

**Harold A. Lerch, Sr.**

# **Revelation**

## **In Plain Language**

**A DRAMATIC DISCLOSURE OF DIVINE TRUTH**

*... the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 1 Cor. 15:52-6*

**FINAL WARNINGS AND PROMISES FROM GOD**

**Word to the World Ministries**

# Revelation

## In Plain Language

A Dramatic Disclosure of Divine Truth

Final Warnings and Promises from God



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## **Author and Word to the World Ministries**

Harold A. Lerch, Sr., is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University, College of Engineering, and retired professional engineer. His career was in the field of construction administration and management for a major corporation. Prior, he was Special Projects Manager for the same corporation, specializing in food manufacturing and material handling.

The author founded Word to the World Ministries, [www.word2world.com](http://www.word2world.com), an organization that publishes and distributes complimentary witnessing resources.

Harold and his wife, Jeanne, reside near Middleburg, Pa., USA.

## **Mission Statement**

Know therefore that the LORD your God, he is God, the faithful God, who keeps covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations. (Deuteronomy 7:9).

The author's overall concern is for the salvation of lost souls. God has provided The Way to all- to all that will accept His grace and Jesus Christ, the Messiah and LORD. The author's fundamental missions are:

1. To proclaim that God created the universe, not time and chance;
2. God is Creator, He owns us. He alone has the right to give commandments and judge us.
3. God's original plan changed because of our sinful ways. God sent His Son, the Messiah, who has already come as the Redeemer of sins.
4. Jesus will return to conquer Satan and all our enemies.
5. We who accept Him as our Redeemer will abide with the Conqueror forever.

## **Dedication**

I dedicate this book to Jeanne, my wife of the past half-century. Jeanne's gifts to me include Harold, Jr., Joanne, and eight grandchildren: Mariah, Rochele, Christian, Drew, Kylee, Alex, Shelly, and Gabriele. Blessings upon blessings! Jeanne is my best friend.

I wish to honor my parents, the late Mrs. Pearl Lerch and Ralph H. Lerch. Without my parents' prayers and direction, my soul might be lost.

Cousin Randy Lerch continues to inspire.

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## **Foreword**

God saved you by his special favor when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. Eph. 2:8-9 NLT

Revelation is the last book in the Bible but first in being misunderstood and the book, which comes under the most interest and curiosity. Many of us have been confused, largely because we over-think our attempts to understand. Who is the beast: 666 is the number of his name? When will the rapture occur? Is Revelation allegory or real, future events. It is the author's intention to clarify at least some of the confusion. The author has the opinion that we cannot understand all of Revelation until certain events take place. Some of the content might be for those left after the Rapture.

If the author had to select what he feels to be the most important message from the Bible, it is the promise of Salvation for those who accept Jesus, the Messiah. Man sinned and continues to sin. Jesus came to earth to save us and so that we can spend eternity with Him. Jesus' words:

<sup>1</sup>Let not your heart be troubled: you believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And where I go you know, and the way you know. <sup>5</sup>Thomas said unto him, LORD, we know not where you go; and how can we know the way? <sup>6</sup>Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father, but by me. (Matthew 14:1-6)

Where will you spend eternity?

## **Prologue**

A Christian's duty is to provide his children with a sound, scriptural foundation. They need to hear the Truth from us rather than the speculation by the secular world. This book is to clarify the events of the Book of Revelation.

Instead, exalt Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be prepared to give a defense to everyone who asks you to explain the hope you have. 1 Peter 3:15 ISV

# PART I: THINGS PAST

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. Gen. 1:1



Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, You shall not eat of every tree of the garden? Gen. 3:1

And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, You shall not eat of it: cursed is the ground for your sake; in sorrow shall you eat of it all the days of thy life. Genesis 3:17

The next day John saw Jesus coming unto him, and said, Behold the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world. John 1: 29

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this? John 11: 25-26



## **Section One: Introduction and Messages from the LORD**

### **Revelation Chapter One**

To study and understand the book of Revelation, we need to start at the beginning. Not just the beginning of the book of Revelation, but the beginning of the entire Bible. Those who do not know the background have no chance of jumping in and attempting to answer, “who is the Antichrist,” and “when will the world end.”

If you believe that the rapture of the dead and living in Christ precedes the tribulation, and if you have accepted Jesus as your Savior, then you need not be concerned with what happens after the rapture. Except, we are concerned for the nonbelievers that will be left here to struggle with the Antichrist and his “church.” We will review this concept, “Dispensationalism,” later in this section. Note: “chapters” are referred to as “sections” in this book to avoid confusion with Bible chapters.

This book is based upon the view of Dispensationalism:

1. Rapture of the dead saints and living believers. (Jesus will meet us in the air.)
2. Seven year Tribulation Period. The first half being the Tribulation, the second being the Great Tribulation.
3. The Battle of Armageddon. (Final War.)
4. The Millennium. (One thousand year rule of peace.)
5. Satan thrown into the bottomless pit for eternity.

This section includes the entire first chapter of Revelation, beginning with an introduction. God’s servant, John of Patmos, records this book as the disclosure from Christ to John by words and imagery. It includes a blessing to those who read, hear, and keep the words of this prophecy. There should be no confusion concerning these verses.

#### **Revelation 1**

<sup>1</sup>The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: <sup>2</sup>Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. <sup>3</sup>Blessed is he that reads, and they that hear the words of this prophesy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Verses 4-8 prelude the letters from Christ to the seven churches of Asia Minor (see section two) who is the “faithful witness to these things, the first to rise from the dead, and the commander of all the rulers of the world.” Jesus has made us his Kingdom, his priests who serve God. Give to him everlasting glory! He rules forever and ever! He will return in the clouds, every eye will

see him. There will be no doubt as to what happened. Jesus is the beginning and end: He is, was, and always will be.

<sup>4</sup>John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; <sup>5</sup>And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, <sup>6</sup>And had made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup>Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they which pierced him: and all the people of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. <sup>8</sup>I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, says the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.



The next verses of chapter 1, verses 9-18, begin the vision John experienced on Patmos. Some of this vision seems like what we might call a nightmare, but in this case it is truth. John identifies himself as “John, your brother.” Perhaps the seven churches knew him; perhaps he was identifying himself as a friend. John was in prayer when he received a message to write to the seven churches. The message was from Christ, “the alpha and omega.” John saw Jesus among seven golden candlesticks. Gold is often used as a symbol for God and His attributes. Jesus had a sword in his mouth in this image- He is the Conqueror. Christ calls himself “the Living one; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.”

<sup>9</sup>I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup>I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, <sup>11</sup>Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What you see, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. <sup>12</sup>And I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; <sup>13</sup>And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a

garment down to the foot, and girt about the chest with a golden girdle. <sup>14</sup>His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; <sup>15</sup>And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. <sup>16</sup>And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shines in his strength. <sup>17</sup>And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: <sup>18</sup>I am he that lived, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Chapter one concludes with a command given to John to write the things that he sees, from the past, present and future. Christ reveals, “The seven stars you saw in my right hand are the angels of the seven churches,” and “the seven gold lamp stands are the seven churches.” This is the first bit of symbolism. It is straightforward and much clearer than what we will find in later chapters.

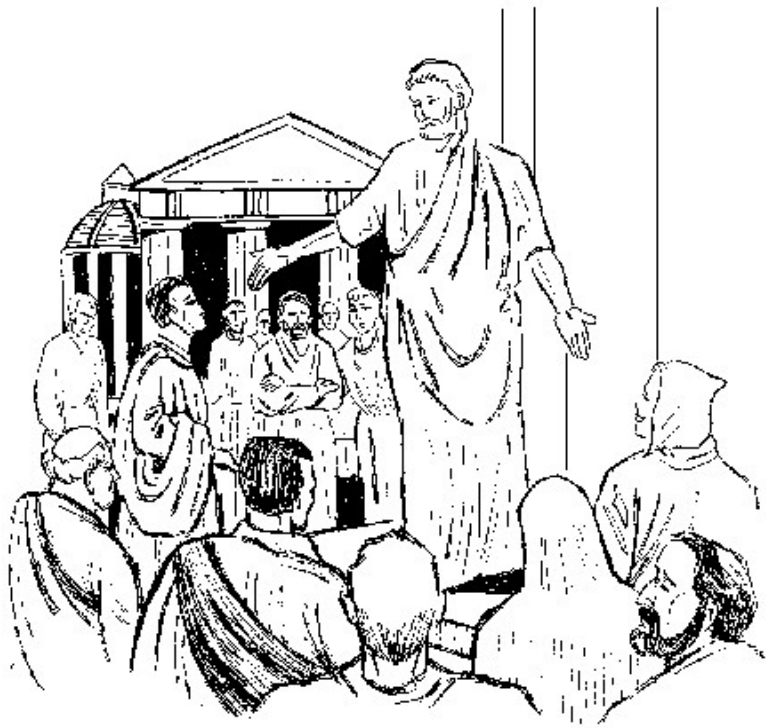


<sup>19</sup>Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; <sup>20</sup>The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which you saw are the seven churches.

## PART II: THINGS PRESENT

### The Church Age – Age of Grace

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:8-10



Paul spreading the Gospel

Paul would suggest a prayer like this to accept God's Grace and assure your place in Heaven:

“Dear God, I confess that I am a sinner. I believe in your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior. I ask Jesus here and now to come into my heart and life and to be my Savior. Please help me to turn from sin. I give my life to you. Thank you LORD for saving me. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.”

## **Section Two: Messages to the Seven Churches**

### Revelation Chapters Two and three



Many Bible studies and commentaries attempt to identify the Seven Churches with churches of the present day. Remember that Revelation was written two thousand years ago and was to be meaningful to the persons of that time. We expect it to be meaningful today, as well, and it should be. The early Church was known as "The Way." It was for Jews that accepted the Messiahship of Christ, as well as for Gentiles. To label the churches as Catholic, Orthodox, Evangelical, or any other denominations seems inapplicable and perhaps misleading.

The Seven Churches had some attributes loved by Christ, some repellent. We should consume ourselves with what to do, and what not to do. This section covers chapters two and three. The first passage addresses the church at Ephesus. Some equate this church with representing the end of the apostolic age.

## Revelation 2

<sup>1</sup>Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things said he that holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walked in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; <sup>2</sup>I know you works, and you labor, and you patience, and how you canst not bear them which are evil: and you have tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and have found them liars: <sup>3</sup>And have borne, and have patience, and for my name's sake have labored, and have not fainted. <sup>4</sup>Nevertheless I have somewhat against you, because you have left you first love. <sup>5</sup>Remember therefore from whence you are fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto you quickly, and will remove you candlestick out of his place, except you repent. <sup>6</sup>But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. <sup>7</sup>He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit said unto the churches; To him that overcomes will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

The church at Ephesus was praised for their efforts, faith, and patience. However, the church is dominating its members (ref. Nicolaitans). They have forgotten their “first love” (Christ). So, trust in the LORD, have faith, remember where you used to be, and work for God, not man. Your reward is Heaven.

The next letter is to the Church at Smyrna. This church is heavily persecuted and under attack from Satan. Jesus advises them to be strong and persevere. Again, their reward for “overcoming” is Heaven.

<sup>8</sup>And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things said the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive. <sup>9</sup>I know you works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but you are rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. <sup>10</sup>Fear none of those things which you shall suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be you faithful unto death, and I will give you a crown of life. <sup>11</sup>He that had an ear, let him hear what the Spirit said unto the churches; He that overcomes shall not be hurt of the second death.

The third letter is to the Church at Pergamum. This represents a church that is more interested in the World than the Word. The church dominating the people (ref. Nicolaitans) is again at issue. The Doctrine of Balaam is a reference to false prophets. Balak was a Moabite King who worked to destroy God’s people. This church has faithful members, each promised to eat “hidden manna” if they overcome, and a new name in Heaven known only to him and the LORD.

<sup>12</sup>And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things said he which had the sharp sword with two edges; <sup>13</sup>I know you works, and where you dwell, even where Satan's seat is: and you hold fast my name, and have not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwells. <sup>14</sup>But I have a few things against you, because you have there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. <sup>15</sup>So have you

also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. <sup>16</sup>Repent; or else I will come unto you quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. <sup>17</sup>He that had an ear, let him hear what the Spirit said unto the churches; To him that overcomes will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knows saving he that receives it.

The fourth letter is to the Church of Thyatira. This church has slipped into idolatry. Jesus tells them that He knows their love faith, service, patience, and improvements. But Jesus warns them that they let “Jezebel” (a Phoenician princess who married Prince Ahab) mislead them. Jezebel led the Jews into idolatry and other sin. Jezebel had a chance to repent but did not. Those who follow her evil ways (and Satan’s) will be put through trials. Jesus promised all who are victorious, who obey Him to the end, He will give authority over all the nations. Christ said He will also give the victorious the “morning star.” This reference is confusing because the Bible refers to Lucifer as the morning star. Others believe that in this context, morning star refers to Christ. The reference is likely that the victorious will have power over Satan in that Satan is mentioned in this passage, as well is the power to rule.

<sup>18</sup>And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things said the Son of God, who had his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass; <sup>19</sup>I know you works, and charity, and service, and faith, and you patience, and you works; and the last to be more than the first. <sup>20</sup>Notwithstanding I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, which calls herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. <sup>21</sup>And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. <sup>22</sup>Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. <sup>23</sup>And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searches the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. <sup>24</sup>But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. <sup>25</sup>But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. <sup>26</sup>And he that overcomes, and keeps my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: <sup>27</sup>And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. <sup>28</sup>And I will give him the morning star. <sup>29</sup>He that had an ear, let him hear what the Spirit said unto the churches.

Chapter Three begins with a letter to the Church of Sardis. This church represents a dead congregation with a portion who still believe. One might be tempted to equate this church to a Protestant Denomination that forgot why they are here: to serve God. Jesus tells them, “I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.” This is a wake-up call urging them to get back to the ways that please God. Jesus promises those who conquer will “wear white clothes,” Jesus will always know the names of those in the Book of Life and acknowledge them in the presence of The Father and his angels.

### Revelation 3

<sup>1</sup>And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things said he that had the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know you works, that you have a name that you live, and are dead. <sup>2</sup>Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found you works perfect before God. <sup>3</sup>Remember therefore how you have received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore you shall not watch, I will come on you as a thief, and you shall not know what hour I will come upon you. <sup>4</sup>You have a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. <sup>5</sup>He that overcomes, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. <sup>6</sup>He that had an ear, let him hear what the Spirit said unto the churches.

The Church of Philadelphia is the sixth to be addressed by Jesus. Some refer this to be the church in revival, an Evangelical Church. Two thousand years ago it referred to one church in Asia Minor. We are to do the good things and shun the bad things covered by this letter. Jesus praises the church for being faithful, telling them “I know your works; I have set before you an open door, which no one can shut. You have but little power yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. I will protect you from Satan. You will rule the wicked. He that overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God (paraphrased).”

<sup>7</sup>And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things said he that is holy, he that is true, he that had the key of David, he that opens, and no man shuts; and shuts, and no man opens; <sup>8</sup>I know you works: behold, I have set before you an open door, and no man can shut it: for you have a little strength, and have kept my word, and have not denied my name. <sup>9</sup>Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before you feet, and to know that I have loved you. <sup>10</sup>Because you have kept the word of my patience, I also will keep you from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. <sup>11</sup>Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which you have, that no man take you crown. <sup>12</sup>Him that overcomes will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. <sup>13</sup>He that had an ear, let him hear what the Spirit said unto the churches.

The last letter is to the Church of Laodicea. Jesus refers to Himself as “The Amen, the witness who is faithful and true, the beginning of God's creation.” (Compare to John 1:1-3: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.) This is hard to understand: Jesus is God's First Creation; Jesus is the Creator. In fact, over-thinking the Trinity can make your head spin. Just know that it is true.



<sup>14</sup>And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; these things said the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; <sup>15</sup>I know you works, that you are neither cold nor hot: I prefer you were cold or hot. <sup>16</sup>So then because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spit you out of my mouth. <sup>17</sup>Because you say, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and know not that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: <sup>18</sup>I counsel you to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that you may be rich; and white raiment, that you may be clothed, and that the shame of you nakedness do not appear; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. <sup>19</sup>As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

It would be hard to compare the Church of Laodicea to a modern church, other than the fact that this church love money and riches. Jesus advises them to buy gold from him (riches in Heaven are better than riches on earth). They are not doing good works, and are “lukewarm.” As we might dislike eating hot food that is too cool, or cold food that is too warm, Jesus said “Because you are lukewarm I will spew you out of my mouth.

A final thought for Laodicea, just as we might show our children “tough love,” Jesus said “I correct and discipline those whom I love, so be serious and repent!”

Chapter three concludes with good news. Also, a reminder to pay heed to His instructions to the Seven Churches:

<sup>20</sup>Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. <sup>21</sup>To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. <sup>22</sup>He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit said unto the churches.

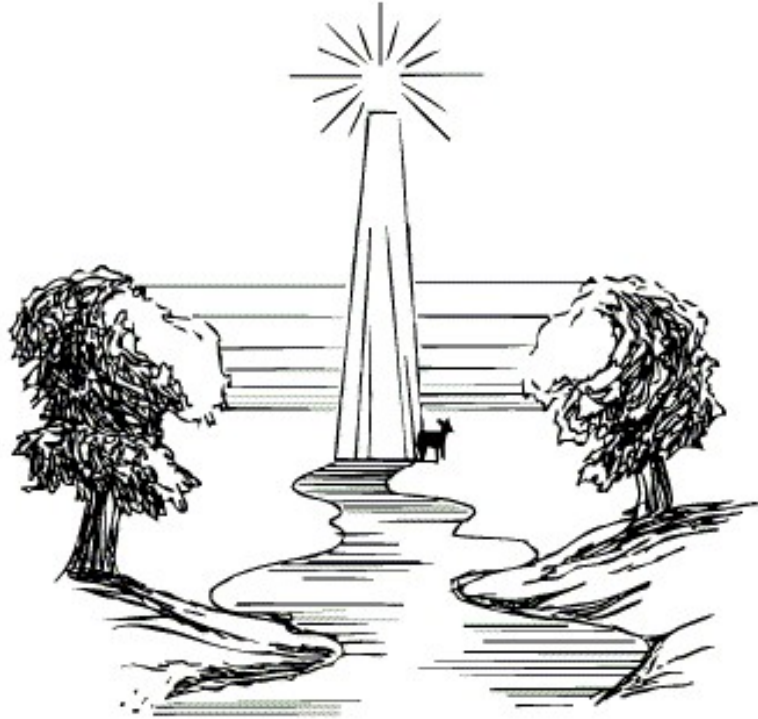
Jesus reminds us that He also overcame. What He went through leading up to and during His crucifixion is barely fathomable. We who believe are saved by grace, and expected to do good works. Salvation should be easy for us: Christ did the hard part.

Faith is the key implied in all the letters to the churches. By faith we accept the Word, we study, and we do “unto good works.” The Scriptures are to inform, instruct, and comfort us.

Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Tim 2:15

How hard is this? “Dear Father in Heaven, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins. I repent and ask that you will forgive me. I accept Jesus as my Savior. From this day forward I will strive to live for Him. Dear LORD Jesus, please come into my heart. Amen.”

### PART III: THINGS FUTURE



*For the wages of sin is death;  
but the gift of God is eternal life  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Romans 6:23.*

## **Section Three: The Seven-Sealed Scroll**

### Revelation Chapters 4 through 6



The symbolism deepens as we prepare to read about the opening of the Seven Seals. This symbolism is used to describe the scene and “set the stage” in Heaven before the opening of the seals. This view is believed to be from Heaven because the word “church” does not reappear in the Book of Revelation until chapter 22. Jesus invites John of Patmos to “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.” The imagery shows God in splendor and as ruler over all.

#### Revelation 4

<sup>1</sup>After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will show you things which must be hereafter. <sup>2</sup>And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. <sup>3</sup>And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

Twenty-four elders surround God , seated on thrones. It is as if they are “kings” subordinate to One over all others. All of the elders wore crowns, indicative of resurrected saints rather than angels. It is likely that twelve of the elders represent the twelve foundation stones in the description of the New Jerusalem, which are named after the Twelve Apostles. The other twelve likely represent the 12 gates named after the Twelve Tribes of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. <sup>5</sup>And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

The power of God is indicated by the “lightning and thundering.” The seven torches represent the seven spirits of God. From Isaiah 11:2, the seven spirits are:

1. The Spirit of the LORD
2. The spirit of wisdom
3. The spirit of understanding
4. The spirit of counsel
5. The spirit of strength
6. The spirit of knowledge
7. The fear of the LORD

“Four living creatures” appear in the Old Testament books of Ezekiel and Daniel, described slightly differently. Some have believed the Four Creatures to be cherubim representing Four Evangelists, the Gospel authors Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. It is obvious that they are important entities, and they are subordinate to God. In the following verses, the twenty-four elders and four creatures worship God.

<sup>6</sup>And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. <sup>7</sup>And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. <sup>8</sup>And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. <sup>9</sup>And when those beasts give glory and honor and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who lived for ever and ever, <sup>10</sup>The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that lived for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, <sup>11</sup>You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for you have created all things, and for you pleasure they are and were created.

In Revelation chapter five, John is sorrowed because “no one is worthy” to open the seals. Imagine how we would feel if we were on the precipice of great knowledge, but it was just a bit out of reach.

### Revelation 5

<sup>1</sup>And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. <sup>2</sup>And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? <sup>3</sup>And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. <sup>4</sup>And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

John is comforted by one of the elders. Jesus, symbolized by a lamb, is worthy to open the seven seals. Jesus takes the scroll from the right hand of God. Scripture tells us that Jesus will be seated at the right hand of God.

<sup>5</sup>And one of the elders said unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, had prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. <sup>6</sup>And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. <sup>7</sup>And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

When Jesus takes the scroll, the twenty-four elders and four creatures worship him, further substantiating that these twenty-eight beings are lesser than God, and that the lamb is Jesus' personage of the Trinity. Each has a harp used for worship and praise, and a bowl of incense representing the prayers of the saints. These events happen in the future, before the rapture. The saints represent either prayer from the believers before they died, or from the souls of dead believers (saints). They further praise Jesus who provided redemption for everyone on earth who believes.

<sup>8</sup>And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of saints. <sup>9</sup>And they sung a new song, saying, You are worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for you were slain, and have redeemed us to God by your blood out of every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation; <sup>10</sup>And have made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

The angels praise the Lamb after the saints have done so: the angels were made by God “a little lower” than man.

<sup>11</sup>And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; <sup>12</sup>Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, honor, and glory, and blessing.

Eventually, every being in Heaven (the redeemed and the angels) will worship and praise Jesus, the Lamb of God, together.

<sup>13</sup>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, heard I saying, Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto him that sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. <sup>14</sup>And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that lived for ever and ever.

In Revelation chapter six, The Lamb opened the seven seals:

After He opened the first seal, one of the Four Creatures invites John to “come and see.” Jesus rode a white horse and with a bow went out to conquer. First, He was The Lamb because He was sinless and spilled His blood for our Salvation. Now, we see the Messiah take on the role of Conqueror, the position many thought, by their misunderstanding, should have been Christ’s character two thousand years ago. Thereby, many did not follow Him.



## Revelation 6

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

When The Lamb opened the second seal another horse appeared, a red one representing war. John is invited to “come and look.” Its rider, Jesus, was given a mighty sword and the authority to remove peace from the earth.

<sup>3</sup>And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. <sup>4</sup>And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

The Lamb opened the third seal. Again, John was invited by a Living Creature to “come and see.” This time, Jesus rode a black horse representing famine. This famine is some type of natural catastrophe because the grains become very expensive, but not oil and wine.

<sup>5</sup>And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. <sup>6</sup>And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see you hurt not the oil and the wine.

The fourth creature invited John to “come and see” the opening of the fourth seal. In this vision, Jesus rides a pale horse representing death and the grave. The rider will kill one-fourth of the earth with the “sword, famine, disease, and wild animals.”

<sup>7</sup>And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. <sup>8</sup>And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

The horsemen of the first four seals represent Conquest, War, Famine, and Death. These appear to represent personages of Jesus Christ.

When the fifth seal is opened, the vision is before John in Heaven, at the throne of God. John sees the souls of martyrs crying out for God to avenge their deaths. They are dressed in white robes, and asked to be patient “for a little season” until future martyrs join them: essentially, until the Second Coming. Martyrs will be resurrected at the Rapture, just before the Tribulation. God will receive martyrs from the Tribulation period after the Second Coming, after the Tribulation.

<sup>9</sup>And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: <sup>10</sup>And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? <sup>11</sup>And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

When the sixth seal is opened, the vision is described as a cataclysmic change to the heavens and the earth: there was a great earthquake; the sun became as dark as black cloth; the moon became as red; the stars of the sky fell to the earth; the sky vanished; every mountain and island was removed from its place. All of the inhabitants on earth recognize their place as the lost: the kings, princes, captains; the rich, the strong, the bondman, and freeman hid themselves. They begged the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb. The great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”

Clearly, this is the end of the Great Tribulation. The Tribulation is broken into two forty-two month halves. The Tribulation is the first half, the second half the Great Tribulation. More on this later.

<sup>12</sup>And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; <sup>13</sup>And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casts her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. <sup>14</sup>And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. <sup>15</sup>And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; <sup>16</sup>And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: <sup>17</sup>For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Seven is God’s Holy Number, established at the Creation and repeated throughout the Bible: <sup>31</sup>God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day. <sup>1</sup>Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. <sup>2</sup>And on the seventh day God ended his work, which he had made; and he rested on the



seventh day from all his work, which he had made. <sup>3</sup>And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made. (Genesis 1:31-2:3.) The first six seals are actions, the seventh begins with a period of rest.

Before the opening of the seventh seal, a parenthetical account is given about those who are saved during the Tribulation. That is, after the Rapture and before the Second Coming.

And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. (Rev. 8:1)

## **Section Four: Those Saved During the Tribulation**

### Revelation Chapter 7

Revelation chapter seven is a parenthesis about those who will be saved during the Tribulation. It is a “time out from the action” to clarify an importance before the opening of the sixth seal. It begins with instruction from an angel having the seal of God telling four angels to hold back the four winds of the earth that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree “until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.” These are those saved during the Tribulation.

You will recall that the sixth seal allowed the earth to be judged and, not destroyed but seriously “afflicted.” This event is prior to the opening of the sixth seal.



#### Revelation 7

<sup>1</sup>And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. <sup>2</sup>And 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 given to hurt the earth and the sea, <sup>3</sup>Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

The 144,000 represent those chosen from the Nation of Israel, 12,000 from each of the twelve tribes. Some Bible researchers believe that the word “tribe” here is symbolic, and they have many reasons leading to this opinion. The most likely answer is to take the scripture at face value and accept that 12,000 from each of 12 named tribes will be saved. It does not read like symbolism. When we infer imagery, we create confusion and contention.

<sup>4</sup>And I heard the number of them that were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. <sup>5</sup>Of the tribe of Judah were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. <sup>6</sup>Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nepthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand. <sup>7</sup>Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand. <sup>8</sup>Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.

There is no reason to believe that other Jews could not be saved during the Tribulation. The remainder of chapter seven discusses a Gentile multitude saved during this time, and we are not given any reason why Jews beyond the 144,000 would not be included. In verse nine, John says he saw a great multitude, which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues (emphasis added).

<sup>9</sup>After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and tribes, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; <sup>10</sup>And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. <sup>11</sup>And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, <sup>12</sup>Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

After the Twenty-four Elders, Four Creatures, and the angels worshipped God, John wanted to know whom this multitude represented. One of the creatures told John, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” They will never hunger or thirst, and all sorrow will be gone forever.

<sup>13</sup>And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they? <sup>14</sup>And I said unto him, Sir, you know. And he said to me, These are they that came out of great tribulation, and have washed their

robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup>Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sits on the throne shall dwell among them. <sup>16</sup>They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. <sup>17</sup>For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

It is much easier to “overcome” now, in the Age of Grace. It will be very difficult to emerge victoriously from the Tribulation. It is wise to place your faith in Jesus now!



Accepting Jesus as your Savior is as easy as saying Grace. Pray like this:

Lord Jesus, I ask You to forgive my sins and save me from eternal punishment. I accept Your death on the cross as payment for my sins. Thank You for your Word by which I can know You as well as have a relationship with the Father. Through faith in You, I have eternal life. Thank You also for hearing my prayers, loving me, and giving me eternal life. Please help me to live for you and follow Your Will. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## **Section Five: The Seven Trumpet Judgments**

### Revelation Chapters 8 to 11



The seventh seal is opened in Revelation 8:1, beginning the next phase of John's vision: the Seven Trumpet Judgments. These are revealed in Revelation chapters eight, nine, and the last half of chapter eleven. Chapter ten and the first half of chapter eleven is a parenthesis about other events to occur at that time. The personage of Christ in these seven judgments is as High Priest.

When the seventh seal is opened, again there are thunderings, lightnings, and prayers from the saints. There is an earthquake after the opening of the Sixth Seal. These are symbols of omnipotence and judgment.

## Revelation 8

<sup>1</sup>And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. <sup>3</sup>And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. <sup>4</sup>And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. <sup>5</sup>And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake. <sup>6</sup>And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

The first trumpet heralds destruction to a third part of the earth: the trees and grass. Essentially, these are the plants man needs for food, shelter, and survival.

<sup>7</sup>The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

The second trumpet proclaims destruction of another third of the earth: mountains and the ocean. A third of the mountains are set aflame and thrown to the sea. A third of the ocean becomes uninhabitable (turned to blood) and a third of the sea creatures die. Even one third of the ships are destroyed. These destructions seem not to be symbolic. They read like real events and should be understood that way.

<sup>8</sup>And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; <sup>9</sup>And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

The third trumpet brings a star named Wormwood to be cast to earth. Some researchers believe that the name is from a bitter Greek plant used to kill worms, because the waters are made bitter. Since a star represents Wormwood, it is thought to be a celestial being. This being is doing work God commanded, so is likely an important angel. One-third of the fresh water on earth becomes unpalatable. Secular reviews often suppose Wormwood to be a meteor or asteroid. There is no way to be certain, but the result is the same.

<sup>10</sup>And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of

waters; <sup>11</sup>And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

The fourth trumpet sounds and announces even greater destruction. A third of the universe is destroyed. An angel announces that there are four more trumpets to sound., “Terror, terror, terror to all who belong to this world because of what will happen when the last three angels blow their trumpets.”

<sup>12</sup>And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise. <sup>13</sup>And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to those who live on the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

The fifth trumpet opens Revelation chapter nine. An angel who has keys to the “bottomless pit” allows a being to emerge with smoke. This is an obvious reference to Hell and a demon. He is made a king and given great power to rule an army of locusts.

### Revelation 9

<sup>1</sup>And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. <sup>2</sup>And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. <sup>3</sup>And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

Secular opinions generally conclude that this is the time of the battle of Armageddon. Note in the next section of scripture that these beings are commanded not to harm plant life, but to torment only those “which have not the seal of God in their foreheads” for a five-month period. This pestilence will be so horrible and painful that men will seek death but are unable to die. We will learn during the Sixth Trumpet of the future Battle of Armageddon. Therefore this pestilence takes place during the Great Tribulation.

<sup>4</sup>And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he strikes a man. <sup>6</sup>And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.

The symbolism found in the next verses is often likened to a helicopter. The imagery refers to attributes of the locusts. Perhaps some thought this represented an airplane one hundred years ago. This is a pestilence: the events do not describe an assault helicopter attack. Granted, when the imagery is not taken in context, it could describe a helicopter.



<sup>7</sup>And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. <sup>8</sup>And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. <sup>9</sup>And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. <sup>10</sup>And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.

The king of the locusts is named in verse 11. The English translation is “Destroyer.” This is perhaps a powerful demon, but not Satan. We will examine the fall of Satan in Revelation chapter 12.

<sup>11</sup>And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue had his name Apollyon.

<sup>12</sup>One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.

The sixth trumpet ushers in an army from the Orient in preparation for the Battle of Armageddon. Before the battle can take place, four angels are loosed to lead their army and kill one-third of the people on earth. The army is likened to horsemen, and they are two million strong.



<sup>13</sup>And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, <sup>14</sup>Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. <sup>15</sup>And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. <sup>16</sup>And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.

The army kills one third of the earth's population, likely 2-3 billion people. Yet, the remainder "repent not" of their sins and chose to revel in their self-indulgent ways. (This is another reason to repent now, not later.)

<sup>17</sup>And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. <sup>18</sup>By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. <sup>19</sup>For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt. <sup>20</sup>And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: <sup>21</sup>Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

Prior to the sounding of the seventh Trumpet, we receive inside information on certain facts. An angel described by imagery asks God to delay "the end." God replies that it is time to "finish" when the seventh Trumpet sounds. All of the symbolism in these verses refers to an angel and to God.

### Revelation 10

<sup>1</sup>And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: <sup>2</sup>And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, <sup>3</sup>And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. <sup>4</sup>And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not. <sup>5</sup>And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, <sup>6</sup>And swore by him that lived for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: <sup>7</sup>But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he had declared to his servants the prophets.

In verses 8 through 11, John of Patmos is instructed again to prophesy, that is to write to all humanity about the things to happen- another warning from God of impending judgment. We are told that John takes a little scroll (book) from the angel and is instructed to eat it. The angel tells John it will taste sweet in his mouth (just as things of the flesh “taste sweet” to we sinners). The angel adds that it will be bitter in John's belly (as are the usual results from eating of “the world” rather than from God).

<sup>8</sup>And the voice which I heard from heaven spoke unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which stand upon the sea and upon the earth. <sup>9</sup>And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make you belly bitter, but it shall be in you mouth sweet as honey. <sup>10</sup>And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. <sup>11</sup>And he said unto me, You must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

In the introduction to chapter 11, John was instructed to measure the holy city but not the area outside. God will inhabit the holy city along with the resurrected and raptured saints. The outside is not to be measured because it is given to the gentiles for 42 months (half of the seven-year Tribulation).

### Revelation 11

<sup>1</sup>And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. <sup>2</sup>But the court which is outside the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.

The two witnesses are given great power by God to testify to the world for a number of days corresponding to 42 months: again, the first half of the Tribulation. Some believe that the two witnesses are Enoch and Elijah or other resurrected saints. Enoch and Elijah fit with the thoughts of many because they had never died, but were taken to Heaven alive. Other commentators opine that the “two” represents two individuals newly arrived on the earth representing both Jewish and Gentile believers. Yet others point to symbolism, such as representing Old and New Testaments.



<sup>3</sup>And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. <sup>4</sup>These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. <sup>5</sup>And if any man will hurt them, fire proceeds out of their mouth, and devours their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. <sup>6</sup>These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

Rather than accept the testimony of these witnesses, the world kills them. They rejoice because the entities that witnessed to them about their hedonistic ways are dead. The Bible tells us in Hebrews 9:27 that “it is appointed unto men once to die.” This is why some believe the witnesses to be Enoch and Elijah.

<sup>7</sup>And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascended out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. <sup>8</sup>And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. <sup>9</sup>And they of the people and tribes and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. <sup>10</sup>And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

After lying dead 3-<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> days, the witnesses are resurrected, putting fear into the world population. They return to Heaven, followed immediately by an earthquake, killing and destroying. This does cause the rest to be terrified and “give glory to the God of Heaven.” Yet, a third woe shall “come quickly.”

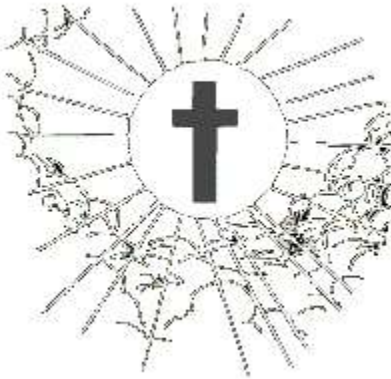
<sup>11</sup>And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. <sup>12</sup>And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. <sup>13</sup>And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. <sup>14</sup>The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

The seventh and final Trumpet Judgment sounds, ushering in the Reign of Christ and beginning of the end for the world. The Twenty-four elders praise and worship God because He is fulfilling prophecy to rule and give final judgment. It is as though the elders are relishing in vengeance, a fact that nurtures the view that they are people who once lived on earth.

<sup>15</sup>And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. <sup>16</sup>And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, <sup>17</sup>Saying, We give you thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which are, and was, and are to come; because you have used your great power, and have reigned. <sup>18</sup>And the nations were angry, and your wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that you should give reward unto you servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear you name, small and great; and should destroy them which destroy the earth.

This occurrence is at the end of the Great Tribulation.

<sup>19</sup>And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the Ark of the Covenant: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.



The symbols and imagery have been rather straightforward to this point, but become more difficult in the following chapters.

## **Section Six: Israel, Satan, Christ, Archangel, and the Jews**

### **Revelation Chapter 12**

Revelation chapter twelve describes important entities in the end times: the nation of Israel, an evil earthly empire, Jesus, and the Archangel, in that sequence. A woman symbolizes Israel. She is in childbearing pain, about to deliver.

#### **Revelation 12**

<sup>1</sup>And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: <sup>2</sup>And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.



A great red dragon appears, symbolizing an evil entity; some believe the Roman Empire in its heathen days, under authority of Satan. The dragon has seven heads, ten horns, and seven crowns. He wishes to devour the child. The seven heads and seven crowns represent seven kings of seven kingdoms affiliated with Rome. Various commentaries relate this to Rome for a variety of reasons; one being that Rome is the City of Seven Hills. The ten horns reference ten kingdoms: “the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise” (Daniel 7:6-27).

<sup>3</sup>And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

In verse 4, the personage of Satan is referenced. Many researchers and commentaries believe the reference to “his tail dragged down one-third of the stars, which he threw to the earth” is a reference to Satan's fall, and that one-third of the angels fell with him. Satan is at the ready to devour the child, Christ and His Church. This is a parallel to Pharaoh killing the first-born child of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

Christ is born to “to rule all nations with a rod of iron.” Instead, “her Child was caught up to God and to His throne.” The woman has relocated to a place prepared for her for 42 months, our familiar 3-<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> year portion of the Tribulation. Representing the Church who was raptured, they are protected from the Tribulation.

<sup>5</sup>And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. <sup>6</sup>And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she had a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.



The Archangel, Michael, and his army of angels now meet Satan and his demons in a great battle. Michael fighting with and for righteousness defeats them. Satan and his legions are cast out of Heaven. (Note: Satan today has access to Heaven.)

<sup>7</sup>And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, <sup>8</sup>And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. <sup>9</sup>And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceived the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. <sup>10</sup>And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. <sup>11</sup>And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. <sup>12</sup>Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knows that he had but a short time.



Chapter twelve concludes with Satan, when he realized “he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.” Satan still has power, but God has more power. God’s creation helps the woman for “a time, and times, and half a time.” (A time is one year, times is two years, and a half time is half a year: 3-<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years, 42 months.) At this

moment, Satan sees that he no longer has civil power at his disposal; that is, the power of the heathen Roman Empire.

<sup>13</sup>And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. <sup>14</sup>And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. <sup>15</sup>And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. <sup>16</sup>And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. <sup>17</sup>And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Satan is angry with the woman, Israel, and takes his wrath out on “her seed,” the remnant of Israel.



## **Section Seven: The Beast and False Prophet**

### **Revelation Chapters 13 and 14**

This section reviewing Revelation chapters 13 and 14 includes increasingly mysterious imagery. Let us consider at this point that there is no way to be 100% certain of the meaning for this symbolism. We cannot: scholars change their minds every generation or so; candidates die and new ones rise to the public eye.

The opening scriptures in chapter 13 tell of a beast from the sea that is healed from a mortal wound. This is the same beast as before, the one with seven heads, seven crowns, and ten horns. The reference is again related to the heathen version of the Roman Empire, ruled by Satan. He rises from the sea, meaning “a sea of humanity.” The original Roman Empire included numerous lands and peoples.

#### **Revelation 13**

<sup>1</sup>And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. <sup>2</sup>And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

The beast is raised from a mortal wound. Many who have little understanding of these scriptures believe the Beast to be a mortal being who was killed, such as Adolph Hitler, Benito Mussolini, or some other historical figure of power, and resurrected. Instead, this represents restoration of the (dead) Roman Empire. The people of the world were in awe and worshipped this Beast-Empire. (This is the pre-Christian, Holy Roman Empire.) The heretical “beast,” this Antichrist is given power for 42 months.

<sup>3</sup>And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. <sup>4</sup>And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? <sup>5</sup>And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. <sup>6</sup>And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. <sup>7</sup>And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all tribes, and tongues, and nations.

The unsaved worship the Beast, but he has no power over the Believers. Verses nine and ten tell us that the Beast will be punished for what he does to the remnant.

<sup>8</sup>And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. <sup>9</sup>If any man have an ear, let him hear. <sup>10</sup>He that leads into captivity shall go into captivity: he that kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

Regardless of who the beast from the sea symbolizes, it represents Satan. Another beast arises on land. Some believe this to be another empire to join with the first beast. The most likely meaning is that this beast represents the False Prophet. The reference to “horns like a lamb” is an allusion to Christ. That he “spoke as a dragon” is a reference to his great power. It is his duty to deceive, and is the agent of the Antichrist used to deceive the world (during the Tribulation). As Christ Justifies believers, the False Prophet protects those who worship the beast.

<sup>11</sup>And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke as a dragon. <sup>12</sup>And he exercised all the power of the first beast before him, and caused the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. <sup>13</sup>And he doeth great wonders, so that he made fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, <sup>14</sup>And deceived them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. <sup>15</sup>And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.



The closing verses of chapter 13 have caused more debate than any other from Revelation. The Antichrist “required everyone-great and small, rich and poor, slave and free-to be given a mark on the right hand or on the forehead.” With today’s technology, the “mark” is assumed to be a computer code. This could very well be, but with advancements, the theory could change. In verse 18 we assume a challenge. The number 666 is said to represent the Beast. In the days when this prophecy was written, there were no numeric characters. Letters of the alphabet were assigned numbers such as with Roman numerals. Many have taken these numbers and tried to translate them back to another language and reveal the name of the Beast. There have been many guesses, everyone from Nero to the Pope to Prince Charles.

It is most likely that solving the name of the Beast will only be possible once he is here, available to the remnant that were not raptured. Surely, God would not want current-day scholars and believers to solve this mystery and announce it to the world before the rapture.

<sup>16</sup>And he caused all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: <sup>17</sup>And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. <sup>18</sup>Here is wisdom. Let him that had understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

Chapter 14 is a parenthetical account of Holy events. It begins with commentary about the Lamb, Jesus, and the 144,000. Jesus appears on Mount Zion, symbolizing the Church. Zion is literally a hill in Jerusalem, symbolizing Heaven. The multitude sang a new song to worship God. Chapter 14 literally occurs during the Tribulation.

#### Revelation 14

<sup>1</sup>And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. <sup>2</sup>And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: <sup>3</sup>And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

Why were 144,000 Jews saved? More Jews than that have already been saved in the present age, and more will be saved before the Rapture. There are many Messianic churches, believers in Jesus Christ. This group of 144,000 seems to be a literal number. They are spiritually undefiled, (not “defiled with women”) pure as virgins. All who appear at the throne have been absolved of their sins, so this multitude is “pure” before God. Clearly this 144,000 is saved because God commands it.

<sup>4</sup>These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These were redeemed from among men, being the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb. <sup>5</sup>And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Simply, an angel not previously named testifies to everyone on earth that God's Word is eternal. He invites them to worship God, the Creator, because His judgment is here.

<sup>6</sup>And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and tribe, and tongue, and people, <sup>7</sup>Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.



Creator: Let there be...

Another angel comes to announce that Babylon has fallen. This is an allusion to the literal city, and the city Babylon represents the pagan world. Babylon misled the world by teaching idolatry and false religions.

<sup>8</sup>And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.



A third angel warns those in the Tribulation not to worship the Beast or receive his mark or they shall be damned to torment forever, day and night.

<sup>9</sup>And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>And the smoke of their torment ascends up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receives the mark of his name. <sup>12</sup>Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

In verse 13, a voice from heaven makes an announcement. It is not revealed from whom the voice comes. The voice announces a blessing to those who will be saved, and killed, during the Tribulation.

<sup>13</sup>And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, said the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.

The remainder of chapter 14 is an allusion to the Battle of Armageddon, a prelude to chapter 15. This final conflict will occur at the conclusion of the Great Tribulation and prior to the Millennium. Refer to Appendix, "Dispensationalism."

<sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in you sickle, and reap: for the time is come for you to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. <sup>16</sup>And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. <sup>17</sup>And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. <sup>18</sup>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 you sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>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.



In the first two decades of the twenty-first century, television has been replete with apocalyptic programming. Scores have tried to predict the "end of days," not only this century but certainly as far back as the nineteenth century. Some have started cults. All have failed. The Bible contains the clues to give the date as well as identity of the Antichrist, but it will not be understandable until after the Rapture and the Tribulation begins. Jesus says, "only the father knows."

We can understand God not wanting to reveal to anyone something like "the rapture will be April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2250, and the Antichrist will be XYZ."

## **Section Eight: The Seven Bowl Judgments**

### **Revelation Chapters 15 and 16**

Chapter 16 contains the Seven Bowl Judgments. These are terrible punishments. Before those events take place, Chapter 15 gives us a glorious preview of Heaven. Those who overcame the Beast are there, so obviously this place in time is at the conclusion of the Great Tribulation and before the Battle of Armageddon.

At the close of chapter 15, John is returned to the Great Tribulation. Seven angels bring forth seven plagues, to be dispensed in chapter 16. This timeline can easily confuse us because we are accustomed to linear descriptions. The first part of chapter 15 is parenthetical.

#### **Revelation 15**

<sup>1</sup>And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are your works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are your ways, you King of saints. <sup>4</sup>Who shall not fear you, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you only are holy: for all nations shall come and worship before you; for your judgments are made manifest. <sup>5</sup>And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened: <sup>6</sup>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. 7. And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who lived for ever and ever. <sup>8</sup>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.

**SORES UPON THOSE WHO WORSHIP THE BEAST:** Chapter 16 returns to the time of the Great Tribulation. It begins with the mandate for the seven angels to go forth and do their work. The first angel went out and poured his bowl (vial). Horrible sores broke out on everyone who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue. (Note the idolatry.)

#### **Revelation 16**

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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.

**DEATH OF ALL LIVING SEA CREATURES:** The second vial causes the death of every living thing in the sea. The word "soul" in this instance does not refer to the souls of men.

<sup>3</sup>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.

**DESTRUCTION OF FRESH WATER:** This sounds literal. The third vial turns the fresh water supplies to blood so that the evil must drink the blood of those saints and prophets whose blood they spilled.

<sup>4</sup>And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. <sup>5</sup>And I heard the angel of the waters say, You are righteous, O Lord, which are, and was, and shall be, because you have judged thus. <sup>6</sup>For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. <sup>7</sup>And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are you judgments.

**EVIL MEN SCORCHED WITH FIRE:** The fourth vial scorches the evil remnant. Despite knowing God's power and righteousness, they still blaspheme His name.

<sup>8</sup>And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. <sup>9</sup>And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which had power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.

**THE SEAT OF THE BEAST DESTROYED:** The fifth vial is a judgment upon the Beast's seat of power, causing confusion to their ability to rule. This places them in great despair. As with the fourth vial, they blaspheme God's name and "repent not."

<sup>10</sup>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, <sup>11</sup>And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

**THE RIVER EUPHRATES MADE DRY:** The Euphrates is the river of Babylon, and Babylon is the symbol for pagan kingdoms. Whether literal or figurative, the river drying up prepares the



way for the kings of the East, which are those to fight on the side of evil during the Battle of Armageddon, to travel.

<sup>12</sup>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.

Before the seventh vial, we are given a symbolic account of three demons coming out of the mouth of the Antichrist and the false prophet. With Satan in full power over the remnant during the Great Tribulation, his demons were able to work miracles and deceive. These demons gather the kings to fight the final battle.

Jesus interjects that he will come unexpectedly “like a thief.” He blesses those who stay awake and keep their faith so that they will not walk about “naked” and ashamed.

In verse 16 we are back to the personages of the demons. They gather their forces at the place called “Armageddon,” from the Hebrew meaning the “Mountain of Megiddo.” This is not an actual mountain but a mountainous area and is a real place in Israel as shown on these maps.



<sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. <sup>16</sup>And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

IT IS DONE: Every nation on earth is destroyed and God judges with great wrath. This is a reference to governments, not actual mountains, islands, etc. The final battle, Armageddon, has not yet taken place. (See chapter 19.)

<sup>17</sup>And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. <sup>18</sup>And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. <sup>19</sup>And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. <sup>20</sup>And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. <sup>21</sup>And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

## **Section Nine: The Doom and Destruction of Babylon**

### **Revelation Chapters 17 and 18**

The seventh vial is opened. This angel spoke with John and said, "I will show you the judgment that is going to come on the great prostitute, who sits on many waters." This sentence reveals that the prostitute (also called whore and harlot) represents Babylon (pagan worship) and the heathen Roman Empire. The waters represent the sea of humanity she has deceived.

The entities represented by the prostitute spilled the blood of countless martyrs. She is quite inebriated by this fact (their blood). John wonders "with great admiration," meaning amazement, astonishment. She is donned in great beauty: after all, eye-catching, sultry women easily attract men's attention.

#### **Revelation 17**

<sup>1</sup>And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will show unto you the judgment of the great whore that sits upon many waters: <sup>2</sup>With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. <sup>3</sup>So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. <sup>4</sup>And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: <sup>5</sup>And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. <sup>6</sup>And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

Here it is revealed to John that this woman is the evil remnant. The angel asks, "Why did you marvel? I will show you who this woman really is." The beast is Satan and the Antichrist as discussed in earlier scripture. The remnant will fall for the beast's powers and be deceived. Ten future kings shall arrive with the beast.

<sup>7</sup>And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carried her, which had the seven heads and ten horns. <sup>8</sup>The beast that you saw was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. <sup>9</sup>And here is the mind which had wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sits. <sup>10</sup>And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh,

he must continue a short space. <sup>11</sup>And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goes into perdition. <sup>12</sup>And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. <sup>13</sup>These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

The ten kings will gather their armies to make war with Jesus. The Lamb, Jesus, will overcome because of His great power; that is He will defeat the unsaved army of the kings. The whore is again described as symbolizing the waters (multitudes, nations, and tongues- the remnant) and the city of Babylon (pagans).

<sup>14</sup>These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of LORDS, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. <sup>15</sup>And he said unto me, The waters which you saw, where the whore sits, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. <sup>16</sup>And the ten horns which you saw upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. <sup>17</sup>For God had put in their hearts to fulfill his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. <sup>18</sup>And the woman which you saw is that great city, which reigned over the kings of the earth.

Revelation chapter 18 describes the destruction of Babylon, paganism. An angel appears and declares “Babylon the Great has fallen! She has become a home for demons. She is a prison for every unclean spirit, a prison for every unclean bird, and a prison for every unclean and hated beast.” These beings refer to Satan as Antichrist, the False Prophet, demons, and sin. All nations have enjoyed evil ways and prospered.

### Revelation 18

<sup>1</sup>And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. <sup>2</sup>And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. <sup>3</sup>For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

Another voice (angel) announces to the redeemed that they will not receive the plagues to be railed against Babylon. “But, God remembers ‘her’ and her evil ways. She will not repent, so all the plagues will be placed upon her in one day: death and eternal damnation, accompanied by mourning and famine.”

The word “day” should be considered a literal day in this event. Throughout the Bible, day means a literal 24-hour day except when the context indicates otherwise. Each Creation Day means a literal day, for example: when the scriptures say phrases like, “in the day of the LORD” or “a day is as a thousand years,” then the reference is to an era or an age.

Incidentally, in 2 Peter 3:8 we read, “with the LORD one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.” Some use this verse to calculate that a 7000-year period from a certain starting date will usher in the End of Days. Others use this verse to claim that each creation day lasted a thousand years, thus trying to fit long ages of evolution into the Creation account. In both cases, a thousand years is being applied incorrectly.

<sup>4</sup>And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. <sup>5</sup>For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God had remembered her iniquities. <sup>6</sup>Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she had filled fill to her double. <sup>7</sup>How much she had glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she said in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. <sup>8</sup>Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judges her.



After the annihilation of Babylon, the remnant is sorrowed by her destruction. This includes kings, merchants, material things, the souls of men, lusts, and riches.

<sup>9</sup>And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, <sup>10</sup>Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is your judgment come. <sup>11</sup>And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buys their merchandise any more: <sup>12</sup>The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all manner of wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, <sup>13</sup>And cinnamon, and odors, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men. <sup>14</sup>And the fruits that your soul lusted after are departed from you, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from you, and you shall find them no more at all. <sup>15</sup>The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping, and wailing, <sup>16</sup>And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!

They lament that in one hour all they desired has come to destruction, to nothing. Casting “dust on their heads” is an Old World showing of grief.

<sup>17</sup>For in one hour so great riches are come to nothing. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, <sup>18</sup>And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! <sup>19</sup>And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.

Heaven rejoices at the fall of Babylon. Finally, all in heaven (the Redeemed) and the apostles and prophets have been avenged. Liken this to how we feel at the end of a movie when the hero has been suffering at the hands of his antagonist and finally bests him in the final five minutes. Of course, the Bible is reality.

<sup>20</sup>Rejoice over her, you heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God has avenged you on her. <sup>21</sup>And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. <sup>22</sup>And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in you; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in you; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in you; <sup>23</sup>And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in you; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in you: for you merchants were the great men of the earth; for by your sorceries were all nations deceived. <sup>24</sup>And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

## **Section Ten: The Battle of Armageddon & the Millennium**

### Revelation Chapters 19 to 20:6

The Battle of Armageddon is the battle that has been coming to end all time. There was no time before the Creation, just eternity. After Armageddon and the following Millennium, there will be no time, but eternity.

Before the battle begins, the Redeemed worship God and rejoice that “the harlot” has been destroyed and that He reigns over all.

#### Revelation 19

<sup>1</sup>And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honor, and power, unto the Lord our God: <sup>2</sup>For true and righteous are his judgments: for he had judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and had avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. <sup>3</sup>And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. <sup>4</sup>And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. <sup>5</sup>And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. <sup>6</sup>And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigned.

Verses 7 to 10 describe the Marriage of the Lamb. Jesus is the bridegroom and the Church is His bride. The “bride” is arrayed in clean, white linen for she has been purified. When the angel tells John what to write, John falls at the angel’s feet to worship him. John is admonished by the angel not to worship him, because the angel is our fellow servant, a servant to God just as we are.

<sup>7</sup>Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife had made herself ready. <sup>8</sup>And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. <sup>9</sup>And he said unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he said unto me, These are the true sayings of God. <sup>10</sup>And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See you do it not: I am you fellow servant, and of you brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

The next verses tell us of the Second Coming. The “first coming” is when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The Rapture just before the Tribulation is not the second Coming. At the rapture, Jesus meets the dead and living saints in the air. The Second Coming marks Jesus’ return to

earth. This is at the time of Armageddon as the Great Tribulation ends. It ushers in the Millennium, as well.

Christ (called Faithful and True) arrives on a white horse ready for war. He wears a crown with a name that we cannot know. His robe was symbolically dipped in blood (that he spilled for us) and He is called The Word of God. (Compare John 1:1, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”) The armies of heaven follow Jesus, clad in fine linen and upon white horses. White horses and fine linen are most likely metaphors for Righteousness.



Credit: Mark Mallet

When Jesus was on earth the first time, many wanted Him to be “Jesus the Conqueror.” In fact, many did not follow Him because they did not recognize the “Redeemer-Messiah.”

<sup>11</sup>And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. <sup>12</sup>His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. <sup>13</sup>And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. <sup>14</sup>And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

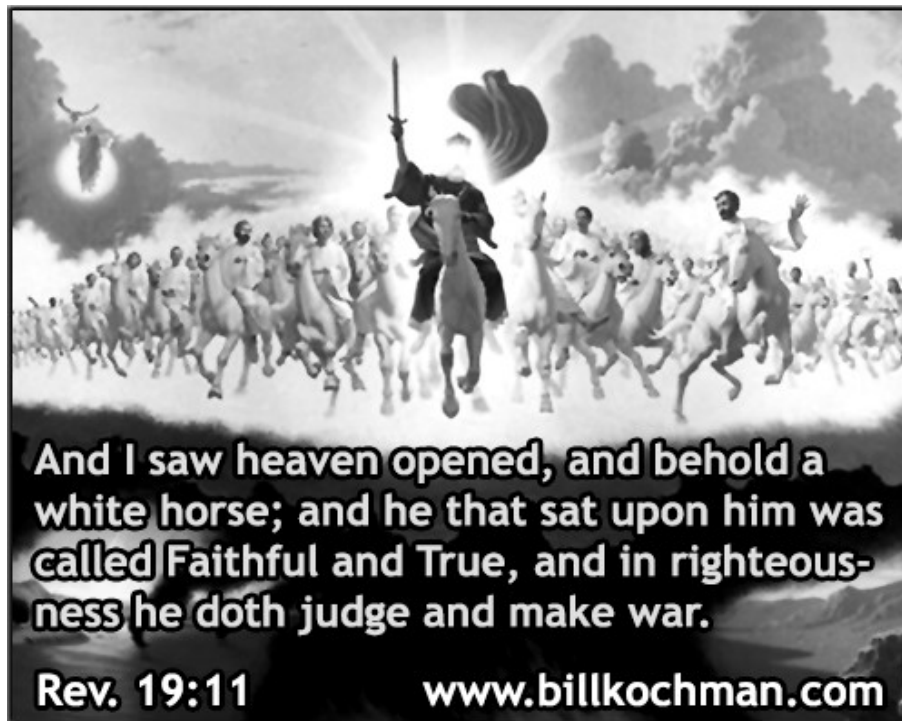
The vision of Christ is as one with a sharp sword, representing Truth. Now He is here, and on His robe and thigh is written the words “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” He will defeat the nations of earth with the sharp sword, and rule them with rods of iron, a symbol of strength and purity.



<sup>15</sup>And out of his mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. <sup>16</sup>And he had on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

An angel makes a symbolic utterance to “the fowls that fly in the midst of Heaven” to gather for the feast. This symbolizes the Redeemed to prepare to rejoice in the impending victory. Here, John sees the Beast and his kings and armies gather against Christ and His army. The Beast's army loses. “The beast was captured, along with the false prophet who had performed signs on its behalf. By these signs the false prophet had deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. Both of them were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.”

<sup>17</sup>And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; <sup>18</sup>That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. <sup>19</sup>And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. <sup>20</sup>And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.



The kings and their armies are also doomed and defeated by the One with the sword. The saints rejoice.

<sup>21</sup>And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

Revelation chapter 20 continues at the close of the Battle of Armageddon. An angel with a chain and key binds Satan and casts Him into the bottomless pit. The “key” lets all know that Satan cannot be loosed again except by one with the key. Satan will be incarcerated in this bottomless pit for nearly a thousand years, when he will be “loosed again for a little season” (compare Revelation 6:11).

#### Revelation 20:1-6

<sup>1</sup>And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. <sup>2</sup>And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, <sup>3</sup>And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.



The next verses conclude the Second Coming. The resurrected saints and martyrs are given thrones to rule on earth with Jesus during the Millennium. The dead who were not saved (not found in the Lamb's Book of Life) have not yet been resurrected, and will not be until the end of the thousand years.

<sup>4</sup>And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. <sup>5</sup>But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup>Blessed and holy is he that had part in the first resurrection: on such the second death had no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

## **Section Eleven: The Final Judgment and Holy City**

### **Revelation Chapters 20:7 to 22:5**

The Millennium will conclude with Satan given one last chance to deceive. We do not know how long, just “for a little season.” Satan will likely have the original powers God gave him at creation. Satan does the only thing he can; gather the remaining wicked, as “numerous as the grains of the sea,” for a final battle with God. God makes quick work of them with fire.



#### **Revelation 20:7-15**

<sup>7</sup>And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, <sup>8</sup>And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. <sup>9</sup>And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire. This is to be read as a real place. The beast (paganism and ancient Rome) is there already, as is the false prophet. They shall be tormented for eternity (“for ever and ever”).

<sup>10</sup>And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

The second resurrection is of the dead who were not saved and raptured or resurrected. God sits upon the throne and judges them. These real people walked the earth but died apart from God. They are all cast into Hell, “the lake of fire.” It is done! No more chances.

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

Chapter 21 begins with a description of the Holy City, the New Jerusalem. This will be a literal city on a restored earth. God will dwell there with all believers. Sorrow and pain exist no more. God will make “all things new.” We will no longer thirst, because God will care for us.

### Revelation 21

<sup>1</sup>And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. <sup>2</sup>And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. <sup>4</sup>And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. <sup>5</sup>And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. <sup>6</sup>And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. <sup>7</sup>He that overcomes shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Verse 8 is a reminder that Heaven and the New Jerusalem do not relate to all, and that the wicked will be cast into Hell.

<sup>8</sup>But the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

An angel instructs John to write of the Church (the bride) and the new city, and the beauty in the city. The twelve gates and twelve foundations represent the twelve tribes and the twelve apostles (ref. The Twenty-four Elders).

<sup>9</sup>And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife. <sup>10</sup>And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, <sup>11</sup>Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; <sup>12</sup>And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: <sup>13</sup>On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. <sup>14</sup>And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

The angel gave John a measuring rod to measure the size of the city, New Jerusalem. It will be 1,500 miles by 1,500 miles. That is over two million square miles, two-thirds the size of the United States lower 48. (The 48 contiguous states and Washington, D.C. occupy a combined area of over 3 million square miles.) The wall is 1,500 miles tall by over 200 feet thick. Some think the Holy City might be in the shape of a pyramid. (Note: some translate the lengths to be 1,400 miles: that still is 1.96 million square miles.)

<sup>15</sup>And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. <sup>16</sup>And the city lies foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. <sup>17</sup>And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.

Verses 18 to 21 describe the beauty of New Jerusalem. Verse 21 is the source of the allusion to "The Pearly Gates."

<sup>18</sup>And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. <sup>19</sup>And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; <sup>20</sup>The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. <sup>21</sup>And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: [each] gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as [like] transparent glass.

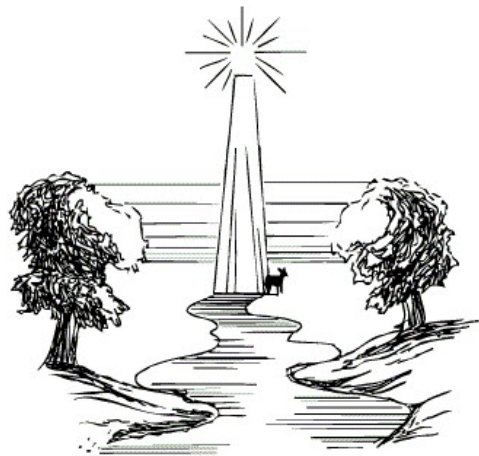
The Holy Presence of God and Jesus supply the light and the tabernacle. We who are saved can enter the city. There is no need to close the gates because there will be no night. Walled cities in earlier times were closed at night to provide security from nefarious persons. There will be no evil persons in the city.

<sup>22</sup>And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. <sup>23</sup>And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. <sup>24</sup>And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it. <sup>25</sup>And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. <sup>26</sup>And they shall bring the glory and honor of the nations into it. <sup>27</sup>And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defiles, neither whatsoever works abomination, or makes a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

The New Paradise (Eden) is described in the beginning verses of chapter 22. A pure river, which gives life, flows from the throne of God and Jesus. The tree of life will be there with fruits, and leaves to heal the saints. We will live together without torment, and shall see the face of God, and have his name upon our foreheads (in contrast to the mark of the beast).

#### Revelation 22:1-5

<sup>1</sup>And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. <sup>2</sup>In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup>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: <sup>4</sup>And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God gives them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.



## **Section Twelve: The Last Message of the Bible**

### Revelation Chapter 22:6-22:21

The remaining verses are the conclusion of the Bible and its message. Another angel comes to show John what things must be done “shortly.” Shortly could mean today or in a thousand years. God exists outside of time. He does not give us a date book so that we can know when events will occur. John falls down to worship the angel, which is probably a natural reaction we all would have. Again, the angel admonishes John not to bow to him because he is John’s fellow servant.

Revelation 22:6-21

<sup>6</sup>And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to show unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. <sup>7</sup>Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keeps the sayings of the prophecy of this book. <sup>8</sup>And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which showed me these things. <sup>9</sup>Then said he unto me, See you do it not: for I am you fellow servant, and of you brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

John is told to not keep secret what he has seen. This is a warning to help us prepare for events that are to happen “soon.”

<sup>10</sup>And he said unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. <sup>11</sup>He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. <sup>12</sup>And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Jesus declares who He is, what we should do, and why Revelation is given to us. He repeats what will happen to those unbelievers not cleansed by the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>13</sup>I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. <sup>14</sup>Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. <sup>15</sup>For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loves and makes a lie.



The personage of Jesus and His promise:

<sup>16</sup>I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. <sup>17</sup>And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that hears say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. <sup>18</sup>For I testify unto every man that hears the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: <sup>19</sup>And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

The last warning from the Holy Bible:

<sup>20</sup>He which testified these things said, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.



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The last prayer from the Holy Bible:

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be  
with you all. Amen. Rev 22:21*

## **Section Thirteen: Daniel's Seventieth Week**

### **Daniel Chapter 9**

Similar to the angel coming to John of Patmos in Revelation, an angel appears to the prophet Daniel to show him understanding of a coming apocalypse.

<sup>21</sup>As I was praying, Gabriel, whom I had seen in the earlier vision, came swiftly to me at the time of the evening sacrifice. <sup>22</sup>He explained to me, "Daniel, I have come here to give you insight and understanding. <sup>23</sup>The moment you began praying, a command was given. I am here to tell you what it was, for God loves you very much. Now listen, so you can understand the meaning of your vision.

Seventy sets of seven are foretold (7 days per week, so 70 “weeks”). The last of these weeks will be the Tribulation. Therefore, many have tried to use the prior 69 weeks to establish the date of the rapture. Thus far, that has not worked out. God *will not* give us a date calculator! The prophecy relates to Daniel’s people, Israel, and the city of Jerusalem. After 69 wks, Jesus will rapture the dead saints first, then the living. Jerusalem will then be rebuilt in troubled times (during the Tribulation).

<sup>24</sup>A period of seventy sets of seven has been decreed for your people and your holy city to put down rebellion, to bring an end to sin, to atone for guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to confirm the prophetic vision, and to anoint the Most Holy Place. <sup>25</sup>Now listen and understand! Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One comes. Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defenses, despite the perilous times.

At the end of the 69 weeks, Christ will be “cut off” from the world. That is to say, the remnant on earth is outside the Age of Grace. None on earth are saved at the point, so it appears Jesus has “done nothing.” After the rapture, a “great ruler” will arise.

<sup>26</sup>After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the Anointed One will be [cut off], appearing to have accomplished nothing, and a ruler will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple. The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end.

This new leader will first appear to be a wonderful leader, a “Mr. Nice Guy.” He will make a treaty with the whole earth and appear to bring peace. “Who is like the beast?” (Comp Revelation 13:4)

<sup>27a</sup>He will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven,

Halfway through this even year period, the “Mr. Nice Guy disguise” comes off. The beast rules tyrannically for the remaining 3-<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years of Great Tribulation.

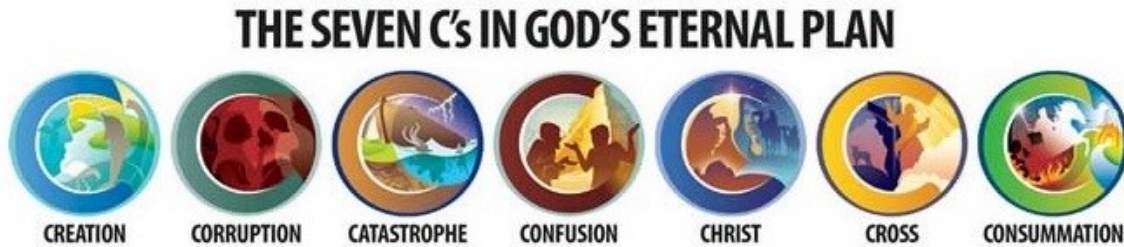
<sup>27b</sup>but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. Then as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the end that has been decreed is poured out on this defiler." (Daniel 9:21-27)

In Appendix One, we will review Dispensationalism. Daniel chapter 9 is prominent in that interpretation.



LORY BE TO THE FATHER  
AND TO THE SON  
AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT  
AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING  
IS NOW  
AND EVER SHALL BE  
WORLD WITHOUT END *AMEN*

## Epilogue



Answers in Genesis, Florence, KY USA <https://answersingenesis.org/>

Creationist and Apologetics ministry Answers in Genesis uses the “Seven C's of History,” as in the chart above, to describe all time. It is a handy tool to remember the Bible's chronology briefly, in the words of this writer:

1. Special Creation by an omnipotent, omniscient God
2. First Sin, and Judgment by God on a corrupt earth
3. A global flood renews the earth
4. Scattering all peoples over the earth
5. The Messiah, come to earth to teach and to save
6. Death and Resurrection of the Messiah pay for our salvation
7. The consummation of God's plan: judgment and death versus salvation and eternity

Sure, it is fun to try to calculate and predict when future things might happen. None of us have the knowledge needed to know this, and Jesus said, “Only the Father knows.” Rather than trying to calculate the “End of Days,” our energy is better spent in witnessing to the Lost.

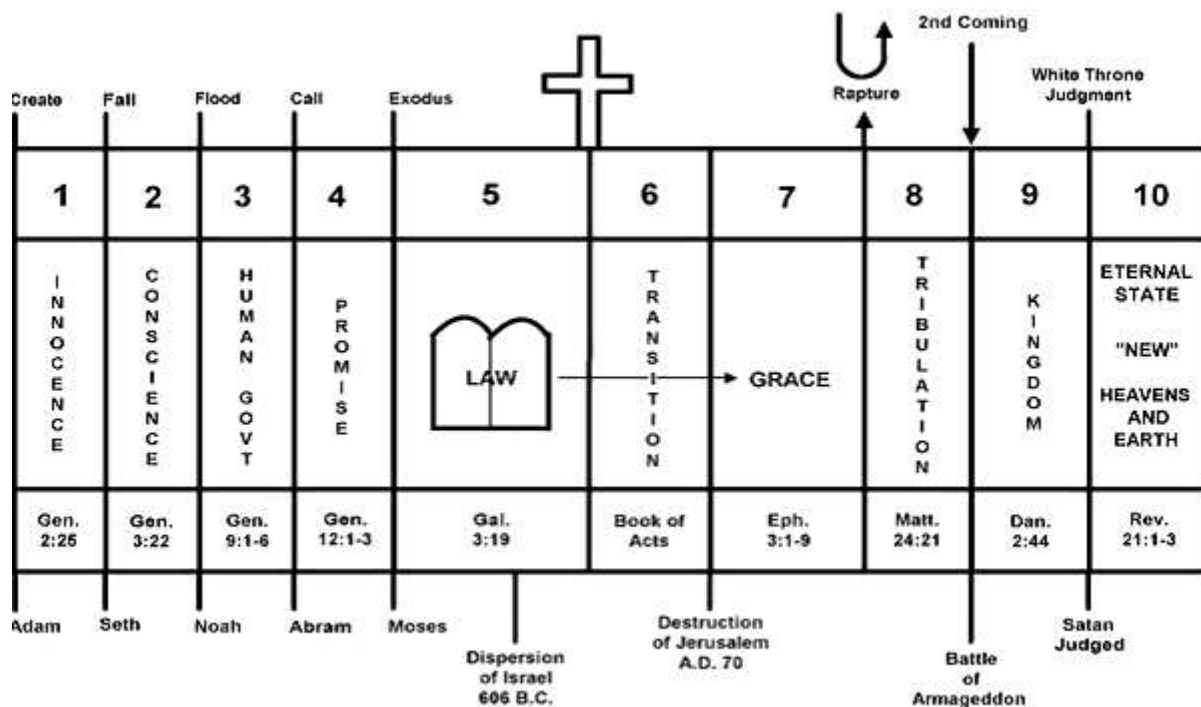
If you are reading this book after a time when many mysteriously vanished, then you are in the end times. You have exactly seven years to find salvation from the “date of disappearing.”

Amen

## Appendix One: Dispensationalism

John Nelson Darby was an influential Bible teacher. He is considered the father of modern Dispensationalism, an interpretive system for the Bible. It considers biblical history to be divided by God into defined periods. Each age of God's plan is thus managed in a certain way. A dispensational chart, therefore, begins at the very "first second" of time, at the Creation, and ends with eternity. Dispensationalism is a basic viewpoint within Christian fundamentalism.

Grace Bible Church of Fort Worth, Texas prepared the chart below. It is a simple and easy to understand visual aid showing the bounds of each of ten dispensations.



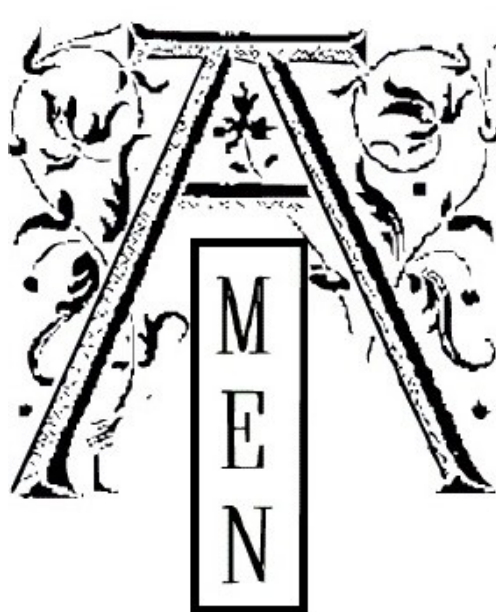
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In an excerpt from Grace Bible Church study literature, two verses providing a basis for the terminology are found in the New Testament. In Ephesians 1:10, "the dispensation of the fullness of times" and in Ephesians 3:2, "the dispensation of the grace of God." The word comes from the Greek and means "arrangement of a household." A dispensation, as used in the Bible, refers to a particular order or arrangement of God's plan or purpose. God also established other dispensations throughout the history of His dealings with mankind.

Perhaps the most interesting dispensations to us today are numbers 7 and 8. We currently live in dispensation 7, the age of Grace. (By grace are ye saved through faith...) The subject of this study on Revelation deals largely with dispensation 8, the seven-year Tribulation.

The other major point of view is Covenant Theology. The viewpoints are so similar that it is barely worth the time to review them. Just as we often disagree on the points of Calvinism, rather than quarreling among us, the effort would be better used in witnessing.

*And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7 RSV)*





Did God Really Say That? Satan's actual words (as recorded in Genesis 3:1) were "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not...?" Our enemy, Satan, "more subtle than any beast of the field" is a clever deceiver! Satan's most clever lie is perhaps "we have evolved over millions of years- without a god."

The author recognizes that God's Word has not changed from the beginning. Satan continues his deceptions. His great tool of our age is the lie of evolution. This book challenges that lie, and explains to readers that the foundations of the Christian faith, beginning with the creation, still stand. The author writes in an enjoyable style and includes Scripture passages within the text to effectively explain how one's belief regarding origins affects our daily lives six thousand years later.

This book is written for all Christians, and for Jews who want to learn how science fits with the fact that God created everything from nothing in six days, as God inspired Moses to record. Christians and Jews worship the same Creator God, and the Jews are part of God's master plan. Our Jewish friends might be interested in why Christians accept Jesus Christ as the Messiah.



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graduated from the Pennsylvania State University, College of Engineering, and is a Professional Engineer. He had been employed in construction administration and management for a major private-industry corporation for the last twenty years. Prior to that he was Special Projects Manager for the same corporation, specializing in food manufacturing and material handling.

Harold and his wife of nearly 50 years, Jeanne, reside near Middleburg, PA. Their grown children, Harold, Jr. and Joanne, have blessed them with eight grandchildren: Mariah, Rochele, Christian, Drew, Kylee, Alex, Shelly, and Gabriele. Lerch is founder of Word to the World Ministries, a concern that publishes and distributes complimentary witnessing resources.

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