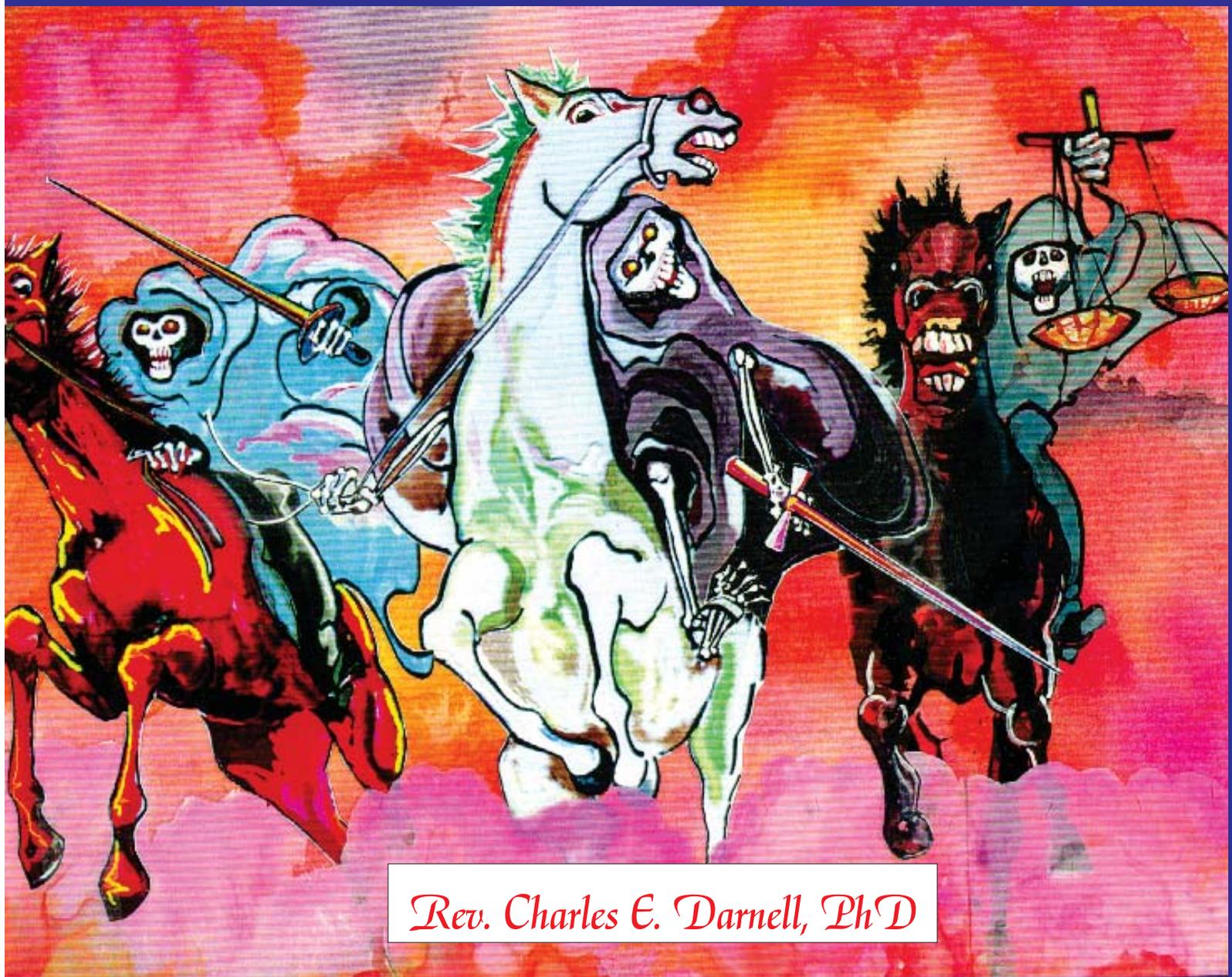


Days To COME



Rev. Charles E. Darnell, PhD

Days to Come

**A Look at the
Revelation of Jesus
as given to John**

Rev. Charles E. Darnell, PhD

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Throughout my works I have attempted to incorporate supporting scripture for the convenience of the reader. In doing such I may, or may not, follow the appropriate manuscript style as stated in the Fifth Edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA) or any other accepted manuscript guide. While acknowledging the authority of the APA there is a clause used in the stated manual which needs to be inserted herein:

The Publication Manual presents explicit style requirements but acknowledges that alternatives are sometimes necessary; authors should balance the rules of the Publication Manual with good judgment. Preface: p. xx.

Introduction

Mankind seems to take an interest in predictions of things revealed, words of paradise, and words of hell. On the other hand we tend to forget that there is a certain connection between these three things. The long term reality is that few people have any interest in their future, the future of their community, their state, their country, or the future of their world. What is happening today is the *now generation*. It appears their concern centers around me, myself and I and what is good for me, myself and I. The encroachment upon the Christian faith is appearing everywhere. The Baptist and Presbyterians are fighting among themselves over ideology and leadership unity. Leaders of hate groups are being received with contemporary legitimate leaders at summit meetings. However, there remains a remnant of believers who are earnestly praying to keep the body together before it destroys itself.

As the world changes, it sounds more and more like a soap opera, and come to think of it, so does the position that man stands within God's grace or wrath. It seems the cynicism running amuck throughout the world is only leading mankind toward the final war that ushers in the second coming of Christ. As the demoralizing continues, Christians would be wise to increase their praying of *The Lord's Prayer*. The answer to that prayer will be shown in this work.

Mankind should take a serious look at the Revelation of Jesus as given to John, and mankind should also compare end time statements between the Bible and the Quran. It is through these two sources that the children of Abraham should accept the fact that there is truth revealed in the writings of **all the prophets.**

I'm a Christian who enjoys reading God's Word. I believe mankind is dangerously close to hastening the second coming of Jesus. I have been told that mankind cannot have an effect on the second coming of Christ. Really? Let the theologian look at the Biblical record of the account of Noah and the flood, or at that recorded in Exodus 32:14 when the Lord God himself was ready to destroy His chosen people. Exodus 32:14, *Then the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.* I steadfastly believe that mankind can delay the second coming through repentance, moral living and reverent worship of God!¹ I feel led by the Holy Spirit to write about certain things that have come to me. My first book was *God's Forgotten Holy Land* and following that through eight years of research I compiled the *Adam & Eve Family Tree*.TM Both works are published by VisionQuest Publishing of Campbellsville, Kentucky. Now this work will deal with the Revelation of Jesus as given to the apostle John.

Each verse of the Revelation will be printed and then a discussion about that verse will follow. This is done for the sake of simplicity and the convenience of the reader. You can go through the Revelation a chapter at a time and not have to read everything written on the Revelation if you will only read the verses of one chapter and review the discussion. I call this the Windows® syndrome. We have gotten to the point that we will not read anything, not even the instruction manual that comes with the program. Microsoft gave us Windows and we all learned the ease of computers by looking at icons and not having to read. My attempt is to condense portions of God's word or collect verses that have a common thought or idea. My use of the computer is completely at the mercy of the Holy Spirit that sits upon my shoulder. I can gather verses for everyone to understand in a Windows® syndrome fashion, but alas, each of you must at least read the Bible to have a basis to understand truth. In order to show you truth I have to begin at some point. This is a work pertaining to the Revelation of Christ and I



¹ See 2 Peter 3:9 on page 3

believe the Revelation can be understood by laymen in simple terms of truth. Yes! I fully understand there are scholars with degrees of the highest order who have worked years to understand the Revelation. So why do I feel the need to produce another version? Simple, scholars tend to write for scholars, preachers tend to write for preachers. What better way to view the Revelation of John than from the viewpoint of a layman? I pray you take an interest in what is presented here, because a promise comes with the truth.

Each of us should look around ourselves to see if there isn't some way we can help put the relationship between God and mankind back into its proper perspective. Has mankind itself gone to the brink of destruction? Can we change some of our personal thoughts and repent, so there is more harmonious worship of God? I believe mankind does have some choice in the matter of the second coming of Christ and the end times. In some circles this is called the Doomsday Clock. Whatever you choose to call it, man can influence the actions of God by being reverent, praising Him and living by His Word. By doing so, we can continue to usher in further generations. It is the responsibility of this generation to adequately prepare the next generation to lead, especially in the matters of eternal salvation. However, by becoming indifferent, greedy and callous toward our fellow man, we are only running at full speed toward that day when order must be restored by a Higher Authority because we've lost our sense of responsibility completely.

Are we in the end times? That is hard to say! If you look around to see the actions of mankind, we surely are! If you listen to many church leaders, they say we are! But, is there any clue in the Bible itself to tell us if these are truly the final days prior to the second coming? Yes! If you use a concordance, or a PC Bible program, and search on the phrase *last days* results will occur. There are two reference verses in this search that need to be read a little deeper to grasp their meaning. The first will come from 1st Timothy and the second will come from 2nd Peter.

Isaiah 2:2 *In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.*

Hosea 3:5 *Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days.*

Micah 4:1 *In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and peoples will stream to it.*

Acts 2:17 *In the last days, God says, "I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams."*

The next reference in this search is 2 Timothy 3:1, however I think a little more information is necessary to fully understand this passage.

2 Timothy 2:22-3:17 *Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.*

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth—men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. But they will not

get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.

You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings-what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Continuing with our search the following verses also speak of the last days.

Hebrews 1:2 *But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.*

James 5:3 *Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days.*

I had indicated that there were two places that I felt additional information was necessary to fully understand the verse contained in the reference search. The next verse in this search would be 2 Peter 3:3; however, I'm including the entire third chapter of 2nd Peter.

Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.

*First of all, you must understand that in the last days **scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires**. They will say, "Where is this coming he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.*

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

There is no point for me to even attempt to add more to the Word of God. The truth has been stated and nothing more needs to be added. There's a fine line between this book and some others. If you find a book within a church organization that the leaders say you must use in order to interpret the Bible, turn and run as fast as possible, for you have just found a cult. On the other hand there are books written, even this one, to help every Christian to understand more of God's Word. What is the difference? The difference is between interpretation and understanding. God's people will understand through the Holy Spirit. Worldly people will be misled by an interpretation.

If you are worried about the future of the earth, or are curious about the meaning of the Revelation then read further, because this book was prepared for you. Please remember the presentation made here is not a scholarly study. It is the writings of a spirit-lead man for laymen to have a basic understanding of the Revelation. This work is not written for the theologian, however I do believe many pastors could find material here to better preach the Revelation to his congregation as a shepherd over his flock.

One final comment! While reading this, please remember when the Revelation was written by John, he was imprisoned on the island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea. John had to write in a manner that did not offend the Roman guard while at the same time provided God's truth to the young churches on the mainland in the province of Asia. It may seem the Revelation is difficult to read, and to some it will be. It must also be understood there are portions of the Revelation that view a scene in Heaven and the next verse may be a result upon the Earth. Of necessity in revealing the truth, John hid the truth. We'll attempt to remove the veil.

The ancient prophets are no longer here giving insight into the future. Jesus is no longer here performing miracles. There have even been those to declare God is dead! I must hear a different drum and march to it in my journey across the pathway of life. I believe God is very much alive and uses many forms to continually provide mankind with reminders of His truth. David Eddings, Margaret Weis and Frank Peretti are writers who pass this truth in their works. Steven Spielberg is a director of movies who does this. Jim Hensen did it with the muppets in his movie *The Dark Crystal*, and the movies Star Wars, Star Trek, Dune and many others continue retelling the truth.

I now present to you a layman's view of the Revelation.

* The entries marked with an asterisk were added notes after the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020.

* A Short Abstract of the Revelation

Eschatology - Often referred to as a study of last things.

Battles of the King of the North and King of the South

Read Daniel chapter 11- 12 to understand that there are more than one battle.

Read Ezekiel 39:12 to understand it takes all Israel seven months to bury the dead after the final battle.

Chapter 1 - Introduction of John and what Jesus told him to write.

Chapter 2 - Introduction to four of the churches in Asia (Minor), now the present day country of Turkey, and what Jesus said about these four churches.

Chapter 3 - Introduction to three more churches in Asia and what Jesus said about these churches.

Chapter 4 - God protects His own! The taking out event or the Rapture of the church.

Chapter 5 - Redemption of the Purchased Possession.

Chapter 6 - The seals of the Purchased Possession are broken.

Verse 6:4 could mean the beginning of the battles between the King of the North and the King of the South.

Chapter 7 - Those saved during the Great Tribulation.

Chapter 8 - Beginning of the Seven Trumpet Judgments.

Chapter 9 - Satan's locusts army.

Chapter 10 - Jesus takes triumph possession of Earth with the title deed in hand.

Chapter 11 - The two witnesses.

Chapter 12 - Recap of chapters 7-11 and instruction pertaining to symbols.

Chapter 13 - Introduction of the Antichrist in verse 1 and the False Prophet in verse 11.

Chapter 14 - Introduction of the 144,000 Jews of the Tribulation period.

Verse 6 - Three angels to proclaim God's Truth.

Verse 14 - Harvest of the Earth.

Ezekiel 38-39 - Battle of Gog and Magog or the battle of Armageddon.

Daniel 2 - Daniel interprets the king's dream.

Chapter 15 - The third Woe! The seven plagues.

Chapter 16 - The bowl judgments.

Chapter 17 - Fall of false religion and the false prophet

Chapter 18 - Fall of Antichrist

Chapter 19 - Wedding Feast

Chapter 20 - 1,000 year reign and the final war between God and Satan. Satan loses and sent the hell!

Chapter 21 - New Jerusalem

Chapter 22 - River of Life

The Revelation of Jesus as Given to John

Revelation 1

Prologue

Verse 1) *The revelation of 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.*

1. Revelation means unveiling, uncovering, presentation, appearing. In the Greek language it is called the Apocalypse, meaning to reveal. Its twin word apocrypha means to conceal or hide. From these two words we have the hidden meaning: to reveal that which had been hidden.

2. of Jesus Christ — meaning this revelation was given to Jesus. The second part of the Trinity.

3. which God gave him — meaning this revelation **is from GOD!** God, as used here in this verse represents the Father of the Trinity. We will see all three persons of the Trinity represented in this verse.

4. to show — or, if amplified, to illustrate to the world that God gave His Son the glory when He comes to avenge His death on the cross.

5. servants — meaning literally, **bondservants**. A bondservant is one who had completed his time as a slave, but out of love for his master volunteered to continue working as a servant. This is the kind of servant that God wants and I believe that God has said so in our Bible and in the Quran.

6. by sending his angel — here is the third part of the Trinity; meaning, His special angel, the Holy Spirit.

7. John — The writer of the Book. Which John? Verse 2 will tell.

Verse 2) *Who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

1. The word of God — The Apostle John wrote in John 1:1, *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

2. Testimony of Jesus Christ — The Apostle John wrote in John 20:31, *But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.* It was to the Apostle John that the angel brought the Revelation in order that it might be recorded.

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

1. Blessed — **As I began the introduction I said there was a promise to those who studied the Revelation. Here is the promise from God. Notice who is being blessed:**

a. Those who read the words of this prophecy

b. Those who hear

c. Those who take to heart what is written in it: meaning those who believe and will guard these words.

I know this is not part of the Revelation but there is another important promise I'd like to mention. Which one of the Ten Commandments contains a promise? It's Commandment number five, which reads in Exodus 20:12 TLB, *Honor your father and mother, that you may have a long, good life in the land the Lord your God will give you.* Do you see the promise? Today's children should read and understand this verse, if they plan to have a long rewarding life, they must honor their mother and father.

2. The time is near — The Apostle Matthew wrote in Chapter 24, verse 36 of his gospel the following statement from Jesus, *“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son,*

but only the Father.” Luke wrote in Acts 1:7 the words of Jesus saying, “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority.” Paul probably gives us more of an understanding for these verses in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11. Note the important point in verse 2 when he says, the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

Greetings and Doxology

Verse 4) *John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from Him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before His throne.*

1. I have repeatedly attempted to identify and illustrate to the Christian community the importance Turkey played within our religion. Here we have John identifying to whom he is writing: to the seven churches in the province of Asia. The province of Asia is located in the present day country of Turkey.

2. Notice that the revelation is to churches. These were young churches in the first century of Christianity to which the revelation was being revealed, yet many people say the Revelation is too difficult to understand. Now, who makes up the church of Jesus? We Christians do! So in effect, to whom is the Revelation being revealed? It was, and still is, revealed to all of us!

3. Grace and peace to you — There were many things wrong within these seven churches, just as there are things wrong in our churches today. Yet, John greeted them in a courteous manner.

4. Have you ever heard of the following outline:

- a. First, I’m going to tell you what I’m going to tell you.
- b. Then I’ll tell you what it is I’m going to tell you.
- c. Finally, I’m going to tell you what I told you.

In somewhat similar fashion, the person this message is coming from is told to the audience three different times in three different ways. The first occurrence is in verse 1 and foretells from whom the Revelation is given. Verses 4 and 5 is the second occurrence of this message and verse 8 gives this the third time in the salutation. Therefore: from Him Who is, and Who was, and Who is to come. The Him in this verse is the Trinity itself.

5. from the seven spirits before His throne.

a. Numbers do have meaning in much of Bible teaching. Seven is God’s perfect number or number for completion. One is for beginning or unity, two of separation, three the Trinity, four is the earth’s number, six is man’s number of imperfection, evil, eight is for new beginnings, ten is for testing or completeness, twelve for wholeness and 144,000 is for all the people of God.

b. Isaiah 11:2 gives the seven spirits:

- (1.) The Spirit of the Lord
- (2.) The Spirit of wisdom
- (3.) The Spirit of understanding
- (4.) The Spirit of counsel
- (5.) The Spirit of power
- (6.) The Spirit of knowledge
- (7.) The Spirit of fear of the Lord

Isaiah 11:1-5, *A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord—and He will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what He sees with His eyes, or decide by what He hears with His ears; but with righteousness He will judge the needy, with justice He will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth; with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked.*

Righteousness will be His belt and faithfulness the sash around His waist. We just learned in 5 a. that seven is God's number and here in these verses from Isaiah we see an illustration. The image Isaiah has is pertaining to Jesus, the Son of God, who has the seven spirits of God in His character, manner and judgement. Christians should study the Old Testament, especially the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel to fully understand many of the little things revealed in Revelation! In the verse from Isaiah look at the last clause, *sash around His waist*, now look forward to verse 13 in this chapter and see similar wording. In both cases the reference is to Jesus.

Verse 5) *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood.*

1. from Jesus Christ — How about that, a personal letter from Jesus to Christians everywhere.
2. who is the faithful witness — Let us all remember upon our acceptance of Jesus as our personal savior, He became the faithful witness who would stand before His Father and testify that we belong to Him. Think about that! There will be a trial where Jesus is the main witness and we are the accused. We will be granted a pardon because of what Jesus says. Jesus says in Luke 12:8, *“I tell you, whoever acknowledges Me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God.”*
3. the firstborn from the dead — Jesus overcame death and at the first judgement, all the church who have gone before will be called to meet Jesus.
4. the ruler of the kings of the earth — remember Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords. 1 Timothy 6:15, *Which God will bring about in His own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords.*
5. who loves us — If only mankind would follow two verses recorded in the Gospel of John;
 - a. John 3:16 - *“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*
 - b. John 13:34-35 contains what I call the eleventh Commandment. This is the only commandment Jesus gave us, and it reads, *“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. All men will know that you are My disciples if you love one another.”* Doesn't this say it all?
6. has freed us from our sins by His blood. — As the second Adam, Jesus died on the cross for our sins and has freed us from the bondage of sin the first Adam placed upon mankind.

Verse 6) *And has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve His God and Father—to Him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.*

1. has made us to be a kingdom — Don't we constitute the Church? Then, aren't we a kingdom? Isn't John looking forward to the years of peace when Jesus rules for the thousand years?
2. priests to serve His God and Father — I think there are very few Christians who fully understand man's placement in Heaven. If I can show you that man is above the angels, would you believe me?
 - a. 1 Corinthians 6:3, *Do you not know that we will judge angels?* If we were discussing a trial, the jury is composed of peers and if we took that connotation then we are equal to the angels. However, if we view a judge as being a step above the jury, then we are above the angels.
 - b. Hebrews 1:14, *Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?* Isn't it the Church that will inherit salvation? Doesn't this verse say angels are sent to serve us?
 - c. 1 Peter 1:12, Look at the last sentence of this verse. *Even angels long to look into these things.* We have been told things even angels want to know.
3. to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Matthew 6:9-13 KJV is the Lord's Prayer. Look at the last part stated: *“For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.”*
4. Amen. — meaning Let it be done! John is saying he likes what he is being shown and told

and is anxious for these things to come to pass. As a Christian are you anxious for our Savior to return?

Verse 7) *Look, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of Him. So shall it be! Amen.*

1. He is coming with the clouds — In Acts 1:10-11 the two angels say, *“This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”*

Verse 8) *“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”*

1. I am the Alpha and the Omega — Remember the name that God told Moses to tell the Israelites who had sent him—**I AM**. Alpha and Omega are the first and last letter in the Greek alphabet, so this says *I am the first and the last*. This is the third occurrence revealing who is sending this revelation. The term Alpha and Omega will appear again in the Revelation.

2. who is, and who was, and who is to come, — We see the Alpha and Omega of the Greek language, however, in the Hebrew bible the fourth word of Genesis is Aleph Tau, meaning Christ, and this is not translated into our English bibles. Remember what Hebrews 13:8 says, *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.* (NKJV)

3. the Almighty — The following is recorded in Isaiah 9:6, *For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

One Like a Son of God

Verse 9) *I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.*

1. John — John used only his name. No title is needed to impress the reader.

2. your brother — Throughout the teachings of the Apostles the term Brother is used. John would rather be called brother and he realizes we are coequal (brothers) through Jesus.

3. and companion — John is trying to express the equality and simplicity that is intended in the Revelation. He placed himself on the same plane as you or I. He did not want to be higher or above a layman, even though, he was one of the original 12 Apostles of Jesus and was called the one Jesus loved, John 13:23, *One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to Him.* God does not intend for the preacher to dress higher or think of himself higher than the layman.

4. in the suffering and kingdom — John could not get his thoughts off the coming kingdom.

5. patient endurance that are ours in Jesus — John was patiently waiting for Jesus to return. He will show how strong his thoughts are on the kingdom and that he remains waiting for Jesus' return when in chapter 22 verse 20 he says, “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus”

6. on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus — Here is the reason John is on this island and not at Ephesus

a. because of the word — or because he dared to preach the Word

b. the testimony of Jesus — He is teaching the story of Jesus and testifying to the truth.

Verse 10) *On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,*

1. On the Lord's Day — John is speaking about the Sabbath. We must remember that Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath, not Lord of the first day of the week! Mark 2:27-28, *Then He said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”*

2. in the Spirit — you could say John was having communion with the Comforter
3. loud voice like a trumpet — the trumpet is a call. The next thing on God's timetable is the trumpet call. Two of the things a trumpet call can mean is:
 - a. Get up in the morning (resurrection)
 - b. Assemble (judgement)

Verse 11) *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."*

We should consider three things in this verse:

- a. John is to receive instructions for the church body.
- b. These are God's instructions.
- c. We should only take our teachings from God.

Verse 12) *I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands,*

1. see the voice — In order to hear a voice there must be a word. Jesus is the Word (see John 1:1 and Revelation 1:2). In my first book I stated there are references in Genesis (the beginning) that refer to the Revelation (the end) and verses in Revelation that refer to Genesis. Genesis 3:8 indicates Adam and Eve were startled by the sound of the Lord after partaking of the forbidden tree. This must be a powerful sound, but one we will understand and know the authority from whence it comes.

2. saw seven golden lampstands — verse 20 will identify these lampstands. Refer also to Zechariah 4:2, *He asked me, "What do you see?"*

I answered, "I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl at the top and seven lights on it, with seven channels to the lights. Also there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left."

Verse 13) *And among the lampstands was someone like a Son of Man, dressed in a robe reaching down to His feet and with a golden sash around His chest.*

1. like a Son of Man — In the middle of the lampstands stood Jesus. The high priest was assigned the responsibility to care for the lampstand of the Tabernacle. The tribe of Levi was the tribe to care for the Tabernacle. This duty was assigned in Numbers 3:31, *They were responsible for the care of the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, the articles of the sanctuary used in ministering, the curtain, and everything related to their use.* Jesus is our Chief Priest and He is doing His job to care for His church (tabernacle) and keep it in order.

2. sash around His chest. — Refer back to verse 4 and the cross reference to Isaiah 11:5.

Verse 14) *His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes were like blazing fire.*

1. white as snow — sign of purity
2. eyes were like blazing fire. — bright, full of power, piercing (like a parent to a child when the child has done wrong).

Verse 15) *His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of rushing waters.*

1. feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace — The NIV version uses the term bronze. The King James says feet like fine brass. I believe it means the liquid state. To me, there would be a bright sheen over the glowing metal, and when, in liquid form, can flow like water. Jesus can flow into any church.

2. voice was like the sound of rushing waters — another example of power, yet soothing and relaxing.

Verse 16) *In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.*

1. See verse 20 for the answer to the seven stars. Also see Revelation 2:20

2. sharp double-edged sword. — The double-edged sword is explained in Hebrews 4:12, *For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.* See Revelation 2:12.

3. face was like the sun — His countenance was as the sun. John saw Jesus in the Spirit. Boy! What a picture John had before his eyes.

Verse 17) *When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. Then He placed His right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.”*

1. fell at his feet as though dead. — See Genesis 3:8 again to understand the fear John had.

2. Do not be afraid. — Could John have felt as Adam and Eve did in the garden and want to hide? Genesis 3:8, *Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.* We should not fear our Lord and Savior.

3. I am the First and Last — a cross reference to verse 8 being Alpha and Omega.

Verse 18) *“I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”*

1. Cross reference to verses 1, 4 and 8

2. I hold the keys of death and Hades. — Jesus defeated death and God has granted Him the power over Satan and Satan’s final home in Hell. Remember Satan is the prince of the air, and we are living in Satan’s current domain.

Verse 19) *“Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.”*

This is an outline for Revelation

a. What you have seen — Chapter 1

b. What is now — Chapters 2 and 3

c. What will take place later — Chapters 4 through 22

Verse 20) *“The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in My right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.”*

1. seven stars — represent messengers, leaders or preachers.

2. seven lampstands — represent the seven types of churches that make up the body. Some problems exist in each type. See verses 12, 16 and 2:1.

Revelation 2

To the Church in Ephesus

Chapter 2, verse 1) *“To the angel 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.”*

1. angel — To the pastor of the church. Jesus is writing to the pastor because no church can rise higher than its pastor. In like manner, any organization, state or government cannot rise higher than its leader.

2. Refer to verse 20 in chapter 1 for the explanation. To understand how close Jesus holds these seven stars turn to John 10:27-30, *“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one.”*

3. walks among — chapter 1 verse 20 identified the seven candlesticks as the churches. Understand what this is saying. **Jesus walks within the churches, even today!**

Verse 2) *“I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.”*

1. deeds, hard work, perseverance — This was a working church, but as will be shown, not satisfying to Jesus. What kind of church was this? It could get men to come help work on the building. It could get ladies to cook or even sew for the needy. They could get a large crowd together for a Sunday School teacher's conference or Bible School planning session, and yet they were not working for Jesus. **There is a difference in church work and working for Jesus!**

2. cannot tolerate wicked men — This church hated sin.

3. tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. — This church was sound in its faith and knew the ways to test for false teaching. The test for false teaching is found in 1 John 4:2-3, *This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.*

a. Many churches are sound on baptism, but are not baptizing anyone.

b. Many churches are sound on soul winning, but are not winning souls. See verse 2:6.

c. Look very closely to the last sentence. Have you understood that the Antichrist is already in the world?

Verse 3) *“You have persevered and have endured hardships for My name, and have not grown weary.”*

Meaning that this church bore reproach for Jesus' name. The name of Jesus has never been popular in this world. To be a real church in this day and age means to bear reproach for Jesus' name. When a church really gets down to the business of God, there is going to be a stigma about the church.

Verse 4) *“Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.”*

Observe some newlyweds and compare how love changes with the passing of the years. In our nation there is a 50% chance for a divorce in any marriage. This could be stated in two ways. (1) 50% of those reading this statement will say it is wrong; and, (2) 50% of those reading this will understand

what is meant. The same has occurred in this church and they have lost the feeling of their first love; which should be Christ. Love should increase with time and be growing. Jesus is trying to show these young churches the mistakes they are committing. The same mistakes apply to our churches today and will continue to apply until the second coming occurs. Remember the only command that Jesus gave us is John 13:34-35, *“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.”*

Verse 5) *“Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.”*

1. Repent — This is the key word for this church. Repent means to turn around. What Jesus is saying is to get back to the honeymoon. Again consider a married couple. How wonderful would it be if a married couple could regain the sweet love they had when they were first married?

2. and do the things you did at first. — What is usually the first thing that happens in young love? You tell everybody about it. A Christian should be telling about Jesus. We should be sharing our experiences of living for Jesus and encouraging others to learn more of His love.

3. If you do not repent, I will come to you — I believe mankind has some control over the second coming. Here is one verse that leads me to this conclusion. The first part identifies the option, to repent or not, and the second part indicates Jesus will come if repentance is not made.

4. and remove your lampstand from its place. — The lampstand is the church. What Jesus is effectively doing is saying this church is no longer winning souls and their power is removed.

Verse 6) *“But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.”*

Nicolaitans — adherents to Nicolaus. Some say the term *the Nicolaitans* means to rule the people, others say they encouraged some in the church to return to pagan laxity of morals. In verse 2 of this chapter I illustrated the relationship between Church and pastor, therefore I believe the term gives meaning to a laxity of morals. Taking this meaning, it seems God does not tolerate a church that advocates loose moral practices. This idea seems apparent in our society and our churches today.

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

1. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. — This means a spiritual ear, in other words, if you are spiritual hear these words.

2. To him who overcomes, — The word overcomes is used in each church identity clause. Overcomes could be taken as a promise. There are a total of thirteen promises given to the seven churches. This is the first of those promises; **the right to eat of the tree of life.**

3. tree of life — Let's complete the circle from the beginning to the end. Adam and Eve took of the tree of knowledge of good and evil and violated God's command and placed man into sin. Jesus (the second Adam) takes away sin by reestablishing the relationship with God through a belief in Him and allows us to eat of the tree of life. See Revelation 22:2 to understand that God makes provision for his own.

To the Church in Smyrna

Verse 8) *“To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of Him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.”*

1. The word Smyrna is the same as the word myrrh, a sweet smelling perfume. This church was a fragrance to the Lord, willing to suffer for Jesus.

2. Words of Him who is the First — Jesus is telling here that He was before anything else and

made man from dust. See Aleph Tau in chapter 1, verse 8.

3. and the Last — This settles what is in the future. When all else is gone Jesus will still be here. There seems to be a day when everyone worries about the future. **Why?** Jesus holds the future!

4. who died and came to life again — This is an encouragement to the church at Smyrna. The next verse will explain more about this church. The church at Smyrna was suffering for Jesus' name. They were being persecuted and Jesus reminds them He was persecuted on the cross and was buried, but rose from the grave. Jesus is telling them to rise up and go on.

Verse 9) *“I know your afflictions and your poverty-yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.”*

1. I know your afflictions and your poverty — This church did not have a grand building to attract people. They did not have carpeted floors, or stain glass windows, no prestige in the community, but they had the approval of God.

2. yet you are rich — This church had things money cannot buy. A church cannot buy the power of God or a spirit of unity among its members. Many churches should gladly exchange big buildings for a sweet spirit.

3. who say they are Jews and are not — apply this to all the sects that claim they are the only true church, or to those groups who actually preach a hate ministry. Have you ever wondered why these groups are always condemning the Jews? They want the power the Jews represent, but they can never have it.²

4. but are a synagogue of Satan — Synagogue means gathering together. Church actually means a calling out. We have too many gatherings today where the people have never been called out. The devil also has churches. A church that does not teach salvation by grace through the blood of Jesus, is a church of the devil!

Verse 10) *“Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.”*

1. suffer persecution for ten days. — Go back to the explanation of the numbers in Revelation 1:4. Ten is the number representing testing, just as it says here.

2. Be faithful — What a command to receive from Jesus. The one thing that God wants from His churches is faithfulness.

3. even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. — This has nothing to do with salvation. It refers to rewards and God is going to give a special crown to the faithful.

Verse 11) *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.”*

Will not be hurt at all by the second death. — In other words will not be cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the second overcomes promise. See Revelation 20:14.

To the Church in Pergamum

Verse 12) *“To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of Him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.”*

1. Pergamum — means fortified tower or castle.

2. These are the words of Him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. — This sword is the



²Observe that all sects seem to call Gentiles the New Israel or New Jews and they are teaching a New Age ministry.

Word of God, as taught in Ephesians 6:17 illustrating the Armor of God. Ephesians 6:17, *Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.* The meaning here is that Jesus is bringing judgement upon the church at Pergamum. When a person is cut, they cry out. The same is true of a church that is cold and indifferent. Consider this: Jesus teaches love, the opposite of love is indifference, so, in effect, any church that has become indifferent is teaching a false doctrine more closely aligned with Satan. When someone preaches the true Gospel to a church of indifference they cry like babies. See Revelation 1:16 and 19:15.

Verse 13) *“I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to My name. You did not renounce your faith in Me, even in the days of Antipas, My faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.”*

1. I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. — To understand this verse you must understand where Satan has his throne. This is disclosed in 2 Corinthians 4:4, *The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.* Satan’s throne is in the world. The god of this world is Satan himself! In other words, this was a worldly church. How many churches do you know about today that have gotten out of the soul saving business and into the recreation business? Let’s remember the drawing card for the church is Jesus and nothing more.

2. Yet you remain true to my name. — They believed Jesus was the son of God. There are preachers and churches who do not believe Jesus is God’s Son. But this is not our greatest danger! Our greatest danger is the same as that of the church at Pergamum. We may be fundamentally sound, yet we are getting more worldly with every passing day.

3. You did not renounce your faith in me. — This church was straight on the plan to salvation. They did not believe works were essential to being saved. They were straight on that and yet they were worldly.

4. My faithful witness, who was put to death in your city. — There are those who are willing to witness, and even die, for Jesus.

Verse 14) *“Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality.”*

1. You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam. — Read Numbers 22 and Numbers 31 for the story of Balaam.

2. Note the following facts about Balaam.

a. He would not go to wicked King Balak in order to gain money for himself. He went to him after God had forbidden it. He was a popularity seeker.

b. He caused the Israelites to intermarry and to tolerate idolatry. Could we not say the illustration here is that the members of the church at Pergamum were seeking the world, where Satan dwells.

Verse 15) *“Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.”*

This is the second time the term Nicolaitans has been used (see Revelation 2:6). This is one of those places where the original material dates itself and also shows its biased head. The thought line in the original work is to present word pictures that would indicate the Pope of the Catholic Church represents the Antichrist and the teachings of the Nicolaitans represent the conceptional beginning of the hierarchy of that order, therefore, the following is presented. The ideology is to rule over the members of the church through many layers of bureaucracy, with bishops, etc. It seems God does not like this ideology and feels the only one to rule over the people is the Holy Spirit. I agree with the thought

that God does not like this ideology, however the more I research the term Nicolaitans, the more I find information that the term means a teaching toward a return to pagan immoral practices, homosexual acts, adultery, sexual promiscuity, etc. This teaching is also against God's Word and therefore wrong.

Verse 16) *“Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.”*

Translate this to mean: Stop dealing with the world, get out of your worldliness before I come again or I will have to fight against you.

Verse 17) *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.”*

1. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. — God has hidden truths to teach us, but He will not let us understand them if we are living in the world. When we come out of the world, God lets us understand the hidden truths of His Word and those of His prophets. Third overcomes promise.

2. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it — He will engrave our name in Heaven. Fourth overcomes promise.

3. known only to him who receives it. — No man knows another man's condition before God, except man himself and then only if he has been saved by the blood of Jesus.

To the Church in Thyatira

Verse 18) *“To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze.”*

1. These are the words of the Son of God. — If man had said these things, he would have been criticized. God reminds us these things were said by Jesus. Bible teaching is hard teaching. When we teach the truth of Jesus, we must say some hard things, yet it must be done with a tender loving spirit, as a parent who finds it necessary to punish a child. Let us remember that God is the parent and we are His children. God is only trying to correct us (our ways against His will), but also warns us of the consequences. His wrath, and the Second coming of Christ, is the consequence.

2. whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. — The blazing fire and burnished bronze would both be symbols of judgement. Fine metals are refined to purity by heat (fire) and to burnish is to polish. It would seem God is reminding Thyatira that certain judgement will come because of their sins.

Verse 19) *“I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.”*

1. Notice that all of the things Jesus said about this church are positive things.

2. and that you are now doing more than you did at first. — This was a growing church. Its last works were more than the first ones. Growth is not the sign of a true church. In fact, it may not be a sign at all. Big reports and added membership are good, but not the sign of a true New Testament church.

Verse 20) *“Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads My servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.”*

1. I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel. — Tolerate also means allow. This

church allowed sin to creep in and it did not judge sin and condemn it. Instead, it tolerated the sin! In many of today's churches a person can live as they please and never get their sins condemned.

2. Jezebel was the wife of a wicked king in the Old Testament. She dominated her husband. Obviously, Jesus was calling some woman in this church a Jezebel. Note these things about Jezebel.

a. She was worldly — 1 Kings 21:7-8, *Jezebel his wife said, "Is this how you act as king over Israel? Get up and eat! Cheer up. I'll get you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."* So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, placed his seal on them, and sent them to the elders and nobles who lived in Naboth's city with him.

b. She was out of her place. — 1 Kings 21:25, *There was never a man like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord, urged on by Jezebel his wife.*

3. The woman (women) in this church was probably trying to run the church. Or, she was trying to lead in the church instead of taking the place of a woman and following. 1 Timothy 2:11-12, *A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent.* 1 Corinthians 14:34-35, *Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says. If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.* See Revelation 17:1.

4. Because of the term prophetess there is reason to believe this was the preacher's wife.

5. By her teaching she misleads My servants into sexual immorality — It would seem Jesus is warning about a bossy woman who's thoughts are misguided and is causing many members to fall into sin. Could this also be an illustration of very liberal women rights activists? 1 Kings 21:11 and 15, *So the elders and nobles who lived in Naboth's city did as Jezebel directed in the letters she had written to them. ... As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned to death, she said to Ahab, "Get up and take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite that he refused to sell you. He is no longer alive, but dead."*

6. and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. — She was misleading the church to do doubtful things. 2 Kings 9:22, *When Joram saw Jehu he asked, "Have you come in peace, Jehu?"*

"How can there be peace," Jehu replied, "as long as all the idolatry and witchcraft of your mother Jezebel abound?" This comes about because the eating of sacrificial food was not a sin in itself, but, it was a doubtful practice as Paul illustrated in Romans 14. Churches need to be taught and to teach against engaging in doubtful practices.

Verse 21) *"I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling."*

Verse 22) *"So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways."*

Verses 21-22 The taking out and protection by God will not affect this church unless she repents. It will be left here unprotected during the Great Tribulation, that is to come upon the earth after the true saints have been given the mark of God to protect them. The Tribulation will last for seven years and will be a period of terrible wars and events.

Verse 23) *"I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am He who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds."*

1. In this verse Jesus is saying He will judge the members of a church like this one as a warning to the other churches. We all need to watch our churches so they stay pure. Let us keep our church program one of simple preaching, praying and teaching the Word of God.

2. I am He who searches hearts and minds, — In many verses throughout the Bible, we see the word

heart. Here we see the full authority of Jesus. He can see what our attitude and thoughts (heart and mind) really are.

3. I will repay each of you according to your deeds. — In other words you reap what you sow.

Verse 24) *“Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan’s so-called deep secrets (I will not impose any other burden on you).”*

Verse 25) *“Only hold on to what you have until I come.”*

Verses 24-25 Jesus is telling the real believers in this church to Hold Fast until He returns. In these days of darkness and apostasy, let us hold to the truth and look forward to the second coming.

Verse 26) *“To him who overcomes and does My will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—”*

Verse 27) *“He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery’ — just as I have received authority from my Father.”*

Verse 28) *“I will also give him the morning star.”*

Verses 26-28 If you need a promise to get you through the reading and understanding of Revelation, here is the second one from God. In this promise we are told, those who overcome and do God’s will shall rule with Jesus as saints over the nations (fifth promise made to those who overcomes). This refers to the one thousand year reign of peace upon the earth when we shall rule with Jesus (see Revelation 20:1-6). Isn’t it wonderful to know the load we bear is much lighter when we realize the impact this promise contains. The morning star refers to a spiritual morning. This is the sixth promise made to overcomers. Right now we are in a spiritual night and we should understand it is hard to take a stand for Jesus. However, to live the life God wants us to live allows us to see the spiritual morning and to have a place in it!

Verse 29) *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”*

Let us hear what the Spirit says to the churches and apply these teachings to our own church.

Revelation 3

To the Church in Sardis

Chapter 3, verse 1) *“To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of Him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.”*

1. Him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. — In chapter 1 verse 4 we identify the seven spirits. In chapter 1 verse 20 we have the explanation of the seven stars as being the pastor of each of these churches. The importance shown here is the association between the two. Jesus walks with the pastors.

2. you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. — What a shame! This church had a good name! They turned in good reports! They had a fine reputation! They baptized people! They grew, but they were dead!

Verse 2) *“Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God.”*

1. Wake up! — Jesus wants everyone in this church to wake up, they’ve fallen asleep. If asleep, how can they be doing the work of the Lord?

2. Strengthen what remains and is about to die. — Jesus is trying to save the remains. The remains of many churches could be set on fire, and the church could be revived. If this doesn’t happen, you might as well have a funeral for the church and bury the remains.

3. I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. — The important word here is complete. Jesus is saying this church is not doing His work. Church work for Jesus means *soul winning, praying, preaching* and *studying* the Bible. Why do we need so many new things for the folks to do when we haven’t done the ones God gave us to do?

Verse 3) *“Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.”*

1. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard, obey it, and repent. — This church had received the truth and had left it. They are told to return to the truth (repent) and perform (obey) it.

2. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. — First there is a warning and again the option of choice. Now, let’s look at the word thief. What does a thief do? A thief takes something from you, normally unexpectedly. The waking up is to watch for Jesus’ coming. A great mystery will occur the moment of Jesus’ return. **If you know Jesus**, there is nothing to worry about, otherwise, something will be taken away and it will certainly be unexpected. The warning to repent for this church states, it will be missed if they do not return to the watch. A church cannot be watching if they are asleep. Oh! By the way, you cannot be very watchful if you believe the world must be converted or saved before Jesus can return.

Verse 4) *“Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with Me, dressed in white, for they are worthy.”*

1. you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. — There are just a few left who love Jesus, who win souls, who come to prayer meetings, and who love the Word of God. I think their greatest sin was staying in Sardis. I don’t believe Jesus would want even one of His children to freeze to death in a dead church, even if Grandma did go there.

2. They will walk with Me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. — These are the ones who will be changed at the call of Jesus. While the unsaved are going through the Tribulation, these will be walking with Jesus dressed in white.

Verse 5) *“He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the Book of Life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.”*

1. He who overcomes will . . . be dressed in white — Seventh promise made to those who overcomes.

2. I will never blot out his name from the Book of Life — God has a book of names with every person listed in those pages. Those who fail to trust Him as Savior are blotted out of His book, but those who have been born again remain listed. Eighth promise for the overcomers.

a. The term blot out from the book seems to give people a problem. Two other references using the term blot out are, Exodus 32:33-34, *The Lord replied to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against Me I will blot out of My book. Now go, lead the people to the place I spoke of, and My angel will go before you. However, when the time comes for Me to punish, I will punish them for their sin.”* And Psalms 69:28, *May they be blotted out of the book of life and not be listed with the righteous.*

b. Look very carefully at the wording in this verse from Psalms 69. Notice the wording that *they be blotted out of the book of life* and the next clause, *and not be listed with the righteous.* The wicked will have their name lined through in the Book of Life. Therefore, their name is effectively blotted out. We will see later that books are opened, pertaining to the unsaved, at the second judgement. We who know Jesus, do not have to worry because our name is recorded in God’s Book of Life and is not blotted out. The unsaved, by their own choice, have committed such actions that their name is effectively removed.

3. but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels. — Here is the reassurance that Jesus is the *Faithful Witness* as stated in Chapter 1 verse 5. This is also overcomer promise number nine.

Verse 6) *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”*

To the Church in Philadelphia

Verse 7) *“To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of Him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What He opens no one can shut, and what He shuts no one can open.”*

1. Philadelphia - means brotherly love. This was a church of believers who loved each other. How refreshing in a day when so many churches are splitting in two for lack of love. Let’s keep loving each other. People who know the love of Jesus can tell when they walk into a church whether that love is present and the people love each other. Recall what Jesus' new command was in the Gospel of John, 13:34,

2. What is the key of David? Every Christian has seen the key of David and never even considered what it was. Remember, to fulfill prophecy Jesus must be in the lineage of king David, and as Joseph was descended from David through the kingly line, there is an assumption made. WRONG ANSWER! Jesus must descend from David through his mother Mary, **not** Joseph! Therefore, the key of David is the genealogy of both David and Jesus and is the lineage given in the book of Luke for Mary (**not Joseph**). The key of truth is the four words in Luke 3:23, *So it was thought.* People overlook the explanation given in these four little words. What is meant is simply that Joseph is not Jesus’ father or as stated, so it was thought!

3. what He opens no one can shut — Jesus reminds them if the door is left open, He is the One who will do it. If souls constantly walk the aisles, it is God who keeps the door open. Note that when God opens a door, no man can shut it, nor can anyone take away our salvation. **Make a note!** This did not indicate a saved person will lose their salvation. That is assured by the blood of Jesus, however, we can still sin and become disfavored by God. If we, who are saved, make that choice and sin we may be able

to get into heaven but we'll be living in the slum area with very few treasures. God blessed us by accepting our choice to have Jesus as our Savior. We must also remember what Jesus told to many He healed. Didn't He tell them: to go and sin no more? Another point to remember is that we are to ask forgiveness of our sins. If we are not forgiven our sins they are burnt off like dross because we cannot carry sin into heaven. Why would we want to disgrace God by continuing to sin after we had received such grace? Remember, no human enemy can bother a church, or a Christian, when God keeps the door open.

4. and what He shuts no one can open. — When God so desires, He can withdraw His power and influence (remove the Holy Spirit) from a church and close the door. It is God alone who can open and shut the door. Many churches have had their doors shut and could not reopen them. The same is true with denominations and individual Christians.

Verse 8) *“I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept My word and have not denied My name.”*

1. I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. — This church had an open door. Let's look at the reason God kept their door open:

- a. They had little strength.
- b. They had kept the Word of God.
- c. They had not denied the name of Jesus.

The reason the doors of spiritual power have been closed to many churches is that some have ceased to believe the Bible is the Word of God. Some do not preach the Word anymore. Some do not believe Jesus is the Son of God, that the blood is essential for salvation, and other primary truths of the Bible. May God have mercy on this generation of so-called churches.

Verse 9) *“I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.”*

In this verse Jesus is proclaiming there will be a day when the false churches will have to fall down and worship the true church and admit their errors.

Verse 10) *“Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.”*

Those of the true Church of Jesus will be kept out of the hour of trial that is to come. What is the hour of trial? It is the Tribulation that is going to last seven years, when Satan is turned loose and the greatest of all wars, famines, etc. shall take place. This verse reassures all true believers they will not have to go through this terrible Tribulation. However, we must also remember, just as **Noah was protected during the flood, he still went through the flood event!** In like manner, new believers, living at the time of the Tribulation will be protected during the Great Tribulation, but it appears they will have to go through the event or be some of those who are martyred.

Verse 11) *“I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.”*

1. I am coming soon. — Remember even Jesus does not know the hour God will cause all of this to occur. We are to be ever ready for that time.

2. so that no one will take your crown. — Crown is used in this verse as a reward. What reward? For being steadfast in our belief and working for Jesus. Those who follow Jesus and remain steadfast will receive a crown.

Verse 12) *“Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem,*

which is coming down out of heaven from My God; and I will also write on him My new name.”

1. Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. — We may not have much strength here, but imagine our strength in heaven. Our belief has surpassed the test and is as a pillar. We help support the Temple of God. Promise number ten.

2. Never again will he leave it. — We will no longer have to worry about being away from God. We'll worship Him forever and be in His presence evermore.

3. I will write on him the name of My God. — We will proudly wear the mark of God and be called one of His. The eleventh promise for those who overcomes. See Revelation 22:4.

4. I will also write on him My new name. — Promise number twelve.

Verse 13) *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”*

To the Church in Laodicea

Verse 14) *“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation.”*

1. Laodicea means please the people. Galatians 1:10 says that you cannot please the people and God at the same time. Galatians 1:10, *Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.*

2. These are the words of the Amen. — The word amen means so let it be or it will be so. Jesus is reminding the people that His prophesies will transpire just as He had said they would.

3. the faithful and true witness. — A witness tells what he has seen. Jesus sees all that goes on in our churches, and one day He will witness concerning what He has seen pertaining to each one of us.

Verse 15) *“I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!”*

1. cold — A stagnant, nonproductive church. How many churches do we have today that would fit this definition?

2. hot — Wouldn't it be wonderful if our churches were really on fire for Jesus?

3. I wish you were either one or the other! — In other words, as spoken in the next verse, they were lukewarm. Have you ever had coffee, a cola or even milk that was nearly warm? Doesn't taste very good does it? How awful for a church of Jesus, when it should be on fire, to be only lukewarm.

Verse 16) *“So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.”*

1. This sums up many of us — neither hot nor cold. The world has more respect for a drunkard in the gutter than for a Christian who is lukewarm. How many times have you heard a lost person hide behind a lukewarm Christian? They love to use the phrase, I'm as good as he is.

2. spit you out of My mouth. — Let's use vomit instead of this translation. Jesus says a lukewarm Christian makes Him want to vomit.

Verse 17) *“You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.”*

1. In the first portion of this verse notice what the church says about itself: I am rich. They had beautiful furnishings, prestige, and were self-satisfied.

2. Notice what Jesus says about them.

a. wretched, pitiful, poor — They were just the opposite of the church at Smyrna.

b. blind — They were blind to souls, missions, etc. Imagine, if you can, this letter being read at the Sunday morning worship hour at Laodicea. Do you see the anger on the faces of the aristocrats sitting there?

c. naked — Laodicea was a fashionable city of that day. Yet Jesus says they were naked. Meaning that the Laodiceans were not clothed in righteousness.

Verse 18) *“I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.”*

1. Jesus extends hope to them. He is indicating even a lukewarm church can be set on fire for His work. Many preachers have been set on fire for Jesus, such as John Wesley, William Booth, Martin Luther, John Calvin and others.

2. Notice Jesus’ prescription for healing so they could see — salve. Eye salve stings at first when applied, then your eyes water and you can’t see anything. Finally, the healing is performed and you can once again see.

Verse 19) *“Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.”*

1. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. — The parent who doesn’t discipline the child does not love them. A preacher who will not stand against the sins of his flock does not love them. Jesus shows us His love by disciplining us.

2. So be earnest, and repent. — Turn away from your indifferent attitude and be on fire for Jesus.

Verse 20) *“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me.”*

1. I stand at the door and knock. — Jesus makes His request to enter at the door, but we hold the decision to let Him in or not! **Will you let Him in or ask Him to stand at the door?**

2. anyone — This doesn’t say the entire church. It really says only one. Just one person can sometimes turn the tide. One person, on fire for Jesus, many times passes the flame to another, then another and another. The whole church could be revived.

3. I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me. — Through repentance and faith Jesus will come into our lives. We are once again told the plan of salvation.

Verse 21) *“To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with Me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on His throne.”*

Jesus is speaking about the Millennium period. As He overcame death, we must overcome the temptations of Satan and do the Lord’s work. By so doing, **we will reign with Jesus as He sits at the right hand of God! This is the last (13th) promise made to those who overcomes.**

Verse 22) *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”*

This completes the study of the churches. Does your church exhibit any of the characteristics of the good churches identified by Jesus? Does your church demonstrate any of the undesirable things Jesus illustrated? Shouldn’t we try to avoid those undesirable things in our churches and praise God by exhibiting good characteristics in our churches?

Chapter four will begin to tell of things to come. Up to this place, Jesus was speaking of things happening now. Please remember, the period we are now in is called *The Church Age*.

Revelation 4

The Throne in Heaven

I must respectfully ask a short prayer to our Lord? Lord God most high, from this point forward I am as a child who must be led. May your Holy Spirit guide me and lead me with the words and the ideas that must be said to your people for these things to be understood. Amen.

Chapter 4 deals with God protecting His own. Granted, some churches call this event **the rapture**, yet the word rapture never appears in the Bible. The fact is that the term rapture did not even appear in Christian teaching until the 1830's and then it was introduced in Scotland. In several verses, dealing with the churches, Jesus has called out the faithful to protect them during the period of Tribulation and war. This chapter will reveal more of what will happen! **This taking out is the next event on God's prophetic program.**

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

1. After this — After what? This means after *The Church Age*. When Jesus comes to call the church out of this world, *The Church Age* is completed, simply because the church will be with Jesus. The removal, or taking out, marks the end of *The Church Age*. The statements made here may seem that I am saying at one point that there is no such thing as the rapture and on the other hand telling that there is a taking out of the church. Remember the Revelation does many things at different points. It may give you a preview of something to happen later in Heaven, or here on Earth. It may jump between the location of Heaven and Earth. It may also jump forward or look back at a certain event. We will see more of this when we review the opening of the Seals in chapter 6.

2. I looked — John was seeing the glory of Heaven. Is there any way words can explain what John was seeing? Needless to say, John was like a child on his first visit to a circus, or a ball game, or the zoo. The anticipation, the exhilaration was causing John to bubble over with joy.

3. there before me was a door standing open in heaven. — John was looking through Jesus to see into heaven. Jesus is the open door and the only way in to the realm of God. Throughout Jesus' earthly ministry He called Himself *The Way* and not Christian. Look first at John 10:1-18, then John 14:6 and Acts 9:2. Finally, read Acts 11:26 where the term Christian is used for the first time in the Bible. Here are those verses: John 10:7, *Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep."* John 14:6, *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* Acts 9:2, *And asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.* Acts 11:26b, *The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.*

4. the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet — We need to review two passages to understand this trumpet. Review 1 Corinthians 15:52 and also 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17. This is the trumpet call of God. Those who are looking for Jesus are simply waiting for the sound of the trumpet. Here are those two verses: 1 Corinthians 15:52, *In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.* 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the*

air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Thus, the Church is taken away, caught up, or gathered at the second coming of Christ.

5. Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this. — Here is the illustration John uses of the calling out command many Christians call the *rapture*. From this point forward the term church is not used again in Revelation until all is fulfilled. One day, known only to God, Jesus will be given control by the Father and Jesus will open heaven and simply say, “*Come up here.*” The beginning of the Great Tribulation is getting ready to begin upon the earth, yet the church will not have to go through God’s wrath because they will be protected. The simple truth is again told, God has given mankind a means to cancel their sins. Even to the point that what is to occur is shown and recorded, so mankind can make the choice before *The Church Age* closes. Once *The Church Age* is closed, the rules are changed, and this will be explained later.

Verse 2) *At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.*

1. At once I was in the Spirit — How quickly does this occur? Look again at 1 Corinthians 15:52 and it says, *in the twinkling of an eye*. Now, let’s look closely at the Trinity to see whom does what to cause the taking out. God has the trumpet sounded, Jesus issues the command, “*Come Up Here,*” and the Holy Spirit will then change us into spirit form in the *twinkling of an eye*.

2. and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. — We are ushered into the presence of God. We don’t stop to collect any money like playing the game of Monopoly. We don’t stop to talk with Mom or Dad or Aunt Jane. We go directly to the throne of God. This happens to all who believe because salvation is free to all who will have faith.

Verse 3) *And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.*

1. The reference I have says that jasper is a *symbol of wisdom*. It would be wise for Christians to be prepared for Jesus’ coming. As you read and understand the Revelation, the theme of salvation and the desire of God to have all mankind saved will continue to be shown. With the illustration here, pertaining to wisdom as this chapter deals with the removal of the church, wouldn’t it be a wise person who understood God’s love and choose to accept Him as Savior?

2. Using my reference material, it says the carnelian is a symbol of marital happiness. Haven’t we been taught that the church is Jesus’ bride. Then isn’t there going to be a wedding and shouldn’t we look forward to marital happiness forever.

3. a rainbow — This is a symbol from God that He will not judge again that which has been judged. Remember in the story of Noah the earth was destroyed by water and the rainbow was a symbol to indicate the earth would not be destroyed by water again.

4. an emerald — The reference for this is as a *symbol of discovering false friends*. An emerald is green and green is the color for envy. You can believe all the false friends of Jesus will be known at this event. When the saints are gone, those who are left can’t fool anyone any more about their salvation. They are going to be very envious.

Verse 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.*

1. elders — In the Old Testament there are the twelve patriarchs of Israel (Jacob), Acts 7:8c, *Later Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of the twelve patriarchs.* These twelve patriarchs represent all Israel. In similar manner within the New Testament we have the twelve apostles, Luke 6:3, *When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles.* These twelve represent all New Testament believers. Between these 24 elders we have

those who represent all of God's chosen people. We could also go so far as to illustrate the appointing of the 24 priest in 1st Chronicles and while on duty that primary priest represented all Israel (the entire country).

2. dressed in white — What was it John said about Jesus in chapter 1, verse 14? Didn't the white represent purity? Here are the elders representing all of God's chosen people. We can also go back to Genesis and see that God made a coat of skins for Adam and Eve to cover their nakedness. An animal had to die for skins to be made into a coat. Didn't Jesus die for us and shed His blood so we could wear the symbol of purity in the presence of God?

3. Had crowns of gold on their head. — God is going to reward the righteous for their faithfulness, etc. at the judgement seat of Christ. Crowns for your salvation, love, compassion, righteousness, a crown for life, a crown for glory, and longing for the appearing of Jesus are all mentioned in the Bible as crowns that will be given when we reach heaven. Following are the verses identifying the crowns of righteousness, life and glory. Psalms 103:4, *Who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion.* Psalms 149:4, *For the Lord takes delight in His people; He crowns the humble with salvation.* 2 Timothy 4:8, *Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.* James 1:12, *Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.* 1 Peter 5:4, *And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.* How many crowns will you receive?

Verse 5) *From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. Before the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God.*

1. Let's look at two things about the first part of this verse. Where was John? Wasn't he still before the throne of God? How does a thunder storm work? The storm is directed down and there is clear sky above the storm. What is about to happen? The Great Tribulation is getting ready to begin! What does all of this mean? John was in heaven (above the storm) as God begins to hurl the storm of the Tribulation toward those on Earth.

2. We have already discussed the seven spirits in chapter 1:4.

Verse 6) *Also before the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back.*

1. four living creatures — The King James version calls these creatures beast. The NIV calls them living creatures. In reality they are four full of life beings continuously praising God (as shown in verses 7 and 8 and they represent all of God's people, Israel).

2. covered with eyes How many times have we heard the term All seeing eye? With beings like this, is there any question our every move is known within heaven.

Verse 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.*

In the second chapter of the Book of Numbers we learn the configuration of the placement of the Tribes of Israel as they set up their camp around the Tabernacle. It was also in this manner that they traveled across the wilderness. Each group of three tribes had a standard (banner or ensign) for their designated placement. On the north under the image of an Eagle were the tribes of Dan, Asher and Naphtali. To the East under the banner of a Lion were the tribes of Judah, Issachar and Zebulum. In the south under the ensign of a Man were the tribes of Reuben, Simeon and Gad. Finally, in the west under a flag bearing an Ox (bull) were the tribes of Ephraim, Manasseh and Benjamin. The representation given is that of all Israel. As Christians we must remember that we are grafted into this tree going back to the promises of

Abraham.

Verse 8) *Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."*

Verse 9) *Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever,*

Verse 10) *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:*

Verse 11) *"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."*

Verses 9, 10 and 11 go together. As shown in verse 4, the elders represent all of God's chosen people, and what will they do when they hear the four creatures giving glory to God? All join in this praise, falling down before Jesus and worshipping Him. All take off their crowns of reward and place them before Jesus and say He alone is worthy to receive them.

Revelation 5

The Scroll and the Lamb

Information leads me to believe that chapter 5 has several different ideas concerning its content. Some seem to think Revelation is not a book of prophecy, but rather of the history of the church. It seems chapter 5 would counter that idea because there is no history of the church that has been recorded that would match this chapter. Again, everyone who deals with Revelation must remember it was written at approximately 90 CE. There was very little church history at that date. This chapter deals with the Redemption of the Purchased Possession.

Chapter. 5, verse 1) *Then I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals.*

1. a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. — Cultural differences must be understood to comprehend what is illustrated here. When the Bible was written, there were no bankruptcy laws to protect property. Property was forfeited because of need on many occasions, however, there were conditions placed upon the transaction that would allow a person, or that person's kinsman, to redeem the property from the one who had bought it. Leviticus 25:24, *Throughout the country that you hold as a possession, you must provide for the redemption of the land.* When such a deal was made the purchaser would put the title deed in a book and have it sealed. This is the type of book John is talking about here. It is the title deed in which Jesus had met the conditions for redemption of the property at Calvary. This is the property His kinsman, Adam, had lost in the Garden of Eden.

2. Understand that through our salvation, we are the purchased possession. Our names are recorded in the title book (Book of Life) and sealed with seven seals. We have already explained that seven is God's number. We are sealed by God, through the Holy Spirit, and secure until the day the seals are broken.

Verse 2) *And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?"*

The question is raised asking who has the authority or means to meet the conditions for why the book was sealed and to open it.

Verse 3) *But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it.*

The answer is given. No one! Mankind has repeatedly tried to bring peace to the earth and thinks he has the power to open the scroll and meet the conditions to gain possession of the title book. Understand however that even organizations like the League of Nations, the United Nations, the National Council of Churches, and any other organization that may follow will fail in this task. This concept that diplomacy will win is the incorrect answer!

Verse 4) *I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.*

John was distressed because no one was found who could open the book. Even John's salvation was now in question and he was very upset.

Verse 5) *Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."*

1. John was comforted and told to look again. Lion of the tribe of Judah The lion is called the king of beast, therefore the king from the Root of David, or the house of David, has triumphed (conquered). These terms of identification inform us that Jesus is the only one worthy to open the scroll and indicate He did win over death at Calvary.

2. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals. — Jesus does have the ability to meet the conditions to take possession of the sealed property. God's promises to mankind are real and will be met. John's, and all of mankind's, salvation is valid and safeguarded and only One has the power to take possession.

Verse 6) *Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if It had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.*

1. Then I saw a Lamb — Jesus is the Lamb of God. The illustration of the lamb is used here because it was as the Lamb of God that Jesus purchased our redemption. We should remember that a lamb is humble and meek.

2. Looking as if It had been slain, standing in the center of the throne — An illustration of the risen Lamb of God. Jesus died an earthly death at Calvary in our place, but, arose and overcame death to fulfill God's plan. The Old Testament lambs placed upon the altar died and did not rise from death. This Lamb died and arose again!

Verse 7) *He came and took the scroll from the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.*

In this simple little verse of 17 words is the recording of the greatest day that will ever occur pertaining to the history of, about, or to all of mankind! For upon this day our Lord and Savior Jesus, the Christ, will come before His Father and receive possession of what He purchased at Calvary. Hallelujah and Amen!

Verse 8) *And when He had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.*

Just as I said above with the Hallelujah and Amen, all those around the throne begin to praise Jesus. Each one had a harp and the music of reverent praise commenced. Prayers are sweet incense to Jesus and presented from all the saints. See Revelation 8:3.

Verse 9) *And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because You were slain, and with Your blood You purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation."*

1. And they sang a new song — All the saints begin to sing redemption's song.

2. Purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. — Understand that those who are gathered are not from one particular faith (or denomination) or another. In fact, they are made up of different peoples and nations. All God's children are gathered together on this day and will worship as one.

Verse 10) *"You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."*

1. made them to be a kingdom — The Church is equivalent to a nation.

2. and they will reign on the earth — We (the priests) shall reign with Jesus upon the earth.

Verse 11) *Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.*

Verse 12) *In a loud voice they sang: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”*

Verse 13) *Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: “To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”*

Verse 14) *The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.*

The magnitude of the number of angels in heaven is illustrated in verse 11. The figure of 100 million would be the total illustrated here. I believe this is not an absolute figure, instead the illustration is that of a very large number. Verses 12-14 only reiterate the praise given to Jesus.

Revelation 6

The Seals

In chapter 5 we had Jesus gaining possession of the sealed book. The book represented the title deed to the purchased possession Jesus bought on the cross at Calvary. In this chapter the seals are opened.

Chapter. 6, verses 1) *I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, "Come!"*

Jesus, the Lamb, begins to open the seals. If we quickly review the notes at Revelation 4:7 (on page 27) I gave an illustration of the four living creatures. The first creature was like a lion. That would be Judah.

Verse 2) *I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.*

1. And there before me was a white horse — Let's understand the white horse. There are only two places in the Bible the term white horse is used. One is here and the other is in Revelation 19:11. Revelation 19:11, *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.* That verse will identify Jesus. This verse (vs 2) identifies His opposite, **the Antichrist**. In understanding the Revelation we must also understand many things pertaining to the Bible. The Bible teaches that immediately after the taking out event that many call the *rapture*, a terrible world dictator will come who will be Satan incarnate or Satan in human form. He is the devil's key figure in the Great Tribulation. See 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10, *The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.*

2. This rider is imitating Jesus. Other scripture passages teach he comes as a false messiah. The truth of the illustration is this rider comes as Jesus eventually comes, on a white horse.

Verse 3) *When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!"*

The second creature was like an ox. That would be Ephraim.

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

Read the description. The rider on the red horse is **war**. Understand that once the church is removed from the earth and the Antichrist is revealed, the next thing to occur is bloody war.

Verse 5) *When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand.*

The black horse is **famine**. The third creature had a face like a man. That would be Reuben.

Verse 6) *Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, "A quart of wheat for a day's wages, and three quarts of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!"*

Mankind has gone through many periods of famine. Some remember the days of the depression of the 1920's and '30's. Look at this verse very closely. A quart of wheat for a day's wages, and three quarts of barley for a day's wages. We have CEOs in this nation who make in excess of seven million

dollars per year. What are they going to do when the wage for a day's work would equate to a loaf of bread? Thank God the Church will be protected and will not have to go through all this.

Verse 7) *When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!"*

The fourth creature was like a flying eagle. That would be Dan.

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

1. As stated, this rider is **death**. But, notice the phrase, *and Hades was following close behind*. Are there two riders on this one horse or two pale horses? I say this because of the next portion of the verse. Doesn't the verse read in this manner: *They* (that's plural) *were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword*. This seems to imply that one fourth of the people of the earth will be killed. The world's population is now over seven billion. One fourth part would be 1 billion 750 million people and this number increases exponentially each year. Can you imagine so great a number of people killed in such a short period of time? See Revelation 8:7.

2. All of these events will take place during the period the church is protected. How foolish for anyone who would want to go through all of this when this can be avoided.

Verse 9) *When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.*

Verse 10) *They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"*

Verse 11) *Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed.*

1. Verses 9-11 deal with the souls of martyrs. You ask which martyrs are these. These are not the souls of martyrs who were slain before the end of The Church Age because they were removed and given their glorified bodies in chapter 4. So who are these? **They are the ones who will be killed in the name of the Gospel during the Tribulation period.** Understand verse 9 when it says those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.

2. Under the altar — Why does it say these are under the altar? Remember the brazen altar was the place of sacrifice. Those who will die for Jesus during the Tribulation will give the supreme sacrifice in His name.

3. These things can be said about souls in general:

a. The dead in Christ are still alive. We saw that in chapter 4.

b. They can be seen. John says, I saw.

c. They are with Jesus. Even these are close to Jesus. Verse 10 says they are calling out how long and Jesus tells them a little longer.

4. In verse 11 it indicates that others must meet this fate before all is completed.

The sinner's prayer meeting . . . Revelation 6:12-17

Verse 12) *I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair; the whole moon turned blood red.*

1. There was a great earthquake. This should be that the earth quaked, meaning the whole of earth is shaken or jolted. I make every effort in order not to date the things I write, but there are some things that will explain a situation much better if a reference is made that others do understand. What experience in your lifetime would be considered a great earthquake? On June 9, 1994 there was an earthquake in Bolivia, South America that registered 8.2 on the Richter scale. Little damage was done in the quake area because the epicenter was 400 miles below the surface of the earth. Police phone lines lit up as far away as Canada from concerned citizens, therefore I pose the question to you: Is it scientifically possible for an earthquake to be experienced over the entire earth? These things, that John is explaining to every Christian, **are real and will take place!**

2. the sun turned black — Consider the history of mankind and the result a total eclipse of the sun has caused in man's writings. Panic, chaos, and fear have all been used to explain man's reaction to this now understood solar event. But just for the sake of Christian understanding, imagine that day when the sun is completely darkened and there was no scheduled eclipse. **What will mankind do on that day?**

3. the whole moon turned blood red — Some have said this has already occurred. Let's say it hasn't happened and the normal yellowish glow of the moon is replaced by a blood red color. The color of blood is not very bright and I would say every superstition within mankind will be brought out when these things happen.

Verse 13) *And the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind.*

Search through recorded history and look for a sustained meteor shower. Such an event occurred on November 13, 1833 lasting for nearly three hours. What looked like fiery balls filled the sky and people who were there were horrified. Wouldn't a meteor shower be representative of the stars falling to earth?

Verse 14) *The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.*

1. The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up — Understand the horrors being foretold. Any one event could cause men to fear and have heart attacks. Horror of horrors, even the sky over our head, will roll up as if it were a room-darkening curtain.

2. and every mountain and island was removed from its place. — There have been Tectonic shifts that have caused great impact upon the earth. This event will be of such a magnitude that every mountain and island will disappear or be relocated from its present position. If you are a Christian reading this book, pray for those who must go through the Tribulation period. To understand this will happen read 1 Thessalonians 1:10 KJV, *And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.* If you are not a Christian, consider the foolishness of having to endure all this when you can become a child of the King. The simple steps to salvation places your name in the Book of Life spoken of in chapter 5 of Revelation.

I said that verses 12 thru 17 pertained to a prayer meeting, I also documented above that the simple steps of salvation would preclude this from happening to you. Let's look to see who is now praying.

Verse 15) *Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains.*

1. Here is who is now praying:

a. kings — who thought they were too powerful for Jesus.

b. princes — who followed the lead of their fathers and were too secure to know Jesus.

- c. generals — who thought they were too strong to know Jesus.
 - d. rich men — who thought they were too wealthy to need Jesus.
 - e. mighty men — who thought they were too influential to need Jesus.
 - f. every slave and every free man — who had rejected Jesus.
2. Where were these people? They were trying to hid in caves and behind rocks.

Verse 16) *They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!”*

1. The object of their prayers were the mountains and the rocks. The rocks! These people had rejected the Rock of Ages and now they were praying for the rocks to hid them.

2. From whom were they trying to get away? Likewise, from whom did they want to be hidden? **It was Jesus!** The very person to whom they should have been praying and begging for mercy, instead they were trying to avoid Him.

Verse 17) *“For the great day of Their wrath has come, and who can stand?”*

a. Look at verse 16 to see that the wrath spoken of is from *Him who sits on the throne* and the *Lamb*. Therefore meaning plural: *Their*.

b. Christian man, woman, boy or girl understand what this is saying. Those who do not believe in Jesus will try to hide from Him, and they should, because He is going to pour out His wrath upon them!

Revelation 7

144,000 Sealed

There will be some saved after the removal of the church occurs. Others believe that 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 teaches, if anyone has heard the plan of salvation and rejects it, they will not have a chance to be saved during the Tribulation period. 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12, *And in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.* This chapter deals with those who will be saved during the Tribulation. Look very carefully at note 1 under verse 3 of this chapter.

Chapter. 7, verse 1) *After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree.*

four winds — We'll need to look at two Bible verses to understand these four winds.

a. Daniel 7:2, *Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea."*

b. Ephesians 2:2, *In which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.*

These four winds are the wrath that is going to be turned loose by Satan during the Tribulation. It has been said that Satan does not have angels. Yes! He does! This verse does not say the angels were God's angels! Look at verses 2 and 3 to see the difference.

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

the seal of the living God — Here is one of God's angels. Notice: This angel has the power to command the other four!

Verse 3) *"Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God."*

1. put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God. — The trumpets of judgement cannot be turned loose until after those saved during the Tribulation are sealed. Just as God took care of His own before the Tribulation, He is here taking care of His own during the Tribulation. These are the ones saved during the Tribulation.

2. Verses 4-8 will explain those who are sealed by God. We must remember we are currently in the age of the Gentile, or the Church Age, and this age closes on the occurrence of the taking out and the flow of God's grace will return to the Jews. In order to show this, read the following passages to understand this transfer.

a. Matthew 10:5, *These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans."* — Notice that Jesus told the twelve not to go among the Gentiles. The age of the Gentile did not start until after the resurrection of Jesus.

b. Luke 21:24, *They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.* — This verse shows the age of the Gentiles will come to a close and will revert back to the Jews.

c. Acts 9:15, *But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel."* — This verse pertains to

Paul who acted as God's agent before the Gentiles, and also the people of Israel, however it did not say to the Jews. We must understand that at the time of Jesus the land was Judea, or that area known as the Southern Kingdom. This territory represented the principal tribes of Judah and Benjamin. Paul was sent by Jesus to teach to lost Israel, meaning the Northern Kingdom and the other ten tribes.

d. Galatians 3:8, *The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you."*

e. Ephesians 3:6, *This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.*

If you want to better understand who Israel really is read my book *The Thirteenth Tribe of Israel*.

Verse 4) *Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.*

Verse 5) *From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben 12,000, from the tribe of Gad 12,000,*

Verse 6) *From the tribe of Asher 12,000, from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000, from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000.*

Verse 7) *From the tribe of Simeon 12,000, from the tribe of Levi 12,000, from the tribe of Issachar 12,000.*

Verse 8) *From the tribe of Zebulun 12,000, from the tribe of Joseph 12,000, from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000.*

1. Who are these 144,000? Well, they represent all God's people who understand the significance of the church and become the followers of Jesus who preach the Good News during the Tribulation. You may ask where do they get the Bible and material from which to preach during this horrible time. Remember that when the church is removed the Bibles, Sunday School lessons, tracts and all other material remains.

2. Some believe there are those among this number who will make a covenant with the Antichrist. Daniel 9:27 is the reference for this thought, *"He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven,' but in the middle of that 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And one who causes desolation will place abominations on a wing of the temple until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."*

3. What do the names of the tribes of Israel really mean? If you add together the thirteen children (including the one daughter) of Jacob (Israel) the following statement is produced. See a son who hears, attached with praise, he has vindicated my struggle. A troop is coming that's happy whose reward and honor may he add twice fruitful who will not forget the son of sorrow, the son of my right hand, at judgement. The words underlined are added to connect the name meanings. To better illustrate this statement of praise, look at the names and their meaning, in order.

see a son - Reuben

who hears - Simeon

attached - Levi

praise - Judah

he has vindicated - Dan

my struggle - Naphtali

a troop is coming - Gad

happy - Asher

reward - Issachar
honor - Zebulun
may he add - Joseph
twice fruitful - Ephraim
forget - Manasseh
son of sorrow - Ben-oni (as named by mother)
son of my right hand - Benjamin (as named by father)
judgment - Dinah

The Great Multitude in White Robes

Verse 9) *After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.*

The Jews will lead the new followers during the Tribulation, but there will be others from every nation, tribe, people and language who will know Jesus.

Verse 10) *And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”*

Notice they are rejoicing because of their salvation.

Verse 11) *All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God.*

Verse 12) *Saying: “Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”*

Verses 11 and 12 illustrate the impressiveness of this scene. The angels are also rejoicing. To understand the magnitude of this rejoicing, look at Luke 15:10, *In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.* If there is rejoicing over one soul, imagine the sound when the count is beyond being defined.

Verse 13) *Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”*

Verse 14) *I answered, “Sir, you know.”*

And he said, “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.

These are they who have come out of the great Tribulation — This confirms who these are and that salvation will occur during the Tribulation period.

Verse 15) *Therefore, “They are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tent over them.”*

Verse 16) *“Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat.”*

Verse 17) *“For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; He will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”*

Verses 15-17 shows God again taking care of His own by giving comfort to those who have gone through so much suffering for Jesus.

Revelation 8

The Seventh Seal and the Golden Censer

At the conclusion of chapter 7, six of the seven seals had been broken. The seals contain the punishment that man shall bring upon himself. The trumpets begin the judgments God will inflict upon mankind. The seventh seal contains the seven trumpets.

Chapter 8, verse 1) *When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.*

1. In the preceding seven chapters we see many terms being used for rejoicing. There is singing and worshipping in loud voices. All of heaven has been rejoicing, and yet, here the rejoicing suddenly stops. Have you ever heard a large crowd suddenly stop making any sound? That's what happens here. The four living creatures, the millions of angels, the saints of all ages past suddenly stop their rejoicing. The question is **why**?

2. The answer is fear and sorrow. **The most horrible things imaginable are about to happen to mankind when the trumpets sound!** This silence is like a gasp being taken. All of Heaven takes a gasp, as in a moment of silence before the horrors begin.

Verse 2) *And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.*

and to them were given seven trumpets. — When are trumpets sounded? Numbers 10:1-10 shows several occasions:

a. For a gathering of the community. The trumpet call was made in chapter 4 and the church was removed. The community of The Church was called together.

b. When you go into battle. The opposite effect takes place for those who go through the Tribulation. The same trumpet that calls out The Church hurls the remaining people into a terrible period of war. What will this one trumpet sound mean to you? A gathering together or a call to war?

c. At a time of a feast. We have not seen this yet, but a wedding feast is being prepared for the marriage of the Lamb. See Revelation 15:6.

Verse 3) *Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne.*

1. Revelation 5:8 shows us the incense are the prayers of the saints (you and I). He was given much incense to offer — But from where did all of this incense come? What does the prayers of the saints have to do with this event? This event is the prayer of every Christian who has ever prayed The Lord's Prayer. Stop and think! In The Lord's Prayer you are asking for **THY KINGDOM COME**. Many do not understand for what they are asking. You are asking God to bring Jesus' Kingdom to the Earth so He may reign. These trumpets begin the culmination of things recorded to bring the answer to those prayers!

2. With the prayers of all the saints — Let us use today's technology to understand the significance of this simple phrase. Imagine the largest e-mail system known where all the prayers of every believer has been recorded and saved.

Verse 4) *The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand.*

All recorded prayers are presented before God. Shouldn't we be praying even more? Paul reminds us that we should pray constantly, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 *Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in*

all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Verse 5) *Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.*

1. I must make a statement before this verse is explained. The preceding verses from Chapter 1 to this point were pretty straight forward. With reading, praying and a little study, the answers to everything so far should have been relatively easy to understand. However, there are many who don't want to read the Revelation because they say it is too difficult to understand. Rightly so! Here is one of those verses where some thought and study must be completed in order to comprehend what is meant. Let's look at it carefully.

2. filled it with fire from the altar — Actually this should be viewed in reverse order, with from the altar studied first. Understand the term altar is the place of the sacrifice and from a Christian (New Testament) view, it is the Cross. Now, consider filled it with fire to mean the sacrifice is to be consumed by fire. Applying New Testament terms God accepted the sacrifice of His son. Those upon the Earth at this time (not now, but at the moment when the Tribulation period begins) have failed to accept the sacrifice (being the Lamb or Jesus).

3. and hurled it on the earth — Again we have an illustration of mankind's free will choice. We can either accept the sacrifice placed upon the altar as a substitute for our sins (Jesus) or we can suffer the fires of Hell itself. Why do I say that from this verse. Simple! The angel hurls the fire toward the Earth. This is the beginning of the wrath to be poured out on anyone who has not accepted the salvation of Jesus and remains on the Earth.

4. there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake. — Here comes the noise again. As suddenly as the rejoicing will stop, just as suddenly the noise of commotion begins. The rushing sound of lightning and thunder and an earthquake will be awesome, to say the least.

The Trumpets

Verse 6) *Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.*

prepared to sound them — All is now prepared for the sounding of the first trumpet. In the next series of verses we will see what the trumpets bring forth and why they caused millions to gasp in horror.

Verse 7) *The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down upon the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.*

1. and there came hail and fire mixed with blood — The God of Moses and Aaron sent the plagues upon Egypt. A record is made of that hail storm in Exodus 9:23-24 KJV, *And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; and the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt. So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.*

Why was this mixture mixed with blood? To understand look at the explanation after Revelation 8:8 (note 2 below).

2. Has God ever said this would happen again? For an answer let's look at Isaiah 30:30, *The Lord will cause men to hear his majestic voice and will make them see His arm coming down with raging anger and consuming fire, with cloudburst, thunderstorm and hail.*

3. In Revelation 6:8 we see that one fourth of the earth's population is destroyed. Here we see one third of the trees, one third of the earth and all the grass is burnt up. This would most certainly affect those still alive because the ability to produce food is mostly gone. No grass for animals, no trees for nuts

and one third less land to grow crops.

Verse 8) *The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood,*

1. and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze— This verse and verse 10 will cause some difficulty. This writer would like to view this verse as describing a large asteroid being hurled into the sea.

2. blood— Why the repeated reference to blood? I think God is reminding the remnant of mankind that they could have been saved by the *Blood of the Lamb!* Yet, they have chosen otherwise!

Verse 9) *A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.*

1. a third of the ships were destroyed. — I wonder what kind of coverage the media will give to an event such as this? If only one ship is lost at sea there are headlines in every paper and the media gives the account every hour. Do you think the following headline would upset anyone?

GOD UPSET, DESTROYS ONE-THIRD OF THE WORLD'S SHIPS!

To continue with the above we really need some type of number to understand. According to IHS Maritime World Register of Ships there are over 190,000 ships of 100 tons or larger. That alone would mean 63,333 ships would be destroyed at the snap of God's fingers. Think about it! When the Titanic sunk in 1912 there were over 1,500 who drowned—that was only one ship. This event will be several thousand times greater. Will mankind still seek to explain this away as if it never happened?

2. A third of the living creatures in the sea died — Have you noticed that mankind's food supply has been deteriorating. The first trumpet destroyed 1/3 of all trees and all the grass. We may not eat leaves nor grass but some of the animals we consume certainly do. Now 1/3 of all the creatures in the sea die.

Verse 10) *The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water—*

and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky — I called the object in verse 8 an asteroid, I'll call this a comet. Look closely at the difference. The object in verse 8 is like a mountain, all ablaze, and in this verse the object is a great star blazing like a torch. Probably the two could be interchanged, but I'll choose to use these two examples.

Verse 11) *The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.*

1. Wormwood — This is a bitter medicine. While I cannot find that wormwood is a poison it seems one third of the world's water supply will be tainted and turn bitter and poisonous. See Jeremiah 9:15, 23:15; Amos 5:7 KJV for references to wormwood. Jeremiah 9:15, *Therefore, this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "See, I will make this people eat bitter food and drink poisoned water."* Jeremiah 23:15, *Therefore, this is what the Lord Almighty says concerning the prophets: "I will make them eat bitter food and drink poisoned water, because from the prophets of Jerusalem ungodliness has spread throughout the land."* Amos 5:7 KJV, *Ye who turn judgment to wormwood, and leave off righteousness in the earth.*

2. Why would God do this? Could this be because of the bitter gall the Roman soldiers gave Jesus to drink at Calvary?

Verse 12) *The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, 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 turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.*

Understand that a partial darkness will prevail upon the earth. This effect will be around the clock.

Verse 13) *As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: "Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!"*

1. eagle — What is the meaning of this eagle? Consider that many of the illustrations in Revelation go back to the Old Testament for the basis. I perceive that applies here. Look at Hosea 8:1, "*Put the trumpet to your lips! An eagle is over the house of the Lord because the people have broken My covenant and rebelled against My law.*" Once again remember the fourth living creature is represented as an eagle. The tribe of Dan had an eagle on their ensign and the name Dan means *he has vindicated*.

2. Woe! Woe! Woe — This eagle is warning those on the earth about the three remaining trumpets. Many may wonder what is meant by woe: a woe may be a calamity, deep suffering, an affliction, ruin or trouble. Strong's identifies a woe as grief in the Hebrew lexicon number 3759.

Revelation 9

Chapter 9, verse 1) *The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss.*

fallen — Notice this is *fallen* and not *falling*, meaning past tense. I'm going to pick on a few states for a moment. Have you studied any road signs along your journeys? Have you seen the ones that read, Fallen Rock Zone? What these signs are saying is don't worry about these rocks. They have already fallen and won't move. I don't worry too much about those rocks in one of the zones marked Fallen Rock Zone. The ones that bother me are the ones reading Falling Rock Zone meaning they can fall. This verse identifies the star in a past tense, but also notice this star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. This star is an angelic being, fallen from heaven.

Verse 2) *When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss.*

the Abyss — Let's call this what it really is. The angelic being has just opened Hell. If anyone doubts the literal fires of Hell, answer this. Why would smoke rise from this place? Why is it called a **gigantic furnace**?

Verse 3) *And out of the smoke locusts came down upon the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth.*

locusts — Return again to the plagues God bid Moses and Aaron to call down upon Egypt. One was the plague of locusts. Notice the wrath of God in this verse. These locust have been given power like that of scorpions of the earth. What power do earthly scorpions have? Their sting is poisonous.

Verse 4) *They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads.*

Notice that these locust are not a common variety. Instead of eating green things like grass, plant, or tree, they will give harm to people.

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

1. This verse confirms what is said in verse 3. These locust will be venomous!
2. The torment will go on for five months. The sting will be painful, with swelling and a burning sensation.

Verse 6) *During those days men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.*

The torment of the locust will cause men to try to commit suicide, but they can't! Imagine this scene: Here are people trying to die! They take poison, they shoot themselves, but God will not let them die! Is there any wonder that being aware of this woe would cause everyone in heaven to fall silent?

Verse 7) *The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces.*

Verse 8) *Their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.*

Verse 9) *They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle.*

Verse 10) *They had tails and stings like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months.*

Verse 11) *They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon.*

1. Verses 7-11 Let's look to see the description of these locusts.

- a. Their shape was that of a war horse.
- b. They had a yellow thorny pointed head.
- c. They had a human looking face.
- d. They had hair like that of a woman.
- e. They had large incisors capable of ripping flesh.
- f. They had a hard shell.
- g. When in flight they make a horrible sound like a stampede (or a deathly roaring sound).
- h. They have an elongated powerful tail with a large stinger.
- i. Their leader is the angel of the Abyss.

2. When I was in Alaska, there was a little bug called a white socks and when you were bitten by one, you knew it. The itching was terrible and the bite was not like a mosquito. A mosquito bite will go away after a couple of days. A white socks bite will only go back into that terrible itching if you touch it before it has dried up. These locusts are going to be something else. Thank God that those who have been saved by the blood of Jesus do not have to be around to suffer, however there will be those who will be foolish enough to choose to go through all this. That's their choice! They have the God given free will choice to do this. They also have the free gift of salvation if they would accept Jesus as Savior.

Verse 12) *The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come.*

Verse 13) *The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the horns of the golden altar that is before God.*

Verse 14) *It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."*

1. Release the four angels who are bound — No doubt these are four of Satan's angels who have been prepared for this task. I cannot say from the information given in this verse if these are the four angels in Chapter 7, verse 1.

2. at the great river Euphrates. — Notice these four angels were bound near the river Euphrates. The river Euphrates was one of the four rivers that went through the Garden of Eden. It was here that Satan first made his attack upon mankind, where sin was first introduced, and where the spiritual death of man occurred.

Verse 15) *And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind.*

kill a third of mankind — The grim reaper is on the march! Imagine a full third of all the remaining inhabitants of earth are killed! We saw in Chapter 6, verse 8 that one fourth of the population of the earth are killed by death and Hades. If we continued with our illustration of seven billion people on earth and 1/4 are killed we have 5 billion 250 million people. Now if another 1/3 are killed that is an additional one billion 750 million who die. That's a total of three billion 500 million who have died.

Verse 16) *The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million. I heard their number.*

Verse 17) *The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur.*

Verse 18) *A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths.*

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

1. Let's look at verses 16-19 collectively. The key is in verse 17 where the description of fire, smoke and sulfur is made. This is the description of the fires of Hell. What we are seeing here is the cavalry of Hell, just as the first woe described the locust of Hell. There are two hundred million in this cavalry.

2. They can kill mankind in any of three different ways:

a. With their mouth.

b. With their tail.

c. With the serpent head on their tails with which they inflict injury.

3. If we were in a position to view the future, could we adequately describe what we saw? Now, consider our modern weapon systems of warfare. Couldn't we say John was trying to describe some of these weapons? Isn't there a strong possibility in this verse that he was trying to explain what a modern day tank that he had never seen could do and what it looked like? Couldn't the locust in verses 7-11 possibly be John's description of modern helicopter gunships?

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

You would think by now anyone remaining on earth and not saved would cry out for God to save them. A lost person who has read this far and hasn't seen the light will not see the light. Go back and read the exodus from Egypt. The more Moses asked Pharaoh to let the Israelites go, the more God hardened the heart of Pharaoh. This verse is saying you will not repent at that future time. Men do not choose the terms for salvation, God does. **The time for repentance and seeking salvation is now**, not during the Tribulation.

Verse 21) *Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.*

1. And what is it that men are doing today?

a. Committing murder.

b. Sorceries (magic arts) — fortune telling and narcotics.

c. Sexual immorality — lust, adultery, marriage laxity (divorce), homosexuality, etc.

d. Thefts.

Revelation 10

The Angel and the Little Scroll

We are still in the sixth trumpet as we begin chapter 10, and a proclamation is being delivered.

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

1. I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven — I have seen indications that this is Jesus (or this is one of Jesus' special angels). There is strong support this is Jesus.

2. Look at the manner of appearance here and that of Jesus in Chapter 1:

a. robed in a cloud — See Chapter 1, verse 7, *He is coming in the clouds*. Acts 1:9 shows Jesus going up into heaven in a cloud. Luke 21:27 shows that He will return in a cloud.

b. with a rainbow above His head — In Revelation 4:3 a rainbow encircled the throne.

c. His face was like the sun — Revelation 1:16 says, *His face was like the sun*.

d. His legs were like fiery pillars. — Revelation 1:15 says, *Feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace*.

Verse 2) *He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in His hand. He planted His right foot on the sea and His left foot on the land,*

1. He was holding a little scroll. What is this scroll? Let's look for a moment at what has happened up to this point. We have been following the progress of Jesus taking possession of all things for which the cross at Calvary stood. In Revelation chapter 5 we saw the sealed scroll (or the title deed to the purchased possession). We saw the seven seals broken in chapters 6, 7, and 8. This is the unsealed title deed. Either Jesus or His special envoy has the right to the possession in hand.

2. He planted His right foot on the sea and His left foot on the land. — What did Jesus possess? Jesus possessed the title deed to the Earth. Where is His Kingdom to be? It's the Earth. Here we see an illustration of the Roman custom of triumph with one foot on the sea and one foot on the land, with deed in hand, this angel takes possession of the Earth!

Verse 3) *And he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke.*

1. He gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. — Remember Jesus is the lion of Judah.

2. the voices of the seven thunders spoke. — We have investigated the seven seals earlier, we have reviewed the seven trumpets, and now there are seven thunders.

Verse 4) *And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down."*

John is about to record what the seven thunders said but God spoke to John and said, *"Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down."* This is the only place in the Revelation that what is to be is not revealed. It could be that what is said is too horrible to describe. Look at the new diseases that have plagued mankind lately. There is the HIV virus, N1H1 flu, flesh eating bacteria, and new strains of bacteria that are resistant to every antibiotic man has thus far created. One input on the Internet states: From SARS to MRSA to HIV, more than 300 infectious diseases discovered since 1940. Think about that! Any bacteria could easily cross mutate and even a simple earache would be extremely harmful to children, even causing death.

Verse 5) *Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised His right hand to heaven.*

Verse 6) *And He swore by Him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, "There will be no more delay!"*

Verse 7) *"But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as He announced to His servants the prophets."*

Verses 5-7 There will be no more delay! The Kingdom of Jesus on the earth will not be delayed any longer. The world, as we know it, has just about run its course. Mankind has managed to destroy all he can and now it is God's turn to correct the problems.

Verse 8) *Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: "Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land."*

Verse 9) *So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, "Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey."*

Verse 10) *I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour.*

Verse 11) *Then I was told, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings."*

In verse 8 an illustration is made that we are to feed upon the Word. Verse 11 shows we are to make this prophesy a part of us. We see the Word is both sweet and bitter. To those who know Jesus, it is certainly sweet, however to those who do not know Him, it is certainly bitter! The last statement says, *"You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings."* God continues to try and get mankind to repent and accept Jesus as Savior. Maybe this work is a portion of that continued retelling of the prophesy and goes out to many peoples, nations, languages and kings.

Revelation 11

The Two Witnesses

In chapter 11 the Revelation changes its direction slightly. We are still waiting for the seventh trumpet and are still seeing the second woe as God now brings the two witnesses onto the stage. Recall that Jesus is our faithful witness before God. So who are these two witnesses? We will find out in this chapter.

Chapter 11, verse 1) *I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshipers there."*

Verse 2) *"But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months."*

They will trample on the holy city for 42 months. — This identified period of 42 months equates to 3 and one half years. The Tribulation period is in two parts of 3 1/2 years each.

Verse 3) *"And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."*

1,260 days — again 3 and 1/2 years

Verse 4) *These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.*

1. Two olive trees and the two lampstands. — We have seen in Revelation 1:12 and 20 the term lampstand representing a type of church. However, we have not seen the term olive tree prior to this. The olive tree represents the anointed people (elect) who serve the Lord on all the earth. They are witnesses for the Lord, but who are these two witnesses? It seems to indicate these are people who have left the earth, stood before God, and are now being sent back to preach and prophesy.

2. If we search the Bible, we'll find two men who have been taken from the earth and did not pass through death. One is Elijah, 2 Kings 2:11, *As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.* The other is Enoch, Genesis 5:24, *Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.* It would seem to me these two would make good candidates for this mission. However, opinions differ and there are others who say these two will be Elijah and Moses.

3. Zechariah explains the term olive trees in chapter 4:11-14, *Then I asked the angel, "What are these two olive trees on the right and the left of the lampstand?"*

Again I asked him, "What are these two olive branches beside the two gold pipes that pour out golden oil?"

He replied, "Do you not know what these are?"

"No, my lord," I said.

So he said, "These are the two who are anointed to serve the Lord of all the earth."

Verse 5) *If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die.*

Understand how these witnesses protect themselves. Fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. God does have some unusual means to protect His own! Stop and think about this verse in a different way. It could be that the fire spoken of is *judgement*. These two witnesses will speak the truth, and by telling such, the destruction of man's own sins will be like a fire devouring them.

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

Notice in verse 6 that the two witnesses will have power over plagues and can stop the rain at any time. The plagues of blood, frogs, gnats, flies, plague on livestock, boils, hail, locusts, darkness and the firstborn were given to Moses for use in Egypt. It is this verse that many believe shows Moses will be one of the two witnesses. These two witnesses can call up these plagues any time they want or need.

Verse 7) *Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them.*

1. when they have finished their testimony — Meaning after three and one-half years.
2. the beast that comes up from the Abyss — The Antichrist will come and kill them, but only after God says they are finished.

Verse 8) *Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.*

1. great city — Jerusalem.
2. Sodom — a city of sin.
3. Egypt — place of bondage for the Israelites.
4. where their Lord was crucified — again, Jerusalem.

Verse 9) *For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial.*

Do you see the influence of television? How else will every people, tribe, language and nation be able to look upon or gaze at these two witnesses for three and one half days?

Verse 10) *The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.*

1. Let's call this Satan's x-mas. I really do not want to use the term Christmas, yet that is the exact day I want for an illustration. This day, we are explaining here, is a day of giving gifts, of enjoying the company of others, and a day of celebration. Why? Folks are not celebrating life or even an event that's joyous to God. Folks are celebrating the death of the witnesses of God. They no longer will have to hear the truth being spoken by these witnesses. They are giving each other gifts and presents just because these two witnesses have died!

2. The important illustration in verses 8-10 is the manner mankind took their death. Mankind did not grieve over their passing, instead, they celebrated. They did not send sympathy cards, instead, they sent gifts to each other. They were so morbid they let their bodies lay out on the street for 3 and 1/2 days.

Verse 11) *But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them.*

However, after that time, God performed a miracle and revived them in the middle of the party, and terror struck those who saw them. We have all seen wild parties after national athletic events where there is drinking, dancing and destruction. Can you imagine the drunk who is near these two when they return from the dead and stand up? Every person should become sober and tremble with fear.

Verse 12) *Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.*

We again see the command “*Come up here.*” and in that instant they are taken up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.

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

1. Notice that those remaining of mankind, who had survived up to this point, suddenly were terrified and gave glory to God in heaven. Look back through the preceding 10 chapters and notice what it took to get man’s attention. It only takes a two by four to get a mule’s attention.

2. Notice also, that giving God glory didn’t cause a reaction at this point. Why? Because they were in trouble. They were not trying to repent. There are many people who think they can live their lives however they wish, and just before death, they can accept salvation and still go to Heaven. Here are three reasons this may not work:

- a. Jesus may come at any moment, you would not be ready.
- b. You may die a sudden death and not have time to accept salvation.
- c. You need to accept Jesus while the Spirit draws you. To wait may mean you are not convicted at death either.

Verse 14) *The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon.*

We are living in an age where people get upset over the way a lobster is cooked and they want to sue the restaurant or be given a refund or free meal. It is not the time to be worrying about a creature God has placed in our food chain. The important point has been overlooked, if this is all mankind has to worry about. The time is coming when there are going to be things far more serious to consider and about which to worry. Thank God, I won’t have to go through those decisions because I’ve already made mine. **Have you made the greatest decision of your life?** John 3:16-18, “*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.*”

The Seventh Trumpet

Verse 15) *The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign for ever and ever.”*

1. The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ — The kingdoms of this world are doomed. No one on earth can build a kingdom to compare to the one to come. Those who indicate their denomination is bringing in the kingdom are misinformed, as this is impossible.

2. He will reign forever and ever — the Kingdom is brought in only through Jesus, and it will be an everlasting kingdom.

Verse 16) *And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God.*

We have already identified the twenty-four elders as representing all the saints. We will rule with Jesus.

Verse 17) *Saying: “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign.”*

This is Jesus' return to earth. Jesus was in the beginning, was the Lamb of God who walked the earth, was crucified, arose and taken to Heaven. Now returns to rule and reign for 1,000 years as King of kings and Lord of lords. Praise God!

Verse 18) *“The nations were angry; and Your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding Your servants the prophets and Your saints and those who reverence Your name, both small and great—and for destroying those who destroy the earth.”*

There are four things indicated here that relate to the reign of Jesus. They are:

1. The nations were angry; and Your wrath has come. — The nations represent the worldly, or those who follow Satan. This bunch is always angry when Jesus is working.

2. The time has come for judging the dead. — This has to be the **lost** dead. It cannot be the saints who have gone before because they were given their glorified bodies in chapter 4. The martyrs of the Tribulation were identified in chapter 6. The actual judging of the lost dead will occur after the one thousand year reign. See Revelation 20.

3. For rewarding Your servants the prophets and Your saints and those who reverence Your name, both small and great — Rewards will be given depending on what we have done for Jesus. Some will reign over ten cities, while others will reign over one.

4. For destroying those who destroy the earth. — Those who have lived their life by greed and deceit have helped destroy the earth. They will be destroyed. The world Jesus will reign over will be a perfect world, ruled by love and peace.

Verse 19) *Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within His temple was seen the ark of His covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm.*

1. Then God's temple in heaven was opened — The full glory of God is revealed.

2. within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant — all the promises God made to mankind are guaranteed. We have television programs dedicated to the hunting for the Ark of the Covenant. With this verse we should all know where it is. It is in Heaven with God and not on the Earth. Mankind has broken the covenant, trampled on God's holy name, denied His Son and destroyed much of His Earth. God has said He would vindicate His name through His people and by this verse it seems He took the Ark back to Heaven. All will be corrected when Jesus returns to Earth. See Revelation 15:5.

Revelation 12

The Woman and the Dragon

Before we start with chapter 12, we need to look at the first verse. Remember that we are using the NIV as the reference Bible. Please, use an NIV Bible and view verse 1. In this verse, read to the colon and note that sign (as used in the NIV) means symbol. John understood from God that this portion of the Revelation would be given in symbols. We are told these symbols are literal because God has told us so when He is dealing in symbols. Some of these symbols will represent a retelling of some of the signs explained in chapters 7-11.

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

Woman — The woman mentioned here is Israel. God gave Israel a bill of divorce in Jeremiah 3:8, *I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of all her adulteries. Yet I saw that her unfaithful sister Judah had no fear; she also went out and committed adultery.* Notice also in the description the crown of twelve stars on her head. These stars represent the twelve tribes of Israel. It is also necessary to explain three terms: these three are the House of Israel; the House of Judah; and Israel. Look at these three in reverse order. Israel means all Israel, time through the reign of Solomon, or the present day country of Israel. The House of Israel represents the northern ten tribes, and the House of Judah represents the two southern tribes. These two houses are mentioned in the verse from Jeremiah, but it was all Israel that is represented by the woman here in this verse from Revelation.

Verse 2) *She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth.*

God had promised Israel a child that would be the Messiah. Throughout Israel's history, they have looked for that child and here we see the symbolic birth. The book of Isaiah will help clear up that the woman is Israel in verse 9:6, *For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.* In this reference verse from the Old Testament we find the words, *For to us a Child is born.* The us represents Israel.

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

When the birth is announced, this dragon appears to try and destroy the child. The dragon represents Satan. See how powerful the dragon is by the number of crowns and horns there are upon its heads. The horns symbolize kingdoms and Satan does have many kingdoms upon the Earth.

Verse 4) *His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her Child the moment it was born.*

1. stars — The stars are angels and one third are cast out of heaven! Aren't these cast out angels the angels of Satan? Think about it!

2. Notice the position of Satan. He is standing in front of the woman to destroy the Child upon its birth. Remember the story of Jesus' birth when Satan used King Herod to try and destroy Jesus, the Christ child, by killing all male children under the age of two. Matthew 2:16, *When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem*

and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

Verse 5) *She gave birth to a Son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to His throne.*

1. Notice first the marvelous answer to the proceeding verse. Satan was there to destroy the child through King Herod, but just as King Herod sought to destroy Jesus, God told Joseph and Mary to go into Egypt. See Matthew 2:13, *When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream.*

“Get up,” he said, “take the Child and His mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” God takes care of His own.

2. All Christians should praise Israel, for it was from them that our Savior came. Doesn't it also say He will rule over all the nations?

3. and her Child was snatched up to God and to His throne. — This portion of the verse describes the resurrection and ascension of Jesus into Heaven.

Verse 6) *The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.*

1. Once the birth has occurred *the woman* flees. Is this the beginning of the scattering of the Jews from Israel? Remember the Jews did not have a recognized homeland until 1947. From approximately 72 CE until 1947 the land was known as Palestine.

2. into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, — There is no verse in the Bible that identifies where this place in the desert is located. Many have speculated that it will be in ancient Petra, located in modern day Jordan.

3. where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days. — Throughout the Revelation there is the identification of the seven year period that takes place. This is the Tribulation period and it is divided into 3½ years of peace and 3½ years of war. Three and one half years (1,260 days) is the period of relative peace prior to the reign of terror by the Antichrist. Since these verses in Revelation are a retelling of other signs in Revelation and some facts pertaining to the Earth there is a question. Did Joseph, Mary and the Christ child spend 3 and 1/2 years in Egypt before returning to Nazareth? Think about that because there is no verse that tells us how long they spent in Egypt.

Verse 7) *And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.*

1. This battle took place prior to the creation of the earth. The result was the Devil and his angels are thrown out of Heaven.

2. Many will ask why does Satan have access to Heaven now. The answer is, so he can accuse the saints. See verse 10.

Verse 8) *But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven.*

Satan will lose this war and will not accuse us any more.

Verse 9) *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.*

Refer to Luke 10:18, *He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”* Didn't Jesus know about this day and make reference to it while He was on Earth with mankind?

Verse 10) *Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and*

the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.”

1. Satan is called the accuser. Satan’s current job is to accuse us before God. He will attempt to use every means of his power to cause any child of God’s to sin against God.

2. However, the effect of that action is actually the beginning of the verse that tells that the kingdom of our God has arrived and the authority of God’s Christ is in full force.

Verse 11) *They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.*

1. They overcame him — Who overcame him? The saints!

2. Observe how the saints defeat Satan:

a. By the Blood of the Lamb — Satan doesn’t mind when preachers preach good works, live a good life, or help the poor, however, he hates the Blood of the Lamb and those who preach the blood. Mankind’s only hope at judgement will be to be cleansed by the blood of Jesus.

b. and by the word of their testimony — If you ever run into trouble and are facing Satan, give your testimony. Satan hates it. Look once again at what is said in this verse, *They overcame him* (Satan)... *by the word of their testimony*.

c. Look at the last part of the verse. Do not love your own life. When we love God’s work more than our own lives, Satan is defeated in our lives.

Verse 12) *Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”*

1. When Satan is thrown from Heaven, the inhabitants of Heaven rejoice and sing a joyful song.

2. But woe to the earth — We are given the warning that when Satan can no longer accuse the saints in Heaven, he turns his efforts of wicked devices upon the Earth. Again look at the three and one half year periods. The last half includes a vengeful, wicked war that destroys most of those living at that time. Satan can only apply his vengeance during this time. He will act as a wounded animal and fight with a vicious effort to destroy everything representing God, Jesus, the Word, or the Blood of Christ. Churches will be under attack, Christians will be under attack, the use of God’s word as a moral teaching will be under attack and above all else, anyone who believes in the Blood of Jesus will be under attack!

How far are we from that now? Our schools are not allowed to have school prayer, nor to have any reference to God in anything that is taught, except for noncommittal teaching of an individual country’s religion when studying the world. The evening news reminds us that Christians are being sought out in other parts of the world and killed for their belief. The silent majority of the United States sits back in their lounge chair and hasn’t a thought of the impact that fanatic Islamic rebels are causing around the world. We see these fanatics now in our midst inside of our great nation and we do little to stop them. They have exploded bombs at the Boston Marathon, invited our children to join them and create havoc at home to show their displeasure with any rule or law they don’t like. We are at the very edge of a gigantic race war that will make the American Civil War look like a picnic. Wake up people! Satan wants you on his team and if you don’t take a stand in the name of God, **you will be** a player on Satan’s team! **The choice is yours!**

Degrading of the family is practiced, homosexual relationships are practiced, even openly. As each day ends we see more and more acceptance of the homosexual lifestyle. The United States has now taken a stand to dishonor God and His word by greeting the homosexual as a peer and passing a federal law condoning same sex marriage. Look at Indiana and Arkansas and how their governors had to request their respective state legislators to rewrite *Freedom of Religion* bills to please the demands of liberals and the gay community. There were a few county clerks across the country that attempted to stand up for the majority

voice in their respective county and keep marriage between one man and one woman. They lost their stand and the new law prevailed. Somebody forgot to read the Bible! God declared homosexuality as an abomination! It does not matter if you are gay or lesbian, the life-style is still an abomination before God! Leviticus 18:22-23, *Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable. Do not have sexual relations with an animal and defile yourself with it. A woman must not present herself to an animal to have sexual relations with it; that is a perversion.* Leviticus 20:13, *If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.* Romans 1:26-27 NET, *For this reason God gave them over to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged the natural sexual relations for unnatural ones, and likewise the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed in their passions for one another. Men committed shameless acts with men and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.* Jude 1:7, *In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.*

Our American system of justice throws out cases if the Bible is mentioned in a defense. Moral standards of decency portrayed by lawyers has declined, and it seems lawyers are only interested in one thing: It's a business and my job is to defend my client so that they are on the winning side. Those who are the victim of deception, fraud, or embezzlement are made out to be the perpetrator and the person who was caught in the wrong is made out to be the victim. Something is wrong with that! The time is coming when all of this will be corrected! Each one of us needs to take charge of our eternal soul and preach the truth of the blood instead of some of this present day good feeling, good work, help the poor, don't offend anyone preaching! **Sorry for your error! But God is judgemental!** To think in liberal thoughts only allows Satan to spread his teachings further.

Verse 13) *When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male Child.*

Satan will persecute Israel with his vicious evil. He hates the Jews for being the people who gave us the Bible and Jesus. Look at the world's thought pertaining to Israel today. The day the United States turns it back on Israel will be a great day for Satan. Look how close we are to that date now! The President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Israel do not see eye to eye and the trust between these two nations is at the breaking point. *This statement was a view in 2015 - In (2020) the relationship under President Trump was great. His proposed Deal of the Century was to go into effect on July 1, 2020 allowing Israel to regain territory in the west bank of Judah. Will this be the signing of the prophecy document that will mark the beginning of the seven year Great Tribulation period? Now (2022) we are once again under the authority of a president who does not favor Israel, who desires to chase after a renewed Iran deal, a new Green deal and an open border on the southern edge of our country. This current President even went to meet with the Pope and the Pope declared him a good Catholic, not a good Christian. In this capacity he can still endorse abortions and a homosexual lifestyle.

Verse 14) *The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.*

Speculation exist that indicates this prepared place in the desert represents Petra in the current country of Jordan. Actually, the Bible does not give a location, only that it will be in the desert and was prepared by God. The phrase *she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time* means 3 and 1/2 years.

Verse 15) *Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent.*

This verse helps support the speculation pertaining to Petra. Remember that Petra rests at the end of a dried up river bed (wadi).

Verse 16) *But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.*

In verses 14-16 we see the protection that God will give to Israel. It would appear that God sends an earthquake to divert the flow of this water. Just as God protected Noah and his family during the period of the flood, He will protect His people through the Tribulation.

Verse 17) *Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.*

When Satan saw he could not win against the country of Israel (meaning Judea), he turned his attention to the rest of God's people (Israel, meaning the lost ten tribes). God's people have got to understand that the term God's people means all the descendants of the Twelve Tribes. The principal three countries are Israel (the Jewish state), Great Britain (meaning Ephraim) and the United States (meaning Manasseh).

Any person who is saved and living at this dreaded time will be under attack from Satan. This goes for any church and even more so for any soul winning Christian. Every Christian must understand this and be in constant prayer to be caught up in their personal forgiveness relationship with God, cloaked with the full armor of the Word and knowing what is about to occur so as to be protected from Satan's angry wrath.

REMEMBER: The Bible records that Satan will be cast out on four different occasions:

1. Satan was cast out of his exalted position as an angel before the creation of the world, but, could still enter Heaven.

2. Satan will be cast out of Heaven as our accuser during the Tribulation period. Revelation 12:9, *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.*

3. Satan will be cast into the bottomless pit for a thousand years at the beginning of the reign of Jesus. Revelation 20:3, *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.*

4. Satan will be cast into the lake of fire forever at the great white throne of judgement. 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.*

Revelation 13

The Beast out of the Sea

Chapter 13 will introduce us to the Antichrist as the second part of Satan's trinity. The false prophet is introduced as the third part of Satan's trinity.

Chapter 13, verse 1) *And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.*

1. beast — This is the Antichrist, or the final world dictator, who will try to rule the world.

2. he had ten horns — In the book of Daniel these ten horns will be ten kingdoms that will be under the authority of the Antichrist. Daniel 7:24, *The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings.*

Verse 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.*

1. resembled a leopard — Sounds a little like the beast in Daniel 7:6, *After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule.*

2. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. — We indicated at the beginning of this chapter the Antichrist was the second part of Satan's trinity. God represents the first part of the Godhead—in like manner Satan represents the first part of his trinity.

a. dragon — still represents Satan.

b. gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. — Jesus is the second part of the Godhead, and in like manner, the Antichrist is the second part of Satan's trinity. In the same manner of mimicking God, authority is given from Satan to the Antichrist. See the note at verse 12.

c. Read 1 John 2:18-27, *Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.*

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist—he denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. And this is what he promised us—even eternal life.

I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him. These verses give a warning about the coming Antichrist, but look in verse 22. The liar is foretold, for he is the one who says Jesus is not the Christ.

Verse 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 astonished and followed the beast.*

There are many who have been taught the Antichrist will be the Pope of the Catholic church at the time God wants this to occur. In some ways I agree, and in others I must look to a different view to see what is there. For the purposes of this work I will disregard all teachings I have had and go with what the Holy Spirit tells me to type.

One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. — Since there is a tie between what John revealed in Revelation and what Daniel revealed in the book named for him. We must look at both to attempt to discover the answer given. We have determined that the heads represent kingdoms, so it would appear that there is a kingdom that was destroyed, or killed off, or was dead. Later it was revived, or rebuilt or changed into another form. Most want to associate both to the Roman Empire and at that point it takes on a denominational note based on the rhetoric of man and not truth. For a moment let us look at truth.

a. There were two sections of the Roman Empire when it collapsed in 476. One was the administrative section controlled by Rome itself, which did indeed collapse. The other was the area controlled by Constantine and controlled from Constantinople, reigning as the Byzantine Era and lasting until approximately 1400.

b. Furthermore, there were two major denominations reflected from this collapse. There was the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church. We must remember that these two denominations are both Christian. Along with this first schism we must remember that the Protestant denominations begin appearing about 1700 with Martin Luther.

c. To complicate the matter even more was the introduction of Islam into this picture about 630. Let us not forget God blessed Ishmael's side of Abraham's family. Let us also remember that the seat of Roman authority transferred to Constantinople and from there Christianity was accepted as the religion of state.

d. There is one more religion represented within the borders of the Old Roman Empire and that is Judaism itself.

e. We can now deduce that the Antichrist will come from the area of the Old Roman Empire. The Antichrist can be a Christian, an Orthodox Christian, a Moslem, or even a Jew. The important point is that the Antichrist must come from within the borders of the Roman Empire. Any person mentioned that does not come from within this territory is not the Antichrist. Lets rule out the possibility of a Moslem being the Antichrist. The simple reason is that there is no Jewish person who would accept a seven year treaty with a Moslem as the head of this agreement. Well, maybe there would be after the signing of the Abraham Accords.

Verse 4) *Men 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 make war against him?"*

1. Doesn't this sound like mankind? They are not worried about the truth, they only want to be associated with power.

2. They forgot to ask about the blood! For it is through the power of the blood that the Antichrist is defeated. **There is one who can make war against him!**

3. Remember this is a world leader who leads the true believer away from God.

a. Look at Daniel chapter 11:

1. Verse 21: He will be given the honor of the throne because he is there, even though he is contemptible. He will win because of intrigue and mystery. Understand that this is not by normal means. Everyone will be duped to believe that this is by normal secession.

2. Verse 22: An unbeatable army will be beaten. But the most important point is that a prince of the covenant will be destroyed. Who is this prince?

3. Reading verses 23 through 25 would indicate that this person will win against the

king of the South. Who is the king of the South, who is the king of the North? To answer this question will set the stage of the final battle before mankind. It seems the king of the North is Germany and the king of the South represents Iran. It seems, with these two kings at odds against each other, another crusade between Christians and Moslems, will occur as the final series of battles. *Not just one battle, but many!

Verse 5) *The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.*

1. proud words — How many times has the Word told mankind not to be prideful? Pride is a destroyer! It destroys the true meaning of everything God has told man in every religious belief and through every prophet! If we, as mankind, would listen to what we are told, we should know that pride is not our answer, quite the contrary, pride is our devastation, our destroyer!

2. In a different fashion we are still looking at 3½ years. Four years would be 48 months, minus 6 equals 42 months.

Verse 6) *He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.*

1. Remember! This is Satan incarnate. If Satan has been thrown out of Heaven he is still trying to accuse the saints before God.

2. The only place that remains for Satan to use these accusations is on Earth and he continues to accuse the righteous before God, for he thinks he is equal to God.

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

I cannot continue to believe that mankind thinks their particular religious beliefs are going to get them to Heaven. This verse alone should prove to every believer that God Himself has allowed Satan the power to influence all mankind. At that moment in time it will not matter if you are a Christian, a Moslem, or a Jewish believer. It does not matter if you are an American, an Arab, or an Israelite. When the final war against the saints occurs, everyone will be under attack.

Verse 8) *All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.*

God meant all to worship Him in truth, as Abraham did. How can mankind be so blinded as to not see the truth? God proclaimed the truth to the Jew, later passing this to the Gentile, and after all else failed, to Muhammad to bring forth the third religion from the loins of Abraham. Oh my brother! I pray for you! Understand this verse. It says all inhabitants of the earth! This verse did not say all Jews, nor all Christians, nor all Moslems. It says all the inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast. Remember we are talking about Satan incarnate as being the beast.

It, also, says that **all whose name has not been written in the Book of Life** (forgive me but at this moment I'll dispense with the Lamb connotation). Every person has free choice to seek out God's gift of eternal life. Read once again John 3:16-18, "*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.*" It is up to us to make that decision within ourselves to accept this gift, or to carry out our life under the influence of Satan, by performing his deeds according to that which is beyond us to understand. However, everyone has that free choice to accept the truth at

any moment and believe in the eternal God who reigns over us all. The question is: Has your name been recorded in the Book of Life? I have not said you must be of a particular denomination, nor of a particular persuasion. The important point is whether you believe in God and worship Him! Period!!! We are all at war with Satan at this moment in time. Every child who descended from the loins of Abraham is facing the enemy. How we became a child of Abraham and what we believe as being the truth is not the matter at this time. All the descendants of the children of Abraham who believe in The One True God are under siege!

Verse 9) *He who has an ear, let him hear.*

Do you see what it says? All who have an ear let him hear. This verse did not say anything about a particular denomination, nor a particular religious belief.

Verse 10) *If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.*

1. This verse deals with being a martyr. A jihad (or holy war) is being waged and the martyrs will be honored.

2. It is necessary for the saints to understand that God's plan will be completed no matter the denomination in which we believe, and each time we pray the Lord's prayer we ask for this to hurry and occur.

The Beast out of the Earth

Verse 11) *Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon.*

1. like a lamb, but spoke like a dragon — The importance of this verse is that the second beast portrays himself as a lamb. There is only one Lamb and we know that to be Jesus. This portrayal shows the imitation that Satan will make to show himself as God.

2. **Greetings! — You have just met the third part of Satan's trinity! Meet the False Prophet!**

3. The first beast represented the *political* head of kingdoms. This second beast represents the *ecclesiastical* head of kingdoms. Doesn't this sound like the very essence of power itself? All control upon the earth is represented by two beasts. One political and one ecclesiastical. Talk about a church state, here is the ultimate church state.

Verse 12) *He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.*

Just as the other portions of Satan's trinity were the opposite of their counterpart, here we see the true meaning of how the false prophet is opposite the Holy Spirit and directing praise toward the second part of the trinity. In God's case, the second part is Jesus and in Satan's case it is the Antichrist.

Verse 13) *And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men.*

There are many people who will believe, that if a miracle is performed the power must come from God. This is not the case. Just because a miracle occurs does not mean it is from God. Remember Satan was an angel and has many supernatural powers. Test the source of the miracle before you believe anything. To understand how to test the spirits read 1 John 4:2-3, *This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does*

not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

Verse 14) *Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived.*

1. he deceived — Who is the great deceiver? Satan is that great deceiver who deceives the world!
2. set up an image — Sounds like idolatry to me. Haven't we all been taught against false worship of God? Didn't the Old Testament show the golden calf being made on two separate occasions? Doesn't the Quran teach Moslems against false images?

Verse 15) *He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.*

1. He was given power — Let us look very carefully at what is being said. Who represents the ultimate authority for power? God himself! Therefore, who has granted a certain amount of power to be transferred? God has. Now this is not to say Satan is like God. In my opinion Satan is again trying to act like God and wants mankind to fall for the false image put before him. Are we so stupid we cannot see the difference? Mankind has fallen for this before and worshiped a false image, it seems it will happen again.

2. Notice the result if mankind refused to worship the image. — They would be killed! Sounds like the old Nazi party of Hitler, doesn't it? Remember there are many who believe Napoleon was the first Antichrist, Hitler was the second Antichrist, and this represents the third time the Antichrist appears. If we look at the history surrounding Hitler's brutal attack on the Jews, we should understand what is meant by this verse.

Verse 16) *He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead,*

Again, see the similarity between what is recorded here and the actual facts in history of what Hitler did to the Jews during the Second World War! Wasn't every Jew tattooed so everyone knew they were a Jew?

Verse 17) *So that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name.*

Sounds like absolute control of power to me. Isn't that what Nazism or communism is all about? Isn't that what liberals want right now, for everything to be under universal control? Listen to the United States Congress fight among themselves and hear the very thought of the seed that spreads this idea. Yet, there are those who spread the idea that their claim is right, that this is democracy and they are the ones who understand what rules the rest of us need to use to live our lives. Read verse 8 (pg 60) of this chapter one more time.

Verse 18) *This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666.*

Everything is recorded here in this number. Seven represents God's number and six is man's number. Satan has revealed his trinity and the best he can do is this number of 666, a six for Satan, a six for the Antichrist and a six for the false prophet!

Revelation 14

The Lamb and the 144,000

Chapter 14, verse 1) *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.*

1. In the previous chapter we saw that everyone was to wear the mark of the beast, or 666. Here we see what could be called the counter offensive.

2. was the Lamb — Jesus is standing there in John's vision.

3. with Him 144,000 — Go back to chapter seven to see who these 144,000 are. There are a great number from each tribe that makes up all God's people. They are to preach the good news about Jesus during the Tribulation period.

4. who had His name and His Father's name written on their foreheads. — These wear the badge of courage and have God's name proudly displayed to show who they represent. Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone trying to win souls for God would wear such a badge? Of course there would be many who would run away from seeing such a badge. They want nothing to do with God. Please notice, I have not said anything about one religion or another in this statement. Christians, Jews and Moslems are all trying to win souls for God. Wouldn't it be nice if all the descendants of Abraham would fight their cause together instead of fighting against each other? Such an army has never been seen, unfortunately, it will never be seen in a united manner, at least not until Jesus takes His rightful place on the throne of David.

Verse 2) *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.*

Heaven knows who these 144,000 are and the music of Heaven is sent to them.

Verse 3) *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.*

And they in return sang their praise toward Heaven and the throne of God.

Verse 4) *These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure. They follow the Lamb wherever He goes. They were purchased from among men and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb.*

1. for they kept themselves pure — These 144,000 are chaste, or if you are seeking another word, they are virgins.

2. They follow the Lamb wherever He goes. — It is our Christian duty to follow Jesus! It appears there are a lot of Christians who have this backward, and say, they take Jesus wherever they go? How can you take someone someplace if you are suppose to be following? Stop trying to lead and learn to follow, let God's will lead in the work at hand.

Verse 5) *No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.*

1. No lie was found in their mouths — Isn't this a wonderful statement? James tells us that every manner of beast has been tamed by man, however the thing man cannot tame is his tongue, James 3:7-8, *All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.* Here are 144,000 who have tamed their tongue.

2. they are blameless— There are two others in the Bible who are blameless. No! Jesus is neither of these two. It is recorded that Noah was blameless in Genesis 6:9, *This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.* It is also recorded that Job was blameless in Job 1:1, *In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.* It is within mankind's ability to be blameless. King David had only one chargeable sin against him as stated in 1 Kings 15:5, *For David had done what was right in the eyes of the Lord and had not failed to keep any of the Lord's commands all the days of his life—except in the case of Uriah the Hittite.* Why does mankind want to continue to kid itself about the word of God? To know, and understand God is a simple thing! It is not difficult, and does not mean one must belong to a particular denomination or religion. The paramount meaning is to follow God's will and not man's rule!

The Three Angels

Verse 6) *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.*

Here is another example of God trying to get mankind to understand that He exists in different forms before man, but is still the same God. God's eternal gospel is and has been since the beginning of time. Look carefully to whom this angel is proclaiming God's eternal gospel—to *proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people.* What part of the Earth is left out of the coverage of this verse?

Verse 7) *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."*

The annuals of man's history has never recorded anything such as this. God has poured out his anger upon man before, but always with mercy. Wasn't there the record of the flood in Genesis? What about the time God was going to harm the nation of Israel in Exodus? Exodus 32:14, *Then the Lord relented and did not bring on His people the disaster He had threatened.* Yet, in these illustrations from Genesis and Exodus God has shown mercy toward mankind. **Now we see the warning!** Here is an angel who states that God's hour of judgment has come. The verses to follow will show God's wrath without mercy.

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

Babylon the Great - Surely this verse points to chapters 17 and 18 foretelling of the fall of the political and ecclesiastical Babylon. Remember these are the 2nd and 3rd parts of Satan's trinity and represented by the Antichrist and the false prophet.

Verse 9) *A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand."*

Here comes the wrath upon the unbelievers who have worshiped the beast.

Verse 10) *"He, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of His wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb."*

1. poured full strength— God's wrath will not be diluted on this occasion. It will be full strength.
2. The unbelievers will be tormented in front of Jesus and the angels.

Verse 11) *“And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name.”*

This torment will go on forever. Want to see if hell is real? Think about what this verse says!

Verse 12) *This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God’s commandments and remain faithful to Jesus.*

We are to remain patient and to endure. However, we must remember that when this time comes, all present day Christians have been taken out and protected. The saints spoken of here must be the 144,000 and any new converts made during the Tribulation period.

Verse 13) *Then I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.”*

“Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.”

These new Christians must endure much during the latter part of the Tribulation period. Notice they would be blessed if they died during this time. If they do die they receive two things:

a. rest from their labor — Look at verse 11 where there is no rest for the unbeliever, only torment.

b. their deeds will follow them. — There will be a reward for their labor.

The Harvest of the Earth

Verse 14) *I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one “like a Son of Man” with a crown of gold on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand.*

1. Turn to Acts 1:11 to see how Jesus left the earth. Doesn’t it say He will return in the same manner? *Seated on the cloud was one “like a Son of Man.”* Look very carefully at the wording here. Refer back to three previously used verses: Revelation 1:13, Isaiah 11:5 and Daniel 7:13. You will find enough words to identify this as pertaining to Jesus.

Revelation 1:13, *And among the lampstands was someone like a Son of Man, dressed in a robe reaching down to His feet and with a golden sash around His chest.* Isaiah 11:5, *Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.* Daniel 7:13, *In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into His presence.* This person could be:

a. Jesus in His earthly image of man.

b. One of Jesus’ special angels. Look at Matthew 13:38-43, *“The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.*

“As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

2. with a crown of gold on his head — Jesus died wearing a crown of thorns as the suffering Savior. Here He is returning as a conquering King.

3. a sharp sickle in His hand. — A sickle is a bladed instrument to cut and gather a grain harvest.

Verse 15) *Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to Him who was sitting on the cloud, “Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.”*

1. What crop is going to be harvested? Is this a crop of Jesus' followers? I don't think so. They have already been protected and there is no reason for Jesus to reap any followers. So who upon the Earth is this angel now going to reap? Turning to Galatians 6:7-10 we read the following, *Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.* Mankind has sown the seeds of rebellion against God ever since he left the garden of Eden. We are quickly approaching two thousand years that mankind has sown the seeds of rebellion against Jesus. This angel is coming to reap the crop of sinful men who have always rebelled and sinned.

2. the harvest of the earth is ripe. — Normally you try to harvest things before they reach full ripeness. To reap when the harvest is ripe could indicate the fruit is beginning to rot. Here is the condition of the world when Jesus comes again. It is rotten!

Verse 16) *So He who was seated on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.*

The Climactic Will of God is Completed!

Verse 17) *Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle.*

Verse 18) *Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to Him who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe."*

1. Several things must be said about verses 17-18. Notice there are two angels. In verse 18 we see the assignment of this angel, he had charge of the fire.

2. Gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine — The second angel was also holding a sickle. Let us remember the believers were the grapes upon the true vine of Jesus. John 15:1, *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in Me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful."* This is the earth's vine so these must be the grapes (followers) of the Antichrist.

3. Its grapes are ripe. — We indicated above that ripe means rotten. Yes! These clusters are rotten.

Verse 19) *The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath.*

Look what is to happen to them, they are to receive God's wrath.

Verse 20) *They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.*

1. This is a terrible description of the destruction that will happen to sinful man. Yet, throughout the ages man has had the opportunity to follow God's will and has refused. God's justice will be served.

2. stadia — A fixed length of measurement, a furlong, as used in the KJV. If we used furlong as the length it equals 1/8 of a mile. Therefore, 1,600 furlongs would be 200 miles and about 3 feet deep.

Think about the devastation this would equal!

Chapters 15 and 16 are going to deal with the Battle of Armageddon. To understand this battle we must place our mind in harmony to benefit from these verses. We must understand this will be a literal battle.

This battle is not one in principal between nations, but between Jesus and the Antichrist. This battle cannot be conducted as long as the Holy Spirit remains on earth. It must happen after the removal of the Holy Spirit, closes out the Tribulation and ushers in the millennium period.

Extra Information

For better understanding we must view the players in this battle. One place that the Bible gives us information about this battle is in Ezekiel 38 and 39. Turning there we find the following: A quick review of Ezekiel. Chapter 37 deals with the restoration of Israel as a nation and chapter 40 deals with the millennium period. Therefore, the only place that chapters 38 and 39 fit in are during the Tribulation period.

Ezekiel 38

A Prophecy Against Gog

Chapter 38, verse 1) *The word of the LORD came to me:*

Verse 2) *Son of Man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal; prophesy against him.*

1. Son of Man — Review Revelation 14:14. We identify this as Jesus. So even before His birth, we see God the Father telling His Son to set your face against Gog. However, there is one distinct difference between the two verses. The verse here does not say like a before the Son of Man. This most probably represents Jesus and not a special angel.

2. We must also understand the relationship of these names. Genesis 10:2 gives the seven sons of Japheth, the son of Noah. The sons of Japheth represent the Gentile nations of the world. Here you will find Magog, Meshech and Tubal. Magog and Meshech represent Russia and the descendants of Tubal are located South of the Black Sea and in Spain

3. Gog is the chief prince of Magog.

Verse 3) *And say: This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal."*

Verse 4) *"I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaws and bring you out with your whole army-your horses, your horsemen fully armed, and a great horde with large and small shields, all of them brandishing their swords."*

The actions to take place are according to the will of God and these armies will be used to demonstrate God's glory.

Verse 5) *"Persia, Cush and Put will be with them, all with shields and helmets,"*

1. Persia is the present day country of Iran.

2. Cush and Put are sons of Ham, again a son of Noah. We must understand Abraham comes from Noah's son Shem.

a. Cush is normally taken as meaning Ethiopia.

b. Put is thought to represent present day Libya.

3. Remember your Bible history: Noah was found blameless before the Lord. Due to the flood

mankind is destroyed except for Noah, his sons and their wives.

Two things can be said by these facts:

- a. People of color must come from one of the sons of Noah, or a wife. Color cannot be the curse upon Cain.
- b. Sin must also rest within the hearts of at least one of these people. Look at the reason Ham's son Canaan is cursed by Noah. Sin was most certainly there.

Verse 6) *“Also Gomer with all its troops, and Beth Togarmah from the far north with all its troops—the many nations with you.”*

1. Gomer is another son of Japheth and represents some of the Turkic peoples. Togarmah is shown in Genesis 10:3 as a son of Gomer. Togarmah is thought to represent Armenia.

2. from the far north — If we take our names of countries (groups) one step further back, didn't they come out of Europe, Russia and the Middle East? If we take this to its far northern point, wouldn't we have the Nordic group of countries, Russia and possibly Mongolia? Wherever this land area is it represents a vast number of available men to be in an army.

Verse 7) *“Prepare yourself and be ready, you and all your companies that are gathered about you; and be a guard for them.”*

Verse 8) *“After many days you will be called to arms. In future years you will invade a land that has recovered from war; whose people were gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate. They had been brought out from the nations, and now all of them live in safety.”*

Whose people were gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel — Doesn't this sound like the Zionist movement that created the nation of Israel in 1947?

Verse 9) *“You and all your troops and the many nations with you will go up, advancing like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land.”*

1. advancing like a storm — didn't Hitler advance the tactic of a lightning fast strike that he called the blitzkrieg.

2. like a cloud covering the land. — doesn't a cloud spread out in all directions with few holes? Imagine the size of this army that is lead by Gog. It has to number in the millions.

Verse 10) *This is what the Sovereign LORD says: “On that day thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil scheme.”*

Verse 11) *You will say, “I will invade a land of unwalled villages; I will attack a peaceful and unsuspecting people—all of them living without walls and without gates and bars.”*

The new settlements of Israel do not have walls.

Verse 12) *“I will plunder and loot and turn my hand against the resettled ruins and the people gathered from the nations, rich in livestock and goods, living at the center of the land.”*

Verse 13) *Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish and all her villages will say to you, “Have you come to plunder? Have you gathered your hordes to loot, to carry off silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods and to seize much plunder?”*

I have already used material that might date this work. So let's review recent world history and see if it just might fit Scripture. The world viewed NATO and the Warsaw Pact as opposing each other,

and the probable location for World War III. The Bible says this final war of Armageddon would take place in the Middle East. In 1991 the eyes of the world shifted to Iraq and Kuwait as nations came together to fight Desert Storm. We have now shifted to the right area!

Let us recall some facts. The Berlin Wall has fallen! Russia, possibly represented as Gog, was a major world power! Gog could now mean any of the individual republic countries that were under the greater Socialist Republic, or simply a northern country that gains world power status. However, with the breakup of their sovereign territory, Russia's influence diminished somewhat. Over the last decade Russia has regained much of her world power status. President Putin has made all the necessary moves to establish himself as the supreme dictator of Russia and to regain Russia's status as a world power. Presently China and Russia are making trade pacts to support each other. Russia is pushing hard against Ukraine, Georgia and Azerbaijan to either take over the government or to cause a civil war in these countries. If someone was reading between the lines, we could say this could be a ploy and Russia is really preparing to march south toward Israel to gain the wealth there? If we viewed another country gaining world power, could we say this could be their ploy? Just for the sake of a discussion, what is the value of the chemical and mineral deposits in the Dead Sea? Would you believe over one trillion dollars!

Verse 14) *Therefore, Son of Man, prophesy and say to Gog: "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: In that day, when My people Israel are living in safety, will you not take notice of it?"*

Verse 15) *"You will come from your place in the far north, you and many nations with you, all of them riding on horses, a great horde, a mighty army."*

1. come from your place in the far north — Could be any number of countries north of Israel. My thoughts tell me Germany. Repeated in Ezekiel 39:2.

2. riding on horses - Could be an attempt to understand a modern mechanized calvary.

Verse 16) *"You will advance against My people Israel like a cloud that covers the land. In days to come, O Gog, I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me when I show Myself holy through you before their eyes."*

Verse 17) *This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "Are you not the one I spoke of in former days by My servants the prophets of Israel? At that time they prophesied for years that I would bring you against them."*

Verse 18) *"This is what will happen in that day: When Gog attacks the land of Israel, My hot anger will be aroused," declares the Sovereign LORD.*

To show the glory of Himself God's hot anger will be aroused when the king of the north, being Gog attacks Israel.

Verse 19) *"In my zeal and fiery wrath I declare that at that time there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel."*

There will be a great earthquake.

Verse 20) *"The fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the beasts of the field, every creature that moves along the ground, and all the people on the face of the earth will tremble at My presence. The mountains will be overturned, the cliffs will crumble and every wall will fall to the ground."*

This earthquake will be felt around the globe.

Verse 21) *“I will summon a sword against Gog on all My mountains,” declares the Sovereign LORD.
“Every man’s sword will be against his brother.”*

Verse 22) *“I will execute judgment upon him with plague and bloodshed; I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him.”*

Verse 23) *“And so I will show My greatness and My holiness, and I will make Myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD.”*

Ezekiel 39

Chapter 39, verse 1) *Son of Man, prophesy against Gog and say: This is what the Sovereign LORD says: “I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.”*

Verse 2) *“I will turn you around and drag you along. I will bring you from the far north and send you against the mountains of Israel.”*

Verse 3) *“Then I will strike your bow from your left hand and make your arrows drop from your right hand.”*

The countries represented as Gog, Meshech and Tubal will be defeated.

Verse 4) *“On the mountains of Israel you will fall, you and all your troops and the nations with you. I will give you as food to all kinds of carrion birds and to the wild animals.”*

Verse 5) *“You will fall in the open field, for I have spoken,” declares the Sovereign LORD.*

God is creator over all and can use His creation as He chooses to demonstrate His glory. Isn't it sad these people must be fed to the scavengers of both bird and beast? The vultures and jackals will have a great feast.

Verse 6) *“I will send fire on Magog and on those who live in safety in the coastlands, and they will know that I am the LORD.”*

Verse 7) *“I will make known My holy name among My people Israel. I will no longer let My holy name be profaned, and the nations will know that I the LORD am the Holy One in Israel.”*

Again we see the shift from the Church Age back to Israel.

Verse 8) *“It is coming! It will surely take place,” declares the Sovereign LORD.*

“This is the day I have spoken of.”

This is revealing truth.

Verse 9) *“Then those who live in the towns of Israel will go out and use the weapons for fuel and burn them up—the small and large shields, the bows and arrows, the war clubs and spears. For seven years they will use them for fuel.”*

Notice it takes seven years to destroy the weapons of war.

Verse 10) *“They will not need to gather wood from the fields or cut it from the forests, because they will*

use the weapons for fuel. And they will plunder those who plundered them and loot those who looted them,” declares the Sovereign LORD.

Verse 11) *“On that day I will give Gog a burial place in Israel, in the valley of those who travel east toward the Sea. It will block the way of travelers, because Gog and all his hordes will be buried there. So it will be called the Valley of Hamon Gog.”*

Verse 12) *“For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them in order to cleanse the land.”*

Verse 13) *“All the people of the land will bury them, and the day I am glorified will be a memorable day for them,” declares the Sovereign LORD.*

Verses 11-13 - In WWII there were many American service men buried in Europe. Think what this battlefield would look like if all the graves were lined up and marked. Notice it takes seven months for the entire house of Israel to bury the dead.

Verse 14) *“Men will be regularly employed to cleanse the land. Some will go throughout the land and, in addition to them, others will bury those that remain on the ground. At the end of the seven months they will begin their search.”*

Verse 15) *“As they go through the land and one of them sees a human bone, he will set up a marker beside it until the gravediggers have buried it in the Valley of Hamon Gog.”*

In some ways verses 14 and 15 sound like they are describing decontamination units in military service.

Verse 16) *“(Also a town called Hamonah will be there.) And so they will cleanse the land.”*

Verse 17) *Son of Man, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: “Call out to every kind of bird and all the wild animals: Assemble and come together from all around to the sacrifice I am preparing for you, the great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel. There you will eat flesh and drink blood.”*

Verse 18) *“You will eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the princes of the earth as if they were rams and lambs, goats and bulls—all of them fattened animals from Bashan.”*

Verse 19) *“At the sacrifice I am preparing for you, you will eat fat till you are gluttoned and drink blood till you are drunk.”*

Verse 20) *“At My table you will eat your fill of horses and riders, mighty men and soldiers of every kind,” declares the Sovereign LORD.*

Verses 17-20 illustrate in gory detail of the sinner’s feast. There’s one problem, they are not eating, they are being eaten.

Verse 21) *“I will display My glory among the nations, and all the nations will see the punishment I inflict and the hand I lay upon them.”*

Verse 22) *“From that day forward the house of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God.”*

Verse 23) *“And the nations will know that the people of Israel went into exile for their sin, because they*

were unfaithful to Me. So I hid My face from them and handed them over to their enemies, and they all fell by the sword.”

Verse 24) *“I dealt with them according to their uncleanness and their offenses, and I hid My face from them.”*

Verses 22-24 - Israel was chosen by God to be the people to lead the other nations of the world, by example, in worshipping Him. However, they did not do that and God has dealt with them. Do not be mistaken! They are still God’s chosen people!

Verse 25) *Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: “I will now bring Jacob back from captivity and will have compassion on all the people of Israel, and I will be zealous for my holy name.”*

Notice this verse says all the people of Israel, meaning both the House of Israel and the House of Judah. We must, out of necessity, remember that there are two nations represented by the term Israel as used in this verse. For further clarification see my book, The Thirteenth Tribe of Israel.

Verse 26) *“They will forget their shame and all the unfaithfulness they showed toward Me when they lived in safety in their land with no one to make them afraid.”*

Verse 27) *“When I have brought them back from the nations and have gathered them from the countries of their enemies, I will show Myself holy through them in the sight of many nations.”*

Hasn’t God brought part of Israel (the Jews) back from captivity from throughout the world? Wasn’t the present nation established in 1947? God will bring Lost Israel back to this chosen land and rejoin the two houses into one nation of His people at that time.

Verse 28) *“Then they will know that I am the LORD their God, for though I sent them into exile among the nations, I will gather them to their own land, not leaving any behind.”*

Verse 29) *“I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out My Spirit on the house of Israel,” declares the Sovereign LORD.*

Once the Church Age closes, God will pour out His Spirit on the house of Judah.

We must, also, understand the Age of the Gentile has closed. Paul opened the Age of the Gentile in Acts 9:15. We now see God’s influence resting upon Israel. The second chapter of Daniel shows the empires to come from the time of King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon.

Daniel 2

Daniel Interprets the Dream

Chapter 2, verse 26) *The king asked Daniel (also called Belteshazzar), “Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?”*

Verse 27) *Daniel replied, “No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about,”*

Verse 28) *“But there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you lay*

on your bed are these:”

Verse 29) *“As you were lying there, O king, your mind turned to things to come, and the revealer of mysteries showed you what is going to happen.”*

Verse 30) *“As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than other living men, but so that you, O king, may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind.”*

Verse 31) *“You looked, O king, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance.”*

Verse 32) *“The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze.”*

Verse 33) *“Its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay.”*

Verse 34) *“While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them.”*

Verse 35) *“Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.”*

Verse 36) *“This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king.”*

Verse 37) *“You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory;”*

Verse 38) *“In your hands He has placed mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, He has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.”*

The head of gold represents Babylon.

Verse 39) *“After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth.”*

1. The next kingdom would be the Median-Persian empire.
2. The third kingdom would be the Greek kingdom of Alexander the Great.

Verse 40) *“Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron—for iron breaks and smashes everything—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others.”*

The fourth kingdom will be the Roman Empire. Notice this kingdom is represented by the legs of the image and interpreted as the split of East and West in the Roman Empire.

Verse 41) *“Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay.”*

There is one more kingdom to come that has some of the strength of the Roman Empire. Daniel 7 indicates the leader of this empire will be the Antichrist.

Verse 42) *“As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle.”*

Verse 43) *“And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.”*

Verse 44) *“In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.”*

This kingdom will be the one ruled by Jesus during the millennium period. Look at this kingdom.

- a. God of heaven will set up a kingdom.
- b. It will never be destroyed.
- c. Nor will it be left to another people.
- d. It will crush all those other kingdoms.
- e. It will endure forever.

Verse 45) *“This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy.”*

There are those who question the dream and the interpretation thereof. Read what it says. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy.

Verse 46) *Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him.*

Verse 47) *The king said to Daniel, “Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery.”*

Even king Nebuchadnezzar recognized the awesome authority of God by saying, “Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings! ...”

Revelation 15

Seven Angels With Seven Plagues

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

Remember back in chapter 11, we had seen only 2 of the 3 woes. Prepare yourself now to see the third woe!.

Verse 2) *And I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name. They held harps given them by God*

The battle of Armageddon is over and the victors are holding harps given to them by God.

Verse 3) *And sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb: “Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages.”*

Verse 4) *“Who will not fear You, O Lord, and bring glory to Your name? For You alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before You, for Your righteous acts have been revealed.”*

Verses 3 and 4 is the victory song of praise that is sung.

Verse 5) *After this I looked and in heaven the temple, that is, the tabernacle of the Testimony, was opened.*

1. We saw the temple opened in chapter 11:19 and know this is the full glory of God.

2. We are, also, told the tabernacle of the testimony was opened. Again, we can see that the promises of God are real and are under safe keeping until that day. Look again at 2 Timothy 1:12 KJV, . . . I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Verse 6) *Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests.*

In chapter 8:2 God’s special messengers were the seven angels .

Verse 7) *Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever.*

In chapter 4:6 the four living creatures were portrayed .

Verse 8) *And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.*

Revelation 16

The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

Chapter 16, verse 1) *Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go, pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath on the earth."*

Verse 2) *The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly and painful sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped his image.*

sores — these sores are boils and ulcers. How realistically vivid a picture would you like? Consider running boils and bleeding ulcers upon the people who worship the Beast.

Verse 3) *The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead man, and every living thing in the sea died.*

Remember in chapter 8 when the second trumpet was sounded and one third of all the life in the sea died. Now everything living in the sea dies.

Verse 4) *The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.*

Verse 5) *Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: "You are just in these judgments, You who are and who were, the Holy One, because You have so judged."*

Verse 6) *"For they have shed the blood of Your saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink as they deserve."*

1. Verses 4-6 should be linked for the third plague. All fresh water will turn to blood.
2. Verse 6 tells why this is done. Because they have shed the blood of God's saints and prophets.

Verse 7) *And I heard the altar respond: "Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are Your judgments."*

There will be many who will ask how a merciful, righteous God can do such a thing. God has to do these things. Judgment requires sin be punished by justice and righteousness. Laws in any country are accompanied by corresponding penalties. Here we see the same thing, in God's ways: Break My rules and their is a penalty. Justice will be completed through judgment.

Verse 8) *The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was given power to scorch people with fire.*

Verse 9) *They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify Him.*

1. The sun was given power to scorch people with fire. Aren't we aware that this is a possibility? With each year the ozone layer changes more, and new, sun lotion products come out with stronger and stronger protection factors.

2. Notice the following portion of verse 9: but they refused to repent and glorify Him. There are many people who use the statement that when the time comes, they will repent of their sins. Repentance can only come by conviction of the Holy Spirit. There are people even today that curse the name of God and refuse to repent. This will only get worse, not better!

Verse 10) *The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness. Men gnawed their tongues in agony.*

Verse 11) *And cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.*

Haven't the plagues been seen before. God showed them to Pharaoh and Pharaoh hardened his heart!

Verse 12) *The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East.*

1. Why would the Euphrates river need to be dried up? It has been the traditional stopping point for invading forces from the east. It will prepare the way for the kings from the East.

2. Between the verses in Revelation and those in Ezekiel we see the king of the north, traditionally thought of as Russia, but this could also be a country of the old USSR group of nations, and their horde advancing from the north. However, with recent political changes in the world I have become more inclined to view Germany as the king of the North. We have the Antichrist leading the renewed Roman Empire from the northwest. Now, we have the kings from the East advancing toward Israel. Let's stop for a moment and see where the United States is in this mess. Funny, I don't remember any verse that would have a reference pertaining to the United States. In fact, if you look, there is no mention at all. Why? Sorry! The United States will collapse on its own economical status. When the national debt is called for payment this nation won't be able to buy a single bandage to put on the hurt!

Verse 13) *Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet.*

1. evil spirits — These are demons.

2. that looked like frogs — What a wonderful illustration. A frog lives in dark, quagmire places.

Verse 14) *They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.*

1. demons performing miraculous signs — Satan has the power to perform miracles. This is Satan's work and these are his signs as he is doing this.

2. they go to the kings of the whole world — The miracles are used to deceive all the nations and to have them together at Armageddon.

Verse 15) *“Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed.”*

1. Behold, I come like a thief! — This is a statement made by Jesus. No! He is not coming to steal. Yes! He is coming to carry off the last of His followers before the last plague is poured out.

2. Blessed - We could probably use the word happy here and say happy are those who watch for the Lord's return.

3. It would seem those who are not prepared for the Lord's return would be naked and shamefully exposed. In other words, they are vulnerable to the wrath of God.

Verse 16) *Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.*

Verse 17) *The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, “It is done!”*

God's wrath has been poured out. God Himself uses the words that Jesus used on the cross and says, **"It is done!"**

Verse 18) *Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake.*

Verse 19) *The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of His wrath.*

This verse foretells the fall of Babylon that will be fully explained in chapters 17 and 18.

Verse 20) *Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found.*

Verse 21) *From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.*

Revelation 17

The Woman on the Beast

There have been several passages we read about the fall (destruction) of Babylon. We must understand that when the term Babylon is used, it is not in reference to a city in the present country of Iraq. The term Babylon represents a false image. There are two Babylons. One represents the false political or governmental ideology that has come into vogue. The other represents a false religion and the worship of false teachings. In both the Bible and the Quran, there are warnings, after warnings, seeking the attention of mankind to understand there will be false prophets who will mislead the believers into an acceptance of immoral, unwise and misleading practices that can only lead to self-destruction.

We saw the rise of political Babylon in Revelation 16. In Revelation 17 we will see the fall of ecclesiastical Babylon and the destruction of false religion. In Revelation 18 the destruction of political Babylon will be revealed.

Chapter 17, verse 1) *One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters."*

1. In the Bible we find a bad woman associated with something false. Jezebel is the name most widely connected with this lesson. Jezebel spread falsehoods and told lies about many things.

2. great prostitute — This symbolic figure represents the antibrude. This is a coined term to explain the counterpart of the Bride of Christ. Consider that the Antichrist is the counterpart to Christ, therefore the antibrude is the counterpart to the bride. We have seen the trinity of Satan and how they mimic God's Holy trinity. We know the bride of Jesus represents the church. Here we find Satan's mimicking of the bride of Jesus as the great prostitute of false religion.

3. who sits on many waters. — Water covers two thirds of the earth's surface. It touches every continent. It flows and finds its own level. What it means here is the symbolic spread of the effect of the great prostitute. This is our egos, our own prostitution of our self esteem and desires. Our greed and what we covet are all found in her. She is universal and touches every nation, tongue and people. See verse 15 of this chapter to confirm this.

Verse 2) *"With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries."*

Here are some of her effects.

a. the kings of the earth committed adultery — This is a state religion with government and religion being mutually entwined into each other.

b. inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated — A drunk does not have sound judgement. Haven't we seen false religions use mind control to keep the followers in line? Imagine when one of these religions becomes the religion of choice for the government and everyone wants to belong.

c. the wine of her adulteries — Sounds like the pagan rites of the old Roman Empire, wine women and song. Hey! Who cares? This certainly will not be a religion with a strong moral backbone.

DISCUSSION: In my travels around this globe I have run into two sermons that professed to explain this universal harlot. One attempted to proclaim the false religion as being the Roman Catholic Church. They went on to make the Pope the false prophet, the mark of the beast was a rosary and all followers of this religion would support the Antichrist in his political office as world ruler. The second sermon attempted to point out that Islam was the false religion and some fanatic would become the Antichrist.

The question should be: Does either explanation make sense? No! Not to me! Here's another viewpoint, the false government represents liberalism and the false religion represents fanaticism taken to an extreme. Under liberalism the government wants to have control of your life from birth to grave. They are going to have control over everything you do, and since the primary objective is to have everyone supported by the government, everyone would be on the dole. You'd need a mark of some kind to get food, have housing, or medical care, or to buy anything. The false religion would push to support this idea as simple truth, that it was God's own truth. Working together in harmony the two desire to dominate the world for their cause. My point is to cause you to think! Open your mind and see the possibilities! Note that in this discussion, there is no mention of any names nor any political party.

Verse 3) *Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns.*

This woman sits on the back of the Antichrist or one of his minions. In other words we could say the false prophet points his praise to the Antichrist. Isn't that what Revelation 13:4 foretold?

Verse 4) *The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries.*

1. This false religion has wealth. They can afford to have the prettiest buildings, the extra padded pews, elaborate furnishings, etc. Doesn't this sound like the church at Laodicea in Revelation 3:17?

2. Observe what is in the cup. It is not fruit juice! It is filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. Sounds like a terrible, horrible brew that would make the normal person sick.

Verse 5) *This title was written on her forehead: MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*

1. Let's look at the title in a different manner. THE GREAT MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES Isn't that an interesting title? Now! Who or what would be a mother of prostitutes? A mother gives birth to a child and a prostitute sells herself to others. I mentioned above that I've listened to sermons that try to get the listener to believe this is the Roman Catholic Church. While I'll admit there are verses that could easily lead to such a conclusion that this is true, I'm not certain. The argument is made that the Catholic Church is the starting point where most other denominations find their beginning. However, my research proves without a shadow of a doubt, that God also blessed Ishmael. There is another question that should be asked. How does Islam fit into this grand picture?

Consider that the original religion is Judaism. This is the religion that rejected the Lamb. Jesus was a Jew and followed Jewish law. Jesus was *The Way* and His disciples are the ones who started the break away religions. Is the mother of false religion Judaism? Has it been diluted so much from what God gave His people that this is what is being discussed. Think about it! The book of Revelation is there to illustrate the truth at the end times and to tell of the marriage of the Lamb to the bride. There are numerous references to Israel and how God will deal with His chosen people.

2. AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH — A study of the Old Testament will reveal that Israel did not act according to God's will and repeatedly rebelled. At one point Israel is given a bill of divorce from God and Judah was a harlot. Jeremiah 3:8, *I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of all her adulteries. Yet I saw that her unfaithful sister Judah had no fear; she also went out and committed adultery.* The people of Israel were committing abominations before God as early as the book of Exodus. Exodus 8:26, *When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us*

gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.”

Verse 6) *I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished.*

1. I will continue with my argument. If the Roman Catholic Church was the intended perpetrator of Babylon the Great, then you could use the Middle Ages with the inquisitions as an example. However, what would be the argument pertaining to Judaism? Has anyone stopped to think it was the Jews who crucified Jesus and spilled the Blood of the Lamb?

2. I was greatly astonished — This book is written to cause everyone to think. Think! Could the reason John is astonished be because he recognized who the woman was? Could some of my suggestions of explanation actually be the answer? For now, we do not know!

Verse 7) *Then the angel said to me: “Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns.”*

Verse 8) *“The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come.”*

1. once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss — The Antichrist must be one who lived prior to the writing of the Revelation, who was not alive at the time John wrote this, but would return at a later time.

2. The next sentence is a mind blower! God has always known who would follow and believe. Yes! Mankind may have free choice, but God knows what response you will make! The Holy Spirit can place a conviction upon your heart but God still knows what response you will make. I fully understand there are those who try to explain that everything is predestined and if you have not been selected to have your name recorded in the Book of Life, so what? This thought goes against every true teaching concerning God. If that was the case, why are there verses recorded about God’s love for mankind or that He even knows the number of hairs on our head. Understand why it says, “The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the Book of Life from the creation of the world.” It is these inhabitants who make up the population of the Earth at this time. The church is being protected and their names are recorded in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

3. The rest of the sentence says they will be astonished and again repeats the statement that this is someone who once was, now is not, and yet will come. Can we say this is someone whom mankind should know?

Verse 9) *“This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits.”*

This is one of the verses that gives strong reason to associate Rome with the political and religious Babylonians. Rome has always been called the city of seven hills. Therefore, that part of the argument would be that the Roman Empire is the seat of the Antichrist and the church of Rome, through its leader, the Pope is the false prophet. I do not want to pick out one religion and say it is the one of which Revelation is speaking. However, another consideration should be made. There were seven churches the Revelation was sent to and each did something God didn’t like. Therefore, the number seven is used in a different manner instead of seven heads or seven hills on which the woman sits, yet, it should cause us to think that we may not know the true answer. Could the seven heads indicate the seven churches?

Verse 10) *“They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while.”*

Haven't we illustrated the kings to be empires in viewing the Revelation? Then we could say there were seven empires of which five had collapsed, one was in power at the time of John, and one will follow. This scenario does not match the image in Daniel 2, however the domination of the whole world must occur only during the Tribulation period.

Verse 11) *"The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction."*

One of the nations (empires) will be revived from the other seven to rule again. There are many who believe this is the Holy Roman Empire.

Verse 12) *"The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast."*

1. Once the kingdom of the fallen empire is reestablished, there will be ten members (kings). These members represent the toes on Daniel's image.

2. but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. This is a symbolic amount of time. Peter has foretold us that with God a thousand years is a day and a day is a thousand years. Then this is just a minuscule portion of time to give a reference for mankind. 2 Peter 3:8, *But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.*

Verse 13) *"They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast."*

There is but one objective, to rule with absolute power. This is, of course, the Man of Sin who is the final world dictator.

Verse 14) *"They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because He is Lord of lords and King of kings-and with Him will be His called, chosen and faithful followers."*

They, in this case, represent the 10 nations of the beast, but this is only one element of the forces that will be involved in the Battle of Armageddon.

Verse 15) *Then the angel said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages."*

Verse 16) *"The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire."*

Here is an interesting twist. In verse 3 the harlot was riding on the back of the beast. Now, suddenly, the beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. At that point, governmental Babylon no longer wants to support religious Babylon. In fact, the governmental kingdom will destroy the religious false prophet. Here is the destruction of the false religion! Notice this end comes by the hand of Satan himself and not by the hand of God. The reason follows in the next verse.

Verse 17) *"For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish His purpose by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule, until God's words are fulfilled."*

Verse 18) *"The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth."*

Once more there is a verse that could indicate a connection to Rome. Is the center of religious world power going to be Rome? God will complete all that His word has revealed?

Revelation 18

The Fall of Babylon

Chapter 18, verse 1) *After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor.*

Verse 2) *With a mighty voice he shouted: “Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird.”*

Verse 3) *“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.”*

1. Verses 1-3. The last chapter closed with the fall of religious Babylon at the hands of governmental Babylon.

2. The city of political Babylon becomes a home for demons and evil spirits. Some days I'm not sure that doesn't describe Washington, D.C.

3. To all who believe, that through political discussion, there will be world peace and that government can change the outcome of world factions had better read these three verses one more time.

Verse 4) *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;”*

Mankind is given one final chance to come out of worldly religions that teach false doctrines.

Verse 5) *“For her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes.”*

Again we see an illustration that all our sins are recorded.

Verse 6) *“Give back to her as she has given; pay her back double for what she has done. Mix her a double portion from her own cup.”*

Verse 7) *“Give her as much torture and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself. In her heart she boasts, ‘I sit as queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn.’”*

Verses 6 and 7 don't we (mankind) even say, “What goes around comes around”?

Verse 8) *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.*

Do you see the judgement God has in store for those who fail to obey God's will?

Verse 9) *“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.”*

Verse 10) *Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: “Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In one hour your doom has come!”*

Verses 9-10. Politicians shall weep, they have invested their time, even their very life, in politics and government. Now Babylon is destroyed. Woe unto them!

Verse 11) *“The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes any more.”*

Verse 12) *“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.”*

Everyone who puts great wealth before everything else should read what is to come. Jesus said to store up treasures in heaven in Matthew 6:20, *But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

Verse 13) *“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 bodies and souls of men.”*

All the pleasures of wealth, even slaves.

Verse 14) *They will say, “The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your riches and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered.”*

Here we see the results. Earthly treasures will fall by the way side.

Verse 15) *“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.”*

Verse 16) *And cry out: “Woe! Woe, O great city, dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls!”*

Those who provided and make their own wealth from the affluent show their disappointment.

Verse 17) *“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.”*

Verses 11-17. Commerce and the movement of goods will cease.

Verse 18) *When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, “Was there ever a city like this great city?”*

Verse 19) *They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out: “Woe! Woe, O great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth! In one hour she has been brought to ruin!”*

Many times we see self-righteous individuals tear their garments and put on sackcloth to show their repentance. In this verse we see merchants feeling their personal woe for loss of trade and lack of profit.

Verse 20) *“Rejoice over her, O heaven! Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets! God has judged her for the way she treated you.”*

Verse 21) *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.”*

Verse 22) *“The music of harpists and musicians, flute players and trumpeters, will never be heard in you again. No workman of any trade will ever be found in you again. The sound of a millstone will never be heard in you again.”*

All forms of pleasure and amusement will stop. All manner of life that invests their work in the world will be a complete and total waste.

Verse 23) *“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 great men. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray.”*

Verse 24) *“In her was found the blood of prophets and of the saints, and of all who have been killed on the earth.”*

Our scene, once again, is moved to Heaven. Chapter 19 will deal with the Marriage of the Lamb.

Revelation 19

Hallelujah!

Chapter 19, verse 1) *After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,”*

With the destruction of Babylon we find Heaven rejoicing. No more false religions, no more false accusers, nothing but the joy of light and truth.

Verse 2) *“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.”*

Glory be to God. His judgment is correct and the Blood of the Lamb has been avenged.

Verse 3) *And again they shouted: “Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever.”*

Verse 4) *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!”*

Remember that the twenty-four elders represent all the saints. Therefore, all who have been redeemed are rejoicing. The battle has been won!

Verse 5) *Then a voice came from the throne, saying: “Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!”*

Verse 6) *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.”*

For the first time in recorded history our Lord God Almighty reigns, without demonic forces in His way or deceptions and distractions from those demonic forces of Satan.

Verse 7) *“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.”*

1. A wedding is a time of rejoicing and gladness. All of Heaven now knows the time has come for the wedding of the Lamb to happen.

2. Look to see who the wedding is between, the Lamb, and His bride. The Lamb is of course Jesus and the bride is made up of all those redeemed. It is against Biblical teaching that the body is made up of just one denomination. It must be understood we are all cells of His body and will be united with Him as His bride. There are those who have problems with this thought! The truth is that every saved person, from every denomination, or even those who belong to no denomination, and believe, will be part of the bride.

3. His bride has made herself ready. — The bride has accepted the offer of the bridegroom and she makes herself as pretty as she can for the ceremony. Verse 8 tells how the bride is clothed.

Verse 8) *“Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)*

Verse 9) *Then the angel said to me, “Write: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”*

1. Blessed - means happy and content.

2. Let's give a summary of this wedding:

- a. In verse 19:2 we observed that false religion, as the great prostitute, was eliminated, therefore, there are no false suitors.
- b. Verse 19:1. The wedding takes place in Heaven.
- c. Verses 19:4-6. The Hallelujahs represent the wedding music.
- d. Verse 19:7a. We have a bridegroom—Jesus (the Lamb).
- e. Verse 19:7b. We have a bride—all the saints.
- f. Verse 19:9. There is a reception (the marriage supper).
- g. Verse 20:6. There is a honeymoon. For the redeemed bride, the honeymoon is the thousand year reign with Jesus on Earth.
- h. Verse 21:2. After the honeymoon Jesus takes his bride to the home He has prepared for her.
- i. And they lived in peace and joy (happily) ever after, chapter 22.

Verse 10) *At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."*

1. John was rebuked by the angel for worshipping him.
2. We see the truth in three things:
 - a. An angel is a fellow servant and our brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus.
 - b. Worship God!
 - c. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

In this study we have touched upon Jesus' second coming. There is the one verse (Revelation 10:2) where He stands with one foot on the water and the other on the land. There is also the verse in Revelation 16:15 that tells about the Battle of Armageddon, however the second coming of Jesus has not really happened, yet. We will now see the return of Jesus to the Earth.

The Rider on the White Horse

Verse 11) *I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice He judges and makes war.*

Verse 12) *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.*

Verse 13) *He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and His name is the Word of God.*

The complete Glory of Jesus is shown to us. He returns wearing many crowns (or diadems) His name is the Word of God. Jesus is the Word, He is King of kings and Lord of lords!

Verse 14) *The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.*

Verse 15) *Out of his mouth comes 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.*

The sharp sword is the Word of God as shown in verse 13. The word of God is living and active as stated in Hebrews 4:12, *For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

Verse 16) *On His robe and on His thigh He has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

Verse 17) *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."*

This is the second supper in this chapter. The menu consist of kings, generals, mighty men and others, all who thought they were better than God.

Verse 18) *"So that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great."*

The birds of prey are all called to this feast of flesh.

Verse 19) *Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army.*

Here is the verse that actually tells of the Battle of Armageddon.

Verse 20) *But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.*

This verse tells us the result of this war. It also tells us the destruction of the beast and the false prophet.

Verse 21) *The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.*

Rider on the horse — Notice something in this statement, this is another rider on a horse. In Revelation 6 we saw the seals being broken and the first four seals contained a rider on a horse. There was the rider on a white horse in 6:2 who set out to conquer and represents the great deceiver or Satan. The red horse of war was released in 6:4. The black horse of famine was turned loose in 6:5. Finally, death and Hades were released on a pale horse in 6:8. We actually see who this rider is in this chapter in verse 11. This is the rider on a white horse who is called Faithful and True (Jesus). Jesus finally arrives on a white horse, but how many were deceived by the first rider on a white horse who was mimicking the true King of kings and Lord of lords?

Revelation 20

The Thousand Years

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

Verse 2) *He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.*

Verse 3) *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.*

At the end of Chapter 12, we explored the four occasions when Satan will be cast out of Heaven. This verse represents the third occasion.

Verse 4) *I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

Given authority to judge. Go back and reread Revelation 5:10 to see who will reign with Jesus.

Verse 5) *(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection.*

The removal of the true church saw the saved dead resurrected. These are the ones of the first resurrection. The lost dead will not be resurrected until after the thousand year reign of Jesus has ended.

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

Satan's Doom

Verse 7) *When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison*

Verse 8) *And will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore.*

Verses 7-8. Look at the situation. Satan will be turned loose upon the earth for a season. At the beginning of the thousand year reign, the redeemed were in their glorified bodies, as they came back with Jesus when he returned on the white horse. However, those who were saved during the Tribulation period, remember the 144,000, will enter the thousand year millennium in their natural bodies. These people will have children (approximately one generation every 20-25 years, or roughly 50 generations) and some will never accept Jesus. There will be many like the sand on the seashore who will be willing to follow Satan at the end of the thousand year reign.

Verse 9) *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.*

Verse 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.*

Gee! Wasn't that quick. God finally had enough of Satan, sinning, and deception. It was God who caused the fire to come down and destroy these lost people at the end of the millennium reign of Christ. Satan lost that war and has now been thrown into hell with the Antichrist and the false prophet.

We are now ready for the second resurrection and the **Great White Throne Judgement**.

The Dead Are Judged

Verse 11) *Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.*

Verse 12) *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.*

Books — These books are the records of what each person has done in their life. Your sins are reviewed, you stand accused, and if you do not have Jesus to step in and declare that He has your name recorded in the Book of Life, there is nothing more to be said!

Verse 13) *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 he had done.*

Notice what it says! Each person was judged according to what they had done. Remember, these people represent the unsaved of the earth at the end of the millennium period.

Verse 14) *Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.*

Verse 15) *If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

1. Verses 12-15. Observe one important point: There are no saved church age people judged before the Great White Throne! Those who accept Jesus during the millennium will be judged and Jesus will still have to declare that their name is written in the Book of Life, but basically, this is the sinners judgement day!

2. In verses 13 and 14 there is the phrase death and Hades — Hades represents where the soul of the lost has been. The body was in the grave and the soul was in Hades. Both body and soul will be joined before the Great White Throne and **both** are thrown into the lake of fire. That is the second death!

Revelation 21

The New Jerusalem

Chapter 21, verse 1) *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.*

the first heaven and the first earth had passed away — Passed away! Don't we use that term for having died? The earth as we now know it will have died. There will no longer be a need for mankind to have firmament to walk upon.

Verse 2) *I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.*

Verse 3) *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God."*

Verse 4) *"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."*

Look at this new city:

1. There shall be no sea.
2. There will be no tears.
3. There shall be no death.
4. There shall be no sorrow.
5. There shall be no pain.
6. There shall be no murderers.
7. There shall be no adulterers.
8. There shall be no drunkards.
9. There shall be no idolaters.
10. There shall be no liars.
11. There shall be no deceivers.
12. There shall be no **SIN!**

Verse 5) *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."*

TO ALL WHO BELIEVE THAT THIS IS NOT TRUE YOU NEED TO SEE WHO IS NOW SAYING OTHERWISE!

Verse 6) *He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life."*

Because of the use of the term I am we are hearing from God (the Father).

Verse 7) *"He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son."*

The saved in Christ are all accepted as being God's children.

Verse 8) *"But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning*

sulfur. This is the second death.”

We see God saying who will not enter Heaven.

Verse 9) *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.”*

Verse 10) *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.*

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

God Himself has assured us that He will live with us, and here we see the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven to the new earth.

We now see the new city.

Verse 12) *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.*

1. There was an angel at each gate.
2. Each gate was named for one of the tribes of Israel.

Verse 13) *There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west.*

The arrangement of gates of the new Jerusalem match with the manner that Israel traveled through the wilderness. There were three tribes on the north under the banner of the eagle. They were Dan, Asher and Naphtali. The three on the east were under the ensign of a lion. They were Judah, Issachar and Zebulum. The three on the south had the image of a man on their flag. They were Reuben, Simeon and Gad. Finally, the three on the west had a symbol of a bull. They were Ephraim, Manasseh and Benjamin. This represents the manner the tribes camped with the Tabernacle of the Lord in the center.

Verse 14) *The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.*

The foundation is named for the twelve apostles of Jesus. I see another question I want to ask when I get to heaven. My first question is, “What are the names of Jesus’ earthly sisters?” The second question will be, “What name will be used on the foundation where it could be either Judas or Matthias?” Actually, I think the name here will be Paul.

Verse 15) *The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls.*

Verse 16) *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 in length, and as wide and high as it is long.*

Stadia — We’ve already identified stadia as being a fixed length measurement, such as a furlong. See Rev 14:20 on pg 66. If we used our distance reference once again the distance given here would be 1,500 miles square.

Verse 17) *He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits thick, by man’s measurement, which the angel was using.*

We are told how the city is built. Most study Bibles will give the length of a cubit to be approximately 18 inches, therefore the thickness of the wall is 216 feet.

Verse 18) *The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass.*

Verse 19) *The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald.*

Verse 20) *The fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.*

We saw in Revelation Chapter 18 the woe that the unsaved wealthy went through. We now see the glory of the New Jerusalem. Isn't it funny that the items some people covet are nothing more than God's building material. Each foundation stone is also one of the stones placed on the Ephod worn by the chief priest.

Verse 21) *The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass.*

Verse 22) *I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.*
No need for a temple or a church building because we're with God.

Verse 23) *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.*

Verse 24) *The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.*

Verse 25) *On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there.*

Verse 26) *The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.*

Many who read this verse will add *all* before the nations. Are we so sure that this is the true meaning? Let's ask a couple of questions: First, who are God's chosen people? Isn't it Israel? Wasn't there two nations known as the House of Israel and the House of Judah? Second question, didn't God say that He would join the two nations back together? Then, doesn't the nations represent all Israel and aren't all who have accepted Jesus as Savior considered to be an adopted member of God's chosen people? Finally, didn't God tell Abraham that all the nations of the earth would be blessed through him? Then, aren't we all who have been saved a member of God's people?

Verse 27) *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.*

**Do you see the important point in this verse? Only those
WHOSE NAMES ARE WRITTEN IN THE LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE
will ever enter.**

Is your name entered in the Book of Life?

Revelation 22

The River of Life

Revelation 22:1-21 (KJV)

And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him: And they shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

And he said unto me, "These sayings are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to show unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

"Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book."

And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which showed me these things.

Then saith he unto me, "See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God." And he saith unto me, "Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still."

"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and Morning Star."

And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let him that heareth say, "Come."

And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

He which testifieth these things saith, "Surely I come quickly."

Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

The glory of everything God has promised throughout the Bible is graciously, freely given in the climatic conclusion of chapter 22. The Spirit says, "Come!"

The bride says, "Come!"

I, also, say, "Come!" **Maranatha**

Jesus says it is a free gift to have the water of life.

In reading chapter 22, I believe the truth is plainly told and there is no reason to give any explanations. For this reason, chapter 22 is printed here in full from the King James Bible. This was done for several reasons. The important point is that you have the full book of Revelation to study. God's word holds the truth and it is up to us to read and study God's word so we know when we have met a

false prophet and how to test for a false prophet.

In all this I'd like to recall the 11th commandment. This is the only one given by Jesus and it is recorded in John 13:34, "*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.*"

If mankind would only live by this one verse we would not have the problems we have, but then, we would all be believers if that was the case.

I can say no more. May God's blessing be with you. I pray you have found this work to be useful to your understanding of the Revelation. May the Holy Spirit lead you in your study of God's word. I must finish this chapter by thanking the Spirit of God for being with me during the reading, contemplation and typing of this work. Amen.

The basis for this work is over forty years old and is derived from a book of Dr. Jack Hyles. The first published version was titled, *Riches From Revelation*. It was then reedited and published as, *Let's Study the Revelation* and copyrighted in 1967 by Sword of the Lord Foundation, Murfreesboro, TN. This version is still available and the phone number for Sword of the Lord Foundation is (615) 893-6700.

I have not attempted to misuse or detract from that copyrighted material. It is that material which satisfied my desire to know more about the Revelation. However, the original was based on the King James Version of the Bible and some statements date what was said. I have used the New International Version for readability and have rewritten a vast portion of text in words I believe the Holy Spirit has placed in my mind.

In the back of the book is an index of the verses that I've used to cross from one place to another so the Revelation will make more sense. These are recorded as I have used them and are there to assist you for your understanding of Revelation.

It seems to me that mankind, by their very lot, does not in reality like change and they are a very stubborn creature. We tend to live by what we have been taught, or by the environment in which we exist. A thief lives by a learned trait. A Christian lives by the mannerism and dogma taught by their denomination. A Moslem lives, likewise, by that taught in their society.

If we would live by God's truth and love, and not worry about what gender we are, the color of our skin, or from whom we learned the things we know, we would all be much better off. What would the world be like if mankind lived in harmony with each other and in agreement with God's laws? I guess we will find out when mankind pushes our rebellious nature to the point where God finally understands the time has come to end the present world of turmoil and establish a new order under His personal guidance.

The final chapter in this book is placed here just to have some fun with Christians, to cause some people to think, and to question their knowledge base from the Bible (I did a similar chapter in my second book). Oh go ahead! Have fun! Turn the page and read the questions that are there.

God Is A Conservative!

Let us look at that which God has left us so we may see if he is conservative or liberal. I made the statement above to illustrate that anyone who does any reading at all from the Word of God, will quickly find that mankind was expected to work, should be prosperous and meant to live by certain rules.

What are some of the questions that could be asked from the Bible to show this to be true? What is the answer to these questions? The following represents some of the questions and answers that can be taken from the Bible to show God's Word is an operating manual for mankind to live by, and many of our rules of today are ridiculously liberal in their ideology.

All verses used in this chapter are taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible. All the words used in these verses that are italicized are inserted words in the KJV and not mine. To have a more modern viewpoint compare these verses with a different translation of God's Word.

Does the Bible describe how to be prosperous and successful?

Joshua 1:7-8

Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it *to* the right hand or *to* the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

What was the Biblical penalty for kidnapping?

Exodus 21:16

And he that stealeth a man, and selleth him, or if he be found in his hand, he shall surely be put to death.

What does the Bible describe as appropriate dress for a woman, also for a man?

Deuteronomy 22:5

The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so *are* abomination unto the LORD thy God.

Upon whom did God place the first curse?

Genesis 3:14-15

And the LORD God said unto the serpent: "Because thou hast done this, thou *art* cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

Can a male who is unmanly (effeminate) inherit the kingdom of God?

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

How long does it take to raise the dead?

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Who does the Bible tell us sleeps better the rich or the poor?

Ecclesiastes 5:12

The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.

What was the longest drought described in the Bible?

Luke 4:25

But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land.

What does the Bible describe as the punishment for premarital sex?

Deuteronomy 22:23-24

If a damsel *that is* a virgin be betrothed unto an husband, and a man find her in the city, and lie with her; then ye shall bring them both out unto the gate of that city, and ye shall stone them with stones that they die; the damsel, because she cried not, *being* in the city; and the man, because he hath humbled his neighbour's wife: so thou shalt put away evil from among you.

How does the Bible compare your deathday to your birthday?

Ecclesiastes 7:1

A good name *is* better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth.

What was the fine for slandering a virgin in Old Testament times?

Deuteronomy 22:16-21

And the damsel's father shall say unto the elders, I gave my daughter unto this man to wife, and he hateth her; And, lo, he hath given occasions of speech *against her*, saying, I found not thy daughter a maid; and yet these *are the tokens of* my daughter's virginity. And they shall spread the cloth before the elders of the city. And the elders of that city shall take that man and chastise him; and they shall amerce him in an hundred *shekels* of silver, and give *them* unto the father of the damsel, because he hath brought up an evil name upon a virgin of Israel: and she shall be his wife; he may not put her away all his days. But if this thing be true, *and the tokens of* virginity be not found for the damsel: then they shall bring out the damsel to the door of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her with stones that she die: because she hath wrought folly in Israel, to play the whore in her father's house: so shalt thou put evil away from among you.

Which people does the Bible tell us will have no peace?

Isaiah 48:22

There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked.

How many people are we told committed suicide in the Bible?

1 Samuel 31:4

Then said Saul unto his armourbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. But his armourbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword, and fell upon it.

1 Samuel 31:5

And when his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him.

2 Samuel 17:23

And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled *his* ass, and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died, and was buried in the sepulchre of his father.

1 Kings 16:18

And it came to pass, when Zimri saw that the city was taken, that he went into the palace of the king's house, and burnt the king's house over him with fire, and died.

Matthew 27:3-5

Then Judas, which had betrayed Him, when he saw that He was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders:

Saying, "I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood."

And they said, "What is that to us? See thou to that."

And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

To which group of women did Paul warn against drinking too much wine?

Titus 2:3

The aged women likewise, that *they be* in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things.

According to the Bible was it possible to have a hot meal on the sabbath?

Exodus 35:3

Ye shall kindle no fire throughout your habitations upon the sabbath day.

Was there a universal conscription and selective draft in the Jewish army of the time of Moses?

Numbers 1:1-3

And the LORD spake unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tabernacle of the congregation, on the first *day* of the second month, in the second year after they were come out of the land of Egypt, saying:

"Take ye the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, after their families, by the house of their fathers, with the number of *their* names, every male by their polls; from twenty years old and upward, all that are able to go forth to war in Israel: thou and Aaron shall number them by their armies".

Numbers 31:3-6

And Moses spake unto the people, saying:

"Arm some of yourselves unto the war, and let them go against the Midianites, and avenge the LORD of Midian."

Of every tribe a thousand, throughout all the tribes of Israel, shall ye send to the war. So there were delivered out of the thousands of Israel, a thousand of *every* tribe, twelve thousand armed for war. And Moses sent them to the war, a thousand of *every* tribe, them and Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, to the war, with the holy instruments, and the trumpets to blow in his hand.

According to the Bible when did the law require a criminal to be buried?

Deuteronomy 21:22-23

And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he was to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree: His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; for he that is hanged is accursed of God; that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee *for* an inheritance.

Is the end of a thing better than its beginning according to scripture?

Ecclesiastes 7:8

Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: *and* the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

Who does the Bible tell us protested against poor people being unwelcome at church services?

James 2:1-4

My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; and ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, "Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?"

Could a Jewish priest marry a widow?

Leviticus 21:1

And the LORD said unto Moses, "Speak unto the priests the sons of Aaron, and say unto them, 'There shall none be defiled for the dead among his people.'"

Leviticus 21:14

A widow, or a divorced woman, or profane, *or* an harlot, these shall he not take: but he shall take a virgin of his own people to wife.

In the Bible only one person is said to have paid his fare, who is this person?

Jonah 1:3

But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

There are four little things which are described as being exceeding wise, do you know what they are?

Proverbs 30:24-28

There be four *things which are* little upon the earth, but they *are* exceeding wise: The ants *are* a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer; the conies *are but* a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks; the locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands; the spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces.

Can we show by the Bible that a will or testament becomes effective at the death of the person who wrote it?

Hebrews 9:16-17

For where a testament *is*, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

Does the Bible document a record of hail stones weighing over 50 pounds?

Revelation 16:21

And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, *every stone* about the weight of a talent; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great. (NOTE: A talent is equivalent to about 75 pounds.)

What instruction did Solomon give for training a child?

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Did any of the Bible writers appear to advocate life insurance?

1 Timothy 5:8

But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

Does the Bible ever describe a time when a fool is wise?

Proverbs 17:28

Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: *and* he that shutteth his lips *is esteemed* a man of understanding.

How did the early Jews raise money to pay their taxes?

Nehemiah 5:3-4

Some also there were that said, “We have mortgaged our lands, vineyards, and houses, that we might buy corn, because of the dearth.”

There were also those that said, “We have borrowed money for the king’s tribute, *and that upon* our lands and vineyards.”

Does the Bible instruct us as to whether interest (usury) could be charged on money borrowed by poor people?

Exodus 22:25

If thou lend money to *any of my people that is poor* by thee, thou shalt not be to him as an usurer, neither shalt thou lay upon him usury.

Did Paul ever live in a rented house?

Acts 28:30

And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him.

Is there an allusion in the Bible to the world being destroyed by atomic weapons?

2 Peter 3:10-12

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. *Seeing then that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness? Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat.

According to Biblical law could a thief be sold into slavery?

Exodus 22:1-3

If a man shall steal an ox, or a sheep, and kill it, or sell it; he shall restore five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep. If a thief be found breaking up, and be smitten that he die, *there shall* no blood *be* shed for him. If the sun be risen upon him, *there shall be* blood *shed* for him; *for* he should make full restitution; if he have nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft.

In the Bible is there a verse that alludes to the migration of birds?

Jeremiah 8:7

Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the LORD.

According to the Bible will there be a time when men will seek death and not find it?

Revelation 9:6

And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.

Did David really place ten of his concubines into life imprisonment?

2 Samuel 20:3

And David came to his house at Jerusalem; and the king took the ten women *his* concubines, whom he had left to keep the house, and put them in ward, and fed them, but went not in unto them. So they were shut up unto the day of their death, living in widowhood.

Who were the parties to the first wage contract?

Genesis 29:15-20

And Laban said unto Jacob, "Because thou *art* my brother, shouldest thou therefore serve me for nought? Tell me, what *shall* thy wages *be*?" And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder *was* Leah, and the name of the younger *was* Rachel. Leah *was* tender eyed; but Rachel *was* beautiful and well favoured.

And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, "I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter."

And Laban said, "*it is* better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me."

And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him *but* a few days, for the love he had to her.

To what extent was true friendship shown in the Bible?

1 Samuel 18:1-4

And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house. Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that *was* upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.

Was religious racketeering practiced in the time of Jesus?

John 2:13-16

And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem, And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money,

and overthrew the tables; and said unto them that sold doves, "Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise."

Who, was told to drink a little wine for his stomach's sake? Who told him to do this?

1 Timothy 1:1-2

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, *which is our hope: Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.*

1 Timothy 5:23

Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.

Which woman of the Bible was said to be of good understanding?

1 Samuel 25:3

Now the name of the man *was* Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail: and *she was* a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: but the man *was* churlish and evil in his doings; and he *was* of the house of Caleb.

What was the New Testament treatment for the sick?

James 5:14-15

Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

In the Bible is winking a sign of an evil mind?

Job 15:12-13

Why doth thine heart carry thee away? And what do thy eyes wink at, that thou turnest thy spirit against God, and lettest *such* words go out of thy mouth?

Psalms 35:19

Let not them that are mine enemies wrongfully rejoice over me: *neither* let them wink with the eye that hate me without a cause.

Do you know how a naughty person speaks as discussed in the Bible?

Proverbs 6:12-13

A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth. He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers;

What does the Bible say about women speaking in church?

1 Corinthians 14:34

Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but *they are commanded* to be under obedience, as also saith the law.

Did dry bones ever come to life?

Ezekiel 37:1-10

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which *was* full of bones, And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, *there were* very many in the open valley; and, lo, *they were* very dry. And He said unto me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

And I answered, "O Lord GOD, thou knowest."

Again he said unto me, "Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, 'O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.'"

Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; "Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD."

So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but *there was* no breath in them.

Then said He unto me, "Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, 'Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.'"

So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

How many reasons did Jesus say a man could divorce his wife?

Matthew 19:9

And I say unto you, "Whosoever shall put away his wife, except *it be for fornication*, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."

According to the Bible are some sins greater than others?

John 19:11

Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power *at all* against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.

Are there different degrees of punishment in hell?

Matthew 23:14

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

Luke 12:47-48

And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not *himself*, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many *stripes*. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few *stripes*. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

Does the Bible ever allude to soil conservation?

Leviticus 25:1-5

And the LORD spake unto Moses in Mount Sinai, saying, "Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, 'When ye come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a sabbath unto the LORD. Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof; but in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, a sabbath for the LORD: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard. That which groweth of its own accord of thy harvest thou shalt not reap, neither gather the grapes of thy vine undressed: *for* it is a year of rest unto the land.'"

In the Bible what was the longest period of time that the same clothes were wore without wearing out?

Deuteronomy 29:5

And I have led you forty years in the wilderness: your clothes are not waxen old upon you, and thy shoe is not waxen old upon thy foot.

If viewed from our standpoint of today how poor was Jesus while on earth?

He was born in another man's barn.

Luke 2:7

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:16

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

He rode upon another man's beast of burden.

Matthew 21:1-11

And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples, "Saying unto them, 'Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose *them*, and bring *them* unto me. And if any *man* say ought unto you, ye shall say, the Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them.'"

All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, "Tell ye the daughter of Sion, 'Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.'"

And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them, and brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set *him* thereon. And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strowed *them* in the way.

And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, "Hosanna to the son of David: blessed *is* He that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest."

And when He was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?"

And the multitude said, "This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee."

He sailed on another man's boat.

Matthew 8:23-26

And when He was entered into a ship, His disciples followed Him. And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but He was asleep. And His disciples came to *Him*, and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us: we perish."

And He saith unto them, "Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?" Then He arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

Finally, he was buried in another man's grave.

Matthew 27:57-60

When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

Luke 23:50-53

And, behold, *there was* a man named Joseph, a counsellor; *and he was* a good man, and a just: (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) *he was* of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God. This *man* went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid.

Is the term good manners ever used in the Bible?

1 Corinthians 15:33

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

Will hell ever be full?

Proverbs 27:20

Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.

Is the term fallen from grace ever used in the Bible?

Galatians 5:3-4

For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Did God leave a promise for the wicked?

Isaiah 55:7

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Ezekiel 18:20-21

The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him. But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

According to the Bible who was a cursed women?

2 Kings 9:30-34

And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window. And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said, “*Had Zimri peace, who slew his master?*”

And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, “*Who is on my side? who?*” And there looked out to him two or three eunuchs. And he said, “*Throw her down.*” So they threw her down: and *some* of her blood was sprinkled on the wall, and on the horses: and he trode her under foot. And when he was come in, he did eat and drink, and said, “*Go, see now this cursed woman, and bury her: for she is a king’s daughter.*”

Who told us that we came from dust and would return to dust?

Genesis 3:19

In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return. (God said this)

Could the Jews, in Jesus’ time inflict the death penalty?

John 18:31

Then said Pilate unto them, “*Take ye him, and judge him according to your law.*”

The Jews therefore said unto him, “It is not lawful for us to put any man to death.”

It should be noted that I find difficulty reading many parts of the King James Bible. Our language is a living thing and has changed much since the days when the King James Bible was translated into English. I find it much easier to understand the Bible when I view the more modern translations that are available for study.

The words here belong, to a greater extent, to God. I consider myself to be a compiler as well as a

writer. To find the information and know what to do with it seems to be the gift God has granted unto me. With that grace, I have tried to provide understanding to any and all who wish to have more knowledge about one's relationship with The All Mighty Living God. I do not try to offend any one group, or religion that is legitimate within God's eyes, but challenge them to take more time to evaluate their personal relationship with their Maker, and to a smaller degree, a relationship of understanding among us all.

With that I bring together the close of this task and prepare to go forward on my quest to find other things to bring to people's attention. I pray that you have found some joy within the pages of this book. I pray that you have found information that you were unaware of previously or now understand more clearly. I pray, that in some measure, you have found a closer relationship with God. These things I send to you with God's grace. May His will be done. **Amen.**

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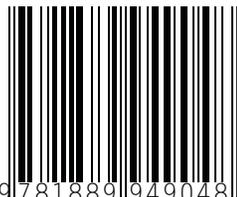
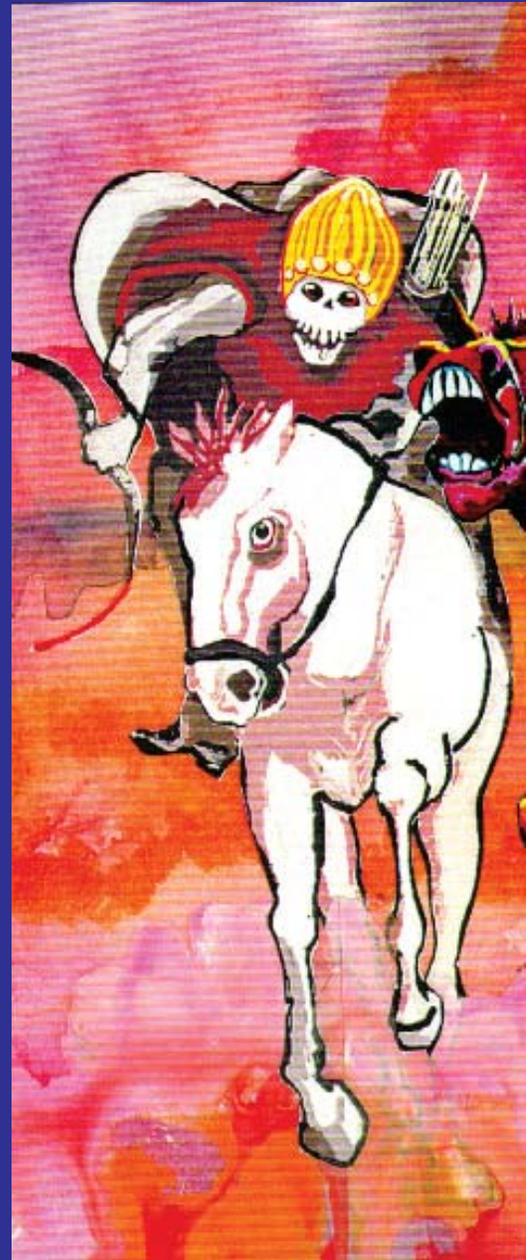


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