



# Revelation Study Notes

# A Revelation of Jesus

## Revelation Chapter One

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### Revelation 1:1

**The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John.**

Far from being "sealed" or "hidden," the book of Revelation was intended to be an unfolding of truth throughout the Christian era. "*Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.*" (Amos 3:7).

Revelation was written by the apostle John near the end of the first century AD when he was the last survivor of the original twelve disciples. The book has been important to Christians for the last 1900 years, however its special significance is to those living in the final moments of earth's history.

Amos 3:7  
2 Peter 1:19-21

### Revelation 1:2

**Who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.**

The Father is the fountainhead of all truth. Jesus received truth from His Father and sent it to His prophet by a chosen angel. John in turn recorded what he heard, saw and what Jesus revealed to Him.

The "*testimony of Jesus*" is defined in Revelation 19:10 as the "*spirit of prophecy.*" Prophecy is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to the church for "*doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness*" so that the people of God may be "*complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*" (2 Timothy 3:16,17).

Revelation 19:10  
Revelation 12:17  
Ephesians 4:11-13

### Revelation 1:3

**Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.**

Here is a promised blessing on those that read this book and "*keep,*" or observe, the things found within for they are timely and relevant.

Matthew 7:21-27

### Revelation 1:4

**John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne.**

There were more than seven churches at the time John wrote Revelation. Some of them were of greater prominence than those mentioned by the apostle such as Antioch, Alexandria and Rome. By using these seven specific churches God is communicating truth that transcends the literal. The number seven indicates perfection or completeness, and the churches represent seven successive time periods in the Christian era from the time of the apostles until the second coming of Jesus.

The "*Seven Spirits*" are a source of "*grace*" and "*peace*" along with the Father and the Son. This indicates that the "*Seven Spirits*" are representative of the Holy Spirit. The number seven is to be understood in its symbolic significance (remember Revelation is a symbolic book). Seven indicates perfection and completion; here it represents the seven perfect attributes of the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2).

Isaiah 11:2  
Ephesians 4:4

### Revelation 1:5

**And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.**

Jesus is the faithful witness of the Father (Matthew 11:27). He is the first in rank and authority to be resurrected (1 Thessalonians 4:15,16), and is now the rightful ruler of this world (Revelation 11:15). Because of the death of Christ our sins can be forgiven and we can be brought into full fellowship with God (Isaiah 53:5,6).

Matthew 11:27  
1 Thess. 4:15,16  
Revelation 11:15  
Isaiah 53:5,6

### Revelation 1:6

**And has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

Mark 1:14,15  
1 Peter 2:9

The church is the kingdom of God on earth (Mark 1:14,15), and the members are "priests" in the sense that they are to minister to others in love and in sharing the Gospel (1 Peter 2:9).

### Revelation 1:7

**Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.**

Acts 1:9-11  
Matthew 24:30  
Matthew 24:23-27

There is nothing secret about the second coming of Jesus. He will come with the clouds of heaven and every eye will see Him (Acts 1:9-11; Matthew 24:30). *"For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be"* (Matthew 24:27).

Matthew 26:64  
Mark 14:62  
Revelation 19:16  
Daniel 12:1,2  
Revelation 20:5

During His trial, in response to the high priests' question, Jesus told those who were condemning Him that they would see Him in glory coming in the clouds of heaven (Matthew 26:64; Mark 14:62). At the Second Coming those who "pierced" Jesus will be resurrected to see Him "King of Kings and Lord of Lords" (Revelation 19:16), their experience will be one of "shame and everlasting contempt" (Daniel 12:1,2). The rest of the wicked dead will not be raised until the end of the 1,000 years (Revelation 20:5).

### Revelation 1:8

**I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."**

John 14:9  
John 1:1,14

"Alpha" and "Omega" are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. The letters of the alphabet are used to create words and words are the expression of thoughts. Jesus is the thoughts of God revealed (John 14:9). He is also described as the "Word of God" (John 1:1,14).

### Revelation 1:9

**I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

Acts 14:22  
2 Timothy 2:12

Patmos is a small island (10 miles by 6 miles) in the Aegean Sea, about 30 miles west of Turkey. During the time of John the island was used as a place of exile for convicts. According to tradition, John was sent to Patmos by the Roman emperor Titus Flavius Domitianus (Domitian) during a period of intense persecution of Christians. It is through much "tribulation" that the redeemed "enter into the kingdom of God." (Acts 14:22). If we suffer with Christ, we shall also reign with Him (2 Timothy 2:12).

### Revelation 1:10

**I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet.**

Mark 2:28  
Matthew 12:8  
Exodus 20:10  
Isaiah 58:13  
Deuteronomy 5:14

It is important to note that John still considered a particular day of the week as the "Lord's day." By allowing the Bible to be its own interpreter we can discover which day is the "Lord's day."

- Mark 2:28 - "The Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath."
- Matthew 12:8 - "The Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath day."
- Exodus 20:10 - "But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God."
- Isaiah 58:13 - "If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day: and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord..."
- Deuteronomy 5:14 - "But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God."

### Revelation 1:11

**Saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."**

These seven churches represent seven time periods of Christian history that began in the first century and ends at the second coming of Jesus. The spiritual conditions and characteristics of each of the churches matched those that were prevalent in Christianity during the time period they represented.

### **Revelation 1:12**

**Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands.**

Hebrews 9:2  
Exodus 25:8,9  
Hebrews 8:1,2

Turning to see the one who spoke to him, John first notices seven golden lampstands. These lampstands represent the seven churches (Revelation 1:20). In the earthly sanctuary, which was a pattern of the Heavenly, there were two compartments, the Holy and the Most Holy (Exodus 25:8,9). The seven golden lampstands were in the first compartment (Hebrews 9:2), thus Jesus is presented as ministering in the first compartment of the Heavenly sanctuary (Hebrews 8:1,2).

### **Revelation 1:13**

**And in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.**

John 3:16  
Hebrews 8:3-5

Jesus is seen in the *"midst of the seven lampstands,"* He is always in the midst of His churches (Revelation 1:20). The lampstands are represented as being *"golden"* because they are precious and valuable in heaven's sight due to the price paid for them (John 3:16).

Jesus is represented as clothed in the garments of the high priest as he would move about in the Holy Place in the ministration of his duties (Hebrews 8:3-5).

### **Revelation 1:14**

**His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire.**

Isaiah 1:18  
Psalm 34:15  
2 Chronicles 16:9

The symbol of white hair represents wisdom and purity (Isaiah 1:18). The symbol of having eyes as *"a flame of fire"* represents intensity of gaze and power (Psalm 34:15; 2 Chronicles 16:9).

### **Revelation 1:15**

**His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters.**

Isaiah 48:10  
Zechariah 13:9  
Revelation 14:2

The symbol of fine brass represents purity through trial (Isaiah 48:10; Zechariah 13:9). The voice as *"the sound of many waters"* in Jewish writings represents the voice of the Creator (Revelation 14:2).

### **Revelation 1:16**

**He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.**

Isaiah 41:10  
Revelation 1:20  
Hebrews 4:12  
John 12:48

The *"right hand"* is a symbol of power and strength (Isaiah 41:10). The *"seven stars"* represent the angels to the seven churches (Revelation 1:20). And the *"two-edged sword"* is a symbol of the Word of God, which will judge the world in the last day (Hebrews 4:12; John 12:48).

### **Revelation 1:17**

**And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.**

Ezekiel 1:28; 2:1,2  
Daniel 8:17,18  
Acts 9:3  
Isaiah 44:6

The first effect of a person who in vision sees the glory of God is the loss of physical strength (Ezekiel 1:28; Daniel 8:17), this is then followed by the prophet receiving supernatural strength (Ezekiel 2:1,2; Daniel 8:18).

The phrase *"the First and the Last"* is a quotation from Isaiah 44:6 and is a reference to Jesus.

### **Revelation 1:18**

**I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.**

Luke 11:52  
1 Corinthians 15:55

Jesus is the One that was dead and is alive, and has the power to open the grave (John 5:25; 1 Corinthians 15:55). The word *"hades"* in Greek literally means *"the place of the dead"* or *"the grave."*

### Revelation 1:19

**Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.**

The *"things which thou hast seen"* refers to the things which John had already seen so far in vision. The *"things which are"* were the things he was currently seeing. And the *"things which will take place"* were the things that were still to be revealed to Him.

### Revelation 1:20

**The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.**

The word "angels" in the Greek is "angelos" which literally means "messengers of God." The term is used to refer to human beings in Matthew 11:10; Mark 1:2; Luke 7:24; and 2 Corinthians 12:7. The seven stars, or angels, here refer not only to literal angels but also to the leaders of the church in John's time and throughout the Christian age. In Revelation 14 God's last warning messages are symbolized as been given by three angels. These angels, like those of the seven churches, represent God's people who are proclaiming His warning messages just prior to the second coming of Jesus (Revelation 14:6-12).

Revelation 14:6-12

### Symbols for Revelation

Horse = Strength and Power in Battle (Job 39:19, Psalms 147:10, Proverbs 21:31)  
Dragon = Satan or his agency (Psalm 74:13-14; Revelation 12:7-9; Ezekiel 29:3; Jeremiah 51:34)  
Beast = Kingdom/government/political power (Daniel 7:17, 23)  
Lamb = Jesus/sacrifice (John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7)  
Lion = Jesus/Powerful King (Revelation 5:4-9, Jeremiah 50:43-44, Daniel 7:4,17,23)  
Serpent = Satan (Revelation 12:9; 20:2)  
Horn = King or kingdom (Daniel 7:24; 8:5, 21, 22; Zechariah 1:18, 19; Revelation 17:12)  
Wings = Speed / Protection / Deliverance (Deuteronomy 28:49, Matthew 23:37)  
Woman, Pure = True Church (Jeremiah 6:2; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:23-27)  
Woman, Corrupt = Apostate church (Ezekiel 16:15-58; 23:2-21; Hosea 2:5; 3:1; Revelation 14:4)  
Hand = Deeds / Works / Actions (Ecclesiastes 9:10, Isaiah 59:6)  
Forehead = Mind (Deuteronomy 6:6-8, Romans 7:25; Ezekiel 3:8, 9)  
Feet = Your Walk / Direction (Genesis 19:2, Psalm 119:105)  
Eyes = Spiritual Discernment (Matthew 13:10-17, 1 John 2:11)  
Lamp = Word of God (Psalm 119:105)  
Oil = Holy Spirit (Zechariah 4:2-6; Revelation 4:5)  
Sword = Word of God (Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12)  
Wine+ Blood/covenant/doctrines (Luke 5:37)  
Clothing = Character (Isaiah 64:6, Isaiah 59:6)  
Crown = Victory / Rulership (Proverbs 16:31, Isaiah 28:5, Isaiah 62:3)  
Babylon = Apostasy/confusion/rebellion (Genesis 10:8-10; 11:6-9; Revelation 17:1-5)  
Mark or Seal = Approval or disapproval (Ezekiel 9:4; Romans 4:11; Revelation 13:17; Revelation 7:2,3)  
Prophetic Day = Literal year (Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers 14:34)  
Trumpet = Warning (Exodus 19:16-17, Joshua 6:4-5)  
Gold = Pure Character Precious and Rare (Isaiah 13:12)  
Waters = Inhabited area/people, nations (Revelation 17:15)  
Tree = People / Nation (Deut. 21:22-23, Psalm 92:12, 37:35; Luke 13:6-9)  
Field = World (Matthew 13:38, John 4:35)  
Harvest = End of World (Matthew 13:39)  
Stars = Angels/messengers (Revelation 1:16, 20; 12:4, 7-9; Job 38:7)  
Mountains = Political powers (Isaiah 2:2,3; Jeremiah 17:3; Daniel 2:35,44,45)  
Sun = Jesus/the gospel (Psalm 84:11; Malachi 4:2; Matthew 17:2; John 8:12; 9:5)

# The Seven Churches – (part 1)

## Revelation Chapter Two

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### Revelation 2:1

**To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, these things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:**

Symbolically the seven churches represent seven time periods of Christian history. The church of Ephesus represents the first 70 years of the church, which began with the ascension of Jesus in 31 A.D. and extended to the death of the apostle John at the close of the first century. In Greek the word "Ephesus" means "desirable."

### Revelation 2:2

**I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars.**

Jesus commended the Ephesus church for testing the words of professed leaders. We are not to assume that the teachings of all pastors are correct, or that the majority is right. All doctrine is to be tested by the Bible, and all teachers are to be tested by the fruits of righteousness (Acts 20:29,30; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; Matthew 7:15–20; Galatians 5:22,23).

Acts 20:29,30  
1 Thessalonians 5:21  
Matthew 7:15–20  
Galatians 5:22, 23

### Revelation 2:3

**And you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.**

It was during this time period that the followers of Christ were first known by His name; they were called Christians (Acts 11:26). These early Christians were not weary in well doing nor did they become discouraged when they faced persecution from the Jews and Romans (Isaiah 40:31).

Acts 11:26  
Isaiah 40:31

### Revelation 2:4

**Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.**

The absence of love in the heart places the professed followers of Christ with His enemies. Without love our spiritual experience is mere talk and dry formality (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).

1 Corinthians 13:1-3;

### Revelation 2:5

**Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.**

Jesus said "*if you love me, keep my commandments*" (John 14:15). Faith and works are inseparably bound together (James 2:20). If we say we love God but do not obey Him we are deceiving ourselves (Matthew 22:35-40).

John 14:15  
James 2:20  
Matthew 22:35-40

### Revelation 2:6

**But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.**

Irenaeus, a minister in the second century, wrote that the Nicolaitans considered it "a matter of indifference to practice adultery, and to eat things sacrificed to idols." (From Irenaeus, Against Heresies, 1.26; ANF 1:352) These were people who professed to be Christians yet somehow believed that their faith in Jesus released them from obedience to one or more of the Ten Commandments (Matthew 7:21; Hebrews 8:10).

Matthew 7:21  
Hebrews 8:10

### Revelation 2:7

**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.**

Hearing God's word is meaningless unless it is acted upon. To be an overcomer we must be "*doers of the word, and not hearers only*" if we are to eat from the Tree of Life (James 1:22,23; Revelation 22:2; Genesis 3:24).

James 1:22,23  
Revelation 22:2  
Genesis 3:24

### Revelation 2:8

**And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, these things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life.**

The Smyrna Church represents the church from about 100 to 313 A.D. During this time period the Romans fiercely persecuted Christians. Many were imprisoned and their deaths were made the subjects of entertainment. They were wrapped in the hides of wild beasts and torn to pieces by dogs, or nailed to crosses, or set on fire to serve as lights for the Coliseum.

### Revelation 2:9

**I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.**

John's use of the term "Jews" is to be understood in its symbolic sense as taught by Paul. Here "Jews" represent Christians (Romans 2:28,29; Galatians 3:28,29).

Romans 2:28,29  
Galatians 3:28,29

### Revelation 2:10

**Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.**

Using the "day for a year" principle for prophetic interpretation (Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6) we find that there were 10 years of extreme persecution. This occurred between 303 and 313. Christianity was growing so rapidly in the Roman Empire that many feared that it would completely destroy the Roman way of life. Thus in 303 Diocletian issued a decree designed to completely exterminate the church. This reign of terror continued for 10 years when finally, in 313, Constantine issued an edict that granted Christians full liberty to practice their religion.

Numbers 14:34  
Ezekiel 4:6

### Revelation 2:11

**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.**

There will be no more death after the "second death" (Revelation 20:14). Sin and sinners will be burned up and there will be left neither root nor branch. "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, that will leave them neither root nor branch." (Malachi 4:1).

Revelation 20:14  
Malachi 4:1-3

### Revelation 2:12

**And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, these things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword.**

The church of Pergamos represents the church from 313 A.D. to 538 A.D. The contrast between the first two churches (Ephesus and Smyrna) and the next two (Pergamos and Thyatira) is remarkable. Smyrna, the persecuted church, did not receive any rebuke, and Ephesus was commended for hating the deeds of the Nicolaitans. Pergamos, on the other hand, had accepted the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. And Thyatira even tolerated Jezebel--symbolically speaking. Something had gone wrong during this period. The church was accepting the doctrine that one could be saved while continuing in sin. Jesus warned them to repent or he would do battle with them with the sharp two edged sword, His word (Hebrews 4:12).

Hebrews 4:12

### Revelation 2:13

**I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.**

During this time the state church was gaining power and strengthening its position as a religious and political leader. By 538 this position would be fully established.

The name "Antipas" is the combination of two words "anti" meaning opposed to and "papas" meaning father, or pope. As the papacy was gaining power those who opposed the state church were often persecuted.



1 Kings 16:29-33  
2 Corinthians 11:2  
2 Corinthians 6:16

### **Revelation 2:20**

**Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.**

Jezebel was the sinful wife of king Ahab who used her influence over her husband to kill the prophets of God and promote the worship of Baal (1 Kings 16:29-33). She is a perfect representation of the Roman Church during this time. As church and state united, the church began to use the power of the state to enforce her teachings and practices. Those opposed to her doctrines were termed "heretics" and were subject to civil penalties and even death. Revelation 18:3 shows that "*sexual immorality*" symbolizes a union of church and state. Whenever a church (or group of churches) uses their influence to encourage the state to enforce their doctrines and institutions they become guilty of committing "*sexual immorality*" (2 Corinthians 11:2).

When a church brings various pagan customs and practices into the service she begins to "*eat things sacrificed unto idols.*" (2 Corinthians 6:16).

### **Revelation 2:21**

**And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.**

By being patient with the Roman Church, Jesus sought to lead her to see her errors and repent. He also sent great light through reformers, the brave men and women who stood against the corruption and false doctrine, in an attempt to lead the church to repentance. But sadly, "*she did not repent.*"

### **Revelation 2:22**

**Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.**

As the Roman church approached the close of the time given her to repent, this scripture began to be fulfilled. The nations that had united with this religious power (and thus committed adultery) were thrown into a bed of sickness and tribulation. In the 1300s a form of bubonic plague called the "Black Death" destroyed an estimated two-fifths of the population of Europe. This was followed by the outbreak of The Hundred Years' War (1337-1453) and one of the worst famines to strike Europe.

### **Revelation 2:23**

**I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.**

The "Black Death" took the lives of millions of children during the outbreak of bubonic plague in the 1300's.

### **Revelation 2:24**

**Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden.**

Despite widespread corruption in the church during this time there were those who faithfully followed the teachings of the Bible. They faced persecution and martyrdom, and Jesus laid on them no other burden but to be faithful (Matthew 10:22).

Matthew 10:22

### **Revelation 2:25**

**But hold fast what you have till I come.**

To be a true follower of Christ requires commitment and faith. To every Christian comes moments when their faith is tried. It is at these times that one needs to look past the current circumstances and lay hold upon the eternal realities (Romans 8:18; 1 Corinthians 10:13).

Romans 8:18

1 Corinthians 10:13

### **Revelation 2:26**

**And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations.**

Jesus said, "*If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.*" John 15:10.

Revelation 12:5  
Revelation 19:11-16

**Revelation 2:27**

**He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'— as I also have received from My Father.**

The "*rod of iron*" is an expression of Christ coming to the defense of His people. At the end of time the wicked will attempt to destroy the righteous but Jesus will come to their rescue (Revelation 13:15; Revelation 19:11-16).

**Revelation 2:28**

**And I will give him the Morning Star.**

Revelation 22:16

Jesus is the "*Morning Star*" and He will give Himself to those that love Him (Revelation 22:16).

**Revelation 2:29**

**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**

## Summary of the first four churches

**1. Ephesus (A.D. 31-100) "The Apostolic church"**

The church labored tirelessly in spreading the gospel and did not grow weary in their missionary activities. They patiently endured suffering for Christ and opposed wicked men and imposters. Nevertheless they were charged with having lost their first love for the Lord. They were strongly urged to repent and to recover their enthusiasm and early works (including a spirit of total dedication to the Lord). Unless repentant, they were warned that their candlestick (privilege of being light bearers) would be removed from its place.

**2. Smyrna (A.D. 100-313) "The Persecuted church"**

During this time period believers suffered much tribulation and persecution, especially during the time of Emperor Diocletian. Though severely tried and tested, they provided some of the most illustrious examples of Christian faithfulness and endurance of any period of church history. Through it all, they were counseled not to fear but to "*be faithful unto death*" and thereby they were ultimately to receive "*the crown of life*." The overcomer was promised further that he would not be hurt by the second death (Revelation 21:8).

**3. Pergamos (A.D. 313 – 606) "The Indulged church"**

During this time period some in the church began to adopt pagan customs and practices. The result was a compromising of truth for the sake of popularity. The church united with the state and those who apposed Papal supremacy faced persecution and death. The church grew in worldly prestige and the love of the truth was replaced with a desire for power and wealth. If these conditions were to continued in the church the Lord would come against them with the sword of his mouth (the sharp cutting edge of doctrinal truth), this was a reference to the protestant reformation. To those who held to truth and did not compromise their faith they were promised to eat of the hidden manna (be rewarded with immortality) and receive a white stone with a new name on it (a special token of the Lord's intimate favor).

**4. Thyatira (A.D. 606 – 1580) "The Pagan church"**

The church during this time was filled with false doctrine and pagan customs, especially condemned was the union of church and state. Even though this was a time of compromise and corruption, God still had faithful followers who were active in service and devotion. They were especially commended for their patient endurance during the reign of the apostate church. The overcomer was promised power to rule over the nations and to receive "*the morning star*" (intimate association with Christ in glory).

# The Seven Churches – (part 2)

## Revelation Chapter Three

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### Revelation 3:1

**And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.**

2 Timothy 3:1-5

The church of Sardis represents the time period of 1565-1740 A.D. After the bright lights of the Reformation faded from sight the protestant churches experienced two centuries of stagnation. Their name—Protestant—implied opposition to the abuses, errors, and formalism of the Roman Church, however, they lacked the power and spirit of the Reformers (2 Timothy 3:1-5). During this period many church creeds were written and the church, self-satisfied, sank into dry formality.

### Revelation 3:2

**Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.**

Matthew 24:42-51

Protestantism during its early years gave promise of a pressing forward toward perfection in understanding truth. But as the years went by zeal and piety waned, the spiritual life of Protestantism was dying, but the system was not yet dead. "Survival" may be thought of as the keynote of the Sardis period of church history (Matthew 24:42-51).

### Revelation 3:3

**Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.**

Daniel 12:1,2  
Revelation 22:11,12  
2 Peter 3:9,10

The church was called to remember how that they had received the truth of the reformation, and they were encouraged to hold onto it. If they neglected to "watch," the close of probation and the coming of Jesus would find them unprepared (Daniel 12:1,2; Revelation 22:11,12; 2 Peter 3:9,10).

### Revelation 3:4

**You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.**

Matthew 16:24-26

During this time there were still some who held fast to the truths of the Bible. Men such as John Bunyan, John Wesley, and others, brought true religion into every day life (Matthew 16:24-26).

### Revelation 3:5

**He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.**

Acts 3:19

Something must be blotted out of the books of Heaven – our sins or our names (Acts 3:19). The Bible describes three books of record in Heaven:

Luke 10:20  
Daniel 12:1  
Revelation 21:27

1. The book of Life, which contains the names of all who have ever entered the service of God (Luke 10:20; Daniel 12:1; Revelation 21:27).
2. The book of Remembrance, which is a recorded all of the good deeds of the righteous. Their words of faith, their acts of love, the temptations they resisted, and the trials they endured for Christ's sake are all faithfully registered in heaven (Malachi 3:16; Psalm 56:8).
3. The book of Sin, which is a record of the sins of men. The evil purposes and motives of the heart all appear in the record in Heaven. (Ecclesiastes 12:14; Matthew 12:36,37).

Malachi 3:16  
Psalm 56:8

Ecclesiastes 12:14  
Matthew 12:36,37

### Revelation 3:6

**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**

Isaiah 22:22  
Isaiah 9:5,6  
Daniel 7:9-14  
Daniel 8:14  
Revelation 11:15-19

### Revelation 3:7

**And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, These things says He who is holy, He who is true, He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens.**

The word Philadelphia means "brotherly love." The historical application is about 1740-1844 A.D. when a great religious awakening took place in America and Europe. Missionary activity swelled and Bible societies were formed. The gospel was spread far and near. Christian schools were started and interest in Bible prophecy exploded.

The phrase, "*He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens*" is a reference to the final phase of Christ's High Priestly ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary, which began at the close of the 2300 day/year prophecy of Daniel 8:14. At the end of this time prophecy the "door" to the first apartment ministrations of Jesus was shut, and the "door" to the second apartment ministrations, was opened (Isaiah 22:22; Isaiah 9:5,6; Daniel 7:9-14; Daniel 8:14; Revelation 11:15-19).

### Revelation 3:8

**I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.**

Besides the door to the most Holy place mentioned in the previous verse, Jesus had also opened the door for the truth to be spread worldwide and it would never be shut. Paul had prayed, "*that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ.*" (Colossians 4:3). The Philadelphia period of church history, with its increased attention to God's Word and personal godliness, represented a much more encouraging picture than the preceding period (Revelation 14:6,7).

Revelation 14:6,7

### Revelation 3:9

**Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.**

During this time period the Roman Church had lost much of its power. The strongest nations on earth were Protestant, and the Catholic Church was forced to submit to religious freedom and operate under the separation of church and state.

### Revelation 3:10

**Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.**

Jesus here refers to the "time of trouble" when the seven last plagues are poured out. It would be left to the seventh church, the Laodiceans, to pass through this future event (Daniel 12:1; Psalm 91:1-10).

Daniel 12:1  
Psalm 91:1-10

### Revelation 3:11

**Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.**

It was during this time period that the church began to recognize that the time of the end was near and that the Second Coming of Jesus was at hand.

### Revelation 3:12

**He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.**

The promise to the overcomers is that they will hold a permanent place in the very presence of God. They will have the Father's name written upon them, a symbol of ownership and character, and the name of the New Jerusalem, a symbol of home and belonging (Revelation 7:1-3; Revelation 13:16).

Revelation 7:1-3  
Revelation 13:16

### Revelation 3:13

**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**

### Revelation 3:14

**And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God.**

John 1:3  
Hebrews 1:2

The church of Laodicea represents the time period for 1844 to the return of Jesus. After the missionary zeal of Philadelphia period, an indifferent, half-hearted attitude set - in that is still evident in the churches of today. The meaning of "Laodicea" is "a people judged," or "judging the people."

To this church Jesus is described as the "*beginning of the creation of God*," meaning that Jesus was the creator in the beginning (John 1:3; Hebrews 1:2).

### Revelation 3:15

**I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.**

2 Timothy 3:5

Close to the city of Laodicea was the hot spring of Hierapolis. An aqueduct to the city carried hot water from the spring and by the time it reached the city it was lukewarm. Lukewarm water was familiar to the Laodiceans, and fittingly characterized their spiritual condition.

Lukewarm Christianity results from a half-hearted commitment to Christ. This kind of Christianity looks good on the outside but inside it is proud, selfish and rebellious. A lukewarm spiritual state results in decreased alertness, a slow response, and indecisive action. If the Laodicean church were cold, the Spirit of God might the more readily convince it of its dangerous condition (2 Timothy 3:5).

### Revelation 3:16

**So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.**

Lukewarm water is disappointing and nauseating, and the one who drinks it almost involuntarily spits it out.

### Revelation 3:17

**Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.**

Luke 18:9-14

Laodicea was a prosperous town, and doubtless some of the Christians there were wealthy. Apparently this church had suffered no serious persecution. Pride in its prosperity led naturally to spiritual complacency. The possession of important truths held only on the level of intellectual acceptance but not allowed to permeate the soul, leads to spiritual pride and self-sufficiency. The climax of the Laodiceans' boast is that their situation could not be improved. Such self-satisfaction is fatal, for the Spirit of God never enters where a need for His presence is not felt, yet without that presence newness of life is impossible. Instead of being rich to the point of needing nothing, this church is, in reality, so poor that it even lacks clothing (Luke 18:9-14).

### Revelation 3:18

**I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.**

Hebrews 11:6; 1  
Corinthians 13:13

Zechariah 3:1-5  
Matthew 22:11

The figurative gold represents faith and love (Hebrews 11:6; 1 Corinthians 13:13). The white raiment symbolizes the righteousness of Christ (Zechariah 3:1-5; Matthew 22:11). The eye salve represents the Holy Spirit, which reveals the churches true spiritual condition (John 16:8-11).

John 16:8-11

Near Laodicea was a temple that had a school of medicine, which was famous for its eye salve use for various eye problems.

### Revelation 3:19

**As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.**

Proverbs 3:11,12

This reassurance of Christ's love shows that the Laodiceans are not without hope. In fact, they are the special objects of His attention. His love for them is expressed by chastisement, through which He hopes to bring them to repentance (Proverbs 3:11,12).

Psalm 23:5  
Revelation 19:9

### Revelation 3:20

**Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.**

The door to the heart is under the control of man, and each person may open or shut it at will. Christ awaits each man's decision. By His love, through His word, and through His providences, Christ knocks at the door of the emotions; by His wisdom, at the door of the mind; by His lordship, at the door of the conscience; and by His promises, at the door of man's hopes (Psalm 23:5; Revelation 19:9).

### Revelation 3:21

**To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.**

Matthew 19:28  
Luke 22:30

To sit with Christ on His throne, is to share in the merits of His work for mans salvation (Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:30).

### Revelation 3:22

**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**

## Summary of the last three churches

### 3. Sardis (A.D. 1565-1740) "Remnant; that which remains"

During this time period the majority of protestant churches had spiritually fallen asleep, or were dead. They were urged to arouse themselves, to be watchful, repentant and to strengthen *"the things which remain, that are ready to die;"* otherwise the Lord would come upon them *"as a thief"* (by surprise). They were counseled to recall what they had learned during the reformation and to *"hold fast"* to those truths. To the overcomer Jesus promised that they would be clothed in white raiment (symbol of purity and righteousness) and to walk with Him (intimate companion). Their name would be confessed before the Father and the angels, and not be blotted out of the book of life.

### 4. Philadelphia (A.D. 1740-1844) "Brotherly love."

The church during this time period received praised from Jesus without any reproof. The believers were faithful to Jesus and loyal to the truth, despite having but *"little strength."* An *"open door"* was set before them into the Most Holy place of the Heavenly Sanctuary where Jesus was ministering for them before the Father. The Lord would keep them safe from the hour of testing (time of trouble and the seven last plagues) and that if faithful they would receive a crown of life.

### 5. Laodicea (1844 to the return of Jesus) "A Judged people."

The church during this time was spiritually lukewarm. The members considered themselves rich and prosperous by worldly standards, though actually spiritually they were *"wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked."* The church was lacking the true riches of divine grace, and Jesus counseled her to buy of Him *"gold tried in the fire"* (the true heavenly riches of faith and love) and *"white raiment"* (the robe of Christ's righteousness) and *"eye salve"* (Spiritual discernment from the Holy Spirit) in order to see her true spiritual condition. If the members of the church would open their hearts to Jesus, He would enter into fellowship with them. To those who would overcome their spiritual lukewarmness, Jesus promises that they would sit with Him on His throne.

# Heavenly Throne Room

## Revelation Chapter Four

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### Revelation 4:1

**After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."**

From a consideration of the state of the church on earth (chapters 1–3) John's attention is now directed to events taking place in heaven. The events described in chapter 4 and 5 took place at the time of Christ's ascension, at the beginning of His high priestly ministry (Hebrews 8:1,2; 1 John 2:1).

Hebrews 8:1,2  
1 John 2:1

### Revelation 4:2

**Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.**

John goes into vision a second time and sees the Ruler of the universe, God the Father, sitting upon His throne (Isaiah 6:1-8).

Isaiah 6:1-8

### Revelation 4:3

**And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.**

John repeatedly uses precious stones in describing brilliant colors that he sees in vision. Jasper is a stone of greenish blue and sardius a stone of a reddish color. The rainbow about God's throne represents His mercy. This idea is seen in the promise made to Noah after the flood (Genesis 9:12-17). It is comforting to know that when God looks upon us that He is looking through the rainbow of His mercy (Psalm 106:1).

Genesis 9:12-17  
Psalm 106:1

### Revelation 4:4

**Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.**

With reference to the twenty-four elders in Isaiah 24:23 we read, "*The Lord shall reign ... and before the elders He shall be glorified.*" There are two suggestions as to the identity of the twenty-four elders:

- (1) They are created beings from other worlds that have not sinned (Job 1:6, 2:1; Hebrews 1:2).
- (2) They are the ones resurrected at the time of Christ's resurrection and were taken to Heaven (Matthew 27:52,53; Ephesians 4:8).

Job 1:6; 2:1  
Matthew 27:52,53  
Ephesians 4:8

### Revelation 4:5

**And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.**

Elsewhere in Revelation these seven Spirits are portrayed as seven lamps of fire (chapter 4:5) and the seven eyes of the Lamb (chapter 5:6). The association here of the "seven Spirits" with the Father and Christ, implies that they represent the Holy Spirit. The designation "seven" is a symbolic expression of perfection, and represents the seven attributes of the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2).

Isaiah 11:2

### Revelation 4:6

**Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.**

In ancient times glass was much more valuable than it is today. Here, it represents the clear, crystalline appearance of the surface on which the throne stood. What John sees is a vast shimmering expanse, gloriously reflecting the red and green radiance about the throne. The beasts or "*living creatures*" around the throne closely resemble those of Ezekiel's vision in which they are called cherubim (Ezekiel 10:20–22). They are described as being "*full of eyes*" which can be understood as a symbol of their intelligence and watchfulness (Ezekiel 10:12).

Ezekiel 10:20–22  
Ezekiel 10:12

Revelation 5:5  
Proverbs 20:2  
Exodus 24:5  
Isaiah 53:4,5  
Hebrews 4:14-16  
1 John 2:1  
Exodus 19:4  
Isaiah 40:31  
Jeremiah 49:22  
  
Numbers 2:3,10,18,25

#### Revelation 4:7

**The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.**

The four living creatures can represent the four phases of Christ's ministry. The first, being the Lion, represents Christ's pre-incarnation, a lion is a symbol of strength and royalty (Revelation 5:5; Proverbs 20:2). The second beast, the calf, represent the incarnation of Christ. Oxen were used as beasts of burden and sacrificial animals. Jesus took human nature to bare our burdens and die a sacrifice for sin (Exodus 24:5; Isaiah 53:4,5). The beast with the face of a man represents Christ's high priestly ministry for us in Heaven. As the "*Son of Man*" he intercedes on our behalf before the Father (Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 John 2:1). The beast with the face of an eagle represents Christ's kingly role when he comes back to earth as "*King of kings and Lord of lords*," executing judgment and delivering his people from the wicked (Exodus 19:4; Isaiah 40:31; Jeremiah 49:22).

The four living creatures also resemble the layout of the camp of Israel in their wilderness wanderings. Each of the four leading tribes, Judah, Reuben, Ephraim, and Dan had an emblem which they placed facing towards the Tabernacle. The emblem for the tribe of Judah was a lion, for Reuben a calf, for Ephraim a man, and for Dan an eagle (Numbers 2:3,10,18,25).

#### Revelation 4:8

**The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"**

The Seraphim of Isaiah's vision had six wings (Isaiah 6:2). Wings may be understood as indicating the speed with which God's heavenly creatures execute their errands (Hebrews 1:14). Men customarily work by day and rest by night, but "*He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep*" (Psalm 121:4). The divine power upholding the universe never sleeps, so the angels, who stand in God's presence, are always ready to do His biddings and sing His praises. The angels in Isaiah's vision are also heard saying, "*Holy, Holy, Holy*" (Isaiah 6:3).

Isaiah 6:2  
Hebrews 1:14  
Isaiah 6:3

#### Revelation 4:9

**Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever.**

The praise uttered is initiated by heavenly creatures, which are nearest to God. Heavenly beings as well as men owe God thanks, for He has given them life. They exist by His pleasure. In the ultimate sense God owes His creatures nothing; they owe everything to Him. God is the source of all life, and the fact that He "*lives for ever*" is the basis of His unceasing sustenance of nature (John 1:3,4; Colossians 1:16,17).

John 1:3,4  
Colossians 1:16,17

#### Revelation 4:10

**The twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:**

The glory of God and a manifestation of His goodness and love bring forth an anthem of praise from the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders. As an act of recognition of the sovereignty of God, the twenty-four elders lay their crowns before His throne.

#### Revelation 4:11

**"You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."**

God is "worthy" to receive praise from His creatures for He has made them all. It pleased Him that the universe should be filled with intelligent beings, capable of appreciating and reflecting His love and character. This was His purpose in creating them (Genesis 1:26,27; Ezekiel 36:26,27).

Genesis 1:26,27  
Ezekiel 36:26,27

# The Lamb Amongst the Beasts

## Revelation Chapter Five

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John 1:29	<p><b>Revelation 5:1</b> <b>And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.</b></p> <p>The setting of this chapter is the same as that of chapter four. However, where chapter four largely describes a scene centering on God's throne, chapter five focuses upon the Lamb and the sealed scroll (John 1:29).</p> <p>The scroll in the Hand of the Father was "<i>written inside and on the back.</i>" Ancient papyrus scrolls were normally only written on the inside, but on some occasions scribes would write on the back if they could not write everything necessary on one side. The number seven is a symbol of completion and perfection, thus the scroll was perfectly sealed.</p>
Hebrews 1:1,2 Job 1:6	<p><b>Revelation 5:2</b> <b>Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"</b></p> <p>The ability to open the scroll is not a question of strength or dignity, but of victory and moral worth. One who has earned the right to open it can only access that which is contained in the scroll.</p> <p><b>Revelation 5:3</b> <b>And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.</b></p> <p>No one, including all created beings in the universe, had the right to open the scroll and to reveal its contents (Hebrews 1:1,2; Job 1:6).</p>
Luke 10:20 Daniel 12:1 Revelation 21:27	<p><b>Revelation 5:4</b> <b>So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.</b></p> <p>These words reflect John's intense emotional reaction to the drama now passing before his eyes. He realized the importance of having the scroll opened and understood something of its significance in the salvation of man. The scroll is believed to represent the "<i>Book of Life</i>" (Luke 10:20; Daniel 12:1; Revelation 21:27).</p>
Revelation 12:10,11 Romans 15:12	<p><b>Revelation 5:5</b> <b>But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."</b></p> <p>The figure of a lion signifies strength and royalty. Jesus won the victory over Satan on behalf of humanity and this is what gives Him the right to open the scroll (Revelation 12:10,11).</p> <p>In Romans 15:12 Paul applies the title, "<i>Root of David</i>" to Jesus, showing that He is the second David and the king of spiritual Israel.</p>
Daniel 7:24 Revelation 4:6	<p><b>Revelation 5:6</b> <b>And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.</b></p> <p>John has just heard Christ called a lion and a conqueror, but as he looks he sees a lamb. Such a dramatic contrast suggests that Christ's victory is not one of physical force but of moral excellence. It is the vicarious sacrifice of His sinless life, rather than the use of force, that has gained for Him the victory in the great controversy with evil.</p> <p>Horns in prophecy symbolize strength, glory and kingship (Daniel 7:24) and eyes symbolize wisdom and intelligence (Revelation 4:6). These eyes are identified as the seven Spirits of God, an expression used for the Holy Spirit. In chapter 4:5 the Holy Spirit is symbolized as the "<i>seven lamps.</i>"</p>

**Revelation 5:7****Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.**

This is the focal point of chapters 4 and 5. Jesus takes the scroll from the hand of the Father; He does what no other being in the universe can do. This action is symbolic of His victory over evil, and when He does this the universe resounds with praise.

**Revelation 5:8****Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.**

Revelation 8:3,4

The fact that the prayers of the saints are contained in golden vessels indicates the preciousness with which heaven regards them. This symbol is drawn from the Old Testament sanctuary where the Alter of Incense represented the prayers of the people of God (Revelation 8:3,4).

**Revelation 5:9****And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation.**

Textual evidence attests to the use of the word "them" instead of the word "us" with reference to the redeemed. The reading "us" was probably taken from the Latin Vulgate. A better translation would be, *"You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed them to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation."*

**Revelation 5:10****And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."**Revelation 20: 4-6  
Matthew 4:17

Once again the use of the word "them" in place of "us" and "we" is a better translation of the original. In the new earth the Saints will reign as kings and priests (Revelation 20:4-6). In this present world the Saints can reign as kings over the powers of the evil in the spiritual kingdom of Jesus (Matthew 4:17).

**Revelation 5:11****Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands.**Revelation 12:3,4  
Revelation 1:20

In response to the testimony of the four beasts and the 24 elders, the hosts of heaven join in acclaiming the worthiness of the Lamb. Thus God is vindicated before the angels in banishing Satan and saving man (Revelation 12:3,4; Revelation 1:20).

**Revelation 5:12****Saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!"**

This song of praise is sevenfold. In as much as seven signifies perfection it implies that the praise of heaven is complete and perfect.

**Revelation 5:13****And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"**

And in response to the praise from the hosts of heaven, all creation joins in adoration of the Father and the Son. Christ is victor, and the character of God is vindicated before the whole universe.

**Revelation 5:14****Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.**

# The Opening of the Seals

## Revelation Chapter Six

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### Revelation 6:1

**Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see."**

Like the messages to the seven churches (Revelation 2,3) the scenes revealed when the seals are opened have both a specific and a general application. They relate to successive phases in the history of the church on earth.

### Revelation 6:2

**And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.**

The first horse and its rider can be understood as representing the church in the apostolic age (31–100 A.D.), when its purity of faith (suggested by the color white) and its zeal led it forth to make the greatest spiritual conquests in Christian history. Probably no century has seen such a brilliant expansion of the kingdom of God. The bow in the rider's hand would symbolize conquest, and the crown victory. So swiftly was the gospel carried that when writing to the Colossians about the year 62 A.D. Paul declared that the good news had been "*preached to every creature which is under heaven*" (Colossians 1:23). The first seal parallels the experience of the church at Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-7).

Colossians 1:23  
Revelation 2:1-7

### Revelation 6:3

**When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see."**

The second seal represents the conditions under which the church operated from 100-313 A.D. This was a time of extreme persecution and parallels the time period of the church at Smyrna (Revelation 2:8-11).

Revelation 2:8-11

### Revelation 6: 4

**Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that *people* should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.**

The violent persecutions suffered by the church at the hands of the Roman Caesars are well characterized by a horseman who carries a "*great sword*" and has power "*to take peace from the earth.*" If white represents purity of faith, then red may be regarded as a symbol of blood, suffering and persecutions (Romans 8:31-39).

Romans 8:31-39

### Revelation 6:5

**When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.**

The condition of the church was now black. She lost her purity after Christianity was outwardly accepted by the state. Her faith was corrupted by the false doctrines and pagan practices that were introduced. This time period parallels that of the church of Pergamos (313-538 A.D.) The color black represents a corruption of faith, and the "*pair of scales*" represents a time of judgment (Daniel 5:24-28).

Daniel 5:24-28

### Revelation 6:6

**And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."**

During this time period (313-538 A.D.) the truth of the Bible was in very short supply, thus the symbolism of wheat (bread of life – Jesus) and barley (Word of God – Bible) being very scarce and expensive (Matthew 4:4; Jeremiah 15:16). According to grain prices, the prices mentioned by John were about 8 to 16 times higher than normal. Oil often symbolizes the Holy Spirit, and wine, the atoning blood of Christ - two essentials for salvation (Zechariah 4:2-6; Revelation 4:5; Luke 22:20).

Matthew 4:4  
Jeremiah 15:16  
Zechariah 4:2-6  
Revelation 4:5  
Luke 22:20

Acts 20:28-30  
2 Thess. 2:1-10

### Revelation 6:7

**When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see."**

This time period (538-1517 A.D.) parallels the church of Thyatira. The rider (or conditions strongly influencing the church) is named Death. The horse is pale or near death. There can be little doubt that this symbolizes the "dark ages" when an attempt was made by Satan to extinguish true Christianity (Acts 20:28-30; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-10).

### Revelation 6:8

**So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.**

With the pale horse the times of distress reached a fearful climax. The series—sword, hunger, death (or pestilence), and beasts—may be thought of as portraying the progressive deterioration of civilization that follows warfare. The ravages of the sword, killing men and destroying crops, produce hunger; hunger, resulting in the breakdown of health, brings pestilence; and when pestilence has taken its toll, human society is so weakened that it cannot protect itself against the inroads of wild beasts. When applied to a particular period of Christian history, the fourth horseman portrays the characteristic of the period from about 538 to 1517, the beginning of the Reformation.

### Revelation 6:9

**When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.**

Remember Revelation is symbolic. Any attempt to interpret these "souls" as disembodied martyrs does not fit into the symbolic nature of the prophecy. There are no white, red, black, or pale horses with warlike riders in Heaven – it's symbolic, nor does Jesus appear in the form of a lamb bleeding from a wound in Heaven – it's symbolic. Likewise, there are no "souls" lying at the base of an altar in heaven. The whole scene is a symbolic representation designed to teach an important lesson.

### Revelation 6:10

**And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"**

The symbolization of the fifth seal was presented to encourage those who faced martyrdom and death, with the assurance that despite the seeming triumph of the enemy, vindication would ultimately come. Such an encouragement would be particularly heartening for those living in the time of the terrible persecutions during the time of the Reformation. To them, it must have seemed that the long period of oppression would never end. The message of the fifth seal was a reassurance that the cause of God would ultimately triumph. The souls cry out in the same sense as did the blood of Able (Genesis 4:9-10).

Genesis 4:9-10

### Revelation 6:11

**Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both *the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.***

In vision John observes the "souls" being clothed, each one in a white robe. The representation is designed to show that the martyrs are recognized and distinguished by God as conquerors. The martyrs have been at rest ever since they laid down their lives, and will continue to be at rest until the resurrection. Yet their blood will not be vindicated till all who are to die for Christ have laid down their lives. It was necessary that a certain time elapse so that the true nature of Satan's actions might be fully demonstrated, and God thereby may be shown righteous.

On the condition of the dead, see the following verses: Ecclesiastes 9:5,6; Ecclesiastes 9:10; Psalm 6:5; Psalm 115:17; Job 14:21; Acts 2:26,34; John 11:11-14; Matthew 27:52,53; Job 14:12-15; Job 19:26; John 5:28,29; I Corinthians 15:51-55; I Thessalonians 4:16-18; Luke 20:34-36.

Ecclesiastes 9:5,6  
Ecclesiastes 9:10  
Psalm 6:5 & 115:17  
Job 14:21  
Acts 2:26,34  
John 11:11-14  
Matthew 27:52,53  
Job 14:12-15  
Job 19:26  
John 5:28,29  
I Corinthians 15:51-55  
I Thess. 4:16-18  
Luke 20:34-36

Matthew 24:29

#### Revelation 6:12

**I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.**

At the opening of the sixth seal four great signs take place: a great earthquake, the sun turns black, the moon turns blood red, and the stars of heaven fall (meteoric shower). In Matthew 24:29 Jesus predicted that these signs would immediately follow the "tribulation of those days" (the dark ages).

- The most extensively felt earthquake ever recorded occurred on November 1, 1755. It centered in Lisbon, Portugal and extended over at least four million square miles. It pervaded the greater portions of the continents of Europe, Africa, and America.
- The "darkening of the Sun" was literally fulfilled on May 19, 1780. Note the following quotation; *"The 19th of May, 1780, was a remarkable dark day. Candles were lighted in many houses; the birds were silent and disappeared, and the fowls retired to roost. The legislature of Connecticut was then in session at Hartford. A very general opinion prevailed, that the Day of Judgment was at hand. The House of Representatives, being unable to transact their business, adjourned. A proposal to adjourn the Council was under consideration. When the opinion of Colonel [Abraham] Davenport was asked, he answered, 'I am against an adjournment. The day of judgment is either approaching, or it is not. If it is not, there is no cause of adjournment: if it is, I choose to be found doing my duty. I wish therefore that candles may be brought."* Timothy Dwight, quoted in Connecticut Historical Collections, compiled by John Warner Barber (2nd ed.; New Haven: Durrie & Peck and J.W. Barber, 1836), p. 403.
- Following is a description of the moon on that same night; *"The moon, which was at its full, had the appearance of blood [at about midnight]. The alarm that it caused and the frequent talk about it impressed it deeply on my mind."* Stone's History of Beverly, Massachusetts.

#### Revelation 6:13

**And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.**

The Leonid Star Shower of November 13, 1833 was a wonderful fulfillment of this prophecy. *"The morning of November 13th, 1833, was rendered memorable by an exhibition of the phenomenon called shooting stars, which was probably more extensive and magnificent than any similar one hitherto recorded."* Denison Olmsted, The American Journal of Science and the Arts, 25 (Jan 1834), p. 363.

#### Revelation 6:14

**Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.**

Matthew 24:29-31

These events are still in the future and are closely connected with the actual appearing of Jesus in the heavens (Matthew 24:29-31).

#### Revelation 6:15

**And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,**

The list covers the social and political positions of John's day.

#### Revelation 6:16

**And said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!"**

Luke 23:28-31

To face God now is more fearful than to face death itself (Luke 23:28-31).

#### Revelation 6:17

**For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"**

Thus far in the portrayal of the terrible events that precede the Second Advent, no indication has been given that anyone survives them. Hence the dramatic question, *"Who shall be able to stand?"* Chapter seven breaks the sequence of the seals in order to give the answer.

# The 144,000

## Revelation Chapter Seven

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### Revelation 7:1

**After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.**

These angels represent divine agencies in the world holding back the forces of evil until the work of God on human hearts is complete and the people of God are sealed in their foreheads. When the four angels finally let go and cease holding in check the malicious designs of Satan and the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose and the whole world will be plunged into a terrible time of trouble (Daniel 12:1-3; Luke 21:10:11).

Daniel 12:1-3  
Luke 21:10,11

### Revelation 7:2

**Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,**

The sealing of God's servants will be completed just before the winds of strife are let loose, and just before the close of probation when the pronouncement of Revelation 22:11 is made. The sealing of God's people prepares them to stand through the fearful times of stress that will precede the second coming of Jesus. As in ancient times a seal on an object testified to its ownership, so the seal of God upon His people symbolizes that He recognizes them as His own (2 Timothy 2:19).

Revelation 22:11  
2 Timothy 2:19

### Revelation 7:3

**Saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."**

The seal of God is based on character qualifications (Ezekiel 9:2-6) only those who reflect the character of God will receive the seal or mark of God. This seal, however, is not a literal mark in the forehead - remember Revelation is a symbolic prophetic book. The decision-making powers of the mind are in the forehead. It is here that man chooses to obey God or not. It will be seen that this ultimate decision has been made when despite problems with buying and selling and the death decree, God's people will continue to obey Him and not submit to the beast, (Revelation 13:15-18). The seal of God is the sign of His authority and is accepted (in the forehead, or mind) by His people. The Mark of the Beast is the sign of the beast's authority and his followers will also accept the mark of the Beast in their forehead or mind. The outward, visible sign of God's seal upon the character will be the observance of the Ten Commandments (John 14:15).

Ezekiel 9:2-6  
Revelation 13:15-18  
John 14:15

### Revelation 7:4

**And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:**

The 144 000 represent those who are "able to stand" through the events portrayed in chapter 6:17. They have the "seal of the living God" and are protected in the time of universal destruction, as were those who possessed the mark in Ezekiel's vision (Ezekiel 9:6). Twelve is a significant number in the Bible, because there were 12 tribes in Israel and 12 Apostles. The 144 000 (12,000 x 12) are symbolic of those belonging to spiritual Israel, the Christian church (Romans 2:28,29).

Ezekiel 9:6  
Romans 2:28,29

### Revelation 7:5

**Of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed;**

The Twelve tribes listed here are not in the same order as found in the Old Testament. Each tribe has a specific meaning and when linked together in the order that John gives, we find a summary of the experience of those symbolized by the 144,000.

**Judah** means, "I will praise the Lord."

**Reuben** means, "He has looked on me."

**Gad** means, "Given good fortune."

### Revelation 7:6

**Of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed.**

**Asher** means, "Happy am I"

**Naphtali** means, "for my wrestling."

**Manasseh** means, "God is making me forget."

### Revelation 7:7

**Of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand were sealed;**

**Simeon** means, "God hears me."

**Levi** means, "And is joined to me."

**Issachar** means, "He has purchased me."

### Revelation 7:8

**Of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed.**

**Zabulon** means, "A dwelling."

**Joseph** means, "God shall add to me."

**Benjamin** means, "the son of his right hand."

When linked together in the order that John lists the tribes we find the following: "I will praise the Lord, He has looked on me and given good fortune. Happy am I for my wrestling, God is making me forget. God hears me and is joined to me, He has purchased me a dwelling. God shall add to me the son of his right hand."

### Revelation 7:9

**After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands.**

Matthew 22:1-14  
John 12:13

The great multitude is a reference to all who are saved throughout history. Here they are pictured victorious and in heaven. They come from every nation and people and are clothed in white robes, a symbol of the righteousness of Christ (Matthew 22:1-14). They have palm branches in their hands, a symbol of victory and worship (John 12:13).

### Revelation 7:10

**And crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"**

Genesis 1:26,27  
Galatians 5:22,23

This is recognition by the numberless multitude that God and the Lamb have redeemed them. In the beginning before man sinned, he was made "in the image of God." Reflecting the beauty of the Creator's love like a clean, unblemished mirror (Genesis 1:26,27). God's supreme objective in our salvation is to see that "image" restored. This is the ultimate focal point - the final goal - of God's saving plan. The way of achieving this goal is by means of the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit is within us we are changed from the inside out. In character and conduct we begin to reflect once more the image of God. When the Holy Spirit works within us our lives will begin to produce the "Fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22,23).

### Revelation 7:11

**All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God.**

Romans 8:18;  
1 Corinthians 2:9

All of heaven now joins in praise and worship of God. Through the work of salvation, the redeemed are fully restored in body, mind, and character into the image of the Creator. They are forever delivered from sin and death and enjoy face-to-face communion with God. Their salvation is gloriously complete. (Romans 8:18; 1 Corinthians 2:9).

Revelation 5:12

**Revelation 7:12**

**Saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."**

This is a sevenfold song of praise that is similar to that of Revelation 5:12.

Revelation 6:17  
Revelation 7:1-4

**Revelation 7:13**

**Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"**

*"Arrayed in white robes"* is a reference to those who are *"able to stand"* at the second coming of Jesus (Revelation 6:17). They are also identified as the 144,000 who have the seal of God (Revelation 7:1-4).

Daniel 12:1,2  
Psalm 91:5-11  
Revelation 12:11

**Revelation 7:14**

**And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

This "great tribulation" is the time of trouble that just precedes the second advent of Jesus (Daniel 12:1,2; Psalm 91:5-11). The saints are triumphant, not on their own account, but because of the victory won by Christ on Calvary (Revelation 12:11). Christ's righteousness has won the victory, and upon accepting His righteousness sinners become both righteous and victorious.

John 1:14

**Revelation 7:15**

**Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.**

The redeemed are constantly in the presence of God. They shall never be deprived of His sustenance and His favor. To be without the presence of God is utter loss; to have Him dwell among us is salvation evermore (John 1:14).

Isaiah 49:10  
Revelation 16:8,9

**Revelation 7:16**

**They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat.**

This verse is a reference to Isaiah 49:10, where abundance was promised to the returning Jews from Babylon. The promise will find ultimate fulfillment in the experience of spiritual Israel. Intense heat is part of the fourth plague (Revelation 16:8,9). This would suggest that the 144 000 are living on the earth in the final moments of history when the seven last plagues are being poured out.

John 10:11  
John 4:14  
Revelation 22:1

**Revelation 7:17**

**For the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."**

Although it is usually the lamb that is shepherded, here the Lamb is revealed as the true shepherd (John 10:11). The *"living fountains of water"* is a reference to John 4:14. See also Revelation 22:1. The phrase *"wipe away all tears"* is a figure of speech signifying that in the future world there will be no pain, sorrow or death – no cause for tears.

# The Trumpets (part 1)

## Revelation Chapter Eight

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Revelation 6:17  
Numbers 14:34  
Ezekiel 4:6  
Matthew 25:31

### Revelation 8:1

**When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.**

Chapter 6 portrays the opening of the first six seals. Chapter 7 interrupts the opening of the seals to show that God has a true people who will be able to stand through the time of trouble preceding the Second Coming of Jesus (Revelation 6:17). Now the vision returns to the opening of the seals. On the basis of prophetic time, a day represents a literal year (Numbers 14:34, Ezekiel 4:6). A “*half an hour*” would be equal to about one literal week. Heaven is silent because Jesus has left with all his angels to return to this earth to receive His own (Matthew 25:31).

Judges 7:18

### Revelation 8:2

**And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.**

The significance of the number “seven” ties in with the seven Church’s and the seven Seals. In the present vision the seven angels blow their trumpets to announce forthcoming divine judgments. Trumpets were often used in Bible times as a signal for war, thus the seven trumpets announce Gods acts of war or judgments (Judges 7:18).

Hebrews 8:1,2

### Revelation 8:3

**Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.**

The imagery for this verse is taken from the earthly sanctuary. The earthly sanctuary was a miniature of the heavenly sanctuary, and the services of the earthly were a shadow of the priestly ministry of Christ in the heavenly (Hebrews 8:1,2).

Romans 8:34  
1 John 2:1

### Revelation 8:4

**And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand.**

The scene of the angel adding incense to the prayers of the saints is a symbolic representation of the high priestly ministry of Jesus for His people (Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1). Christ, as intercessor, mingles His merits with the prayers of the saints, which are thereby made acceptable to God.

### Revelation 8:5

**Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw *it* to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.**

A change suddenly comes in the scene of intercession. Once more the angel fills his censer with coals of fire, but adds no incense. The judgments that follow are not mingled with the atoning merits of Christ’s righteousness, thus these judgments are on the wicked. The casting of the censer to the earth indicates that judgment takes place on the earth. The trumpets announce certain issues that require judgment by God.

1 Corinthians 14:8

### Revelation 8:6

**And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.**

Trumpets were often used in Bible times as a signal for war or calling peoples attention to some significant announcement or event. Thus the seven trumpets announce certain events, wars, and judgments that were enacted during the Christian era (1 Corinthians 14:8). The trumpets retrace the period of Christian history already covered by the seven churches (chapters 2 & 3) and the seven seals (chapter 6), but they emphasize certain issues of judgment.

### Revelation 8:7

**The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.**

Luke 23:31  
Matthew 24:15-20  
Luke 21:20,21  
Ezekiel 20:44-49

The first trumpet is the enactment of judgment upon Israel in fulfillment to the words of Jesus (Luke 23:31). This was fulfilled with the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70 and the subsequent scattering of Israel (Matthew 24:15-20; Luke 21:20,21). The “trees” and “green grass” symbolizes the ten’s of thousands who were killed in the destruction of Jerusalem (Ezekiel 20:44-49).

### Revelation 8:8

**Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood.**

Jeremiah 51:25  
Revelation 17:15

In Jeremiah 51:25 Babylon is described as a “*destroying mountain*” that will be made a “*burnt mountain*.” A mountain in prophecy symbolizes a kingdom and the “*sea*” symbolizes people (Revelation 17:15). The second trumpet has been seen as describing the attacks of the Vandals on Rome. Driven from their settlements in Thrace by the incursions of the Huns from Central Asia, the Vandals migrated through Gaul (now France) and Spain into Roman North Africa and established a kingdom centering around Carthage. From there they dominated the western Mediterranean with a navy of pirates, pillaging the coasts of Spain, Italy, and even Greece, and preying upon Roman shipping. The high point of their depredations came in A.D. 455, when for two weeks they looted and pillaged the city of Rome.

### Revelation 8:9

**And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.**

Exodus 7:20

This judgment is reminiscent of the first plague in Egypt (Exodus 7:20). The phrase “*a third of the living creatures in the sea died*” symbolizes the wholesale slaughter of life that accompanied the attacks of the Vandals by their fleet of pirate ships in the Mediterranean.

### Revelation 8:10

**Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water.**

Isaiah 14:12  
Luke 10:18  
Psalm 119:105  
John 7:37-39  
John 4:13,14

The issue to be judged involves Satan and his corruption of the truth. This began in heaven when Lucifer turned the truth of God into a lie. He was then cast out of heaven, and has continued his work of corruption of the truth, especially during the years following the legalization of Christianity when the Roman church adopted many pagan ideas and teachings. This is an issue worthy of judgment and requires God’s people to be aware of Satan’s attacks against the truth. The “*great star*” is a symbol of Satan (Isaiah 14:12 & Luke 10:18). The “*lamp*” is a symbol of God’s Word (Psalm 119:105). And “*rivers and fountains*” are symbols for truth (John 7:37-39 & John 4:13,14).

### Revelation 8:11

**The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.**

Deuteronomy 29:17,18

Wormwood is a bitter herb and in the present passage it symbolizes truth being defiled by false doctrines (Deuteronomy 29:17,18). This especially happened after the year of A.D. 303. In response to this corruption of truth judgment came when the Huns (under the leadership of Attila) invaded Europe in the 5th century. The Huns raised havoc in various regions of Europe and devastated much of the collapsing Roman Empire. The Huns, like the Vandals, were extremely brutal and caused some of the worst slaughter and destruction Europe had ever seen.

### Revelation 8:12

**Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.**

2 Thess. 2:5-12

During the dark ages the truth about Christ (the Sun) and the Bible (the Moon) and the truth delivered through the Apostle (the stars) were darkened by the established church. Why was the truth darkened and who did it? This is an issue and worthy of judgment (2 Thessalonians 2:5-12).

### Revelation 8:13

**And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"**

This temporary break in the sequence of the trumpets calls special attention to the last three, which are specially designated as "woes." The woe is repeated three times because of the three judgments yet to come at the blowing of the three remaining trumpets.

### Summary of the Seven Trumpets

The Seven trumpets are warnings to the world of the judgments of God. In Bible times trumpets were used as a call for war (Judges 7:16-18). Also, the priests blew trumpets to signal the upcoming Day of Atonement, the annual Day of Judgment (Leviticus 23:23-32). The seven trumpets follow the pattern set by the seven seals and seven churches, but the trumpets focus on judgments that God pours out upon the persecutors of his people during these periods of time. The first six trumpets bring partial judgments, which warn the world of the Great Day of Judgment that will end with the final destruction of the wicked and Satan (Revelation 20:9-14). The seven trumpets answer the question of the "souls under the altar" on "how long until you avenge our blood?" (Revelation 6:10). In the seven trumpets God's judgments are seen against the persecutors of this people, especially Western Rome and Easton Rome, and the final destruction of all wicked at the Second Coming of Christ. The trumpets teach us that God will avenge his own though it may take what seems a long time (Deuteronomy 32:43; Luke 18:7,8; Romans 12:19).

1<sup>st</sup> Trumpet – Hail and Fire (Destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans – A.D. 70)

2<sup>nd</sup> Trumpet – Burning mountain (Attacks on Rome by the Vandals – A.D. 428-468)

3<sup>rd</sup> Trumpet – Falling Star (Compromising of truth / attacks by the Huns – A.D. 451)

4<sup>th</sup> Trumpet – Sun, Moon, and Stars darkened (Middle Ages and truth darkened by the established church – A.D. 306)

Judges 7:16-18  
Leviticus 23:23-32  
Revelation 20:9-14  
Revelation 6:10  
Deuteronomy 32:43  
Luke 18:7,8  
Romans 12:19

# The Trumpets (part 2)

## Revelation Chapter Nine

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Revelation 12:7-9  
Isaiah 14:12  
Luke 10:17-20  
Revelation 3:7  
Matthew 16:19  
Revelation 12:9

### Revelation 9:1

**Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.**

As discussed in chapter eight, the seven trumpets fall roughly into the same time period as does the seven churches and seals. The emphases of the trumpets are on issues relating to warnings, war and Judgment. The war that began in heaven now continues on earth between the forces of good and the forces of evil (Revelation 12:7-9). A *“star fallen from heaven”* is a term appearing in Isaiah 14:12 as a symbol of Satan being cast out of heaven to the earth (Luke 10:17-20). The possession of the *“key”* implies power to open or release something or someone (Revelation 3:7; Matthew 16:19). The *“bottomless pit”* is a term that designates the place of Satan’s throne or seat – the earth (Revelation 12:9). In the context of this trumpet the *“bottomless pit”* accurately depicts the vast wastes of the Arabian deserts from where the followers of Mohammed originated.

### Revelation 9:2

**And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.**

In the Old Testament wickedness is symbolized as smoke (Isaiah 9:18). Smoke is a vivid metaphor of the obscuring clouds of deception by which Satan sought to negate the gospel. The *“sun”* is symbolic of Jesus (Malachi 4:2; Revelation 1:16) and *“air”* symbolizes the Holy Spirit (John 3:8; John 20:22). Satan attacked the truth through the teachings of Islam [Smoke] that denies the divinity of Jesus [sun] and the Holy Spirit [air].

Isaiah 9:18  
Malachi 4:2  
Revelation 1:16  
John 3:8  
John 20:22

Muhammad was born in 570 AD in the Arabian city of Mecca. His mother Amina (who was a Christian) died when he was 6 and he was brought up under the care of his uncle. He later worked as a merchant and shepherd, and was first married at the age 25. Discontented with life in Mecca, he retreated to a cave in the surrounding mountains for meditation and reflection. According to Islamic beliefs it was here, at age 40, in the month of Ramadan, where he received the first of many visions. *“I went forth until, when I was midway on the mountain, I heard a voice from heaven saying, ‘O Mohammed! thou art the messenger of Allah, and I am Gabriel!’ I raised my head toward heaven to see, and lo, Gabriel in the form of a man, with feet set evenly on the rim of the sky, saying, ‘O Mohammed! thou art the messenger of Allah, and I am Gabriel!’”* (Koran, xcvi). Three years after this Muhammad started proclaiming these revelations publicly. Muhammad gained few followers early on, and was met with hostility from the inhabitants of Mecca. To escape persecution Muhammad and his followers migrated to Medina in 622 AD. In Medina, Muhammad united the conflicting tribes, and after eight years of fighting with the Meccan tribes he conquered Mecca without bloodshed. In 632 Muhammad fell ill and died. When he was born, Arabia was a collection of quarrelsome tribes. When he died, it was a single nation prepared to rapidly expand its borders and spread its religion.

### Revelation 9:3

**Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.**

The prophet Joel likens a plague of locusts to the invasion of a mighty army (Joel 1:4-10). The teachings of Islam united the Arabs of Arabia into a powerful nation, which propagated Islam using military force. Scorpions in the Bible symbolize false prophets, and demonic powers that oppose the truth and propagate lies (Ezekiel 2:6; Luke 10:19). The smoke that darkens the sun symbolizes the error and false teachings of Islam that darkened the truth of God from the minds of the people.

Joel 1:4-10  
Ezekiel 2:6  
Luke 10:19

Many Christians, including Martin Luther, Isaac Newton, Edward Gibbons, and others have identified the fifth and sixth trumpets as the rise and progress of Islam. In view of the tremendous military, religious, economic and cultural impact Islam has had on the world, especially in modern times, it is wise to carefully consider the impact this religion has had on the truths of God’s Word.

Ezekiel 9:4  
Ezekiel 20:12;  
Revelation 12:17

#### **Revelation 9:4**

**They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.**

Locusts destroy vegetation, not men. But these locusts are commanded not to harm any growing plant. Their attacks are to be directed only against unrighteous men. To have the seal of God upon your mind (forehead) is to hate evil and love that which is good (Ezekiel 9:4). It is to reflect the character of God and to keep his commandments, including the fourth (Ezekiel 20:12; Revelation 12:17). Only those who accepted the counterfeit Papal Sabbath suffered under the Islamic onslaught.

#### **Revelation 9:5**

**And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man.**

Five prophetic months is equal to 150 literal years (30 x 5 = 150). For 150 years, from 674 till 824 the Moslem armies repeatedly attacked Constantinople, capital of the Orthodox Catholic church, but they never succeeded to fully conquer it during that time. The symbol of scorpion's stings is a description of the Islamic attacks against the Catholic nations of Eastern Europe. They didn't destroy these nations but served as a continual distraction and affliction.

#### **Revelation 9:6**

**In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.**

Those who are deceived by Satan's lies are hopeless and lost, they have no meaning for living. Constant war and destruction made life miserable for those who rejected the Law of God. Europe was plunged into a time of distress and misery known as the "dark ages." It's interesting to note that when the Catholic church would rise up against the Sabbath keeping Waldensians and Reformers, then the Islamic Arabs would rise up against the Catholic nations of Europe and weaken the churches ability to persecute the Protestants.

#### **Revelation 9:7**

**The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men.**

The imagery for this passage comes from Joel 2, where swarms of locusts are described as horses running into battle. The Islamic invaders were expert horsemen. The use of horses was a prominent feature of the Arabian wars. Crowns are symbols of kingship. Satan used nations and kingdoms to propagate the errors of Islam. The "crowns like gold" could also be a reference to the turbans worn by the Arab invaders. The fact that the horses have human faces, could symbolize that Satan's lies were propagated through human agents, Mohammed and his followers.

#### **Revelation 9:8**

**They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.**

A woman in Bible prophecy symbolizes a church, good or bad (Revelation 12:1; Revelation 17:3). The fact that the Locusts have only the hair of women, but the faces of men, could indicate that the lies of Satan has to do with doctrines and beliefs – things that affect worship. The military campaigns of the Moslem Arabs were "holy wars" jihads.

Satan is described as a "roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). Satan's object with these lies and wars is to devour and destroy faith in God.

#### **Revelation 9:9**

**And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle.**

The Christian's armor consists of a breastplate which symbolizes righteousness (Ephesians 6:14). The breastplate of the enemy would then symbolize unrighteousness. Unrighteousness is disobedience to God's law (1 John 3:4). Chariots carried men to battle (Joel 2:5). The chariots here described could symbolize the medium used by Satan to carry forward his errors— military conquest.

Revelation 12:1  
Revelation 17:3  
1 Peter 5:8

Ephesians 6:14  
1 John 3:4  
Joel 2:5

Isaiah 9:14,15  
Revelation 12:3,4

#### **Revelation 9:10**

**They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months.**

The tails of scorpions symbolizes false prophets and false teachings (Isaiah 9:14,15; Revelation 12:3,4).

A period of five months is equal to 150 days/years (30 X 5 = 150). This time period has been identified as the 150 years when the Moslem armies repeatedly attacked Constantinople, capital of the Orthodox Catholic church, from 674 till 824.

#### **Revelation 9:11**

**And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.**

It is not natural for locusts to have a king over them, in Proverbs 30:27 we read, *“the locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands.”* The locusts in the present passage, however, are highly organized and are very effective in their propagation of error. *“Abaddon”* is a transliteration of the Hebrew meaning, “destruction” and “ruin.” Satan’s plan is to destroy faith in God, and thus bring about spiritual ruin. *“Apollyon”* means, “one who destroys,” “a destroyer.” This is a fitting description of the Moslem armies.

#### **Revelation 9:12**

**One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.**

The fifth Trumpet describes the rise of Islam and its powerful expansion towards the West. It portrays the military strength of the Moslem Arabs, and their success in discomfiting Eastern Nations.

#### **Revelation 9:13**

**Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God.**

The sixth trumpet (second woe) covers the second great expansion of the Islamic religion by the Turks (Ottoman Empire).

Revelation 6:9,10

#### **Revelation 9:14**

**Saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.”**

The word “angel” means, “messenger” and in prophecy angels are not always angelic beings, they can also represent people (Revelation 14:6) These four angels have been identified as the four Sultanies of the Turkish (Ottoman) empire, the capitals of which were at Bagdad, Damascus, Aleppo, and Iconium.

#### **Revelation 9:15**

**So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.**

The Turkish tribes moving west through Southern Russia invaded Iran and accepted the Moslem religion. They became the most powerful of all Islamic people and set out to convert Asia minor to Islam by military force. Remember that one prophetic day is equal to one literal year.

Numbers 14:34  
Ezekiel 4:6

- A year (360 days) = 360 years.
- A month (30 days) = 30 years.
- A day = 1 year.
- An hour (1/24 of a day = 1/24 of 360 days) = 15 days.
- Total = 391 years 15 days.

The significance of this time period was brought to light when Josiah Litch (a Millerite preacher) predicted that based on this time prophecy the Turkish Empire would submit to the nations of western Europe on August 11, 1840. His prediction was perfectly fulfilled. The word *“mankind”* refers not to individuals but rather to the Roman empire. Interestingly a third of Asia minor fell under the Islamic control of the Ottoman Turks.

**Revelation 9:16**

**Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.**

In ancient times the cavalry was the swiftest, most mobile branch of an army. It thus symbolizes the rapidity and scope with which the Turks conquered. *"The myriads of Turkish horses overspread a frontier of six hundred miles from Taurus to Arzeroum, and the blood of one hundred and thirty thousand Christians was a grateful sacrifice to the Arabian prophet."* - Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, Gibbon, vol. 6, chap. 42, pg 245.

**Revelation 9:17**

**And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone.**

The colors listed are descriptive of the Turkish uniform, in which the colors red, blue, and yellow had predominance. This comparison of the heads of the horses like the heads of lions suggests ferocity and power. Small firearms had just been invented. As the horseman, leaning forward on the horse, would discharge his weapon, it would appear as if the flame and smoke, from the gunpowder, was coming from the horses mouth.

**Revelation 9:18**

**By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths.**

The crowning conquest for the Ottoman Turks was the over through of Constantinople in 1453. The Turks built giant cannons that could shoot a stone ball that weighed six hundred pounds over a mile. The canons could be loaded and fired seven times a day. The cannons finally made a breach in the wall and the conquest of the city quickly followed. Thus it can be seen how fire, smoke, and brimstone led to the over through of a third of the Roman empire.

**Revelation 9:19**

**For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.**

Fire, smoke and brimstone is what issued from their mouths. This is referring to the military strength of firearms and canons used by the Turks. The tail is a reference to the prophet that teaches lies (Isaiah 9:14,15). And with it being like a serpent; we find that the serpent was used by Satan to deceive Eve in the garden of Eden (Genesis 3). Thus the power of the Turks was also in the teachings of the Koran and prophet - Mohammed.

Isaiah 9:14,15

**Revelation 9:20**

**But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.**

The word *'mankind'* is a reference to the Roman empire. The part of the empire that had not fallen to the Turks was western Rome under the leadership of the Papal power. The medieval church did not stop the practice of image worship, despite the defeats she suffered by the invading Islamic Turks.

**Revelation 9:21**

**And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.**

Despite repeated assaults by the Turks, western Rome continued to exalt tradition above the teachings of the Bible, and to persecute those who were calling for religious reform.

# The Little Book

## Revelation Chapter Ten

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### Revelation 10:1

**I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire.**

Chapter nine closes with the sounding of the sixth trumpet. The seventh trumpet does not sound until Revelation 11:15. Thus Revelation 10 is a prophecy that is inserted between the sixth and seventh trumpet. The same is seen with reference to the sequence of the sixth and seventh seal (Revelation 7:1-4). The significance of the angel coming down from heaven shows that the message given comes from God and is of great importance. The word angel in the Greek literally means “messenger.”

Revelation 11:15  
Revelation 7:1-4

### Revelation 10:2

**He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land.**

What is the “*little book*?” Notice the following:

Daniel 12:4  
Daniel 12:7  
Daniel 10:5,6  
Revelation 1:14,15  
Revelation 17:15

1. It is a “*little book*” – The book of Daniel only has 12 chapters.
2. The “*little book*” was opened at the time of the end – The book of Daniel was sealed until the time of the end (Daniel 12:4).
3. The “*little book*” contains an oath - the book of Daniel contains an oath (Daniel 12:7).
4. The angel (messenger) who made the oath in Daniel 12:7 is the same person who made the oath in Revelation 10. (Daniel 10:5,6; Revelation 1:14,15).

In prophecy “*sea*” represents “*peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues*” (Revelation 17:15). The “*land*” would then represent sparsely populated areas. The angel setting his “*right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land*” emphasizes the worldwide proclamation of the message.

### Revelation 10:3

**And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.**

The roar of a lion can be heard over a long distance. Jesus is described as the “*Lion of the tribe of Judah*” (Revelation 5:5). Several times in Scripture when God speaks His voice sounds like thunder (Psalm 29:3; John 12:28; Revelation 1:10).

Revelation 5:5  
Psalm 29:3  
John 12:28  
Revelation 1:10

### Revelation 10:4

**Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them.”**

It is obvious that John understood those things that were uttered for he was about to write them down. This passage indicates that John wrote the visions of Revelation as they were shown him. Like Daniel, long before, John is now bidden to “*seal up*” what the seven thunders had uttered (Daniel 12:4). God, in His wisdom, withheld the messages of the seven thunders.

Daniel 12:4

### Revelation 10:5

**The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven.**

As it is in our day so it was in Bible times, the lifting up of the hand was a gesture characteristic of the utterance of an oath (Genesis 14:21-23).

Genesis 14:21-23

### Revelation 10:6

**And swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer.**

Literally, *"time no more shall be."* What time is this prophecy referring to? It is literal time, probationary time, or prophetic time?

Revelation 10:11  
Revelation 11:1  
Revelation 22:11,12  
Daniel 8:14

1. Literal Time - It cannot be the end of literal time for at the end of the prophecy John is told to that he must *"prophesy again"* (Revelation 10:11). Thus it cannot be the end of time.
2. Probationary Time - It cannot be the end of probationary time for John is told to *"measure the people of God"* (Revelation 11:1) which has to take place before the close of probation (Revelation 22:11,12).
3. Prophetic Time - It must be prophetic time. In the book of Daniel the longest prophetic time is the 2300 prophetic days of Daniel 8:14 (457 B.C. - 1844 A.D.) At the close of this time period the cleansing of the sanctuary or judgment would commence.

### Revelation 10:7

**But in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.**

The sounding of the seventh angel announces the start of the judgment in Heaven (Revelation 11:15-19; Daniel 7:9,10 & 13,14). At the beginning of the time period referred to as the *"seventh trumpet"* (1844 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming) the *"mystery of God will be revealed."* What is the mystery of God? Paul states that the mystery of God is *"Christ in you, the hope of glory."* Colossians 1:27. The 2300 day/years of Daniel 8:14 reveals the time when the pre-advent judgment would commence in Heaven, which indeed reveals the *"mystery of God"* (Matthew 22:1-14).

Revelation 11:15-19  
Daniel 7:9,10,13,14  
Ephesians 3:3-4  
Matthew 22:1-14

### Revelation 10:8

**Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth."**

John is called upon to act a part in the vision. He represents those to whom this prophecy was fulfilled.

### Revelation 10:9

**So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth."**

John is placed here in the position of expressing his desire for the book. To *"eat"* the book means to study the book, to believe it and make it your own (Jeremiah 15:16). He acts the part of those who proclaimed the advent message in the years 1840–1844. Though mistaken in expecting Christ to return in 1844, they nevertheless were led of God, and found the message of the near advent precious to their souls. Their computation of the time element in the prophecy of Daniel 8:14 was correct, but they were mistaken as to the nature of the event to take place at the end of the 2300 days.

Jeremiah 15:16

### Revelation 10:10

**Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.**

Based on the study of Daniel 8:14 (2300 day/year prophecy) the early Advent believers interpreted the *"cleansing of the sanctuary"* to mean the cleansing of the earth with fire at the second coming of Jesus. Thus they came to the conclusion that Jesus would return in 1844. They ate the *"little book"* and it was in their *"mouth sweet as honey."* But when Jesus didn't come, the *"little book,"* once so sweet, now made their *"belly bitter."*

### Revelation 10:11

**And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."**

Revelation 14:6,7

As the full meaning of the three Angels message dawned upon the advent believers, they came to realize that it was a message for the whole world (Revelation 14:6,7).

# The Two Witnesses

## Revelation Chapter Eleven

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James 2:12  
1 Peter 4:17  
Matthew 22:11,12  
Leviticus 23:27  
Hebrews 8:1,2  
Daniel 8:14

### Revelation 11:1

**Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there."**

This reed, used as a measuring rod, symbolizes the law of God, which is the standard of judgment (James 2:12). The measuring of the temple and worshipers is a reference to the pre-advent judgment in heaven (1 Peter 4:17; Matthew 22:11,12). Following the great disappointment of 1844, the attention of the Adventist believers were directed to the work of Christ as high priest in the heavenly sanctuary and the commencement of the antitypical "*day of Atonement*" (Leviticus 23:27; Hebrews 8:1,2; Daniel 8:14).

### Revelation 11:2

**But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.**

Revelation 20:4

The court of the temple symbolizes the earth. The reason for not measuring the court is that the pre-advent judgment only involves those who have professed faith in Christ (spiritual Jews) the Gentiles (unrighteous) are judged at a latter time (Revelation 20:4). The phrase translated "*they will*" in the Greek is in the past tense, meaning that by the time the temple is measured the Gentiles would have already "*tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.*" The forty-two months (1260 days/years) represents the time period from 538-1798 when the Roman church trampled upon the truth of the Gospel.

### Revelation 11:3

**And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."**

Matthew 7:12  
Malachi 4:4,5  
Matthew 17:3  
Zechariah 4:1-6  
Psalm 119:105  
Proverbs 6:23  
Hebrews 4:12

The two witnesses represent the Bible, they are also described as:

- The "*Law and the Prophets*" (Matthew 7:12)
- "*Moses and Elijah*" (Malachi 4:4,5; Matthew 17:3)
- The "*Two Olive Trees*" (Zechariah 4:1-6, 11-14)
- The "*Two Candlesticks*" (Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 6:23)
- The "*Two Edged Sword*" (Hebrews 4:12)

The 1260 days is the same time period as the 42 months of the previous verse. It represents the 1260 years of Papal supremacy from 538 to 1798. Sackcloth is closely associated to a time of mourning and distress. During the 1260 years of Papal supremacy the two witnesses were restricted, misrepresented, and in some cases even prohibited by the established church.

### Revelation 11:4

**These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.**

2 Peter 1:21  
Psalms 119:105  
John 5:39

The "*two olive trees*" are symbols drawn from Zechariah 4:1-6 where they are portrayed as furnishing oil for the lamps of the sanctuary. Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit that inspired the writing of the Bible (2 Peter 1:21). The lampstands are a symbol of God's Word; "*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path*" (Psalms 119:105). Jesus declared that the Scriptures testify (or bear witness) of Him (John 5:39). And in Matthew 24:14 we read, "*And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*"

### Revelation 11:5

**And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.**

It is interesting to note that Elijah called fire down on the soldiers of king Ahaziah (2 Kings 1:10). Those who oppose, corrupt, and pervert the testimony of the two witnesses (the Bible) will experience the fulfillment of the prophecy of the destruction of the wicked (Malachi 4:1).

1 Kings 17:1  
Exodus 7:20

#### Revelation 11:6

**These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.**

The Word of God contains power to accomplish whatever God says. His Word, as spoken through Elijah, shut the heavens that it did not rain for three and a half years (1 Kings 17:1). It was the Word of the Lord through Moses that turned the waters to blood, which was the first of 10 plagues that fell upon Egypt (Exodus 7:20).

#### Revelation 11:7

**When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.**

The word "when" is elsewhere translated as "while." In other words, while the Two Witnesses are finishing their prophesying in sackcloth (538-1798), the beast from the bottomless pit would make war with them.

According to Daniel 7:17 a beast in Bible prophecy symbolizes a kingdom or nation. This beast then symbolizes a kingdom or nation that would make war with the Bible (the Two Witnesses) as the 1260 prophetic days (538-1798) were ending. Right on time a nation did arise and make war with the scriptures. In 1793 a decree passed the French Assembly forbidding the Bible. Bibles were gathered and burned in the streets of Paris and every possible mark of contempt was heaped upon them.

#### Revelation 11:8

**And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.**

Genesis 19:4,5  
Exodus 5:2  
Matthew 25:40  
Acts 26:14

Sodom is symbolic of moral corruption (Genesis 19:4,5) and Egypt is symbolic of Atheism (Exodus 5:2). Such were the conditions in France during the Revolution. Bibles were burned and the existence of God was denied. *"With blasphemous boldness almost beyond belief, one of the priests of the new order said: 'God, if You exist, avenge Your injured name. I bid You defiance! You remain silent; You dare not launch Your thunders. Who after this will believe in Your existence?'"* - History of Europe, Vol. I, ch. 10.

Jesus was crucified in the sense that he was denied, His word was destroyed, and His followers were persecuted (Matthew 25:40). When Jesus confronted Saul (Paul) on the road to Damascus He said, *"Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"* (Acts 26:14). Whatever is done to Christ's followers He accepts as being done to Himself.

#### Revelation 11:9

**Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves.**

Numbers 14:34  
Ezekiel 4:6

The other nations of Europe witnessed the war against the Bible during the French Revolution. In Bible prophecy one day equals one year (Numbers 14:34 & Ezekiel 4:6), thus we have a time period of three and a half years, in which, the Bible was to be "put to death." *"In 1793, the decree passed the French Assembly suppressing the Bible. Just three years after, a resolution was introduced into the Assembly going to supersede the decree, and giving toleration to the Scriptures. That resolution lay on the table six months, when it was taken up, and passed without a dissenting vote....on the 17th of June 1797."* - Midnight Cry, Vol. 4, page 47.

#### Revelation 11:10

**And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.**

There was great rejoicing and merry making over the death of the testimony of the Scriptures that was convicting and troubling the conscience. *"France stands apart in the world's history as the single state which, by the decree of her Legislative Assembly, pronounced there was no God, and of which the entire population of the capital, and a vast majority elsewhere, women as well as men, danced and sang with joy in accepting the announcement."* - Blackwood's Magazine, Nov, 1870.

Isaiah 9:14,15  
Revelation 12:3,4

#### Revelation 11:11

**Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.**

As we have already seen, the decree that went forth to completely suppress the Scriptures was overturned just three and a half years later. Those who had rejoiced over the death of the witnesses stood in amazement as they saw the Bible translated into more languages and distributed to more places than ever before. Their guilty consciences were awakened as they realize their sin in warring against the Word of God.

#### Revelation 11:12

**And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.**

Soon after the French Revolution various national Bible societies were established. Particularly notable among these were the British and Foreign Bible Society, founded in 1804, and the American Bible Society, organized in 1816. These societies translated the Bible into more than 1,500 languages. Thus the Bible, instead of than being destroyed, was given its widest circulation. The world has never seen any other book translated into more languages and distributed to more places then the Bible.

Mark 13:8  
Revelation 16:18  
Revelation 17:3-5

#### Revelation 11:13

**In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.**

The symbol of an earthquake is used repeatedly in Scripture to portray turmoil and upheaval (Mark 13:8; Revelation 16:18). "*The French Revolution was one of the momentous events in the history, not only of France, but of Europe and even the whole world.*" - Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers, Vol. 2, pg. 633. A tenth part of spiritual Babylon fell at the time of the French revolution (Revelation 17:3-5). France is one of the ten horns that arose out of the divided Western Roman Empire and gave its allegiance to the papal power. Now she falls in a political and religious upheaval.

Isaiah 40:8

#### Revelation 11:14

**The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.**

The French Revolution is noted in prophecy for its war against the Bible and its defiance of God. Voltaire, the French infidel who died in 1778, said that within 100 years of his time, Christianity would be swept away from existence and pass into the obscurity of history. Yet 50 years after his death, the Geneva Bible Society used his house and printing press to produce thousands of Bibles. "*The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.*" (Isaiah 40:8)

Revelation 8:13  
Matthew 4:8-9  
Daniel 7:9-10,13-14;  
Daniel 8:14  
Revelation 10:5-7  
Revelation 19:11,16  
Daniel 2:44,45  
Matthew 21:44

#### Revelation 11:15

**Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"**

This marks the beginning of the third woe (Revelation 8:13) and the end of the inserted vision between the sixth and seventh trumpets. Satan has usurped the kingdoms of this world; he claims them as his own and used them in tempting Jesus (Matthew 4:8-9). Christ receives His kingdom in the heavenly judgment which began at the end of the 2300 prophetic days of Daniel 8:14 and ends at the close of probation (Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Daniel 8:14; Revelation 10:5-7). Christ comes back the second time as King of kings and Lord of lords; it is then that He begins to reign forever and ever (Revelation 19:11,16). Christ's kingdom will destroy all others and will fill the whole earth (Daniel 2:44,45; Matthew 21:44).

Matthew 27:51-53  
Ephesians 4:8  
Job 1:6  
Isaiah 24:23  
Revelation 21:1-4

### Revelation 11:16

**And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God.**

There are two suggestions as to the identity of the twenty-four elders:

1. They are the ones resurrected at the time of Christ's resurrection and were taken to Heaven (Matthew 27:51-53; Ephesians 4:8).
2. They are created beings from other worlds that have not sinned (Job 1:6; Isaiah 24:23).

The reign of Christ will bring an end to sin and Satan, and the full restoration of the earth. For 6000 years those in heaven have seen the results of sin and they now rejoice to see the kingdoms of this world become Christ's forever (Revelation 21:1-4).

### Revelation 11:17

**Saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.**

The expression, "*One who is and who was and who is to come*," emphasizes the eternal, self-existence of God. God is worthy of praise for through Christ He has triumphed over sin and death, and has redeemed mankind unto Himself (Titus 2:13,14). The reign of Satan is permitted in order for the true nature of evil to be revealed. When that purpose has been accomplished, then God takes His "*great power*" and once more reigns supreme on the earth (1 Corinthians 15:22-24.)

Titus 2:13,14  
1 Corinthians 15:22-24

### Revelation 11:18

**The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth."**

The word translated "*nations*" is also translated as "*gentiles*." The wicked will band together to persecute the people of God just prior to the second coming of Jesus (Mathew 24:9; Daniel 12:1). The wrath of God is revealed in the seven last plagues (Revelation 15:1). The wicked dead are judged during the thousand years (1 Corinthians 6:2, Revelation 20:4). The saints will be rewarded with eternal life at the second coming of Jesus and they will inherit the new earth at the end of the 1000 years (Psalms 37:11). The wicked are slain at the second coming of Jesus but are finally destroyed at the end of the millennium (2 Thessalonians 2:8; Revelation 20:14,15).

Mathew 24:9  
Daniel 12:1  
Revelation 15:1  
1 Corinthians 6:2  
Revelation 20:4  
Psalms 37:11  
2 Thessalonians 2:8  
Revelation 20:14,15

### Revelation 11:19

**Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.**

In the ministration of the earthly tabernacle, which served "*unto the example and shadow of heavenly things*," the Most Holy apartment was opened only upon the great Day of Atonement for the cleansing of the sanctuary. Therefore the announcement that the temple of God was opened in heaven and the ark of His testament was seen points to the opening of the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary in 1844 as Christ entered there to perform the closing work of the atonement. (Exodus 25:8,9; Hebrews 9:1,2). In the ark of the Covenant is the Ten Commandments, God's immutable law for all men in all ages. John's vision of the ark reveals that in earth's last hours God's great law is to be central in the lives of all who seek to serve Him in spirit and in truth (Revelation 12:17).

Exodus 25:8,9  
Hebrews 9:1,2  
Revelation 12:17

### Summary

The seventh Trumpet represents the time period from 1844 until the second coming of Jesus. During this time attention is focused upon the high priestly ministry of Jesus in the Most Holy place. It is a time of judgment and the manifestation of the Law of God in the lives of His people. At the conclusion of this judgment the "*kingdoms of this world*" become the "*kingdoms of our Christ*." Probation closes, the plagues are poured out, and then Jesus comes as "*King of kings and Lord of lords*" to claim His kingdom.

# The Dragon and the Woman

## Revelation Chapter Twelve

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Jeremiah 6:2  
Ephesians 5:25-27  
Malachi 4:2  
John 8:12  
John 5:46-47

### Revelation 12:1

**Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.**

God's people, who are His Church, are likened unto "a lovely and delicate woman" in the Bible (Jeremiah 6:2). This woman, clothed with the sun, is a representation of the True Church (Ephesians 5:25-27) The sun is the source of light and is therefore the symbol of Christ "*the Sun of righteousness*" and "*the light of the world.*" (Malachi 4:2; John 8:12). The church can only be the light of the world when it is clothed with the righteousness of Christ.

The moon is a reflector of the light of the Sun. So the Old Testament is a reflector of the Gospel through types and shadows (John 5:46-47). Notice that the 12 stars constitute the crown. A crown denotes ruler-ship and organization. The Old Testament Church had 12 tribes and 12 Judges. The 12 Apostles led the New Testament Church. The number 144,000 symbolizes the Remnant Church, the Church that will be translated, which is 12 x 12 x 1000. This woman represents the Church of God of all ages, in both the Old and New Testament.

Luke 2:25-33

### Revelation 12:2

**Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.**

Here we have a representation of God's people awaiting the coming of the Messiah. This is seen in the instance with Simeon and Anna, when Christ was brought to the temple to be dedicated (Luke 2:25-33).

John 12:31  
Daniel 7:7,8,& 23,24

### Revelation 12:3

**And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.**

Primarily the dragon symbolizes Satan, verse 9. But we also see that this dragon tried to devour/destroy Christ at His birth. It was Satan working through Pagan Rome that tried to destroy Jesus. So we see that the dragon is not only Satan but it also symbolizes Pagan Rome. Satan is the ruler of the kingdoms of this world (John 12:31) and controls them to the extent that God permits. So, although the dragon is clearly identified as Satan (vs.9) the Seven Heads represent the nations and kingdoms Satan uses to persecute God's people. The fourth beast of Daniel 7 also has ten horns (Daniel 7:7,8,& 23,24). According to the explanation given to Daniel by the Angel, the ten horns are ten kings. As the Roman empire fell it was divided into ten different nations. The seven diadems (crowns) symbolize ruler-ship and kingship.

2 Peter 2:4  
Matthew 2:16

### Revelation 12:4

**His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.**

The stars represent a third part of the heavenly angels, who joined Lucifer in his rebellion and were expelled from heaven (2 Peter 2:4). Trying to "*devour her Child*" represents the efforts of Satan to destroy the infant Jesus by Herod (Matthew 2:16).

Psalm 2:8,9  
Hebrews 10:12,13

### Revelation 12:5

**She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.**

This is an allusion to Psalm 2:8,9 and is a reference to the ascension of Jesus (Hebrews 10:12,13).

### Revelation 12:6

**Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.**

Numbers 14:34  
Ezekiel 4:6

The wilderness represents a place of seclusion. The church would be in a place of obscurity, away from public gaze. In Bible prophecy a prophetic day equals a literal year (Num. 14:34 & Ezek. 4:6). Thus 1260 days equals 1260 literal years. This time period began in A.D. 538 when the Papacy began to persecute those who opposed its doctrines, and ended in A.D. 1798 when the Pope was taken captive to France. During this period God's hand was over His church, preserving it from extinction.

### Revelation 12:7

**And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought.**

Daniel 12:1  
Jude 1:9  
1 Thessalonians 4:16  
John 5:28

John now presents briefly the history of the great controversy between Satan and Christ, from its origin in heaven, to the cross, and down to the time of the end.

Michael literally means, "*who is like God.*" Michael can be positively identified as Jesus as follows:

- Daniel 12:1 - "*Michael...the great prince which stands for the children of thy people.*"
- Jude 1:9 - "*Michael the archangel*" (archangel means arch or ruler over the angels).
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16 – "*The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel... and the dead in Christ shall rise first.*"
- John 5:28 – "*All that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth.*"

### Revelation 12:8

**But they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.**

Luke 10:18

Lucifer and his angels lost the war and as a result they were cast out of heaven (Luke 10:18).

### Revelation 12:9

**So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**

2 Peter 2:4  
Job 1:6,7  
John 12:31  
Matthew 4:8,9

Satan and his angels were cast out of heaven prior to the creation of this world (2 Peter 2:4). Nevertheless, it seems that until the cross he had access to heavenly beings as the "*prince of this world*" (Job 1:6,7; John 12:31). When the earth was created, Adam was appointed its representative and ruler. When Satan succeeded in bringing about the downfall of Adam and Eve he claimed the earth as his domain (Matthew 4:8,9).

### Revelation 12:10

**Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.**

The true character of Satan was shown at the cross. He was shown to be a liar and murderer while the opposite was revealed about Christ. Deliverance and victory come through the cross. Satan had contended that he was the rightful ruler of this world, seeing Adam and Eve bowed to his sophistry thus giving him their allegiance. But Satan's failure to bring Christ under his control, through getting Jesus to sin, assured the kingdom for Christ.

### Revelation 12:11

**And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.**

Revelation 1:5  
1 John 1:9  
Ephesians 2:13  
John 8:36  
Ezekiel 36:26,27

We can overcome Satan through the blood of Christ.

- It washes/cleanses us from sin (Revelation 1:5; 1 John 1:9).
- It sets us free from sin (Ephesians 2:13; 1:7; John 8:36).
- It makes us perfect to do His will (Ezekiel 36:26,27).

**Revelation 12:12**

**Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."**

1 Peter 5:8

Because of the casting out of Satan, the rest of the universe can rejoice for they do not have to put up with the accuser of the brethren any longer. Satan is angry because of his defeat at Calvary and goes forward with intensified hatred to persecute those who are faithful to God (1 Peter 5:8).

**Revelation 12:13**

**Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.**

Acts 8:1  
John 16:2

Unable any more to directly attack Christ, Satan, as the dragon, now turns his persecuting power against the Church (Acts 8:1). The first persecution came from the Jews, the second from the Romans, and the third from the Papal church.

**Revelation 12:14**

**But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.**

Exodus 19:4

During the time of Papal persecution the true church fled to places of obscurity. The most famous of these places was the Waldensian valleys of the Alps in northern Italy.

A "time" is a year, and "times" is two years, and a "half a time" is a half a year. The Hebrew year consisted of 360 days, thus we can calculate 360 + 720 + 180 = 1260 days/years. This period is mentioned 7 times in scripture and each time it is referring to the same period of Papal supremacy from 538-1798 A.D.

**Revelation 12:15**

**So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood.**

Water in the Bible symbolizes "peoples," "nations," and "tongues" (Revelation 17:15). Thus the Dragon, Satan, used nations and people in an attempt to destroy the women (the church). The false promises of pardon and paradise, all of which were coming from the Papal Church's mouth, convinced thousands to war against the people of God.

**Revelation 12:16**

**But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.**

Revelation 17:15

If "water" represents multitudes and populated areas, then the "earth" would represent sparsely populated areas. In the 17th and 18th centuries America came into being, a place sparsely populated in comparison to Western Europe. Because of religious intolerance by Church and king the Pilgrim Fathers left England bound for America where the Papal power had no dominance.

**Revelation 12:17**

**And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

Revelation 13:14  
Romans 7:12  
Joel 2:28-31

The dragon was not successful in his attempt to carry the woman away in the flood of persecution. Thus he turns his special attention against the remnant of the woman's seed. His supreme effort in this direction is still in the future (Revelation 13:14).

True Christians at the very end of time will be characterized as keeping the commandments. Far from downgrading the law of God they will declare by precept and example that "the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good" (Romans 7:12). The "testimony of Jesus" is defined in Revelation 19:10 where it states "the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy," thus the "remnant" at the end will be distinguished by their obedience to the commandments of God and the manifestation of the gift of prophecy in their midst (Joel 2:28-31).

# The Two Beasts

## Revelation Chapter Thirteen

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Revelation 17:15  
Daniel 7:23  
Revelation 17:9,10  
Daniel 7:24  
Mark 2:7  
John 10:33

### Revelation 13:1

**Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.**

The sea represents “peoples, nations, and tongues” (Revelation 17:15). Beasts are symbols for national governments or other ruling powers (Daniel 7:23). Thus a beast rising “out of the sea” symbolizes a kingdom or political power arising in a densely populated area. The seven heads are identified as seven mountains, and seven kings (Revelation 17:9,10). A horn in prophecy symbolizes a king, or kingdom (Daniel 7:24). The crowns on the horns identify these kingdoms as monarchies. On the seven heads is the “name of blasphemy,” indicating that the beast, as a whole, is an apostate religious power - a power that claims divine authority (Mark 2:7; John 10:33) and has control of national governments.

#### 1. AROSE OUT OF THE SEA

*“The removal of the capital of the Empire from Rome to Constantinople in 330, left the Western Church, practically free from imperial power, to develop its own form of organization. The Bishop of Rome, in the seat of the Caesars, was now the greatest man in the West, and was soon forced to become the political as well as the spiritual head.” - Alexander Clarence Flick, The Rise of the Mediaeval Church (reprint; New York: Burt Franklin, [1959]), pp. 168, 169.*

#### 2. IT HAS SEVEN HEADS AND TEN HORNS

*“The Roman Christian Church was a church of world-wide importance and power, and her bishop the most influential. Out of the ruins of political Rome, arose the great moral Empire in the “giant form” of the Roman Church. In the marvelous rise of the Roman Church is seen in strong relief the majestic office of the Bishop of Rome.” - Alexander Clarence Flick, The Rise of the Mediaeval Church (reprint; New York: Burt Franklin, [1959]), p. 150.*

#### 3. UPON IT'S HEADS THE NAMES OF BLASPHEMY

*“We [the popes] hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty.” (The Great Encyclical Letters of Pope Leo XIII (New York: Benziger, 1903), p. 304).*  
*“In all ages, priests have been held in the highest honor; yet the priests of the New Testament far exceed all others. For the power of consecrating and offering the body and blood of our Lord and of forgiving sins, which has been conferred on them, not only has nothing equal or like to it on earth, but even surpasses human reason and understanding.” (Catechism of the Council of Trent for Parish Priests, trans. By John A. McHugh and Charles J. Callan 1958, p. 318).*

### Revelation 13:2

**Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.**

This is an allusion to the symbolism of Daniel 7. Of the beasts seen by Daniel the first was like a lion, the second like a bear, the third like a leopard. The beast seen by John had physical characteristics drawn from all three. This denotes that the power represented by the first beast of Revelation 13 possesses characteristics prominent in the kingdoms of Babylon, Persia, and Greece. John alludes to these powers in the reverse order of their appearance in history, as he looks backward from his day. The Dragon, though primarily representing Satan, in a secondary sense, represents the Roman Empire (Revelation 12:3). The popes ascended the throne of the Caesars. The capital of the papal system was the same as that occupied by the Roman Empire at its height. The Roman emperor gave political authority to the Bishop of Rome when he moved the capital to Constantinople in 330 A.D.

Revelation 12:3

**Revelation 13:3**

**And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.**

The papacy was fully established in 538 A.D. however, in 1798 her power was broken. At the command of Napoleon, Berthier, with a French army, entered Rome, proclaimed the political rule of the papacy at an end and took the pope prisoner. The pope died a prisoner in France. A significant event occurred in 1929 when the Lateran Treaty restored temporal power to the pope, who was given the rule of Vatican City, a section of the city of Rome about 108.7 acres in extent. Today we can see how the pope's popularity is growing, however, the full fulfillment of this prophecy is still in the future.

**4. RECEIVED A DEADLY WOUND THAT WAS HEALED**

*"Mussolini and Gasparri Sign Historic Roman Pact ...Heal Wound of Many Years. . . The Roman question tonight was a thing of the past and the Vatican was at peace with Italy. The formal accomplishment of this today was the exchange of signatures in the historic Palace of St. John. . . In affixing the autographs to the memorable document, healing the wound which has festered since 1870, extreme cordiality was displayed on both sides."* (San Francisco Chronicle, Tuesday, Feb. 12, 1929)

**Revelation 13:4**

**So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"**

Worshipping the beast is in fact worshipping the dragon, for the beast is the agency used by the dragon. We worship anything that we obey instead of obeying God (Romans 6:16). Jesus said, *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."* John 14:15. In the last days the world will accept the authority and leadership of the Papacy above the Bible. The papacy today is one of the most powerful political forces of our time. According to prophecy it will even become more powerful, and win the support of the whole world.

Romans 6:16  
John 14:15

**Revelation 13:5**

**And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.**

Blasphemy in the Bible is described as man assuming the titles of God and claiming to have the power to forgive sins. The popes most well know title is *"Holy Father."* Jesus said, *"Call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven"* (Matthew 23:9).

Matthew 23:9  
Numbers 14:34  
Ezekiel 4:6  
Revelation 13:14

**5. CONTINUED FOR 42 MONTHS**

As there are 360 days in a Bible year and 30 days in a Bible month we can calculate: 42 months x 30 days = 1260 days/years. Remember, one prophetic day is equal to one literal year (Numbers 14:34, Ezekiel 4:6). The last of the three horns (Ostrogoths) were "uprooted" in A.D. 538 allowing the papacy to rise to full power. Adding 1260 years to 538 we arrive at 1798 when the Papal power was broken *"by a sword"* (Revelation 13:14).

**Revelation 13:6**

**Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.**

This power presumes to set up his temple on earth, and thus draws the attention of the people away from the sanctuary in heaven, the *"true tabernacle,"* where Jesus ministers as high priest (Hebrews 8:1,2; 1 Timothy 2:5). *"Indeed, the excellence and power of the Roman pontiff is not only in the sphere of heavenly things, earthly things, and those of the lower regions, but even above the angels, than whom he himself is greater."* (Translated from Lucius Ferraris, "Papa II," Vol. VI, p. 27)

Hebrews 8:1,2  
1 Timothy 2:5

Daniel 7:21  
Revelation 17:8

### Revelation 13:7

**It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.**

The language here is almost identical with that in Daniel 7:21, "*The same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them.*" During the 1260 years of Papal rule, many who opposed the false teachings of the church were persecuted. This verse applies not only to the rule of the papacy during the Middle Ages but it also applies to the future, when the papacy will be fully revived and will rule over the nations of the world (Revelation 17:8).

1 Peter 1:19, 20

### Revelation 13:8

**All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**

This is especially true of the period of the revived papacy, still to reach its complete fulfillment. The idea that the Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world is closely related to Peter's statement, "... *as of a lamb without blemish ...: who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world*" (1 Peter 1:19, 20). Inasmuch as the decision that Christ would die for the guilty race was reached before this world was created, Jesus is regarded as "*slain from the foundation of the world.*"

Revelation 14:9,10

### Revelation 13:9

**If anyone has an ear, let him hear.**

The message of Revelation 13 is for everyone, it is important message that must be taken to the entire world. (Revelation 14:9,10)

Matthew 26:52  
2 Thessalonians 2:3

### Revelation 13:10

**He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.**

Here God assures His persecuted children that those who pursue them and condemn them to exile and to death will themselves meet a similar fate. A partial fulfillment of this is seen in the capture and exile of the pope in 1798. Having used the sword, the beast will, in the end, perish by the sword of divine justice. Jesus said, "*They that take the sword shall perish with the sword*" (Matthew 26:52). The Greek word implies active endurance. The Bible warns us that before Jesus returns there will be a falling away from Bible truth, and that many people will be deceived (2 Thessalonians 2:3).

Revelation 17:15

### Revelation 13:11

**Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.**

The first beast arose out of the "sea" and since the "sea" represents peoples and nations (Revelation 17:15), the "earth" would represent a sparsely populated area. The nation thus represented would therefore not arise by war, conquest, and occupation, but would develop into greatness in a region of few inhabitants. The United States of America accurately fulfills the specifications of the prophecy. When the first beast was going into captivity in 1798 the United States was growing into prominence and power. The nation arose, not in the Old World, with its teeming multitudes, but in the New World, with relatively few inhabitants.

No nation in history has dedicated itself more openly to the principles of civil and religious liberty as the United States. Listen to the lamb-like words upon which America was founded: "*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; and that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness...*" (Declaration of Independence).

The "Lamb" is the symbol of Christ. The "Dragon" is the symbol of Satan. According to this prophecy, there will be a time in America when she will reject her "Lamb-like" characteristics and change dramatically to "Dragon-like" characteristics. A nation speaks by its laws. The United States has for the most part, made laws that support religious liberty and human freedoms. But a time will come when she will violate the principles of the constitution by passing laws that restrict and control religious worship.

### **Revelation 13:12**

**And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.**

Revelation 14:9–12  
Daniel 7:25

During the height of its power the first beast, the papacy, exercised widespread authority in both religious and political matters. For the second beast to exercise all the authority of the first beast, it will have to enter the field of religion, and seek to enforce worship. Prophecy here points to the enactment of religious measures, which have to do with worship. This enforcement of worship will not be limited to the United States, but will spread quickly to other parts of the world with the United States support. A hint as to the nature of the enactment is found in Revelation 14:9–12. These verses contrast the saints with the worshipers of the beast and his image. One of the distinguishing characteristics of the saints is the keeping of the commandments of God (Revelation 14:12). According to Daniel the little horn power (the papacy) thinks “to change times and laws” (Daniel 7:25).

### **Revelation 13:13**

**He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.**

Acts 2:3,4  
Matthew 24:24; 2  
Thessalonians 2:8,9

These miracles will deceive men into believing that these new religious laws have the blessing of God resting upon it. Satan will work marvelously in the fallen churches of the United States to convince the world that God is behind these religious laws. Fire represents the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:3,4). Satan will counterfeit the Holy Spirit by doing all kinds of miracles and wonders (Matthew 24:24; 2 Thessalonians 2:8,9).

### **Revelation 13:14**

**And he deceives those who dwell on the earth— by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.**

John 16:1,2

This end-time coalition will insist that no one be permitted to wreck this worldwide revival, which is drawing all religions together. Everyone will be urged to lay aside “fanatical teachings,” and join together for peace and brotherhood. Those who do not agree will be considered disloyal, unpatriotic, and fanatical (John 16:1,2).

The first beast, the papacy, used political power to enforce her religious practices and beliefs. A power that would qualify as “an image to the beast” must therefore do the same. The time will come when Protestant churches will unite forces with Catholicism to gain more political power in the United States. As conditions worsen, the people of America will elect leaders that will legislate religious laws. When America thus tramples on the rights of one’s conscience and passes laws restricting religious freedom she will have begun to speak like a dragon.

### **Revelation 13:15**

**He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.**

Revelation 13:17  
Revelation 13:15

With America now fully in the “image of the Beast,” she will then begin to enforce the “mark of the Beast” through legislation and law enforcement. At first those who resist these religious laws will suffer economic penalties (Revelation 13:17), but finally a death decree will be passed (Revelation 13:15). This quickly becomes a worldwide movement to save the world. Thus the whole world will have the “mark of the beast” urged upon it.

### **Revelation 13:16**

**He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,**

Revelation 14:12

The issue in the last conflict revolves around worship. Will we worship God or will we worship the beast. Will we keep the commandments of God or will we keep the commandments of the Beast. True Christians at the very end of time will be characterized as keeping the commandments of God and having the faith of Jesus (Revelation 14:12). The “mark of the Beast” is in opposition to the commandments of God and is a symbol of the Beasts authority.

**Revelation 13:17**

**And that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.**

In this age of "economic sanctions" it is not hard to imagine that this will be the first measure used to bring people into conformity. When this ultimately fails, the death decree will be issued. Each person will be faced with the decision of receiving the seal of loyalty to God and His commandments, or the mark of disloyalty in joining the rebellion against the law and government of God. When such a climax has been reached and these issues have been made clear by the testimony of God's people, then (and not until then) will observance of Sunday as a day of worship become the mark of the beast (Revelation 18:1-4).

This mark being in the hand or in the forehead indicates that not only one's labor (the hand) but also one's belief (the forehead) is affected. This phrase designates two classes of people—those who submit to the decree of the beast merely from expediency and those who do so from personal conviction.

**Revelation 13:18**

**Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.**

It should be noted that the beast has already been conclusively identified, the number only provides confirmation of that fact. One of the titles of the pope of Rome is Vicarius Filii Dei, or "vicar of the Son of God." Regarding the title "Vicarius Filii Dei" the Catholic journal Our Sunday Visitor, of April 18, 1915, reported in answer to a query, "What are the letters supposed to be in the Pope's crown, and what do they signify, if anything?" "The letters inscribed in the Pope's mitre are these: Vicarius Filii Dei, which is the Latin for Vicar of the Son of God. Catholics hold that the Church which is a visible society must have a visible head." Applying the numeric values we find they total 666.

*"To secure popularity and patronage, legislators will yield to the demand for a Sunday law. By the decree enforcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. As the approach of the Roman armies was a sign to the disciples of the impending destruction of Jerusalem, so may this apostasy be a sign to us that the limit of God's forbearance is reached and national apostasy will be followed by national ruin." (Last Day Events, page 133)*

# The Three Angel's Messages

## Revelation Chapter Fourteen

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Revelation 13:8 Revelation 15:2 Revelation 7:1-4 Ezekiel 9:1-6	<p><b>Revelation 14:1</b> <b>Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.</b></p> <p>John's attention is drawn away from the Beasts of Revelation 13 to those who have gotten the victory over them (Revelation 13:8; Revelation 15:2). Originally Zion was the hill on which was situated the old Jebusite fortress which David conquered and renamed the City of David (Jerusalem). When the Ark was transferred to Jerusalem, Zion became known as the dwelling place of God. In NT times "mount Zion" symbolizes the New Jerusalem. The 144,000 are those who are "able to stand" through the events portrayed in Rev 6:12-17 (Second Coming). They have the "seal of the living God" [Rev 7:1-4], and are protected in the time of universal destruction, as were those who possessed the mark in Ezekiel's vision [Ezek 9:1-6].</p>
Revelation 1:1,2 Revelation 1:15	<p><b>Revelation 14:2</b> <b>And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.</b></p> <p>John describes what he hears 38 times in Revelation and what he sees 78 times. Revelation is an "eye" and "ear" report of what John saw and heard while in vision (Revelation 1:1,2). Jesus has "the voice of many waters" [Rev 1:15]. Thunder is often connected with the presence of the Father [Rev 4:5].</p>
Revelation 15:2,3	<p><b>Revelation 14:3</b> <b>They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.</b></p> <p>This new song is the song of Moses and the Lamb [Revelation 15:2,3] which will be sung by the 144,000 who have "stood" with Jesus and have gained the victory.</p>
Revelation 12:1 Revelation 17:1-5 Revelation 18:4 John 10:16	<p><b>Revelation 14:4</b> <b>These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.</b></p> <p>A woman is often used in Scripture to represent a church, a pure woman the true church and an immoral woman the apostate church [Rev 12:1; Rev 17:1-5]. The saints are here called virgins because they have separated themselves from Babylon and have not participated in her false worship (Revelation 18:4; John 10:16). The 144,000 have faithfully followed Jesus on earth, it is now their privilege to follow Him in Heaven. They may be considered as first-fruits in the sense of being the first part of a larger harvest and as a special gift to Christ.</p>
Daniel 7:9,10 Revelation 22:11,12 Jude 1:24 Ephesians 3:20,21	<p><b>Revelation 14:5</b> <b>And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.</b></p> <p>The form of the Greek verb suggests that at a certain time of investigation the 144,000 are found to be faultless (Daniel 7:9,10; Revelations 22:11,12). By the grace of God they have overcome every defect of character. They have been completely transformed by the grace of Christ (Jude 1:24; Eph 3:20,21).</p>

Matthew 24:14  
Genesis 3:15  
Luke 2:10,11

#### Revelation 14:6

**Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—**

It is true that literal angels assist men in the task of proclaiming the gospel, but this is not the predominant idea in this verse. The angel represents the people of God proclaiming the everlasting gospel, especially at a time when the “*judgment is come*” [v. 7]. The area of flight indicates the worldwide nature of the angel’s work and message. The proclamation of the message grows until it is brought to the hearing of all mankind. (Matthew 24:14) There is but one gospel to save mankind. It was first proclaimed in Eden and was repeated from generation to generation. (Genesis 3:15; Luke 2:10,11)

#### Revelation 14:7

**Saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”**

The message of both the first angel and the third angel are given with a “*loud voice*” (v. 9). The loud voice indicates that the message will be proclaimed so that all may hear. To fear God is to come to Him with reverence and awe. (Exodus 3:4,5) To give glory to God is to manifest the principles of God’s government in all that we do. (1 Corinthians 10:31) The judgment here mentioned began at the end of the 2300 day prophecy in Daniel 8:14. The preaching of William Miller and his associate’s marks the beginning of the message of the first angel, but the message will continue until the end. (1 Peter 4:17; Matthew 22:11,12) In the crisis soon to come, the inhabitants of the earth will need to choose between worshiping God or the Beast [Revelation 13:8]. The Creator of the universe is the true and only object of worship. No man or angel is worthy of worship. Creatorship is one of the distinguishing features of the true God in contrast with false gods. The appeal to worship God as Creator implies that we recognize the sign of God’s creative works—the seventh day Sabbath. (Ezekiel 20:12; Exodus 20:11).

Exodus 3:4,5  
1 Corinthians 10:31  
1 Peter 4:17  
Matthew 22:11,12  
Ezekiel 20:12  
Exodus 20:11

#### Revelation 14:8

**And another angel followed, saying, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”**

The first and third angels are described as having “*loud*” voices but the second angel simply announces, “*Babylon is fallen, is fallen.*” Why does the second angel not proclaim the message with a loud voice? Today the church is in a lukewarm spiritual condition (Revelation 3:15-18), and yet the message must be given with a “*loud*” voice – thus we see a fourth angel in Revelation 18:1-4. The first “*fall*” of Babylon was that of the church of Rome in her rejection of the teachings of the reformation at the council of Trent (1545-1563). The second fall of Babylon came when many Protestant churches rejected the first angel’s message preached by the early Advent believers in the 1840s. (Matthew 15:7-9)

“*Babylon*” is the name given to religious systems that have fallen from the truths of God’s Word. *Babylon the mother* represents the Roman church and *Babylon the daughters* represent protestant churches that hold to the traditions and teachings of the mother. (Revelation 17:3-5) The church is to be married to Christ, but when she leaves her allegiance to Jesus and forms an alliance with a political or secular power she is guilty of committing spiritual fornication. The “*fornication*” of Babylon refers to the great threefold union of the Papacy, Protestantism, and spiritualism at the end of time. (Revelation 16:13,14)

Revelation 3:15-18  
Matthew 15:7-9  
Revelation 17:3-5  
Revelation 16:13,14

#### Revelation 14:9

**Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives *his* mark on his forehead or on his hand,**

The issue in the last conflict revolves around worship. Will we keep the commandments of God or will we keep the commandments of the Beast. True Christians at the very end of time will be characterized as keeping the commandments of God and having the faith of Jesus (Revelation 14:12). The “*mark of the Beast*” is in opposition to the commandments of God and is a symbol of the Beasts authority. (Matthew 15:7-9; Mark 7:9). The mark being in the hand or in the forehead indicates that not only one’s labor (the hand) but also one’s belief (the forehead) is affected.

Revelation 14:12  
Matthew 15:7-9  
Mark 7:9

Revelation 14:8  
Revelation 15:7  
Revelation 20:7-9

#### Revelation 14:10

**The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:**

Those who drink of the wine of Babylon's fornication (Revelation 14:8) will finally drink of the "wine of the wrath of God" which are the seven last plagues. (Revelation 15:7)

In addition to the seven last plagues, the worshipers of the beast receive their final punishment at the end of the millennium. (Revelation 20:7-9)

Psalms 37:20  
Proverbs 10:29  
Psalms 101:8;  
Philippians 3:19  
1 Timothy 6:9  
2 Thess. 1:9  
Matthew 3:12  
Malachi 4:1  
Isaiah 1:28  
Revelation 22:12  
Luke 12:47,48

#### Revelation 14:11

**And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.**

The figure of the smoke ascending forever is drawn from Isaiah 34:10, where the smoke of Edom's destruction is described as "ascending forever." In other words, the results of the fire (the smoke) will be forever. The Bible is clear that the destruction of the wicked is forever. (Psalms 37:20; Proverbs 10:29; Psalms 101:8; Philippians 3:19; 1 Timothy 6:9; 2 Thess. 1:9; Matthew 3:12; Malachi 4:1; Isaiah 1:28).

In the final destruction of the wicked, each person is rewarded according to their works. The duration of punishment prior to death will not be the same for everyone. (Revelation 22:12; Luke 12:47,48)

#### Revelation 14:12

**Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.**

Every attempt will be made to force the remnant to join the movement promoted by the beast, including the threat of boycott and death. At the same time Satan will work with all "deceivableness of unrighteousness", making it appear that the power of God is manifest in the movement. Through all this the faithful remnant steadfastly endure and maintain their integrity to God. (Revelation 13:15-17; 2 Thessalonians 2:9,10) The special point of controversy will be the fourth Commandment.

The faith of Jesus and the keeping of the commandments represent two important aspects of Christian living. The "commandments of God" are a transcript of His character (Mark 12:30,31) and the "faith of Jesus" allows Christ to live out his life within the believer. (Galatians 2:20)

Revelation 13:15-17  
2 Thessalonians 2:9,10  
Mark 12:30,31  
Galatians 2:20

#### Revelation 14:13

**And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.**

This is one of the seven beatitudes of the book of Revelation. Death is not usually considered a blessing, but for those who have faith in Christ, death is but a sleep that will end at the Second Coming of Jesus. (Psalms 116:15; John 11:25)

Psalms 116:15  
John 11:25

#### Revelation 14:14

**And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.**

In this verse Jesus is pictured as coming to reap the harvest of the earth. What is the harvest of the earth? In Matthew 13:39 Jesus plainly declared that "the harvest is the end of the world." (Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43)

Matthew 13:24-43

#### Revelation 14:15

**And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.**

Both the wheat (righteous) and the grapes (wicked) are ripe. The righteous perfectly reflect the character of Jesus while the wicked perfectly reflect the character of Satan. (Zechariah 10:1; James 5:7; Revelation 14:5)

Luke 3:16,17	<p><b>Revelation 14:16</b>  <b>And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.</b>  This represents the gathering of the righteous at the Second Coming. (Luke 3:16,17)</p>
Revelation 22:11,12	<p><b>Revelation 14:17</b>  <b>And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.</b>  This is the reaping of the wicked symbolized by the grapes. Both the righteous and the wicked are rewarded according to their works. (Revelation 22:11,12)</p>
Revelation 16:9	<p><b>Revelation 14:18</b>  <b>And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.</b>  The figure of the two harvests is borrowed from the ancient Palestinian agricultural year, which consisted of two main harvests, the grain harvest and the grape harvest. In the harvest of the earth the character of the wicked are made fully manifest in contrast to the character of the righteous. (Revelation 16:9)</p>
Jeremiah 25:30,33 Malachi 4:1	<p><b>Revelation 14:19</b>  <b>And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.</b>  There are two phases in the destruction of the wicked. The first phase is the “<i>first death</i>” of the wicked at the Second Coming (Jeremiah 25:30,33). The second phase is the “<i>second death</i>” of the wicked at the end of the 1000 years (Malachi 4:1). The figure of a “<i>great winepress</i>” is drawn from Isaiah 63:2,3.</p>
Joel 3:12,13 Revelation 20:9 Revelation 21:3,4	<p><b>Revelation 14:20</b>  <b>And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.</b>  The picture is probably drawn from Old Testament prophecies describing the destruction of God’s enemies outside Jerusalem [Joel 3:12,13]. Revelation describes the wicked as “<i>compassed the camp of the saint about and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.</i>” (Revelation 20:9)  One thousand six hundred furlongs would be about 184 miles. The main thought here is that the enemy of God and His people are to be completely and finally overthrown. (Revelation 21:3,4)</p>

# Prelude to the Seven Last Plagues

## Revelation Chapter Fifteen

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### Revelation 15:1

**And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.**

The phrase "*great and marvelous*" occurs twice in Revelation and both times it is connected with judgment. For six thousand years the Devil has had the upper hand on earth, but suddenly the tables are turned when the judgments of God are revealed in the seven last plagues. (Exodus 3:19,20)

The seven last plagues are reminiscent to the ten plagues that fell on Egypt. The first three plagues affected both the Egyptians and Israelites, but the last seven only affected the Egyptians. At the end of time the seven last plagues will only affect the wicked and not the righteous. (Exodus 8:22,23; Psalm 91:7-10)

Exodus 3:19,20  
Exodus 8:22,23  
Psalm 91:7-10

### Revelation 15:2

**And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.**

The scene suddenly changes; from the fate of the wicked John is taken forward in time and shown the reward of the righteous. (Revelation 7:14,15; Revelation 14:3) The redeemed stood loyal to God when the rest of the world worshiped the beast. (Revelation 13:1,7,8; Revelation 12:11)

The word "*image*" means "*a likeness*." The first beast used civil power to enforce her religious practices and beliefs. A power that would qualify as "*an image to the beast*" must therefore do the same. (Revelation 13:15; Daniel 3:16-18)

The number of the beast is 666 (Rev 13:18). The image that king Nebuchadnezzar made was 60 cubits high and 6 cubits wide. The Babylonians attached great significance to the number 6. Not only does 666 refer to the beast power, but it also refers to the counterfeit trinity that the Remnant overcome. (Revelation 16:13,14)

Revelation 7:14,15  
Revelation 14:3  
Revelation 13:1,7,8  
Revelation 12:11  
Revelation 13:15  
Daniel 3:16-18

### Revelation 15:3

**And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.**

The song of Moses celebrated Israel's deliverance at the Red sea. The song of the Lamb reflects the full dependence of the Remnant upon Christ. (Matthew 26:39) They will have a similar experience of deliverance. (Exodus 15:1; Revelation 19:11)

Matthew 26:39  
Exodus 15:1  
Revelation 19:11

### Revelation 15:4

**Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.**

The message of the first angel in Revelation 14:7 is "*Fear God, and give glory to him*." The saints have heeded this appeal and now stand before God. Angels in the presence of God constantly acknowledge His holiness. (Isaiah 6:2,3) God's judgments against the beast, his image and his worshipers are made manifest in the seven last plagues, but it won't be until the end of the millennium that all nations will finally acknowledge God's supremacy. (Revelation 20:12; Romans 14:11)

Isaiah 6:2,3  
Revelation 20:12  
Romans 14:11

### Revelation 15:5

**And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:**

The phrase "*tabernacle of the testimony*" applies to the most holy place where the ark of the covenant was kept containing the ten commandments. At the conclusion of Christ's high priestly ministry and the pre-advent judgment, the seven last plagues are poured out. (Hebrews 4:14; 2 Corinthians 5:10)

Hebrews 4:14; 2  
Corinthians 5:10

Revelation 19:15  
Psalms 2:9

**Revelation 15:6**

**And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles.**

In certain respects the seven last plagues are similar to the ten plagues upon Egypt. Both testify to the superior authority and power of God, the decisive defeat to His enemies and the deliverance of His faithful people. (Revelation 19:15; Psalms 2:9)

**Revelation 15:7**

**And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever.**

The ten plagues on Egypt were painfully literal and demonstrated the foolishness of their religion. The seven last plagues will also be literal, and will demonstrate the foolishness of the apostate religious system.

**Revelation 15:8**

**And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.**

Revelation 22:11,12

The phrase "*no one was able to enter the temple*" reveals that probationary time will be over when the plagues are poured out. The high priestly ministry of Jesus will be finished and the destiny of all will be eternally set. (Revelation 22:11,12)

# The Seven Last Plagues

## Revelation Chapter Sixteen

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Matthew 24:37  
Genesis 7:15,16  
Matthew 25: 6-12  
Revelation 14:14,15  
Malachi 3:17,18

### Revelation 16:1

**And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.**

The fact that “*no man*” [Revelation 15:8] is able to enter the temple when the plagues are poured out, indicates that probation is closed. (Matthew 24:37; Genesis 7:15,16; Matthew 25: 6-12) The plagues serve to reveal the character of both the wicked and the righteous. (Revelation 14:14,15; Malachi 3:17,18)

Exodus 8:18,19;  
Revelation 16:13,14  
Revelation 13:8  
Revelation 14:7  
Matthew 15:8,9

### Revelation 16:2

**And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.**

Against this “*sore*” the miracle-working evil spirits cooperating with apostate Christianity are powerless to heal. (Exodus 8:18,19; Revelation 16:13,14) The mark is not a literal mark but a sign of allegiance to the power represented by the beast. The controversy at the end centers around worship - will we worship according to the commandments of God or the commandments of man. (Revelation 13:8; Revelation 14:7; Matthew 15:8,9)

Exodus 7:20,21

### Revelation 16:3

**And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.**

In consistency, odor, and color the sea becomes as the blood of a dead man. This plague is similar to the first plague that fell upon Egypt. (Exodus 7:20,21) As a result of this plague all life in the affected areas of the sea die. The seven last plagues are not immediately universal.

Deuteronomy 11:16,17  
1 Kings 17:1

### Revelation 16:4

**And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.**

“*Rivers and springs*” are primarily used for drinking, bathing and irrigation. The effects of this plague are very serious, not only is drinking water affected but also the production of crops, leading to worldwide food shortages and famine. One of the judgments that came upon ancient Israel because of their apostasy in worship was drought and famine. (Deuteronomy 11:16,17; 1 Kings 17:1)

Romans 3:4  
Matthew 10:26  
1 Corinthians 4:5  
Revelation 15:3

### Revelation 16:5

**And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.**

The terrible nature of the third plague apparently calls forth a statement in defense of God for authorizing it. The plagues, which seem uncharacteristic of God, are necessary in bringing an end to the great controversy, which has continued on earth for six thousand years. (Romans 3:4; Matthew 10:26; 1 Corinthians 4:5) God is altogether just in the outpouring of the plagues. The punishment upon the wicked is in proportion to their sins. (Revelation 15:3)

Revelation 13:15

### Revelation 16:6

**For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.**

By condemning the people of God to death, the wicked have as truly incurred guilt for their blood as if they had already killed them. (Revelation 13:15)

Romans 2:4-6; 1  
Thessalonians 5:1-4  
2 Peter 2:4-9;  
Revelation 22:12

#### Revelation 16:7

**And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.**

God is true to His word—He is carrying out what He has promised to do. (Romans 2:4-6; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-4) Justice demands the punishment of those who have rebelled against Heaven. (2 Peter 2:4-9; Revelation 22:12)

#### Revelation 16:8

**And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.**

Revelation 7:15-17  
Amos 8:11-12

The fourth plague is intense heat, which affects both the wicked and the righteous. (Revelation 7:15-17) This literal plague is accompanied by a spiritual famine for the Word of God. Probation is closed and the Spirit of God has been withdrawn from the wicked. (Amos 8:11-12)

#### Revelation 16:9

**And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.**

Ephesians 4:30,31  
Matthew 12:31

Their refusal to repent shows that they are altogether opposed to God; their hearts are utterly hardened. (Ephesians 4:30,31; Matthew 12:31) The plagues reveal the true nature of those who have rejected God and His Commandments

#### Revelation 16:10

**And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,**

Revelation 13:2;  
Revelation 12:3,4  
Revelation 12:9

The *"throne of the beast"* is a reference to the headquarters of the beast power. The beast here represents the Papacy in its revived state and its headquarters the Vatican city. (Revelation 13:2; Revelation 12:3,4; Revelation 12:9) This darkness that settles on the seat of the Beast brings with it cold and pain. The Papacy is now shown to be in opposition to God and her authority over the people begins to diminish.

#### Revelation 16:11

**And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.**

Exodus 9:34

Instead of the plagues bringing people to a point of repentance, their hearts are hardened and they rebel even more. (Exodus 9:34) Apparently the sores of the first plague are not immediately fatal, at least not in all cases.

#### Revelation 16:12

**And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.**

Revelation 17:16,17  
Revelation 19:11

The literal river Euphrates supplied the city of Babylon with its water. The fall of literal Babylon involved the drying up of the river Euphrates by the Meds and Persians (kings of the east). Thus the significance of the *"drying up"* of the Euphrates refers to the withdrawal of support from those who once supported symbolic Babylon. (Revelation 17:16,17) The *"kings of the east"* symbolizes Christ and those accompanying Him at the Second Coming. (Revelation 19:11)

#### Revelation 16:13

**And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.**

2 Thessalonians 2:9,10  
Isaiah 14:14  
Revelation 13:3  
Matthew 24:24

The *"dragon"* is Satan [Revelation 12:9] the *"beast"* is the Roman church [Revelation 13:1-10] and *"the false prophet"* is apostate Protestantism [Revelation 17:4,5]. The unclean spirits like frogs represent a counterfeit revival that will take place in churches before the Coming of Jesus. (Isaiah 14:14; Revelation 13:3; Matthew 24:24).

**Revelation 16:14**

**For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.**

Revelation 13:13,14)

These demonic spirits (fallen angels) perform miracles in uniting the world against God's commandment keeping people. (Revelation 13:13,14) This battle is one in which the nations unite to destroy the people of God, but before they can carry out their wicked plans, Jesus comes.

**Revelation 16:15**

**Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.**

2 Peter 3:10  
Matthew 21:19  
Revelation 7:14

Jesus comes unexpectedly to the ungodly. (2 Peter 3:10) To "keep his garments" is to remain steadfast in faith and character. (Matthew 21:19; Revelation 7:14)

**Revelation 16:16**

**And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.**

Zephaniah 3:8

The battle of Armageddon is the gathering of the wicked against the people of God in the final moments of earth's history. Jesus comes to deliver His people while the wicked are destroyed by the brightness of His coming. (Zephaniah 3:8)

**Revelation 16:17**

**Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"**

Revelation 21:5,6

The words "It is done" were spoken by Jesus on the cross and brought to an end the great controversy that was played out in His life. Here the words "It is done" brings to an end the great controversy in the lives of the people of God. These words will be again spoken when the earth is re-created, bringing to an end the great controversy in the universe. (Revelation 21:5,6)

**Revelation 16:18**

**And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.**

This great earthquake is connected with the Second Coming of Jesus, and is both literal and symbolic.

**Revelation 16:19**

**Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.**

The earthquake also represents the ruin and desolation, which will come to "Babylon the great." Thus the threefold union of verse 13 collapses as the judgments of God fall upon the wicked.

**Revelation 16:20**

**Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.**

The results of the earthquake moves mountains and the pursuing tsunami engulfs entire islands. "The mountains shake like a reed in the wind, and ragged rocks are scattered on every side. . . The whole earth heaves and swells like the waves of the sea. Its surface is breaking up. Its very foundations seem to be giving way. Mountain chains are sinking. Inhabited islands disappear." – (Great Controversy page 637)

**Revelation 16:21**

**And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.**

Revelation 14:14,15

A talent is estimated as weighing from about 58 to 80 lbs. For the third time those upon whom the plagues fall curse God, thus revealing their utter contempt for Him, even in the midst of His most grievous judgments. The "harvest of the earth" is fully ripe and Jesus comes to reap the harvest. (Revelation 14:14,15)

# The Woman and the Beast

## Revelation Chapter Seventeen

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Revelation 12:1  
Revelation 17:3  
James 4:4

### Revelation 17:1

**Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters.**

The “*seven bowls*” is a reference to the seven last plagues [Revelation 16]. Revelation 17 is a further explanation of spiritual Babylon and gives reasons for why judgment is to come against her. The chapter is divided into two parts (a) the symbolic vision of vs. 3–7 (b) the explanation of the vision in vs. 8–18. A woman in prophecy symbolizes a church – a pure woman symbolizes a true church and an impure woman a false church. (Revelation 12:1; Revelation 17:3; James 4:4)

Daniel 7:17,23  
Ephesians 5:31,32  
Revelation 14:8  
Luke 5:37-39  
Matthew 24:45-50

### Revelation 17:2

**With whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”**

The “*kings of the earth*” symbolize the political powers of earth. (Daniel 7:17,23) The church is to be married to Christ, but when she leaves her allegiance to Jesus and forms a connection with the world, she is guilty of spiritual adultery. (Ephesians 5:31,32) Babylon works through the political powers of earth to gain control over the people. (Revelation 14:8) The “*wine*” of Babylon’s fornication is her false doctrine and illicit connection with the world. (Luke 5:37-39; Matthew 24:45-50)

### Revelation 17:3

**So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.**

A woman symbolizes a church – in this case a fallen church [Ephesians 5:32] and the beast symbolizes a political power [Daniel 7:23]. The fact that this woman is sitting on the beast indicates that this apostate church is directing the policies of civil governments in order to consolidate control over the people. The beast has both political and religious power and presumes to usurp the attributes of God. The “*seven heads*” are identified in verse 9 and 10 as “*seven mountains*” and “*seven kings*.” The “*ten horns*” are identified as “*ten kings*” in verse 12.

Matthew 27:28,29  
Revelation 18:7  
Daniel 5

### Revelation 17:4

**The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.**

Purple and scarlet were colors of wealth and royalty (Matthew 27:28,29). This church claims to be “royalty” because she claims to be the “wife” of Christ. (Revelation 18:7) This religious system is known for its wealth and costly adorning of its churches. The golden cup deceives men with respect to the nature of the contents. The alliance between apostate Christianity and the political powers of earth is the means by which Satan proposes to unite the world under his leadership. The crowning act of rebellion for ancient Babylon was the desecration of the golden vessels, which had been dedicated for the service of God. (Daniel 5)

### Revelation 17:5

**And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH**

The forehead implies the mind, will, and character. The mother church has chosen to reject the light of Biblical truth for her own traditions and teachings. (Matthew 15:8,9) The Old Testament has been called, “*A Tale of Two Cities*” – Jerusalem and Babylon. Both appear early in the Bible, and both stand in sharp contrast throughout the whole of the Old Testament period. These two cities represent the two principles that are at war in the world. Babylon the mother is Papal Rome and Babylon the daughters are apostate Protestantism. References to Babylon (the mother) may include the daughters as well. (Acts 20:29,30; 2 Thessalonians 2:3; Revelation 14:8).

Matthew 15:8,9  
Acts 20:29,30; 2  
Thessalonians 2:3  
Revelation 14:8

### Revelation 17:6

**I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement**

It is estimated that millions of "heretics" were hanged, beheaded, burned, buried alive, and otherwise executed during the 1260 years of papal supremacy from 538 till 1798. The success of Babylon in controlling the nations fills John with amazement. Mystical Babylon is guilty of the following:

1. Seducing the kings of the earth to form a union with her
2. Oppressing those opposed to her authority
3. Making void the law of God in order to promote her traditions
4. Plotting the murder of the people of God

### Revelation 17:7

**But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.**

The word "marvel" can also be translated as "wonder" or "astonishment." It appears 4 times in the book of Revelation and each time it is used in association with the first "beast" of chapter 13.

- "And all the world marveled and followed the beast..." (Rev 13:3)
- "And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement..." (Rev 17:6)
- "But the angel said, 'Why did you marvel'" (Rev 17:7)
- "And those who dwell on the earth will marvel...when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is." (Rev 17:8)

### Revelation 17:8

**The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.**

In vision John is "carried away... into the wilderness" when he sees the beast (Revelation 17:3). Chapter 12 describes the "wilderness" time period as the 1260 years of papal supremacy from 538-1798. (Revelation 12:6,14).

The "WAS" refers to the political power of the Vatican from 538-1798. Following the "wilderness" period from 538-1798, the political power of the Vatican was taken away in 1798, when Berthier, Napoleons' general, marched into Rome and proclaimed the political rule of the papacy at an end. The Pope was taken prisoner and eventually died in France.

The "IS NOT" refers to the time period from 1798 till about 1929 when the Papacy had lost much of political power. (Revelation 13:3).

The "WILL ASCEND" refers to the time when the "deadly wound" would begin to be healed. This began in 1929 when Mussolini restored Papal sovereignty and the Vatican became an independent state within the city of Rome. Since then the Papacy has continued to grow in power and influence, although its full restoration is yet in the future. (Revelation 13:7)

The word "perdition" can also be translated as "destruction." The final destruction of the beast power happens at the second coming of Jesus. (Revelation 19:20) The influence of the Papacy will continue to grow in both religious and political matters. The time will come when the nations of the world will yield their support to this religious-political power and will implement her teachings and enforce her laws.

Revelation 13:3  
Revelation 17:6  
Revelation 17:7  
Revelation 17:8

Revelation 17:3  
Revelation 12:6,14  
Revelation 13:3  
Revelation 13:7  
Revelation 19:20

### Revelation 17:9

**Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.**

The word translated “wisdom” is used 4 times in Revelation. Twice it’s used in connection with God, and twice in connection with the Beast. According to Revelation 13:18 “wisdom” is required in calculating or counting the number of the Beast. Here it is used with reference to identifying seven mountains and kingdoms.

A woman in prophecy is a church. Here we have a church that is situated upon seven “mountains.” Classical writers often refer to Rome as the city of Seven Hills. The Seven Hills of Rome form the geographical heart of the ancient city. “Mountains” in prophecy can also symbolize kingdoms and nations. (Isaiah 2:2; Jeremiah 17:3; Ezekiel 17:22)

Isaiah 2:2  
Jeremiah 17:3  
Ezekiel 17:22

### Revelation 17:10

**There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time.**

In Daniel 7 “kings” and “kingdoms” are used interchangeably, after all a king represents his kingdom. The time given for when John sees the beast is during the “wilderness” period from 538-1798 (Revelation 17:3). The five kingdoms that persecuted God’s people prior to 538 AD were Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. The “one is” is a reference to Papal Rome during the “wilderness” time period of 1260 years (538-1798).

The “other” that had “not yet come” is a reference to the United States (Revelation 13:11-18). The United States is described as a lamb-like beast that eventually will speak like a dragon. The time will come when America will pass laws restricting religious freedom and as a result persecution will follow. (Revelation 13:11,12) In comparison with the 1260 years of Papal rule, the length of time given to the United States to enforce the “mark of the beast” will be relatively short. (Revelation 13:15-17)

Revelation 17:3  
Revelation 13:11-18  
Revelation 13:11,12  
Revelation 13:15-17

### Revelation 17:11

**The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.**

This beast is Papal Rome, which “was” (538-1798) and “is not” (1798-1929) “yet is” (1929 to present). The verse is emphasizing the revived condition of Papal Rome after the healing of the “deadly wound” which began in 1929. Papal Rome is one of the seven kingdoms previously mentioned in verse 10. Final defeat of the Beast power takes place at the second coming of Jesus. (Revelation 19:19,20)

Revelation 19:19,20

### Revelation 17:12

**The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.**

During the “wilderness” period (538-1798) the Papal power ruled over the kingdoms of Western Europe, however three of the original ten kingdoms had been “uprooted” (Daniel 7:8,23,24). What is being described here is a future submission of 10 nations to Papal rule.

One hour of prophetic time is equal to about two weeks of literal time. Thus for a brief time period the modern nations of Western Europe will be united in giving their support to the Beast.

Daniel 7:8,23,24

### Revelation 17:13

**These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast**

The ten modern nation of Western Europe are:

- |                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| 1. England     | 6. Portugal |
| 2. Austria     | 7. France   |
| 3. Switzerland | 8. Germany  |
| 4. Italy       | 9. Spain    |
| 5. Netherlands | 10. Belgium |

Revelation 16:13,14

**Revelation 17:14**

**These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.**

With the world united under the leadership of the "beast" the final stage is set for "the battle of that great day of God Almighty" which takes place at the second coming of Jesus. (Revelation 16:13,14)

**Revelation 17:15**

**Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues".**

"Waters" represent "peoples" and "nations." The woman "sits upon" or controls many nations at the time of the end.

**Revelation 17:16**

**And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.**

Revelation 18:9,10

These are the ten nations of Western Europe that will give their power to Papal Rome for a short period of time. Suddenly there is a change of attitude amongst the ten nations with reference to their support of Papal Rome. The ten nations of Western Europe turn against the Vatican and make war against it. (Revelation 18:9,10)

**Revelation 17:17**

**For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.**

God will use the "ten horns" to carry out judgment upon Babylon. This sentence will be meted out under the seventh plague.

Isaiah 46:10  
John 14:29

**Revelation 17:18**

**And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.**

This verse stresses the final worldwide union of nations under the leadership of the Papal power. (Isaiah 46:10; John 14:29)

# The Fall of Babylon

## Revelation Chapter Eighteen

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James 5:7  
Zechariah 10:1  
Joel 2:28  
Acts 2:17  
Exodus 33:18,19  
Revelation 14:1

### Revelation 18:1

**After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.**

This angel is in addition to the three angels of Revelation 14. The proclamation of the message is empowered by a special out pouring of the Holy Spirit. (James 5:7; Zechariah 10:1; Joel 2:28; Acts 2:17) This “*glory*” is a manifestation of the character of God, as revealed through His people. (Exodus 33:18,19; Revelation 14:1)

### Revelation 18:2

**And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!**

This angel repeats the second angel’s message but with greater power. (Revelation 14:7-9)

Babylon refers to churches that have lost their early purity and accepted the “*teachings of devils.*” (1 Timothy 4:1,2; Revelation 17:5) This is a description of the spiritual condition of the churches that make up symbolic Babylon. (Jeremiah 5:26,27)

Revelation 14:7-9  
1 Timothy 4:1,2  
Revelation 17:5  
Jeremiah 5:26,27

### Revelation 18:3

**For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.**

The “*wine*” of Babylon is her false teachings and her “*fornication*” is using political power to enforce her doctrines. (Luke 5:37,38; James 4:4) The great sin of Babylon is looking to the “*kings of the earth*” to enforce her teachings. When we see religious leaders bearing sway in government we can know that the end is near. (Matthew 14:6–9) These “*merchants*” represent those who advocate the teachings and policies of “*Babylon the great*” for financial reasons. (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)

Luke 5:37,38  
James 4:4  
Matthew 14:6–9  
2 Corinthians 11:13-15

### Revelation 18:4

**And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.**

Nearly till the very close of probation some of God’s people have not heard the call to come out of Babylon. All who are truly Christ’s will hear His voice and heed His call. (John 10:16) The great sin of Babylon is the union of church and state and the persecution of God’s people. (John 16:1,2)

The “*plagues*” of Babylon are the “*seven last plagues*” recorded in Revelation chapter 16. These plagues will fall upon those who place tradition and spiritual encounters above the authority of the Bible. (Matthew 15:9)

John 10:16  
John 16:1,2  
Matthew 15:9

### Revelation 18:5

**For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.**

Probationary time for the world is about to end and God is calling His people to come out of religious apostasy. (Daniel 12:1)

Daniel 12:1

### Revelation 18:6

**Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her.**

Literally, “*give her to the limit.*” Babylon is to be repaid in full for her evil deeds. Her treatment of others is to be the standard by which God will deal with her. (Matthew 25:45,46)

Matthew 25:45,46

Matthew 7:21-23  
Isaiah 4:1

#### Revelation 18:7

**In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, "I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow."**

Babylon deceives herself in thinking that she is Christ's bride, but in reality she is a harlot. These churches will continue to profess Christ and speak much of religion but the Lord has forsaken them. (Matthew 7:21-23; Isaiah 4:1)

Numbers 14:34  
Ezekiel 4:6  
Revelation 16:12  
Revelation 17:16,17  
Amos 3:7  
Revelation 14:6

#### Revelation 18:8

**Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.**

The form of the Greek word translated "day" emphasizes the suddenness of the plagues. If the "one day" is taken as prophetic time it would represent a period of about one year. (Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6) Under the 6<sup>th</sup> plague the nations that once supported Babylon will suddenly withdraw their support and they will turn against her with violence. (Revelation 16:12; Revelation 17:16,17) God has always warned men, saints and sinners alike, of an impending crisis. For example; Noah's warning of the flood, Moses' warning of the plagues of Egypt, Jonah's warning to the people of Nineveh, and Jesus' warning of the impending destruction of Jerusalem. And so today, as we stand on the eve of earth's final hour, because God is a God of love and consistency, we should expect a great message of warning to be going out to the world right now, just before Jesus comes. (Amos 3:7; Revelation 14:6)

Revelation 17:16,17

#### Revelation 18:9

**The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning.**

The "kings of the earth," are various political powers that have formed an alliance with "Babylon." In exchange for her moral leadership these nations will enforce her doctrines and decrees. The various nations that once supported symbolic Babylon now bewail her destruction in anticipation of their own. (Revelation 17:16,17)

Revelation 17:12  
Revelation 16:10,12

#### Revelation 18:10

**Standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'**

The "Kings of the Earth" expected to receive power permanently with Babylon but they now realize the foolishness of such a scheme. (Revelation 17:12) One hour of prophetic time is about two weeks of literal time. The Judgment against Babylon will be rapid and decisive. (Revelation 16:10,12)

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

#### Revelation 18:11

**And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore:**

These figurative "merchants" represent religious leaders and pastors who have profited from the doctrines and policies of Babylon. (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)

#### Revelation 18:12

**Merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble.**

The 28 items of trade listed in verses 12,13,14, highlight the extensive commercial interests of Babylon. A similar list of "merchandise" is mentioned in Ezekiel 27:3-25. In the original Greek this passage is in the form of poetry, emphasizing the wealth and influence held by symbolic Babylon.

2 Timothy 4:3,4

**Revelation 18:13**

**And cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men.**

The phrase "*souls of men*" emphasizes the false doctrines of symbolic Babylon by which she deceives the people. (2 Timothy 4:3,4)

**Revelation 18:14**

**The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all.**

The hopes and aspirations of those who have entered into partnership with Babylon are now shown to be utterly false.

**Revelation 18:15**

**The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing.**

Partnership with Babylon has been beneficial for those religious leaders and pastors who have preached the lies of Babylon to the people, but now they recognize their complete hopelessness.

Exodus 28:33  
Numbers 15:38,39

**Revelation 18:16**

**And saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls!**

Purple and scarlet were colors used in the dress of the high priest. The one color missing from Babylon was that of blue - the symbol of obedience to God's law. (Exodus 28:33; Numbers 15:38,39)

**Revelation 18:17**

**For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.' Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance.**

"*One hour*" of prophetic time is about 15 days of literal time. Sudden destruction comes upon Babylon, and despair and hopelessness fill the people.

**Revelation 18:18**

**And cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What is like this great city?'**

The nations that had united with Babylon now turn against her.

**Revelation 18:19**

**They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.'**

Those who weep over the destruction of Babylon do so for selfish reasons. Their primary concern is for the loss of financial prosperity and influence over the people.

Revelation 13:15

**Revelation 18:20**

**Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!**

Babylon had passed a death decree against the people of God, but now she suffers the very fate that she had purposed against them. (Revelation 13:15)

Revelation 16:19

**Revelation 18:21**

**Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore.**

A "*great millstone*" is an illustration of the finality with which Babylon will be destroyed, never to return. (Revelation 16:19)

**Revelation 18:22**

**The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore.**

Luke 17:34-36

Millstones are used to ground wheat into flour for bread. Bread in scripture is symbol of the Word of God. Jesus said, *"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' [Matthew 4:4].* (Luke 17:34-36)

**Revelation 18:23**

**The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.**

Psalm 119:105  
Revelation 22:11,12

The lack of the *"light from a lamp"* can symbolize the absence of the teachings of the Word of God and the absence of spiritual life. (Psalm 119:105) The lack of the *"voice of the bridegroom"* figuratively emphasizes that probation is now closed and Jesus is no longer calling His people out of Babylon. (Revelation 22:11,12)

**Revelation 18:24**

**And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.**

Mystical Babylon represents apostate religion since the beginning of time but here particularly to the apostasy churches at the end of time. In a general sense, *"all that were slain"* may properly include the martyrs of all time, but emphasis here is on those who lay down their lives in the closing struggle of the great controversy between good and evil, and probably also those whom Babylon purposes to kill but is prevented from killing, by divine intervention.

# The Coming of the King

## Revelation Chapter Nineteen

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### Revelation 19:1

**After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!"**

The work of salvation has now ended and Jesus is about to return to the earth as "*King of kings*" and "*Lord of lords*." Through the work of salvation the "*glory of God*," (His character) has been revealed; His "*honor*" has been vindicated, and his "*power*" has been seen on behalf of His people.

### Revelation 19:2

**For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her."**

The judgments of God have been manifest in the seven last plagues, which serve to ripen the "*harvest*" of the earth (Revelation 14:14-19). The "*great harlot*" is Rome (Revelation 17:5; 18:10,21) and Her daughters are apostate Protestantism (Revelation 14:8; 18:2). A reference to Babylon (the mother) includes the daughters as well. "*Fornication*" in prophecy indicates a union of church and state (Revelation 17:1,2).

### Revelation 19:3

**Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!"**

The figure of smoke ascending forever denotes complete and eternal destruction (Isaiah 34:10).

### Revelation 19:4

**And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!"**

At the beginning of Christ's High Priestly ministry in Heaven (A.D. 31) the twenty-four elders and four living creatures are seen bowing in worship before the throne, now at the end of Christ's High Priestly ministry they are again seen bowing in worship before the throne. (Revelation 4:9,10).

### Revelation 19:5

**Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!"**

The phrase "*praise our God*" can be literally translated as "*keep on praising our God*." The praises of the four-living creatures and twenty-four elders call for a response from all of Gods servants.

### Revelation 19:6

**And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"**

It is at the end of the investigative judgment that Jesus begins His reign as "*King of kings*" (Daniel 7:13,14).

### Revelation 19:7

**Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."**

The "*marriage of the Lamb*" is Christ's reception of His kingdom that is made up of the saints. (Matthew 25:1-12). The "*Lamb's wife*" is described as the New Jerusalem which symbolizes Christ's kingdom and the redeemed (Revelation 21:9,10).

Revelation 14:14-19  
Revelation 17:5  
Revelation 14:8  
Revelation 17:1,2

Isaiah 34:10

Revelation 4:9,10

Daniel 7:13,14

Matthew 25:1-12  
Revelation 21:9,10

Ephesians 5:25-27	<p><b>Revelation 19:8</b>  <b>And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.</b>  The “<i>Lamb’s wife</i>” (the New Jerusalem) is filled with the redeemed who are “<i>arrayed in fine linen.</i>” The “<i>fine linen</i>” is a figure of righteous character (Ephesians 5:25-27).</p>
Matthew 22:12-14	<p><b>Revelation 19:9</b>  <b>Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’ ” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.”</b>  Many are “<i>called</i>” to the marriage supper, but only those who have put on the “<i>wedding garment</i>” are chosen (Matthew 22:12-14).</p>
Revelation 1:1,2 Revelation 12:17 Amos 3:7 Joel 2:28-31	<p><b>Revelation 19:10</b>  <b>And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”</b>  John is so filled with gratitude at the promise of deliverance and victory that he falls to the angel’s feet in an act of worship. It’s important to note that the “<i>testimony of Jesus</i>” is given not only to angels but also to John’s “<i>brethren</i>” (Revelation 1:1,2). The “<i>testimony of Jesus</i>” or “<i>spirit of prophecy</i>” is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and is an identifying mark of the Remnant church at the end of time (Revelation 12:17; Amos 3:7; Joel 2:28-31).</p>
Revelation 6:2 Psalm 25:2 John 14:1–3 Revelation 11:15	<p><b>Revelation 19:11</b>  <b>Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.</b>  A white horse in Bible prophecy is associated with victory (Revelation 6:2). Jesus is the one who is “<i>Faithful and True.</i>” He is faithful to those who trust in Him, and he is true to His promise to deliver them (Psalm 25:2; John 14:1–3). After receiving the “<i>kingdoms of this world</i>” at the end of the investigative judgment in Heaven, Jesus now comes as King of Kings to receive His own (Revelation 11:15).</p>
2 Chronicles 16:9 Revelation 12:10 Revelation 2:17	<p><b>Revelation 19:12</b>  <b>His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.</b>  The symbol of having eyes as “<i>a flame of fire</i>” represents intensity of gaze and power (2 Chronicles 16:9). In addition to a crown of royalty, Jesus also wears a crown of victory. At the cross He overcame Satan and made a way of salvation for those who trust in Him (Revelation 12:10). Not only does Jesus have a name that only He knows, but the redeemed are also given a unique name that is known only to them (Revelation 2:17).</p>
Isaiah 63:2,3 John 1:1,14	<p><b>Revelation 19:13</b>  <b>He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.</b>  There is striking similarity between this passage and that of Isaiah 63:1-6, which describes the destruction of the wicked (Isaiah 63:2,3). In John 1:1 Jesus is called the “<i>Word</i>” (John 1:1,14).</p>
Matthew 25:31	<p><b>Revelation 19:14</b>  <b>And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.</b>  The “<i>armies of heaven</i>” is a reference to the angels that accompany Jesus at His second coming. (Matthew 25:31)</p>

Psalms 23:4	<p><b>Revelation 19:15</b>  <b>Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.</b></p> <p>The ancient shepherd's rod had a double function. The crook on one end served to guide the sheep, while on the other end, a metal cap or ring made the rod into a weapon. The rod was used for the protection of the flock, to repel and kill wild animals that would scatter and destroy it (Psalm 23:4). It is now time for the Good Shepherd to use the "<i>rod of iron</i>" against the nations for the deliverance of His flock on earth.</p>
Genesis 24:2	<p><b>Revelation 19:16</b>  <b>And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.</b></p> <p>In Old Testament times an oath was made by placing the hand under the thigh. The thigh being the largest muscle in the body is also a symbol of strength (Genesis 24:2).</p>
1 Samuel 17:44,46	<p><b>Revelation 19:17</b>  <b>Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God.</b></p> <p>This invitation to the "<i>birds</i>" is a symbolic description of the destruction of the wicked. Vultures and wild beasts would often devour the bodies of those killed in battle (1 Samuel 17:44,46).</p>
Revelation 6:14-17	<p><b>Revelation 19:18</b>  <b>That you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great."</b></p> <p>This is again a symbolic picture of destruction for the enemies of God at the Second Coming (Revelation 6:14-17).</p>
Revelation 16:14	<p><b>Revelation 19:19</b>  <b>And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.</b></p> <p>This is the "<i>battle of that great day of God Almighty</i>," often called the battle of Armageddon (Revelation 16:14).</p>
Revelation 16:13,14 2 Peter 3:9,10	<p><b>Revelation 19:20</b>  <b>Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.</b></p> <p>The "<i>beast</i>" is identified in Revelation 13:1-10 as the Papacy, and the "<i>false prophet</i>" is identified as apostate Protestantism in Revelation 13:11-18. Through false doctrine, supernatural manifestations, and political manipulation, these two powers will work in cooperation to bring the world under their control and enforce the "<i>mark of the beast</i>" (Revelation 16:13,14).</p> <p>In Revelation 20:10 there is another "<i>lake of fire</i>" which completely destroys the wicked at the end of the 1000 years (2 Peter 3:9,10).</p>
Jeremiah 25:30-33	<p><b>Revelation 19:21</b>  <b>And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh</b></p> <p>At the Second Coming the people of God will be delivered and the wicked will be destroyed. (Jeremiah 25:30-33). For six thousand years evil has triumphed over good. The people of God have been persecuted, banished, imprisoned, and put to death. But evil will triumph no more because Jesus is coming to vindicate His faithful people and to deliver them forever from the power of death.</p>

# The Millennium

## Revelation Chapter Twenty

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### Revelation 20:1

**Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.**

Chapter 20 is a description of the millennial period immediately following the second coming of Jesus. The word “millennium” does not appear in the scriptures, but is derived from Latin *mille annus* and means simply “a thousand years.” The term has been used to designate the 1000-year period of Revelation 20, where the term “1000 years” occurs six times. The fact that an angel carries a key shows that Heaven has complete control over the events here described. The chain is a chain of circumstances, which symbolically binds Satan for a thousand years.

### Revelation 20:2

**He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.**

The binding of the dragon is symbolic of the restrictions placed upon Satan’s activities. The wicked have been slain at the second coming of Christ (Revelation 19:21). The redeemed have been transported to heaven (John 14:1-3). And Satan and his evil angels will be confined to the desolated earth (Jeremiah 25:30,33). The earth was created in six literal days and then God rested on the seventh day. The earth is 6000 years old and then we spend the millennium in Heaven at rest (2 Peter 3:8; Leviticus 25:3,4).

Revelation 19:21  
John 14:1-3  
Jeremiah 25:30,33  
2 Peter 3:8  
Leviticus 25:3,4

### Revelation 20:3

**And he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.**

The words “*bottomless pit*” are translated from a single Greek word “ABUSSOS”, which means a dark, waste, desolate region; a state of chaos. In the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament, “ABUSSOS” is used to describe the earth in its original chaotic condition when it was “*without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep*” – Genesis 1:2. See also Jeremiah 4:23-26. How long is this “*little*” time when Satan is released? It will be long enough for the final judgment and for Satan to organize the resurrected wicked for an assault upon the New Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 4:23-26

### Revelation 20:4

**And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**

This passage is an allusion to Daniel 7:21,22, where the prophet notes “*judgment was given to the saints of the most High.*” The work of judgment will involve a careful investigation of the records of evil men and angels, so that everyone will be convinced of the justice of God in the destruction of the wicked (1 Corinthians 6:2,3).

Daniel 7:21,22  
1 Corinthians 6:2,3  
Revelation 20:2

Over whom will the saints reign if all the wicked have been destroyed? An important part of reigning is judging. The highest act of reigning was when a King sat upon His throne in judgment. So although the wicked are dead (Revelation 20:2), the saints will reign over them in judgment to determine their punishment after the second resurrection.

### Revelation 20:5

**But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.**

The “*rest of the dead*” refer to the wicked dead; all the righteous dead were resurrected in the first resurrection (John 5:28,29; 1 Thessalonians 4:16)

John 5:28,29  
1 Thessalonians 4:16

Revelation 20:14,15  
Daniel 12:2,3

#### **Revelation 20:6**

**Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.**

The wicked die twice. Their first death was their natural death at the end of their life or when Christ returned. All the wicked are then resurrected after the thousand years for the final judgment and are finally destroyed (Revelation 20:14,15). The righteous, who were resurrected or translated at Christ's return, will die no more (Daniel 12:2,3).

Jeremiah 4:26-28

#### **Revelation 20:7**

**Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison.**

Satan will be released by the resurrection of the wicked. He will be free to organize the resurrected wicked in opposition against God (Jeremiah 4:26-28).

#### **Revelation 20:8**

**And will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.**

In Ezekiel 38 "*Gog and Magog*" are used to describe the leaders of a vast coalition of heathen nations opposed to God and His people. Here the words represent the hosts of the unsaved who come forth in the second resurrection.

Revelation 21:10  
Jude 14,15  
Malachi 4:1

#### **Revelation 20:9**

**They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.**

The "*beloved city*" is the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:10). The fact that the "*beloved city*" is being surrounded shows that it has already descended to earth, although the actual descent is not described until Revelation 21. One of the significant events following the close of the 1000 years is the descent of Christ, the saints, and the Holy City (Jude 14,15). The form of the Greek verb denotes action completed. The wicked are annihilated. They suffer the "*second death*" (Malachi 4:1).

2 Peter 3:5-7  
Isaiah 47:14

#### **Revelation 20:10**

**The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.**

Here the lake of fire is the surface of the earth turned into a sea of flames. The earth was first cleansed with water, the second time it will be cleanse with fire (2 Peter 3:5-7). For "*ever and ever,*" is used in Exodus 21:6 to show that a servant was to serve his master as long as he lived. In 1 Samuel 1:22 the child Samuel was promised unto the service of the Lord "*for ever,*" or as long as he should live. "*For ever*" means as long as life shall last (Isaiah 47:14).

#### **Revelation 20:11**

**Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.**

The throne is a symbol of authority, in this case authority to carry out judgment. The throne is "*white,*" suggesting purity and justness.

#### **Revelation 20:12**

**And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.**

This is a reference to those raised in the second resurrection. No sentence passed upon any wicked person will be arbitrary, biased, or unfair. A record of the lives of all is contained in the books of Heaven.

**Revelation 20:13**

**The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.**

No man can avoid appearing in person before God where each person is rewarded "*according to his works.*" The word "*Hades*" simply means the grave.

**Revelation 20:14**

**Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.**

1 Corinthians 15:25,26

Death and the grave are here personified and represented as being cast into the lake of fire. This symbolizes the end of death and of the abode of the dead (1 Corinthians 15:25,26).

**Revelation 20:15**

**And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.**

Revelation 3:5

Only the names of the faithful will be retained in the book of life. The names of those who do not endure until the end will be blotted out (Revelation 3:5).

# The New Jerusalem

## Revelation Chapter Twenty-One

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2 Peter 3:11-13  
Genesis 7:11  
Genesis 10:25

### Revelation 21:1

**Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea**

The new heavens and the new earth are re-created after the destruction of the wicked. (2 Peter 3:11-13) Literally, "*and the sea is not any longer,*" that is, the seas as we know them now will not exist in the new creation. (Genesis 7:11; Genesis 10:25)

Matthew 21:13

### Revelation 21:2

**Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**

Ancient Jerusalem contained the temple, where God could manifest His presence to His people, but because of the sins of Israel, Jesus eventually pronounced the temple to be a "*den of thieves*" (Matthew 21:13). Now God promises a New Jerusalem were in is righteousness. In vision John saw the city as it descended at the end of the millennium. The New Jerusalem is the capital of Christ's Kingdom (His bride).

Exodus 25:8

### Revelation 21:3

**And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.**

The visible presence of God was made plain by the Shekinah in the days of Israel, and later by the personal appearance of Jesus. (Exodus 25:8) The voice from heaven now stresses the fact that throughout eternity God will dwell personally with His people.

Isaiah 25:8  
Nahum 1:9

### Revelation 21:4

**And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."**

The causes for sorrow and pain will be completely removed. (Isaiah 25:8) No cause for crying will exist in the new earth. There will be nothing that bears the mark of the curse of sin. (Nahum 1:9)

Hebrews 11:9,10

### Revelation 21:5

**Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful.**

The Father is usually represented as seated on the throne, but in this case it's Jesus (verse 6). We are to depend upon the promises of God for they are faithful and true. (Hebrews 11:9,10)

John 19:30  
Revelation 16:17  
Revelation 21:6  
Hebrews 12:2

### Revelation 21:6

**And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.**

These words are spoken three times by Jesus. (John 19:30; Revelation 16:17; Revelation 21:6) "*Alpha*" and "*Omega*" are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Jesus is the "*beginning and the end*" of our salvation. (Hebrews 12:2)

1 Corinthians 15:57 Luke 7:48	<p><b>Revelation 21:7</b>  <b>He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.</b>  Victory over sin is found in surrendering all to the will of God. This may require a struggle, but we must submit to God before we can be renewed in holiness. God invites us to give ourselves to Him so He can give us victory. (1 Corinthians 15:57) A sinner saved by grace is brought closer to God than if he had never sinned. (Luke 7:48)</p>
Revelation 20:7-9 Malachi 4:1	<p><b>Revelation 21:8</b>  <b>But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.</b>  The wicked die twice. Their first death was their natural death or at the Second Coming. All the wicked are then resurrected after the thousand years for the final Judgment (Revelation 20:7-9). They then attack the New Jerusalem and are destroyed, there is no second chance. (Malachi 4:1)</p>
Revelation 17:1	<p><b>Revelation 21:9</b>  <b>Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."</b>  One of the plague-bearing angels had already shown John the judgment of Babylon (Revelation 17:1). Now, one of them (possibly the same angel) directs John's attention to the New Jerusalem.</p>
John 14:2,3	<p><b>Revelation 21:10</b>  <b>And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.</b>  Historically, ancient Babylon and Jerusalem were traditional enemies, and figuratively they represent the two sides of the great controversy between good and evil. The New Jerusalem will be the capital of Christ's kingdom and the eternal home of the saved. (John 14:2,3)</p>
Daniel 12:2,3	<p><b>Revelation 21:11</b>  <b>Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.</b>  This is a reference to the abiding presence of God with His people throughout eternity. The word "light" occurs in Philippians 2:15, "among whom you shine as lights [luminaries] in the world." The redeemed are described as shining like stars. (Daniel 12:2,3)</p>
Psalm 24:7,8	<p><b>Revelation 21:12</b>  <b>Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:</b>  Walls were built around ancient cities for protection against enemies. The questioned might be asked, why would the New Jerusalem need walls? Will those in the New Jerusalem have enemies? (Revelation 20:9) The New Jerusalem is pictured as having angelic gatekeepers. (Psalm 24:7,8)  There is significance in the order with which John lists the tribes in Revelation 7:5-8. Each name has a specific meaning and when linked together in the order that John gives them, we find the following: <i>I will praise the Lord, He has looked on me and given good fortune. Happy am I for my wrestling, God is making me forget. God hears me and is joined to me, He has purchased me a dwelling. God shall add to me the son of his right hand.</i></p>
Exodus 4:22 Matthew 2:14,15	<p><b>Revelation 21:13</b>  <b>Three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.</b>  The camp of Israel was pitched around the Sanctuary with three tribes on each side. Access to the Sanctuary was through the tribes, thus access to the heavenly Sanctuary is through the One that the nation of Israel was to symbolize. (Exodus 4:22, Matthew 2:14,15)</p>

Ephesians 2:19-22

**Revelation 21:14**

**Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.**

The New Testament church (spiritual Israel) was founded upon the leadership of the apostles and prophets. (Ephesians 2:19-22)

Revelation 11:1,2

**Revelation 21:15**

**And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.**

The heavenly temple, and those who worship in it, are measured (judged) with a reed in Revelation 11:1,2. Now there is a measuring of the reward of those found worthy in this judgment. (Revelation 11:1,2)

**Revelation 21:16**

**The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal.**

12,000 furlongs would be about 1,378 miles. The text does not state whether this is a measure of the circumference of the city or just one side. If it is the circumference, each side would be about 345 miles long.

**Revelation 21:17**

**Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.**

On the basis of the New Testament cubit, which was about 17 1/2 inches the walls would be about 210 feet high.

**Revelation 21:18**

**The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.**

The structure of the city appears to have the transparency of glass

Exodus 28:17-20

**Revelation 21:19**

**The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald,**

Twelve kinds of precious stones are listed as being in the foundation. There were twelve jewels in the high priest's breastplate which represented the twelve tribes of Israel. (Exodus 28:17-20)

- Jasper: a translucent stone of greenish in color.
- Sapphire: A transparent sky-blue stone of great hardness.
- Chalcedony. A gem of greenish color.
- Emerald. A gem of bright-green color.

**Revelation 21:20**

**The fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.**

- Sardonyx: A stone with red and brown layers.
- Sardius: A reddish-colored gem.
- Chrysolite: A yellow-colored stone.
- Beryl: A gem of sea-green color.
- Topaz: A transparent yellow-colored stone.
- Chrysoprase: An apple-green, transparent gem.
- Jacinth: A purple-colored gem
- Amethyst: Thought to be a purple-colored stone

**Revelation 21:21**

**The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.**

Hebrews 2:9,10

A pearl is formed when a foreign object slips into an oyster shell and irritates the oyster. The oyster's natural reaction is to cover up that irritant with layers of the same substance that is used to create the shell. Overtime these layers build up to create a pearl. It's interesting to note that our entry into Heaven is through the suffering of Christ. (Hebrews 2:9,10) The streets of the city appear to have the transparency of glass although they are made of gold.

**Revelation 21:22**

**But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.**

Revelation 16:9

The reason for the earthly sanctuary was so that God could dwell with His people (Exodus 25:8). The Sanctuary or Temple took care of the sin problem (Hebrews 9:11,12). In the New Jerusalem John sees no Temple for sin has been completely removed (Nahum 1:9).

**Revelation 21:23**

**The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.**

Isaiah 60:19  
John 1:4; 8:12

The glorious presence of God will give more than sufficient light. (Isaiah 60:19) The apostle John described Jesus as the light of the world, and Jesus Himself said, *"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."* (John 1:4; 8:12). Jesus is not only the light in this world spiritually, but literally in the world to come.

**Revelation 21:24**

**And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.**

Revelation 7:9

The everlasting gospel is to be preach to *"every nation, tribe, tongue, and people."* The saved therefore come from all nations. (Revelation 7:9)

**Revelation 21:25**

**Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).**

Revelation 20:9

After the wicked have all been destroyed (Revelation 20:9) there will be no reason for the gates of the New Jerusalem to ever be shut. There will be no night inside the New Jerusalem because God is the light.

Isaiah 66:23

**Revelation 21:26**

**And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.**

From one Sabbath to another Sabbath all the saved will gather inside the New Jerusalem to worship God. (Isaiah 66:23)

**Revelation 21:27**

**But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.**

Luke 10:20

No evil thing will ever enter into the New Jerusalem, but only those whose names remain in the Lambs book of Life. (Luke 10:20)

# The Promise of God

## Revelation Chapter Twenty-two

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Exodus 17:6;  
1 Corinthians 10:4  
Matthew 5:6  
John 7:37,38

### Revelation 22:1

**And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.**

The “*water of life*” is a symbol of God’s continual provision for His people. (Exodus 17:6; 1 Corinthians 10:4) The source of all spiritual blessings comes from God. Through Christ eternal life is provided for all who are willing and obedient. (Matthew 5:6; John 7:37,38)

### Revelation 22:2

**In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.**

The word translated “*street*” can also be translated “*path*.” In other words the path of the river runs through the tree of life. In the beginning, man was created in the likeness of God and could freely eat from the *tree of life*. But because of sin Adam and Eve were banished from the garden of Eden. Jesus came to restore that which had been lost, through Christ access to the *tree of life* will one day be restored. In the New Jerusalem there will be constant abundance. The fruit of the tree of life will fill the needs of the saved throughout eternity. The word “*healing*” can also be translated as “*service*,” “*nurture*,” or “*care*.”

### Revelation 22:3

**And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.**

God and Christ will reign in the city. (Revelation 21:3)

Revelation 21:3

### Revelation 22:4

**They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads**

The ultimate reward of the redeemed is to see the face of God. (Psalm 17:15; Matthew 5:8) The name in the forehead is a symbol of ownership and acceptance. The saints belong to God and His Law is in their hearts and minds. (Psalm 40:8)

Psalm 17:15  
Matthew 5:8  
Psalm 40:8

### Revelation 22:5

**There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.**

The glory of God will continually fill the New Jerusalem with light. The significance of God giving light to the Redeemed represents a re-establishment of the relationship broken in Eden by sin. Jesus is described as the “*Light of the world*.” No longer will the Redeemed be under the oppressive hand of some persecuting power but will enjoy the freedom and abundance of kings. As co-heirs with Christ the redeemed will share in the blessings of Christ’s victory and exaltation. (Hebrews 1:3,4; Romans 8:16,17; Revelation 3:21)

Hebrews 1:3,4  
Romans 8:16,17  
Revelation 3:21

### Revelation 22:6

**Then he said to me, “These words are faithful and true.” And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place.**

The angel emphasizes the trustworthiness of God’s promises. The Holy Spirit illuminated John’s mind as He had done for the Old Testament prophets. (2 Peter 1:21)

2 Peter 1:21

### Revelation 22:7

**“Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”**

This is one of the seven beatitudes of Revelation:

1. Rev. 1:3 – *“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy...”*
2. Rev. 14:13 – *“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on...”*
3. Rev. 16:15 – *“Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments...”*
4. Rev. 19:9 – *“Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb...”*
5. Rev. 20:6 – *“Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection...”*
6. Rev. 22:7 – *“Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book...”*
7. Rev. 22:14 – *“Blessed are those who do His commandments...”*

Matthew 24:14  
Genesis 3:15  
Luke 2:10,11

### Revelation 22:8

**Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things.**

The grandeur of the vision must have completely overwhelmed John and made him feel extremely humble.

### Revelation 22:9

**Then he said to me, “See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.”**

John had a similar response when he was told about the *“marriage supper of the Lamb.”* [Revelation 19:9] The *“sayings of this book”* are the *“testimony of Jesus.”* (Revelation 19:10)

Revelation 19:10

Daniel 12:4

### Revelation 22:10

**And he said to me, “Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.**

*“Do not seal...this book”* is opposite to the command given to the prophet Daniel. The book of Revelation covers the entire history of the Christian era. (Daniel 12:4)

### Revelation 22:11

**He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.”**

These words are spoken by Jesus at the end of the investigative judgment and the close of human probation. (1 Peter 4:17; Daniel 8:14; Daniel 12:1,2)

1 Peter 4:17  
Daniel 8:14  
Daniel 12:1,2

### Revelation 22:12

**“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.**

The words translated *“to give”* can also be translated as *“to pay off,”* or *“discharge what is due.”* (2 Corinthians 5:10)

2 Corinthians 5:10

### Revelation 22:13

**I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”**

*“Alpha”* and *“Omega”* are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. All created things owe their existence to Christ; all things find their end in relation to Him. (Colossians 1:16,17)

Colossians 1:16,17

### Revelation 22:14

**Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.**

The evidence of love for God is the keeping of His commandments. (Revelation 14:12; John 14:15)

Revelation 14:12  
John 14:15

**Revelation 22:15**

**But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.**

Revelation 20:6-10

Here a contrast is drawn between those who keep the Commandments and those who don't. The wicked will be outside the New Jerusalem at the 2<sup>nd</sup> resurrection. [Revelation 20:6-10]

**Revelation 22:16**

**"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."**

Numbers 24:17  
2 Peter 1:19

Jesus is the source of the message of Revelation. [Revelation 1:1] The "*Offspring of David*" emphasizes Christ's kingship and royalty. The reference to Christ as the "*Bright and Morning star*" is taken from Numbers 24:17 and 2 Peter 1:19. As the morning star is a herald of the coming day, so Christ is the herald of the coming Kingdom.

**Revelation 22:17**

**And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.**

John 6:44  
Acts 2:37,38  
Matthew 11:28,29

The work of the Holy Spirit is to draw people to Christ. The work of the church is to encourage people to respond. (John 6:44, Acts 2:37,38) This is a call to the unbelieving world to accept the gospel. (Matthew 11:28,29)

**Revelation 22:18**

**For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;**

Psalms 116:15  
John 11:25

Jesus is warning against deliberate changes in the message of the book. This is also true of the rest of the Bible. [Deuteronomy 4:2] Josephus said concerning the Hebrew Scriptures; "*For, although such long ages have now passed, no one has ventured either to add, or to remove, or to alter a syllable.*"

**Revelation 22:19**

**And if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.**

The one who changes God's Word will loose out on immortality, entrance to the New Jerusalem, and the blessings and promises of Revelation.

**Revelation 22:20**

**He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!**

John 14:3

John was probably reminded of that night in the upper room, more than half a century before, when he heard Jesus declare, "*I will come again*" (John 14:3). With eager anticipation John looks forward to the day when in reality, not in vision, he will see the Lord face to face.

**Revelation 22:21**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.**

This verse is a benediction, deep from the heart of the apostle. They form a fitting climax to the book of Revelation and the canon of Scripture, the focus of which is the glorious coming of Jesus.

