God

The Revelation to John
The 7 Churches

The official name from the Oxford Annotated Introduction

The Vision of the Throne of the Lord
French miniaturist - unknown



Letters to the Seven Churches

The Letters are to real and well known churches under the care of St John

The Letters offer both criticism and praise

The Letters end with an exhortation to persevere under persecution and also to remain strong in Christian Charity

They follow a 4 part organization

- A command given to St John to compose the letter
- Identification of Jesus as the author through a series of epithets
- The current state of the Church
- Advice on how to change, warning against continuing as they are, and an exhortation to blessings if they do change

The Church at Ephesus

- Praise for patience, endurance and intolerance of evil
- Criticism because they have lost the practice of Christian charity
- Background
  - Ephesus was the second most important city in the Roman Empire at the time
  - St Paul also spent two years in Ephesus and named St Timothy Bishop
  - Book overlaps with St. Timothy rule
  - Chance that St John writes to a separate Jewish Church there or takes over after St Timothy is martyred
  - Ephesus was the Center of worship for Artemis
  - Nicolaitan's named her and Pergamum. We know nothing of their teachings other than St. John condemned them

The Church in Smyrna

- Jesus is aware of their affliction and poverty
- Yet they are rich (likely rich in their spiritual gifts)
- There is conflict between Christians and the Jewish synagogue
- Persecution is coming
  - Some will be imprisoned
  - Some will be martyred
  - Referenced as 10 days ?
  - A crown of glory is reserved for those who persevere

Church at Pergamum

- Praise for those who have lived in the presence of the enemy
- Condemnation for those who have slipped and worshiped idols

- Center of the Imperial Cult (Worship of the Emperor Domitian as God)
- Was a regional capital
- Governor there known for use of the death sentence

Church at Thyatira

- Praised for Love faith and service
- Criticized for tolerance of Jezebel

- Background
  - Jezebel was the OT wife of Ahab that persecuted Ezekiel and murdered the priests
  - This Church had some women leading people away with false teachings so she is likened to Jezebel
  - Center for Trade guilds, often sponsored feasts to idols
  - Lydia, a follower and sponsor of St Paul came from there and was a seller of purple
  - Eyes like flame and feet like burnished bronze
    - The local god Tyrimmos – a version of Apollo (Roman) or Helios (Greek) sun god

Churches of Sardis and Philadelphia

- Sardis
  - Another center of the Imperial Cult
  - Praised for their good works in the past
  - However, their spirit and enthusiasm have died and they are condemned
  - They are told to start over

- Philadelphia
  - The only church that receives only praise
  - Their patient endurance will be the reason they are spared during an upcoming trial
  - Town that was destroyed by earthquake in 17AD but rebuilt by the Emperors Tiberius and Caligula

Church of Laodicea

- Neither to hot nor too cold
- Because they are lukewarm, their prayers are spewed from God's mouth
- They trust in their own riches and not godly treasure
- They are exhorted to dedicate themselves to the pursuit of everlasting treasure
- Jesus is at their door and knocking
  - He will come in and sup with those that answer
  - Those who will not will be condemned

English Vision of the Apocalypse unknown artist



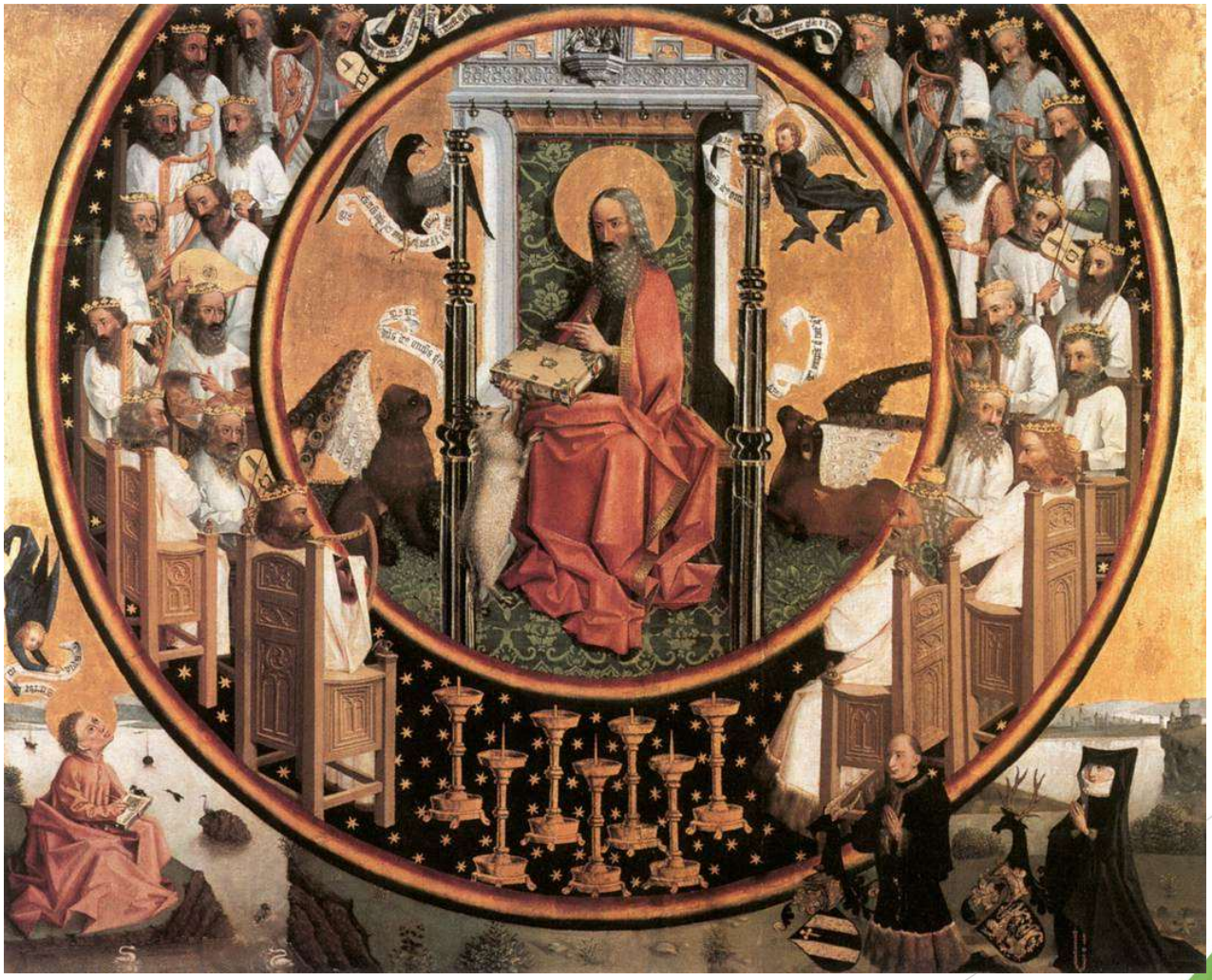
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The 4 Evangelists

- St. Mark is the Lion
  - Kingly nature of Jesus. Gospel begins with John roaring in the wilderness.
- St. Matthew is the Winged Ox.
  - The priestly nature of Jesus Ministry (Ox as the sacrifice)
- St. Luke is the Man (Angel)
  - Gospel begins with the ancestry of Jesus
- St. John is the Eagle
  - Far Sightedness of his vision

The Book with 7 Seals and appearance of the Lamb

- No Man can open the book
- John weeps in despair that it cannot be opened
- The Lamb appears “as it had been slain”
- An Angel consoles John by revealing that the Lamb can open it
  - He is the Lion of Judah
  - Also the “Root of David”
  - Both are references to Jesus
- 7 Horns and 7 eyes
  - The 7 spirits of God relates to the 7 candles before God and the 7 churches

The arrival of the Lamb

- The Elders and the Beasts fall down before Him
- With harps and golden bowls - the prayers of God's people
- Was slain and has been redeemed
- Made his people Kings and priests
- 10,000 times 10,000 angels proclaim the Lamb
  - Too great a number to count
- He who sits on the throne and the Lamb are worshipped
  - Who liveth forever

Appearance of the Lamb
Van Eyck Ghent Altar Piece Main Panel



The 4 Horsemen of the Apocalypse

- As the Lamb opens the first 4 seals, each reveals a horse and rider
- The 4 horsemen come from the Book of Zechariah, Chapter 6

  - 1 And I turned, and lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came four chariots out from between two mountains; and the mountains were mountains of brass.
  - 2 In the first chariot were red horses; and in the second chariot black horses;
  - 3 And in the third chariot white horses; and in the fourth chariot grisled and bay horses.
  - 4 Then I answered and said unto the angel that talked with me, What are these, my lord?
  - 5 And the angel answered and said unto me, These are the four spirits of the heavens, which go forth from standing before the Lord of all the earth.

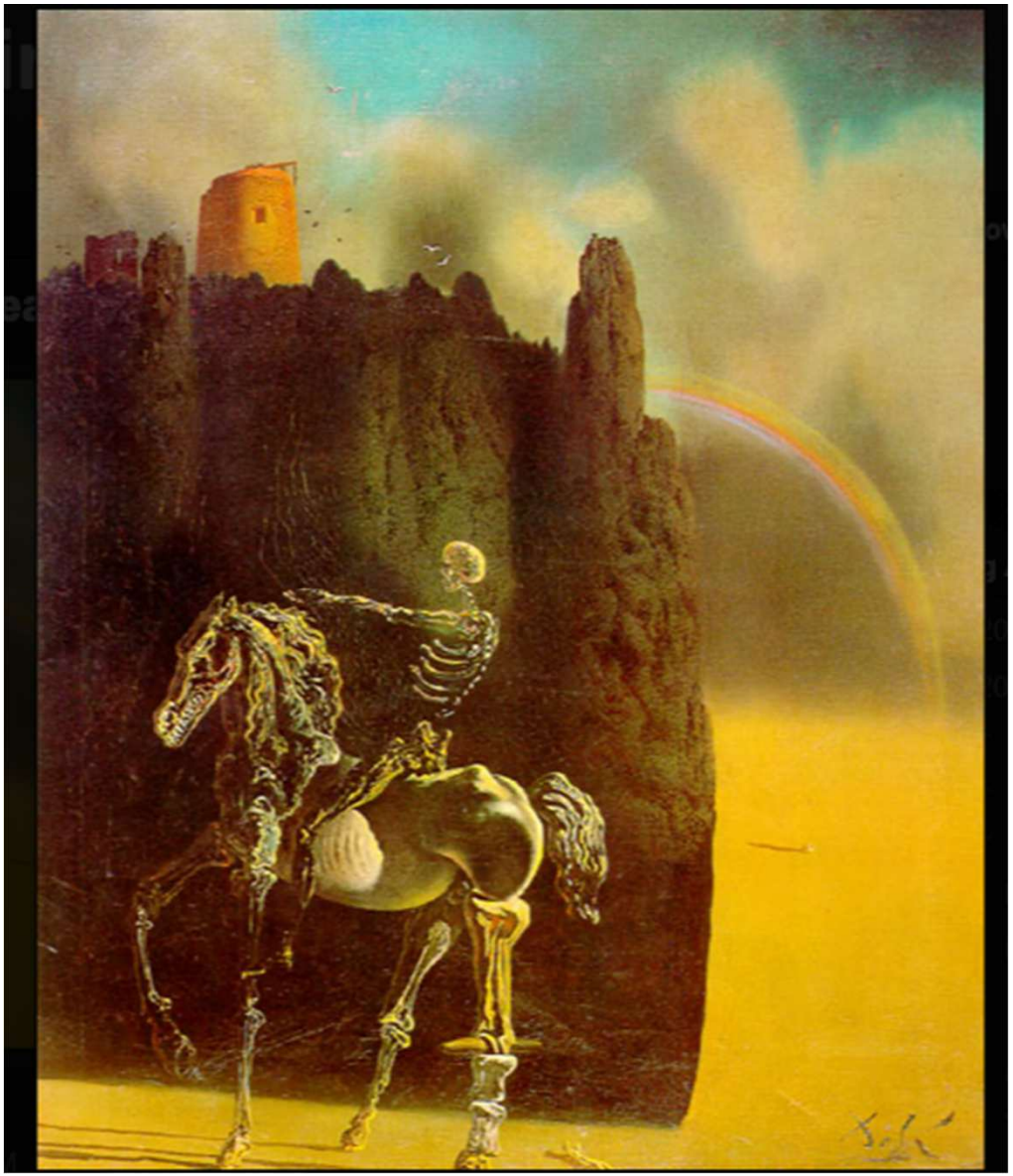
The Four Horsemen - Albrecht Dürer — Google Arts & Culture

1498 woodcut 15-1/4 x 11-7/16



The Horsemen

- Each reveals a trial the redeemed will have to endure before the final Judgement
  - White horse is Religious persecution led by Domitian as the new Nero
    - Rumor that Nero, who had committed suicide, would rise again
  - Red Horse is the bloodshed of Wars
  - Black Horse is Famine and drought
    - Scales are for the measuring of grain
    - There was a famine under Domition. He ordered the razing of vineyards so grain could be planted. There was such an uproar that he reversed his ruling.
  - The Pale Horse is the symbol of sickness and death
    - Pale is actually Chlorous, a greenish yellow that was the color of Chlorox of Hades



This oil painting was painted by Raphael. Starry Night

The Fifth Seal

- The souls of the persecuted wait under the Altar
- They yearn for justice
- But must wait a season until their brothers who have not yet been persecuted should join them
- They are given white robes, washed in the Blood of the Lamb

The 6th Seal

The Apocalypse

- The servants of God are sealed after the winds are held back

- 144,000 are sealed - 12X12. Those who are perfected (martyred) of the tribes of Israel

- Who are these in the White Robes
  - The same as received robes under the altar
  - After the Judgment, they are now in heaven glorifying God
  - Hunger and thirst no more, drink from living waters, and God shall wipe the tears from their eyes



Albrecht Durer Opening of the 5th and 6th Seals



Those under the Altar – The Opening of the 5th Seal

The Opening of the Fifth Seal – El Greco

The Seventh Seal

- Earthquake, Wormwood, Darkening of the Sun
  - All part of the Crucifixion
  - Wormwood and Gall – the Cup given to Jesus on the Cross
    - Wormwood is an herb growing in Palestine that is bitter
    - It represents bitterness, hardship and sorrow
    - Also referenced in Lamentation

Fallen Star and the Abyss

- Fallen Star has the key to the Abyss
  - Satan?
    - Satan does not have the key to the Abyss
  - Who holds the key to heaven and hell
    - Revelation 3:7 the Epithet for Jesus in the letter to the Church in Philadelphia
    - Revelation 1:18.

- The Abyss is the place where the demons have been cast
  - Hell
  - The place of torment in the Bosom of Abraham

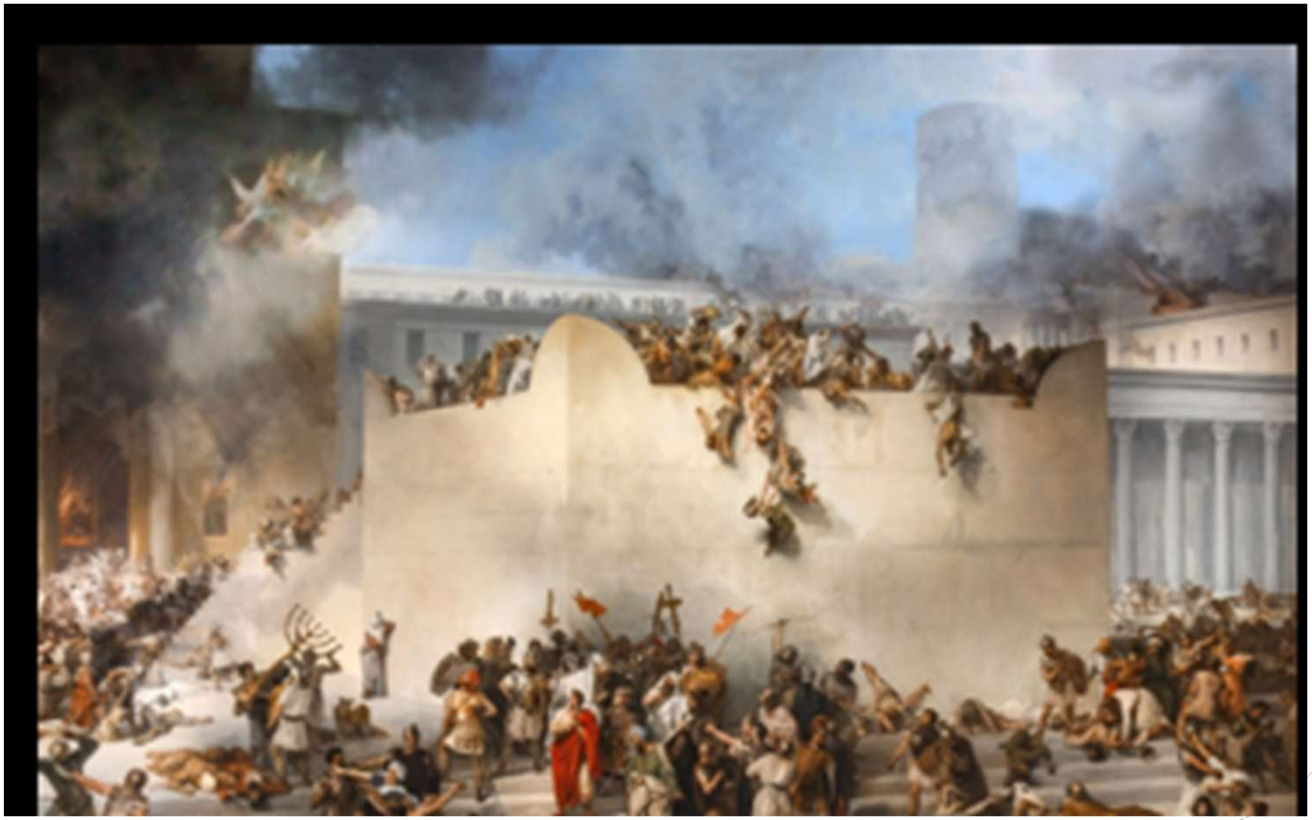
Locusts

- Out of the earth came locusts
- Tormented 5 months
- Sting like a scorpion
- Locusts were like armored scorpions, crown of Gold, teeth of a Lion
- Apollyon
- Mouths issued fire and brimstone hurt with their heads

Leaf from a Beatus Manuscript. Metropolitan Museum of Art



Siege of Jerusalem



(Venice) La distruzione del tempio di Gerusalemme -Francesco Hayez - gallerie Accademia Venice

Past tense in Last two verses
Revelation 9:20-21

- And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:
- 21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

Chapter 10



The Angel with the Book of Life

- Change from History to Prophecy
- St John does not write down the voice of the thunders
- The earth and sea shall pass away, but the Word of God will not pass away
- He instead takes the book and eats it
  - Sweet in his mouth
  - Bitter in his belly

The Angel of Revelation

- Painting by William Blake
- English poet and mystic
- Metropolitan Museum. New York



Chapter 11



Chapter 11
The Temple, the two Prophets, the Prophecy

- **Measuring the Temple with the Reed**
  - Ezekiel Chapter 40
    - The temple was desolate after the captivity to Babylon
    - Ezekiel is sent to a high mountain while an Angel measures it with a rod
    - The Glory of God is restored after the measuring
    - The New Jerusalem is measured with a. Golden reed
- **Why only the Inner Court**
  - The outer Court is given to the Gentiles to tread down
  - The outer form of the temple is destroyed
  - The inner form, the Spirit of God cannot be destroyed and is preserved in the New Covenant

The Two Prophets

- **Described as Olive Trees/candlesticks (Olive trees from Zechariah's vision 4:2-10)**
- **They will prophecy during the time the Gentiles hold the temple**
- **They will be martyred**
- **Whoever hurts them will be killed in similar manner as vengeance/justice**
- **The raised after 3 and a half years**
  - Half of 7, halfway to the fulfillment of God's time
  - Jesus raised after 3 days, the saints in 3 and a half
  - They will be venerated and the ungodly will fear their resurrection

The Two Prophets
Who are they?

- **Enoch and Elijah – OT figures who raised alive to heaven**
  - If so are they coming back to be martyred?
  - Not likely. Maybe Ezekiel, since the prophecy mirrors his Book?
  - Moses and Elijah – the figures of the Transfiguration
- **St James and St Peter**
  - With St John the inner circle of the Apostles (Transfiguration and Garden of Gethsemane)
  - St James died early AD 44 beheaded by Herod Agrippa; St Peter crucified upside down by Nero in AD 64
- **St Peter and St Paul**
  - Shared the same territory and churches as St John
  - Both died under Nero in AD 64

The Two Witnesses
Who are they?

- St John (himself) and St Timothy
  - They both were resident in Ephesus (St Timothy was the disciple of St Paul)
  - St John lived with Timothy during the persecution of Nero that St Peter and St Paul
  - They led respective Jewish and Gentile churches that kept the witness
  - Revelation was written shortly after St John survived Martyrdom at the Latin Gate which could inspire the resurrection imagery
- The Jewish and Gentile Christian Churches
  - It could be that the witnesses are the two churches who are going to be going through persecution under Domition
  - St John prophecy is the churches will rise up as witness just as he did after the Latin Gate

The Final Prophecy

- **The time has come for the earth to be judged**
- **The Elders praise God**
- **The Nations are angry because their time has come to an end**
- **The heavens are opened**
- **The ark of the New Covenant is revealed**
  - The old Ark restored as promised in Baruch
  - The Ark is the seat of God – the Cross glorified
  - Mary the Mother of God could become the ark, carrying God within her

Chapter 12



Finally – The Metaphysical

- Vivid imagery
- Represents the History of Salvation
- The Woman adorned with the Sun, Moon and Stars
- The arrival of Satan to threaten her and her child
- Introduction of Michael and the Battle between the Angels
- The duration of Satan tormenting the earth
- The enmity between Satan and the believers in Jesus Christ

The Woman adorned with the Sun, Moon and Stars



15th-century unknown painters - Madonna on a Crescent Moon in Hortus Conclusus - WGA23736

The Madonna

- Mary the Mother of Jesus
- The Holy Church (The Bride of Christ)
- Both

William Blake's Madonna

- National Gallery of Art



Satan to Devour the Child

- The attempts to destroy Jesus
  - Herod and the Holy Innocents
  - The Crucifixion
- Caught up into Heaven
  - Father, into thy hand I commend my Spirit
  - The Ascension

The Woman flees to the Wilderness

- Makes most sense if the woman is the Church
  - The first Chosen people travelled through the wilderness to the Promised Land
  - The Church is the New Chosen people
  - We journey through the wilderness of this world
  - Until we also can come to the Promised Land - the New Jerusalem
  - 3.5 years again
    - The Old Testament, the first Covenant was the first half of God's appointed time
    - The Woman, as the Church, will be in the wilderness for the second half until God's time is fulfilled

The Great Battle

- Michael and His Angels fought Satan (Lucifer) and his angels
- God through St Michael the Archangel prevails
- The Devil is cast out of Heaven
- The devil is identified as the one who testified against the Saints
  - The devil is in this role through the Book of Job
- But is overcome by the blood of the Lamb, which redeems God's people
- The devil is cast down, and persecutes the Woman who brough forth the man-child
  - This is the theological reason behind the repeated persecutions f Nero, Domitian and through History

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Frans Floris. The Fall of the Rebel Angels
Commissioned by the Fencing Guild of Florence
The Angels use the swords, Demons all other weapons

The Flood out of the Dragon's Mouth

- The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters Proverbs 18:4
  - This along with the Proverbs against the perverse tongue
  - The devil uses the the heresies of men to destroy the Church
- The earth swallowed up the flood
  - The earth, God's Creation swallow up the heresies because they are observably against the order of Creation
  - Or
  - The earth is the wilderness of prayer, where Jeus went to prepare for His ministry, and which we replicate in Lent as His Church. Opens our ears to God's word instead of the heresies of men

Chapter 13



- On the sand surrounded by the sea
  - The island of Patmos where St. John was exiled
  - The sea is the Roman Empire flooding over the world
- The Beast had the body of a leopard, bear and lion
  - 3 specific Emperors that preceded Domitian
  - Either character traits or symbols of their shields
- One of the heads was wounded and healed
  - This is Nero
    - He had committed suicide
    - There were rumors he would be resurrected under Domitian



- Albrecht Durer. Wood cut
- 1776

Verse 10

- Anyone destined for captivity goes into captivity.
- Anyone destined to be slain by the sword shall be slain by the sword.[g]
- Such is the faithful endurance of the holy ones.
  - Against the Romans and blasphemers?
  - An acknowledgement to the Churches that their affliction may include persecution and martyrdom

The Second Beast

- The second Beast is Domitian
  - Cult of the Emperor
  - Making an image of the first Beast to worship
    - The belief that Domitian was the one bringing Nero back
    - Breathing life into the image

The Mark of the Beast 666

- In Kaballah, the numeric substitution for Nero Caesar is 666.
- It would be easier of Domitian had a similar value, but he does not
- The roman coinage in use under Domitian was still stamped with the image of the Emperor who also claimed to be God. That started with Nero
  - Very likely St. John was talking about money
- 666 is 1 less than the Godly 7 repeated 3 times (777)
  - A symbol of the fallacy of the pride of man
  - Adam under the influence of the devil sought to be equal to God
  - SO the Emperors repeat that sin

Chapter 14

- Lamb appears on Mount Zion
  - In opposition to the city founded on the 7 hills
  - Rome and subsequently Constantinople in the immediate interpretation
  - The influence of the Kingdoms of man I opposition to God
    - Adam's desire to be as God repeated
- Surrounded by the saints who have been martyred
  - 144,000 are the martyred symbolically. Those raised form the 12 tribes perfected
- Who sing the praises of God praises

The 144,000 as Virgins

- “Not defiled with women, for they are Virgins”
  - Not literally sexual virgins
  - Free from being despoiled, without sin
  - Not born without sin, made clean in Baptism and persevered to death
- First fruits unto God and to the Lamb
  - By which are offerings are perfected in God and returned as grace
    - Jesus as the first fruit offered up
    - The martyrs are the first fruit of Christ
    - We are are to be the first fruits of the martyrs
- “In their mouth is no guile” found without fault
  - No longer tempted

First two Angels

- First has the Gospel
  - Could be St John referring to himself, as the angel of the 4 Evangelists
  - More like the spirit from which each of the evangelists is inspired
  - Fear God, Give Glory, for the time of judgement has come
- The second is the herald of the defeat of Babylon
  - Made all nations drink the wine of the wrath of her fornication
    - In the immediate sense, it was Rome cult of Emperor exported to her subject nations
    - As Babylon represents eveil, it is the temptation and fall of men from the truth

The third angel and the mark of the beast

- If any man receive it in his forehead or hand
  - Sins of desire or action
  - Idolatry and greed (remember 666 may be reference to the Emperor's coin)
  - Heresies and selfishness we put before our duty to God
- Drink of the wine of the wrath of God
  - From the wine press of the fruit of evil trampled by God in his winepress
- And be tormented in fire and brimstone in the presence of God and His angels
  - Divine judgement
  - Condemnation to Hell

The Patience of the Saints

- Patience in this sense is for the fulfillment of judgment
- As the offered their suffering and martyrdom in sacrifice
- They will be given respite from the labors and peace
- Their good works will follow them to the final Judgement
- They will be rewarded as children of God and His Bride

The Sickle and the Sea of Blood

- Jesus, as the Lamb, carries a sickle
  - The time of man has come to fruition and I taken in
  - Consistent with harvest imagery through he Gospels
- The Angel also with a sickle follow
  - Our angel of death from Scripture to Dickens to modern culture
  - Reaps the fruit of earth, that is the evil
  - The good are also reaped but to their peace with the Lamb
- The Loud Angel directs the Angel with the sickle to cast the fruit of the earth into the wine press
- The winepress is trodden, from it comes blood, as deep as the horse's reigns for an incredible distance
  - Reminiscent of the first flood, the wages of man's sinfulness

Chapter 15

- A very short Chapter
- A shift in time perspective to the near future
- Meant to be a consolation for the faithful members of the Churches about to be persecuted
- 7 angels with the 7 last plagues
  - The 7 churches from the early chapters
  - The wrath of God for the persection of the Saints

The Sea of Glass Mingled with Fire

- The Sea of glass is the sky, thought to be the floor of heaven
- Bathed in fire the light of the sun and stars
- Victory over the Beast
  - The lives of the martyrs are the Victory over the Emperor
  - They live forever in peace
  - The Beast is now to be called into Judgment

Playing their Harps
Singing the Song of Moses

- This is where are classic image of saints sitting on clouds and playing harps is derived.

- The Song of Moses
  - Most likely the Song of Miriam
  - After the passage through the Red Sea
  - The chariots of Pharaoh are drowned
  - Miriam sings a song of Victory and Thanksgiving
  - So will the Saints and Martyrs also sing in Victory

The Glory of Saints by Giaquinto Prado Museum in Naples



Homepage Heaven Questions.com



Chapter 15, Verse 7

- One of the four beasts gives the vials
  - John the Evangelist
- Full of the wrath of God
  - The persecutions of his churches upcoming under Domition
- God, who liveth forever and ever
  - It is God who liveth forever, not the wrath or Evangelist

Chapter 15, Verse 8

- The Temple was filled with the Glory of God
- Solomon dedicating the Temple
- 2nd Chronicles 7:1:16

Chapter 16

- Chapter 15 is short but intense
- The judgement of God is poured on Domitian and the persecutors
- Chapter 16 is longer, but not as intense by verse
- The focus changes from specific punishment to preparation for the last battle between Good and Evil

The 7 vials are poured out

- Most of the Chapter describes the trials (plagues) that God pours forth on this world and its evil.
- Some correspondence to the plagues of Egypt called by Moses
  - Especially turning the waters to blood
  - But here, specifically, the waters are blood because the evil forces have shed the blood of the saints

The 3 Frogs

- The spirit of devils
- Give miraculous power to the kings
- Are used to call the forces of evil to the battle at Armageddon
- Also consistent with the Exodus. Pharoah's magicians produced frogs to counter the plague Moses sent. The magicians could imitate the plague, but only Moses, calling on God, could end it

Verses 11 and 21

- Despite the terrible plagues of the vials of the wrath of God, the people under the influence of the beast refused to repent, but instead cursed God

Chapter 17

- The Woman in Scarlet, riding upon the Beast, drunken of the blood of the Saints
- The Beast that was, and is not, and yet is
- The beast shall be defeated by the Lamb
  - Those with Him are called and Chosen and Faithful
- The 10 horns
  - With the whore for one hour
  - Give their power to the Beast
  - Will turn on the woman, burn her and eat her flesh



The Woman on the Beast Albrecht Durer



The Woman on the Beast - William Blake

William Blake's Whore of Babylon
2/26/2014
0 Comments

Brynn Grossman

Chapter 18 Verses 1-8

- The strong Angel announces that Babylon has been defeated
  - Prophecy. God has secured the victory
  - Time will reveal it, though the outcome is not in doubt

- The Saints are to separate themselves from her
  - Her sinfulness
  - Her cruelty
  - Not be complicit in the persecution
  - Not hide and hope it passes

Verses 11-18

- The Kings and the merchants who were enriched by her will bewail her fall and despair
  - In fact as Rome and then later Constantinople were sacked and burned,
  - the Empire was shocked and helpless

Verses 19-24

- The Angel declares the Judgment that Vengeance for the persections have been extracted
- The City will disappear from History
- The craftsman and artisans will abandon her
- The Bride and Bridegroom will be heard in her no more
  - Christ and His Church will be taken out of her power and she will be unable to hear the Word and Salvation of God

Chapter 19 Verses 1-4

- Heaven praises God for passing Judgment on the whore and avenging His servants
  - First it is the voices of the multitude in heaven
    - The holiness of God, the prayers of the saints rises up
    - The judgment has already been passed. Outside of time.
  - Then affirmed by the 24 elders and 4 beasts
    - Alleluia and Amen

Verses 5-9

- Looking forward now to the reward of the saints
- Their reward is not vengeance but to be joined to the Lamb
- Joined by being wed
  - Marriage changes name (identity) and destiny (sharing life)
- Wife has made herself ready/in the fine linen which is the righteousness of the saints
  - The wife is the Church corporately
- Blessed are the saints that are called, both great and small
  - The saints are the members of the Church

Verses 10-14

- Worship not the Angels (or Evangelists), but worship God and the testimony of Jesus
- He who is Faithful and True emerges on a white horse (Jesus)
- On His head many crowns. The kings of the earth wear the crowns from the Beast an hour. Jesus is the possessor of the crowns forever
- Wore a Name that only He knew (Yahweh, the Holy Name of God that the Jews could not speak)
- Clothed in vestment dipped in Blood – washed in the Crucifixion
- His Name is “the Word of God”. As Jesus had proclaimed Himself
- Followers wear white robes, made clean in the blod of the Lamb which they shared in their martyrdom

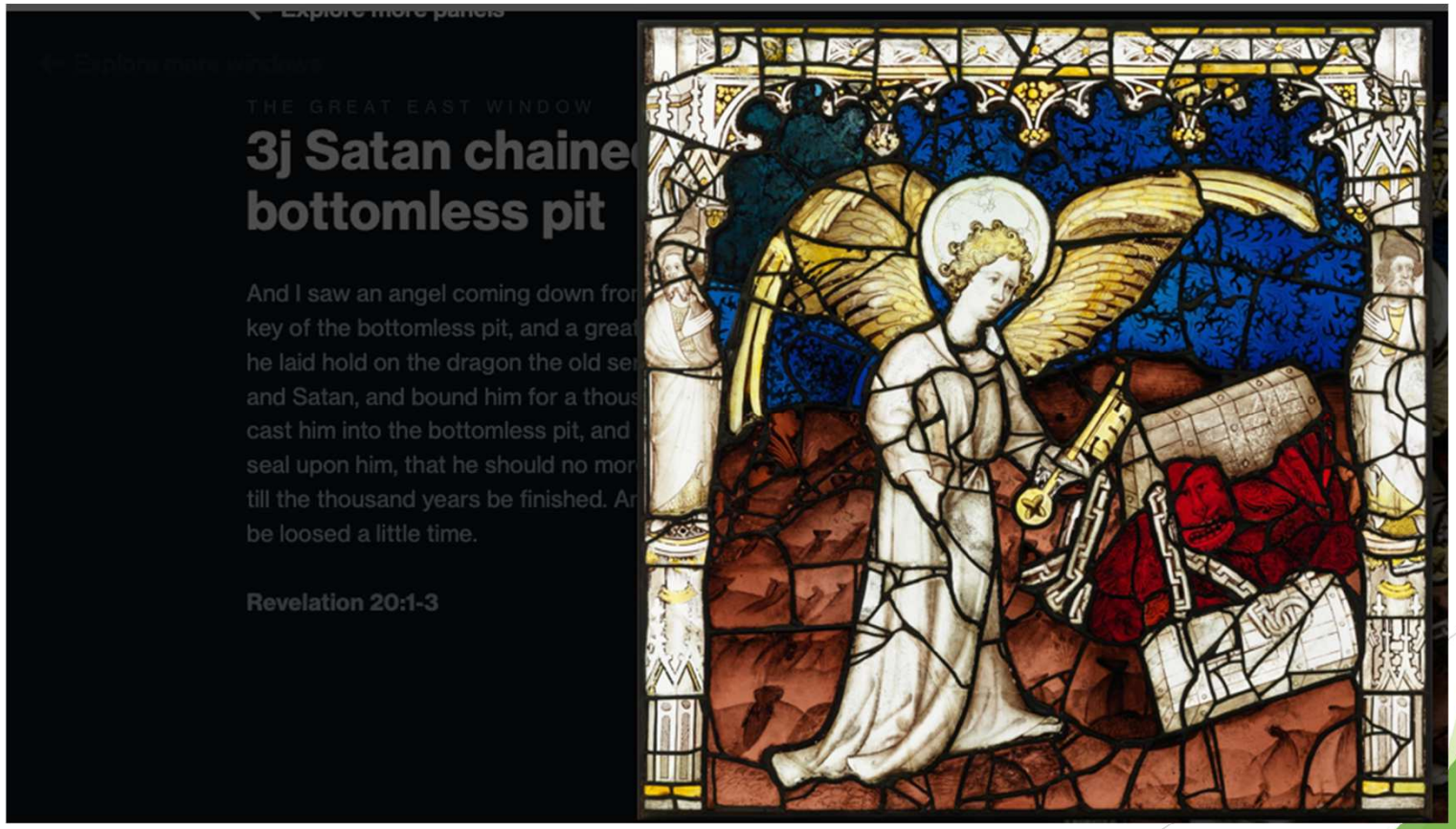
Out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword Verses 15-16

- Also referred to as a two edged sword
  - The sword of Judgement
    - To smite the beast and his followers
    - To protect the innocent and just
- And he treads the winepresses of the wrath of God
  - From the previous chapter
  - The evil who reject God are cut down as grapes and crushed in the press creating the flood of blood that will fill the land

Verses 17 -21

- The angel calls to the birds to follow them
- Feast on the carrion from the carnage of the battle to come
- The armies of the beast, Domitian, and his prophet (the three frogs) gather to the battle
- Jesus, with His two edged sword defeats the armies of evil
  - The beast is cast alive into the eternal fire and brimstone along with his Prophet (Brimstone is foul when burned, like Sodom and Gomorrah)
  - Of course this is Hell
  - The remnant is killed with the sword and left to the birds of prey

Satan chained by the strong angel and cast into the bottomless pit (York Minster window)



1000 years

- Satan bound 1000 years
- Martyrs lived and reigned with God 1000 years
- The dead who are not saved wait 1000 years
- 1000 years is the generation or age of the Church
  - The Resurrection is complete
  - The power of Satan and death is restricted until the final battle
  - The dead wait for judgment

The first Resurrection and the second death

- The Martyrs who are with Christ immediately are the 1000's with the Elders and Beasts, also referred to as those in white robes
- They faced the first death in Faith and receive their reward
- They need not be judged at the Final Judgment
- The remainder wait for the Final Judgment
  - If they are found wanting at that time, they face the second death
  - To be bound with Satan and the beast and tormented for ever in the fire of the bottomless pit

The Book of Life and the Books of the Seals

- The just have their name written in the Book of Life and are exempt from the second death
  - They live and join the martyrs
- The unjust are judged by the Books (the books who seals were broken in the earlier portion of Revelation
  - They are judged by their deeds
  - Joined to Satan and the beast and cast into the pit
  - Tormented forever by flames

Gog and Magog
(Gog of the land of Magog)

- Literal
  - The lands of the North
    - To Israel, the Assyrians and then Babylonians who took them to exile
    - To Rome, the barbarian tribes that attack Rome, and then Constantinople
- Religious
  - The religions of the North were dominated by worship of Ba'al
  - The abomination of the Canaanites and the enemy of God as revealed
- Apocalyptic
  - The evil of all lands and all times marshalled together with Satan for the final battle

The Giants of Guild Hall in London Image Gog and Magog



Figure 2: Early Modern statues of Gog and Magog, London. F.W. Fairholt, Gog and Magog, the Giants in Guildhall, 1859 (Source: Jeffrey Jerome Cohen, Of Giants, 30).

Published in 2014

Monsters at the End of Time: Gog and Magog and Ethnic Difference in the Catalan Atlas (1375)

T. Franke

The Battle

- Satan and the deceived lay siege to the beloved City
- Fire comes down from Heaven and consumes them (the deceived)
  - The dead are then awaiting the 2nd death (Final Judgment)
    - Sodom and Gomorah
    - Elija and His offering vs. the priests of Ba'al and Ahab
- Satan is cast into the lake of fire and brimstone
- He is tormented with the Beast and false prophets forever

Great White Throne
Heaven and Earth are fled

- God the Father is Revealed in His Power and Glory
- The Earth and Heaven flee before Him
  - Earth is the temporary creation to which we are exiled after Eden
  - Heaven is Sheol and the Bosom of Abraham - Jewish intermediate state
  - Only the final state of our lives will exist, with God or in torment with the devil

The End of the Battle and the Final Judgment

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Chapter 21
The New Jerusalem

- Chapter 21 describes the external character of the New Jerusalem
  - Mainly juxtaposed against the temporality of earth
  - A description of the beauty of the city from the best of valuables of the old earth



Gustov Dorr - The new Jerusalem (Revelation 21), wood engraving, published in 1886

Chapter 21 Verses 1-2

- A new heaven emerges
- First earth and heaven have passed away
  - Reference to the previous chapter (Rev 20:11)
- “I, John” - both prophecy and witness
- As a Bride adorned for her Husband
  - The new Jerusalem is the perfection of the Church
  - As she is the bride, we become her children in Christ
  - The perfection of our Godly nature bestowed in Baptism

Verses 3-4

- Verse 3 is the fulfillment of the Old Testament “I Am” prophecies
  - 144 times in the Old Testament, God Himself says
    - I am the Lord your God (Father)
    - And I will be your God (Son)
    - And you will be my people (Holy ghost)

- Verse 4 what passes away is not just the current reality
  - It is the destiny of man since the garden
  - Our sorrow, pains and even death are also passed away

Verses 5-8 The proclamation of God

- I make all things New. These words are True and Faithful.
- I am the Alpha and Omega
  - Back to the first Chapter
- I will Give him who thirsts the fountain of Living Water freely
  - The Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well
- He who believeth will be my son - receive my inheritance
- The Unbelievers are banished to the fiery lake – the second death

Verses 9-21
The Construction of the New Jerusalem

- 12 gates which are the Prophets
- 12 foundations, which are the prophets
- Gates are the pearls of great price
- Streets of Gold
- Measured at 144 cubits
  12 X 12 perfection created

Verses 22-27
What is NOT in the New Jerusalem

- No Temple
  - God and the Lamb are the Temple
- No Sun or Moon or Stars
  - The Glory of God lights it
  - The Lamb is the source of the light
    - The Glory of God is the obedience and sacrifice of His Son
    - Not the riches or the beauty or the power
- No one who is corrupt in any way
- No one who is not written in the Book of Life