

Revelation

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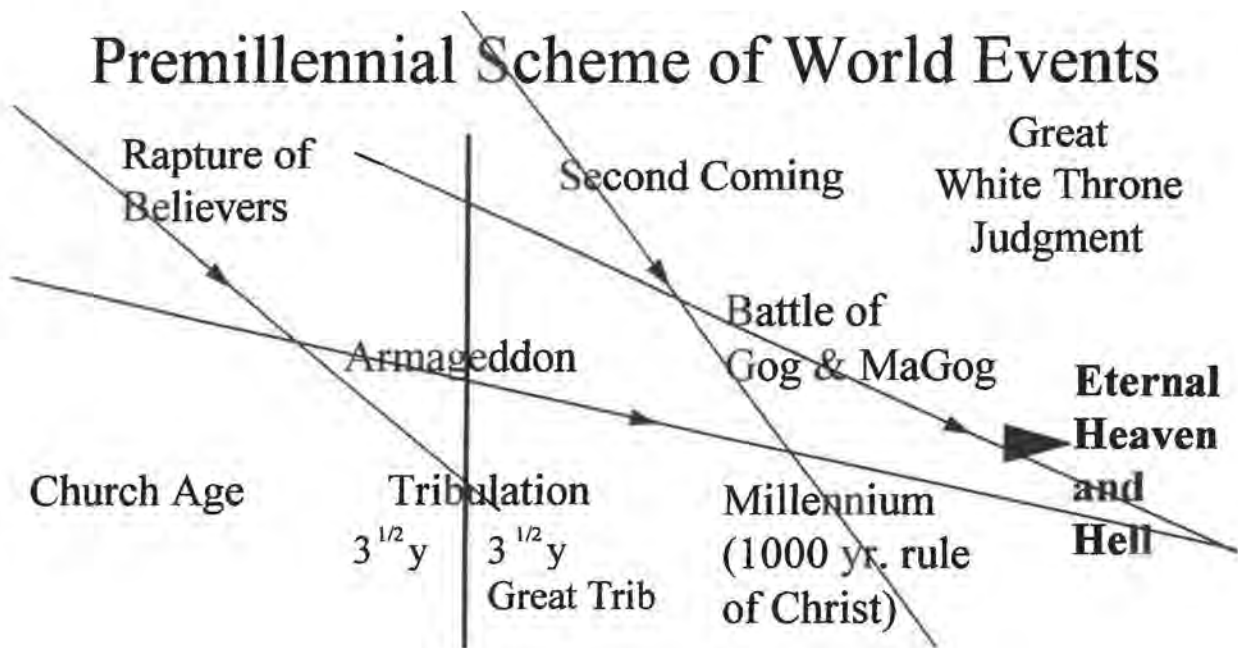
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Introduction



Tips to studying Prophetic Books...

- 1) Do not consider them as "impossible to understand"
- 2) Do not make things symbolic unless the text of the Bible makes them symbolic. Use a literal interpretation!
- 3) Use a study Bible or a Bible with cross references. Check these references out!
- 4) Pray about the way the book influences your life. Remember that prophetic books deal with a great deal more than just prophecy.

Revelation: The Purpose

1. To encourage the reader to heed the Words of the Message.
2. To reveal characteristics of our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. To warn the readers of certain inevitable events, for which they need to be prepared.

- 4. methods of Interpretation of Revelation:
- 5. The preterist View- John is interested in his day and age. The scope of revelation is seen as 1st Century. Basically
- 6. meaningless to all today.
- 7. The Historicist View- inspired view of human history.
- 8. Problem is no one can agree on how the two coincide.
- 9. The futurist View- from chapter 4 onward the prophecy is future orientated.
- 10. The idealist view- the book is concerned with ideas and principles.

Notes on the Text Chapter One

1:1 The title of the book is not the Revelation of St. John the Divine or of St. John, but the Revelation of JESUS CHRIST. The Greek word for "Revelation" is where we get the word "apocalypse".

1:1 "must soon take place" - this phrase is talking from God's standpoint. II Peter 3:8 "With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day."

KEY VERSE

Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near. Rev. 1:3

Idea is repeated to each of the 7 churches: Rev. 2:7; Rev. 2:1; 1Rev. 2:17; Rev. 2:29; Rev. 3:6; Rev. 3:13; Rev. 3:22

The Titles of Christ

1. Faithful Witness	He was obedient in all things (Phi 2)
2. Firstborn of the Dead	He was the best in quality (1 Cor 15)
3. Ruler of the Kings of the Earth	He has control over all (Col 1)

The facts about Christ

- 1. He loves us I John 4:8, 16

2. He freed us- note God's perfect plan—by his blood, not our deeds!

Serve and reign

Serve	Reign
and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. Rev. 1:6	Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years. Rev. 20:6
You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.” Rev. 5:10	There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. Rev. 22:5
you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:5	But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9

The Result of the Titles and Facts-

That Jesus might receive Glory and Power for ever- and ever - i.e. everlasting power.

1:7 Explains an important Christian Doctrine regarding the second coming of the Lord.. “Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him. “ The idea is derived from Zechariah chapter 12. When Jesus comes back he will 1)not be born 2) He will be visible 3) He will come from the sky. We can derive from this that all of the cult Christs are false, for their leaders were all born.

AN EXPLANATION OF THE EVENT DESCRIBED IN ZECH 12, REV 1.

- The event will happen in the last days as Israel is surrounded by its enemies. All seems to be lost, when the Messiah returns. (the one who is pierced, see Isaiah 53) The people see him visibly and turn to Christ, they repent and come to him. The Lord then strikes down the enemies of Israel, and all those left fall to worship him.

1:8 The alpha and the omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. The idea being shown is that Jesus is immortal, and unbounded by time, thus he can tell the future. The "Is" in verse 8 reminds us that Christ "is" relevant for all ages!

NOW THE VISION BEGINS:

1:9 John bashes another Christian popular idea. A Christian should not expect life to be a great reward. Rather a Christian should expect that suffering may occur in his life. John points out that this sharing is ours in Jesus. The response of the Christina is to "patient endurance". Our reward will come as we obtain our inheritance in heaven.

1:10 "On the Lord's Day"- Sunday the day of the resurrection- "I was in the Spirit"- Should not be confused with Paul's phrase in the Spirit, which deals with the walk of the Christian. Rather, John's "in the Spirit" carries the idea of being put in a trance by God, so that he could see the vision." (Note John is simply the scribe of the letter, and not the true writer.) The letter is addressed to seven churches. However Rev 1:1 makes it clear that this letter is for all his servants.

A voice which sounds like a" trumpet" is the voice of God from Exodus 19:

On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, the whole mountain trembled violently, and the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder. Then Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him. Exodus 19:16-19

to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, Hebrews 12:19

After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." Rev. 4:1

1:12-20 The Glorified Christ Revealed

1. "like a son of man"	See Daniel 7:13 for explanation
2. long robe with Gold sash	Royalty or Priesthood (Ex 28.4)
3. head and hair white	Dan 7:9 -characteristic of God
4. eyes like blazing fire	Rev 2:18 - all seeing aspect of Christ. R. 19:12-judgment
5. feet of glowing Bronze	showing the glory
6. voice like sound of rushing waters	Ezekiel 43:2
7. His face shining like sun	sign of righteousness Matthew 13:43, see also Exodus 34:29-35
<i>What he is doing</i>	
1. Holding seven stars in right hand	The stars and the lampstands (Rev. 1:12) will be addressed explained in verse 20.
2. Out of his mouth comes a sharp double edged sword.	The Roman sword looked like a tongue! The idea here is that the words of Christ are judging to all men. The sword of the Spirit is the Word of God" Eph 6: 17. Also a close connection with Hebrews 4:12 "The word of God is sharper than any two edged sword." In Revelation 19, the only weapon Christ uses is his tongue. All he needs to do is speak and it is done. Genesis 1:3.

John's Reaction to Christ

He fell as if dead...1)The sight was too much for him to take. See Exodus 3:6, I Kings 19: 13, Isaiah 6:5.

Exodus 33:20, "you cannot see my face, for no one can see me and live." The same thing happens to Daniel in Daniel 10 4-10.

2)Note the similar clothing,

3)Note that in both cases the people are touched by Christ. His touch brings strength and courage to men.

1:19-20 explanation

seven lampstands = Seven Churches

seven stars = Seven Angels

An outline from verse 19

"Write, therefore,

1. what you have seen,
2. what is now
3. and what will take place later. Rev. 1:19

The Seven Churches Revelation 2 and 3

A short outline of revelation from DeHaan

Chapter 1: The Person of the Book

Chapter 2 and 3: The History of the Church

Chapter 4:1-4: The Rapture of the Church

Chapter 4 and 5: The Church in Heaven

Chapter 6 to 19:11: The Tribulation

Chapter 19:11 to 21: The Second Coming of Christ

Chapter 20 and 21: The Millennium

Chapter 22: The Eternal State

Revelation by M R DeHaan, Zondervan Publishing

House, Grand Rapids, Mich. 1946 p. 19

THE CHURCH THROUGHOUT HISTORY

I believe there is some merit in the following portrayal of Revelation 2 and 3:

However, you must understand that there are some Smyrnians and Pergamians and Ephesians, and even Laodiceans in every church! This is the aspect we shall discuss in its entirety. All of these churches apply to us today!

1. Ephesus was the church of the first century
2. Smyrna was the persecuted church of the 2 nd and third centuries
3. Pergamos was the church from the fall of Rome to about 500AD
4. Thyatira was the church of the middle or dark ages
5. Sardis is the church of the Renaissance and Reformation

- | |
|---|
| 6. Philadelphia is the church of the revival 19 th through present |
| 7. Laodicea is the end- time Church of the apostasy |

Commentary on chapters 2 and 3

2:1 "To the angel" - 1) Some say that the angels represent the "bishops" in charge of the churches.

However, since the word has never been used that way in scripture before, and there are no rebukes of the leadership of the church, that is doubtful. 2) That the angels are simply messengers. (The word "angel" means "messenger"!) These men delivered the messages to the churches 3) That the churches all had angels in heaven which represent them.

All three views are have some possibilities, the third seems to be the best to me.

Ephesus

Ephesus was the most important town and church in the province of Asia. Ephesus traditionally had been the home of the mother God of the Greeks, "Artemis." A huge temple was dedicated to her. This temple is known as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. There was a cult that worshipped "Rome and the Emperor" in the city (see Acts 19:19) The church was founded by Paul's friends, Priscilla and Aquilla who were tentmakers by profession.(Acts 18:18) Later the church was pastured by Timothy (1 Tim 1:3)

2:1 con't The one who holds the 7 golden lampstands was none other than Christ himself. The Greek word for holds is very strong, as if to say "he holds on to them tightly," so they can not be snatched away.

On the positive side...

The church was filled with hard workers, and people pushed on even when they suffered.

They would not tolerate evil in their midst. They were purists doctrinally, not allowing false apostles in their midst.

They are a missionary church which has not grown weary or tired.

You hate the Nicolations: The Nicolations were a cult of the day which had impure Doctrine. Doctrine is important to God.

On the Negative side...

They have fallen from their first love..

- 1) They are becoming "Pharisees", i.e. "Separatists" with very pure doctrine, but no compassion.
- 2) They have forsaken the personal relationship with Christ and replaced it with activity!
- 3) Jesus has slipped out of first place in their lives and something has replaced him. These people thus have a priority problem.

The cure. . . .

- 1) Remember the height from where you've fallen. - Think back about your conversion days, or days when Christ was first! Do you see the difference!
- 2) Repent - this means turn away from you sin and then turn TOWARD God. Repentance means both a sorrow for the past and a change in the future.
- 3) Change your priorities. Put Jesus Christ first in your life, even if you have to cancel some of your activities.

Note the seriousness of the priority problem..

1)The church was at risk of being destroyed! Historically the church must have repented, but later lost their love again, and eventually just disappeared.

2:7 The church started to forget that a relationship with Jesus must be personal. Attending church does not save you. Membership does not save you, only a personal relationship (faith) with Jesus saves you. This person shall eat of the tree of life! and go to heaven!

Smyrna

Smyrna was located some 35 miles North of Ephesus. The city of Smyrna was founded approximately 1000 years before Christ by the Greeks. It was conquered by the Asiatic Lydians in the 7th Century BC In the third century the town again became Greek. In the second century the town became an ally with Rome.

"until recent times the city was Christian." M. Tenney " Interpreting Revelation p. 58

Address: To the angel of the church in Smyrna

Statement about Christ: *These are the words of the first and the last, who died and came to life again.* - The title is used here to show that Jesus is in control! The enemies of Christ may take our earthly lives, but as Christians we are still victorious. See Romans 8:28-39, "Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:39

Furthermore the words are to give hope. The people of Smyrna were suffering and dying, the title for Christ reminds them that Christ also suffered for the truth, and even died, yet he is victorious!

What God says—I know. . . God both hears and sees the afflictions and depressions of his people. Exodus 3:7 states, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt.", Psalm 139:1 says, "O Lord you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar."

The things God knows in Revelation:

- 1) Afflictions
- 2) Poverty
- 3) Slander, from the Greek word to blaspheme

"synagogue of Satan" = Non Christian Jews of Smyrna, - (Cite spec. I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. Rev. 3:9) The Jews were slandering those in Christ by false testimony in Roman courts of law. They were Jews by "Race and Birth", but they were not true Jews, because they did not acknowledge Jesus Christ. see Romans 2:28,29

The Lord's advice to the suffering....

- 1) Do not be afraid. . why , their future in God is secure. They will receive the crown of life **why?**
the devil wants them to fear. He is trying to get them to lose their faith and so ruin their testimony for Christ. The figure "ten" shows that this persecution would be short and not universal.
- 2) Be faithful... even to the point of death (In Rome a Christian could deny Christ and thus be saved from impending death)

The Result

- 1) They will receive the crown of life.
- 2) He who overcomes will not at all be hurt by the second death. i.e."Hell" see Revelation 20:14

Overcoming

- Rev 2:7 (NIV) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.
- Rev 2:11 (NIV) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.
- Rev 2:17 (NIV) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.
- Rev 2:26 (NIV) To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—
- Rev 3:5 (NIV) He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.
- Rev 3:12 (NIV) Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.
- Rev 3:21 (NIV) To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.
- Rev 17:14 (NIV) They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."

- Rev 21:7 (NIV) He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

Pergamum

The church of Compromise

Pergamum was a major political and religious center in the Roman World. The city gained a high reputation after the death of Alexander the Great in 133 B C. The Bible is concerned about its religious backgrounds.

Pergamum was the center of Asian Emperor Worship. In 29 BC a temple was dedicated to Augustus Caesar and the Goddess Roma. Later the worship of the Emperor became a test of ones loyalty to Rome.

Furthermore this city also housed many other pagan Temples. Worthy of great note was the temple to Zeus, which was close to another temple for Athena. Zeus you might recall was the chief of the Greek Gods and the same as the Roman God "Jupiter". Finally the city was the center of "Asclepius" worship. This particular God was the serpent God of Healing.

vs 12: The Description of Christ: "The one who has the sharp double-edged sword". The description has two purposes, both which are implied in Hebrews 4:12.

- 1) The word's of Christ bring Judgment if not obeyed. Christ is warning this church to change or they will be destroyed.
- 2) The idea of the sharpness of the sword is that is will be able to divide. Christ will easily be able to tell those who are sinning from those who are not!

Also important is the concept that the sword is also shown to be a symbol as the word of God. This will be the measure by which Christ both judges and condemns.

The positive-

"I know where you live" - Christ understands that these people live in difficult times, with temptation all around them. In fact they live where Satan has his throne. Commentators debate: Is this a reference to Zeus?, the Emperor?, or Asclepius?(see Genesis 3:1, serpent = Satan), or was it Satan's seat because of the quantity of Pagan Worship going on? I opt for the last, all though all have merits.

Regardless of all of this temptation and even the martyrdom of a man named Antipas, the people have not given up the name of Christ!

A note on the text. The Greek word for "witness" is the word "martyrs". This Greek word is translated "Martyr" in many versions of Revelation 17:6.

The negative: "I have a few things against you"

- 1) You should not hold to the teaching of Baalam- In the twenty - second chapter of Numbers, Balaam a prophet is asked to put a curse on the Israelites by Balak, son of Zippor, who was a powerful king of Moab. Balaam knows he cannot curse Israel, for God has blessed the nation. However Balaam appears to be a schemer. The Lord calls him "reckless" in Numbers 22:32. After Balaam prophesies against Moab and in favor of Israel, he advises the people of Moab to seduce the Israelites with their women. These women who seduced the men, also invited the men to bow down to their so called gods. Israel paid a terrible price for their sins as twenty-four thousand were killed that day due to a plague. (see Numbers 25 and 31:16)

We can now say that the sin of Balaam is to compromise. Revelation 2:14 points out two problems;
 - 1) The eating of meat offered to idols. Because of other passages in Scripture (Romans 14, I Corinthians 8, Acts 15), we can be certain that Jesus is implying that the Pergamum Christians are participating in worship services of pagan deities. They are mixing Christianity with paganism. I believe this is a challenge to people of our society. Many are perfectly willing to compromise their faith in order to get rich or gain fame! For others it is more subtle, - missing Bible Studies, and Worship Services for periods of many weeks because our employers insist!
 - 2) The second charge is they are compromising sexually. A pastor I knew once gave the advice to a couple asking to be married, "You need experience, why don't you live together before you get married." A person once told me, "I am single, so I can't commit adultery. He doesn't care if I sleep around." We are indeed in a compromising society!

God's advice. . .

REPENT. . . His only advice. Turn away from sin and turn toward God. (see James 4:7-10 for example)

God's warning. . .

He will come and fight against them with the sword from his mouth. God is telling the people to repent or be judged!

TWO OTHER WORDS:

hidden manna: a term referring to the marriage supper of the lamb (rev 19:9)

white stone: two meanings, both important

- 1) The people used both white stones and black stones in some trials. A black stone was for a judgment against, a white for a judgment in favor of the person.
- 2) A white stone with words written on it was often used as invitation or ticket. This is the best interpretation since Rev 19:9 tells us about we need to be invited to come to the feast.

Thyatira

The church of the Dark Ages- Doctrinal Impurity!

Thyatira was the least important of the seven cities mentioned in Revelation 2 and 3. It's prominence was the result of trade. There were trade guilds to which many church members would have belonged. These guilds often had common meals dedicated to a pagan deity.

Thyatira has much to be glad about! The Lord commends the church for four major areas of ministry. 1) love 2)faith 3)service 4)perseverance. This was a warm church that had many who really cared. They worked hard, striving for the church with great acts of service. They were a group which had stayed together for a great length of time. (In the historical view, they lasted the longest of any group.—about 1000 years).

But their strengths were to be echoed in their weakness. In their great love for others, they had been very tolerant of wrong thinking! So much so that the church became "dead" see verse 23. They became more of a humanitarian force than a church. I have found that many Christians are like this church, or else like its opposite: Ephesus. People who lean toward the "loving side" aren't detail loving people who want "pure

doctrine". People who lean toward the pure doctrine side often lack love. The Bible calls for Both! Love must be balanced with doctrine!

Also note that even those churches are opposites! They both are working Hard! They are both into serving!
(See Rev. 2:2 and Rev. 2 19)

Now more about the

Negative. . . .

1) You tolerate the woman Jezebel. Jezebel was the wife of King Ahab (I Kings 16:31). Marrying Jezebel was one of the sins of Ahab, who was considered the epitome of evil in the Old Testament. In spite of Ahab's remarkably evil nature. Jezebel was even worse! She was a devout Asherah and Baal worshiper. Elijah who had no great fears over Ahab, fled from Her! In Kings, she seems to head up the idolatrous worship of Israel. She led the nation astray to foreign God's due to her poor "Doctrine"! Thus to follow Jezebel, would be to follow wrong doctrine!

a key concept.—by her teaching she misleads..) That is the key to understanding Tyatira.

What will happen to this church. . .

- 1) As with all unbelievers she will be given time to repent! But in this case she will be unwilling.
- 2) She will have to endure a sick church, a dead church, and a suffering church.

An important note: Not all in this church are dead, some hold to the truth in response to those who know Satan's Dark Secrets. Jezebel the prophetess was claiming to speak for God, but in fact she was really speaking for the devil and misleading many by her ritual!

To those alive and in the lord, they will have

- a) Authority over nations..in fulfillment of Psalm 2 (Also Matt 5:5, 19:28, I Cor 6:2)
- b) the morning star.—“They will have Christ”

Sardis

Sardis was the church of the Reformation. The church appeared to be really gaining ground, but in reality there was great deadness in its constituents.

Sardis was a declining city. Her ancient days were here best. The major industries of Sardis were woolen and dyed materials. The city managed to keep some of its past glory because of several important Roman roads which converged in her midst. The people of Sardis were known for their loose living. The city was a center of emperor worship. The towns people also had a major cult to a mystery religion goddess named Cybele.

Some important facts about this letter. First of all, it is one of two letters that contains no praise! Secondly, there was no persecution, there was little in the way of hardship, no doctrinal problems for the people to face. And yet, this church fell short of what a church should be.

The description about God The term "sevenfold spirit" is used to show that the spirit is complete and lacks nothing. Therefore it is the peoples fault they are spiritually dead and not God's. Seven is used some fifty-seven times in the book of Revelation and usually for the sense of fullness or completeness.

The term seven stars was equated with the seven angels of the churches in chapter 1. The reason he talks of holding the spirits and stars is to show God's concern for his church. Even a church which is failing.

The Problem:

The people have a reputation of being alive but are in reality dead. These people were really apathetic. There problem was that they were so loose and relaxed that they "couldn't be bothered" with serious relationships and guilt. Now these people were definitely not against Christianity. They probably were not against too much of anything. They were basically a sleepy, bored people living in the midst of a very exciting time. A revival could be going on around them and they would not notice it.

I want to give you two illustrations of men who fit the Sardis mold.

One is John. He loves to fish, to lay out in the sun. He makes it to work every day at 6:30. am. However when Sunday rolls around, he can not get out of bed. Says it is his one day to sleep in! Now that sounds fine

until we continue our conversation. You see John couldn't make it to church for the month of July, so he explains, because he has to go fishing! I asked what time he fished! "Oh I get up around 6:00 am." he stated. "You have a better chance before he heat" Now something is bout that is wrong. Especially when I tell you John openly profess Jesus Christ as his savior.

The second illustration is very different but just as common. Jack has been a Christian ten years. He has even been involved in a few programs. But not many! He is discontent with the spirituality of his church. He complains, "the Lord isn't doing anything around here." A he tells this to friends in the church the panic and can not find words to expressed. However, they start to think. John and Larry became Christian's last month. There were ten or eleven major answers to prayer recently in the church. I learned something recently in a sermon. The problem is not that the Lord is not working. The problem is that the person is not paying attention.

The solution:

- 1) "Wake up" The Greek behind this passage literally means to keep watch or pay close attention! This is especially important as Sardis was an impregnable fortress. No one could take the town, except when its guards were to busy to pay attention. Not once, but twice in history the town was invaded because the people were so slack about guarding it ;that they never even noticed their enemy approaching.
- 2) Strengthen What remains and is about to die!- This letter was written to a church which was primarily Christian, but was not pleasing to God. Think of the Reformation church. The doctrine was basically a return to the Bible! But the church, even with its beautiful doctrines remained cold and formal. Ritualistic if you may! They needed to change the structure of both their lives and the life of the church!
- 3) Change their deeds: This church really did not have any good deeds! Why? There were few personal relationships with Christ! Most just went along for the ride. The gospel was preached, but the people just were not paying attention to the message. They were caught up with the ritual. Furthermore, when the people did do good deeds they were "incomplete". Practically that means they were 1)Temporary 2)Half efforts 3)Self gratifying (if it builds me up, I will do it!)

- 4) Remember and repent.. This is the same as for the church at Ephesus. The difference here is that the people at Ephesus fell from their first love, while the church at Sardis never had a first love!

A FEW notes on verse three:

- 1) "I will come like a thief"- the term usually refers to the second coming of Jesus. However here it is talking about God's judgment on a church which could be at any time! Reason : His coming can be stopped by their repentance. The church of Sardis could stop their personal judgment by "repenting"- turning from sin toward God. However they could not stop the return of the Lord.
- 2) There are some believers: The term "soiled their clothes" is in reference to the white clothes which represent the victorious resurrection body! The two terms contrast the unbeliever (Soiled) with the believer (white) Many churches which appear to be dead at least have a little life in them. The process of turning from a live church to a dead church takes time. If the church did not wake so either the believers would all leave the church or they would just die out.

Book of Life

note on verse 5: "I will never erase his name from the book of life." Exodus 32:32 is the first instance of the book of life being mentioned. According to this passage, names are blotted out of the book if a person sins. Psalm 69:28 confirms this idea. (See also Philip. 4:3; Rev. 3:5; Rev. 13:8; Rev. 17:8; Rev. 20:12; Rev. 20:15; Rev. 21:27) Now here is the catch. Sin blots out names from the book. But sin blots out all of our names. Romans 6:23 says, "for the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." If you are a Christian, your name is kept written in the book because of Jesus' death on the cross. But in order to have your name written in the book of life, you must accept him as your personal savior. See Ephesians 2:8,9, John 1:12, Romans 10:9 and 10, or Revelation 3:20.

Philadelphia

Philadelphia was the newest of the seven cities in Asia. The cult of Dionysus was strong in this city. However the church here had the most problems from Jewish unbelievers. The church at Philadelphia was one of two churches which only received praise. (Smyrna was the other)

About the word Philadelphia: The word comes from two Greek words one is the "phileo" meaning "love", while the other is "adelphoi" meaning brotherly. The church at Philadelphia can be seen as the church of brotherly love! But hey were more than that! They were an exciting exuberant church which was full of vim and vigor.

About the Lord Two important concepts are found here.

- 1) 1)The Lord is holy and true. The word holy means "separate" but always in the case of "different!" There is no one like the Lord! He alone is God! (1 Samuel 2:2) This time the aspect of God's holiness being stressed is that he brings "truth". (see John 14:6, Romans 3:4, "Let God be true, and every man a liar") -- Not the Greek idea true with its opposite of false and the But rather Hebrew idea of the one who is true as the one who keeps his word. He is faithful.

The one who holds the keys of David.

- The keys of David are seen in Isaiah 22 starting with vs 20. Once these keys were given to Eliakim, son of Hiljiah (a figure type of Christ) he had all power in the kingdom! Now in Revelation, the keys of David are the keys to the messianic kingdom. And Jesus has the keys.
- To further understand the idea, you need to realize that the Jews believed they had the keys to God's kingdom. They believed that if you wanted to get into the kingdom, you had to be born a Jew, or become a Jew. BUT they were WRONG! The way to enter the kingdom was not through what you are, but who you know! And you must know Jesus Christ.
- He has ultimate power over who enters the kingdom and who does not. Some people used to teach that the Church has that power or that a certain man has the power to let you into heaven and at the same time deny entrance. But Scriptures are clear that Jesus has complete control of this. Scriptures also tell us how Jesus obtained he power; through his obedience, death, resurrection and exhalation. Scriptures tell how we can be certain of his opening the door for us; that is by trusting in Jesus personally! But never by being a good person or hard worker (see Galations 2:11-21)

On the positive side:

- 1) You have kept my word- The church at Philadelphia is described as having "little strength". The Greek word here is *dunamis*. The idea is that the church lacked power. They were a group of people who were mostly poor, and had little influence over their treatment. This is in contrast with the Jews who may have had a great deal of political power in Philadelphia. In spite of their lack of power and the control of politics, these people were obedient to God himself.
- 2) You have not denied my name- There evidently was persecution of Christians in Philadelphia. And here the Christians could only lose! Yet they would not budge. Instead, they retained their faith. The actual phrase brings pictures of a Christian in front of a Roman tribunal. The man who was a suspected Christian was asked to deny his faith in Jesus Christ. If the faith was denied, they would be set free. Many early Christians faced this dilemma and were sent to their death because they refused to deny the name of Jesus!
- 3) You have endured- These people poor and un-influential as they were, just hung on to their one hope- Jesus Christ! They have suffered, but suffered patiently! They have not complained about their plight! But wait in patient assuredness.

What God will do

- 1) Give an open door- that cannot be shut. Again the open door has to do with entrance into the kingdom of heaven. The Christian will be victorious over his ultimate predicament because he has trusted in Christ. Romans 5:38,39.
- 2) He will come soon- In regard to this the Christian will note that a) God will keep him from the coming trial (tribulation). This is a strong reason to believe in the rapture of the church occurring before the tribulation! b) His coming will be soon. The meaning for Christians of all ages is to be ready and waiting for imminent return of Christ b. they will receive a crown- Revelation 2:10 tells us that this crown is eternal life.
- 3) Make the person a pillar in the temple: symbolic for giving a person an admission to get close to God himself. - if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's

household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. 1 Tim. 3:15

- 4) Give the believer special names : a)"name of my God"- a symbol of ownership b)"city of my God"- a symbol of our citizenship in heaven c) "my own new name"- a symbol of the glory and majesty of Christ, which all believers will share in!

Laodicea

Laodicea was a prominent center of banking and industry. In AD 60, after a major earthquake, the town was able to rebuild without outside help from the Roman Imperial government. The wealth of the city was enormous. Laodicea had a variety of industry. There was a medical school, a great deal of black wool trade, the manufacture of an ear ointment and an eye ointment salve called "Phrygian powder". The church at Laodicea may have been founded by Ephapharas of Colossae.

The Description of Christ

The Amen The word "Amen" means "true" When Jesus calls himself "the Amen" he is saying "I am true" or "I am the one who is trustworthy in keeping my promises." Thus both "the faithful" and "True" serve to describe and emphasize the title, "the Amen".

The Negative

The church of Laodicea has a real problem and God knows the exact difficulty. The people were neither hot nor cold. To be "hot" would be to have a personal vital relationship with Jesus Christ our Savior. To be "cold" would be to have rejected the Lord! The Lord says he can understand both the cold and the hot, but not the lukewarm of the Laodiceans. A lukewarm person is one who sits under the teaching of Scripture, accepts the validity of the message, yet fails to be transformed by that message.

In today's church this lukewarm person is the one who has attended worship services for years. They have enjoyed the testimonies and the preaching. They even have sent their children to church. But they have not asked the Lord Jesus into their lives. Salvation is cut and dry, you either trust in the Lord or do not. There is no middle ground with salvation!

Note the judgment- "I am about to spit you out!" God cannot stand phonies in his midst. However the word "about" signifies that the Lord is willing to give the people a chance to turn around. Therefore at the end of the church he gives the message of Jesus standing at the door knocking, waiting for the non-Christian to open the door and let Jesus inside. (see more on verse 20)

The reason that the people of Laodecia are church attenders, but not believers is that they are rich in funds and do not see a need to rely on Jesus. This is the sin of pride. Jesus later will tell these people (vs 19) to be "earnest" and "repent". This is an important message for all today. If we truly look into our lives with earnest, we will draw the conclusion that we are utterly sinful. (see Romans 3:10,18 and 3:23)

Prideful Area	Spiritual Truth
I am rich, I don't need a thing	<i>I counsel you to buy Gold</i> Psalm 19:7-11 Your precepts are finer than Gold....
I have nice clothes of expensive black wool	<i>Buy white clothes from Christ</i> Rev 19:8 Stands for righteous acts of Christians
I have good health	<i>Buy salve to put on your eyes</i> Zech 4:6 Stands for anointing with Spirit. They may have power and might, but they need the Spirit.

The main idea of this section is that you must "purchase" these qualities from Christ. You cannot go out to the store and buy them. Fortunately they are both free and easy to get a hold of as Jesus is right outside their door knocking!

vs 19...Even though these people are the worst of the seven churches and no believers are mentioned in the church, (compare this with Sardis, where some believe.) God still loves them. In fact he explains that the reason he disciplines his children is that he loves them. See Hebrews 12:5-11. "His attitude toward the church was not punitive, but disciplinary and corrective" George Eldon Ladd Revelation p. 67

The Ultimate Answer

vs 20....In order to understand the passage correctly we must understand the whole picture of the door in Revelation. Jesus holds the keys to door. The door is locked or unlocked by him. The door divides our world (our life, our heart) and God's world. (the kingdom). The only way into this kingdom is to go through Christ.

In verse 20, we see that Jesus has not only unlocked that door, (by his death, resurrection, etc.) but that He is knocking on the doors if to plead that you open the door. If a man opens the door, Jesus will come into his life (our heart). But when Jesus comes in he changes our world and our life and now we are enabled to enter God's world through the atoning work of Christ! Strengthening this concept as being an invitation to personal salvation is the idea of dining with a friend in the Hebrew mind was an intimate experience.

In Revelation 4:1 the door will stand open to all who believe, and the true Christian church will be raptured into Jesus' presence.

Thus we now know that the ultimate answer to the problems of Laodicia was a conversion to Christ! The people of the church needed to open the door to their hearts and let Jesus come in.

The result of conversion

I will give the right to sit on my throne- Believers shall be the ultimate victors. They will share in the blessings of the kingdom and of heaven. They will reap eternal life.

Revelation 4

Rapture

The rapture is the “*catching up* of Christians to meet Jesus Christ in the air.”

I believe that Revelation 4:1 is the sight of the rapture. As evidence for this I sight the following evidence:

1) **The open door-** It seems to me that in the book of John, the *door* symbolizes Jesus as the entrance to the Kingdom of heaven.—So the door is opened, and a voice is sounded saying “Come up here.”

Means to come up to heaven. Without a doubt John himself is being raptured. The logical question is then, “Does John here represent the believing church?” To answer we must note several important arguments.

- a. The absence of any other passage of rapture in Revelation.
 - b. The certainty of the fact that a rapture will occur. see I Corinthians 15:50-54, and in I Thessalonians 4:14-17
- 2) The promise of the believing churches protection that is found in Revelation 3:10, “I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.”
- A. The **wrath of God**, a technical term which must be seen as diferent from other earthly trials, can be seen from the beginning of Chapter 6. If the believing church is to be saved, they must be protected from the beginning of the tribulation. While it is true that the tribulation worsens, especially in the last half of the tribulation, persecution is present from the beginning of the tribulation. see the usage of the word *wrath* in Revelation 6:16,17. God protects believers by removing them from the situation when he pour out this wrath. (Noah and Lot are excellent examples of this protection.) See also Romans 5:9; I Thes 5:9; Rom 8:1

- B. Secondly the words “keep you from” are actually the Greek verb “tereso” (to protect or preserve) and the preposition “ek” (out of, out from with in). Now if God would have wanted to tell us he would protect us, while we remained in the tribulation,(as the post tribulationists state.) He would have used the Greek prepositions “en” or “dia” (in or through). But he uses “Ek” which in this case points to the fact that the saints are protected by removal from the situation. For examples of similar grammar look at Acts 15:29 “Abstain from” means “Ek” + the verb cannot mean “Abstain from within”, John 12:27 “Save from this hour” “Ek” + “Verb” really means “Remove me from this hour”. Hebrews 5:7 “save him from death” “Ek” + the verb means “ Keep me from going through death”, and not “protect me in death”. For more on this passage turn to The Rapture by Archer, Feinberg, Moo and Reiter pp. 63-72
- 3) The position of action shifting from earth to heaven and then again to earth seems to imply a rapture event has occurred. Furthermore, the word church disappears after this time and does not reoccur again until the tribulation ends.
- 4)There needs to be an interval between the rapture and the second coming of Christ. The interval is necessary because some need to be CONVERTED. See for example Isaiah 66:19-20, where missionaries go out and convert peoples. (or Isaiah 19:18-25, Zechariah 14:16-19) People converted before the rapture are GLORIFIED (see I Corinthians 15:51,52), and thus can no longer sin. People converted after the rapture can sin and have offspring who will sin, because they are not GLORIFIED YET! Thus we speak of the sin, rebellion and judgment during the millennial rule of Christ. (Revelation 20:7-10). If the rapture occurs at the Second Coming, then No one will have a natural body and be able to sin! For more on this passage turn to The Rapture by Archer, Feinberg, Moo and Reiter

1. The difference between the Second Coming and Rapture Passages

Rapture

Matthew 24:36-44

I Corinthians 15:51-58

- 1)The glorification of the believer at the rapture..
- 2)note. . .order dead raised, we are changed

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

- 1)note order . . dead raised, we will be caught up..
- 2)We will be caught up into the clouds
- 3)Result we will be with the Lord forever.

Second Coming

Zechariah 14:1-21

- 1)The Lord comes down..., the saints seem to stay there!
- 2)Emphasis reign on earth, vs reign in heaven
- 3)Associated with judgment

Matthew 24:29-31 and Mark 13:24-27

- 1)The passage associated with judgment
- 2)The Lord is referring to Zechariah 14, where again the saints are meet on the ground.

Luke 21:25-28

- 1)This time the passage is again the same, but implies that the saints will be on earth

Revelation 19

- 1)Note judgment again

Summary:

Rapture	Second Coming
The Lord meets Saints in sky Saints to be with Christ	The Lord meets remnants on ground Judgment of Wicked, Establishment of Millenium
Saints Glorified	Saints Not Glorified

For more on this concept I encourage reading The Rapture by Archer, Feinberg, Moo and Reiter

The Symbols of Revelation 4

- I. **The open door-** It seems to me that in the book of John, the *door* symbolizes Jesus as the entrance to the Kingdom of heaven.
 - A. In Rev 1:17,18 Jesus is described as the one who has the keys to Death and Hades
 - B. In Rev 3:7,8 Jesus holds keys and opens door. What he opens no one can shut
 - C. In John 10:7-10 Jesus is the door.—symbolically the door to heaven (See John 14:6) In order to understand the passage we must understand the shepherd lying across the opening of a pen and thus acting as a door!
 - D. In Rev 3:20 the door is the door between you and heaven- opening the door is to come to Jesus!

- II. **The Trumpet**
 - A. The voice of Jesus Rev 1:10
 - B. Trumpets were used as a call to worship, a call to war, a gathering and trumpets are mentioned at both 2nd coming and rapture

- III. **In the Spirit-** to be completely taken over by the Holy Spirit as in a vision, or a prophetic trance—King Saul was in the Spirit when they said *He stripped off his robes and also prophesied in Samuel's presence. He lay that way all that day and night. This is why people say, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"* 1 Samuel 19:24 Also of Paul *I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows.* 2 Cor. 12:2 see especially 2 Peter 1:19-21

- A. Not to be confused with led by the Spirit - as in I was led to witness; or filled with the Spirit which means to be obediently controlled by the spirit; or the fruit of the Spirit which are the results of being obedient to the Spirit
- IV. The picture described is centered at the **throne** of God. The light is intesly bright, and at first John misses many of the details, which gradually become clear.
- A. Daniel 7:9 Rev 1:4 God's throne
 - B. Rev 2:13 Satan's throne
 - C. Rev 3:21 Our throne
 - D. Rev 4:2 God's throne
 - E. Rev 5:6 The Lambs throne
 - F. Rev 22:3 The throne of the lamb and of God. But interestingly - God the father sits in Revelation Jesus stands as if to judge. Yet we know that in heaven he sits at the right hand of the Father
- V. The description of the person on the throne is the "**appearance of jasper and carnelian.**" These are not only valuable stones, but beautiful as well. In Revelation 21:19, we find these stones as the first and sixth foundations of the city walls of the New Jerusalem. The jasper and Carnelian(also called Ruby in NIV or Sardine" were stones on the priests breastplate in Exodus 28:20. Many commentators believe that the Ruby red Carnelian symbolizes judgment, while the crystal clear jasper symbolizes God's holiness. Other commentators argue there is no evidence of these stones symbolizing anything, but that they point out the majesty of God in general.
- VI. The **rainbow** probably is in reference to God's promise to Noah. (Genesis 9:12-16.) Interestingly enough, this rainbow is not multiple colors, but looks like an Emerald. The green rainbow has been said to signify God's mercy.
- VII. Crowns
- A. Royalty

1. Who planned this against Tyre, the bestower of crowns, whose merchants are princes, whose traders are renowned in the earth? Isaiah 23:8
- B. Sin causes a loss of crowning
1. The crown has fallen from our head. Woe to us, for we have sinned! Lament. 5:16
- C. Joy
1. and the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away. Isaiah 35:10
 2. The ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away. Isaiah 51:11
 3. Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends! Philip. 4:1
 4. For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? 1 Thes. 2:19
- D. beauty and splendor
1. and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. Isaiah 61:3
- E. Splendor
1. You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD'S hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God. Isaiah 62:3
 2. and I put a ring on your nose, earrings on your ears and a beautiful crown on your head. Ezekiel 16:12

3. The LORD their God will save them on that day as the flock of his people. They will sparkle in his land like jewels in a crown. Zech. 9:16

F. A victor in Life

1. Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. 2 Tim. 2:5
2. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. 2 Tim. 4:8

G. Glory

1. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. 1 Peter 5:4
2. Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. James 1:12

VIII. Crowns in Revelation

A. Crown of Life

1. Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. Rev. 2:10
2. I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. Rev. 3:11

B. Crown of rulers

1. Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. Rev. 4:4

2. the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: Rev. 4:10

C. False Crowns

1. I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest. Rev. 6:2
2. The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces. Rev. 9:7
3. Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. Rev. 12:3
4. And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. Rev. 13:1

D. Crown of Israel

1. A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. Rev. 12:1

E. Crown of Jesus

1. I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one "like a son of man" with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.

- F. Rev. 14:14 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. Rev. 19:12

IX. **The 24 elders** has been described in many different manners. There are three which seem to be better than the rest.

- A. That the 24 are 12 from Israel and 12 from the church. They thus represent a complete group from both.

- B. That the twenty-four elders are in reference to the 24 Priestly orders in the Old Testament. However, they seem to carry out NO priestly duties. The 24 elders do not appear to be Priests, but rather appear to be Kings!
- C. That the elders are heavenly beings especially created to execute divine rule. (see Ladd p. 75.) White is the clothing for angels. (see John 20:12.) They say Paul refers to ranks of angels as "thrones" in Ephesians 6:12, an argument which is forced. Careful study of Revelation 5 shows that the elders are separate from the rest of the redeemed.
- D. The thunder and lightening were common to the presence of God see Exodus 19:16-19. Psalm 18:13. The significance of seven spirits is that seven is the symbolic word for "completeness". Rev 1:4
- X. **Seven** - Completeness, perfection
- XI. **White**- Righteous acts of Saints Rev 19:8
- XII. **Sea of glass**....sea is not glass, but like glass. A simile. No clear hint to the significance is found in the Bible. many have ascertained that it represents the barrier that separates God in his holiness from the fallen world.
- XIII.

Five notes about heaven

1. At first it is fuzzy
2. The one on the throne represents gems. (Carnelian is a ruby) Jasper was crystal clear like a diamond
3. God is surrounded by others
4. Flashes of Lightning, sound of thunder Exodus 19:16; Exodus 20:18
5. Blazing lights from the tabernacle Exodus 25:37, 37:23
6. Sea of glass Rev 15:2

The Image of the four living Creatures....

Resembles Isaiah 6:1-3 Ezekiel 10:9-21 Rev 4:6-8

also Ez 1:4-9

The Image of the four living Creatures....		
SERAPH	Cherubim	Living Creatures
6 wings	four faces	four faces
2 wings cover faces	1 Cherub	1 lion
2 they flew	1 Man	1 ox
2 covered feet	1 lion	1 man
	1 eagle	1 eagle
	wings	

Interpretation

1. The four living creatures are the highest of all angelic beings
2. The four living Creatures are representing different aspects of nature and the fact that all of nature will praise God.
3. The four living creatures seem to execute God's power in the world.

Note the strong statement in Scriptures that God created, his tool simply by willing creation, elsewhere by speaking it! see Colosians 1:15-19

The first act of worship .. Praise for God himself

The second act... Praise for God's Creation

Revelation has a lot to say about heaven

Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name. Rev. 3:12

At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. Rev. 4:2

But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. Rev. 5:3

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing:

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb

be praise and honor and glory and power,

for ever and ever!” Rev. 5:13

When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. Rev. 8:1

Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. Rev. 10:1

Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. Rev. 10:5

At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. Rev. 11:13

The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said:

“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ,

and he will reign for ever and ever.”

Rev. 11:15

Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm. A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. Rev. 11:19-12:1

Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. Rev. 12:3

And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. Rev. 12:7-8

And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps. Rev. 14:2

Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them." Rev. 14:13

Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. Rev. 14:17

I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues—last, because with them God's wrath is completed. Rev. 15:1

After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting:

"Hallelujah!

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, Rev. 19:1

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. Rev. 19:11

The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Rev. 19:14

And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. Rev. 20:1

They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. Rev. 20:9

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. Rev. 21:1-2

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. Rev. 21:10

Revelation 5 A Glimpse of Heaven Part II

vs 1 The scroll was sealed with seven seals on the outside of the scroll made in wax. Thus the breaking of the seals and the events are preliminary events to the opening of the scroll. The first six seals are a unit with the seventh seal described by the seven trumpets, etc. This pattern is followed by Revelation:

Seal

Seal

Seal Activity seems to conclude with the
Seal SIXTH object.
Seal

Seal The Seventh is described by
Seal = Trumpet the next six.
Trumpet Therefore
Trumpet 7th Seal= Trumpets
Trumpet 7th Trumpet =Bowls
Trumpet

Trumpet = Bowl
Bowl
Bowl
Bowl
Bowl
Bowl
Bowl
Bowl

The reason there were seven seals has been debated. Romans used seven seals to prove the validity of a last will and testament.... The scroll is then seen as a promise by God of the inheritance which we receive as Christians.

Second view sees the scroll as the lambs book of life which appears several times in Revelation. (3:5; 21:27 etc.) Ladd see this view as difficult, I believe that he is wrong...The scroll probably is the book of life.

What Ladd fails to realize is that the seals do not have to effect the contents of the book. Rather, I find the

context of the chapter as the best argument for understanding the scroll in this manner. 1)The opening of the scroll seems to be separate from the opening of the seals 2)The whole context of Chapter five is not fixed on the scroll but on Christ's worthiness..."Christ is worthy because he was slain,--purchased men," etc.. These Praise statements imply that the scroll has something to do with "Salvation".

vs 2--Was the mighty angel a cherubim? Quite possibly, however the text does not say. What is clear is that there is considerable distress in John as NO ONE on HEAVEN or on EARTH, or Under the Earth was found worthy to open the scrolls!

vs 5 John panics, "What if he were wrong?", quickly an elder corrects John, "Do not weep!" This is reminiscent of Revelation 21:4, where God will wipe every tear from his people.

The scrolls

No one able to open the scrolls

1. Because all men fall short

For you this whole vision is nothing but words sealed in a scroll. And if you give the scroll to someone who can read, and say to him, "Read this, please," he will answer, "I can't; it is sealed." Or if you give the scroll to someone who cannot read, and say, "Read this, please," he will answer, "I don't know how to read."

The Lord says:

"These people come near to me with their mouth

and honor me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me.

Their worship of me

is made up only of rules taught by men. Isaiah 29:11-13

2. Because only man can pay the price of mans sins.

More on the scrolls

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven." Exodus 17:14

But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge." Daniel 12:4

The names for Jesus

- 1) "The Lion of the tribe of Judah" see You are a lion's cub, O Judah; you return from the prey, my son. Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness—who dares to rouse him? The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his. Genesis 49:9-10 for one of the first Messianic prophecies.--- *Gen 49*
- 2) "The root of David" from Isaiah 11:1-9. This is one of the great passages describing the Kingship of the Messiah.

This king has conquered Sin. The word "Conquered" actually means that he had a great "victory over" sin, death and Satan himself. see I Corinthians 15:55-57 *"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 15:55-57*

- 3) vs 6 but as John looks he see not a lion, but a lamb. And a lamb looking as if he had been slain. Christ's victory as a lion could only happen after his death as a lamb. The figure of the lamb is often used in Scriptures. The Lamb was slain as a sign for God to pass over the Israelites with the tenth plague. (Exodus 12:13,21) The Lamb was then used as a sacrifice for sins on Passover on a repeated basis. Jesus in a sense is the Pascal lamb because he paid his life, so that God might pass over the sins which we had! The Lamb was also used for other sin sacrifices. Isaiah 53:7 places the servant of the Lord (Messiah) as the lamb which was slain! Of special interest is the parrallel with

Abraham's almost sacrifice of Issac when Abraham declared, *God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.*" Genesis 22:8

Notice the position of the Lamb, he is standing in the center of the Throne.—He comes right from the midst of the throne itself.

Horn represents power. 7 horns represent perfect power. This power is seen in Daniel 8.

Out of one of them came another horn, which started small but grew in power to the south and to the east and toward the Beautiful Land. . . The four horns that replaced the one that was broken off represent four kingdoms that will emerge from his nation but will not have the same power. Daniel 8:9, 22

The seven eyes which are the seven spirits represent the fullness of the Holy Spirit. This time it represents the Spirit's ability to see everything everywhere.

O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. . . . Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. Psalm 139:1-4, 7-8 .

The emphasis here however is that Christ can see everything and the Spirit of Christ is everywhere. He takes the scroll from him who sat on the throne, the father. (see Psalm 110:1).

Now it is time for Jesus to be worshipped, even in the presence of the father!

Some important points about the Praise.

1. The praise centers around the death of Christ and his worthiness.
2. The praise tells us that all people will worship Christ.
3. Finally in vs 13, the Lamb is worshipped in heaven right along with the Father.

“Amen” is attesting to the truth of this worship. “It is True” they shout!

Revelation 6- The Seven Seals of the Tribulation

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The seals and Daniel 9

Prayer and petition

So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes. . . .While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the LORD my God for his holy hill-- Daniel 9:3,20

The principle in the New testament

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philip. 4:6-7

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. James 1:5

He instructed me and said to me, “Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. Daniel 9:22

The seventy sevens

“Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy. “Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. Daniel 9:24-25

70 sevens until

- 1) Transgressions finished
- 2) An End to Sin

- 3) Atone for wickedness
- 4) Bring in Everlasting Righteousness
- 5) To seal up vision and prophecy

6) to anoint the most holy

many of these items are fulfilled. However there is not yet everlasting righteousness and Christ has not come as KING (the anointed one.)

The anointed one was to be cut off after 69 sevens

7 = 7 years

In 457 Artaxerxes I made a decree that Jerusalem should be rebuilt

in 7, 7's or 49 years (408 BC) The walls around Jerusalem were complete!

62 7's later (a total of 483 years after the Decree to rebuild Jerusalem and 434 years after Jerusalem was rebuilt) is the year 27AD (Remember there is no 0 on the calendar.)

There are two possibilities

1. That Jesus was born 6BC started ministry in 24AD and Died in 27 AD
2. That Jesus was born in 3BC, started ministry in 27 AD and Died in 30

Either of these dated work.

verse 26 suddenly interjects a ruler who will come to destroy the city and sanctuary.

- 1) Some have thought this to be Titus destruction of the temple in 70 AD. - the dates are close but not close enough..
- 2) But a more careful reading implies that the seven years was split in half. The first half the ruler was good and confirms the covenant with the Jews, while the second half he abruptly puts an end to the sacrifices and desecrated the temple.

Another Scripture which give insight is 2 Thes 2:3-12

1) Seal One- Conquest

The white horse- symbol of the Anti-Christ. Some commentators have stated that the White horse is representing Christ. This cannot be true, since Christ is the one opening both this seal and the ones to follow. Rather it represents a false Christ. In fact there appear to be two white horses in Revelation. The Anti-Christ of Rev 6:2 whom the text implies wages war for unjust reasons. Furthermore, the rider carries a bow, a sign of an enemy of Israel and of the troops of Satan. (Ezekiel 39:3, also referring to Revelation 20:7-8) Furthermore, the rider wears a crown, but Christ wears many crowns. The Anti-Christ's crown is "stephanos" in Greek, while Christ's crowns are "diadema" Contrast Revelation 19:11-16, where the rider is described similarly, but this time he is one who wages a just war and is clearly Jesus Christ.

The beginning of the anti-Christ's conquests are pictured, "At the time of the end the king of the South will engage him in battle, and the king of the North will storm out against him with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships. He will invade many countries and sweep through them like a flood. He will also invade the Beautiful Land. Many countries will fall, but Edom, Moab and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand. He will extend his power over many countries; Egypt will not escape. He will gain control of the treasures of gold and silver and all the riches of Egypt, with the Libyans and Nubians in submission. But reports from the east and the north will alarm him, and he will set out in a great rage to destroy and annihilate many". Daniel 11:40-44

2) Seal Two- Destruction

The Red Horse- The term red signifies slaughter- (II Kings 3:22-23) Note that rider does not actually do the slaying, he just stirs up the people, so they kill each other. The rider on the red horse brings a lack of peace while Christ is our peace and came to give peace see Isa 9:6,7, Isa 53:5; Micah 5:2-5, John 14:27; Eph 2:17

The Large sword represents great slaughter. See Matthew 24:21

3) Seal Three- Poverty induced Famine

The Black horse

A. A Denarius was a coin = \$.16 or an average man's daily wages.—The idea is that it would take all a man's money to buy food for a day. But the rich would not be effected, at least as long as they had their wealth. Whereas not having the oil and wine. The rich could get their food with ease see Ezekiel. 4:10-16; lev 26:26

Also will be a famine of the Word of God.—“The days are coming,” declares the Sovereign LORD, “when I will send a famine through the land—not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD. Amos 8:11

4) Seal Four- Death -note an intensification of the problem

The pale horse - Greek “Chloros” implying a green or greenish hue of death. Satan is only allowed to act with the permission of the Lamb.

The intensity increases so that ¼ of all the earth die. The devil is the one who enjoys death - Heb 2:14. God on the other hand says, “Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign LORD. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?” Ezekiel 18:23 and

“I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!” Ezekiel 18:32

5) Seal Five- The Martyrdom of Saints

Matthew 24:8-10 adds describes this seal.

The question how long until Evil is stopped and evil beings are judged. Was the altar, the altar of incense (prayer) or of sacrifice.

vs 9. In the old Testament the blood of the sacrificed bull was poured out at the base of the altar. (See Leviticus 4:7) For the saints being Martyred see II Tim 4:6 and Philippians 2:17 Soul is usually used in the New Testament to refer to a disembodied Spirit. This implies these were the martyrs of the tribulation. Note this tends to disprove the idea of Soul sleep as does 2 Cor 5:8 and Philp. 1:23

vs 11. The white garments show that they have been decreed as pure and holy. They are told to wait until the number of martyred are completed. The importance of loyalty to Christ until death is stressed.

6) Seal Six- The Great moment of Wrath- World War III?

The sixth seal is terrible with three signs.

1) Stars falling 2) A great Earthquake which blots out sun 3) Terror on the earth. I believe this could very likely be a view of an atomic world war. The word for earthquake is interesting, in Matthew 8:24 it means a great turmoil of the sea. In Plato uses the word of disturbances, disorders and confusions. Perhaps the best example of this seal is found in Isaiah 24:1-5,19-23 where the sun and moon is blotted out, and the earth acts as if drunk. Note also that in Isaiah 24, all classes of people are affected. 4) Stars, sun and moon are signs of authority. The passage means that there will be a collapse of authority in the world. This would be in fulfillment to the new ruler, who is the anti-Christ, the man of lawlessness. (II Thessalonians 2:3)

vs 16. (see Hosea 10:8) where wicked people will shout to the mountains "Fall on us".

CHAPTER 6 ends with a bleak question? For the great day of their (The Father and Son) wrath has come, and who can stand? The word wrath is the Greek word *orge* meaning "anger". We shall soon see that some will stand.

The seals represent the signs approaching the end times ...see Matthew 24:1-35, or Mark 13:1-37

The seals are general conditions which will exist in pre- end times. The first four are horsemen, where the imagery used is seen in both Zechariah 1:8ff and Zechariah 6:1-8. The horsemen are divine instruments of judgment on the enemies of God.. As we read Revelation it becomes apparent that God has left the judged nations to their own wickedness. Romans 1:24-25

Chapter 7

7:1-8 The 144,000

The four angels are certainly heavenly beings, and not four human messengers as some have implied. They hold back the four winds to prevent any wind from blowing on land, sea or trees. The land = Israel, the sea = Gentiles, trees = rulers (see Judges 9:7-15) wind (sometimes translated as "Spirit") is used as a symbol of God's judgment...see Jeremiah 49:36,...51:1 where Elam first, then Babylon were to be judged by a

destroying wind, and II Samuel 22:11 and Psalm 18:10, where God soared on the wings of the wind to bring judgment.

Then another angel comes and puts a temporary stop on judgment until a seal is put on the foreheads of believers. The first group of believers are Israelites, followed by a mixed group in verses 9:1-14. This does not mean that the Israelites and Gentiles will not suffer, only that God will not direct his wrath against them! The word "until" is important..the judgment is held back for a purpose.

The Phrase "sealed" is an obvious illusion to Ezekiel 9 where a six men are commanded to go through the city, following a seventh dressed in linen who will put a seal on the foreheads of those who grieve at the horrors of sin. The six will then destroy all who do not have such a seal!

The 144,000 are Jews who will come into the kingdom during this time. The number 12 is an important number. The number is often used like seven to show completion. The difference is that 12 is usually used in context of Israel. 12 tribes, 12 apostles. Note the new Jerusalem has 12 gates, 12 angels with the names of the 12 tribes written on them, foundations with the 12 apostles names on them. Furthermore 144,000 is important in that it is the square of 12--the perfect perfect. Thus the dimensions of the New Jerusalem are given in powers of twelve. The wall is 144 cubits, while the city is the cube of 12,000 furlongs.

John Walvord has an interesting argument which is summed up in the Expositors Bible Commentary, vol 12 p. 480, showing the complexity of whether to take this as a literal 144,000 Israel or a Gentile, "true Israel" church. I lean toward a literal Israel because of my interpretation of the rest of the chapter. However you must note, that believing in a gentile church here, does not say you do not believe in the literal restoration and conversion of Israel according to the Old Testament Prophecies.

The list of tribes is unique. Where is Ephraim? Dan? Ephraim was a place where Jereboam set up his city of idolatry. (see Hosea 4:17) Many surmise that Dan is the apostate tribe and so left out. Traditions held that the Anti-Christ would rise from Dan. Dan was associated with Idol worship. (Judges 18:18-19, and 1 Kings 12:29-30) Joesph and Mannessah are mentioned as two tribes, (Joesph was Menessahs father and the head of both Ephraim and Manessah) Perhaps the easiest way to solve the tribe problem is to note the greek work

“ek” “from, Out of”. John is giving a list of those saved from out of the 12 tribes, not a total list.

Furthermore...this does not mean the rest were not saved at the end!

7:9-17 The Great Multitude

In the midst of the greatest tribulation that ever will take place, the greatest revival to ever happen will take place. The great multitude are those who were saved at the witness of the 144,000. There are the martyrs of a great revival which shall take place during this last age.

The great multitude was made up of a variety of tribes, peoples and nations. They were a mixed language group. But one thing they all had in common...They stood before the throne, and before the Lamb. The mixture of peoples is God’s answer to Abrahams promise in Genesis 12:3, “All peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

The men were wearing white robes, which signified that they were holy—declared righteous by God. They are to be identified with the martyrs of 6:10, all given a white robe). There may have been some who die a “natural” death, but their life was filled with suffering. The robes are washed in the blood of the lamb. The Palm branches are a reference to victory and celebration. John 12:12, there is a victory celebration for Jesus as he enters on Palm Sunday. The symbol of Palms was well known to people of the Roman era, and is often found on coins.

This great multitude praises the father and the son for salvation. They are then joined by the heavenly beings who fall down and worship vs 12 - note the perfect sevenfold praise to God.

vs 13 the identification of the multitude. Two questions 1)Who are they? 2)What are they doing? The questions are answered in 14 1)They are the martyrs of the great tribulation- “the great tribulation” is the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation. (70th week of Daniel)

2)They are the ones who are busy in heaven. Busy with service, and worship and praise.

A technical note: because of the presence of the temple in verse 15, the time is prior to the eternal state of things. However we still get an excellent glimpse into heaven..

1) He will “spread his tent over them”—The meaning of this is clear. God will Permanently dwell with his people. (See Revelation 21:3.) Furthermore his presence with them will be his glorified or “Shekinah” presence. In Exodus 40:34, God’s glory entered the tent of Meeting. Even Moses could not enter the tent because of the radiance of the Lord. But we will be protected and able to do so in heaven! In I Kings 8:10 the ark is brought into the temple, and the Lord comes in with his glory..No one can enter..but we will in Ezekiel 10:4,18-19; the same type of event occurs this time with the glory departing.

2)Verse 16 contrasts the terrible ordeals of the Martyrs found in Hebrews 11:37-38. In heaven, God will never again let this occur. The reference is similar to Isaiah 49:8-18, where God tells the Israelites who suffer, that a time will come when the Lord will end their suffering. He will take care of hunger, thirst, and intense heat. He will make the nation prosperous. The passage is also important because it teaches that God never forgets those who suffer.

3)The Lamb will be their shepherd...The Egyptian Pharaohs were called shepherds. But they were evil shepherds, Christ is to be the good shepherd, who watches out for his sheep. (John 10:1-19; Hebrews 13:20, and I Peter 2:25).

Part of his shepherding is to lead us. The phrase “he will lead them” is the same phrase used of the Holy Spirit in John 16:13, where he guides us into all truth(NIV).

3)Furthermore all tears will be wiped away. This is a direct quote of Isaiah 25:8.

Revelation 8.....

8:1 The Opening of the Seventh Seal

Note: Remember the Seventh seal is described by the seven trumpets!

The silence in heaven before the trumpets has been described in three different ways;

1) According to Expositors Bible Commentary a Jewish teacher states, “In the fifth heaven are companies of angels who sing praises by night, but are silent by day because of the glory of

Israel.” This is clearly wrong because the context of the judgments has nothing what so ever to do with the glory of Israel!

- 2) Other interpretations for the silence which the EPB suggests : The silence is a time for the prayers to be heard by God. vs 3,4 clearly imply that this happened. What are the believers praying? Revelation 6:10 tells us the martyred believers are praying for judgment. We have reason to believe that the saints on earth are also praying for God to bring “Evil” to an end. The context of chapter 8 warrants this.
- 3) On top of this, the silence could also be the silence before a storm!

Seven Angels

The seven angels are interesting. In Rev 15:1, we learn that even though the seals are opened by Christ, part of the judgments are taken by the angels who stand before God. In extra-Biblical literature, 1 Enoch 20:2-8 names the angels as follows,...Uriel, Raphael, Raguel, Michael, Saraqael, Gabriel (see Luke 1:19), and Remiel.

Prayer

vs 3,4 The angel is Christ himself.. Notice he takes the golden Censer...filled with prayers of saints. This is the mediation of Christ. Notice the smoke does not lift the prayers to God. Instead Christ lifts the prayers to God. But the smoke accompanies the prayers giving them a beautiful smell. The altar being talked about is the altar of incense, sometimes called the Altar before the Lord, or the golden altar, because of its gold leaf. (Ex 30:6, 37:25-29, 40:5.) This altar was placed in between the Holy of Holies and the Holy Place, in the Holy Place, by the veil. The fact that there is an altar in heaven should not surprise us. The earthly temple was a pattern of the heavenly temple.

They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: “See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.” Hebrews 8:5

It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence.

Hebrews 9:23-24

The altar of incense was immediately before the curtain separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. Hebrews 9:4 is difficult to translate but does not mean the the altar was inside the curtain, but rather that it belonged to the Holy place.

Put the altar in front of the curtain that is before the ark of the Testimony—before the atonement cover that is over the Testimony—where I will meet with you. Exodus 30:6

and

Place the gold altar of incense in front of the ark of the Testimony and put the curtain at the entrance to the tabernacle. Exodus 40:5

The curtain which in a symbolic sense kept our prayers away from God was torn away at the death of Jesus.

Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, Hebrews 9:3

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. Matthew 27:51

The trumpets now start as the angel takes the censer fills it with fire and throws it to the earth in condemnation!

The implication here is that the long awaited answer to their prayers now comes

Lightening, thunder, etc..All of The Accompanying Activities have to do with the power and judgment of God!

In the Old Testament, the Shofar trumpets, usually Ram's horns, were used as signaling devices. They sounded for danger and victory, as well as other religious and political events. They were often used in the Old Testament's talks of the end times! (See Joel 2:1 for an example)

The trumpets are divided into two groups.

1. The first group includes the first four trumpets. The first four trumpets also work through nature.
2. The second group, often called the Woes, is introduced in 8:13. Note the similarity with the plagues of Egypt.

Trumpets

Trumpet One: vs 6,7 The plague of hail and fire

See Exodus 9:20-26. see also Ezekiel 38:21-23, for the judgment against Gog..Sounds a great deal like bombs dropping.

Hail is always used of judgment-The following are some examples:

1. Throughout Egypt hail struck everything in the fields—both men and animals; it beat down everything growing in the fields and stripped every tree. The only place it did not hail was the land of Goshen, where the Israelites were. Exodus 9:25-26
2. Moses replied, “When I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands in prayer to the LORD. The thunder will stop and there will be no more hail, so you may know that the earth is the LORD’S. Exodus 9:29
3. I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line; hail will sweep away your refuge, the lie, and water will overflow your hiding place. Isaiah 28:17

I struck all the work of your hands with blight, mildew and hail, yet you did not turn to me, ' declares the LORD. Haggai 2:17

Trumpet Two and Three

Trumpet Two and Three have to do with the first plague. vs 8-11. see Exodus 7:14-21. Trumpet two has to do with a part of the sea water, while trumpet three has to do with a part of the fresh water.

Trumpet two

The mountain of Trumpet two is seen in Jeremiah 51:25 symbolically for the Gentiles and specifically Babylon

"I am against you, O destroying mountain, you who destroy the whole earth," declares the LORD. "I will stretch out my hand against you, roll you off the cliffs, and make you a burned-out mountain. Jeremiah 51:25

The Bible talks of a day so bad that even the fish of the sea will die.

"I will sweep away both men and animals; I will sweep away the birds of the air and the fish of the sea. The wicked will have only heaps of rubble when I cut off man from the face of the earth," declares the LORD. Zeph. 1:3

Trumpet three

The name of the star is "Wormwood". In the Old Testament, "Wormwood" referred to a plant we call "Artemesia Absinthium" This plant is mentioned in Jeremiah 9:15 The idea is that the waters are poisoned..Chemical Warfare may be involved. - The water is tainted. But even more importantly people are being poisoned because they are getting the wrong spiritual water.- The wormwood water thus represents corrupted religious teaching about eternity Speaking to the woman at the well

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." John 4:13-14

Furthermore at the end of Revelation those who are thirsty are told to drink. The drink is symbolic of coming to Jesus for salvation. He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. Rev. 21:6

Trumpet four

Jesus prophesied that at this sign the end the end would soon come.

"There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the

world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Luke 21:25-27

also see

The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire." Hebrews 12:27-29

Trumpet four is a reference to the 9th plague. (Exodus 10:21-29). We must note the theological significance behind all of this. For the plagues were sent to Pharaoh that he might repent. But he failed to do so until the very end. The People of the earth see God's wrath, but according to Revelation 16:20, they curse God! Nothing God will do, from his love to his wrath will convince these unbelieving peoples!

Agai the moon, the stars, the sun stand for spiritual enemies of God.

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Ephes. 6:11-13

vs 13 identifies the last three trumpets as "Woes". As with seals the seventh trumpet is found under the next category called bowls. vs 13 should be in chapter 9, as it introduces the content of the chapter.

Revelation 9.....

Revelation nine is a continuation of the seven trumpets..

The first Woe... Trumpet five

The star is a fallen angel. 1) Angels were identified with stars in chapter one, "The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches." Rev. 1:20 2)

"The star was given the key to the Abyss" This angel of the Abyss is the dragon and should not be confused with the "Non-fallen" angel in Revelation 20:1.

How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! Isaiah 14:12

Jesus also pictured Satan this way,

He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Luke 10:18

The word "Abyss" means "depth" The Abyss is an obvious allusion to Hell. This is the place where fallen angels and were thrown to (Luke 8:30), where the dead would go (Romans 10:7), and this is the place where they shall be for all of eternity. Note the smoke coming from the Abyss!

THE FOLLOWING ARE INSTANCES OF THE ABYSS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. ' And they begged him repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss. Luke 8:31
2. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' Luke 16:26
3. For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; 2 Peter 2:4
4. And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. Rev. 20:1
5. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time. Rev. 20:3

The smoke is reminiscent of Sodom and Gomorah.

The Locusts are certainly supernatural demons because they

- 1) Come from Hell (the Abyss)
- 2) Do what is very unnatural (1) do not eat grass, or plants (2)Tails sting like scorpions. (3) Inflict damage only on those who do not have Gods mark.
- 3) Look very unnatural -

The results of this terrible scourge - the people again seek death...but do not repent!

For an interesting parallel, examine Joel: 1:4-8 explains that an army is has come with teeth of a lion, but that would attack the plants. The emphasis of this passage is that the people should repent and cry out to the Lord. Joel 2:4-17 continues explaining that another army of locusts will come.. Note the description, and the question of Joel 2: 11, which we found before in the last verse of Revelation 6.

Five months is the life span of a locust (Spring and Summer)

Their king is Satan, his name is given in two languages, Hebrew "Apolloyon" meaning "Destruction, ruin, death, or place of ruin" In Greek, the word is "Apollyon" (not after the so called Roman god, Apollo). This word means "exterminator, or destroyer." Satan is thus seen as a murderer, liar and destroyer by nature.

An interesting aspect to note is that John is the only New Testament writer who commonly quotes in two languages. However, this was the custom in many synagogues of the day. (Jn 6:1 for example)

The Lord promises to cut off the tail.

So the LORD will cut off from Israel both head and tail, both palm branch and reed in a single day; the elders and prominent men are the head, the prophets who teach lies are the tail. Isaiah 9:14-15

The Second Woe... Trumpet six

The four angels were instruments of Gods judgments. They are bound at the Euphrates signifies the fact that they cannot destroy Israel at this time. In ancient days troops would often pause at the Euphrates before attacking Israel! Revelation 16:12 allows the river to dry up, so the kings of the east may gather at Armagedon.

There is much debate as to whether the 200,000,000 troops are Human or Demon.

(Hal Lindsey, John Walvord) For Human- We know that the largest battle ever fought will occur at armagedon, but the gathering of these soldiers seems far away from armageddon.

Secondly, generals in charge of logistics, say it may be impossible to move 200,000,000 humans into the mideast and feed them. Perhaps by the time of Armageddon, that will not be a major cause for concern.

(Dehann, Alan Johnson, many others) For demons- The description is important, they seem to be weird. The riders look supernatural. The horses appear supernatural. NOTE the stress is on the horses not the riders.

To say more about the horses...the power in mouths and tails. These are certainly not horses as we know them. Rather they stand for the terrible devices of war which will carry men into battle at this time.

vs 20 is extremely important: a moral judgment- those left did not repent, they still worshiped demons and idols. Furthermore they practiced, murders, thefts sexual immorality and Magic arts (Sorcery). Remember the purpose of Revelation is to help us see a little reality, and to drive us to God! God loves us and wants for no one to perish. But he will punish those who refuse to follow him. (John 3:16-18)

The word "magic arts" means they practiced "sorcery" and "witchcraft". When traced back historically, sorcery and witchcraft were known to be heavily dependent on drugs. Thus the word sorcery is (pharmakon) where we get our word drugs. Therefore, the end time period will be a time of heavy use of drugs! By all means sorcery was certainly forbidden to the Christian. (see Galations 5:20, Rev 21:8)

A Further Indictment

The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshipping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk. Rev 9:20

They refuse to see the futility of their idols

1. "The idols speak deceit, diviners see visions that lie; they tell dreams that are false, they give comfort in vain. Therefore the people wander like sheep oppressed for lack of a shepherd." Zech. 10:2
2. "Do not make idols or set up an image or a sacred stone for yourselves, and do not place a carved stone in your land to bow down before it. I am the LORD your God. Leviticus 26:1

Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts. Rev. 9:20-21

- O LORD, do not your eyes look for truth? You struck them, but they felt no pain; you crushed them, but they refused correction. They made their faces harder than stone and refused to repent. Jeremiah 5:3
- Therefore this is what the LORD says: "If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman. Let this people turn to you, but you must not turn to them. Jeremiah 15:19
- In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 2 Tim. 3:12-13

Some will never repent!

Revelation 10.....

Another Interlude with Jesus

Another Interlude this time between trumpets and bowls.

The "other angel", not one of the four described in chapter nine.

There is debate about the identity of the angel. I believe this angel is again Jesus. The description is certainly the very close to Jesus Christ's portrayal in chapter one. Furthermore, the imagery of the lion is used to portray Christ often on both Old and New Testaments. The roar of thunder and lightening is used as a description of God's Glory.

The characteristics of Jesus and the Angel

Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven..

1. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head - Daniel 7:13; Matthew 24:30; Matthew 26:64; Rev. 1:7;
2. his face was like the sun - Rev 1:16-18
3. and his legs were like fiery pillars. -Exodus 13:21
4. He was holding a little scroll - The scroll is not the great scroll, but the little scroll of Ezekiel (Ezekiel 2:9-3:3)
5. which lay open in his hand. - The events were about to take place.
6. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, - Zech 14:4
7. and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. - Gen 49:9 and Rev 5:5
8. When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke. Psalm 29:3; Rev. 4:5;

Vs 4 is interesting. What we learn is that there are actually seven thunders to be heard now. John hears them, but God will not let John write the words down. The reason for this is apparent that he does not want

us to know ALL OF THE DETAILS of the end times. For instance we do not know the time of the rapture. The reason for this is so that we might always be prepared for him. Furthermore it is a test of the firmness of our commitment. For if the exact time was known, many would wait until that day to repent and turn to the Lord for salvation. (see Matthew 24:36-51)

vs 5 The swearing is according to the Old Testament Law. (Deuteronomy 32:40 and Dan 12:7) The imagery is again wonderful. For the stance is the victory stance. In ancient times when a king conquered another king, the winner would place his foot on the mans neck and lift his arm up in victory.

vs 6 is often misunderstood. When the King James version says that "there should be time no longer", it means that There will be no more delays, the mystery of God would know be known. The plan of God would be understandable to all.

Vs 7 Remember a mystery was not something which could be solved. Rather, a mystery was something which needed to be revealed. Christianity is a mystery, not in the sense that you need to put a puzzle together in order to understand how to be a Christian. A mystery is something which cannot be understood unless it is revealed. *My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ,* Col. 2:2 The idea is that God had to tell us what the how to be a Christian, we could never have figured that out. - Accepting Jesus in faith to be your personal Savior) The point of this passage is that even the prophets did not understand their prophesy. *Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.* 2 Peter 1:20-21

Verse seven makes more sense if you understand that the language rendering of the greek word "mello" plus the infinitive can mean either 1) Shall - with strong certainty 2)About to..Thus the God's mystery shall be made clear at the time of the seventh trumpet!

vs 9 the advice is the same given to Ezekiel. John was to eat the scroll. Thus he was to digest the contents of the scroll and absorb their meaning into his life.

- They tasted sweet because they were the word of God-(Jer 15:15-17)
- They soured his stomach because their content was judgment.

vs 10 and now John was start his prophecy again..

Revelation 11

The Two Witnesses...

There are many different interpretations of this passage. I identify each subject quite precisely as seen in the Old Testament. Ezekiel 40:3-48:35, describes the measuring of the temple with a measuring line of about ten and one half feet long. (Ez 40:5) The purpose of this measuring the temple was to show the glory of the Lord and to bring the people to repentance (see Ez 43:10-12). The ministry of John and Ezekiel are similar in that they demand a clear separation of those "Holy" by the blood of Christ and those who are "unholy". The passages are primarily directed to the Jews. The altar which is discussed is the sacrificial altar in the court of the priests. In fact, one of the greek words "Naos" for temple reflects the fact that only a part of the temple, the holiest parts were to be measured.

The effect of not measuring the outer court (court of the Gentiles) was to deny all who did not call on the name of the Lord from the Spiritual blessings God would give to the Jewish Christians. - Note, not all Gentiles would fail to receive the blessings, but only those who trample (inflict damage, persecute believers.)the temple.

On trampling the temple, from OT Scripture it is apparent that the temple will be rebuilt (most likely in the tribulation or just prior top it) and survive for the first 42 months of the tribulation. The time period of 42 months is 3 ½ years. (1260x30) this is the precise time set out in Daniel 9:26-27. The time is given over to the anti-christ..Its beginning is marked by the desecration of the temple. (see Rev 13:5,6 for more)

Enoch Moses and Elijah

Who were these witnesses. The Bible makes no claim, however it is likely that they are Moses and Elijah (or representatives Moses and Elijah - much as John the Baptist represented Elijah)

During this 3 ½ years the Witnesses shall be on earth proclaiming Christ. The witnesses should be identified as Moses and Elijah. (see Rev 11:6 and compare with 1 Kng 17:1 and Ex 7:17-21). Now the details of this are mystery. But let me say that the Jews and Christians of the first century were convinced of two literal witnesses. "According to Jochanan Zakkai (first century A.D.), God said to Moses, "If I send the prophet Elijah, you must both come together." (Alan Johnson Revelation, p. 504 EBC) The garb of the men is prophetic (See Isaiah 20:2.

Olive Trees

The reference to the 2 olive trees and 2 lamp stands is explained in Zech 4:1-14. Verse 14 is especially important as it explains, "These are the two anointed to serve the Lord of all the earth." The idea of the prophecy was to strengthen the people by letting them know that God would always have someone testifying about him. In Zechariah, the figures represent Joshua and Zerubbabel.

vs 5. Fire comes from the mouths of the witnesses shows the judgment of God upon the would be offenders of the prophets. (for example Sodom and Gomorah in Genesis 19). I believe that this is important for after Zechariah 4, the power of the prophet to survive such a time comes not by his might, nor by his cunning, but by God's Spirit.

vs 7 Only after there time will the beast be able to destroy them. He is called the beast from the Abyss, because he has his origins with Satan.

vs 8 The city is amazing...Jerusalem would be my first choice, but the pagan portion, for in the allusions that follow are the word figuratively is really the word, "Spiritually" or "symbolically"..Egypt ...known for hardness of heart, Sodom...known for evil deeds, and the great city....Babylon, known for idolatry.

vs 11 The witnesses will be mocked for three days and one half days. All are glad of there death. But then God will put and end to all of that, as a miracle occurs and the men are given life by God himself and whisked away into heaven. Many see a reference to Ezekiel's Valley of Dry Bones here. (See Ezekiel 37:1-28) The prophecy was to show that God would give life to his people and rule over them eternally...in this prophecy is a strong statement that God will open the graves of the people.

With the blessing of the righteous witnesses come the cursing of the unrighteous, an earthquake kills seven thousand.

Revelation 11:15-19..... The Seventh Trumpet

The following verses are reminiscent of Psalm 2. Note the change in verse 15. At the seventh trumpet all will be subjected to Christ. The kingdom of "the world" is Satan's kingdom, the kingdom governed by value systems which are not Christian or from God. Furthermore this kingdom will not be like the Anti-Christ's kingdom which lasted a short time of seven years. But Christ's kingdom will be eternal. verse 15 looks at the Millennial reign of Christ, and the eternal state of the kingdom of Heaven, as one event...Both are the kingdoms of God the Father (our Lord) and God the Son (his Christ).

The seventh trumpet takes in the time period until Christ returns in revelation 19:11, and the takes possession of the kingdom. This trials of this time period are discussed primarily as the seven bowls of Revelation.

Verse 16 and 17 show yet another great hymn, certainly based on Psalm 2 Which starts off talking about the great rage the heathen will have against God's Messiah (Anointed One). The psalm warns the reader to take heed and follow after the Messiah!

At verse 17 another change occurs. In Revelation 1:8, the Scriptures declare, "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was, and who is to come, the almighty." In Revelation 4:8 the scene in heaven is, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is, "is to come". But now in 11:17, we read, "who is and who was" and now WHO HAS COME!

Note the threefold purpose;

1. To judge the dead
2. To Reward the prophets (prophets are important throughout Revelation)
3. To reward the believers (those saints who reverence his name) These are the ones who call upon the Lord (Romans 10:13-14)

verse 19 is dealing with the heavenly temple. The ark, the most holy of all temple furniture was lost when Nebuchadnezzar burned the sanctuary in 586 BC. According to Jewish tradition (Maccabees 2:4-8), Jeremiah may have hidden the ark a cave on Mount Sinai until the future restoration of the nation of Israel.

Revelation 12:1-17 The Woman and the Dragon...

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Chapters 12 to 19 have been called the "Books of Signs". There are no signs (KJV- Wonders) in the first eleven chapters of Revelation, yet there are Seven or more signs in the following chapters.

The word "sign" Greek semeion is a word which means a miracle which points to a great spiritual truth. In classical

Greek the term was often used in reference to the way the constellations aligned as omens.

The first sign, that of the woman, child and dragon bears strong resemblance to many stories of the ancient world.

In Greek myth at the birth of Apollo, the Goddess Leto was pursued by the dragon python. The mother gave birth to Apollo on the tiny Island of Delos.

In Egyptian myth set the Red dragon pursued Isis as she waited to give birth to Horus. (EBC vol 12 p.512)

However these are perversions, mere shadows of the truth, as John is always opposed to pagan religions as he writes and the story probably has more to do with the Old Testament dream of Joseph found in Genesis 37:9-11. The language is certainly similar.

As to the identities, the child is certainly "Christ". Some say Christ as he is the body of the church. But the church is latter identified as the "rest of her offspring".

The Dragon is obviously Satan, as identified in Revelation 12:9. See also Genesis 3:1. (Note Genesis does not say Satan was a serpent, just that he was more crafty than any of the wild animals)

The woman has been variously identified. The Catholic Church has often said it is an illusion to Mary. But the identity of the rest of her offspring as Christians in Rev 12:17 makes that unlikely.

The idea that the woman is the church is clearly wrong. Although Scripture often portray the church as a woman. The church is the Bride, and in no way can be seen as the mother of Christ.

The correct answer is that the woman is "Israel". Isaiah 54:1-5 links Israel as the one who was barren. Other Old Testament passages point to Israel as the "woman" (Jer 3:20, Hosea 2:19-20).

A scroll among those found in Qumran reads, "She

who is big with the man of distress is in her pains. For she will give birth to a man child in the billows of Death, and in the bonds of Sheol there shall spring from the crucible of the pregnant one a Marvelous Counselor with his might; and he shall deliver every man from the billows because of Her who is big with him."

vs 4 is an analogy to Daniel 8:10-24 where the saints as being trampled down by Satan himself. This points to Satan's great power.

vs 5 John is including to Psalm 2:9. The male child is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the male child who would rule with the iron scepter. The snatching up to heaven of course refers to the fact that Jesus would ascend into heaven.

vs 6, Is a reference to the fact that Israel would have to flee in the last times to the desert. The place was prepared by God. Is it to be Pella, or Petra? No one knows, but listen to the possibility, "Petra was located about fifty miles south of the Dead Sea in the Highlands of Jordan. The town lie in a basin surrounded by mountains and its principle entrance was through the narrow, twisting in between cliffs towering over 500 feet high." (Vos. *Archeology in Bible lands* p 193. The time is the time of the second half of the tribulation.

War in Heaven....Revelation 12:7-17

There is an old story of the man who said he could not see the forest, because there were too many trees in the way. (dean p. 171) As we look at the rest of chapter 12, we may not understand everything. However, we do not need to see it all to get the general idea.

This section serves to explain why Satan attacked the child, and his followers.

The war started in Genesis 3:14-15, When God said that he would put enmity between the seed of woman and the serpent, as the result of the serpent tempting Eve, and causing her to sin.

NOTICE

1. There would always be hatred between the woman and Satan (the Serpent)
2. The enmity would be stressed between Satan's Children and Eve's Children—Those who believe and those who do not believe! A very important concept is the word "seed", which is the word for offspring and becomes a term to predict the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Many people see this verse as the first prophecy of salvation!
3. Satan will strike his heel- Jesus would be killed by Satan, but NOT stopped! Rather, Satan would be crushed by Christ!

The final crushing of Satan is beginning to occur as Satan is thrown out of heaven by the Arch- Angel Michael (at the command of Christ) The war was won because of the blood of the lamb being shed on the cross for our sins. This was actually what gave Satan the death blow, and began the crushing process.

Notice that Satan resisted the judgments of God! When God says yes, Satan says no. This gives us a good indication of why there is so much evil in the world. Furthermore, Satan appears to be a difficult enemy to stop. The idea is that Michael and his angel had to wage a mighty war just to remove Satan from heaven.

Note: It appears that the kingdom of Satan was the kingdom of the Air (Ephesians 2:2) and that Satan was removed from the presence of God at the actual death and resurrection of Jesus. This removal is total, Satan can only rule on earth, and only for a very short time. The angels with Satan are no doubt Demons, who decided to follow Satan rather than Jesus.

Note the highlights of the song..

1. The word NOW, the salvation and power of Christ are “realized”. The promised inheritance is now awaiting the Christian.
2. The accuser is obviously Satan. Who is the prosecutor of men? Satan, who seeks to destroy us through unbelief!
3. The war was won through the atonement of Christ and “by their testimony”- the testimony of the believers in heaven, who accepted Jesus Christ. - The gospel is here—The , pending condemnation, the message of the salvation of the cross, and the necessary personal acceptance of Jesus.
4. Heaven is already rejoicing. Why? the end is certain.
5. There will BE a terrible time of persecution caused by the Devil himself at the end. He is a BAD loser!

Now that we know why Satan is attacking the woman (Israel) and her offspring (all believers) we return to the symbolic story. Remember, Satan can no longer attack the son, for he is already in heaven!

vs 13 The two wings of an eagle is highly speculated on. Many say the United States is represented here as the rescuer of Israel! Others say the reference is to escape by airplane. Better yet is to understand this in connection with the Exodus of Israel and Exodus 19:1- ff.. The illusion is to the making of a holy nation of priests. We can then say that the escape of Israel is to be miraculous escape to a place where Satan cannot penetrate.

vs 15 and 16 show the rage and destruction that Satan tried to inflict. In Exodus the Red sea stood as an obstacle to God’s people. Egypt looked at certain victory as Israel was trapped between the sea and Egyptian Armies. But then God’s mighty hand held back the waters, and in a miracle defeated Egypt. Then Moses song was written in Praise of God who, “stretched out your right hand and the earth swallowed them.”

vs 17 Now that the dragon knew Israel was safe for the moment he became rage grew and he started to attack believers!

Revelation 13:1-10 The Beast out of the Sea

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Chapter 13 explains the method of Satans wrath against the people of God. He will attack them using the Anti-Christ and Prophet of Revelation 13.

In Chapter 13 we will study the two satanic people to come in the future. The first is the "Beast of the Sea"- a reference to the fact that he shall come out of the many nations. This does not rule out the fact that he could be a half breed from the tribe of Dan as much ancient tradition commends. The second is the "Beast of the Earth". The earth is a term which relates to the fact that this beast will come out of the nation of Israel.

Certainly we can see a chain of command, Satan, the Beast of the Sea, and then the Beast of the Earth. The Beast of the sea is often referred to as the "Anti-Christ" and the Beast of the Earth as the "Prophet". Some such as Deham see the beast of the earth as the "anti-christ", but he certainly he is under the world ruler who comes from the sea! The misunderstanding is easily seen due to the fact that the men are alike in their nature. While the Beast of the Sea is the "Anti-Christ", the Beast of the Earth certainly is of the anti-Christ.

If we turn back to Genesis 3:15, we see a remarkable prophecy. In fact, Genesis 3:15 is the first Messianic prophecy! In that prophecy, there is a promise that the offspring, (seed) of Satan will be against the offspring of the woman (seed). Throughout the history of the world it is possible to see the stark contrast. Ham, the son of Noah was such a man..he had a son named Cush....who had another son named Nimrod. Nimrod was from this seed, as he proceeded to build centers and tried to be a tower which would reach to the heavens, i.e. a sight of cultic worship. (Genesis 10:8-12; 11:1-9)

Perhaps the greatest forerunner of the anti- Christ was found in the person of Judas. Scripture says in reference to Judas "yet one of you is a devil" John 6:70. I John 2:8 tells us that he "who does what is sinful

is of the devil" I John 4:1-6 tells us there are many "anti-Christ's", but only one "Anti-Christ". Furthermore the Spirit of the anti-Christ is the spirit of the world.

Anti-Christ - Beast of the Sea

Described Elsewhere in Daniel 2:39-47; Daniel 7:1-12 (the little horn) II Thes. 2:1-11

He had ten horns representing a ten nation alliance. The seven heads represent the perfection of his evil. He is the most evil of all men ever to exist. Myths of Supernatural seven headed monsters were well known in the ancient world. A Cylinder from Tell Asmar in Ancient Mesopotamia dated at 2500BC shows two so called gods spearing a seven headed monster from the sea. The myths are all realized in the coming of this ruler from the sea.(ECB, vol 12 p.524)

vs 2. All of the power of the Anti-Christ comes from Satan who is the dragon. Notice his authority is great. Many have surmised that the Anti-Christ will be shot in the head. However Daniel 7:8 seems to imply that this was destruction of one of the powers under his control. At the loss of this kingdom, all looked bleak for the Anti-Christ, but then through a counterfeit miracle, his power increased! The description of the Beast is the same as Daniel 2, but reversed. (Daniel spoke before the events occurred and so spoke forward, John spoke after the events and so looked backward)

vs 4. Remember Emperor worship has been demanded in many cultures through out the world even in modern days. - i.e. the Japanese Emperor. Augustus Caesar was referred to as deified and savior. Perhaps the best known anti-Christ type was the Emperor Domition (81-96ad who claimed to be God). He is the Anti-Christ, because he makes himself out to be the Christ. But he is false, a mere mirage.

Like the little horn of Daniel 7, this great beast was blasphemous to the death. His power was 3 and one half years, always seen as temporary. II Thessalonians 2:3 states he is "doomed to destruction".

vs 7. Satan gives him power to war the saints. God cuts it short to 42 months.

vs 8. A warning. Either people will worship the Anti-Christ or Christ. There will be no in between. This is not a good time for believers, for if you worship the Lord, you have a very strong possibility of being killed or imprisoned.(Rev 13:10-11) Finally a great call for endurance and faithfulness is made.

The Beast of the Air Rev 13:11-18

The beast of the air is "another beast". The Greek word implies that he is a beast of the same kind. He is of the "seed" of Satan. The Beast is called the "false prophet" when mentioned in Rev. 16:13,19:20, and 20:10. Rev. 19:20 positively identifies this second beast as the "false prophet", not the anti-Christ.

Calvin and Luther as well many other reformers, identified the false prophet as the "pope". (EBC vol 12 p. 529) Many commentators see the anti-Christ as "Nero" resurrected. What they mean by this is that a man like Nero will end up being the Anti-Christ. Then the "false prophet" will be like the Priesthood of Nero. One spelling of the name Neron Caesar has a numeric value of 666. So the idea is a possibility, but I believe is untenable. Again, many may seem as if they are the "Anti-Christ" or "Prophet" but their names seem to be hidden until the last days!

Some commentators tend to see the false prophet and the anti Christ as government and agencies. (example Communism and Marx or Lenin, etc.) However, the language seems to indicate that these are people, and not governments or agencies.

vs 11 The beast resembled the lamb, Jesus. But he spoke like a dragon. He is to look and perhaps act both good and respectable. Jesus warns of such "false prophets" in Matthew 7:15. The way to recognize them is by their deeds as well as their words. The "false prophet" will be a man who like others in his age, will have a form of godliness, but deny its power. We are to have nothing to do with such men. (II Timothy:3:5)

The two horns are probably a reference to the two witnesses.

(fire is also used of the witnesses and the "false prophet" As the witnesses are to Christ, so the beast is to the anti-Christ. Each proclaims the message of his master.

The false prophets basic job was to toot the Anti-Christ's horn. The Bible shows he had great devotion to this evil Beast. The preposition "On behalf of" actually implies that the "false prophet" stood "in the presence of" the "Anti-Christ". The implication is that the false prophet is a servant immediately ready to do his masters bidding. A modern day example of a false prophet, anti-christ would be the Rev. Sun Yung Moon and his personal prophetess Young Oon Kim. Kim states that Moon is the "Lord of the Advent", (ibid. p. 532)

There seems to be an antithetical relationship to Moses and Aaron. The false prophet was the spokesman for the Anti-Christ. Even a greater false relationship can be seen between Elijah and the "false prophet". Both called down fire from heaven. (see I Kings 18:38). Many people will be fooled by such activity. But they need not be fooled, for the gospel is plain and easy to understand. The problem again is that the people do not know the Scriptures or God!

This "False Prophet" will set up an "Icon" or image of the first prophet. The Icon is more than just a copy. This image really represents the First Beast, and will be worshipped as if it were him. The false "life" of the statue is due to the breath. The prophet mimicked the breath of God. (Rev 11.11, and Gen 2:7) He was imitating the creation process, the life giving of man. But it was a false life. Note that

Priests of "Caesar" Cults often would practice ventriloquism to make Statues appear to speak!

Not only could this statue speak, but it could also kill, all who would not worship it! Could such a beast be made in our present age? I believe so!

As a sign of allegiance, a mark was to be put on the right hand or forehead. In contrast to the seal of believers, (Rev. 7:3) the mark now is for unbelievers. The mark both designates allegiance and ownership. With the mark of the Beast on the hand, or forehead, the person now was owned by the first Beast.

The mark must be literal, for the mark allowed people to buy and sell. Similar problems faced first century Christians and Jews. (see Heb 10:34).

The Number 666

Many attempts have been made at identifying the person with the number 666. many take verse 18 as a call to practice the Jewish game of Gematria. Many ancient languages, including, Hebrew and Greek had a numeric value for each letter. If you take the numeric values the letters in the name "Neron Caesar" under a variant spelling found in Qumran writings, you will end up with numeric value of 666.

However, I question that John wanted his believers to guess at the identity of a future Anti-Christ. If he was saying that the Anti-Christ would be like this Caesar he could have written it without hinting, because Nero was looked down upon long before reign of Domitian, the emperor at the time when the book was written.

Since the first mention of the numeric values of names equaling 666, many people have been placed as the Beast. I have personally read theories of Henry Kissinger, Richard Nixon and Jimmy Carter. These theories are ridiculous! Their speculative nature causes more damage than good.

The most likely view is that John wants the reader to be wise and realize the number as a symbol, as all other numbers are seen in revelation. Symbolically, 666 is easy to understand. Seven is the perfect number, often used in Revelation. The number six is one less and denotes the imperfect, the deception of the almost perfect man. In fact, the text tells us that this is the number of man. Thus a heaping up of sixes refers to the demonic man!

Revelation 14:1-5 the Lamb and the 144,000

Page # □.

vs 1 Jesus is standing on the mountain in contrast with Satan, who stands at the seashore. Mount Zion is a reference to the Earthly return of Jesus. See Psalm 48:1, Zech 14:10. The spiritual significance of Mt. Zion is seen in Hebrews 12:22-23. The background is Psalm 2 where a great battle is being waged.

The lamb is obviously Jesus, the 144,000 who were sealed in Rev 7:4- now we are told that there seals are on the forehead. vs 2 The sounds of the harpists designate judgment and victory.

The song could not be learned, i.e. —not memorized, but a deep learning from the soul.

The 144,000 are identified as those who did not defile themselves with women.—In the Old testament many were led astray as they followed foreign women with strange Gods. Thus immorality can lead to a spiritual defilement. see Deuteronomy 7:3-4 for an Old testament command. (Hosea 3:4-5; Hosea 4:1-5; etc.)

They are purchased as “first fruits” .

1. First fruits sometimes means the best of their kind...see I Corinthians 15:20

2. First fruits also means a deposit guaranteeing more to come...also in I Corinthians 15:20, 16:15.
3. In the Old testament it means a sacrifice. Here all three ideas fit. they are the best of humans, they are a deposit showing more to come, 3 they are a sacrifice.

“the lie”—It was bought by all who followed the Beast, but not by the 144,000. The lie is to deny Christ. It is taught by the father of all liars (John 8:44)

Revelation 14:6-20 The Earth Harvested

Two images need to be understood:

- 1) The wine press— the idea of the wine press, found here and in revelation 19:15, is understandable from two books in the Old Testament.. 1)In Isaiah 5, (Esp. 5:2) we find the song of the vineyard, where God will make a wine press, but when he looks for grapes he will only find bad grapes. In Isaiah 63, we find God alone to tread the wine press with the bad grapes. Several items are important: a)the wine represents blood; b)God has the power to save- and the wine press ultimately will yield good wine from bad grapes! c) the work was totally God's—no one aided him from the nations!
- 2) We can learn even more from Joel 3. The time is close to the second coming. Joel 3 explains that the wrath is poured out because of the evils of the world, but especially for evils done to Israel.
1)Joel explains a great war will soon happen. That war is obviously Armageddon, and the specific location this Valley of Jehosophat Joel 3:2,12(literally - “Yahweh has judged”) is to the valley of Kidron between Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives.—the end of this battle will take place here. 2) vs 13 is parallel to revelation 14:19,20 3)Note the results: the Lord will rescue his people; All will know that God is Lord; The millennial kingdom will be established; their will be a great time of pardoning
- 2) The sickle— is a reference to Jesus Parable of the Growing Seed in Mark 4:29. The sickle comes when the harvest of souls is ripe. The joy is that God knows those who are his, and he never loses them.

There are six angels mentioned in the rest of the chapter.

1. Is flying—He proclaims the eternal gospel. That is the message of Jesus which does not change. The message in the midst of imminent judgment shows that God desires to show mercy first...but will not leave the guilty unpunished!
2. Second angel testifies against the evils of Babylon, the occult and satan. Revelation 16:19 is the fulfillment of this prophecy.
3. The Third Angel promises the judgment of Hell. Note hell is real, it is dangerous. The Bible clearly teaches this doctrine. First that the guilty are judged—Romans 1:18,25; Romans 2:3-9 and eternally punished; Matthew 25:46; II Thes 1:6-9. Hell is necessary because all men are condemned without Christ! If they reject Christ they stand as condemned before him. This shows the sharp contrast between God's Blessing and His Cursing.
4. The fourth Angel announces the time for the judgment to be commenced
5. The fifth angel simply carries a sickle.
6. The sixth angel announces the time to gather the grapes of wrath.

vs 14 parallels the teaching of Daniel 7. The Son of Man is definitely Jesus Christ. The clouds are the clouds of the Shikinah Glory of the Lord. When the Lord filled the temple- the glory was called the Shikinah glory. - Exodus 40:34-38 (Shikinah comes from a word meaning "to dwell").

Matthew 24:30 describes the coming of the son of man which will happen in 19:11-16. this as a time when all the nations will mourn for Christ. Zephaniah 3:8-9 gives us the purpose of such anger..that the people may be purified. - The time however is no quite right

vs 20 shows the depth of the wrath of the Lamb.

Chapter Fifteen

The Great sign the sign of Christ is seen in

Zech 12:10, "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son. Zech. 12:10

and

and "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.

Matthew 24:30

This is the end of the wrath of God, but also the fiercest of the wrath of God. Therefore wait for me," declares the LORD, "for the day I will stand up to testify. I have decided to assemble the nations, to gather the kingdoms and to pour out my wrath on them—all my fierce anger. The whole world will be consumed by the fire of my jealous anger. Zeph. 3:8

The sea of glass separates the believers from the unbelievers.

Notice the believers stand beside the sea. The fire represents judgment. The believers are given harps which shows their great desire to worship God.

There is a striking contrast between this sea and the one in Rev 4:6. The sea Rev 4:6 is as clear as crystal.

This sea is mixed with fire showing judgement.

Tabernacle of the Testimony

The Ark in the Old Testament see Exodus 38:2; Exodus 40:5. The testimony was the ten commandments.

This tabernacle of the testimony is shown because they will be judged by the law. It is a perfect judgement with 7 angels with seven plagues.

The fact that the angels wore clean shining linen shows they were righteous angels involved in acts which were right and good. see for example Rev 19:8, 14. The golde sashes standd for royalty or Priesthood. (see note on Rev 1:13)

Verse 3 The song of Moses is the song that was sung after the crossing of the Red Sea.

The song of Moses is

- 1) A deliverence song
- 2) A triumph song
- 3) A song about the justice of God. for the real battle was not between Moses and Pharoah but against God and Pharoah!
- 4) A prophetic song. For all nations will eventually come before the living God. verse 7

The Bowls of wrath

the Bowls are filled with the wrath of God. This should not be confused with discipline. The wrath of God has to do with punshment. The discipline of God to his children has to do with rehabilitation. God's wrath is NOT poured out on his children. His discipline is freely given.

Verses on the wrath of God

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, Romans 1:18

For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thes. 5:9

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:5

if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. 2 Peter 2:9

Verses on discipline

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Hebrews 12:7-8

Temple filled with Smoke-

The shekinah Glory or the presence of the Lord.

1. reminded them that God was there

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. Isaiah 6:1-4

Then the glory of the LORD rose from above the cherubim and moved to the threshold of the temple. The cloud filled the temple, and the court was full of the radiance of the glory of the LORD. Ezekiel 10:4

2. Protected them from seeing God. for anyone who saw God as he was would die.

No one could enter the Ot temple when God was present. The priests could not enter the temple of the LORD because the glory of the LORD filled it. 2 Chron. 7:2

3. Protected them from the elements

Then the LORD will create over all of Mount Zion and over those who assemble there a cloud of smoke by day and a glow of flaming fire by night; over all the glory will be a canopy. It will be a shelter and shade from the heat of the day, and a refuge and hiding place from the storm and rain. Isaiah 4:5-6

Chapter 16 The Bowls Poured Out

There is no angelic voice for the seven bowls, only the voice of God from the temple. But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him.” Habakkuk 2:20

The bowl judgments and the trumpet judgments are similar (8:6-11:19), Yet

- (1) Bowl judgments are complete but the trumpet judgments are partial.
- (2) during the trumpet judgments unbelievers still repent, but during the bowl judgments the people will not repent and instead will curse God
- (3) mankind is affected by several of the trumpets but is directly attacked by all the bowls which are poured out.

Bowl One

Sores on those who have the mark of Beast.

There is a striking similarity between the plagues against Egypt and this bowl in that the plagues only effected Egypt, where this Bowl only effects Unbelievers.

Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Take handfuls of soot from a furnace and have Moses toss it into the air in the presence of Pharaoh. It will become fine dust over the whole land of Egypt, and festering boils will break out on men and animals throughout the land.” So they took soot from a furnace and stood before Pharaoh. Moses tossed it into the air, and festering boils broke out on men and animals. The magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils that were on them and on all the Egyptians. But the LORD hardened Pharaoh’s heart and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said to Moses. . . . When Moses stretched out his staff toward the sky, the LORD sent thunder and hail, and lightning flashed down to the ground. So the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt; hail fell and lightning flashed back and forth. It was the worst storm in all the land of Egypt since it had become a nation. Throughout Egypt hail struck everything in the fields—both men and animals; it beat down everything growing in the fields and stripped every tree. The only place it did not hail was the land of Goshen, where the Israelites were. Exodus 9:8-26

Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Take handfuls of soot from a furnace and have Moses toss it into the air in the presence of Pharaoh. It will become fine dust over the whole land of Egypt, and festering boils will break out on men and animals throughout the land." So they took soot from a furnace and stood before Pharaoh. Moses tossed it into the air, and festering boils broke out on men and animals. The magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils that were on them and on all the Egyptians.

Exodus 9:8-11

Bowl Two

All life in the sea dies

He sent Moses his servant, and Aaron, whom he had chosen. They performed his miraculous signs among them, his wonders in the land of Ham. . . . He turned their waters into blood, causing their fish to die. Psalm

105:26-27, 29

Bowl Three

Rivers and Sea become blood.

The ALTAR IS THE CROSS OF CHRIST!!

If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more? But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ. Don't you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? 1 Cor. 9:12-13 . . . Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? . . . 1 Cor. 10:16 Consider the people of Israel: Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar? 1

Cor. 10:18

Why is God just in His judgments?

1. God is judge
2. They have shed the blood of believers
3. They are True judgments

Bowl Four

Sun scorches the People

God sets the lonely in families, he leads forth the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land. Psalm 68:6

In contrast to

The LORD watches over you—the LORD is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. Psalm 121:5-6

I used to think that ancient people were the only ones who worshipped the Sun, Moon and Earth. Yet I now realize that this type of worship is very common. Many worship the “mother earth.” Astrology columns are amongst the highest in circulation. But the Bible says, And when you look up to the sky and see the sun, the moon and the stars—all the heavenly array—do not be enticed into bowing down to them and worshipping things the LORD your God has apportioned to all the nations under heaven. Deut. 4:19

Josiah king of Judah was a good king partially because,

He did away with the pagan priests appointed by the kings of Judah to burn incense on the high places of the towns of Judah and on those around Jerusalem—those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun and moon, to the constellations and to all the starry hosts. 2 Kings 23:5

The connection between sun worship and other moral atrocities is clearly seen in the Old Testament, The Israelites secretly did things against the LORD their God that were not right. From watchtower to fortified city they built themselves high places in all their towns. They set up sacred stones and Asherah poles on every high hill and under every spreading tree. At every high place they burned incense, as the nations whom the LORD had driven out before them had done. They did wicked things that provoked the LORD to anger. 2 Kings 17:9-11

They forsook all the commands of the LORD their God and made for themselves two idols cast in the shape of calves, and an Asherah pole. They bowed down to all the starry hosts, and they worshiped Baal. They

sacrificed their sons and daughters in the fire. They practiced divination and sorcery and sold themselves to do evil in the eyes of the LORD, provoking him to anger.” 2 Kings 17:16-17

The prophecy of Malachi is fulfilled here, ““Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire,” says the LORD Almighty. “Not a root or a branch will be left to them. Malachi 4:1 as well as Deuteronomy 32:22-24.

Bowl Five

Darkness

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Isaiah 60:1-2

and

“But in those days, following that distress, “ ‘the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’ Mark 13:24-25

Bowl Six

Armageddon

Great River Euphrates dried up

I will bring them back from Egypt and gather them from Assyria. I will bring them to Gilead and Lebanon, and there will not be room enough for them. They will pass through the sea of trouble; the surging sea will be subdued and all the depths of the Nile will dry up. Assyria’s pride will be brought down and Egypt’s scepter will pass away. Zech. 10:10-11

Armagedon “the hills of Meggido”

Josiah, however, would not turn away from him, but disguised himself to engage him in battle. He would not listen to what Neco had said at God’s command but went to fight him on the plain of Megiddo. 2 Chron. 35:22

On that day the weeping in Jerusalem will be great, like the weeping of Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. Zech. 12:11

Three frogs are three demons who gather kings of the whole world to fight at Armageddon (the battle)

Seventh Bowl

The end. Satan has been called "the Prince of the air." (Eph 2:2) Now his dominion is directly attacked. "

One little word shall fell him" and the words come from God himself! Lightning, thunder, greatest earthquake ever. Huge hail stones from the sky.

A key to this passage - Justice vs. they cursed God. vs. 21, 11,

The earthquake marks the return of Christ. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. Zech. 14:4

and

"This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the LORD Almighty. Haggai 2:6-7

Revelation 17

The Great Prostitute

The Great Prostitute who sits on many waters is a reference to Babylon

A second angel followed and said, "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries." Rev. 14:8

Babylon is the great Prostitute because babylon was the beginning of paganism and a nation that led many hearts spiritually astray.

1. The founder of Babylon was Nimrod, whose name means rebel, the Mighty hunter

Cush was the father of Nimrod, who grew to be a mighty warrior on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; that is why it is said, "Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the LORD." The first centers of his kingdom were Babylon, Erech, Akkad and Calneh, in Shinar. Genesis 10:8-10

2. Nations were called prostitutes because they gave the true and living God for another "so called God" They often asked as if they were "drunk". In the Old Testament Israel is often called a prostitute. Hosea wrote, Do not rejoice, O Israel; do not be jubilant like the other nations. For you have been unfaithful to your God; you love the wages of a prostitute at every threshing floor. Hosea 9:1

How Spiritual adultery is committed

1) Ecclesiastism

So you testify against yourselves that you are the descendants of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of the sin of your forefathers! "You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell? Matthew 23:31-33

2) Intermarrying

Judah has broken faith. A detestable thing has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem: Judah has desecrated the sanctuary the LORD loves, by marrying the daughter of a foreign god. Malachi 2:11

3) Quest for Security

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men, who cannot save. Psalm 146:3

4) Money

"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. Matthew 6:24

Spiritual Adultery always effects morals.

- I. The facts

A. “But you—come here, you sons of a sorceress, you offspring of adulterers and prostitutes! Whom are you mocking? At whom do you sneer and stick out your tongue? “ ‘Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known, Jeremiah 7:9

B. Oh, that I had in the desert a lodging place for travelers, so that I might leave my people and go away from them; for they are all adulterers, a crowd of unfaithful people. Jeremiah 9:2

C. Then in the nations where they have been carried captive, those who escape will remember me—how I have been grieved by their adulterous hearts, which have turned away from me, and by their eyes, which have lusted after their idols. They will loathe themselves for the evil they have done and for all their detestable practices. Ezekiel 6:9

II. Drink the wine is a reference to the blood shed associated with those who are adulterous for they have committed adultery and blood is on their hands. They committed adultery with their idols; they even sacrificed their children, whom they bore to me, as food for them. Ezekiel 23:37
 Are you not a brood of rebels, the offspring of liars? You burn with lust among the oaks and under every spreading tree; you sacrifice your children in the ravines and under the overhanging crags. Isaiah 57:3-5

There are two women in Revelation

The Pure Woman(Rev 12)	The Adulterous Woman
Clothed with the sun and moon (heavenly)	clothed in purple and gold (Worldly)
Son who rules all nations	Mother of Prostitutes
Devil Persecutes	God attacks
Represents spiritual Israel	Represents Paganism

vs 8 The beast which she rides has 7 heads and ten crowns and is thus the representative of Satan the Anti-Christ himself. And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. Rev. 13:1. The fact that the woman rides the beast shows that religious harlotry runs the political realm for a short while.

The Beasts destruction is well accounted in Daniel 7, "Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. Daniel 7:11

The two mysteries both revealed.

The Mystery of Babylon

The Mystery of the Kingdom

Theories about Babylon

- I. The revived Roman Empire
 - A. (Rome was often described as a city of seven hills.)
 - B. More importantly, the term mountain refers to a kingdom and there are seven of these kingdoms with kings at their head.
- II. Rev 17:10 Five have fallen - these are the kingdoms described in Daniel 2 with a few additions
- III. Anti-Christ's 7th is yet to come
 - A. Rome was 6th and is in existence at the time of Rev
 - B. Greece 5th
 - C. Media Persia 4th
 - D. Babylon 3rd
 - E. The other two are the great enemies of Israel from that existed before Daniel
 - F. Assyria
 - G. Egypt
- IV. Babylom may have been a code name for Rome, especially for the Secular religions of Rome

Who was the eight ruler

Verse 11 has been considered difficult, yet the Revelation 13 holds the key.

The eighth is definitely the anti-Christ of the revived Roman Empire. He is the seventh and at the same time an eighth because he begins as a "peaceful conqueror" and a man the world thinks it has been waiting

for. But in the middle of the tribulation he suddenly becomes energized by the Devil and turns into the Incarnate Satan.

Ten Horns = Ten Kings of the Anti-Christ's kingdom - they receive their authority from Satan, just like the Beast

One hour= Short time

They think they can defeat God but such a defeat is impossible! See God's perspective in Isaiah 14:4-20

(Remember that Babylon like Rome represents the evil kingdom of the Anti-Christ who thinks he is God!)

The Turning of the Beast

The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. Rev. 17:16

The anti-Christ is just using the false religion of the World (Babylon) for his own evil purpose and will soon turn on his religious leaders! The remarkable statement is that God has put this into their hearts. The Lord is in total control. Satan and his henchmen are just pawns for God.

Note the harlots destruction is related to Jezebel

Then Jehu went to Jezreel. When Jezebel heard about it, she painted her eyes, arranged her hair and looked out of a window. As Jehu entered the gate, she asked, "Have you come in peace, Zimri, you murderer of your master?" He looked up at the window and called out, "Who is on my side? Who?" Two or three eunuchs looked down at him. "Throw her down!" Jehu said. So they threw her down, and some of her blood splattered the wall and the horses as they trampled her underfoot. Jehu went in and ate and drank. "Take care of that cursed woman," he said, "and bury her, for she was a king's daughter." But when they went out to bury her, they found nothing except her skull, her feet and her hands. They went back and told Jehu, who said, "This is the word of the LORD that he spoke through his servant Elijah the Tishbite: On the plot of ground at Jezreel dogs will devour Jezebel's flesh. Jezebel's body will be like refuse on the ground in the plot at Jezreel, so that no one will be able to say, 'This is Jezebel.'" 2 Kings 9:30-37

Revelation 18

Babylom may have been a code name for Rome, especially for the Secular religions of Rome

Babylon is called a city many times in Revelation.

1. The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. Rev. 16:19
2. The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.” Rev. 17:18
3. Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: “ ‘Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In one hour your doom has come!’ Rev. 18:10
4. and cry out: “ ‘Woe! Woe, O great city, dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls! Rev. 18:16
5. When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, ‘Was there ever a city like this great city?’ They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out: “ ‘Woe! Woe, O great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth! In one hour she has been brought to ruin! Rejoice over her, O heaven! Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets! God has judged her for the way she treated you.’ “ Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said: “With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again. Rev. 18:18-21

The word city is seen in negative connotations - often religious.

see for example—Gen 4:17; Gen 11:4,8;18:24; Exodus 9:33; Joshua 6:3; Jeremiah 38:21; 51:31.

Accusations against Babylon-

- I. the false religion
- II. home for demons

Do I mean then that a sacrifice offered to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a

part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons. Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy?

Are we stronger than he? 1 Cor. 10:19-22

III. Adulteress - Spiritual Adultery is to forsake the true God and worship other Gods, or the created.

A. Romans 1:18-28

IV. Excessive Luxuries

A. Tim 3:4; 1 John 2:15-17 contrast this with And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:27

B. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. Matthew 19:29

C. "Woe to you Pharisees, because you love the most important seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. Luke 11:43

verse 4 parallels several passages in Jeremiah

1. "Flee from Babylon! Run for your lives! Do not be destroyed because of her sins. It is time for the LORD'S vengeance; he will pay her what she deserves. Jeremiah 51:6
2. "Come out of her, my people! Run for your lives! Run from the fierce anger of the LORD. Jeremiah 51:45

Payed back

1. Even though many only acknowledge the mercy of the Lord, there is a limit to his patience. He will Judge the wicked! And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation." Exodus 34:6-7

2. Give back to her as she has given; pay her back double for what she has done. Mix her a double portion from her own cup. Rev. 18:6
3. The LORD will repay him for the blood he shed, because without the knowledge of my father David he attacked two men and killed them with the sword. Both of them—Abner son of Ner, commander of Israel's army, and Amasa son of Jether, commander of Judah's army—were better men and more upright than he. 1 Kings 2:32
4. He will repay them for their sins and destroy them for their wickedness; the LORD our God will destroy them. Psalm 94:23
5. "Before your eyes I will repay Babylon and all who live in Babylonia for all the wrong they have done in Zion," declares the LORD. Jeremiah 51:24
6. A destroyer will come against Babylon; her warriors will be captured, and their bows will be broken. For the LORD is a God of retribution; he will repay in full. Jeremiah 51:56
7. The LORD has a charge to bring against Judah; he will punish Jacob according to his ways and repay him according to his deeds. Hosea 12:2
8. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. Romans 12:19
9. How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Hebrews 10:29-31

Sit as a queen is a reference to Isaiah 47:5

"Sit in silence, go into darkness, Daughter of the Babylonians; no more will you be called queen of kingdoms. Isaiah 47:5

God's payments are just—her plagues will overtake her.

1. death mourning and famine

2. She will be consumed by fire
3. No one will come to her rescue

The kings of earth will cry but notice they will stand far off. No one will try to save her.

This is reminiscent of two contrasting Scriptures:

Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, who rely on horses, who trust in the multitude of their chariots and in the great strength of their horsemen, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel, or seek help from the LORD. Isaiah 31:1

and

It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes. Psalm 118:9

The merchants weep. There was a lot of money to be made through the system. The most startling statement is the last on the list. **Merchants who sold not only the bodies, but also the souls of men!** It is estimated that the Romans sold up to 10,000 people a day. (Wiersbe p. 130) but the Whore of Babylon and its merchants were worse, they sold the Souls of mankind as well!

The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie 2 Thes. 2:9-11

The greatness of the past

When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, 'Was there ever a city like this great city?' Rev. 18:18

Throughout the Bible there seems to be a tendency on the part of many to slide back into the past!

1. Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? Galatians 3:3

2. If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the law was given to the people), why was there still need for another priest to come—one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? . . .one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. . . .
3. The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless Hebrews 7:11,16,18

But for the Believer it is a time to rejoice!

Rejoice over her, O heaven! Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets! God has judged her for the way she treated you.’ “ Rev. 18:20

1. When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan. Proverbs 29:2
2. When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices; when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy. Proverbs 11:10

Revelation 19

Great Multitude

Hallelujah

The word means praise the Lord. It is seen 4x in this passage. Yet Rev 19 is the only place where the phrase “Hallelujah” is found in the New Testament.

Because of salvation, glory, and power which belong to God.

There is much praise in Revelation for these things:

and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. Rev. 1:6

Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, Rev. 4:9

“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.” Rev. 4:11 In a loud voice they sang: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!” Rev. 5:12-13

Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make men slay each other. To him was given a large sword. Rev. 6:4

I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth. Rev. 6:8

Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: Rev. 7:2

And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

Rev. 7:10

saying: “Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!” Rev. 7:12

And out of the smoke locusts came down upon the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. Rev. 9:3

They were not given power to kill them, but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes a man. Rev. 9:5

They had tails and stings like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months. Rev. 9:10

The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury. Rev. 9:19

And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.”
Rev. 11:3

These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want. Rev. 11:6

At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. Rev. 11:13

saying: “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. Rev. 11:17 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. Rev. 12:10

The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. Rev. 13:2

He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. Rev. 13:7

Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. Rev. 13:14-15

He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.” Rev. 14:7

Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed." Rev. 15:4

And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed. Rev. 15:8

The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was given power to scorch people with fire. Rev. 16:8

They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. Rev. 17:13

For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule, until God's words are fulfilled. Rev. 17:17

Give her as much torture and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself. In her heart she boasts, 'I sit as queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn.' Rev. 18:7

Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: " 'Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In one hour your doom has come!' Rev. 18:10

After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting:

"Hallelujah!

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, Rev. 19:1

Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Rev. 19:7

Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years. Rev. 20:6

It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. Rev. 21:11

The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. Rev. 21:23

The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. Rev. 21:26

Because of the justice of God

1. and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb: "Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages. Rev. 15:3
2. Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: "You are just in these judgments, you who are and who were, the Holy One, because you have so judged; Rev. 16:5
3. And I heard the altar respond: "Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments." Rev. 16:7

Smoke goes up forever

- The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand. Rev. 8:4
- When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. And out of the smoke locusts came down upon the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. Rev. 9:2-3
- The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur. A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths. Rev. 9:17-18
- And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name." Rev. 14:11
- And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed. Rev. 15:8
- "When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. Rev. 18:9

- When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, 'Was there ever a city like this great city?' Rev. 18:18
- And again they shouted: "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever." Rev. 19:3

The voice from the throne

- The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, "It is done!" Rev. 16:17
- And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. Rev. 21:3

Because God reigns vs 6

Father

Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Rev. 19:6

Son

1. The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever." Rev. 11:15
2. saying: "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. Rev. 11:17

Saints

1. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." Rev. 5:10 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received

his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. Rev. 20:4

2. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. Rev. 22:5

Because of the Wedding of the Lamb = Feast of Christ and Church

The Bride has made herself ready - we are both the bride and the invited!

The bride is the church

1. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of his body. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. Ephes. 5:28-32
2. “Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her. There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. There she will sing as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt. “In that day,” declares the LORD, “you will call me ‘my husband’; you will no longer call me ‘my master.’ . . . I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion. I will betroth you in faithfulness, and you will acknowledge the LORD. Hosea 2:14-20
3. I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. 2 Cor. 11:2

Fine linen bright and clean

“Come now, let us reason together,” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. Isaiah 1:18

Worship God

An Angel

The Bible teaches that only God can be worshipped. Satan's tried to trick Jesus into worshipping him.

Christ replied, Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Matthew 4:10

Furthermore it is forbidden for Christians to worship angels!

Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize.

Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. Col. 2:18

Jesus

The testimony of Jesus

Jesus is the word of God,(John 1:1;1:14; Hebrews 1:1-4) so his testimony can be declared the spirit of prophecy. That is all prophecy points to Jesus. This is the certainly the context of this passage where Jesus is immediately introduced as the rider of the white horse!

White horse

The rider of this horse should not be confused with the rider of Revelation 6. That rider was the Anti-Christ, this rider is Jesus Christ!

Rider called Faithful and True

This further helps explain that Jesus is the spirit of prophecy For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. Psalm 33:4

Jesus is also titled the faithful and true Rev 3:14 :These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation.

Justice he judges

- Further evidence that the white horses rider is Jesus is found in numerous New Testament passages: This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares. Romans 2:16
- In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: 2 Tim. 4:1
- He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. Acts 10:42
- For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead." Acts 17:31
- But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 1 Peter 4:5

Eyes like blazing fire

Rev 1:14 and 2:18 speak of Jesus as the one with the blazing eyes

On his head are many crowns

Many crowns in oppositon to one crown see note on revelation 6:2 about the diference in the crown of the Anti-Christ and the many crowns of Jesus.

Name that No one knows

This is a great reminder that no matter how much we try to know, there are just some things we must wait for. This precious name of Jesus is one such thing. One commentator wisely writes, "a fullness resides in him which no mere creature intelligence can fanthom."¹

Robe dipped in blood (sprinkled)

There are two possible views:

¹ Barnhouse, Donald Grey, Revelation. Zondervan, Grand Rapids Michigan. 1971 p.358

A reminder that Jesus died for us

A reminder that he comes to judge

Name is Word of God

John 1:1 and 1:14

Armies follow him

- You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him. Zech. 14:5
- Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones Jude 1:14

Out of His mouth comes a double edged sword

Another description of Jesus:

In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. Rev. 1:16

The explanation is found in the New Testament

- Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Ephes. 6:17
- For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:12-13

He treads the winepress

Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah, with his garments stained crimson? Who is this, robed in splendor, striding forward in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save." Why are your garments red, like those of one treading the winepress? "I have trodden the

winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing. For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and the year of my redemption has come. Isaiah 63:1-4

I trampled the nations in my anger; in my wrath I made them drunk and poured their blood on the ground.” I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the LORD has done for us—yes, the many good things he has done for the house of Israel, according to his compassion and many kindnesses. Isaiah 63:6-7

He has a name - KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

That Jesus is absolutely identified is clear from rev 17:4 which says They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.” Rev. 17:14

Armagedon

- This is running concurrently with “Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon”. Rev. 16:16

Begins with the worst war in history

Flesh

Beast and false prophet captured

Elijah and Enoch never died and taken to heaven	False Prophet and Beast never die and are taken to hell
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See Danie 7:11

Lake of Fire

Lake of fire Is hell and will be discussed in greater detail in chapter 20

Chapter 20

The Millennium

The millennium is the 1000 year reign of Christ on earth. Millennium means 1000. Some people try to get rid of the millennium by making it symbolic. However the millennium must be a literal time period for the following reasons:

1. Prophecies about Israel to be fulfilled
2. For Jesus to reign on earth
3. For Satan to be bound
4. There must be a time period between the battles Armageddon and Gog and Magog.

Satan's Binding

Many people believe that Satan rules hell. It is not true. Satan is under the punishment of Hell. Here he is bound. Later he will be thrown into the Lake of fire which we commonly call hell. There he will be tormented "day and night forever."

Along time ago we were told that the Lord would route Satan,

Even the pine trees and the cedars of Lebanon exult over you and say, "Now that you have been laid low, no woodsman comes to cut us down." Isaiah 14:8 How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! Isaiah 14:12

and

So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." Genesis 3:14-15

The binding of Satan could not be accomplished by human means. Even the agent of Satan takes spiritual power to defeat.

This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. Mark 5:3

This is why prayer is so important,

After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer." Mark 9:28-29

Satan is released to once again to show the justice of God. 1. Even in an earthly perfect society some still have fallen. What mankind needs is a sinless society. That means the defeat to all the enemies of the Christ.

Satan has to be released because God is fair, all men will get a chance to follow God—or to be deceived by Satan. It is written, Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8

The Martyrs

The martyrs of the tribulation join the Christians raptured and raised before the tribulation. That the "Saints" or Christians shall judge and reign is a well established fact.

- Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? 1 Cor. 6:2
- But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9

Those martyrs should prove to us that it is possible to stand up for what is right! We can and are obligated to do what is good and what is right!

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. Philip. 4:8-9

Verse 5 **The rest of the dead**—they are the unbelievers- They have had there chance and will be condemned! Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, Hebrews 9:27

Verse 6 The second death

Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, Hebrews 9:27

Those that rise will be given new bodies and will not be subject again to sin or death. So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 1 Cor. 15:42-44

Gog and Magog

Ezekiel 38 and 39 talk of this terrible battle

- I. That it is Gog and Magog
 - A. “Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal; prophesy against him Ezekiel 38:2 “
- II. That it will end in the defeat of God’s enemies
 - A. ‘On that day I will give Gog a burial place in Israel, in the valley of those who travel east toward the Sea. It will block the way of travelers, because Gog and all his hordes will be buried there. So it will be called the Valley of Hamon Gog. Ezekiel 39:11
- III. How it will come about
 - A. “‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: On that day thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil scheme. You will say, “I will invade a land of unwalled villages; I will attack a peaceful and unsuspecting people—all of them living without walls and without gates and bars. I will plunder and loot and turn my hand against the resettled ruins and the people gathered from the nations, rich in livestock and goods, living at the center of the land.”

Ezekiel 38:10-12 You will come from your place in the far north, you and many nations with you, all of them riding on horses, a great horde, a mighty army.

IV. How God will end the evil

- A. Ezekiel 38:15 In my zeal and fiery wrath I declare that at that time there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. The fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the beasts of the field, every creature that moves along the ground, and all the people on the face of the earth will tremble at my presence. The mountains will be overturned, the cliffs will crumble and every wall will fall to the ground. I will summon a sword against Gog on all my mountains, declares the Sovereign LORD. Every man's sword will be against his brother. I will execute judgment upon him with plague and bloodshed; I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him. Ezekiel 38:19-22

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

Book of Life - is a persons name in it?

Dead - that is those who refused to obey Jesus are judged on the basis of what they have done.

Each person judged by what they have done.

Jesus implied not all will have the same punishment.

“Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. Matthew 11:21-

22

What is thrown into hell.

1. Death
2. Hades
3. Sinners not forgiven by Christ
4. Satan

5. The Beast
6. The false prophet
7. The fallen angels

Revelation 21

The New Heavens and Earth

Characteristics

- First heaven and earth passed away “Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. Isaiah 65:17
- But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. 2 Peter 3:13
- No longer any sea - The sea was where the enemies of Israel often appeared. They are armed with bow and spear; they are cruel and show no mercy. They sound like the roaring sea as they ride on their horses; they come like men in battle formation to attack you, O Daughter of Zion.” Jeremiah 6:23

City prepared as a bride

see chapter 19

Dwelling of God with men

“The distance all around will be 18,000 cubits. “And the name of the city from that time on will be: THE LORD IS THERE.” Ezekiel 48:35

He will wipe every tear from their eyes

1. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” Rev. 7:17
2. he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. Isaiah 25:8

Older order has passed away

Everything is new

Then he seals this whole matter with "These words are trustworthy and true"

The slant then turns evangelistic-

I am the alpha and the Omega

1. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." Rev. 1:8
2. To him who is thirsty I will give drink (free drink)
3. In contrast to the garden- And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." Genesis 2:16-17
4. He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. Rev. 21:6

As a symbol of salvation

- Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb Rev. 22:1
- The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. Rev. 22:17

An interjection of those who will not make it to heaven:

1. the cowardly- That is those who would not stand up for Jesus to the end. Thus the repeated statement, "he who overcomes." See "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven. Matthew 10:32-33
2. the unbelieving - Those who would not take the free drink of life by trusting Jesus the son.

3. the vile (abominable KJ)- Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God. 2 Cor. 7:1
 4. those who are polluted
 5. the murderers
 6. the sexually immoral
 7. those who practice magic arts
 8. the idolaters
 9. all liars
- their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.” Rev. 21:8

Back to the Bride

- I. Shown like a Jewel that is Jasper- diamond
- II. It had a great, high wall with twelve gates
- III. Twelve angels at the gates
 - A. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel
 - B. There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west
 - C. The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.
 - D. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. Ephes. 2:19-21

- IV. The angel and the measuring rod.
 - A. A perfect cube 12,000 stadia =1400 miles

- V. The wall made with Jasper

- VI. City of pure Gold

- VII. The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone.
 - A. The first foundation was jasper -diamond
 - B. the second sapphire - blue
 - C. the third chalcedony - greenish blue
 - D. the fourth emerald - green
 - E. the fifth sardonyx - onyx (white streaked with brown)
 - F. the sixth carnelian -blood red
 - G. the seventh chrysolite - yellow quartz
 - H. the eighth beryl - green
 - I. the ninth topaz -yellow green
 - J. the tenth chrysoptase - gold tinted or apple green - no one is exactly certain
 - K. the eleventh jacinth- blue
 - L. the twelfth amethyst- purple

No need for a temple or the sun or the moon.

The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more; the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end. Isaiah

60:19-20

Several aspects of the Lord as our light...

To the Israelites -By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Exodus 13:21

To the believer - You are my lamp, O LORD; the LORD turns my darkness into light. 2 Samuel 22:29 The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. Psalm 19:8

Gives salvation - Of David. The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1

There is never night - a phrase which shows that there will never be any fear or struggle. The night was when burglars broke in and doors had to be locked. Contrast the idea of God's eternal rest with "And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name." Rev. 14:11

Revelation 22

river of water of life

the garden of Eden

A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. Genesis 2:10

Each side of the river stood the tree of life

And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Genesis 2:9

And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." Genesis 3:22

After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. Genesis 3:24

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. Rev. 2:7

bearing twelve crops of fruit

the twelve crops happened one for each month

Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing." Ezekiel 47:12

No longer will there be any curse

Christ has redeemed us! - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." Galatians 3:13

Servants

1. Will serve him
2. Will see his face
3. Will be on their foreheads
4. There will be no more night
5. They will reign for ever and ever

A new name for the Lord

The God of Spirits and prophets

That is the God who controls both the prophets and the spirits. Any true prophet will be in total agreement with the Lord. Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 1 John 4:1

Blessed is He who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book

To keep meant to obey—what is the message that needs to be obeyed.. To follow Jesus no matter how difficult it may seem.

The purpose repeated

1. Worship God
2. Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong
3. My reward is with me
4. Blessed are those who wash their robes

I am the Root and Offspring of David and the bright Morning Star

Satan masquerades - How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! Isaiah 14:12

But Jesus is the true morning star that arises in our hearts. He is the light of the world that arises over us and gives us salvation. And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 2 Peter 1:19

The final plea

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. Rev. 22:17

Danger of adding to Scripture

This passage is teaching that the cannon of Scripture is sealed.

2 Tests of the false prophet

He is a false prophet if he entices you to follow other Gods or to break the Scripture

If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a miraculous sign or wonder, and if the sign or wonder of which he has spoken takes place, and he says, "Let us follow other

gods" (gods you have not known) "and let us worship them," you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul. Deut. 13:1-3

He is a false prophet if his words do not come true!

If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him. Deut. 18:22

The Great Ending - one more chance to believe

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen. Rev. 22:17-21