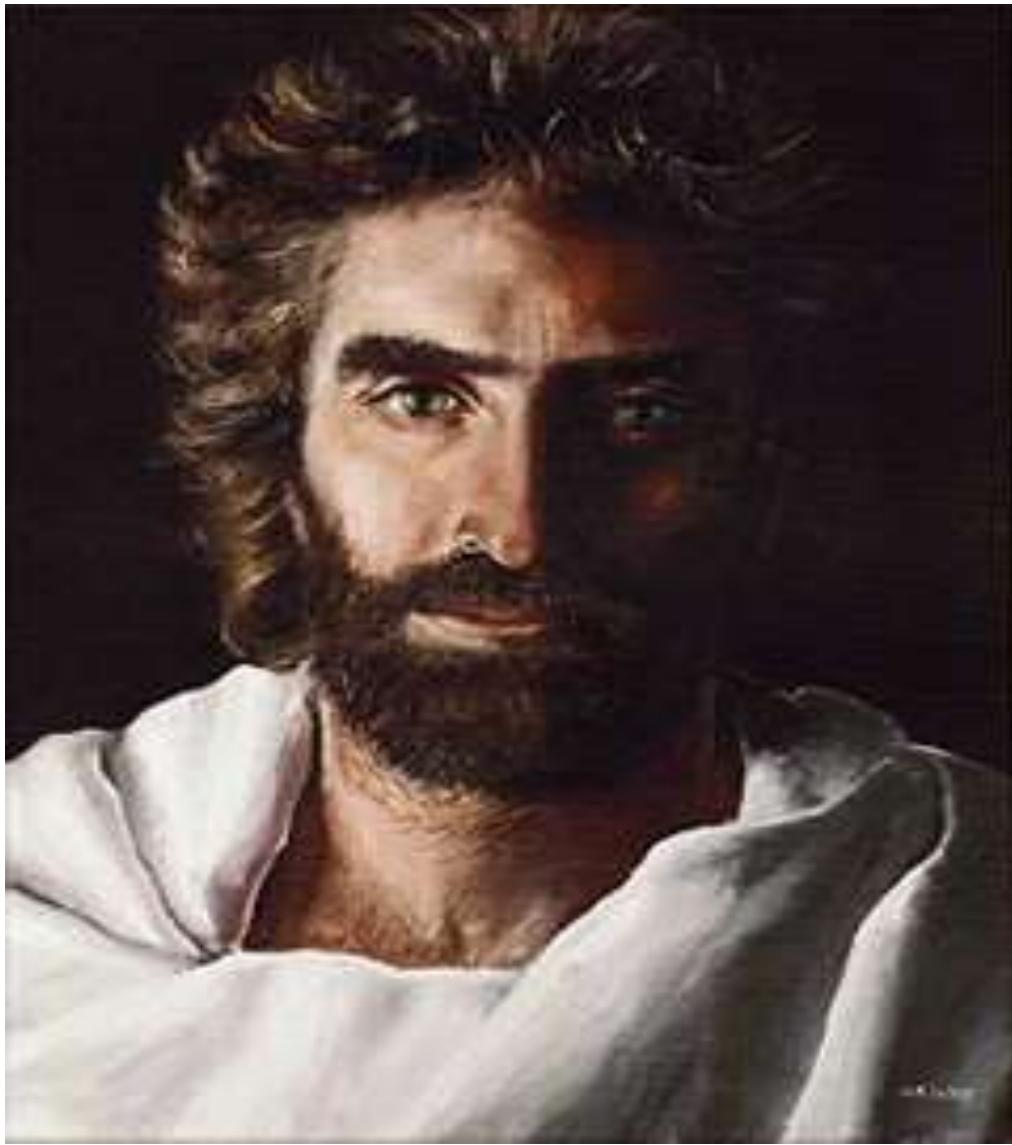


2022

# Revelation Bible Study Guide

By Cody Lee



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*This is a comprehensive guide meant to assist with the understanding of the book of Revelation to ensure all can better understand the meaning and obtain the promised blessing to all who read and keep the words of prophecy in the book.*

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## Preface

Most of America Sees Jesus like this?



**What is missing?**

**Why does the world only focus on half of Jesus (incarnate)?**

**Be honest, how well do you know the other half of Jesus?**

**How can you help people see all of Jesus?**

Generally speaking, the church and the world is focused on the Jesus that died for all in act of love to redeem all who would believe in Jesus as their savior. This is absolutely true, but the world does not want to talk about Jesus coming on a White Horse as Lord of Lord and King Kings in Judgement.

The enemy would love for you to remember Jesus as the dead man hanging on cross. However, Jesus's second coming is the very reason that we have hope in Christ. If He were not coming back to redeem us and give us eternal life, then what exactly is the value of our faith? How much do you know about your coming Savior? It is important to know what Jesus did for you on the cross so that you may be saved, but you should not stop there – that's only half the story! You do not want to fall for the strong delusion from Satan that will fool the world. Are you prepared? Do you know enough to warn your family and others? Do you know the signs and the order of events?

## Introduction

**What are the Top 10 Themes or Threads that are answered or completed in Revelations?**

1. Lord Jesus Gen 3:15
2. Church - Matt 16:18 on this rock
3. Resurrection & Translation of the Saints (John 14, 1 Thes & 1 Corinthians)
4. Great Tribulation – Det Chapter 4
5. Satan & Evil Ezek 28
6. Man of Sin (Gen, Ezek 28)
7. Course and the End of the Apostate Church
8. Course and the End of the Gentiles
9. Coming of Christ
10. Israel's Covenants

### **How does Revelations fit with Genesis?**

Genesis	Revelations
Marriage of Adam & Eve	Jesus and The Church
Beginning Creation	Ending
Satan's 1 <sup>st</sup> rebellion	Satan's Last Rebellion
Creation of Sun, Moon & Stars	Sun, Moon & Stars used as Judgments
Sun used for light Govern Day	No Need for the Sun
Darkness Night	No night No Darkness
Creations of Water/seas, Flood for Judge	No Seas in Heaven
Entrance of Sin	Removal of Sin
Curse of Sin	Curse is removed
Death	No Death
Sorrow	No Tears
Babylon's First Rebellion (tower of Babel)	Babylon's Last Rebellion

Jesus as in parables uses contrasts to teach biblical principles, and Revelation not only addresses all loose ends of the bible over the other 65 books but also is a study that is a contrast, completion and compliment to Genesis. Some describe Revelation as a train station because all tracks end here. John more than any other writer in the bible reaches far back in Beginning with 1 John and further in the future than anyone with Revelations.

### **Why is it important for you to know as a believer the connection between Revelations and the other books in the Bible?**

Why should I read Revelations?

- The book is the only one in the bible that promises a blessing just for reading it - Rev 1:3. It also contains a warning in 22:18-19.
- Reach others and prevent yourself and your family from being led astray.

What type of book is Revelations?

Revelation is a prophetic book. All that was written was about the future when it was written. There are 17 prophetic books in the Old Testament and only one in the New Testament.

Can anyone even understand Revelations? Is there a key? How do you interpret it?

- This is not a random symbolic book that cannot be understood. It is the most organized and orderly book in the bible. It includes an outline in rev 1:19.
- The Bible interprets itself. A key for most all the symbols are supplied in either the Old Testament or the book itself. The book should be interpreted literally whenever possible or if no key within the bible is given.
- If a symbol is being used it has meaning in the other books. Don't go off course, or dismiss it as imagery.
- There are 404 versus and 278 have references to the Old Testament. Prominent books include: Psalms, Daniel, Ezekiel, Zachariah, Genesis, Isaiah, Joel, and Jeremiah
- Unlike Daniel, this book was not sealed, and was circulated widely at the time it was written to give encouragement to persecuted churches.

## How is it organized?

This book completes the bible. 7 is the number for completion. The book is arranged in a series of 7s.

Revelation 1:19 (New King James Version) “Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.”

- Vision of Christ – Things you see
  - Church Age - Things that are
  - Future – After these things - Don't miss the road markers in the book. The Lord provided to keep you on track.
- 
- Revelation 1:10 On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, <sup>11</sup>which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."
  - Revelation 2:1 “To the angel[a] of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands:
  - Revelation 4:1 “After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.”

## How does the rapture fit into the story?

The church is mentioned 19 times up to chapter 3 and never mentioned again. I will let you draw your own conclusions. We will discuss more as we go through it. God does not change remember God saved his people prior to the flood as well. Remember that there are biblical scholars on both side of the pre/mid/post rapture debate. This is an area that is not clear and there is support for multiple viewpoints and not a tenant of the faith. The word rapture is never in the bible, but simple describes the process of believers going up to meet Jesus in the sky after the dead in Christ rise first.

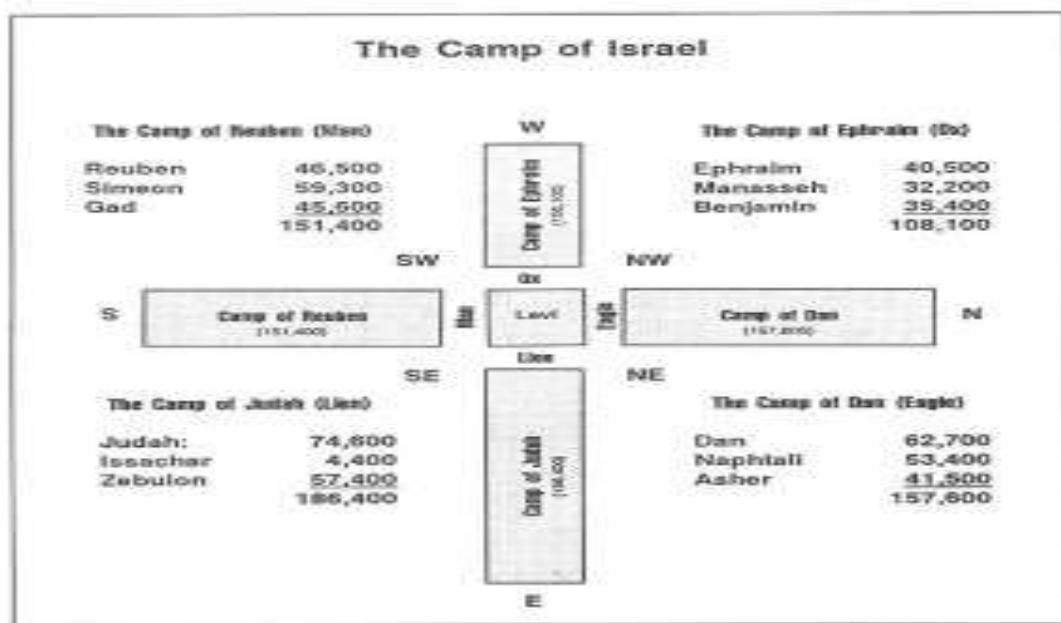
The book is divided into a series of 7s.

7 – Churches – the bride – God's people

7 – Seals - Denotes ownership – royalty and transfer of title

7 – Trumpets- Israelites used the trumpets in connection with the tabernacle to denote the people were moving out.

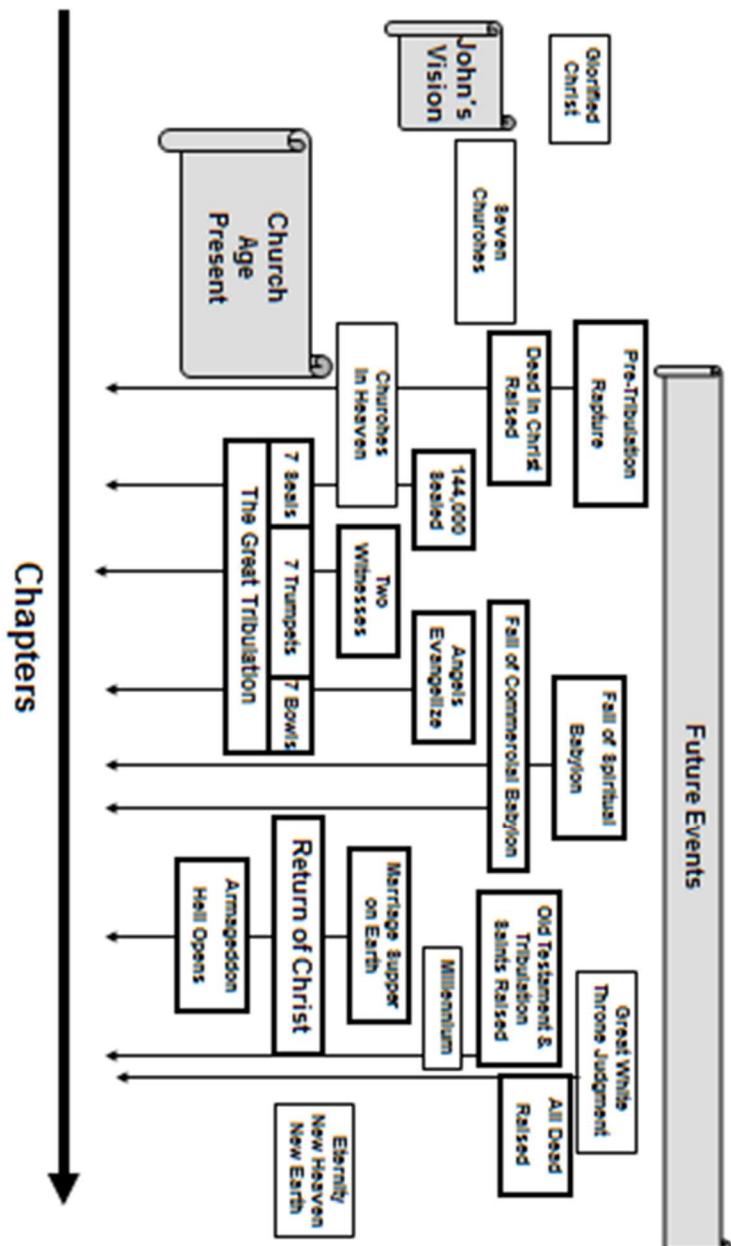
7 – Seven Bowls of wrath – You see the imagery of the atonement in the holy of Holies with the High Priest offering the blood atonement for the people.



## Chapter Description:

Chapter	Description
1	John's Vision – Jesus in Glory – The one who keeps the lamb stands burning - What he sees
2-3	Church Age – History - The Things that are
4	Throne – Some Say the Rapture? No further reference of the church. Great Worship (creatures worship because of Who Jesus is & the 24 elders for what Jesus has done.)
5	Lion and the Lamb, The Title Deed Book for earth, Redeemer, initially seated then Standing in Judgment.
6-18	The Great Tribulation: Opens with 7 seals (including 144,000 – 12 tribes), 7 trumpets (including 2 witnesses), 7 Bowls of Wrath, First and Last Judgment of Babylon Gen 11 & Rev 17-18
19	Armageddon - Wedding Supper & Great Supper of God
20	Millennium, then Satan and the Dead's final Doom
21	New Earth and Heaven
22	Closing

## Revelations – Timeline



Assumptions: This chart is a dispensational timeline based on placement in the book of Revelation and with the view of Pre-Rapture and Pre-Millennialism.

## Chapter 1

This chapter focuses on the person of Jesus Christ in His full glory. The Gospels are the Wedding invitation, but this is the wedding feast.

***1The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, 2who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. 3Blessed is the one who reads aloud 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.***

V1 Notice this is the Revelation not Revelations. The meaning is unveiling. Unlike the parables where He speaks where the message is hidden. Showing denotes the use of symbols. A symbol always represent something that is real and much bigger than the symbol used. A symbol has a clear meaning that is understood. “Must” is an imperative denoting certainty. “Take place soon” this does not mean near. This means when it starts it comes fast or quickly.

V2 Angel “Heavenly messenger” Notice the order. Jesus sends his Angel to John. Then John shares with the churches. The angels play a tremendous role in Revelation.



V3 Three-fold blessing – Reading, hearing and keep. This is a promise for a blessing not just for the future but also for today. Repeated in Rev 22:7.

### Personal Insight/Application:

*The first time I studied this I assumed this blessing was for the future for Heaven because obviously studying and knowing the signs prepares us for His coming. However, one time, when I taught class through the book of Revelation. I discussed this promising of the blessing as I always do in the opening of the series.*

*As we neared the end of the study, God opened an opportunity for us to adopt a beautiful 4-year-old girl who needed a home (Lola Grace). The day I was teaching the second mention of this blessing in Revelation 22:7 was the first Sunday that we got Lola Grace. Bringing her to class was an undeniable sign for all to see of that Jesus did not mean for this blessing to be spiritual only in nature or a blessing only meant for the end times.*

*As you begin this study, open your eyes and ask God to show you the blessing He will bring for you being faithful and completing this book.*

<sup>4</sup> John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To

**Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,<sup>6</sup> and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup>Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.**

V4-7 Greetings between Jesus and John (intended for the Churches). 7 is the number of completion. 7 is the number of God. 7 days creation, 7 times circled Jericho, 7 be attitudes, 7 petitions in the Lord's prayer, 7 parables in Matthew 13, 7 loaves, 7 years of plenty, 7 years of famine, and Jesus spoke 7 times on the cross. There were hundreds of churches in that day, but the Lord chose 7 to represent all churches throughout the church age. The seven spirits refer to the Holy Spirit which is also represented as oil in the 7 lampstands. The Lord reminds His Church again of his second coming so none of His people are deceived.

<sup>8</sup> “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

V8 – Personal and Physical coming of Christ. Rapture is not the second coming.

7 Titles for Jesus	Explanation
Faithful Witness	Jesus was a faithful witness to God John 5:19, John 12:50
First Born from the dead	He was raised first, we as believers will follow Romans 8:11 2 Cor. 4:14
Ruler of the Kings of the Earth	“every knee will bow” Romans 14:11, “King of Kings, Lord of Lords” 1 Tim 6:14-16, Rev. 17:14 & Rev. 19:16
Lord God	Jehovah, Hebrew “Yahweh” the self-existent one.
Alpha and Omega	“A to Z” External the source of Creation, In control of the divine end times plan.
The Almighty	“El Shaddai” (God Almighty – Gen 17:1 God introduces himself to Abraham)
Amen	Verily/Truly/Your Will be done, even so.. (Num. 5:22, Jer. 28:6, Isaiah 65:16)

**Based on these titles for Jesus, does the book or John leave any doubt of the deity of Jesus?**

<sup>9</sup> I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup> I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,<sup>11</sup> saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and, “What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.”

V9 Tribulation here refers to the persecution for teaching the word. Always expect trouble in this world when you are committed to teaching and spreading the Word.

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*Notice: John saw his purpose even when he was put in exile on the island of Patmos with prisoners. Mining during the day and trying to survive in a harsh barren land.*

*How about you? Can you stop long enough during your trials to see the Lord’s purpose?*

V10-11 Holy spirits guides you to the truth and will tell you of the things to come (John 16:13). Some say the Day of the Lord likely refers to the first day of the week (Sunday); however, other scholars say based on many references to the Day of the Lord that it refers to His return.

Being in exile was no deterrent for John, you see he was just doing church and meeting with God faithfully. **How about you?** We all want Jesus to show up and Holy Spirit come in a powerful and real way, but that will only happen when we are faithful and worship even in our times of trial when no one is watching. Give Jesus a chance, be faithful, try it, and see if He does not show up in a powerful way.

Notice it is not a trumpet, but a voice like that of a trumpet. Words are important don't skip past and read too fast and miss these key details. Now, read Revelation 4:1 and 1 Thes. 4:16.

The Lord is very clear. He does not want you to miss out on the joy of the rapture regardless of when it occurs. It is the world that is telling you He is not coming back and stealing your hope.

***<sup>12</sup> Then, I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup> and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.***

V12-13 The Lord is clothed in the garments of the High Priest. The golden lamp in the tabernacle had three branches and seven bulbs. Now, we see instead seven separate lampstands that are the instruments of the tabernacle. Our High Priest is in constant intercession, also intervention for us (washing us), and inspecting us. The High Priest was the only one to tend the lamp stand.

How do you tend a lamp stand? What are the implications for you and me?

***<sup>14</sup> His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; <sup>15</sup> His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; <sup>16</sup> He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.***

V14-16

Characteristic	Meaning
White as snow	Eternity and dignity
Eyes like fire	Penetrating insight.
Feet like Bronze from Furnace	Judgment
Voice of many water	Authority
Sharp 2-edged sword	Word of God
Face (His Countenance)	His Glory source of Light and Life

***<sup>17</sup> And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. <sup>18</sup> I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.***

V17-18 John who is pictured reclining on Jesus in the upper room who walked with Him daily for three years is seen here falling at His feet as dead! How will you react when you see Jesus? What picture do you have in your mind of Jesus? Is it the God-man on the cross or “The Lord of Lords and King of Kings”?

Notice: God does not wink as sin as the church and world does today. Remember, Jesus is coming as Judge. Be careful, with songs and familiarity like “Jesus is a friend of mine” when you sing that for it to be true who must obey. He knows. Hades – Greek word for the unseen dead.

<sup>19</sup> ***Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.***

**Revelation 1:19 (New King James Version) “Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.”**

- Vision of Christ – Things you see
- Church Age - Things that are
- Future – After these things - Don’t miss the road markers in the book. The Lord provided to keep you on track.

<sup>20</sup> ***The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.***

V20 Angels are messengers and can be earthly or heavenly. Here it is likely referencing the seven pastors of the seven churches which are representative of all the churches. Seven is mentioned 735 times in the bible and speaks of completeness and perfection (physical and spiritual).

**Are you certain that your pastor is one of those seven stars in Jesus’s hand?**

**How would you describe your church’s lampstand? How would others describe it?**

**Exercise:****Example: Lamp Stand Study**

History:

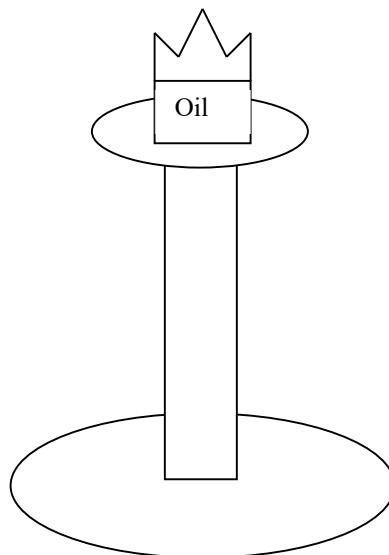
Golden Lamp stands – **Exodus 37:23** (Original Specifications), **Exodus 40:24** (placed with the ark in the Holy of Holies), **Leviticus 24:2-4** (Israel told to get oil and generations called to tend the lambs continually), 2Chr 4:7 Solomon had 10 gold lamp stands built based on specs for the Temple.

Symbolic meaning: Read:

- **Luke 11:33** – Jesus' words: - Light
- **2 Corinthians 4:6**

Oil – Read: **Matthew 25:1-13** Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

Base - Psalm 119: 105 “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.”



- **Discuss:**

**Why do you think the churches are symbolized as lamp stands?**

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**Knowing this, how does that change or challenge you and your Church?**

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## Chapter 2

### **Introduction:**

Remember our outline and key verse 1:19 ...What you have seen (Chapter 1), what is now (churches Chapter 2-3) and what will take place later (Chapter 4-22).

John wrote to local churches he knew visited, preached, intimately knew.

### **3 fold interpretation –**

1. Contemporary – direct message to churches of that day
2. Composite – each represents a picture of church in whole. Some say parallel the 7 parables in Matthew 13.
3. Chronological – Panoramic history of the church from Apostolic to the Apostate Church

### **Letter Format**

1. Glory
2. Address to the Angel of the Church (maybe human messenger/Pastor/Angels – Greek has two meanings Angels or messengers.)
3. I Know thy Works!
4. Begins with commendation then a word of condemnation
5. Exceptions – no condemnation for Smyrna and Philadelphia
6. No commendation for Laodicea – Apostate Church
7. Warning – he who has ears let them hear what the spirit says.

Revelation lists thirteen rewards for the overcomer:

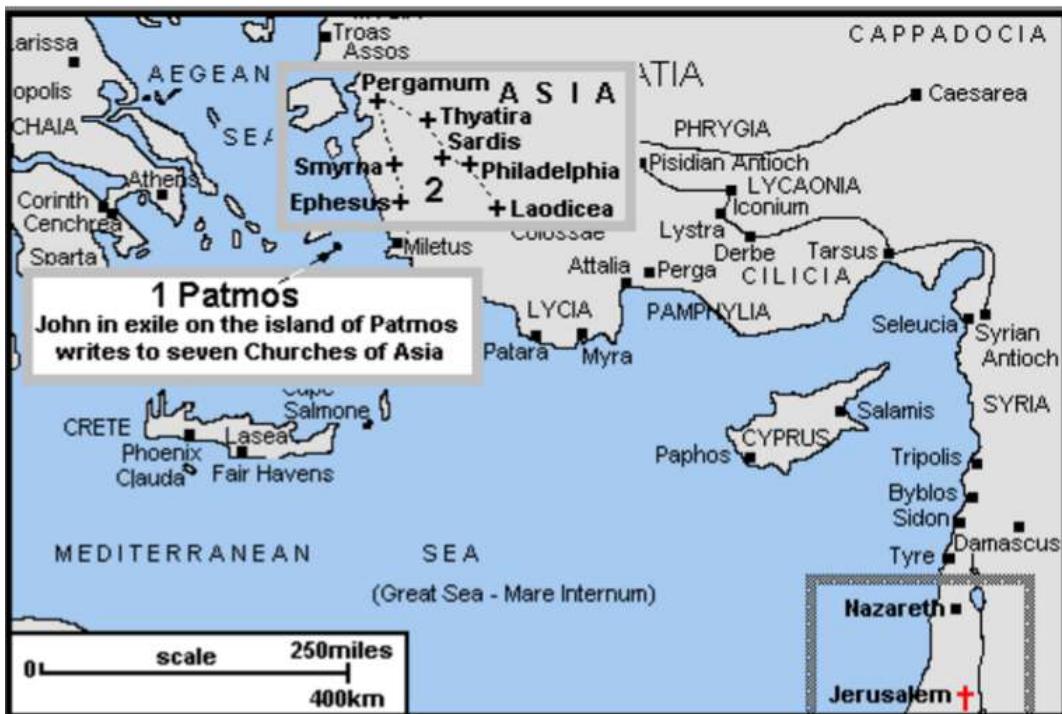
- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| (1) Authority over nations (2:26)                         | (8) Tree of life (2:7)              |
| (2) Name not erased from book of life (3:5)               | (9) Not hurt by second death (2:11) |
| (3) Inherits the earth (21:7)                             | (10) Morning star (2:28)            |
| (4) New name on a white stone (2:17)                      | (11) White Garments (3:5)           |
| (5) Eat of hidden manna (2:17)                            | (12) Pillar in temple (3:12)        |
| (6) Name of God, City, & Christ written on him (3:12)     | (13) Sits on Christ's throne (3:21) |
| (7) Name confessed before the Father and His angels (3:5) |                                     |

The rewards and the warnings make no sense unless some believers will not receive them because of their unfaithfulness. Why warn a person about something he cannot lose? We can debate what is lost, but there is no debate that something is lost with grave consequences to follow (See I Cor. 3:16 and I John 2:28).

Those individuals in the seven churches who are not overcomers are promised:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (1) War with the sword from the Lord's mouth (2:16) | (5) Come like a thief (3:3)             |
| (2) To be thrown into the great tribulation (2:22)  | (6) Spit out of the Lord's mouth (3:16) |
| (3) Children killed with the pestilence (2:23)      | (7) Reproof and discipline (3:19)       |
| (4) To receive according to their deeds (2:23)      |   |

Note: True believers do not have to persevere to win salvation, nor must they be faithful to keep it. Any conditionality automatically removes the issue from a consideration of salvation to the issue of sanctification and rewards. Simply put mathematically, it is Jesus + 0 = Salvation. Jesus plus anything else says Jesus is not sufficient payment for your sins.



These were seven outstanding churches (but there were other outstanding churches) this region was where the East met the West. This was the most important region for the Roman Empire. Letters were prevalent and the primary form of communication in that time. It is likely thousands read this letter in churches in that region in that day.

Ephesus marked the height of civilization with a population 200,000 featuring a 20,000 seat outdoor theater, and another a 100,000 amphitheater in the area. The city was complete with a resort area, political area, and the streets are made of marble. It was truly a rich city that was on a trade route with a large river. You would step on the pier and look down streets of white marble with shops, temples, and all you could desire. At times up to 1-2 million people would be in the city.

Steep in idolatry, Ephesus's most sacred idol temple was in honor of Diane or Artimis (many breasted one). This was the largest Greek Temple (418ft X 239ft) with over 100 columns. It was four times larger than the Parthenon. Excessive orgies that would make even Las Vegas blush were all done in the name of worship.

Paul preached there. John was a pastor there. Then, John came back as the pastor again after 10 years in exile and was buried there. Impact of their gospel message was later marked by the city where a great cross was constructed with four great pillars in the harbor of the city (pillars represented Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). In Luke's gospel, he quotes all heard the message of Christ in Asia both Greek and Jew. This statement reflects that up to 25 million people heard the gospel.

***Rev 2:1 “To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, ‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:***

1. Stars - The ministers of Christ are under his special care and protection. God knows the number of the stars, calls them by their names, and it is the honor of the Lord Jesus Christ that the ministers of the gospel, who are greater blessings to the church than the stars are to the world, are in his hand. He directs all their motions; he fills them with light and influence; he supports them, or else they would soon be falling stars; they are instruments in his hand, and all the good they do is done by his hand with them.
2. Lampstands - He walks in the midst of the golden candlesticks. This intimates his relation to his churches, as with the other his relation to his creation. Christ is in an intimate manner present and conversant with his churches; he knows and observes their state; he takes pleasure in them, as a man does to walk in his garden.

**Where is Jesus today? Is this what you picture Jesus doing? How does knowing this change your perspective or priorities?**

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***Rev 2:2-3 “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary.***

Those that are stars in Christ's hand need to be always in motion, dispensing light to all about them. For my name's sake thou hast labored, and hast not fainted... Christ keeps an account of every day's work, and every hour's work, his servants do for him, and their labor shall not be in vain in the Lord. For their patience in suffering: Thy labor and thy patience. It is not enough that we be diligent, but we must be patient, and endure hardness as good soldiers of Christ.

Reflect on that statement "I know your works". Put your name in that sentence. **How do you feel knowing that Jesus knows all your works and he is keeping account?**

**Do you or the world act today as if this is true?**

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***Rev 2:4 “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.”***

Condemnation – You have lost that Lovin' Feeling! Just like a happy healthy marriage takes effort and intimacy, God requires your love - verb. Don't tell me you love me and deny me in public, only pray on Sundays and ignore my Word.

**In what ways has your love for God changed since you became a Christian?**

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**Rev 2:5 “Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.”**

**What do you think it means that their lampstand would be removed from its place? Why do you think God thinks it is necessary to take it away unless they repent?**

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**Rev 2:6 “But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.”**

The Nicolaitans<sup>1</sup> (means rule over laity) were a loose sect who sheltered themselves under the name of Christianity. They held hateful doctrines, and were guilty of hateful deeds, hateful to Christ and to all true Christians; and Jesus praises the church of Ephesus that they had a just zeal and abhorrence of those wicked doctrines and practices. A spirit of indifference between truth and error, good and evil, may be misrepresented as charity and meekness, but it is not pleasing to Christ.

**NICOLAITANS** (nīk'ō-lā'ī-tāñz, Gr. *Nikolaitai*). A group of persons whose works both the church at Ephesus and our Lord hated (Rev 2:6) and whose doctrine was held by some in the Pergamum church (2:15). Their doctrine was similar to that of Balaam, through whose influence the Israelites ate things sacrificed to idols and committed fornication (2:14–15). A sect of Nicolaitans existed among the Gnostics in the third century.

**What do you do when confronted with bad doctrine? Can you discern it? Do you accept it, confront it or turn from it? What is the significance of the Lord hating the Nicolaitans?**

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

The first stated promise to the overcomers is the Tree of Life. The tree of life is first mentioned in Genesis 3:22. This tree stood in the Garden of Eden. This tree was not initially forbidden to Adam and Eve. Whether they ate from it before the fall is not certain; however, after their sin, God forbid them from eating of it.

Sin as separated man ever since Adam and Eve bit into the forbidden fruit. Since you and I were not personally in the garden, we tend to not think of what was lost. However, God thankfully is ever mindful, and as his child, you and I are restored fully to the original design before the curse. God has no plan B. There is only plan A. He reminds by going back to the first thing that was lost.

**Group: If Jesus were to write a letter to our Church or family or you, what would He commend? Condemn? What counsel would He give?**

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<sup>1</sup> Source: NIV Compact Dictionary of Bible, 1989, page 411.

### Rev 2:8-11 Smyrna – Martyr Church

Smyrna (modern word Myrrh) means suffering. This city is still in existence. Today is called Izmir. Some say this city will be larger than Istanbul. Lovely ancient Harbor city many called a crown or flower. City was on top with flowers and myrtle trees. There was a Theater, music center and stadium. Polycarp student of John was burned alive for his faith in that very stadium in 155AD. Smyrna and Philadelphia received no condemnation and they have had continuous existence. Izmir (Smyrna) still has believers, but they are underground due to persecution to this day in Turkey. Both are the only two churches that have not had their lamp stands removed.

Historical Time period – 100AD – 314AD (Began with the death of John and Edict of Tolerance by Constantine that ended persecution)

### Smyrna Background:



Smyrna was a port city in Asia Minor, in what today is Turkey. In ancient times Smyrna contended with Ephesus and Pergamum for the honor of being called the foremost city of Asia. Streets and buildings extended from the bay up the sides of the surrounding hills. Fountains flowed with the water from the city's aqueducts. A theater on one of the highest slopes overlooked the lower city. Smyrna claimed to be the birthplace of the poet Homer and built a shrine in his honor. A library, gymnasiums, baths, and a stadium contributed to Smyrna's cultural life. The city attracted speakers like Apollonius of Tyanna in the first century and other renowned orators in the second century.

The broad harbor alongside Smyrna was the mooring ground for ships that plied the Aegean Sea. In the heart of the city there was also a smaller harbor or marina that could be closed with a chain. Ships would transfer their cargo from the waterfront to the agora or market place, which was the commercial center of the city. Smyrna was known for its fine wine, garments, perfumes, and goldsmithing.

Great Mother goddess, Cybele, whose temple was located on the eastern side of the city, was Smyrna's patron deity. Often pictured on Smyrna's coins, she was regarded as the divine being who was especially responsible for the well-being of the city. Fertility, health, and protection were among the benefits she was said to provide.



**V8 “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, ‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:**

Alpha and Omega – Creation to End – He is in charge. This speaks to Resurrection - up to 5 million died during this period professing faith in Christ. **Why would this characteristic of the Lord's Divine nature be important for Smyrna to hear? Why is it important to you in your time of suffering?**

V9-10 – “I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

Commendation is for 7 things:

1. Tribulation (trouble)
2. Poverty
3. Jew externally (Jew by definition can be defined by faith proven by actions)
4. Fear nothing
5. Satan
6. 10 days (10 Periods – 10 emperors in the period – starting with Nero who killed Paul)
7. Faithful to the death

**James 1:12 “Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.”**

Put your name in this section.

Will God be able to say, “\_\_\_\_\_ , I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Christians and are not, but are a church of Satan. Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.”

**What does it mean to you now? Despite your circumstances, are you found rich in your faith? Are you a true Christian? In the time of testing that will come, will you be found faithful?**

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**V11 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.”**

First Death is the body. The second death is the soul. No believer will have to go through the second death.

**Moody said, “He who is born twice will only have to die once, but those who are only born once will have to die twice.”**

**How about you have you been born again?**

## Rev 2:12-17 Pergamum – Church

### **Three Great Royal Cities -**

Smyrna (Izmir) – Commerce Center

70 miles north – Pergamum – Religious Center (Satan's headquarters at the time)

65 miles South – Ephesus – Political Center (Roman Emperors came)

Pergamum – The most Greek Gods (6 alters) in the acropolis including Zeus.

The name is comprised of two Greek words, “pergos” or “married” or “united to” and “gamos” which is “power”. So, Pergamos literally means “married” or “united to power”. With stunning vistas and high society, it was aptly named a Royal City. A temple to Caesar Augustus was constructed there. There was also a healing temple area. Pergamum had the greatest library at the time. It had parchment - not papyrus. Mark Anthony gave the library to his girlfriend Cleopatra.

Historical Period 314AD – 590AD – Paganism - World entered into the Church. Heresies were prevalent in this period.

### **Pergamum Background:**

Pergamum was a major city in western Asia Minor in New Testament times. It lies in a spacious valley, sixteen miles from the Aegean Sea in what is today the country of Turkey. In the centuries before Christ, Pergamum was the capital of an independent

kingdom. Its impressive temples, library, and medical facilities made Pergamum a renowned cultural and political center. By the time Revelation was written,

Pergamum had become part of the Roman Empire, but because of its location and importance, the Romans used it as an administrative center for the province of Asia.



Athena was the patron goddess of Pergamum. Strong and chaste, she was considered the protector of the city. Her strength of character is reflected in the statue of Athena shown at the right. This statue stood in the north hall of the sanctuary to Athena that graced the acropolis at Pergamum. The renowned Pergamum library stood next to her sanctuary, showing her close connection with culture, wisdom, crafts, and learning of all sorts. The founding of the cult of Athena at Pergamum is included on the panels on the altar to Zeus, which also stood on the acropolis.



**V12 “And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, ‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:**

The defined nature given to this church is the Word of God sharper than a two-edged sword. **Why was this chosen for this church? Do you take the Word of God lightly or treat as you would a powerful weapon?**

**V13 “I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.**

According to Christian tradition, John the Apostle ordained Antipas as bishop of Pergamum during the reign of the Roman emperor Domitian. The traditional account Antipas was martyred in 92 AD by burning in a brazen bull-shaped altar for casting out demons worshiped by the local population<sup>2</sup>. Another account in the Believer’s Bible Commentary, claims his martyrdom was because he refused to worship the Roman Emperor.

Polycarp undoubtedly knew how Antipas stood firm on his faith in Christ as a martyr approximately 60 years prior to his martyrdom.



Satan’s City: Religion was big business there and Satan had his headquarters placed there complete with heathen temples. Athena, Caesar, Hadrian, Alter of Zeus with an idol on it, Temple of Dionysus, Asclepius (staff with serpent) healing. Dionysus was the god of wine closely aligned with Satyr (half goat with horns image of Satan).

#### **Asclepius (staff with serpent) healing example:**

Pergamum constructed a for profit hospital to capitalize on the religion and take advantage of the weakest and sick in the Roman Empire. A long tunnel was constructed in a cave they claimed was a healing temple where voices came through holes, positive sayings, hot baths, music, library, at night the sick would go in to temple where the poisonous snakes would crawl all over you. The snakes and the gods would heal you for a price. They also had a secret door to drag out the dead. This hospital with satanic practices was in operation for 700 years. Today, this seem ridiculous right. **Wait, don’t we have people that will send money and do ridiculous things today to get healed? Are we not treating people with CoVid with experimental drugs under emergency use authorization for a virus that has a 99% survival rate, yet we don’t have a vaccine for obesity or diabetes or cancer, which has a much higher death rate.**

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<sup>2</sup> "St Antipas of Pergamon". Retrieved 2007-12-21.



Satyr

**Definition:**

1. Greek myth one of a class of sylvan deities, represented as goatlike men who drank and danced in the train of Dionysus and chased the nymphs
2. a man who has strong sexual desires

Satyrs acquired their [goat](#)-like aspect through later Roman, conflation with [Faunus](#), a carefree [Italic](#) nature spirit of similar characteristics and identified with the Greek god [Pan](#). Hence satyrs are most commonly described in Latin literature as having the upper half of a man and the lower half of a goat, with a goat's tail in place of the Greek tradition of horse-tailed satyrs; therefore, satyrs became nearly identical with [fauns](#). Mature satyrs are often depicted in Roman art with goat's [horns](#), while juveniles are often shown with bony nubs on their foreheads.

Satyrs are described as roguish but faint-hearted folk — subversive and dangerous, yet shy and cowardly. [κίνηται](#) As Dionysiac creatures they are lovers of wine and women, and they are ready for every physical pleasure. They roam to the music of pipes ([auloi](#)), [cymbals](#), [castanets](#), and [bagpipes](#), and they love to dance with the [nymphs](#) (with whom they are obsessed, and whom they often pursue), and have a special form of dance called [sikinnis](#). Because of their love of wine, they are often represented holding wine cups, and they appear often in the decorations on wine cups.

**Does it surprise you that Satan is embodied in the original image of the god of wine and a goat? Jesus said He would separate the sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:31-33). Also, Satan sets up an unholy temple as a place for healing? Can you see what Jesus does for good, Satan turns for evil? Do you think this is relevant today?**

**V14 - 15 But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. Thus, you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.**

Balaam taught Balak which introduced idol worship to Israel. He did it subtly by introducing them to food sacrificed by idols and then enticing the children of Israel to inter-marry with Moabite Women. Nicolaitans among others re-introduced religious rituals such as clergy to speak for believers.

Read Hebrews 4:14-16. **Do you go boldly straight to the throne of God with your High Priest Jesus?** If you go through any intermediary in prayer then you have fallen to some of the lies of Satan that he used on the Nicolaitans. No matter what logic is used it is simply not in the word of God. Remember, Jesus + 0!

This word “Nikolaos”, appears to be a compound of two Greek words; “nikao”, “to conquer” or “consume” and “laos”, “laity” or “the people” has another connection to “Bil’am”, other than just being mentioned together in Revelation 2. The Hebrew word “Bil’am” is a compound of two words also; “Bila” (beit-lamedayin), meaning “eater” or “destroyer” and “am” (ayin-mem) or “people”. The name “Bil’am” literally means “Destroyer of people”. Hmmm, what a coincidence.

**In what ways, do we compromise today? What is the problem with eating food sacrificed to idols? What relevance does this have to us today?**

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**V16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.**

The very sword you have been (the Word of God) given for your protection and defense, is also the instrument of judgment against you if you do not repent. It is the only cure. This is the reason that knowing your bible and studying the Word of God is vital to your very survival. **Are you qualified to hold the sword and operate it? What do you need to do to become more qualified?**

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**V17 “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 to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.”**

Hidden Manna (word of God) and the person and the bread of Christ. Christ is hidden from the world today. This is also meant as a contrast to those that had the meat dedicated to idols. The faithful Christians who reject bad doctrine and stand firm are given this Hidden Manna. White stone (color of Holy Heaven). Christ will give each of us a white stone with a new name for him that is intimate and only means something to you personally.

Just picture in your mind what it will be like in Heaven to receive a white stone and the significance of our relationship with the Lord. **What will it mean to you? How will you feel if you do not get this eternal reward?** You now have the knowledge of what is at stake which makes you accountable.

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### Revelation Chapter 2 - Thyatira



- City facts – Inland city - Defense city in Valley
  - Strong because of Elite Guard
- Ancient Guilds (Unions) –
  - Potters, tanners, weavers, engravers
- Lydia whom Paul visited in Philippi is from this city
  - Lydia traded Purple (turkey red)
- Temple to Apollo – sun god



(590AD- 1517AD) Church period –Romanism & Dark Ages

In this time period historically, Idolatry and Pagan worship was co-mingled with Christianity. Specifically,

- Personal relationships were supplanted by rituals.
- Worship of the Virgin and the child was introduced
- Purgatory became a positive doctrine
- Mass for the dead
- Church power was centralized by the Pope.

V 18 - eyes of Blazing fire – speaks of piercing vision and searching out your deeds, Bronze Feet speak of threatened judgment.

V 19 NKJV – “I know your works, love, service, faith and your patience...works increased over time.

V 20 – 23 condemnation – Contrasts are given:

Works of Christ vs. Works of Jezebel

Those that “hear” are the children of God vs. Children of Jezebel “No ears to hear”

Jezebel is said to foreshadow the apostate church.

1. What was Thyatira commended and condemned for?

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2. In spite of hard work, false doctrine was accepted. Why did Jesus hold this against them?

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3. What attitudes or activities are we condoning that are not pleasing to God?

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4. How can you determine the difference between Christianity and false teaching?

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5. How can some member of both our Church and Jezebel’s church be misled by her teaching?

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6. How can you remain loyal to Christ and hold fast?

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## Who is Jezebel?

The First Book of Kings forms part of a larger biblical strand, stretching from Deuteronomy to Second Kings, known as the "Deuteronomistic history." By and large the moral of these books is that the Israelites and their rulers repeatedly "did evil in the sight of the Lord," which explains various historical tragedies.

Even the wise Solomon strayed from the true path by tolerating the gods of his many heathen wives. Far more brazen, however, the apostate Ahab, ruler of the Northern Kingdom of Israel in the ninth century B.C., "did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him" (I Kings 16: 33).

Ahab's father Omri, seeking an alliance with the Phoenicians, had married him to Jezebel, princess of Tyre. Soon after, Jezebel set about perverting both Ahab and Israel to the worship of Baal, the storied Canaanite thunder god. Ahab even built an altar to the god in Samaria, while Jezebel "cut off [that is, slaughtered] the prophets of the Lord" (I Kings 18:4). And that was just for starters.

Nonetheless, a few godly men did survive her murderous campaign, including the prophet Elijah. He colorfully expressed the Lord's disgust by predicting that "The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel" (I Kings 21: 23), site of Ahab's palace. Sure enough, Jezebel met her fate at the hands of the Baal-hating king, Jehu, who had her thrown out a high window (II Kings 9: 33). And when Jehu's men went to collect Jezebel's remains, they found only her skull, her feet, and the palms of her hands (verse 35). Elijah's prophecy had been fulfilled.

Jezebel -- whose name means "Where's the prince?" in Hebrew -- has gone down in history as the most wicked woman in the entire Bible. In the New Testament, she is the archetype of the evil temptress; God himself vilifies her in Revelation (2:20). In later times, she would serve as a metaphor for a wicked and corrupting woman, especially one who wore lots of makeup. (Jezebel had attempted to hide from Jehu by painting her face -- thus the intensified insult is "painted Jezebel.")

Source: [http://www.gracecathedral.org/enrichment/brush\\_excerpts/brush\\_20050315.shtml](http://www.gracecathedral.org/enrichment/brush_excerpts/brush_20050315.shtml)

V 24 – 25 Even in an apostate church where Jezebel is allowed to teach, there is a faithful remnant who hold fast. Are you able to remain faithful when all the others fall away?

V 26-29 What is the reward for those that stay faithful?

Rule and reign with Christ and you will be raptured. Morning Star is a metaphor for the rapture. As it is the last star before daylight when the night or darkness ends, and it is one of the names of Jesus.

## Chapter 3

### I. Sardis

City facts –

- Inland city – very high, walled and fortified
- Capital of Lydia
- Center of carpet industry
- Known for its wealth
- Temples to Apollo (Sun) / Cybil or Diana (Moon)



(1517AD- 1800AD) Church period – Protestant Church - Reformation

Protestants recovered:

- Justification by faith
- Authority of the word of God
- Depravity of Man
- Not everything was recovered and will not be till Jesus returns

V1 - 7 stars and 7 spirits refers to recovering church doctrine and Holy Spirit.

Condemnation: You think you are alive but you are dead. No commendation.

- Legalism creeps into the church
- Church uses rituals and rules instead of a personal relationship.
- Church winks at sin

1. **Have you been in a church that feels like it is dead?**
2. **What is your responsibility to ensure our Church is alive and vibrant with a bright lamb stand?**

V2 - 4 – Wake Up had a special meaning to Sardis.

Sardis was on the top of the Mountain. There was only one entrance on the South side. All that was done to defend the city was post a guard at one gate because the terrain was a natural defense. Two times the guard went asleep and the entire city was taken. This was an embarrassing point and a reminder to them. (218BC Persian scaled gate and The Persians took the city) (549BC – Median Soldier got over the gate and Solutius took the city).



1. **Who is watching the gates to our church, family and children?**
2. **Are we looking for Him? Are you on the lookout for the enemy or are you asleep?**
3. **What can we do to make sure we or those whom we love are not taken under by the enemy?**

Works are never acceptable. Starting with Cain and his grain, God let us know it is by the Blood we overcome. Even in Sardis a few did not defile their Christian life. Like with Israel, God works through a remnant.

V5 –6 Problem verse Can one be blotted out of the Book of Life– 2 explanations

1. Book of Life – includes all that have physical life that Jesus died for and upon death their acceptance of Christ confirms them their place in the book – they are not blotted out. (Book of Death – Generation of Adam Genesis 5:1 & Book of Life Matt 1)
2. Book of Life contains only those with Spiritual Life and once in the book you can never be blotted out. The statement is in the positive as an affirmation.

## Revelation Chapter 3 - Philadelphia

### Background:

Philadelphia lies in a valley at the foot of a mountainous plateau in west central Turkey. The low dark hill in the center of the picture shows the area of the ancient city. The kings of Pergamum founded Philadelphia as an outpost of their realm in the second century B.C. The town was located along an important travel route that linked Pergamum in the north with Laodicea to the south. In New Testament times, Philadelphia was part of the Roman province of Asia. The town was devastated by an earthquake in A.D. 17, and for a time people lived in fear of aftershocks. Philadelphia was rebuilt with help from the emperor Tiberius.



Like other towns in the region, Philadelphia prospered through agriculture and related industries. The soil in the valley was suited to growing vines, making wine production an important. The flocks that grazed in the area supplied wool and hides for textiles and leather production.

An inscription from Philadelphia mentions a number of gods and goddesses. Zeus, the chief god, was said to have commanded people to be pure and to refrain from deceit, murder, theft, adultery, and other types of evil. There was an altar to Hestia, the goddess of hearth and home. The inscription also mentions the savior gods, including Good Fortune, Virtue, Health, and other deities.

### Scriptures by verse

V 7 Characteristics of Jesus that are used to illustrate this church: Holy, True, Key of David, Open and Shut. He is holy in His life, death, and resurrection. He will sit on the Throne of his father David here on earth during the millennium. – The Church should be a picture of Christ. **So, how are you doing on that?**

V 8 He knows their deeds, but they are not found lacking. Instead of condemnation, they only receive commendation. Jesus opened the door because they had a little strength (Greek – Dynamite), kept and knew the word of God and have not denied him. The church did not deny Him or His Deity. This was and today represents a Bible Church that defends the doctrine, serves others and is doing Christ's will on earth. **Do you want an open door in your life?** The recipe is here, maybe one of the reasons we are not seeing doors open is we are not following the recipe. **Are you looking for the doors that Christ has opened? How many open doors have you missed--or were simply unwilling to go through? Is it easy or hard to deny Christ today? How do we and society deny Him?**

V 9 At this point, one interpretation is that the remnant of Israel had already accepted Christ and had converted. To support this claim, there were 12 self-identified Messianic Jews in 1948, and the latest statistic estimated 15,000-20,000 in Israel today. One book explaining the plight of the Messianic Jews in Israel was aptly named "The Most Hated People on Earth". Under this interpretation, the rest who reject Jesus continue in a false religion looking for the messiah when He has already come. Jesus also says to the church in Philadelphia that your enemies will fall at your feet and know that you are loved by the Lord. **Considering the church was going through persecution at the time this was written how comforting do you think those words were to hear?**

V 10 We don't have prophets as the Old Testament did; we have the Word of God. Because this church kept his word and observed his commands, they will be spared from the Great Tribulation. **How about you? Will the Lord be able to say because you have kept my Word, I will spare you the Great Tribulation? Notice this tribulation is over the whole world – not just part.**

V 11 - 13 "Soon" means suddenly no man knows when. Hold fast so you do not lose your rewards. You can't lose your salvation because you can earn it. Paul says that if all of your works add up to wood, hay, and

stubble, you will still be saved (1 Cor. 3:12, 15). Rewards and crowns though will be earned. New Jerusalem is Heaven.

What do the rewards indicate? Remember, if everyone got these items they would not be rewards.

- Being a pillar in the Temple of God communicates your permanence, prominence, honor, importance, strength and security.
- Three names indicate you will be identified by all three – God, Heaven and Jesus in a Special and Unique way!

**Where are you invested? Are all of your earning rewards in Heaven or are you settling for the rewards of earth?**

**As a believer, how does knowing the promises in verse Rev. 3:10 & 3:12 encourage you?**

**Application:**

1. Examine the three attributes of Jesus Christ that are listed in Revelation 3:7. What things has Christ done in your life that reveals His holiness, His truth, and His opening of doors for the gospel? Are those same attributes reflected in your daily Christian walk? Give examples of some instances when each one was reflected in your walk, and some instances when you had an opportunity to reflect each one and didn't. Given the command of 1 Peter 1:15, what are some practical ways that you can be holy in all you do? What are some practical ways that you can stand for God's truth in the world? Finally, what are some practical ways that you can be more active in sharing your faith? Take this moment to make the commitment to reflect the attributes of Jesus Christ. Follow the practical suggestions that you have made, and be consistent to apply them daily.
2. How do you set up standards of conduct for yourself and your family? Are they based on what the world has said or what the Word of God says? The church at Philadelphia was commended because they kept God's Word amidst the pagan society they lived in. Can you be commended in the same way? What do you need to change in your life for God to commend you for keeping His Word?
3. Review the promises that Christ gives to the overcomer in Revelation 3:12-13. Have you ever desired to be recognized for some achievement? Compare that desire to having your name memorialized for eternity in the presence of God. How does that make you feel? Spend this time in prayer. Thank God for the security He has given you for eternity.

## Laodicea – “The Apostate Church”

**Apostate** [ə'pɒstət] – *n*, a person who abandons his religion, party, cause, etc.



This is the false, unsaved church that will go through Tribulation and become the Harlot. If there are any believers they are not mentioned by Christ.

### City of compromise

Laodicea lies at a major crossroads in the valleys of Asia Minor, in what today is Turkey. The city was situated on a hill overlooking fertile valleys and majestic mountains. In Roman times, the city was an important center for administration and commerce. Court cases from the region were heard at Laodicea and funds were placed in the city's banks for safekeeping. Although damaged by earthquakes during the reign of Augustus (27 B.C.-A.D.14) and again in

A.D. 60, the city kept rebuilding and prospering.

Laodicea was a center for the regional textile industry. The sheep that grazed in the nearby valleys produced a black wool that was exceptionally soft. The wool was bought and sold in the city's markets. Great Camel Caravans came from East. Great Valley had difficulty getting water. Laodicea lay on the bank of the River Lycus. Its position produced a sort of triangle between with two other important cities: Colossae to the south-east and Hierapolis to the north-east, each approximately 10 miles from one another.

Laodicea – Justice of the people named after the wife of Antiochus, Laodus. The city represented wealth and great commerce. It had large industries including: medical center, banking, two Roman theaters, and worship Jupiter and Zeus. The city was known for its exceptional high-end clothing and an apparent miracle eye salve minded with a colored clay. Modern chemical analysis of the clay that used to make the salve says there was nothing effective in it.

- **In what areas is it easy to compromise with the world?**
- **How often do you believe the church compromises today?**

V 14 – Amen is used as a proper name for Christ. 2 Corinthians 1:20. Christ is the only faithful and true source. **How much truth is in the world today? Is truth even valued today?**

### Do you choose speculation or revelation?

Science's explanations are based on speculation. Carbon Dating, missing link and etc. God's explanation is based on revelation. God does not expect you to check your mind at the door; investigate, if you do you will come to the conclusion that both take faith. So today, choose who you will follow, as for me and my house we will follow the Lord – Joshua 24:15

V 15-16 – works are not cold - nor hot. Luke warm, I spit you out of my mouth.

“The terms cold, hot and lukewarm are likely to relate to waters around and in Laodicea. Nearby Hierapolis was famed for its hot springs; Colossae, also near at hand, was noted for a cold, clear stream of excellent drinking water. Since, however, the River Lycus dried up in summer; Laodicea had to use a long viaduct for its water, which was not only tepid, but impure and sometimes foul, making people sick. The church of that city had that same effect on Christ... (V 16 should not be taken as indicating that the Lord prefers an atheist or

fanatical religious zealot to a tepid Christian. The issue is the possession of genuine life in Christ by those who profess the Christian faith, not the way they hold it.)" *New Bible Commentary 21st Century Edition*

1. **Why would God want us to either be hot or cold?**
2. **How are we lukewarm to Christ as nation, church, family, or personally?**
3. **Based on Rev 3:16, does it sound like Jesus will rapture this Church? If not, then how might that make you wonder about our churches today whether they will be raptured?**

V 17-18 Laodicea and Sardis were the riches cities in the area. Money cannot solve all problems. Smyrna was poor and slaves but they had no condemnation.

- **Why did Christ call this church wretched, miserable, poor blind and naked if they were wealthy?**
- **How do we measure a successful church?**
- **Is there any danger in a church's building programs and worldly wealth?**
- **Why were eye salve and clothing pointed at this church? Matthew 22:1-14 Wedding Feast**

V 20 – There is still time to repent. He knocks. The table is set. Will you open the door? Reflect on that a minute. This church is lukewarm at best and on it is way to being the Harlot yet Jesus still stands and knocks patiently waiting for anyone who would turn and choose life. **How big is God's grace?**

V 21 – 22 Notice the use of my. The emphasis is on a personal relationship. Also, this church is not listening to the Holy Spirit and the Lampstand will be removed. This is also a transition for the rapture, which is up next...

The progression of the letters takes us up to the coming of Christ. For example:

1. EPHESUS -- "... or else I will come unto thee quickly ..." (Rev. 2:5).
2. PERGAMOS -- "... or else I will come unto thee quickly ..." (Rev. 2:16).
3. THYATIRA -- "... hold fast till I come" (Rev. 2:25).
4. SARDIS -- ". I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come." (Rev. 3:3).
5. PHILADELPHIA -- "... I come quickly ..." (Rev. 3:11).
6. LAODICEA -- "... I stand at the door, and knock ..." (Rev. 3:20).

That is the progress of the church until the time when Christ returns. Chapter 4 will mark the end of the church age and the start of Jesus taking control/title of this world.

A deeper Look from John MacArthur into **THE CONDEMNATION** (vv. 15-17)

#### **A. Luke warmness (vv. 15-16)**

"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot; I would thou wert cold or hot. So, then, because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of My mouth."

#### **1. INDICTING THE LUKEWARM ONES**

That is strong language. Christ likens the church at Laodicea to a drink that is supposed to be either hot or cold, but is nauseatingly lukewarm. If you ever had occasion to drink a lukewarm soft drink, you know the feeling. Christ uses the illustration of a lukewarm drink to describe the distaste that makes Him spit out the church at Laodicea. He doesn't want to have anything to do with it.

The first thing that Christ condemns the church for is Luke warmness. The Laodicea church was neither hot nor cold; it was nauseating to God. The risen Christ literally spews the church out of His mouth.

#### **2. IDENTIFYING THE SPIRITUAL STATES**

Who are the people that Christ spits out of His mouth? Someone will say, "They are lukewarm Christians." I don't think so. First, why would lukewarm Christians be in an apostate church? Those people can't be Christians. Second, God does not vomit up Christians. In John 6:37 Jesus said, "... him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out." But Christ is referring to three different spiritual states: cold (Gk. psuchros, which means "cold"), hot (Gk. zestos, which means "warmth" or "fervor"), and lukewarm (Gk. chliaros, which means "tepid water"). What do these three spiritual states represent?

##### **a. The Cold Ones**

Who are the cold ones? In verse 15 Christ says, "... thou art neither cold ...." What does it mean to be cold? I believe that Christ is referring to the many people in the world who are totally cold to the things of Christ--the gospel leaves them totally unmoved. They don't respond at all. They are not hypocrites. They are blatant about being cold, ungodly, and unconcerned. They don't even make a pretense about knowing Christ. They are lost, unsaved, irreligious, and cold. Those kinds of people are easier to reach than the lukewarm. It is the sense of coldness that awakens a man to feel the chill of lostness, and to know that he needs to be found. If you don't think you're lost, you won't look for anyone to find you. God can reach the person who is cold and lost in sin. That is why Christ says, "I would rather have you cold so that you can sense your chill and lostness."

##### **b. The Hot Ones**

I believe this refers to believers. The hot ones are believers who show genuine spiritual fervor. There is no question about their eternal life, the sanctifying power and presence of the Holy Spirit in them, or their Christian testimony. They know Christ.

Salvation is the transformation from cold to hot. A man who is icy cold, freezing in his sin, and estranged from God, becomes hot when God redeems him. The new birth is a transformation from coldness to warmth. It happened to Paul on the Damascus road (Ac. 9:3-6). It happened to Moses, who chose "to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin ..." (Heb. 11:25). Salvation is a transformation from the coldness of sin to the warmth of godliness.

That's what happens to all of us when we are given life while in spiritual deadness. There is nothing as cold as death, but life brings warmth.

##### **c. The Lukewarm Ones**

Who are the lukewarm? They are not believers because they have not been transformed from cold to hot. The lukewarm ones are professing Christians who play religious games with God, but are not really His. They have been touched by the gospel in some way, but they don't belong to Christ. They nauseate God because they know the truth but reject it. They live within the context of Christianity but make a mockery out of Christ.

There is more hope for one who has been untouched by the gospel and makes no religious or phony pretense of following Christ than one who makes the pretense of being a believer. No one is further from God than the one who makes an idle profession of belonging to God. This is Satan's big lie: He wants to catch people in the lukewarm, nauseating environment of false religion. They actually think they sense some kind of religious reality. Apostasy nauseates Christ. The church at Laodicea was tragic. The false warmth of religion captures people, but Christ spews them out of His mouth.

## Chapter 4

**“Called out and Caught Up!”**

Introduction and Overview:

**Chapter 1** – John’s Vision – Jesus in Glory – The one who keeps the lamb stands burning - What he sees

**Chapters 2-3** - Church Ages – History - The Things that are, Then, the Things After these Things:

**Chapter 4** - Throne – Some Say the Rapture? No further reference of the church. Great Worship – 4 creatures because of Who Jesus is & the 24 elders for what he has done.

**Chapter 5** – Lion and the Lamb, The Title Deed Book for earth, Redeemer, initially seated then Standing in Judgment.

**Chapters 6 – 18** – The Great Tribulation -

1. Opens with 7 seals (including 144,000 – 12 tribes)
2. 7 trumpets (including 2 witness)
3. 7 Bowls of Wrath
4. Babylon Falls - First and Last Judgment of Babylon Gen 11 & Rev 17-18

**Chapter 19** – Armageddon - Wedding Supper & Great Supper of God

**Chapter 20** – Millennium, then Satan and the Dead's final Doom

**Chapter 21** - New Earth and Heaven

**Chapter 22** – Closing

Rev. 1:19

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

Glorified Christ / Churches / Future

Chapter 1 – See, Saw,

Chapters 2-3 – “These are” 7 times to the seven churches.

Chapter 4:1 – NKJV

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

I Thessalonians 4:16 – 5:4

*For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

*Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

*The Day of the Lord*

*5 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.*

I Corinthians 15:50-52

*Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—<sup>in</sup> a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

Church – Ec – La – see – a - The called out ones. New Testament 114 times – 20 times in Revelations (19 in Chapters 2-3 and 1 time in Rev 22:16 which is a historical reference.

The Church is represented by the 24 elders (representatives of the Churches – 12 Tribes and 12 Disciples). After, it can no longer be called the church because they are no longer called out.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-9 – The Restrainer is removed.

## The Day of the LORD – Judgement!

- 24 Old Testament Passages all note Judgement and Second Coming
- 5 New Testament Passages - All speak to judgement but two, promise hope.
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10
  - 2 Peter 3: 10-13
- Pre-Tribulation view requires a nuanced interpretation
  - First Resurrection (Phase which includes all who are resurrected prior to second Resurrection)
  - Phased return of Christ (Clouds, wedding in Heaven, and return at end of Trib)
- Post-Tribulation issues
  - Why are the angels and the two witnesses needed to carry the gospel?
  - Who is left in nations if all are raptured Christians out prior to the 1,000 years?
  - How is the Holy spirit removed and church still here?

## Pre-Tribulation vs Post-Tribulation Rapture

Pre-Tribulation		Post-Tribulation	
Enoch went up, and Noah went through sealed (Lord shut the door)	Gen 5:24, Gen 7:16	Clearly, Jesus shows up in the clouds, but then does not come back for seven years.	Rev 4:1; Rev 19:11-15
Sodham and Gomorrah, Lot and family were rescued before judgment fell	Gen 19:15	The promise land was only acquired by faith and given to everywhere they set their foot.	Joshua 1:3
Restainer (Holy Spirit) is removed revealing the Antichrist	2 Thessalonians 2:6-7	Sun is dark..Trumpet sounds Lord send angels to gather His chosen people....	Matthew 24:29-31
Who is in natural bodies and makes up the nations that rebel with Satan in the end unless mortal Christians live through to the Millennium?	Rev 20:7-10	"we shall not all sleep, but at the last trumpet, in a twinkling of an eye....	1 Cor. 15:51-52
For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us. Go Through Tribulation before the wedding?	1 Thessalonians 5:9	Do not be deceived, the day will not come unless the man of sin is revealed	2 Thessalonians 2:1-4
Bride is dressed in fine linen, white and clean prior to the Christ Return as King of Kings	Rev 19:15	Resurrection of the Tribulation Saints	Rev 20:4-5

**Why should we believe in a pre-tribulation rapture vs. mid-tribulation, or post tribulation?**

1. Church is mentioned 19 times and stops immediately along with the phrase “after these things.”
2. Door is opened and Trumpet is sounded
3. This is done before the Antichrist is revealed which is consistent with 2 Thess 2:7-8
4. Satan and the World want you to deny the Goodness of God.
5. Promise to the church of Philadelphia (Rev 3:10) limits the time for the rapture to Rev 13:14 Trumpets
6. Would the Groom put his bride through the Tribulation with the harlot before the Wedding?
7. Removing of the Holy Spirit necessitates God sealing the 144,000? Would he not seal His church too?

**How important is the rapture to us as believers and why? Do you think the power of the air here Satan wants you to believe in a rapture? Do you live and act as if there will be a rapture soon?**

Chapter 4:1 – NKJV

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

V1 – Begins with a Continuation of the same topic the church and picture of the rapture. Door 1 of 4 doors

- 1.) Philadelphia 3:8 - offered an open door no one can shut
- 2.) Invitation 3:20 – Stand at the door and knock
- 3.) Rev 4:1 – Door open to heaven
- 4.) 19:11 Door White Horse – This door is open – Jesus opened it – he is the door. The way, truth and light.

**Rev 4:2-3 “At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.”**

V2 - 3 – At once in spirit equates to twinkling of an eye – twinkling is the speed of the eye lash going up – Approximately 1/1000 of a second.

Here is a picture of the Throne of God complete with the rainbow. In the Spirit means the Holy Spirit has taken hold of John here in a strong way bringing him to the very presence of God.

**Rev 4:4 “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.”**

24 Elders – 12 apostles and 12 tribes to symbolize all in Christ. Clothed in Righteousness and with Crowns of Gold – Saints that have already received their rewards. Notice no one is there that is not clothed in the righteousness of Christ with their proper garment on as Jesus said in Matthew 22:11-14.

**Rev 4:5-6 “From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits[a] of God. Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal”**

Just like in Texas Thunder and Lighting always precedes the storm. This is a storm of Judgment. Blazing fire of judgment and power of Holy Spirit.

Holiness – rest for the church – not tossed by the world – placid sea. **How does God sees things?**

**Rev 4:7-8** “*In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. 7 The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. 8 Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying:*

**“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.”**

Four Living Creatures (emphasis in Greek on Zowa – life) – **What do the eyes and the wings represent?**

Lion	Matthew	King (Genealogy)	Wild Beast
Ox –beast of burden	Mark	Servant	Domestic Animals
Man	Luke	Son of Man/human	Head of Animals
Eagle	John	Deity	birds

**Rev 4:9-11** “*Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, 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:*

**“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.”**

Worship is non-ceasing – full time. Living creature worship because of who He is and the Church or Elders because of what he has done.

**Crowns – How would you feel wearing a crown in front of Jesus at the Throne of God? Is it any wonder they lay the crowns at His feet?**

**How do you like worship? How will it be in Heaven?**

## Chapter 5

Chapter 4 focused on Trinity; here it is more on Jesus. Notice, He is no longer walking among the lamp stands. Rev 2:1

1. Holy Spirit is no longer Restraining Evil.
2. True Church of Salt and Light is removed - Depending on when you hold this happens?
3. Satan knows his time is short, so he makes the most of it.
4. Evil men are free to carry out their plans.
5. Judgment is directed by God.

Throne was the focus of Chapter 4, but the Lion and The Lamb is the focus of Chapter 5.

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

What is the scroll with 7 seals? , In Roman law a will was to be sealed 7 times. This is sometimes called the book of new covenant, book of judgment, God's Revelation and Judgment & purpose for the world. Dr. J Vernon McGee called this the Title Deed to Earth. Jesus is given the title deed. Daniel 7:13 Jesus is given the World, Zach. Chapter 5 Flying Roll.



*Under the Mosaic Law, land cannot be taken from God's people permanently. In ancient Israel, under the law when land was sold, the losses were written down in a scroll and then it was sealed. The conditions for getting the property back were written on the outside for anyone to read. If the person died a relative who could meet the conditions on the outside of the scroll, could purchase the property back. This chapter is talking about a kinsman redeemer from Adam rightfully taking back possession of Adam's right to rule on earth. God gave that right to Adam but he apparently lost this stewardship to angels by allowing sin and death to come into the world. The conditions on the outside require a sinless person to open the scroll, This chapter tells us that Jesus paid the Kinsman price of redemption and will open the scroll and start the transfer of the administration of the earth from the prince of angels (Satan) back to man.*

*Gen 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

Source: <http://www.thepropheticyears.com/The%20book%20of%20Revelation/Revelation%20chapter%205.htm>

What is in the scroll? Some say the 10 commandments that will be used to judge the world. Others say the New Covenant (Romans 11:26-27 (Israel's promise -Isaiah 60 - Millennium), The New Covenant, (Hebrew 10:11-18 and Jer 31:33-34))

Old Covenant was dependent on Man – 10 commandments, as Dr. J. Vernon McGee put it “the problem in the Garden of Eden was not the fruit but the pair on the ground.”

New Covenant is dependent on the throne of God. John has a passion to know more about Jesus. He is crushed at the prospect that possibly no one can cure the earth of sin and evil once and for all.

**Rev 5:2-3** “*Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?” 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.*”

Notice, how this is written as an eye witness account. **Also, why is the angel said to be strong/mighty?**

No man under Adam is worthy just as Paul wrote in Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” **What does this mean to you? Is it easy or hard to be humble? Do you slip back into a works based mind set?**

**Rev 5:4-5** “*So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”*

John Wept and Wept...**Why?** John is overwhelmed by the thought that there is no one to rid evil from earth. Roman 8:22-23 – Creation groans in pain till now. **Do you eagerly await His coming? Do you feel as if you are groaning in pain at times in this life just waiting?**

Notice the elders see him as the Lion...also “one of the elders” it implies that anyone of them knew this. They are illuminated with spiritual life/knowledge. Jesus is the worthy One – Lion of Judah (Genesis 49:9) Root of David (2 Samuel Chapter 7).

**How do you see the contrast of Jesus as both the Lion and the Lamb?**

LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDEA	LAMB OF GOD
Govt	Grace
2 <sup>nd</sup> coming	1 <sup>st</sup> coming
Majesty	meekness
Judge	Judged
Sovereign	Savior

**What is the symbolism of the horns, eyes and spirits?**

**Rev 5:6-7** “*And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.”*

John sees the Lamb (the word here written as a little lamb willingly) –Slain denotes violently past tense, Standing speaks of Resurrection (no longer sitting on right hand of God and no longer walking among the seven lampstands)

Taking the scroll – He must judge in righteousness before he can rule in righteousness. You can't start the remodel until you have the title. Also, **what is always the first step to a home remodeling project?**

**Rev 5:8-10 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying:**

**“You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.”**

Harps denote praise – Elders are not said to be playing the harps. They are holding prayers (Bowls of Incense)...this maybe the prayers of the martyrs.

Sang a new song – note the number of Angels every creature even the fish in the sea. The first time I will be able to sing in tune. New song is about redemption. Notice they sing of the blood.

Notice the change in the pronoun to “Them and They and our” this is likely referring the tribulation saints. This is praising God for the Tribulation Saints who will not reign above but on the earth.

**Rev 5:11-14 “Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice:**

**“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!” And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying:**

**“Blessing and honor and glory and power, Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!” Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever. Multitudes of Angels, All creatures everywhere. Universal Worship and the elders fall down and worship again.**

**What do you think this moment will be like?**

**How does knowing that the world has already been paid for in full and is sitting in escrow help you with your daily trials and troubles?**

**Do you your actions this week reflect that Jesus will take title or do they seem to be more in line with our current landlord in this World? Be honest....**

**What positive steps can you make today to move you closer to the Lord not our current landlord the power of the air? Focus on deepening your relationship. Remember, we can't earn our way. We have a relationship with Jesus not a religion.**

**Galatians 5:1 “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”**

## Chapter 6

## Chapter 6

7 seals – Watershed moment - Great Tribulation Begins! It opens with the 4 horseman of the Apocalypse – John is recording thing on earth (much like he is watching it on TV). No mention has been made of the church since Chapter 3. Give us a picture of the 7 years of Tribulation.

Opening of the Seals is orderly, gradual, logical and systematic. Jesus describes the 4 horseman in:

Matthew 24:3-8

As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

WHITE HORSE - Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ, [a]' and will deceive many."

RED HORSE – You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

BLACK HORSE - There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. (War and Famine is followed by pestilence) - PALE GREEN. All these are the beginning of birth pains.

***Rev. 6:1-2 - Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals;[a] and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, “Come and see.”2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.***

First Seal – White Horse – Anti Christ makes himself in peace (Bow no arrow) - Satan is always masquerading as an angel of light. Peace is temporary and counterfeit.

Some see this as Christ referenced in Psalm 45 and Rev 19 in the end on a white horse. However, this is not Christ. Let's look at his second coming is clearly described in Revelation 19:11-16.

***Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had[e] a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.***

Satan never plays fair. He comes in white with a crown. He comes to steal, kill and destroy. Satan comes masquerading as an angel of light, and now that the Holy Spirit is not restraining evil, he impersonates the Lord himself.

**What is more dangerous an obvious evil person or one who deceives looking as pure clean trustworthy?** He is going to be so smooth that (without discernment from the Holy Spirit) you would probably let your kids sleep over at his house!

**Rev. 6:3-4 - When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come and see.” Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.**

Second Seal is shown as the Red Horse, Fiery Red representing War (Real World War III or beyond).

The danger here is to try to put the future prophecy in the past to explain it already happened. There are a thousand different interpretations for each of the seals, trumpets and the bowls; however, if you just follow the book of Revelation in the order the Lord gave it then you know that is the future. For instance, Revelation 5:13 has not happened yet, or did all of creation including the fish and turtles sing out to Jesus and we missed it?

**Do you think the enemy is using this popular historical interpretation view of the Great Tribulation to steal people's hope today? What are you going to do in light of this?**

**Rev. 6:5-6 - When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come and see.” So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.”**

The third seal is black (Jer 4:28) which speaks of speaks of mourning (Malachi 3:14) and famine (Lam 4:8) which always follows war. The wheat and barley here speak that there will only be enough for a soldier – not his family. The oil speaks to luxury and beauty aids and the wine to the rich. They will still have plenty.

**Why do you think God allowed for the judgment to come on the necessities, but not the luxuries?**

In America, this is hard to relate to given that even our homeless generally have cell phones. The picture here is clear though. The rich and those in power will be fine. In fact, they will still live it up, but for the rest only the soldier will be given regular food rations.

**Rev. 6:7-8 - When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, “Come and see.” So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.**

The fourth seal is Death represented by Pale Green which speaks of pestilence and disease. There are many possible interpretations, but one maybe Germ warfare.

**Why did the Lord limits this to ¼ of the earth?** Jesus is clearly showing restraint and grace, so that all have an opportunity to believe in Him and be saved. No one is sent to Hell, but many freely choose by denying their Lord and Savior. As C.S. Lewis put it in one of his famous quotes: *There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, “Thy Will be done,” and those to whom God says, “All right, then, have it your way.”*

**Rev. 6: 9-11 - When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.**

The fifth seal is the prayer of the martyred remnant. This is those slain the tribulation and possibly all saints slain. The White Robe speaks righteous of Christ – Speaks of rest and peace. The Tribulation saints are to be included with the Old Testament saints in round two of the first resurrection.

Resurrection explained: The first resurrection and the second resurrection are described in Revelation chapter 20. Don't be deceived. The first resurrection is speaking to the resurrection of all of God's people. It is not a single event in one point in time. The chosen people (Israel) are separated from the church which has the promise of the rapture (Rev. 3:10). Jesus was the first to be resurrected per scripture "first fruits" but the apostles well knew that Enoch, Elijah, Lazarus and others were resurrected prior to Jesus. The second resurrection, however, stands in contrast as an event which is a single point in time. The second resurrection is specific for the dead (2<sup>nd</sup> death Rev. 20:14) those who never accepted the Lord and will stand in judgment at the White Throne.

**Rev. 6:12-13 - *I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.***

The sixth seal seems to be a transition and this likely marks the beginning of the last 3.5 years of the Great Tribulation. This is described as a Great Earthquake. When you consider that over the last 4,000 year, more than 13 million people have died in earthquakes<sup>3</sup>, how large of an earth do you think this is?

**Rev. 6:14 - *Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.***

Sometimes in Revelation you just need to take what it say literally. This same scene is described in Nah1:5 and again in chapter 20, verse Rev 20:11.

**Rev. 6:15-17 - *And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"***

Wrath of the Lamb – Paradox – a proposition that seems contrary to perceived opinion. The Lord is almost always depicted as a Lamb. Lamb denotes meekness, harmless, humble, and gentle not fear!

- We have all seen "Beware of Dog" signs, but have you have seen "Beware of Lamb" sign?

Wrath & Lamb go together like fire and water. Or do they, Jesus is a paradox - both in His parables and when He cleared the Temple with whips and cursed the fig tree.

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<sup>3</sup> Professor R. A. Daley, in his book *Our Mobile Earth*.

## Chapter 7

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2. 7 trumpets (including 2 witness)
3. 7 Bowls of Wrath
4. Babylon Falls - First and Last Judgment of Babylon Gen 11 & Rev 17-18

**Chapter 19** – Armageddon - Wedding Supper & Great Supper of God

**Chapter 20** – Millennium, then Satan and the Dead’s final Doom

**Chapter 21** - New Earth and Heaven

**Chapter 22** – Closing

As we enter the 7th Chapter, God saves a remnant of Israel and a Multitude of Gentiles from every nation and tongue.

Naturally, at the point we have seen the four horses and martyrs die, ¼ population of the earth, and one might ask, God is a God of grace also, right? **What about the people in this period will any be saved?**

He provided a sacrifice for Adam & Eve in Garden, boat for Noah, parted the seas and rivers Israel, walked among the lamb stands for the church age. **Where is his Grace now?**

All further action is halted (See Rev 7:3), until His witnesses are sealed. We don’t know how they are sealed either physically with a mark or by His Holy Spirit.

**What about the Holy Spirit isn’t it removed in this period with the rapture?**

**How can someone be saved without the Holy Spirit?**

Before Pentecost – Holy Spirit was with Believers Psalm 51:11 David’s Prayer (Don’t take your Holy Spirit from me) At and after Pentecost – Holy is dwelt in us.

Much as he came at Pentecost he will leave at the appointed time with church that he dwelt in. He is not removed. He is omnipresent and part of the God head. It is not possible; however, He no longer dwells “in” believers on earth just “with” believers as in the Old Testament.

**Why would God restrain the Holy Spirit? How have hard times affected you and your faith?**

**Will the heat and the winds of Judgment Melt hearts or harden them? Can God have a period of time where people have no way to turn to Him?**

*Read 2 Thessalonians 2-12 - Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our assembling to meet him, we beg you, brethren, not to be quickly shaken in mind or excited, either by spirit or by word, or by letter purporting to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you this? And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, and the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by his appearing and his coming. The coming of the lawless one by the activity of Satan will be with all power and with pretended signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are to perish, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Therefore God sends upon them a strong delusion, to make them believe what is false, so that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

## Chapter 7 – Expository

Remember, To the Church of Philadelphia, he promised they would not go through it. Rev 3:10

*Rev. 7:1-3 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree. Then I saw another angel ascend from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God upon their foreheads.”*

4 corners of the Earth (N, S, E, W) - 5th Angel must be high ranking giving orders with Greek Word for Great Voice (Megaphone)

### Why Seal the 144k?

Can they make it through tribulation without being sealed by God?

How can God fulfill His promises to the Children of Israel without sealing them?

Matthew 24:21-22 “days shortened for the elect”

Matthew 24:14 Witnesses to all Nations before the end.

### Rev. 7:4-7

*“And I heard the number of the sealed, a hundred and forty-four thousand sealed, out of every tribe of the sons of Israel, twelve thousand sealed out of the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand of the tribe of Reuben, twelve thousand of the tribe of Gad, twelve thousand of the tribe of Asher, twelve thousand of the tribe of Naph'tali, twelve thousand of the tribe of Manas'seh, twelve thousand of the tribe of Simeon, twelve thousand of the tribe of Levi, twelve thousand of the tribe of Is'sachar, twelve thousand of the tribe of Zeb'u'lun, twelve thousand of the tribe of Joseph, twelve thousand sealed out of the tribe of Benjamin.”*

Notice: Lord always deals with Israel as a remnant and speaks of dates and numbers. The same is not the case for the Gentiles. After Pentecost, there is no mention of numbers in the church.

There are two great nations: remnant of Israel and mass multitudes of Gentiles that can't be counted...

**Notice the list of tribes of Israel is different here than in the original 12 – See Numbers 1:5-15.  
What two tribes are missing, and who replaced them, and why?**

**Answer:**

Dan and Ephraim have been substituted for Joseph & Levi. These two tribes led Israel into Idolatry. Therefore, were not assessed by God to be worthy to be witnesses in the end. Millennium yes, Witnesses no.

Similar to: Ruben (Gen 49:4) did not receive the double blessing of the first born and the rights that came with it because of his transgression. Yet, he was not excluded as tribe of Israel.

Dan and Ephraim fell into idolatry and led Israel into idolatry.

Dan History with Idolatry: Dut 29:18-21, 1Kings 12:28-30 Jeroboam made Israel Sin. Some say the AntiChrist will come out of Dan (Gen 49:17).

Ephraim History with Idolatry: Hosea 4:17-19 Ephraim joined with Idols...1 Kings 11:26 Ephraim led divisions in Israel. Both included in Millennium Ezekiel 48 describes their allotment in the future. God will remember His promise for Israel to live in the land forever.

**Now that you know the cost to the tribes of Dan and Ephraim, how important is it that we protect ourselves and our families from having a heart that turns to Idolatry?**

***Hosea 4:11-14 Wine and new wine take away the understanding. My people inquire of a thing of wood, and their staff gives them oracles. For a spirit of harlotry has led them astray, and they have left their God to play the harlot. They sacrifice on the tops of the mountains, and make offerings upon the hills, under oak, poplar, and terebinth, because their shade is good. Therefore your daughters play the harlot, and your brides commit adultery. I will not punish your daughters when they play the harlot, nor your brides when they commit adultery; for the men themselves go aside with harlots, and sacrifice with cult prostitutes, and a people without understanding shall come to ruin.***

**Do you find this description of the Idolatry that Ephraim fell into like what we face today?**

Back to our scene in Revelation, for those who say this is a dark book full of God's wrath. Let's see His extraordinary grace that pours out on the "tribulation saints."

***Rev. 7:9-12 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen."***

Gentiles too many to count every nation, tongue and tribe. **What a great day of Salvation?** More saved then probably then the past 4,000 years combined. Can you imagine it? On earth, it appears evil is winning. The just are slain and the evil is not restrained, but as Jesus says "For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake, he will save it." Luke 9:24.

Article / Activity	Meaning
White Robes	Righteous of Christ, Peace
Palm Branches	This denotes victory which is ironically found in their death.
Saints Worship	Worship is based on what Christ has done! Salvation the lamb!
Angels Worship	Worship is based on who Christ is! wisdom, power and strength

**Rev. 7: 13-14 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and whence have they come?” 14 I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

**What do you think was going through John’s mind when the Elder asked him who these people were and where the white robes came from?**

He did not have a clue who they were. Notice, the elders (24 Old & New Testament saints) were already there, and it is they who explain the identity of the mix multitude. If this mixed multitude was the Church, would not John have recognized them?

If you were next door, and heard a conversation through the wall on 2 people talking. Hi Bob, Hey Bob, this and that 19 times, and then you heard Hi Bill, Hey Bill this and that. Would you suppose Bob had left the room? There has been no mention of the Church since the end of Chapter 3- logically, it has left the Earth.

1 Corinthians 10:31-33 – The human race is divided into 3 categories: Jews, Greeks (Gentiles) & Church of God. Revelation Chapter 7 mentions all three: Jews (144k & tribes), Greeks (Mix Multitude) and Church of God (represented by the 24 Elders). Jesus Said I have other Sheep. The tribulation saints are not the church.

**If the Church went through the tribulation, would it not be like beating up on your bride right before the wedding?**

Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night within his temple; and he who sits upon the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

**Rev. 7:15-17 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”**

This references some of what they must have undergone in the tribulation...Hunger, thirst, scorching heat and many tears. This maybe at the end of the Tribulation when the saints remained faithful to the end and martyred.

## Chapter 8

### Introduction:

The pattern has been set a parenthetical explanation between 6th in a series of 7. Then when the 7th seal is opened it starts the new series of 7.

### Four Series of Sevens

7 Seals – Judgment for Man's Willful Activity

7 trumpets – Judgment via Direct activity of God

7 Personalities - direct result of Satan's fight against God. Satan will be drawn out in the open.

7 Bowls of Wrath – Final Judgment direct response to both Satan's and Man's Rebellion.

*The 7 trumpets represent the announcements of increasing intensity of Judgments building to the bowls. The first four trumpets are targeted at Earth's ecology and the woe trumpets (remaining 3) involve demonic destruction to come upon man.*

Understand at this time when the Restrainer has been removed – the days will be like Ephesus and Rome, orgies & idols will be everywhere.

This section greatly parallels the plagues in Egypt. If you believe the plagues in Egypt were literal plagues, then I don't think you can explain this away as all symbolic imagery or that it already happened. Remember, if it is symbolic. Symbols represent a fact or reality that is usually greater than the symbol being used.

***Rev. 8:1-2 When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. 2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.***

Only certain angels standing before God. This is likely Seraphim [Isaiah 6 six-winged angels depicted as flying around the throne saying Holy, Holy, Holy"] and Gabriel (One of only three Angels mentioned by name he is said to be the Angel of the Lord [Luke 1:11] and visited Mary at Christ birth).

### Why is there this strange silence?

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. | The 6 <sup>th</sup> Seal was the great earthquake where men cried out, and possibly God wanted a pause for them to repent. |
| 2. | The Judgment of the Trumpets is so severe a direct Judgment by God that silence is the only response.                      |
| 3. | The prayers of the saints (Rev 8:4) that enter the throne room stop down Heaven for 30 minutes.                            |

**Application: Do you treat prayer as serious as God does? How can this change your prayer life?**

**What is the difference between a Trumpet reference in the New Testament and the Old Testament?**

**How do I not assume that the last trump (1 Cor 15:51-52) is not the seventh trumpet in Revelation?**

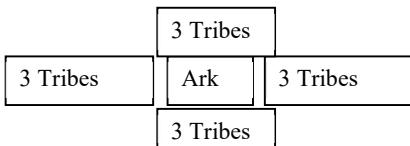
**Are there seven trumpets referenced in the bible outside of Revelation?**

**Let's study trumpet references in the Old Testament and the New Testament...**

New Testament (20)	Meaning	Old Testament (92)	Meaning
Matthew 6:2	Don't sound a trumpet before you give your offering!	Exodus 19:13	Long Blast of Trumpet and God's people could come to the Mountain
Matthew 24:31	With a loud trumpet call the elect will be gathered.	Numbers 10:2	Two silver trumpets for summoning the congregation and breaking camp.
1 Cor 15:52	At the last Trumpet, the dead will rise and we will be changed.	Numbers 10:9	Sound an alarm with a trumpet and remember your God and He will save you from your enemies.
1 Thes 4:16	The Lord Himself, will command with the trump of God, and we will be caught up in the clouds	Joshua 6	Seven trumpets Seven priest and the walls of Jericho fall in Seven days.
Hebrews 12:18-19	You have rejected Grace (Christ) the trumpet of God.	Judges 7	Gideon uses the Trumpet in War and God delivers.
Rev 1:10	Christ voice like a Trumpet	Nehemiah 4:20	When the trumpet sounds rally there.
		Psalm 47:5	God has gone up with shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
		Ezekiel 33:4-5	If you hear the sound of the Trumpet and do not take heed, your blood will be upon your own head.
		Zech 9:14	The Lord will appear over them, and God will sound the trumpet.

Note: Many of the other Old Testament reference of the Trumpet were with the announcement or entrance of a King which also naturally fits in this context.

7 trumpets have a special meaning. It took 7 trumpets to move the 12 tribes in the Wilderness. 1 for each of the four camps and 3 for the separate tribe of Levi that carried the ark.



Just as it took seven trumpets to move Israel into the promise land, once again it will take 7 trumpets to move them into the Millennium.

**After studying the trumpets, can you see that there is a clear difference in the use of the trumpet in the Old and New Testament? This clearly confirms the seven trumpets are not intended for the church.**

***Rev. 8:3-6 Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake. So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.***

Christ is not walking among the lamb stands, and notice an Angel is now holding the prayers of the saints. After seven trumpets, like Jericho the walls of opposition to Christ will fall.

**What is the Old Testament context of the censor?** The smoke of incense went before God. The High Priest would go into the Holy of Holies carrying a censor to ask for atonement once a year. Now, the Censor with the fire will come from God and will be hurled at an unrepentant world that rejects Christ.

**What was the significance in incense in worship in the tabernacle? How do you apply that today?**

**Why would this instrument of worship be used for judgment? Has God given you anything that He intended to be used in for His glory that you misused?**

**What do the thunder, rumblings, lightnings represent?**

The wrath and Judgment is not as much for sin as rejecting Christ.

Thunders – coming storm of Judgment

Voces – God's directives not simply nature

Lightning – is mentioned after thunder – violating a law of nature - man may know this is direct Judgment.

**Rev. 8:7 The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.**

The first trumpet clearly follows creation in Genesis 1:11 where the plant life and seas both created on third day. The earth itself is now judged by hail, fire and blood covering a 1/3 of the earth. **Is there a parallel with Exodus 9 the plagues on Egypt?** Read Exodus 9:25.

**Why just a 1/3 of the earth? Why use fire for Judgment? Why not Flood? Do you believe in the literal plagues of Egypt? If so, should you not believe in the literal trumpets in Revelation?**

**Rev. 8:8-9 Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.**

The second trumpet mentions like a Great Mountain (Greek – Great Mass or force as if it were a Great Mountain burning with fire) Thrown into the sea. 1/3 of the sea turns to blood, 1/3 of the creatures died, 1/3 of the ships destroyed. This follows in order Genesis 1:9-10 (3<sup>rd</sup> day of Creation Seas). The mountain must represents something very real – Meteor? **Does this fulfill the prophecy in Jeremiah 51:25 Babylon behold against thee a destroying mountain?**

**Jer 51:25** "Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, Who destroys all the earth," says the LORD. "And I will stretch out My hand against you, Roll you down from the rocks, And make you a burnt mountain.

**Rev. 8:10-11 Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. 11 The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> trumpet depicts a Great Star falling upon Waters Named "Wormwood" contaminating drinking water. A meteor or a comet that maybe disintegrates as it enters the atmosphere and scatters globally. The effect is a poison that strikes at 1/3 of the water supply paralleling the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of Creation.

Wormwood – Word Study: What does it mean? How is it used in scripture?

Dut 29:18 – Idolatry	Jer 9:15 - Calamity	Lam 3:15 – Sorrow	Amos 5:17 – False Judgment
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Wormwood suggests this is judgment on man is for Idolatry and false judgment and it will cause certain calamity and sorrows. Wormwood is also defined by John MacArthur as a bitter poisonous substance, derived from a root that causes drunkenness and eventually death. Bitter waters are also mentioned with Israel and Moses coming to Mara. God instructed Moses to throw a tree into the waters and turn them sweet (Exodus 15:22-25). The tree of course speaks of the cross.

***Rev. 8:12 Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.***

The 4<sup>th</sup> trumpet strikes 1/3 of the Sun, Moon and Stars. 1/3 less day and 1/3 night and likely 1/3 intensity or heat from the Sun. Jesus spoke of this in Matt 24:29 – Parallels Genesis 4<sup>th</sup> Day of Creation where the light from the sun is set to rule day, and the Moon and stars are set to govern the night (the calendar basis).

### **What would be the impact on earth of a 1/3 less day and night and intensity or heat from the Sun?**

The 1/3 reduction in heat from the Sun alone will cause radical changes to meteorological, botanical and biologic cycles in the earth, but it is only temporary. Global warning crowd has not apparently looked into this one.

***Rev. 8:13 And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, “Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!”***

What bible translation are you reading? NKJV says Angel and NIV says Eagle. The Greek in the early manuscripts differ slightly on this word. In the last 30 years, we more transcripts being restored it appears that “eagle” is mentioned about 20 to 1. Can an Eagle speak? Can a parrot? Who are we to limit God? Lord said where Carcasses gather so shall be the eagle (Matthew 24:28).

WOE, WOE, WOE - Three remaining trumpets are called the Woe trumpets – Weird and Wild some of the most difficult to interpret.

Some believe all trumpet judgments are in the last 3.5 years of tribulation, but most all agree the woe trumpets are clearly in this timeframe. The duration of each trump judgment is undefined except for the fifth trump which is limited to 5 months. Per what we have covered, if you are in the Church of God, you will not be here. However, this is strong motivation to make sure our non-believers join us and escape the coming period.

### **What are you going to do with your knowledge of Revelation?**

### **What are the consequences of not speaking up about Revelation and letting the world define it?**

### **Are you going to let Christ work through you and let this book be reason, hope and light to the lost?**

1 John 4:18 (New International Version) – “There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.”

## Chapter 9

*Rev 9:1 Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.*

**What is the Abyss?** The bottomless pit refers to a place of the greatest torment and isolation where some of the demonic hordes are incarcerated - Per John MacArthur. Luke 8:30 - Demons begged not to go to the abyss.

### What is the relationship between God's judgement and his grace?

*2 Peter 2:4-9 (New Living Translation)*

*For God did not spare even the angels who sinned. He threw them into hell, in gloomy pits of darkness, where they are being held until the day of judgment. And God did not spare the ancient world—except for Noah and the seven others in his family. Noah warned the world of God's righteous judgment. So God protected Noah when he destroyed the world of ungodly people with a vast flood. Later, God condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and turned them into heaps of ashes. He made them an example of what will happen to ungodly people. But God also rescued Lot out of Sodom because he was a righteous man who was sick of the shameful immorality of the wicked people around him. Yes, Lot was a righteous man who was tormented in his soul by the wickedness he saw and heard day after day. So you see, the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials, even while keeping the wicked under punishment until the day of final judgment.*

### Who is this star?

- Isaiah 14:12 - 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!
- Luke 10:18 - He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."
- 2 Cor 11:14 and no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.
- Rev 12: 7-9 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. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

**What about the key?** Key symbolizes authority given to Satan. Reference Job 1:12 & 2:16 God limits Satan.

**Rev 9:2 And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.**

This is a literal smog from the abyss will make LA will clear, and I suspect the earth will be darken by from this vile smoke rising from the pit.

**Rev 9:3-4 Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.**

1915 Locust Plague Accounts: ‘We saw them coming as a great cloud flying across the sky and then they swarmed by millions about Ras Beirut. They look like giant flakes of snow being driven along by the wind over your head’. Antun Yamin, writing about Lebanon, noted that ‘on the 9th of April [1915] we could not see the sun that day. Gigantic locusts blocked out all vision... for an entire week they blocked out all sunlight’. A Beirut newspaper likewise commented: ‘the view of the locusts yesterday afternoon was terrifyingly dreadful. The army of locusts spread out in our sky, layer on top of layer, a wonder of God almighty’s ability’. Yusuf Al-Haddad from Lebanon wrote that the locusts descended from the sky ‘as if the sea itself has gushed forth on to earth...the land dried up as if the clocks turned spring back to fall...on top of every lowland, tree and plant, all we could see was an abhorrent layer of yellow[locusts]’. Margaret McGilvray compared the ‘whirling winged forms’ to driving in a snowstorm, ‘only in this case the mammoth flakes were yellow and black’ 500,000 people in Syria died of starvation. 536,000 tons of food were destroyed in a few month.

Source:[www.academia.edu/10231965/\\_The\\_1915\\_Locust\\_Attack\\_in\\_Syria\\_and\\_Palestine\\_and\\_its\\_Role\\_in\\_the\\_Famine\\_During\\_the\\_First\\_World\\_War\\_Middle\\_Eastern\\_Studies\\_51\\_3\\_2015\\_370-394](http://www.academia.edu/10231965/_The_1915_Locust_Attack_in_Syria_and_Palestine_and_its_Role_in_the_Famine_During_the_First_World_War_Middle_Eastern_Studies_51_3_2015_370-394)

### **Why are these not normal locus or any previous biblical locus plague like in Egypt?**

1. Unlike all other locust they don’t eat vegetation.
2. These locust have a king, and the bible clearly states locust have no king (Prov. 30:27).
3. The scriptures clearly state there will be no locus like the plague in Egypt (Exo 10:14).
4. They are described as literal creatures “like” (used 9 times) a lion, horse, scorpion and man.

***Rev 9:5-6 And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.***

This judgment is limited to 5 months and clearly on those not sealed, so the 144k and their disciples are the two groups spared. The sting may not kill man for possibly two reasons: either Satan was limited or Satan did not allow his troops to die because he need them to fight later.

Scorpions Sting – A scorpion’s victim often rolls on the ground in agony, foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth in pain. The demons in locust form are able to inflict the Physical and perhaps spiritual pain like that of a scorpion. Many scorpions have neurotoxins attacking the nervous system.

Signs and symptoms in children who have been stung by a bark scorpion include:

- Pain, which can be intense, numbness and tingling in the area around the sting, but little or no swelling
- Muscle twitching or thrashing
- Unusual head, neck and eye movements
- Drooling
- Sweating
- Restlessness or excitability and sometimes inconsolable crying

***Rev 9:7-8 The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. They had hair like women’s hair, and their teeth were like lions’ teeth.***

Locusts look like horses. – Note in German the word for locust means hay horse and in Italian it means little horse. Lions Teeth (Reference Joel Chapter 1), Their Antenna or bristles maybe like a woman's hair (Jer 51:27). Faces may denote rational and intelligent beings.

**Rev 9:9-11 And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months. And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.**

There has been speculation that these are modern day war planes or helicopters; however, if you believe that these locust literally come out of the abyss as described in Revelation 9:2-4, then you will have difficulty in reconciling this theory with the bible. The creatures apparently are invulnerable to attack. Abaddon or Apollo (Hebrew or Greek) means destroyer. Probably, this is Satan's most trusted angels and the head of the bottomless pit.

**How evil do you think the head angel of the bottomless pit is?**

**Rev 9:12 One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.**

Is this a ray of sunshine? Let's review. The bottomless pit has been opened, Satan has come to earth with new authority, the earth was darkened by the smog from the pit, and demonic locust are torturing the inhabitants of earth. **Why did God limit the judgment on man?**

**Rev 9:13-14 Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."**

**Who is the voice now at the horns on the golden altar (as mentioned in Rev. 8:3 Incense for prayer)?**

**Why would angels need to be bound? Would good angels need to be bound? Who would be capable of binding Angels?**

**Why the river Euphrates?**

Euphrates is key in scripture: This is where:

Garden of Eden - one of four rivers	Flood began
1 <sup>st</sup> Murder	Tower of Babel
Sin Entered Earth	Babylonian captivity for Israel
Spawned many of the world's pagan religions	Dividing point for East and West (China and the West)

**Rev 9:15-17 So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone.**

Four Angels prepared to kill 1/3 of the population. Note 1/4 is already gone, so now we are well over 1/2 the population of the earth. Based on today's population of 7.5 billion that mean over 4.375 billion dead by the

conclusion of the 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet. Matthew 24:22 says “unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved, but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.”

## 200 million mounted troops, but what are they?

Men, Demons, New Technology. Let's look at what we know.

1. The bottomless pit full of demons has been opened.
2. The colors of red, blue and yellow are not your typical military uniforms.
3. Human army out of the East is referenced in the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet not now.
4. The Woe trumpets have had a common theme which is demonic, they are likely either literal demons or under demonic control.

**Rev 9:18-19 By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.**

Notice, all three plagues are referred to specifically as fire, smoke, and brimstone. **Who kills the inhabitants of the earth the riders or the horses?**

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*Believers Bible Commentary* says: ‘It is worth noticing that death is inflicted by the horses, not the riders. One writer suggests that the mighty army of horsemen might symbolize ‘some irresistible delusion of the devil, coming from the East.’ Hamilton Smith says: ‘Their power is in their mouth’ may indicate that this delusion will be presented with all the persuasive eloquence of speech. But behind the delusion is the power of Satan, symbolized by their tails being like serpents.’”

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**Rev 9:20-21 But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.**

## Why do they not repent?

### Homework:

1. Look up the different translations for Rev 9:21 and read the commentaries or foot notes and tell me what meaning or truth we may miss if you only read the NIV bible.
2. Read Isaiah 13. What additional insight does Isaiah provide to this time period?

Answer to Homework Rev 9:21: Some translations use sorcery which in the Greek is Pharmacia- meaning Drugs where we get our English word Pharmacy.

Drugs will serve the following purposes:

- Drugs will help them bear the judgements. Likely, many will turn to drugs to ease pain of the scorpion stings alone.
- Drugs will likely be a religion of sorts. People will turn to drugs instead of God.
- Drugs tend to intensify sin. We see today the recreation use of ED (erectile dysfunction) medication.

Many drugs will become even more commonplace accepted, promoted, free of any social judgment. Probably, the opposite will occur in that there will be pressure to partake. If you choose to "Just say No" and be drug free, you will be like Daniel who chose not to partake in the king's food. The same type of pressure and risk to your very life may occur.

The culture will be much worse than Las Vegas. It will be much more like Babylon or Ephesus. The Devil's task to deceive will be much easier when the population is drugged. This is much the same as when you go to dig up a bush or a large plant in the yard. If you try to do that in August in Texas, when it has not rained in a month the task looks near impossible. But the same bush, can be relatively easily pulled after a week solid of spring rains to soften the soil. Drugs will serve the same purpose loosening our roots to reason and allowing us to fall for the strong delusions that will come. Paul referenced this in 2 Thes. 2:9-12. As originally coined in World War II, "If you stand for nothing and you will fall for anything!" Judgment will come for those who reject Christ!

## Chapter 10

### Where are we now?

**Chapter 1** – John's Vision – Jesus in Glory – The one who keeps the lamb stands burning - What he sees

**Chapters 2-3** - Church Ages – History - The Things that are, Then, the Things After these Things:

**Chapter 4** - Throne – Some Say the Rapture? No further reference of the church. Great Worship – 4 creatures because of Who Jesus is & the 24 elders for what he has done.

**Chapter 5** – Lion and the Lamb, The Title Deed Book for earth, Redeemer, initially seated then Standing in Judgment.

**Chapters 6 – 18** – The Great Tribulation -

- 3. Opens with 7 seals (including 144,000 – 12 tribes)
- 4. 7 trumpets (including 2 witness)
- 5. 7 Bowls of Wrath
- 6. Babylon Falls - First and Last Judgment of Babylon Gen 11 & Rev 17-18

**Chapter 19** – Armageddon - Wedding Supper & Great Supper of God

**Chapter 20** – Millennium, then Satan and the Dead's final Doom

**Chapter 21** - New Earth and Heaven

**Chapter 22** – Closing

As you know, we have made it from the Vision of Christ, The Church period, the Rapture in Chapt 4 (as many believe), The 7 seals including a pause to seal 144k between the sixth and seventh seal, and now we are in the trumpet judgments. The first four were targeted primarily at creation (vegetation, sea, rivers (fresh water – wormwood) and the sun). The last 3 trumpets are the Woe Trumpets (remember the Angel flying in heaven saying to the people on earth – Woe! Woe! Woe! Last week, we covered the Locust coming from the bottomless pit and the 200M army with fire, smoke and brimstone. Now, we have one woe left – the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet. However, as we saw with the seals we will have a break in the action between the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup> in the series in order to accomplish His purposes. Chapter 10 – continues the patterns set with an interlude or pause in the action for explanation or another camera angle to explain the action more completely. Like in the seals where between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> seal the two groups (144,000 and the Tribulation Saints) were sealed and redeemed. Now, we have three personalities introduced – the Mighty Angel and the 2 witnesses.

***Revelation 10:1 I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire.***

### **Who is this mighty Angel?**

Disagreement on the Identity of this Mighty Angel – Basically, there are two camps. Some say Christ and others say a “Very Mighty Angel.” This angel is either Christ or came from the throne with Christ’s scroll (the little book). My view is that is a mighty Angel not Christ Himself. In the Old Testament is the only time you see Christ described as an Angel - “Angel of the Lord”. Once He came to Earth, he is not depicted in the New Testament as an Angel. Also, this verse begins with Another Angel. Indicating that is angel is similar in some way to the previous Angels. Christ could not fit that description as another Angel.

This Angel likely came with the glow of being in Christ’s presence. Clothed in a cloud just as described in Christ Second coming but just as in His first coming the Angels came to announce him in the Clouds...

The Rainbow is a reminder of His covenant and even in Judgment, His grace remains.

His face was like the sun. Glorious signature of Christ, but like Moses this Angelic being could be reflecting the rama of the Glory of Christ from being in his presence. Note: Luke 24:4 – even the Animals shown with the rama of the Lord. Feet like fire. Judgment – Purification just like shoes that was part of this Angel’s uniform to do what he was called.

***Revelation 10:2-3 He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.***

**What book is this referring to that is open? Why do you think it is called “little”?**

Little Book - is the sealed book is the only one mentioned in Revelations – Little because it only covers 7 years, so it does not have to a big book. Romans 9:28 “...the Lord will make short work upon the Earth.” This is likely the scroll from Rev Chapter 5 that is opened and was the one in God’s Hand that Jesus was the only one worthy to take.

**What does the imagery represent? Clothed in a cloud, Rainbow, Face like the Sun, feet like pillars of fire, setting his right foot on the sea and left on the earth.**

Lev. 25:23 Land should not be sold forever for the land is mine says the Lord....Psalm 6:8 – God made the land and seas and Man in Authority over it – not owner...God owns the Earth. Columbus came to America and placed a flag to claim it. US put a flag on the Moon. Christ put a cross on it, and now the Angel under Christ’s authority, places a foot on both the sea and the earth claiming both for the Lord.

**Who or what are the seven thunders?**

Read Job 37:4-5 and Psalm 29:3. Based on scripture, the seven thunders are likely the voice of Christ, and they are intelligent – hence John was going to write them down.

The book is then given to John who is to eat it. The book is the title deed to the World – Jesus paid the price and is worthy. He is given the World. This book opens the judgments and events that must take place to put Jesus on the thrown ruling in Earth. – Millennium. Jesus said Man does not live by bread alone, but every word that proceeds from God. So, Jesus is instructing John to chew, understand and digest this

***Revelation 10:4-5 Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them.”***

**Why is John instructed not to write them down and keep it sealed? What is the implication for us today? Do you expect God to reveal many things to you today?**

John was asked not to write what is said and to seal this. No one knows what this is. In spite of many guesses, it is sealed by the Christ, so no one knows. Lesson here is God is sovereign, so some things are simply not for us to know. This is the essence of faith. God does not tell you everything. He expects you have a faith. As you will recall it all started that way with Abraham when his faith was credited to righteousness (Romans 4:9).

***Revelation 10:5-7 The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer, but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.***

**Do you find it odd the angel takes an oath by Heaven and earth and He who lives forever? Could this angel really be Christ?**

Note, the Angel swore by heaven. This cannot be Christ. Hebrews 6:13 – “He could swear by no one greater, He swore by himself.” Also, notice John did not fall on the ground and worship the Mighty Angel – yet another point that leads us to believe the mighty angel is not Jesus. These are like your kids in backseat asking are we there yet? Now, it is the Saints again (remember this occurred back in Rev. 6:9-11), and the Angel swears no more delays.

**What is the mystery of God?** There are mysteries that we will not know till we are there in Heaven, but we can know the Lord today.

**Revelation 10:8-10** *Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, “Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth.” So I went to the angel and said to him, “Give me the little book.” And he said to me, “Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth.” Then I took the little book out of the angel’s hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. And he said to me, “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.”*

**Who's voice is this? Where did it come from? What book is this? Do you recall the scroll in Revelation Chapter 5? Who is worthy to open it? Do you think eating up the book is literal? What did Jesus say to the Devil when tempted to turn a stone into bread?**

The command to “Go take the book” was given from Heaven probably order by Christ or Christ is talking. John now becomes a participant in the future. Eating is receiving the Word of God by Faith. Man does not live by bread alone but every word proceeding from the Mouth of God (Det 8:3).

**Why is the book Sweet in the mouth and Bitter in the Belly?**

**When you read God's word and fully digest correctly is it sometimes sweet in the mouth and bitter in the belly?**

## Chapter 11

Interlude or a time of explanation is continued between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> event.

Here we will see 42 months half of the 7 year Tribulation. – foreshadowing of God dealing with the Nation of Israel, 2 witnesses, signs, plagues, judgments, martyrs, resurrection, ascension to Heaven, the doom of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Woe, earthquakes, lighting thunder, hailstorms, a glimpse into the millennium and the blowing of the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet which will usher the return of Christ and symbolize moving Israel to the Millennium.

**Revelation 11:1-2** *Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, “Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.*

Measurements are always a signal God is dealing with Israel. The Rod can mean judgment in Psalm 2:9 or comfort in Psalm 23:4.

**What end of God's rod are you feeling now? Comfort or Judgment?**

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### **What end of God's rod are you feeling now? Comfort or Judgment?**

The New Testament never mentions the temple. This only mentioned in the Old Testament. Note only the holy places are measured and each individual worshiper is counted. The outer court is not measured.

**What is the outer court of the Temple and why would it not be counted?** According to Mathew Henry's Commentary, the outer court was believed to be built by Herod and it was called the court of the Gentiles. The temple design given by God to Solomon and Zerubbabel never included an outer court.

**Should a church have an outer court or a place where those who are not true worshipers can gather and partake in church? What are the pros and cons on this? Is there any danger to the church? Do you think some churches outer court has crossed over and now there is no difference between it and the "temple"?**

### **Where do you stand? Are you a back row Baptist or outer court Jew? Can God count you?**

It is not good enough to be in the outer court with your relationship with Christ. The day will come where you will be counted. You need to know that you know that you will be counted as a worshiper. Don't base your eternal destiny on I am a good person, or I think I will be counted as long as I am in the outer court.

**Ask yourself, where I am in this story? Am I with the 24 elders? Am I in the Temple of God? Am I in the outer court? Am I gloating and celebrating with the inhabitants of the earth? Now, ask yourself where your family and friends are in this story?**

***Revelation 11:3-5 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.” These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God[b] of the earth. And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.***

Lampstands & Olive Trees - Once again scripture decodes the symbols for us. Zechariah 4: 2-3, 11-14 – These two are anointed to serve the Lord of all the earth.” Note: The Greek word for Witnesses is Marquise our word in English is Martyr.

**How do the Witnesses get their power? Zechariah 4:6 – “Not by might nor by power but by my Spirit says the Lord Almighty.”**

### Why are there two witnesses?

According to the Law, two or more witnesses are required. (Det 17:6 & Matt 18:16)

### What do we know about these two witnesses?

*Seven leading characteristics that must be satisfied in the identification of the witnesses upon any theory:*

- (1) They are witnesses of Christ
- (2) They are two in number
- (3) They are endowed with miraculous powers
- (4) They are symbolically represented by the two olive trees and the two candlesticks seen in the vision of Zechariah
- (5) They prophesy in sackcloth, i.e., their message is one of woe (to repent);
- (6) They die a violent death in the city, and their dead bodies are treated with ignominy
- (7) After three days and a half they rise from the dead, and are taken up to heaven.

**Why should it matter to you that God will send Two Witnesses to carry His message through the roughest time in the great tribulation?**

**Who are the two witnesses?** To quote the disciples, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." Moses, James, Peter and others.

Elijah	Stopped the rain was at the Mount of Transfigurations, Elijah's coming was promised in Malachi 4:5–6 – Elijah called fire from Heaven. Matthew 17:11 says Elijah must come first and restore all things. Elijah did not die. Therefore, some claim he will need to come back to fulfill Hebrews 9:27. Elijah stopped the rain.
Enoch	He did not die so he would be in the list of possibilities given Hebrews 9:27. Also, one of the gospels that did not make the cannon of scripture the Gospel of Nicodemus identifies Elijah and Enoch as the two witnesses.
Moses	He is associated with the plagues and was at the Mount of Transfiguration with Jesus and Elijah. He turned the waters to blood.
John the Baptist	No Greater man than he. Matthew 11:11.

Given they can call down any kind of plague as often as they like, how much do you think God Trusts them? **How does he trust you? How are you doing with what he has entrusted to you?** Note: They are immortal until they have fulfilled God's purposes then their job is complete.

**Do you know God's purposes for you?** He will make sure you fulfill His purposes no matter what the obstacles. Despite your circumstances, God is in control and what may look impossible God will work for His Glory somehow.

***Revelation 11:7-10 when they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.***

Sometimes, you can do everything right and still fail. God gets even more glory in the resurrection of the dead. Sometimes, you have to realize He allowed this death/utter failure in your life so He can resurrect it!

The two witnesses live up to their name. The Greek word for witness is the same root word that in English is used for Martyr. John 15:13 says no greater love than to lay down your life for your friends. This is their witness for Christ for His Glory.

### **What city is this?**

The city is Jerusalem. It is likened to Sodom by Isaiah (Isa 1:10). It is the city where our Lord was crucified, and the gentiles and the pagans have tromped all over the city making it the modern day "Egypt".

**Why would they lie in the street without burial for 3.5 days? Pilate allowed Jesus body proper burial. So why not now?**

As the Scripture predicts that their enemies would **not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves** (v. 9), so history bears out. Christian burial was denied by papal decree to those who were regarded as heretics. This denial of burial was decided at both the third and fourth Lateran Councils, in 1179 and 1215, respectively. Also in the papal decree of Gregory IX, in 1227, and the decree of Pope Martin, following the Council of Constance, in 1422.

No burial is a sign of contempt the world has for the message of God and them. Maybe they wanted to eliminate the possibility of an empty tomb. Also, maybe though it is not said, the witness may have predicted their resurrection. Since they could not be killed for 3.5 years, maybe people wanted to see them to know they were really dead! The gifts, celebrating and gloating is Satan making his on Satanic Christmas out of the death and temporary defeat of the witnesses of Christ.

**How will all nations, tribes, peoples and tongues see them? What is the implication for us as believers in this time?**

***Revelation 11:11-12 Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.***

Breath of life is the same phrase used in Genesis with the creation of man Gen 2:7. **How do you think the world will react? Image the cable news coverage, CNN, FOX & MSNBC? What will Wolf Blitzer say if CNN covers it?**

The enemies are watching the witnesses receive their true glory. **Does this not represent even more judgment?** It also speaks to what David mentioned in the Psalms 23:5, and says you prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies...

**Are you at a point in your life where the situation you are facing seems hopeless or dead?**

Well, we all may agree it is dead, but you and I do not have the keys to death. He does (Rev 1:18).

**Revelation 11:13 In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.**

The second Woe – In the Greek it indicates that 7,000 named men were killed. This appears to be selective and a judgment in the form of the earthquake. There is significantly more than 7K in the great city so them being named indicates prominence. Seeing God raise them up seems to really strike fear in them at this point.

Note this is the second woe – Rev 8:13 introduced the 3 woes, Rev 9:12 indicated the first woe has passed. The first woe was the release of the four angels and 200 million demonic army and to kill 1/3 of the population.

**Revelation 11:15 -18 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying:**

**"We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty,  
The One who is and who was and who is to come,  
Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.  
The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come,  
And the time of the dead, that they should be judged,  
And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints,  
And those who fear Your name, small and great,  
And should destroy those who destroy the earth."**

7th Trumpet – Christ's Reign – Millennium - 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet also was used to signify the entire camp of Israel moved out on the march. Now it notes Christ moves in with the entire Israel camp promised to reign in the millennium. **What does the anger of the nations' represent?**

**Revelation 11:19 Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant[h] was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.**

Temple of God is open – New Jerusalem – Refers that he will deal with Israel. Temple in Heaven. Lighting thunders and etc. speaks to judgments to come.

7 characters introduced with 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| (1) Woman             | (5) Remnant of Israel |
| (2) Red Dragon        | (6) Beast One         |
| (3) Child             | (7) Beast Two         |
| (4) Michael Arc Angel |                       |

**What does the Lighting thunders and etc. symbolize? Have you ever been to a cool grand opening event? Can you image being there for the opening of God's Temple in Heaven? Who will be singing? What will be served? Will there be dancing? Dare I say wine?**

## Chapter 12

### Recap and overview for where we are in the study:

Chapter 1 – John’s Vision – Jesus in Glory – The one who keeps the lamb stands burning - What he sees

Chapters 2-3 - Church Ages – History - The Things that are

Then, the Things After these Things:

Chapter 4 - Throne – Some Say the Rapture? No further reference of the church. Great Worship – 4 creatures because of Who Jesus is & the 24 elders for what he has done.

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Chapters 6 – 18 – The Great Tribulation -

Opens with 7 seals (including 144,000 – 12 tribes)

7 Trumpets (including 2 witnesses)

7 Bowls of Wrath

Babylon Falls - First and Last Judgment of Babylon Gen 11 & Rev 17-18

Chapter 19 – Armageddon - Wedding Supper & Great Supper of God

Chapt 20 – Millennium, then Satan and the Dead’s final Doom

Chapt 21 - New Earth and Heaven

Chapt 22 – Closing

Last chapter discussed the interlude or a time of explanation is continued between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> event. We covered the 42 months - half of the 7 year Tribulation. – foreshadowing of God dealing with the Nation of Israel, 2 witnesses, signs, plagues, judgments, martyrs, resurrection, ascension to Heaven, the doom of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Woe, earthquakes, lighting thunder, hailstorms, a glimpse into the millennium and the blowing of the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet which will usher the return of Christ and symbolize moving Israel to the Millennium. The blowing of the seventh trumpet opens the 7 characters, 7 bowls and sets in motion the conclusion of the Great Tribulation.

Now.... We move forward to chapter 12, and in this chapter we have the dramatic final conflict between Satan and Israel in the Heavenly realm where Satan is cast out of Heaven. His access privileges are revoked and his time is limited. Remember, we already heard there would be no more delay. The chapter opens with the introduction of seven characters.

Woman
Red Dragon
Arc Angel Michael
Remnant
Child
Wild Beast out of the Sea
Wild Beast out of the Earth

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

Several women have claimed to be this woman and started cults. The Catholic Church has called this woman Mary. Later, Protestants called it the church of ages.

**Who is this woman clothed with the sun and the moon?** Once again the answer is in the prior books of the bible. Let's read Gen 37:9-11 about Joseph that dreamer!

***Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, “Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me.” So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, “What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?” And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.***

Most scholars agree the woman represents the Nation Israel. The sun and moon depict glory and dominion promised for Israel. The stars speak of the 12 tribes the sons of Jacob.

***Rev. 12:3-4 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.***

Red Dragon Represents Satan. Notice this is a “sign” not literal John makes this clear. Verse nine identifies him as Satan. Enormous in NIV some translations say great! He is red to signify bloodshed. Satan is the original murderer (Apple in the garden and Genesis 4:7– Cain – demon crouching at the door.) The third of the stars in heaven seem to represent 1/3 of the angels that followed Satan in his rebellion.

The seven heads symbolize perfection of Wisdom, and beauty. Notice, there is no forked tail like in our picture of the devil that came from the Greek God Pan. Remember the most beautiful Angel. The 10 horns likely represent the final kingdom of Roman empire. The crowns represent delegated authority from Satan.

**Isaiah 9:6-7 “Un to us a Child is born”, so who is the “us” Isaiah is writing about?** Israel clearly, once again the church left the scene back in chapter 4. Let's look at a few more verses to be certain:

Heb 7:14	Lord sprang out of Judah
Micah 5:2-3	He comes out of Judah to be ruler through pain in birth
Isaiah 66:8	For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children.

Child was born under the law to fulfill the promise to Abram and the existing covenant to the nation of Israel.

***Rev. 12:5-6 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.***

The world is a wilderness, Israel was sealed and protected 144,000 for the most intense part of the Great Tribulation. The Child is Christ clearly identified by Psalm 2:9 “Break them with the Rod.” Christ will use violence to put down rebellion and take over the world. **Don't you think he would take it over with peace if it were possible? Do you think based on this the world can make peace with “radical Islam”?**

“The Child was caught up to God and His throne”. This is a clear reference to the ascension of Christ. The Book of Revelation is essentially all about the unveiling of the Ascended Glorified Christ. Ephesians 4:10 puts it this way, “He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.” Gospels – emphasize the Death of Christ. Epistles emphasize on Resurrection of Christ. Revelation emphasizes the Ascension of Christ – Acts 1:9-10, Heb 12:2 sat down on thrown at the right hand of God.

**Israel birthed Christ, and Christ birthed the Church!**

**Revelation 12:7-9 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**

War in Heaven – Satan has access to Heaven and God - Job & Zech. Luke 22:31 – Lord, says Satan desired to sift you Peter as wheat. Like Job he was granted that permission.

Michael and Gabriel are the only Ark Angels named in the Bible. Michael is mentioned as a prince that watches over Israel. Dan 10:21, 12:1 (Great prince which at that time stands up for the children of Israel). After this, Satan and his angels lose their access to Heaven. There are not defeated yet, just stripped of access to Heaven. How angry will Satan and his angels be?

Notice the names of the devil that are used. Satan & Devil is to be feared as - Lion, serpent & Angel of light. Lion – Only roars after it catches its prey. Serpent - Yet, he is to be feared more as a serpent (note: he has not changed since the garden). Most of all, he should be feared as an Angel of Light. He will use this form frequently in the End times.

Satan will be able to total deceive the world in Great Tribulation. Today, he is restrained. Satan does not have the power that God will grant him in the End times. Remember, he has to ask God for access as he did with Peter and Job –today.

Satan wants to people not to believe he exists. Surprise is a great tactic. Great Slander with access to whole world and Heaven. Today, never underestimate your enemy. Satan wants you to believe you have the power to overcome the flesh, the devil and the world. He wants you to believe it is all about you. You are self-made when none is possible without Christ.

**12:10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.**

Accuser of the brethren (Tribulation Saints) - **Do you know that Satan stands in front of God accusing you day and night?**

Note: John says I heard to remind us he is a witness of these events...Four Freedoms in Christ when He comes:

Salvation	Consummation of Salvation
Kingdom of	God Authority of Christ

**Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.**

Victory of the accused Saints will come through three avenues:

- **Blood of Lamb** (No blood of Christ – No way! It is the only way, so don't deny or be ashamed it is on the Mercy Seat in the Arc. It is what will make us righteous.
- **Word of their testimony** (tribulation reveals true martyrs) Matt 10:33 Deny me in front of man, and I will deny you before the father – paraphrased.
- **They loved not their own life** even unto death. - What a contrast to our life style today where people are too busy. Or don't go to church because they deserve to sleep in. I have even heard people say oh we will do the church thing when we have kids.

**How do you stack on these three items? Do you claim the blood of the lamb as your salvation and solution in times of trouble today? How is your testimony out in the World? Would those that know you say that you are selfless (regularly loving others more than yourself)?**

***The true value of your testimony is when it is given in the world.***

***Revelation 12:12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.”***

Here the Devil cast out of Heaven. This event is clearly the strongest stand against evil and Satan since the Resurrection of Christ. The casting out Satan stands in contrast showing the difference in Heaven and Earth.

Earth	Heaven
3 <sup>rd</sup> Woe	Celebration
Beginning of the final judgment	ushering in of a new Kingdom

***12:13-17 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.***

Documents the Last Wave of Anti-Semitism, and it will be the worst. This is the time of Jacob's trouble. Israel is going back to the land will be trouble. Christ will usher in the millennium and not without great cost. (All Semitism comes from the devil. Jesus was from the Jews and they are the chosen people of God and sworn enemy of Satan).

2 wings of an Eagle (some have said this is an airplane, commentaries tend disagree on whether this is supernatural or figurative. There is background on the symbolism of Eagle's wings. Exodus 19:4 Bear you on Eagle's wings into the Wilderness hear it is specified flee to the mountains – 42 months (times, times and half time). Israel like in Egypt will not be able to deliver itself. It will be God. Just like we cannot work for our salvation, God can save us.

The Dragon makes war with the rest of her seed. This is all out war on the 144k sealed, remnant and the converts. There is a reference here to keeping commandments which again speaks to the law and Jews not the church.

How will she be nourished if in the mountains? Maybe will provide as God did with Israel – Manna from Heaven and water from a rock. There is precedence though no clear answer provided here.

Homework question:

If the wilderness is literal, water maybe literal or water could be figurative as floods of armies coming upon them like rivers. **Based on scripture, can you pull verses that support a literal interpretation of the Earth swallowing up?**

## Chapter 13

### Introduction

We pick up now with the last two of the seven characters introduced in Chapter 12- the 'Wild Beasts'. As you will recall, there are a total of seven characters introduced below. This section focuses on the "unholy trinity". You Satan still wants his own Kingdom and thinks of himself worthy to be God. So, he sets out to set-up a false Christ, false Holy Spirit and of course, he is the false God. These two beasts represent two of the three persons in his unholy trinity.

Woman	Child
Red Dragon	Wild Beast out of the Sea
Arc Angel Michael	Wild Beast out of the Earth
Remnant	

Antichrist – Defined as 2 different meanings of the word Anti in scripture and are used throughout.

1. Over against
2. In place of or instead of

There are many antichrist both in our day and in John's day (1 john 2:18). Scripture says to test the spirits because many deceivers will come in His Name.--

Personal Comment: For this reason, you are here today to study God's Word. You cannot discern or test a message that is given without knowledge of the scriptures. Bible Study and small groups should always be first and foremost about straight teaching of the Word. I have felt led to teach out of the books of the bible, so that we may become Disciples of Christ discerning His good and perfect will and not be like a child living on milk alone.

**Revelation 12:9 said Satan will deceive the whole world. Therefore, how can we stand up for our families protect our children? Can you discern the sheep from the wolf in sheep's clothes?**

**Can someone name some new truth that you have gotten out of this study that has made you less susceptible to believing the unfounded predictions or out and out lies concerning God's plan in the end times?**

***Rev 13:1 The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.***

Picture this... Satan stands on the sand of the Sea (representing the Nations of the world – tossing about standing in contrast to the throne of God which was glass like the sea but placid in total control). Satan is the Master mind. Now with his restraints removed. God allows him the free will to act once God's will with His people is accomplished. Then, Satan calls out His Beast out of the sea. Wild Beast out of sea, though there is disagreement on the identity. Most scholars believe this is the Political leader, a person, or some say it is the last form of the last Roman Empire. Much of this comes from the fact that it is impossible to separate a king from his kingdom. Rev 16:10 mentions the Throne of the Wild Beast, so this is likely a person, probably the king or political leader of the restored Roman Empire. Some believe he is a false prophet, man of sin or Satan's Prophet (Like John the Baptist for Jesus). Remember he is the great deceiver. Others, believe the second beast out of the earth holds the false prophet role.

**What about the 10 horns and ten crowns? What is the interpretation? Did God leave us to figure it out or is it given to us in His Word? Read Daniel 7:19-25**

**Rev 13:2 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.**

**The explanation for this composite beast having the characteristics of the prior empires is in Daniel 7.**

Verse	Multi-metallic	Four Beast	Nation Empire	Explanation
7:4	Head of Gold	Lion with eagle's wings	Babylon	Lion is the king of the animal kingdom. A lion statue was found in the ancient ruins and it was the symbol of the Nation of Babylon. The eagle's wings speak to the speed at which the Babylonians could move their army. The wings being plucked is a reference to Darius' army went under the city and conquered it. Making it stand on its feet like a man refers to the restoration of King of Nebuchadnezzar, and the heart represents the conversion of King Nebuchadnezzar to knowing the one true God. Babylon was the head of Gold with all the splendor and glory which archaeologists have all discovered now such as Libraries, postal system, hanging gardens, brass plumbing, indoor baths, walls 300 feet high and 4 chariots could ride abreast to protect the city.
7:5	Arms of Silver	Bear	Media Persia	Median Persia (Arms of Silver) One Side Median took Babylon. The Persians took over the rest of the world. Xerxes led a million man army with 300 ships. A Storm destroyed his fleet. God did not intend for him to defeat the west.
7:6	Sides of Brass	Panther/Leopard	Greco-Macedonian	Leaps with suddenness. Alexander the Great moved his army faster than anyone had ever seen at that time. 4 heads represent the four generals that succeed Alexander the great who died in a drunken orgy. Did you remember how the Babylon empire ended? Do you see a parallel? 1. Macedonia - Cassander 2. Asia Minor - Lysimachus 3. Syria - Seleucus (which is foreshadows as the little horn in Revelation, for later Antiochus Epiphanes who later brought havoc in the temple in Jerusalem - More on that in Daniel 8). 4. Ptolemy took Egypt.
7:7	legs of Iron	non-descript beast	Roman Empire	This fourth beast has everything the others have plus a devastating strength never seen before. The Roman empire ruled with iron for one millennium. This was primarily the time between the Old and New Testaments. Rome fell but has never been conquered and according to scripture will rise again.

This 4th beast is given more time in scripture than the other 3 put together. More than 3/4ths of the prophecy is fulfilled. The first Roman Empire has fallen, but now we are in the midst of the 2nd Roman Empire with 10 horns.

**Rev 13:3 One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast.**

The mortal wound reference here coupled with Rev 17:8 has led many to speculate that Satan raised the beast from the dead. Jesus clearly has that power and not Satan; however, Satan can and will deceive the earthly world. Some even speculate that this is Nero which Peter spoke about many times, but most agree the Roman Empire is what is resurrected not Nero – until of course the White Thrown Judgment when Jesus will raise him. The travesty is Men will believe in the resurrection of the Antichrist and not in the Resurrection of Jesus. Satan then argues he is greater and has done everything Christ has, follow him.

**Do you see any similarities in Revelation 1:8 and Revelation 17:8?**

The travesty is Men will believe in the resurrection of the Antichrist and not in the Resurrection of Jesus. Satan then argues he is greater and has done everything Christ has, follow him.

**Is peace possible without the King of Peace?**

This resurgence of the Roman Empire will not be like those in the past. Throughout the history of Man we have never had sustained peace – over 15K wars and 8K peace treaties. Christ is the only way for peace. The Antichrist will come with peace and promises (Remember the White Horse / Bow no Arrows). The peace

he will bring is a false peace. No peace is possible until Christ is on the throne. No matter how much tie dye you wear. How many peace rallies you attend or how powerful the UN gets.

### **According to scripture Revelation 3:10, can the rapture take place after this event?**

This is essential that final hour of Testing in Tribulation for the Tribulations Saints. Though we may disagree with exactly when the rapture occurs. I think it is pretty clear at this point to everyone that the rapture has already occurred. Rev 3:10 states His promise to the church of Philadelphia the believing Church not the apostate Church. Jesus is to keep us from the Hour of Testing that will come upon the whole world. That is now.

**Rev 13:4-6 People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?" The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months. It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.**

This is the pinnacle of Satan's time. The whole world has rejected Christ and God instead choosing Satan falling for the deception. Notice, like a politician this leader is able to speak great things and deceive pretty much everyone. In this case the beast would be getting 100% of the vote. Notice, the beasts starts by utter proud words. Pride leads to blaspheming God. By the way, as the Church you are specifically mentioned here in verse six - "those who live in heaven."

**What emotions or thoughts will you have looking down at earth seeing this play out with an unrestrained Satan in full control on earth? Would you be able to stand and not fall for the deception?**

**Rev 13:7 It was given power to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.**

This will be the darkest hour on this planet. Both Jew and Greek will be martyred or be in hiding there will be no protection for them for this brief time. Remember, scripture said lest those days be shortened, no one would survive. Matthew 24:22.

**Rev 13:8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.**

As Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892) put it, "I'm so glad that God chose me before the foundation of the world, because he never would have chosen me after I was born!"

**Rev 13:9-10 Whoever has ears, let them hear, "If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed." This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God's people.**

**Who are God's people that are left on the earth at this point?** 1Chor 10:32 – The human race is divided into 3 categories: Jews, Greeks (Gentiles) & Church of God. Chapter 7 Mentions all three: Jews (144k & tribes), Greeks (Mix Multitude) and Church of God (represented by the 24 Elders). Jesus Said I have other Sheep (John 10:16). The tribulation saints are not the church.

**Rev 13:11-12 Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.**

**Who is this second beast? Why is it significant that he comes up from the land or earth and why does he have two horns like a lamb?**

The Political Leader as good as he is. He is not likely accepted by Israel. So, Satan raises up a Religious Leader from Israel who is empowered with signs and is like a lamb. Notice, however the beast speaks like a dragon. This is the second person of the unholy trinity setup by Satan.

Beast	Descriptions
One out of the Sea	Political Leader head of the last empire #4 the Resurrected Roman Empire
Two out of the Earth	Poses as Christ 2 horns like a lamb, He does the will of his father. Speaks like a Dragon (Satan uses him and speaks through him)

***Rev 13:13-14 And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived.***

This second beast trying to deceive comes with signs to validate himself and the first beast. He specifically imitates Elijah the prophet. However, God takes note that he calls down fire, and he along the other beast are the first to be thrown into the lake of fire (Rev 19:20).

The signs deceived the inhabitants of the earth. This is powerful that is why God sealed the 144,000 right before the Great Tribulation.

Notice Satan has the unholy Trinity (Satan/Beast 1/Beast 2) – he has the false resurrection, signs, wonders and miracles. Strong delusions all predicted for this very hour when the Holy Spirit is restrained.

**Can Satan counterfeit the miracles of God? Can you find a reference in the Bible to support this?**

***Rev 13:15-17 The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.***

**Do you see the symbolism?** Satan breathes into the idol and giving breath to it. This is no golden calf. Notice the image will focus on the mortal would just as we look at the cross. It will point to the first beast and it will be set-up in Israel in the temple. As predicted, this will be Abomination of desolation in Matthew 24:15.

**Do you think they have separation of Church and state?**

**Did you notice the options for worshiping the idol?**

**Based on v16-17, what kind of ruler do you think this is?**

**What type of economic system would have to be in place for this to happen?**

**How do you think they will sell this mark to the public?**

***Rev 13:18 This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666.***

**Why 666? Is it a barcode? Does it mean Nero?** The Greek spelling of “Nero Caesar” transliterated into Hebrew equals 666. 7 is perfection 6 is short of it is the number of man, 666 represent an unholy Trinity.

**What is more wise spending time trying to decode the number of the beast or focusing on Jesus?**

## Chapter 14

Recap and overview for where we are in the study:

Chapter 1 – John's Vision – Jesus in Glory – The one who keeps the lamb stands burning - What he sees

Chapters 2-3 - Church Ages – History - The Things that are

Then, the Things after these Things:

Chapter 4 - Throne – Some Say the Rapture? No further reference of the church. Great Worship – 4 creatures because of Who Jesus is & the 24 elders for what he has done.

Chapter 5 – Lion and the Lamb, The Title Deed Book for earth, Redeemer, initially seated then Standing in Judgment.

Chapters 6 – 18 – The Great Tribulation -

- Opens with 7 seals (including 144,000 – 12 tribes)
- 7 trumpets (including 2 witnesses)
- 7 Bowls of Wrath
- Babylon Falls - First and Last Judgment of Babylon Gen 11 & Rev 17-18

Chapter 19 – Armageddon - Wedding Supper & Great Supper of God

Chapter 20 – Millennium, then Satan and the Dead's final Doom

Chapter 21 - New Earth and Heaven

Chapter 22 – Closing

**Introduction:** Remember, this chapter is still in the explanation section between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet.

Once, the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet blows, the seven angels with the seven bowls will pour out the final judgments ending the Great Tribulation and bringing about the return of Christ. As mentioned before, there are certain sections of the book of Revelation that are not in chronological order. The reason for this is God is foreshadowing a coming event and/or giving encouragement to the martyrs that are crying for justice. God being omniscient looks at the future as so certain it is seen as past tense or already happening.

***Rev 14:1-5 Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. 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. And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they remained virgins. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among mankind and offered as first fruits to God and the Lamb. No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.***

This is forward looking to the Millennium Kingdom when Heaven and Earth are in synch or Harmony.

### What is the significance of the Mount Zion (Psalm 2:6) reference?

Mount Zion is a clear reference to Jerusalem. The Lamb (Jesus) is with the 144,000 singing and the harpists are playing in Heaven around the throne of God. Ruling in the Millennium is a specific promise to Israel.

### Why is it critical that His sealed 144,000 (Chapter 7) are mentioned here again after the severe tribulations? Are they alive still?

The 144,000 sing the redemption song from earth while the Church (24 elders) and the four creatures are in Heaven. This song is set apart for only those who go through the tribulation can sing the song. These

144,000 were sealed that is how they made it through and can sing this special song. The mixed multitude, the elders, the angels, the four living creatures, no one sings this song other than the 144,000.

**How does this apply to me?** Remember, Jesus is the great Shepherd. He started with 144,000 and He will finish with 144,000 – not one sheep lost. No matter what you are going through, Jesus will get you through.

**Scripture is clear if you are one of “His sheep”, He will make sure you are accounted for. None of His sheep are lost.**

**What does it mean that the 144,000 are purchase by God and not defiled by women, this can be taken literal or spiritual or both?**

**Literal** – This is an extraordinary time of Judgment and for that reason God demands call for an extraordinary restriction. There is precedent for this Jer 16:1. God restricted Jeremiah not to marry because of the time of Judgment much like this event. Jesus spoke of this time in Matthew 24:19 pronouncing a woe to those with child.

**Spiritual** – Idolatry is mentioned many times in the Old Testament as spiritual fornication. Ezekiel 16. Remember, you can't serve two masters. If you worship an idol, you are unfaithful to God. No lie was found in their mouths. It could mean literally no lie ever; however, this most probably is a reference to the 144,000 not being deceived by the great lie of the Antichrist.

**What is meant that the 144,000 are the first fruits?**

God always demanded the first fruits – Israel is the first fruit. As such, it is set apart, unblemished in God's eyes and sealed for this very event to give Him Glory.

**Rev 14: 6-7 Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. 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.”**

**What is the significance of angels carrying the message of the gospel?**

Angels are indestructible. At this point, the 144,000 and the two witnesses are no longer carrying the message. In the Old Testament, angels and man carried the gospel message, but in New Testament man has had the sole responsibility until this time. This denotes a major transition.

**What does this tell you of God's heart and mercy?**

God's grace and opportunity is still present even with his wrath. He sends the very Angels so that everyone hears Him knocking and has the opportunity to open the door. (Rev 3:20)

**Rev 14:8-11 A second angel followed and said, “Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great,’ which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.” A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, they, too, will drink the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.”**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Angels - spoken in the perfect prophetic tense. Meaning this is so sure that it is spoken of in past tense even though it technically has not occurred yet.

## Why is Babylon mentioned?

Babylon is the devil's headquarters. Idolatry began with Babylon. For example, Samaritas the wife of Nimrod (may have been his mother marrying her own son) introduced Goddess worship (Historical Literature says she took the title of the Queen of Heaven - See Jeremiah 44:15-21). She claimed she came out of an egg in Euphrates River. Cracked it and stepped out fully grown. She was the root of Greek and Roman Goddesses. Drunk with her adulteries speaks of the sorcery (Pharmaceuticals) and immoralities of unparalleled.

## What causes the God's full wrath of Judgment? Do you see the contrast between what the future holds by whom you decide to worship?

Judgment comes for receiving the mark of the beast. As stated in Hebrews 2:2-3, ***How shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation?*** If you take the mark of the beast, you choose to worship and believe the resurrection of the Antichrist and reject Christ's very death for you on the cross! This apparently will be the last straw for God. Notice: Christ and His Angel see what is going on in the Earth, but it is not said that the 24 elders see.

## What is meant by the cup of wrath?

1. [\*\*Isaiah 51:17\*\*](#)[The **Cup of the LORD's Wrath**] Awake, awake! Rise up, Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the LORD the **cup** of his **wrath**, you who have drained to its dregs the goblet that makes people stagger.
2. [\*\*Isaiah 51:22\*\*](#)This is what your Sovereign LORD says, your God, who defends his people: "See, I have taken out of your hand the **cup** that made you stagger; from that **cup**, the goblet of my **wrath**, you will never drink again.
3. [\*\*Jeremiah 25:15\*\*](#)[The **Cup of God's Wrath**] This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: "Take from my hand this **cup** filled with the wine of my **wrath** and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it.

In general, the cup is being compared to the bowl filled with blood that the High Priest once a year would offer as atonement on the mercy seat in the holy of holies. This practice would offer a temporary cover the sins of Israel each year. Now, the book of Revelation shows us an unrepentant people steeped in their sin that reject the Lord and choose the Antichrist instead. Therefore, they spiritually speaking show up in the presence of God at the Holy of Holies with empty bowls where God waits patiently as the cup is filled to the brim with wrath before it is pressed against the unbelievers' lips. Frightful!

***Rev 14:12-13 Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."***

## Which group of saints is God referring to when He says this calls for patient endurance?

1. The 24 elders either having to view this or knowing it is going on and being shielded.

2. The remaining tribulation saints on earth that hopefully respond to the Angel's proclaiming the message of Christ.

### **What is meant by blessed are those who die in Lord from now on?**

Works will follow. This speaks of a special reward. To die as a martyr, it is unnatural to want to die. Only a rare person looks at the prospect this way. As Paul put it in Phil 1:23, to die is gain, but staying is better for you!

**Knowing that your deeds in this life follow you, does that change your perspective? Since Salvation is not deeds, what is referenced here?**

*Rev 14: 14-20 Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.*

*Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe." So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.*

This is a foreshadowing of the Millennium, the paradigm shift in carry the message of the Lord and Salvation, and the foreshadowing of Armageddon. Understand that God's prophesies are so true and trustworthy that they are mentioned in past tense yet they have not happened yet (written in the perfect prophetic tense). Chapter 19 is Armageddon which ushers in the Millennium. The winepress is used as a visual for the direct Judgment of the Lord is referenced both in Jer 25:29-33 and in Revelation 19:16. The "Sickle" is mentioned twelve times in the bible and seven times in this section. Sharp is mentioned seven times in Revelation and 4 times here.

**What is our job as believers today?** We are called to sow not harvest. Scatter seed, water, prepare the soil the hearts and leave the harvest to the Lord. Jesus explains this clearly in the parable of the tares (Matthew 13:37-43).

## Chapter 15

This chapter will cover the seven Angles that have the seven bowls. The Purpose of Wrath is Judgment for the Wicked not purification of the church - By Grace not by works. You are told about it in great detail so you can make sure you do your part to make sure the seed is scatter. This is the most intense of all judgments. These bowls end the Great Tribulation!

The order here is not chronological but logical. It is here where; we will go back and cover something that has already happened with new detail and explanation. This is the same method used by God since Genesis and

### Bitterness – Deep Thoughts (Hebrews 12:15)

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In Chapter 14, the 144,000 were singing. Stop and ponder on that a minute. Many were likely killed as martyrs, and they were undoubtedly persecuted to a level we will never know being spared the Great Tribulation - yet they were singing.

Now, what about your trial in that light? **Do you have any reason to be bitter that it is not going as you planned?** Oh that, all of us made be given eyes to see His purpose and not our circumstances and fall to bitterness.

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creation and through new testament (4 Gospels to Cover Jesus). Judgment is by God – not Antichrist or anyone else this is direct action by God.

*Revelation 15:1-5 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete. And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested." After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened.*

**Have we seen the sea of glass reference before? If so, how is this different, where is it, and what is the significance?**

Glassy Sea mingled with Fire; this is a picture of how grim the picture is on earth with the Judgment. This why Jesus said in these days, if you give a cup of cold water, you will be remembered.

### Why the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb?

Song of Moses (Ex. 15:1-21 and Det 32:1-43) Song of Lamb (Rev 5:9-12) - The song of Moses celebrates God's miraculous rescue of Israel from Egyptian slavery, and the Song of the Lamb speak to Christ's ransom and victory over Satan. This book is centered on Christ. Don't be distracted on the wild events and lose focus on Christ - The Author and finisher of our faith, Lord and Savior – King of the Ages... Christ is Love but He is

a Light also. He is a Holy GOD! Fearing God is beginning of all knowledge. Phil 2:9-11 God...exalted Him...Every tongue, every knee will bow, in heaven, in earth and under earth.

### **Why is the temple referenced and not the Church or Churches?**

Church or Churches are referenced 19 times in Revelation. 18 occur in the first three chapters. Then in chapter 4, there is a trumpet sound and reference to the seven lamps in Heaven with the 24 elders. Temple on the other hand is referenced 15 times in Revelation (14 times after Chapter 3). Only one people (The Jews) were given instructions by God on Earth to build a temple. There is no temple in New Jerusalem where the Church is going. Temple is for Old Testament believers. The angels departing from the temple signifies them moving from the mercy seat to the judgment phase. Gold indicates they are coming under Christ Authority.

### **Is there precedence for Rapture?**

Enoch was taken out prior to the flood, but Noah was sealed so he could go through it. 144,000 from the 12 tribes was sealed and possible others are sealed in the Temple on Earth.

***Revelation 15:6-8 And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands. Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever. The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.***

**What is the symbolism of the angels dress? Why is there a reference to the Tent of Meetings or Tabernacle? Do you see the parallels from Exodus? What would the bowls be filled with in Exodus for atonement?**

Bowls were used in Temple Service – Blood used for atonement but now because the bowl containing the blood of Christ was denied by man, so God will fill it with wrath! Seven is the perfect number. It denotes completeness of wrath and the last of the Great Tribulation. In His perfect justice, God's power and might is on display and even His temple had become so Holy no may enter it until the judgment has past.

## Chapter 16

**Bowls of Wrath** – Similar to Trumpets without the restraint.

**16:1-2 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, “Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth.” So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.**

The Lord directs all seven to be poured without delay! This time only a very brief pause between 6 and 7<sup>th</sup> bowl.

**Why are Angels instructed to leave the temple? What is the significance of this?** The sores are a direct attack on people and this was prophesied in Deuteronomy 28:15, 27, and 35.

Lord is in charge from the time he opened the seven seals. He was found worthy. God granted Him the responsibility to carry out Judgment. This world is passing away. As Jesus told the disciples when they spoke of the splendor of the temple, not one stone will be left on another. Remember; don't get too attached to this world of your stuff in it. Keep spiritually pure to Christ.

Each Angel leaves the temple and the place of the mercy seat. The day of all out Judgment has arrived. The sores are a direct attack on people and this was prophesied in Deuteronomy 28:15, 27, and 35.

**16:3 - 7 Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died. Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters saying: “You are righteous, O Lord, The One who is and who was and who is to be, Because You have judged these things. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, And You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due.” And I heard another from the altar saying, “Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.”**

Unlike the 2<sup>nd</sup> trumpet which was restrained to only 1/3 of the sea, this is all. Image the sea breeze and the smell of death all around. **What would the impact be?**

Unlike the 3<sup>rd</sup> Trumpet which was 1/3 of the fresh water supply, this is all. Imagine it for a moment. Picture a creek, river or lake near you or one that you know. **What does the scene look like? What do you do?**

Destruction of life will be unparalleled. God is always about his laws and justice. Here we see sowing and reaping. They spilled the Saints blood and will not accept the blood of Christ, so now they will drink blood.

**16:8-11 Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory. Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.**

**How might God increase the intensity of the Sun? What might be the impact on those that remain? What is this strange darkness over the beast's kingdom?**

The fourth and fifth bowls are on the Sun. Jesus spoke of signs in the sun, moon and stars (Luke 21:25). The 4<sup>th</sup> is like the atmosphere is peeled back a little or the earth is moved closer to the sun. Prophecy fulfilled from Deuteronomy 32:24, Isaiah 24:6, and Mal. The 5<sup>th</sup> bowl is a strange darkness; however, the heat is still there just no light now. (Reference Isaiah 62 and Joel).

**Why would people still not repent?** Read Romans 2:4. Paul said The Goodness of God leads to repentance.

**16:12-14 Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.**

The sixth bowl is poured out on Euphrates to clear way for Armageddon. Euphrates is mentioned in the bible 25 times. From Genesis 2 to Revelations, it is prominent in the first and last days of Man. It is the border of the Far East and Middle East. The river is also 1700 miles long just to give you an idea of the scale.

Since it says “like frogs”, **what can we infer they are being used to symbolize and why?** This is the interlude between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> bowl. Consistent with the pattern John follows. Notice, the verse says looked like Frogs, it does not say they are frogs. This verse maybe one of the spots where symbolism instead of literal interpretation is used to reference the demons and spirits. Frogs were worshipped in Egypt as idols. Psalm 105:30 “Their land teemed with frogs, which went up into the bedrooms of their rulers.” **Based on this, why might have frogs been used as a symbol?**

**16:15-16 “Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.” And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.**

**Why the reference to not sleeping or getting caught naked?**

He comes as a thief to unbeliever yet is the blessed hope of believers. Naked is not clothed in righteousness. Note: The captain of the Temple would make rounds at night and any guard found sleeping would either be beaten or they would light his garment on fire. He would be shamefully exposed.

**How many references are there in the bible to Armageddon?** This is the only reference to Armageddon. This is a fertile valley with a history.

**16:17-20 Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, “It is done!” And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.**

The seventh bowl is that judgment poured out in the Great Tribulation. **What is the significance that it is poured out in the Air?** Earthquake like no other with it center in Jerusalem. Notice the Temple is referenced

again. Israel will have to go through the Great Tribulation, but the church is not mentioned. Just like with the last judgment on the whole earth, God called one up and sealed one to go through. Enoch was taken up prior to the flood, but Noah was sealed in the arc so he could go through it.

***16:21 And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.***

**How much does each hail stone weigh? Is there any precedence in the Lord using hail stones for judgment?**

The hail stones weigh a talent Greek 56lbs or Jewish 114 lbs. This has happened before see Joshua 10:11.

## Chapter 17

### Introduction:

The Great Tribulation has now been poured out, so chapters 17 and 18 are going to focus on the Judgment that will come on the two Babylons – Ecclesiastical (17) and Commercial (18). Two cities? Two Systems?

Ecclesiastical Babylon	Commercial Babylon
Destroyed by the Wild Beast	Destroyed by Christ on His Return
Hated by the Beast	Loved by the World
Destroyed at the beginning of the last 3.5 years of the Great Tribulation	Destroyed at the end of the last 3.5 years of the Great Tribulation

***Revelation 17:1-2 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."***

**What is significance of the symbolism? The Beast represents? Why does it say Kings are committing adultery with the Harlot?**

The Beast is presumed to be the revived Roman Empire by most Theologians. The church of Thyatira permitted Jezebel to teach, but that will be minor compared to this. Many waters speak of great masses, nations or peoples. Kings fornicating likely speaks of the unholy alliance of Church and State.

Today, we have two types of Churches (Philadelphia & Laodicea). Philadelphia represents the true Church and it is given the promise of the rapture (rev. 3:10). Laodicea represents those apostate churches that go straight into the Tribulation.

**Past chapter four the Laodicea church is no longer the bride of Christ, so what is it called? Why?**

In that day, the church will sell out to the World system and compromise so it can be a top the scarlet beast as described in Chapter 13. Being unfaithful, the apostate church becomes the harlot instead of the bride. Did you know in the Old Testament, punishment for prostitution was being burned at the stake?

**Does the apostate church co-exist today with the true church of Jesus? What do we do about it?**

Just as Joshua said when he was old in front of all the people, choose today whom you will serve, but for me and my house we will serve the Lord!

**Revelation 17:3-5 –So, he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.**

**What is the significance of the colors of purple & scarlet? Why is she called the “Mother of All Harlots”?**

Golden cup with abominations stands in contrast to the Golden cups used in the altar with Blood for atonement. Purple & scarlet were the colors of the Roman Imperials. The precious stones likely speak of the material wealth and the appearance of true religion. Why Harlot? Woman designed in the Garden of Eden for man to be the most beautiful and wonderful creation. Specifically, designed to complement man and lift him to new heights, to satisfy him in a covenant relationship that is meant to reflect the love of the father for us. However, the Harlot speaks of what the devil does to corrupt. It speaks of enslaving women as sexual objects for the purpose of tearing down man. The “Mother of All Harlots” speaks to this being the parent with other churches or denominations under her. The Harlot influence has fully metastasized, like cancer, throughout the church at large.

**Revelation 17:6-9 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement. But the angel said to me, “Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. “Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.**

The blood of two groups Saints (OT) and martyrs (NT) are being referenced here. Remember, as we discussed last week Israel is called to go through it not called out of it. Babylon in the Old Testament was the one who put the children in the furnace for not worshiping their gods!

**What is the mystery? Why is John astonished? What could it be?**

The mystery could be that some form of the Church remained on Earth. Up to now, John has not seen the Church on earth. This has got to be a shock that any church would remain and become apostate.

**Why are the inhabitants of the earth astonished? The beast was, was not (Rev 13:3-4) and will come out of abyss for Destruction (Rev 20:7-10). Why is it stated “once was, was not and is to come”?**

Wild Beast speaks of the History of the Roman Empire (was, was not & is to come).

**What is the city that is known for seven hills? Where will the harlot’s headquarters be?**

The Woman is identified as the city of Rome.

**Revelation 17:10 – 13** *There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition. “The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.*

**What does fallen refer to in this context? What can be meant by 7 kings, and was, was not an eighth king?**

Seven heads could speak of either Kings or forms of Government of Rome or great powers: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, and the future Roman Empire, Kings, J. Caesar – assassinated, Tiberius poisoned, Caligula assassinated, and Claudius poisoned, Nero suicide, Dementias assassinated. Antichrist yet to come. Government: kings, councils, ruling tribes, imperial, dictators, democracies, and satanic.

**Revelation 17:14-18** *These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.” Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.”*

**Why would the beast hate the Harlot/Woman enough to eat her flesh and burn her? What city might this Harlot represent? Do you see that even though it is confusing God even translates some of it for us? Why?**

Antichrist is little horn of Daniel. He puts down three kings in a brilliant take over probably without violence. The seven hills clearly identify this as Rome. He is the Seventh Empire and part of the revived Roman Empire. The beast clearly hates the Harlot and at this point is no longer will to share time or worship with them. Initially, due to the unholy alliance, he coexisted with the Harlot. But sharing worship with even the false church is too much for the antichrist to handle.

God uses The Antichrist as Judgment against the False Church. The Woman is identified as the city of Rome. This is a dark hour for Religion. All obstacles are cleared so the Antichrist can receive all worship on Earth.

### What's next?

Chapter 18 – The Fall of Babylon

Chapter 19 – Armageddon - Wedding Supper & Great Supper of God

Chapter 20 – Millennium, then Satan and the Dead's final Doom

Chapter 21 - New Earth and Heaven

Chapter 22 – Closing

## Chapter 18

**Are we captured with this world and its trappings? Have we changed at all now or are we still fighting or sin nature just as we did in the beginning in Genesis?**

Let's look at Lot's choice in led him to near disaster. Read Genesis 13:5-13. - **Where are you pitching tent toward?**

**When the time comes will you be ready? Will your loved ones be ready to drop this world and go?**

Let's read about Lot when that time came. Sodom and Gomorrah Gen 19:12-29.

**Had Lot changed? Did Lot lead his family to always put God first? Will your loved ones hesitate, look back, choose not to go when the angels says it is time?**

### **Top 5 Reasons the Roman Empire Fell - Any of these sound like us today?**

1. Undermine the dignity of the family
2. Higher and Higher Taxes ( Public paid for the Bread)
3. Mad Craze for pleasure
4. Build-up of great armament when the enemy was within
5. Decay of Religion

V1-8 Announcement of the fall

V9-19 Anguish of the World

V 20-24 Anticipation of Joy in Heaven

Judgment on Commercial/Political Babylon

Commercial Babylon	Apostate Church
Kings Loved	Kings Hated
Destroyed by Christ	Destroyed by Kings
Ancient Babylon	Rome (Destroyed) then Jerusalem

***Revelation 18:1-3 After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. With a mighty voice he shouted: “Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a dwelling for demons and a haunt for every impure spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable animal. For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.”***

After these things – Key meaning after the Great Tribulation. Here, we see a high ranking Angel. The angel is speaking in the prophetic past tense again - Prophecy so sure that it is spoken in past tense even though it has yet to occur. **Have you heard of an Angel that the earth was lightened with his glory? Why the reference for the unclean and detestable birds? What do birds typically represent in the bible spiritually?**

Babylon is interpreted here to be the place where the demons of the spirit world and unclean birds will be incarcerated for the Millennium (Isaiah 13:19-22 and Jeremiah 50:38-40).

This is a judgment on Big Business and Government which has an unholy alliance. Merchant – here means those that travel indicating brokers or middlemen not actually manufacturers. **What is the reference to the merchants? Is this something we should watch for today that we don't become a merchant grow rich from societies sins?**

***Revelation 18:4 –8 Then I heard another voice from heaven say: “Come out of her, my people, 'so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues; for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes. Give back to her as she has given; pay her back double for what she has done. Pour her a double portion from her own cup. Give her as much torment and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself. In her heart she boasts, 'I sit enthroned as queen. I am not a widow; I will never mourn.' Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine. She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.***

**What does this tell us about believers in that day? Who could these believers be? Do you see a parallel with Sodom and Gomorrah?** There are still some of God's people. This is likely the call to physically get out of Babylon. This could also be the call for the 144,000 to get out before the Judgment – much like Sodom and Gomorrah.

Just as the rewards are given for even a cup of cold water, here we see the evil being repaid in double. God is holy and will not be mocked.

**Do you remember the third seal?** Rev 6:6 “Two pounds of wheat for a day’s wages, and six pounds of barley for a day’s wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!”

**Do the material things of this world blind us to the judgment that will come?**

Prosperity blinded her to Judgment. The world drank the Kool aid and believed the peace of the Antichrist.

***Revelation 18:9-10 “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. Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: “Woe! Woe to you, great city, you mighty city of Babylon! In one hour your doom has come!”***

Death Mourning, & plagues (They will come in fast like 3 horseman). Total Destruction will come upon Babylon. Remember: Isaiah 63 “Lord will tread the Wine Press. This will be the day of Vengeance and it will be Lord’s.

**Do you remember the imagery of the cup God filling the cup of wrath? What do you think Babylon trusted in? Do we and the world today trust in some of these same or similar things? Why do you think she is to be consumed by fire?**

Babylon will be Center of World at this point – Stock Market, Fashion, Entertainment, lobbyists and etc. The world which lined its pockets with Babylon and loved it will mourn, wail and grieve for the commercial Babylon. **The Kings and Merchants mourn, but why? Are there any parallels today? Are we in the world mourning over the plummeting of the stock market and the dollar? Where is your treasure? There is where your heart is as well.**

One hour indicates the swiftness. This could be a nuclear bomb, or simply a devastating Judgment from God similar to that as far as the impact.

**18:11-16 “The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes anymore— cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble; cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and human beings sold as slaves. “They will say, ‘The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your luxury and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered.’ The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They will weep and mourn and cry out: “Woe! Woe to you, great city, dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls!**

These verses indicate the products of an affluent society. All are luxury items in our society we tend to think of many of these as necessities now—Fine toiletries, liquor, spices and meat. Oh, how close we are to these days. Note: When bath tubs were first introduced into mass production doctors were the ones that opposed them saying that bathing more than once a week would shorten life. Are these items listed necessities or luxuries? How many do you have? What strikes you as odd in this list?

Even the Bodies and Souls of men are bought and sold. **Is this any different than today? Do you know anyone who the company they work for has them?** We have slavery today here, but it is generally based on greed in our society now.

**Revelation 18:17-19 In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!” “Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off. 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 to you, great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth. In one hour she has been brought to ruin!”**

**Are you too captured with this world? Will you mourn when it passes?** They mourn the wealth they thought they had - just as Laodicea did in Rev 3:17-18. That day is coming. You will need to decide. **What will it be like that Merchants, sailors and others stand far off, terrified at her torment? In one hour all the great wealth is brought to ruin? In light of the debt crisis and events today can you see how quickly something could happen?**

Sailors and Distribution now mourn as the ripple effect continues. Picture it this way. If Walmart were to cease operation in one hour, think of all the suppliers, customers, vendors, merchants will loaded trucks and warehouses that would be left weeping. The stock prices that would drop and the ripple effects.

Babylon will be like a stone thrown into the sea. There will be a big splash and then in only a moment it will disappear without even a trace.

**Revelation 18:20-24 “Rejoice over her, you heavens! Rejoice, you people of God! Rejoice, apostles and prophets! For God has judged her with the judgment she imposed on 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. The music of harpists and musicians, pipers and trumpeters, will never be heard in you again. No worker of any trade will ever be found in you again. The sound of a millstone will never be heard in you again. The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The voice of bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again.**

**Your merchants were the world's important people. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray. In her was found the blood of prophets and of God's holy people, of all who have been slaughtered on the earth."**

All the attractions of Babylon will be gone – music, night life, lights, business. This is will grow just as the sorcery will grow. "Sorceries" in some translations is translated directly from the Greek as pharmaceuticals. **Why is that word more meaningful to us than the typical witchcraft definition in the NIV?**

The final sin was the murder of God's people for this the cup will be pressed against the lips in a double portion.

## Chapter 19

### Return of Christ

Overview:

- 1-6 Hallelujah! Chorus 4 times
- 7-10 Bride & Marriage of the Lamb
- 11-16 Return of Christ – Lord of Lords – King of Kings
- 17-18 Armageddon
- 19-21 Hell Opens – Great Supper of God (birds) in contrast to the Marriage Supper

This chapter is a bridge from darkness to light – from Great Tribulation to Millennium, and two suppers stand in contrast both on earth.

**Revelation 19:1-3 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, for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants." And again they shouted: "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever."**

**What is the significance of "After This" or in King James "After these things"? How many references are in the New Testament of Hallelujah?**

This is a division in the same language John originally introduced "After these things" in King James Version. This is the first of four references to Hallelujah in the New Testament. All are contained in this chapter. There are 172 references in the Old Testament and 19 Psalms alone.

**Do you see any contrast in how God's Judgments are viewed here compared to Heaven?**

All of Heaven knows His judgments are true and right. They know much more than we do down here. The apostate church is taken out first to make way for the marriage supper which is here on earth.

**What do you think is the significance/symbolism of her smoke goes up forever and ever?**

**Revelation 19:4-6 The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: "Amen, Hallelujah!" Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both great and small!" 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.**

**Your merchants were the world's important people. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray. In her was found the blood of prophets and of God's holy people, of all who have been slaughtered on the earth."**

All the attractions of Babylon will be gone – music, night life, lights, business. This is will grow just as the sorcery will grow. "Sorceries" in some translations is translated directly from the Greek as pharmaceuticals. **Why is that word more meaningful to us than the typical witchcraft definition in the NIV?**

The final sin was the murder of God's people for this the cup will be pressed against the lips in a double portion.

## Chapter 19

### Return of Christ

Overview:

- 1-6 Hallelujah! Chorus 4 times
- 7-10 Bride & Marriage of the Lamb
- 11-16 Return of Christ – Lord of Lords – King of Kings
- 17-18 Armageddon
- 19-21 Hell Opens – Great Supper of God (birds) in contrast to the Marriage Supper

This chapter is a bridge from darkness to light – from Great Tribulation to Millennium, and two suppers stand in contrast both on earth.

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**Do you remember the first reference to the 24 elders and the 4 creatures? What are the similarities and contrasts in this worship and what was described in Chapter 5?**

The call to worship is from the Throne room of God!

**Revelation 19:7-9 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. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.) Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”**

**1 Corinthians 3:10-15** “By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

Marriage of the Lamb in Heaven is happening, and the Church now becomes the Bride. Consummated in Heaven and now Jesus comes to earth with His bride for wedding feast/honeymoon - 1,000 years.

**Do you have oil in your lamp will you be ready for the wedding supper?**

The wedding supper will be here on earth, and Jesus said that we should be ready. Matthew 25:1-13 – Parable of the 10 Virgins. He is a longtime coming but He will come. Psalm 45 – Wedding Song and description.

**When your works go through the fire, will you provide any jewels to adorn the bride?**

Notice, how the bride is prepared. Fine Linen given her to wear. Clothed in righteousness of Christ, but good works that are purified by fire adorn her much as jewelry on a bride. Note: the hay, wood and stubble are burned away only that which is everlasting will adorn the bride (1 Corinthians 3:11-13).

**Revelation 19:10 At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus.”**

**Why is this verse in here? What purpose does it serve?**

**Revelation 19:11-16** 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 wages war. 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. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: king of kings and lord of lords.

**Can you now clearly see the difference between Jesus on the white horse and the Anti-Christ impersonation in Chapter 6:1-2? The Return of Christ – Notice the contrast**

Revelation 6	Revelation 19
Rider (no description given)	Rider is Faithful and True, the Word of God, King of Kings, Lord of Lords
White Horse	He and the armies of God are on white horses
Bow (no arrows)	Eyes like blazing fire and out of his mouth a sharp sword
Given a Crown	Many crowns
Conqueror bent on conquest	With Justice He wages war, treads the wine press, and rules with an iron scepter.

**Why does Jesus have a sword coming out of his mouth and what is the significance to us?**

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

**Why did His people not recognize Jesus in his first coming? What is the difference in the first and second coming?**

1 <sup>st</sup> Coming	2 <sup>nd</sup> Coming
Donkey (Peace)	White Horse (War)
Baby (they expected a King)	King of Kings
Die for sins	Judge
Gentleness – fruits of the spirit	Tread the wine press

**What is in a name? How do the four Gospels correspond to the names of Jesus?**

Matthew	King of Kings
Mark	Faithful and True
John	Word of God
Luke	Jesus, Son of Man

**Will Christ's government be a democracy?**

Jesus will be a dictator no democracy. We will love it, but there is no doubt who is ruling King of Kings. Psalm 2 – describes Rule with Rod of Iron.

**Revelation 19:17-21 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, “Come, gather together for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and the mighty, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, great and small.” Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army. But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.**

**Does this seem odd to you that the kings of the world and millions line up to battle God? How long do you think this battle lasts? At what point do you think they realized this was a bad idea? Who is the first to go into Hell? Notice how...Alive? What is the significance?**

The Great Supper of God this must be frightful to the non-believers. **Who is first to be thrown into Hell? Does your translation say thrown in alive?**

### **What has changed about Jesus?**

Revelation 1:14 (New American Standard Bible) <sup>14</sup>His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire.

Revelation 19:12 (New American Standard Bible) <sup>12</sup>His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself.

**What is the name no one knows?** John 14:7 (New American Standard Bible) Oneness with the Father "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him." Jesus said no one knows Him but the Father. It will take an entirety to get to truly know Jesus and the Father, and maybe that is the name that no one knows.

## **Chapter 20**

Millennium – Greek for 1,000 - Controversy surrounds this subject like the rapture there are three different views or interpretations.

### **Three Views of the Millennium**

1. Postmillennialism – Essential looks for a 1,000 year period literally on earth to be ushered in by the Church. Then after the 1,000 years Satan is loosed then the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming. This view was very popular in the early 1900's with a wide spread revival and preaching of the word spreading rapidly around the world. Then, the view lost popularity with WWI, the Great Depression, WWII, and the Atom bomb.
2. Premillennialism – Also, believes in a literal 1,000 years on earth but believes that the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming ushers in the millennium and that this reign occurs before the final removal of Satan.
3. Amillennialism – understands that the 1,000 year reign is symbolic of the time between Christ's ascension and His return. The Millennium is the reign of Christ in the heart of believers and His church. It could be referred to as the church age. This period will end with the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming. There is no false hope. It simply put does not believe in the millennium. Under this view, much of Revelation is seen as symbolic. The millennium is part of the present, and History is fit like a patchwork to fill in all the gaps and explain the theory.

**Which view do you support?** There is room for fellowship even if you disagree; however lets discuss some important requirements as laid out in the word before you choose:

### **Millennium Requirements**

1. Satan has to be removed from the earthly scene.
2. Curse of sin has to be removed from the earthly scene.
3. Resurrection of the Old Testament saints must occur at the beginning of the millennium.
4. Man is tested one final time, so that none can say it was the Devil, curse of sin or anything else. Man will be proven to be depraved even at the root in a perfect setting.

The Great Supper of God this must be frightful to the non-believers. **Who is first to be thrown into Hell? Does your translation say thrown in alive?**

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**What are the implications of knowing that Jesus ultimately judges everyone on earth? Do you your actions show you truly believe this? Should we judge others? If so, how? If, not why?**

*John 5:22 Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son...*

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### Millennium Requirements

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1,000 years is mentioned 9 times and 6 times in this chapter. The Old Testament is full of references to this period the Millennium was the blessed hope of the Old Testament. Just as the rapture and Heaven is to the church.

***Revelation 20:1-3 – And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. 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.***

Satan's incarceration is the removal of darkness from the earth. Notice an ordinary Angel seizes Satan. It is apparent that Satan's powers have been stripped at this point.

**How many times is the Abyss mentioned in the bible?** The term appears eight times total. The prior six occurrences are listed below.

Luke 8:31	Demons beg not to be thrown in the Abyss
Rev 9:1,2,11	The Abyss is opened at the beginning of the three Woes, The Destroyer is over the Abyss
Rev 11:7	The Beast comes out of the Abyss and overcomes the two witnesses
Rev 17:8	<i>The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction....</i>

**Why does God let Satan loose again? Is it God giving Satan every chance to turn with his free will?**  
We will know one day. **Why do bad things happen to good people?**

**Do your kids run a jump in bed terrified when there is a thunderstorm and then fall fast asleep in your bed? Is it any wonder Jesus said we need Childlike faith?**

***Revelation 20:4-6 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 about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who share 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.***

## 1st Resurrection



- Bema Seat Judgment of Christ (Rewards)
- Jesus (First Fruits after 3 day in tomb)
- Church (Rapture - Chapter 4)
- OT Saints (End of Great Tribulation)
- Tribulation Saints (End of Great Tribulation)

## 2nd Resurrection



- Great White Throne Judgment
- The rest of the dead
- Works based Judgement
- All go to the Lake of fire

Unless you are an Amillennialist, Jesus, the thrones, martyrs and the 1,000yrs are literal – not spiritual or symbolic.

The Millennium is the promise and fulfillment to Israel (Old Testament) and the reward of the Tribulation Saints. Christ will reign with an iron rod. King David will likely be 2<sup>nd</sup> in command. The Old Testament and Tribulation Saints will reign on earth with Christ. The Church will reside in the New Jerusalem, and the church will reign with Christ over all of his creation. Christ will commute between earth and Heaven.

***Rev 20:7-9 When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. 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.***

### **Satan's final rebellion and final doom**

If in the millennium, we have the resurrected saints, then how can Satan stir up another rebellion?

The answer may lie with the mix multitude (Israel and Gentiles). Many will enter the millennium in their natural bodily form. There will also be many born in that time. The population explosion will be tremendous with no death, disease, or tears.

*"It may seem surprising that Satan would be able to assemble an army of unbelievers at the end of the Millennium. However, it should be remembered that all the children born in Christ reign will be born in sin and will need to be saved. Not all will accept Him as the rightful King, and these scatter throughout the earth trying to get as far away from Jerusalem as possible." – Believers' Bible Commentary page 2378.*

**Revelation 20:10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.**

Devil is not in Hell today! He is the prince of the power of the air. His power is limited today, but in the Tribulation his powers will be expanded, especially when the restrainer (Holy Spirit) is removed. Notice, Satan is not the first to go into Hell that is reserved for the Beast and the false prophet. Hell is described here as a lake of fire and brimstone (some have described brimstone as like napalm that was used in Vietnam. Jesus spoke of Hell quite often: Luke 3:7 Matthew 25:41, Matthew 8:12. Separation from God – outer darkness (no sun, so God is the only light).

**Revelation 20:11-13 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done.**

Great White Throne Judgment – 2<sup>nd</sup> resurrection (This is the judgment of the lost). **Did they keep the law?** A sinless life is the standard if you enter on your works. No one will be able to stand up at this judgment. They will all be judged by the works (Romans 3:23) and not grace. Even the Dead and Lost will get a fair trial according to your works. But at this judgment, all you will have are your works alone, without Christ you will have to fulfill the law every jot and tittle.

**Revelation 20:14-15 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.**

Jesus described Hades and Paradise in his parable (Luke 16:19-31). When Jesus ascended He took with him the Old Testament Saints in Paradise. Hades is not the final place of hell. Hades is the prison of the lost souls. Hell is the second death. Lake of fire and it is outer darkness. **How dark is outer darkness?** Just as Heaven is more magnificent than words can describe. Lake of fire and outer darkness cannot come close to describing the magnitude and agony of hell.

## Chapter 21

### Heaven - Overview

Key Concepts: New Earth, New Heaven, New Jerusalem

If this is your picture of Heaven you are in for a surprise!  
You won't be floating around counting clouds.

You will have a real: address, name, job, and house. For example, according to 1 Corinthians 6:3 you will judge Angels.



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What kind of body will you have? Glorified body just as Christ had (1 Corinthians 15:35-58). Christ as you know ate and visited over 500 people in His Glorified body after resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:5-8).

What are some basic changes we know about? Besides the obvious no tears and streets of Gold.

- Total Absence of Sin / Testing – Rev 22:3
- The New Jerusalem will be the center of the universe all will orbit around it.
- The law gravity will change as we know it. There will be heavy traffic between back and forth between space, New Jerusalem and new earth. - Rev 21:24-26
- No Night – God will be source of all light. No need for the sun and the solar system as we know it today. Rev 21:26, Rev 22:4
- No Rest – With glorified bodies in Christ Image we will not tire or need sleep or rest.
- No Sea in the New Jerusalem – Currently with earth is covered  $\frac{3}{4}$  by sea consequently much of the earth is not inhabitable. In addition, the sea is used many times as an instrument of judgment. Early, in this Chapter the sea represented the nations of man – toss and turning and not a peace.
- Man will be a vegetarian as he was in the Garden - Rev 22:3
- You will live in New Jerusalem will the presence of Christ & the Throne of God - Rev 22:4.

New Jerusalem will be the capital of Heaven and the center of the universe - seat of ruling power the throne of the universe spiritually and literally.

***Revelation 21: 1-5 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. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”***

Notice all things are new. “This creation will pass away.” Isaiah 66:22

**Honestly, are you happy with this life or does it tend to frustrate you? Are you of this world or a child of the Kingdom to come?** You answer to the first question may be default answer the second question.

Man will finally dwell with God and see him face to face just as Moses and many others long to do. Each saint will be in service. His people translated in the original language means the same verb as His people in service in the tabernacle.

**New Jerusalem is coming down out of heaven, what does that mean?**

**What will it be like to see God and Jesus face to face? No tears, no death, no pain. What is meant by the old order has passed away?**

***Revelation 21:6-7 He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.***

The reference to Alpha and omega lets us know that this is Jesus. Believers will thirst for Christ and will be satisfied. All Believers are overcomers (John 1:12). Remember the promise to Philadelphia that the victorious one will be a pillar in the temple of God (Revelation 3:12).

**Who is on the throne? Where have we heard “it is done”? John 19:30, Rev 16:17 and Rev 21:6 – What is the significance? Have you ever ponder that phrase son of the king and what that might mean in a literal sense in heaven?**

God says you will be sons. This means with all rights. Heirs of God and Inherit all things – Romans 8:16-17.

**Revelation 21:8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”**

**Why is the fiery lake mentioned here in the chapter on heaven? Do you remember the Greek word for sorcery or “magic arts”?** Lest you draw the wrong conclusion: God reminds us all things new except the Lake of fire. The second death is real and sin and darkness are blocked out for eternity from the new creation. Without the possibility of temptation as we had in the garden without the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

**Revelation 21:9-11 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” 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. It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.**

The bride is the church of Jesus. Physical description and dimensions of Heaven are given to us. Notice there is a clear difference between the Millennium, the New Jerusalem, and New Earth.

<b>Millennial</b>	<b>Post Millennial</b>
1000yrs	Endless
Sorrows present	No sorrow
Earthly	Not of this world (Physiological changes of great magnitude)
Righteousness Reigns	Righteousness Dwells
Imperfection/Rebels	Perfection / Sinless

Earthy Jerusalem and New Jerusalem what is the difference. The Old Testament promises to Israel to live in the land. The New Earthly Jerusalem is the fulfillment. It is the second city both share eternity, but The Throne and Christ call New Jerusalem home. Much like the Jews went to the temple or tabernacle to worship. They will travel to New Jerusalem to worship. If there were no need for travel, why would there be 12 gates for the 12 tribes. More on that later.

**How far does New Jerusalem come down from Heaven?** There are Many Speculations.

<b>Facts:</b>	<b>Views:</b>
It comes down from Heaven.	Spiritualize, Assume it is another city on earth
Never states that it comes all the way down to earth.	A city in Heaven
John is taken up to see it and measure	Hangs below Heaven in mid-air.

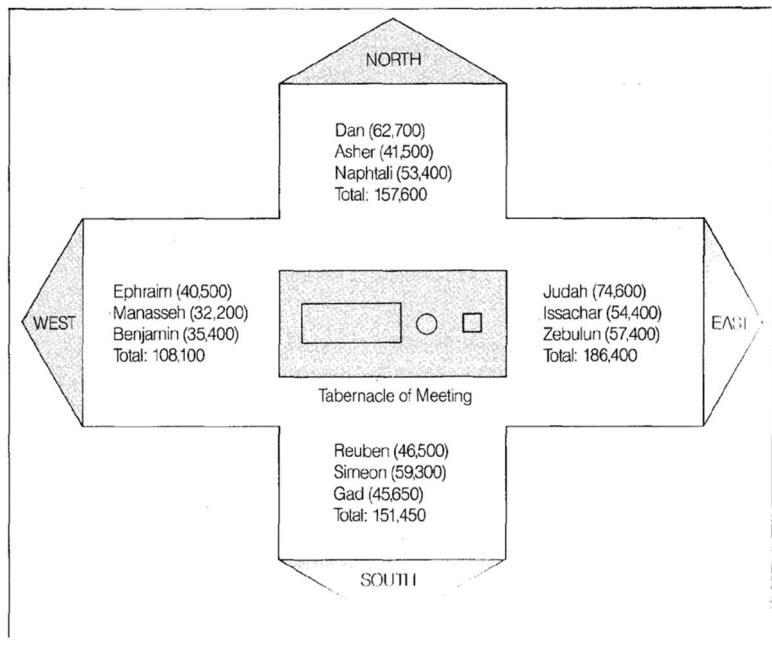
Because of our sin nature, the Glory of God rightfully causes fear, and we know many examples with the children of Israel, the arc and etc. In our current nature, we are unable to experience the full Glory of God, but all that will be possible in glorified bodies clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

**Where is the bride's residence? Jesus said I go and prepare a place for you?**

**Revelation 21:12-14 It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.**

**Notice the gates, How many whose names are written?**

Jasper described here is most likely a diamond. Beauty and also the hardest substance. The great wall symbolizes peace, and it is approximately 216 feet high. Notice: 12 is the number in the bible for government. 12 is referenced 21 times in Revelations and 7 times here alone. 12 gates are set up for his holy temple or tabernacle just as God has done before. See diagram below of the tabernacle in the desert.



**The foundations whose names? What is the significance of this?**

12 disciples are the foundations Eph 2:20. Notice: the foundations are adorned with precious jewels just as the breast plates of the priest were adorned. The foundations are the different colors of the rainbow: diamond, blue, opaque, green, white with layers of red, fiery red, golden yellow, Sea Green, Greenish yellow, Gold Green, Violet, purple and ruby. The city from a distance could look much like a prism. A large diamond inset with the colors of the rainbow. The gates will be open as people come to worship.

**Revelation 21:15-21 The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia[c] in length, and as wide and high as it is long. The angel measured the wall using human measurement, and it was 144 cubits[d] thick. The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. The foundations of the city walls were decorated**

***with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.***

**How long is a stadia? Or a cubit? Notice the foundations are decorated with precious stones, do you remember what else was decorated with precious stones? Have you ever heard of a pearl quite that big? Why the pearl?**

12,000 stadia is between 1300 – 1500 miles (there is some uncertainty as to the exact length of a stadia.)

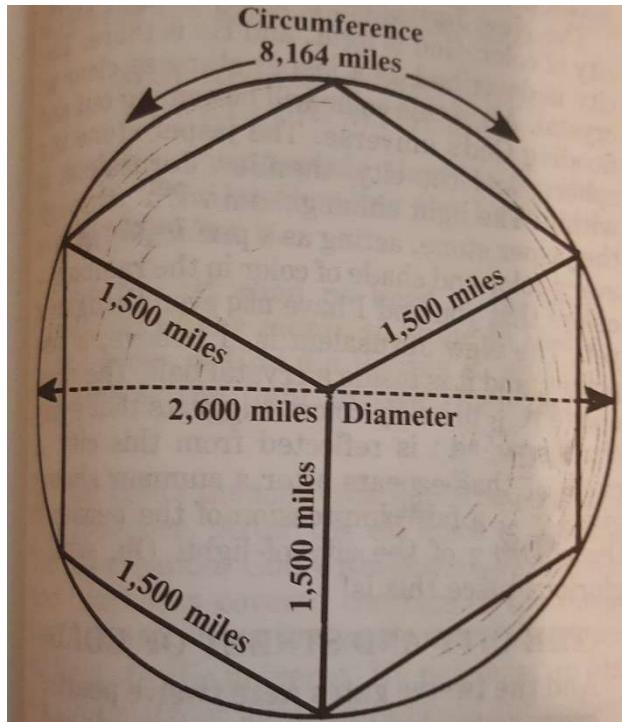
***Revelation 21:22-27 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.***

Just as the people are the church, the Lord and the Lamb will be the temple. There is no need for a physical temple.

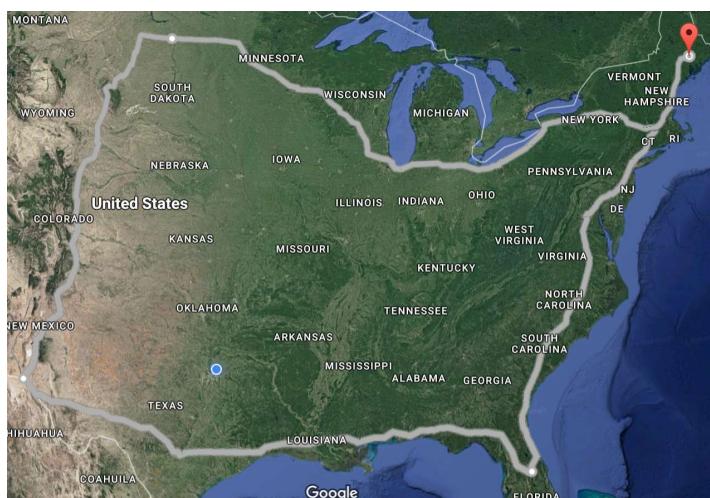
Notice: God's desire is finally achieved fully – Fellowship with man free will love without sin. No church or temple is needed. Nations are the redeemed after the rapture and visit through the open gates. The church is the bride residing in the city. The Old Testament promises Israel will live in the land. Hence the gates with their name for they are frequent worshipers.

#### **Heaven Images of Structure and Magnitude based on Scripture (Possible interpretation)**

**In relation to the US, what would 1500 sq. miles look like?**



Source: Thru the Bible with Dr. J Vernon McGee,  
Nelson Publishing, Copyright 1983, Vol 5, page 1071.



## Chapter 22

Outline	1-5 River of Life and Tree of Life 6-16 Promise of Return of Christ 17-19 Final Invitation and Warning
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***Revelation 22:1-3 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 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.***

**Where have you heard the water of Life and in what context? John 4:4-15 The river of the water of life is like crystal, why?**

**How about the tree of life? Gen 2:9 & Gen 3:22 (The Alter [blood atonement for sin] in Gen 2 and 4)**

**Will there be steak and lobster in Heaven? Why or Why not?**

**Why are leaves for healing of the nations if there is no sickness, death, pain, etc.? Ezekiel 47:12. What is the logical explanation for the purpose of the leaves?**

Possible explanations:

1. Preventive – like vitamins
2. for Healing of the those in other non-glorified bodies (Earthly nations and maybe other)
3. A figurative use of speech to show or explain perpetual health.

**What is different from Garden of Eden and New Heaven and Earth?**

Tree of Life – 12 fruits each month and leaves for healing for the nations. Some tie the fruits here to the fruits of the spirit.

Menu is varied but restricted to fruit. The vegetarian diet returns to same diet as in Garden Eden. (Gen 1:29-30)

***Revelation 22:4–5 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 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.***

**What will life be like without the curse of sin? Will His name be on your forehead literally?**

No Curse not even a potential – Potential Sin was originally in the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil in the Garden. Holy Spirit came right after the presence of sin. His role will change now.

No need for the sun because we have The Son. Remember when John spoke on this subject 1 John 1:5-7.

His servants shall give service. This same word that is used for service in connection with Jehovah as it is used in Heb 9:1, 6.

**What will we do?** One verse says we will Judge Angels. We will have the name of Christ on us. There is no night and no need for sleep in our new bodies. Adam was given dominion over the old creation.

No Curse	Perfect Sinlessness
Throne of God and the Lamb	Perfect Government
Servants serve Him	Perfect Service
See His Face	Perfect Communion
Name of foreheads	Perfect Resemblance
No Night	Perfect Blessedness
Reign Forever	Perfect Glory

***Revelation 22:6 The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.”***

#### **How is it best translated must soon take place?**

I come quickly. The whole time once it starts is but 7 years. The word used is not shortly or soon – it is quickly.

The book has Jesus' Seal. The words are faithful and true. This signifies the importance of the words so that they may not be twist/spiritualized and loose meaning.

***Revelation 22:7 “Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.”***

**Do you remember how John opened Chapter 1 of Revelation? Why is it repeated? What is the significance repeating something in the bible?**

***Revelation 22:8-9 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!”***

John reminds us he is an eye-witness to all that transpires. **What did John do that the angel had to correct him for? Are we ever guilty of the same thing?** Angel identifies himself as a fellow worshiper, and points worship to the Creator not creation.

***Revelation 22:10 Then he told me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near.***

**Why is John asked not seal up his book? Are others in the bible asked to seal up their books? Why and how could Jesus say the time is near when John wrote the book nearly 2000 yrs. ago (est. 95 AD)? Don’t seal up the words because the fulfillment is near?** To Seal would indicate that the prophecy would be postponed and opened only at the right time. Daniel was told to seal his. This book includes the church age and is now upon us.

***Revelation 22:11 Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy.”***

Let him continue who is doing wrong or vile! Does that sound harsh? Why do you suppose the strong and frank language at this point? The condition of man and the righteous are not static. They will both continue in either darkness or light.

**Revelation 22:12 -16** “Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”

Come quickly again. Blood washed. What is meant by blessed are those who have washed their robes? Dogs were scavengers in those days hence the reference. He ends as he begins with I am the alpha and Omega. Jesus' words – **What is meant by: come soon? Reward is with me? Everyone will be given according to what was done.**

**Revelation 22:17** *The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.*

The invitation and who it is from is clear notice the language. Why is the language sprinkled with terms like Hearers, Thirsty, wishes, come and take? What does this tell us? How is that important to us when evangelizing?

**Revelation 22:18-19** *I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. 19 And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll.*

Why the stern warning? Based on the world's view of Revelation, do you think some people today could be subjecting themselves to God's plagues and losing their share of the city and tree of life?

**Revelation 22:20-21** *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.*

Come Quickly! How many times has “soon” been used in this chapter? Why? What's the impact on us today? Do we act as if Jesus is coming soon?