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# REVELATION

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of Jesus Christ



HOPE LOOKS UP BIBLE STUDY  
By Dr. Thomas Haney



AUGUST 2021

# A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

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# A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

### **Authorship: The Apostle of John**

The difference between the other writings of John and the Book of Revelation can be traced to one main thought:

1. The Revelation of Jesus Christ was primarily when John was in a spiritually ecstatic state and several of the passages were written when he had visions.
2. When "In the spirit" John wrote from this prophetic state. His other books were much more the recording of events and teaching in the New Testament.

### **Book Date: 95 A.D.**

Some have tried to date the book much earlier but it seems to serve their purpose of proving a millennial stand.

1. Post millennialists who support the dominion theology believe Christianity will eventually take over the world by conversion, support a writing of the book in the early 60's under the persecution of Nero and then the destruction of the temple and the tribulation would have all been with the city of Jerusalem and the destruction of the second Temple.
2. Some amillennialists who deny a millennial kingdom on the earth claim have the book was written before the destruction of the temple (70 A.D.) that Jesus could have reigned (millennial reign) during the remainder of time and the Millennial Kingdom would be fulfilled when Christ comes again in His Glorious Coming.

The majority of the Church set the date from 90-95 A.D. The letter to the Churches fits this later date. Written in the 60's, they would parallel the Biblical letters to the Churches. John probably did not settle in Asia until the late 60's. Laodicea was destroyed by an earthquake in 60-61 AD and the letter to them in Revelation 3 would not make sense. So, the traditional date of 95 AD will be the date used for our study.

### **Interpretation Direction**

The Book involves the immediate divine inspiration of the angel and of Jesus Christ and their direction. He speaks to and for groups as a prophet would. We will take the approach to interpret the Apocalypse (Revelation of Jesus Christ) according to the normal principles of grammar and facts of history and like the special nature of predictive prophecy throughout the Bible, it will be a literal interpretation not a figurative interpretation.

### **SPECIAL NOTE:**

There are 404 verses in Revelation and 278 of these verses allude to or quote an Old Testament Scripture.

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## REVELATION CHAPTER ONE: Message to the Seven Churches

### Revelation 1: 1-8 - Book Begins with an Introduction:

In this passage we clearly see the subject of Revelation is the "unveiling" word defined or the Revelation of Jesus Christ. It is an unveiling of Jesus Christ, a companion book to the Gospel of John where John presented Jesus as the Divine Son of God. But here the focus is the revelation of Jesus about the future events. It was written by John, the beloved Apostle who was part of the Ephesus Church for years and now on the Island of Patmos as an enemy of the state. The date of 95 AD was the only date offered in the first 400 years of the Church.

A promise of blessing, being happy, was given to everyone who would read the letter. It is based on the word happy which spiritually is something given only by God. So, the Book of Revelation is a source of happiness to anyone who will read it, hear it in the depths of their heart, and obey its instructions. It was a book that came from God-Christ-angel-to John and onto the Church. God authored it (source) and Jesus spoke it.

A typical Greek/Hebrews greeting "grace and peace to you". Both are from God and a clear reference here to the Trinity of God. God the Father, who is, who was, and who is to come; God the Son, from Jesus Christ; God the Spirit, and from the Seven Spirits before His throne. See **Isaiah 11:2** to see the sevenfold work of God as the Holy Spirit and also as Jesus. The contrast is clear between Jesus who came as a man of sorrows **Isaiah 53:3** and the one who will come in power and great glory, **Luke 21:27**. The lamb of the Gospel of John becomes the lion of Revelation.

These verses describe the past, present, and future works of Jesus. The definition of Christ expands:

- **Faithful witness** - "See me you have seen the Father" **John 14:9**
- **First Born of the Dead** - Raised first **1 Corinthians 15:23**
- **Ruler of the Kings of the Earth** - He is ultimately in control of the world and only permits things to go so far
- **Him Who Loves Us** - Continual acts of loving kindness
- **Freed Us by His Blood**, Forgiveness of sin **1 John 1:7**
- **Made Us as Kings and Priest**, Once we are believers in Christ, we automatically gain these great places.

Christ is coming again: **Daniel 7:13**; **Zechariah 12:10**, and **Acts 1:11**. He ascended in a cloud and will return with the clouds. Every eye will see him, **Matthew 26:14**, shows that those responsible for his death will see him. He will gather his people **Matthew 24:30-31** and judge the people of the earth.

### Revelation 1:9-16 - The Focus Shifts to Jesus

John then tells them how he received this revelation. Notice the lack of division here in John's writing. There is no distinction based on clergy/laity; apostolic/believer; or even on the level of suffering. He calls them brothers and companions. He was imprisoned on Patmos, because of the Word of the Lord and the following of Jesus.

He was caught up in the Spirit on 'the Lord's Day'. He heard a voice and a trumpet.

John was told to write on a scroll a message to the seven Churches, and they were Churches John knew, he had been in Asia over 30 years. So why out of hundreds of existing Churches and many, John had preached at, were these seven chosen.

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I feel they represent the seven basic divisions of Church history and although they are true messages to seven Churches; an observation of the history shows they predict the history of the Church.

They are seven historical churches but they also represent these seven periods of Church history:

1. Ephesians           Apostolic church which became legalistic 30-100 AD
2. Smyrna             Persecuted Church 100-313 AD
3. Pergamos          State or Liberal Church 313-590 AD
4. Thyatira           Combined Pagan / Christian Church 590-1517 AD
5. Sardis              Reformed Church 1517-1790 AD
6. Philadelphia      Outreach / Mission Church 1730-1930 AD
7. Laodicea          Lukewarm Church 1930- end of Church Age

We can be very dogmatic on the meaning of the seven lamp stands because they are interpreted for us in verse 1:20; they are the churches. Why use the word lamp stand for the Church? Because Jesus was the light of the world and he told us to be the light of the world, not to hide our light but to put it on a lamp stand and let it shine. We do not originate the light, but just as a lamp stand, we are to help convey the light. They will be characteristics to illustrate the message to each Church.

John tells us of ten characteristics about Jesus he saw in his vision. These characteristics illustrate the message to each Church

1. *"Like the son of man,"* He was human in form but glorified in appearance. This is the title used for the Messiah in all four Gospel as well as in **Daniel 7:13**.
2. *"Clothed in a robe reaching down to his feet."* The attire of the High Priest as He ministered in the Holy Place of the temple. Hebrews tells us Jesus is our High Priest. **Hebrews 4:14**
3. *"Golden sash around his chest"* refers to a symbol of strength and authority. Only those in authority wore such clothing.
4. *"Head and hair were white as snow,"* antiquity and the reminder of the vision of Daniel where Christ is called the "Ancient of Days". **Daniel 7:9-13** He is pure just as God the Father is.
5. *"Eyes were like blazing fire,"* literally, Christ was indignant over the indifference and the affect of the unfaithful.
6. *"Feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace"* speaks of judgment and the brazen altar of the tabernacle, where sin was judged.
7. *"Voice was like the sound of rushing waters,"* so loud no other sounds could be heard.
8. *"In his right hand he held seven stars,"* the seven churches and their angels or messengers.
9. *"Out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword,"* the Word of God which will be the judge on which everything is evaluated and the spoken Word of Jesus that shall also judge.
10. *"His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance,"* the divine nature of Jesus and just like the Mount of Transfiguration, when Jesus comes in glory He will evidently look like the sun.

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## Revelation 1:17-20 - The Reaction of John

John fell at His feet as though dead and was knocked cold by His glory. John will receive a vision that assures him the Church will survive.

Jesus told him not to fear:

1. "I am the First and the Last," before and after everything else.
2. "I am the Living One; I was dead," speaks of his sacrificial death for our sins and His resurrection which assures our resurrection.
3. "I am alive for ever and ever," He died once, **1 Peter 3:18** and will not die again.
4. "I hold the keys of death and Hades," the keys for those were purchased with His blood **Hebrews 2:14-15**, and He has defeated both. **1 Corinthians 15:55-57**

Jesus closes this section by asking John to write what will now unfold as He gives His message to the seven churches and to all of history.

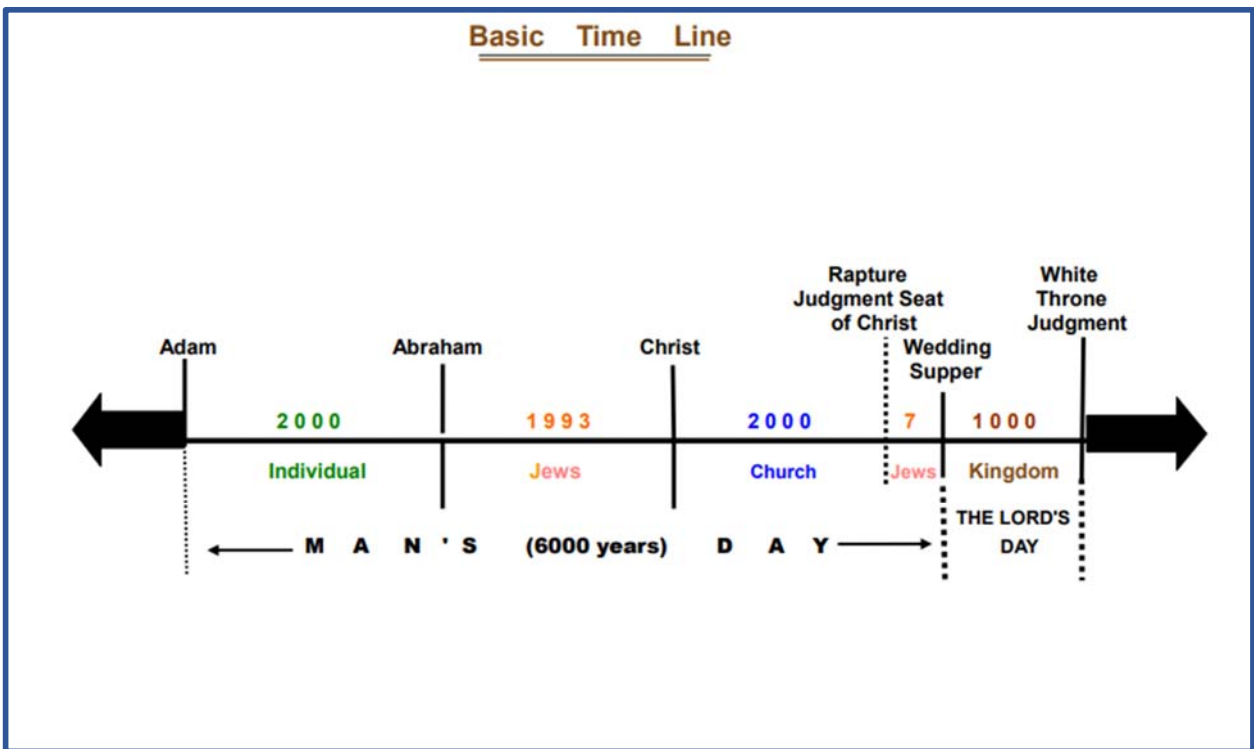


Figure 1 Time Line

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## REVELATION CHAPTER TWO: Message to The First Four Churches

### Revelation 2:1-7 - The Church at Ephesus:

The Church at Ephesus started great as an Apostolic Church but went downhill into a legalistic Church.

This was one of the finest and largest churches of the New Testament times. It was begun by Paul and ministered in a very wicked place. This is the only one of the seven Churches that mentions the word Apostle. The early Church had preached the Gospel throughout their world: **Romans 10: 18, Romans 16:26** and **Colossians 1:6** and I show us that the early Church accomplished more widespread preaching of the gospel through the ministry of the Jewish Christians than has ever been done since.

Jesus commends the Church for hard work, he also commends them for being separated from evil men, they were a pure church that tested people who claimed to be Apostle, the Church had endured and been a consistent Church, and they had kept their autonomy.

The Nicolaitans: is from two words, *Niko*-overthrow and *laos*-the people. They held two serious heretical views:

1. They taught that sensuality is completely separating one's spiritual and physical nature allowed them a license to sin.
2. They tried to establish an ecclesiastical order: set up bishops, archbishops, cardinals, and popes.

But Christ did have a condemnation against them: they had lost their first love. They were basically faithful, but had let the most wonderful things in their life become commonplace. Their ardor for Christ was gone. Christ said:

1. Recall where you were and take inventory of your spiritual life.
2. Repent, turn your back on coldness and legalism
3. Do the things you did at first. **John 14:15**

The address is to all who can hear: *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says."*

1. Some do not have spiritual ears.
2. Some have dull hearing.
3. There are those with spiritual minds that hear and put into practice.

The Promise: *"To those who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the Tree of Life which is in the Paradise of God."* Remember **1 John 5:4-5** defines overcomer.

### Revelation 2:8-11 - The Church at Smyrna

The Church at Smyrna was a much-persecuted church in a wealthy city. It sat in the middle of a trade route and received much persecution. **Rev. 2:8-11** Jesus commends the Church because they had great afflictions and poverty, but they were rich spiritually. This was the time of the Roman persecution and the *"ten days"* of verse 10 stands for 10 terrible Roman Emperors: Nero, Domitian, Trajan, Marcus Aurelius, Severus, Maximinius, Decius, Valerian, Aurelian, and Diocletian in Church history. It most likely stands for 10 years or 10 periods where they will suffer. The persecution and slander had taken all their early wealth.

They were a thriving Church and Jesus had no words of rebuke for them in any way. They hand copied the Scriptures and shared them, they moved underground, and were under great persecution.

Jesus gives His message with one of the characteristics visions of him in Chapter 1 and here stresses his eternal nature to those who are being killed so easily. They were a poor church but rich spiritually. They



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were an afflicted Church especially by Jews and so Jesus calls their places of worship synagogues of Satan and they promoted two false heresies. They promoted a false doctrine of Jesus and a mixing of law and grace which is very clearly the basis of most cult groups in our day.

Jesus encouraged them to be faithful even unto death. They would be actively sought by Satan but realize your faithfulness will lead to a crown.

To the ones who overcome when they are persecuted, Jesus says: *“He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death,”* defined in **Revelation 20:14** which spells out the second death clearly.

## Revelation 2:12-17 - The Church at Pergamum

Pergamum was the capital city of Asia until the close of the first century and was given over to the worship of many Greek idols. The city to keep peace, demanded that all religions work and cooperate together. Why does Satan have his throne there? As long as Babylon was strong and dominant Satan worked from there, but when it began the steep decline, Satan looked for another location and he selected Pergamum because of its strong idolatrous religions. It was the Asian home of Emperor Worship.

Jesus commends them because they have stayed faithful even with Satan there and with the death of Antipas.

Three negatives: they served like Balaam did and mixed the sacred and the pagan together. In Church history Satan switched tactics after the time of persecution and began to blend the Church with the world. This was hastened along when Constantine had a vision of a fiery cross in the sky and said in this sign I will conquer.

When he became the emperor of Rome, he took on the role of the self-styled protector of the Christian faith and with gifts, grants, and other items he persuaded the Church to combine pagan practices with their faith.

The Church at that time adopted many items that Constantine asked, and that led to other emperors and leaders mixing paganism and the Church.

1. AD 300 Prayers for the dead
2. AD 300 Making the sign of the cross
3. AD 375 Worship of Saints and Angels
4. AD 394 A Set Ritual for Worship (Mass)
5. AD 431 Female deity introduced
6. AD 500 Priests dressed differently than laypeople
7. AD 526 Extreme Unction
8. AD 593 Doctrine of Purgatory introduced
9. AD 600 Worship Services in the Roman language (Latin)
10. AD 600 Prayers directed to Mary

The Church became more Roman and less Christian. Also, postmillennialism was introduced.

Jesus appears here as the Word of God and tells them good things:

*You live in a hard place but remained true to my name, and did not renounce your faith in me.*

But: They may have still had good determination, but their practices were evil and leading in the wrong way,

1. The doctrine of Balaam: **Numbers 22-31** and the intermixing of the Israelites and the Moabites caused great trouble.

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2. The doctrine of the Nicolaitans: the sensuality and the ecclesiastical practices began.
3. Jesus tells them to repent or be judged by the Word, but if they move past these practices, they will receive two gifts:
4. Great insight and direction, nourishment from a healthy reverent view of the Scripture.
5. The white stone: acquitted and declared guiltless with a special name.

## Revelation 2:18-29 - The Church at Thyatira

The city of Thyatira was a wealthy city that was noted in the ancient world for its outstanding color dyes. Perhaps as Lydia moved her business, she might have brought the Gospel to this city. They were very focused on works toward people and not on doctrinal belief. In fact, they tolerated a false teacher, who was allowed to teach and spread her heresy.

Jesus commends them for their deeds: their love, faith, service, and perseverance. They continued to increase in these great deeds of service and action.

He told them that they had mixed the pagan with the secular and had allowed this false teacher to lead them into two areas that caused problems: sexual immorality and coziness with idols. This church age produced what in history is called the "dark ages", and in a spiritual sense the darkness of the idols / paganism continued to quench the light of Jesus Christ. Continuing the path of paganism, they added to the Church at this period:

1. AD 607 The First Pope, Boniface 111
2. AD 709 Kissing the Pope's feet or adoration of the Pope

786-1439: Worshiping of images and relics, use of holy water, canonization of dead saints, fasting on Fridays and during lent, celibacy of the priesthood, prayer beads, the inquisition, sale of indulgences, transubstantiation, adoration of the host, Bible forbidden to laypeople, cup forbidden to people at communion, doctrine of purgatory decreed, doctrine of seven sacraments affirmed, Jesuit order founded, and tradition granted equal authority with the Bible.

Thyatira comes from two words meaning 'sacrifice' and 'continual', which introduces the central heresy that has produced so many other non-Biblical doctrines. The heresy is that the saving work of Christ is not done and that the sacraments, praying for the dead, burning candles, etc. all influence the work of Christ in salvation after death.

Many focuses of the church added at this time came right out of paganism:

1. Penance
2. Mystery
3. Chanting
4. Making a female deity one of the centers of the visual elements.
5. Making the focus on the suffering of the savior and not His redemption.

In the condemnation from Christ, He introduces the Old Testament woman who brought Baalism into Israel and speaks of two things that she did:

1. Brought sexual immorality—Old Testament symbolism for making idolatry acceptable in the land.
2. Eating food sacrificed to idols—Old Testament symbolism for mixing the pagan and the spiritual

Christ pronounces a strong judgment on this Church and says each one who did not accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior will stand before the Great White Throne of Judgment. So, hold onto Christ and do not take anything else with this stand on Christ.

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The one who overcomes will: rule with Him in the Millennial Age and will be assured of their salvation with Jesus Christ-the Morning Star with the Great Morning Star.

SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION		
	<b>Ephesus</b>	<b>The Apostolic Church</b> Revelation 2:1-7
	<b>Smyrna</b>	<b>The Persecuted Church</b> Revelation 2:8-11
	<b>Pergamos</b>	<b>The Indulged Church</b> Revelation 2:12-17
	<b>Thyatira</b>	<b>The Pagan Church</b> Revelation 2:18-29
	<b>Sardis</b>	<b>The Dead Church</b> Revelation 3:1-6
	<b>Philadelphia</b>	<b>The Faithful Church</b> Revelation 3:7-13
	<b>Laodicea</b>	<b>The Luke Warm Church</b> Revelation 3:12-17

Figure 2 Seven Churches

# A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

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## REVELATION CHAPTER THREE: Message to The Last Three Churches

### Revelation 3: 1-6 - The Church at Sardis

Jesus appears as the authority of the Church. Sardis was the capital city of Lydia and was prominent in Asia Minor. It was a wealthy city that was destroyed by an earthquake. The Church seems to have had the appearance of life but was actually dead. It did have a few faithful believers in the Church.

Jesus gives them the briefest of commendations:

*"I know your works; you have a reputation for being alive. . . "*

They started strong and were actively persecuted for it.

In the Church age, this would speak of the Churches that led the way into the Reformation period. They looked very alive, they came out of the pagan Church and adopted 'faith' as their strong basis, but they did not try to reduplicate all that was in the Bible.

1. They often became state Churches themselves and sought for the approval of political leaders. The main problem with a state church is that everyone is a member and no one has to have an individual relationship with God and His saving son, Jesus Christ.
2. They did not change many of the customs and teachings of the pagan church, especially infant baptism (no scriptural backing), sprinkling, ritualism especially rules about the Eucharist, and a focus on ritual and formality.

Jesus commends the ones who have stayed pure in this setting and He speaks to those who will overcome. Those who are born again into Jesus Christ will be added to the Lamb's Book of Life and will remain there forever.

### Revelation 3:7-13 - The Church at Philadelphia

The Church at Philadelphia was located in a center of Greek civilization. The town was founded 189 years before Christ and had a strong influence on the area around it. It was a strong Church that remained an independent Christian city until the close of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, when it was conquered by the Turks.

They are commended because not since the days of the Church at Ephesus or the Church at Smyrna has the Gospel spread so easily and so well. In the Church age, it was marked by revivals in the British Isles and in America. It produced the modern missionary movement, the Sunday School, Church Schools, Church benevolence missions, Church outreach missions, and most of the historical Christian benevolence we know today. It was this intense study of the Bible and outreach that revived the premillennial return of the Lord and the second coming became a strong part of the Church teaching.

It was spoken of by four traits of Christ: Holy, true, the one who holds the key of David, and control of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jesus promises that they will be:

1. Vindicated: Jesus would deal with all false impostors and false religious teachers.
2. Preservation: He promises this Church that they will be raptured before the Tribulation begins and will not be tested with the rest of the world.

Jesus tells them that this Church age will be still active when he returns. It will still be a Church characterized by a spirit of revival that promotes evangelism and a mission-minded church.

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The one who over comes from this Church, Christ will make them:

1. Pillars in the temple of my God, they will not be outsiders.
2. They will receive a new name from God.
3. They will have the new name of God, Christ, upon them.

## Revelation 3:14-22 - The Church at Laodicea

The city was a wealthy inland city about 40 miles inland from Ephesus. Steeped in Greek culture and learning, it was a thriving center of commerce and industry. The Church must have been very wealthy, the ruins are spectacular, but had no marked influence upon any of the cities around it.

It did not have one word of commendation. Jesus did not say anything good about this church.

But he said several things wrong with it:

1. They were lukewarm,
2. They claimed to be rich when they were poor
3. They did not need anything when they truly did.

This corresponds to the Church since the mid 1900's. The Lord describes himself here as: the final authority, the faithful witness of everything, and the beginner of creation.

The description of the Lord for this city: He is the ruler and judges them, sickeningly lukewarm and suffering from self-deception. This is in strong contrast to the way that the Church at Laodicea has described itself; rich, self-sufficient, and have acquired all that they need. But this is not a matter of organization, buildings, promotions, preaching, teaching, but it is a matter of letting the Holy Spirit transform the lives of people. So, Jesus says that she is: wretched, pitiful, (only the appearance of happiness); poor, (wealthy in money but not in what totally satisfies); and not understanding in the ways of God.

Christ gives strong counsel to this church:

1. Purchase His gold, because Isaiah teaches that we can buy from God what we need 'without money or cost'.
2. Purchase white clothes from the Lord, that they take the righteousness that God wants them to have and implement it in their lives.
3. Purchase from the Lord eye salve so that they will have spiritual illumination.
4. Be earnest and repent, turn from their sins and turn to the Lord Jesus.

Jesus pauses at this point and gives a personal reference on how an individual can do that. Through the Word of God, His people, the Holy Spirit, or providence, the knock will come so open the door, the knock of Jesus, and let Him come into you and your heart.

The one who over comes will be given a place on the throne of the Lord.

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## REVELATION CHAPTER FOUR: Scene from Heaven

John has finished the description of the churches and the parallel to the Church ages and now he invites John to come up to him. It is a door that has opened and will not be seen opened again until **Revelation 19:11** when Christ shall come out of it as the King of Kings, His people with Him. It is compatible with I **Thessalonians 4:13-18** and **John 14:1-3**. The Church will not be mentioned again until **Revelation 22:16**. It will show a marked change from the language of the Church in Chapters 1 – 3 to the language of the Old Testament in Worship, Chapters 4 - 19: including the tabernacle, altar, Ark of the Covenant, censers, seals, cherubim, and plagues. The work of the Gentiles is completed, **Luke 21:24**, and God will return to the work of Israel. The Revelation will interweave the Scriptures that relate to the final salvation of Israel as it proceeds through this part of the Book of Revelation.

### **Revelation 4:1-4 – The Throne of God and the 24 Elders**

Heaven's Door is opened and John is taken in the spirit to Heaven for God to "show you what must take place after these things." When he arrives, he sees "One sitting on a throne" which was made of jasper and sardius and with a rainbow around the throne. It must have been a glorious sight.

The throne was surrounded by Twenty-Four Elders seated on lesser thrones and clothed in white linen with golden crowns on their heads. The word "elder" (Greek *'presbuteros'*) appears 66 times in the Bible and generally refers to the head of a family, city, tribe or nation. The only ones seen in Heaven with crowns are Jesus, the saints and the 24-elders. They must be men redeemed from earth; representing the New Testament Church and the Old Testament Saints. The 24-Elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worships Him. **Revelation 4:10**.

### **Revelation 4:5-11 – Four Living Creatures**

The description of Heaven and the Throne continues with flashes of lighting and peals of thunder. There are seven lamps of fire which represent the seven Spirits of God. There is a "sea of glass like crystal" before the throne with four living creatures, full of eyes in the center around the throne. They each have six wings and eyes all around and within. They worship day and night saying "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty who is and who is to come." The appearance of the four creatures are like: a Lion; a Calf; a Man and a Flying Eagle.

It would be good for us to stop and compare the contrast between the rapture/blessed hope and the Glorious Appearing of Jesus Christ, both elements of the Second Coming of the Lord.

#### **The Rapture will be marked by:**

1. Christ coming in the air for His own.
2. All believers being translated to Him
3. Christians taken to the Father's House-the Church in Heaven.
4. No earthly judgment, just the judgment seat of Christ.
5. Could happen at any time, no special signs

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6. Time for joy
7. Before the Day of Wrath, Tribulation starting.
8. No mention of Satan
9. The marriage of the Lamb
10. Only His own see Jesus
11. Tribulation starts after the rapture.

## **The Glorious Appearing will be marked by:**

1. Christ bringing His own to earth.
2. No one is translated.
3. Resurrected saints do not see Father's House.
4. Christ judges the earth and sets up a Kingdom on the earth.
5. Follows the events of a 7-year Tribulation.
6. Many signs that point to it coming.
7. Affects all humanity and be a time of mourning for the lost.
8. Occurs immediately after the Tribulation period.
9. Satan will be bound in the Abyss for 1000 years.
10. Every eye will see Christ
11. 1,000-year Kingdom of Christ begins.

## **The Focus of Heaven is: The Throne of God**

1. The three personalities of God.
2. The 24 elders, they are men who have overcome for Christ and have been crowned by Him.
3. The signs of judgment lightning and thunder.
4. The 7 spirits of God, see *Isaiah 11:2* to define them.
5. The Sea of Glass, the sure foundation of all that God has done and given to the earth.
6. The four living beings: Believed represent the four parts of creation that they resemble.
7. The heavenly worship of Christ.

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## REVELATION CHAPTER FIVE: Seven Sealed Scrolls

The focus of this chapter is the Seven-Sealed Scroll and finding the one who is worthy of breaking its seals.

### **Revelation 5:1-10 – Who is Worthy to Open the Seven-Sealed Scroll?**

The scroll is found in the right hand of God, it has writing on both sides, and it has been shut by seven seals. John is caused to weep because it is related to the human race which excludes angels from opening it. But, the scene in heaven reveals that the Lion-Lamb is worthy to open it.

The names given to Jesus show that he is:

1. The Lion of the tribe Judah, he will rule over human affairs.
2. The root of David, his roots go back from birth to the throne of David.
3. A Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, John sees him as the slain Lamb because he is looking through the eyes of faith.
4. He had seven horns; He is an all-consuming power.
5. He has seven eyes, the seven Spirits of God sent to all the earth, the complete and fair judgement of Christ.

Christ takes the scroll and all of heaven bows to him: the angels, the four living creatures and then the 24-elders. The elders have in their hands a harp for praise and golden bowls filled with the unanswered prayers of the saints. They sang a New Song.

Their song focuses on the worthiness of Christ to take the scroll and begin the final chapter of life on this 'old' earth. They list three things that make Christ qualified.

1. He was slain on the cross
2. He purchased the salvation of men with His blood
3. He made all believers a part of his kingdom and to become priests to serve God.

### **Revelation 5:11-14 – Angels, Elders, Living Creatures and Believers Worship**

The enormity of the numbers here is astounding, both angels and believers, thousands and ten thousand times ten thousand. Then the angels begin to describe Christ: and they proclaim him worthy to receive seven things: Power, Wealth, Wisdom, Strength, Honor, Glory and Blessing.

Since these are unblemished angels describing what Jesus Christ is worthy to receive, we can see that this may be the most accurate description in the Bible of what He should be receiving from us. These verses propel John forward to a time at the end of the Millennium where he is able to see that every living creature will worship Christ. **Phil 2:2-11**; including the living creatures and the elders.



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## REVELATION CHAPTER SIX: Opening of the Seals

Chapter Six is the start of the tribulation and talks about the last seven years on earth. This seven-year period of time will be to shake human beings loose from a false sense of security (evangelism of the world) and the revenge of the martyrs and saints that have been destroyed. The first of three chronological judgments are the seals and they are placed on the scroll that Jesus Christ was found worthy to unloose. A great parallel passage to this chapter is found in the book of **Daniel 9:24-27** which we will now read.

**Daniel 9:24-27 NIV** 24 "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place. 25 "Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. 26 After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. 27 He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

It is clear from this passage in Daniel that the Tribulation period, although intended for evangelism and very successful in evangelism, it is also happening for other reasons. They are:

1. "To finish transgression" ... This time of suffering will finish the transgression of Israel, which is the rejection of her Messiah.
2. "To put an end to sin" ... This period will end with the binding of Satan, which will 'seal up sin.
3. "To atone for wickedness" ... Israel will be reconciled with God through revival and salvation.
4. "To bring in everlasting righteousness" ... This period of time will usher in the millennial kingdom and then eternity.
5. "To seal up vision and prophecy" ... When Israel has turned to Christ, there will no longer be a need for prophet's visions and prophecy.
6. "To anoint the most holy" ... This will be the assumption of Jesus Christ to the throne of David in Jerusalem.

The Tribulation will begin as the Lamb slain breaks the first seal. That's the first of three, seven-part judgments. The trumpets and bowls will follow. It will be at this time, the Antichrist will burst onto the scenes of history. Unknown before the Rapture, shortly after the rapture, the Antichrist will broker some type of peace with Israel and neighbors and burst into power.

The first four seals are the four horsemen and they will begin the plagues on the earth meant to cause the unsaved to come to salvation. (See **Zechariah 6:1-8**)

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## Revelation 6:1-2 – 1<sup>st</sup> Seal / White Horse of Antichrist

He is an imitator of Christ or Antichrist; The white horse comes aggressively but without an arrow. He will rule and conquer through diplomacy not war. Given a crown means allowed to rise to this position.

## Revelation 6:3-4 – 2nd Seal / Red Horse of War

Evidently, as the Antichrist makes this diplomatic takeover, it is not accepted by all of the nations and a rebellion follows that produces a massive world war.

## Revelation 6:5-6 - 3rd Seal / Black Horse of Famine and Hyperinflation

War will cause a scarcity leading to famine and inflation which will lead to the inability to make enough to keep all the family alive. This will especially affect the poor, those sustained on a minimum wage and not the rich (oil and wine) will not be scarce to the wealthy.

## Revelation 6:7-8 - 4th Seal / Pale Horse of Death

It will lead one quarter of the world's population being killed, by today's count over 1 ½ billion people. God is still limiting His judgement; it is not complete. He gives all another chance to repent.

## Revelation 6:9-11 - 5th Seal / Martyrs

The fifth seal is a break from the recounting of destruction and it is focused on the great soul harvest that has come to heaven during the start of the Tribulation. We know it is from the Tribulation because of what is said in **Revelation 7:14**. These will be the children of God who did not receive Christ before the Rapture but have received him in the Tribulation. They inquire how long God will wait until He takes revenge for them, and Revelation shares a great truth with us. Since God knows the times and who will respond, He can honestly and accurately say when all have been sealed, or all have come to me; in other words, everyone has responded that will respond under the present circumstances. This is not a long season, but it is a period of great cruelty. The intense battle between the Antichrist & his followers and the revived Church will intensify and a great multitude will be killed. They are believers because they have all been given a white robe to wear. **Mark 13:13**

## Revelation 6:12-17 - 6th Seal / Earthquakes,

The sixth seal is the consequence of God answering the cry and prayers of His martyred saints. The angel unleashes the shaking the earth, the entire earth. It will begin with an earthquake, followed by volcanoes strong enough to block the sun and alters the appearance of the moon. They will not quit for a period of time because the sky will appear as though it has been rolled back. There will be a meteorite barrage and it will alter the earth. The two geological features shaped by these three natural disasters, islands and mountains will all be changed. The people on earth know this is punishment from God and Jesus Christ, but instead of crying out in repentance they call for the unstable rocks, hills, and mountains \to hide and cover them. What a shame that they did not repent as they did in the day of Nahum, **Nahum 1:5-7**, because the great cataclysms will continue to come to the earth in increasing strength and severity until every person who will repent and come to the Lord has come.

This will conclude the first 21 months of the Tribulation period and it has been a series of horrifying events. After the Antichrist assumes worldwide control; world war, family, inflation, and the death of 25 percent of

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the world's population will follow. Then occurs a great persecution of God's newly converted people followed by the catastrophic judgment of God. If this passage of Scripture teaches anything, it instructs us that the Tribulation is a period no one should enter. The glorious thing is you do not have to because if you receive Christ as your Savior, and remain faithful to Him, you will never go into this period of the Tribulation.



Figure 3 Seven Seals

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## REVELATION CHAPTER SEVEN: 144,000 Witnesses & Tribulation Saints

The revelation of destruction is put on hold (an interlude) and we are given a glimpse of what has happened in the first part of the Tribulation period with the great revival of people and the martyrdom that follows. While earth is in chaos, heaven is assimilating the great number of believers who have entered by being slain. It is a great picture of how God operates and what He will do for His believers. The angels stop the destruction by holding back the winds, while God's people are sealed as His own!

### Revelation 7: 1-8 – 144,000 Tribulation Witnesses

The passage begins with the angels at work. This is before the end of the fifth seal and is certainly before the sixth seal, because they are holding the wind and destruction that could come from the East wind, the West wind, the North wind, and the South wind. They are also busy sealing the 144,000 Tribulation witnesses. These workers will be sealed at the beginning of the Tribulation and will start preaching the Gospel. They are all sealed by the finish of the fifth seal. They may lose their physical lives but never their soul or their spirit. God promised clearly in ***Ephesians 7:13-14***, the seal of the Holy Spirit will guarantee their victory. Although this has been used by a number denominations and cults to signify that their followers will be sealed, a quick look at verse four tells us that they are all Jews, 12,000 from each tribe of Israel. There is not a Gentile among them. This does not need to be a symbolic number any more than the 7,000 that God told Elijah had not bowed their knee to Baal was still available in Israel. They will have a visible seal of God on their forehead and they will be a great counter evangelism group to the followers of the Antichrist ***II Thessalonians 2:9*** who will scour the earth teaching their gospel. They will have the power of the Holy Spirit and will preach, teach, and give signs just as the followers of Jesus did on the day of Pentecost. They will fulfill the prophecy of Joel again as these new Apostle Paul's take the faith to the world.

These Jewish evangelists will have several special gifts that they will use during time:

1. They will be able to interpret and apply the Old Testament, New Testament, and any new revelation that will be a part of the end times.
2. They will have God's seal on their forehead, not as a bull's eye but as a confirmation that God has set them aside, sealed them, and sent them on their way to win the world. Those looking for God will find confirmation in their seal.
3. They will be empowered through the Holy Spirit and will have unlimited spiritual gifts, they will, like the first church, primarily evangelize.
4. They will be from all over the world and will not have to learn languages, but will be able to take the message to their countries without mission boards or any type of organization.

The group named excluded two Old Testament tribes of the land of Israel, Daniel, which quickly adopted idolatry and was replaced in this list by Levi, the tribe of the priests; and Joseph instead of his son Ephraim, the tribe that led the 10-tribe nation of Israel in the Northern kingdom into idolatry. They preach a true message of Jesus Christ that will lead men to be saved and to accept Jesus as their Savior.

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## Revelation 7: 9-17 – Tribulation Saints

As the result of a lot of items; the Rapture; the world war, famine, plague, and inflation; the zeal of these evangelists and the Holy Spirits power upon this Tribulation Church, they will have a great harvest of souls. It may be the greatest harvest ever in the history of the world. The great increase in population during our lifetime. The fact that two nations have more than one billion people each and that most of the world has grown drastically will allow the harvest fields to be rich. It will be a conflict between the forces of the Lord and His sealed evangelists against the Antichrist and his dedicated ministers.

The number is vast, it is not able to be counted, it is a group from every part of the earth, they are part of the redeemed (white robes) and they sing out to Jesus the song of salvation.

Jesus tells us they are not alone in their concerted and unified praise of the lamb slain, for they are joined by the angels who also sing of the salvation of the Lord. Why not, Jesus told us that they rejoice over one sinner who comes to salvation, **Luke 15:7**; why would they not rejoice over this great multitude who is now in heaven because of the salvation that God offers? We are to know who they are, because a conversation is recorded between John and one of the elders. The elder asks John who these witnesses are and John says you know. The implication is that John with his knowledge of Old Testament and New Testament believers did not know this group. So, he says to the elder, "you know"; and the elder tells us they are the group that was slain during the Tribulation. They have come into the folds of heaven just like every other believer, through the blood of the lamb, Jesus Christ, which washed their robes clean. They have been individually saved by their acceptance of Jesus as Lord, **Revelation 7:14**. They chose to have their robes washed in the blood of Jesus Christ.

The song of the elder(s) concludes this great look into heaven and how the worship is unfolding and with it comes several eternal rewards for those in heaven:

1. They are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple. They are in a place where they belong, where they have tasks and it is in the presence of God.
2. They are protected by God, because His tent is over them. They are forever with the Lord.
3. There every need is supplied and here the elders(s) graphically clarify that the very things they were denied on earth as they were chased, killed, and martyred will be given to them, in abundance, in heaven. They will begin to drink of the eternal rivers of life.
4. God will wipe every tear from their eye, a promise that is repeated and extended to the entire church after the Great White Throne of Judgment in **Revelation 27:4**. A reference to the fact that every capacity to remember unpleasant things, including knowledge of those that are eternally lost will be removed from the mind. This fact reminds us that God will take care of every need and has prepared blessings that are beyond our ability to understand for those who love Him.

The picture that God gives to John and the Church to show the great contrast between what is happening on the earth and what is happening in heaven should remind us that God is not influenced by events, but He is the creator of events.

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## REVELATION CHAPTER EIGHT: Seventh Seal & First Four Trumpets

### **Revelation 8:1-6 – 7<sup>th</sup> Seal / Introduction of Seven Trumpets**

The opening of the seventh seal is the start of the judgment of the trumpets. It is so terrible, what will happen, that heaven is actually silent for about one half of an hour. This is a tremendous contrast to the usual noise in heaven and heaven itself is in silence.

The seals of judgment have finished. The first five seals revealed the activities of humankind against humankind that brought great misery. The opening of the sixth seal seems to be God's reaction against the people for their cruel persecution of His saints. The opening of the seventh seal introduces the seven trumpet judgments which are all judgments of God sent on the earth. God will be exclusively the sender and the people are exclusively receivers. The trumpets are given to the seven angels who stand before God. We only know from Scripture the name of one of these angels and that is Gabriel. In **Luke 1:19**, when the angel appeared to Zechariah to announce the birth of John the Baptist, he told his name and his role. The six are unknown to us.

Another angel, not one of the seven, takes the golden censer, which has incense to offer with the prayers of the saints. They are the prayers that have been kept in heaven waiting this very day. They come before God and then are lighted and the entire censer is thrown to the earth accompanied with thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake. The wrath of God is about to come upon the earth.

These are literal judgments; in fact, five of the plagues of Egypt are repeated in the Book of Revelation.

### **Revelation 8:7 – 1<sup>st</sup> Trumpet / Hail and Fire mixed with Blood**

Hail and fire fall upon the earth and 1/3 of the earth's surface will have all the vegetation destroyed. This probably is God induced as sulfur and brimstone on Sodom and Gomorrah, but it could also be the removal of protection over the earth and the world engaged in a nuclear holocaust. **Joel 2:30-31** tells us this tragedy will happen.

### **Revelation 8:8 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Trumpet / 1/3 of the Sea Becomes Blood**

A gigantic meteorite will hit the earth. It could be a mineral filled mountain slide into the sea, but more likely a meteorite that is burning chemicals and minerals and is lethal to the sea life, destroys the ships in that area, and turns the water into a chemical blood that is obvious to all. This is God-induced but could be again the removal of the barrier of protection over the earth.

### **Revelation 8:10-11 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Trumpet / 1/3 World's Water Supply Polluted**

This is clearly from heaven and it is a burning torch that visibly falls from heaven, indicating it is another meteorite and it is so large that it buries itself so deep into the earth that it pollutes the water supply of a third of the world's rivers. Evidently under the surface of the earth is a place where the headwaters of one-third of the great rivers come together. It will be wormwood (bitter/poison) and will kill people who drink it and those who are dependent on the rivers will die.



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## Revelation 8:12 – 4th Trumpet / Signs in the Sun, Moon and Stars

This judgment deals with the luminous bodies that affect this earth. God created light on day one, **Genesis 1:3**, but did not create the sun until the fourth day. So, the creator of light will dim the light by one-third, and 16 hours will become like night, 8 hours, and night, 8 hours will become like day, 16 hours. This will shake the world and the heavens and will fulfill the prediction of our Lord Jesus in **Luke 21:25-26**.

The introduction of the next three trumpets judgments has a special messenger; it is an eagle that is naming each of these last three judgments a 'woe'. The misery of the first four trumpets will intensify and the reason is that people will know they are under the judgment of God, **Revelation 6:17** but are unwilling to change. This will be a horrible time to be on earth. Martyrdom will be better than remaining in the earth! They cannot experience any spiritual harm. **Revelation 7: 2-3**

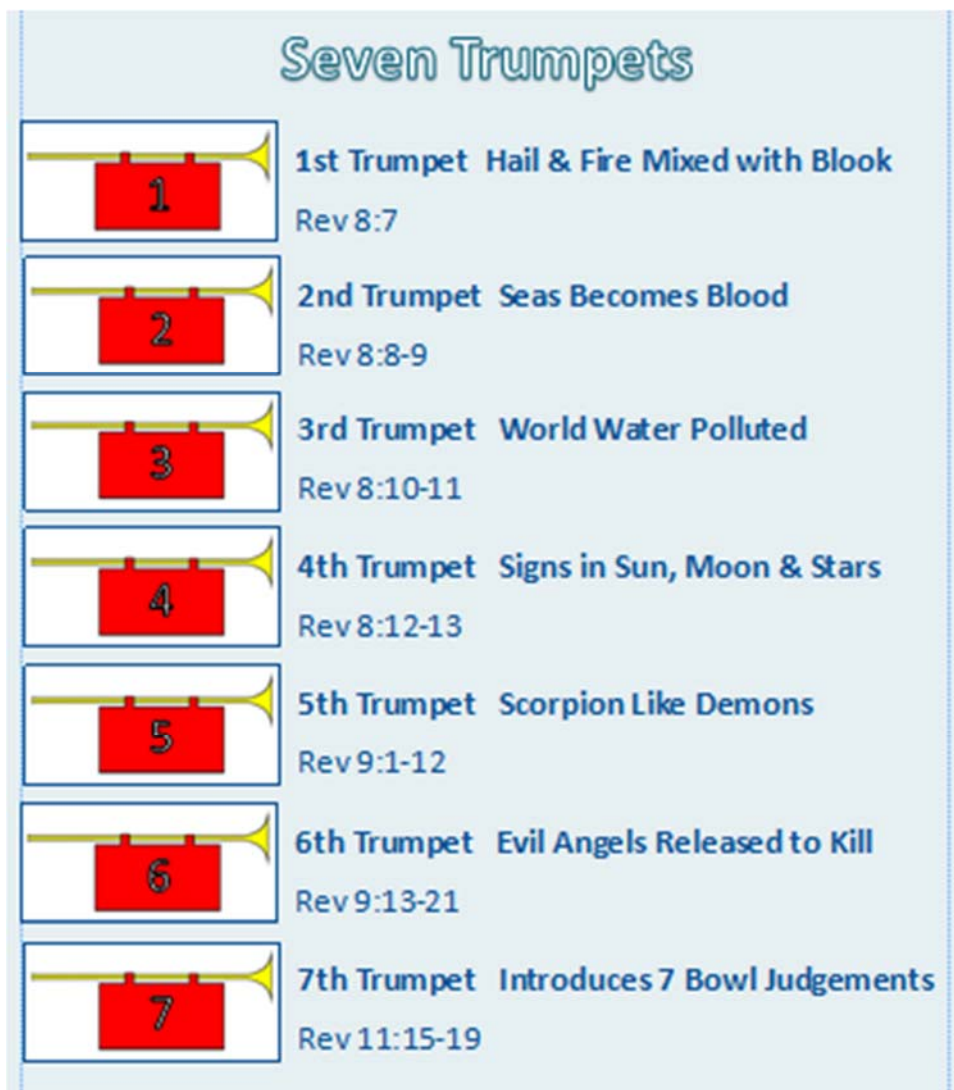


Figure 4 Seven Trumpets

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## REVELATION CHAPTER NINE: Fifth & Sixth Trumpets

### Revelation 9:1-12 – 5th Trumpet / Scorpion Like Demons Punish the Earth

**The First Woe.** Here we see a star that is a symbol of the angel where the star is referred to as 'he'. The next job of the angel is to lift more protection off the earth. He will have the job of taking the key to the shaft of the Abyss, normally kept by Christ. He will hold the key until Christ returns in **Revelation 20:1** to close the Abyss back up. This Abyss is a bottomless pit that is not Hell or Hades, see **Luke 8:31**. Some think it might be the great gulf, fixed in Hades to separate the believers and the unbelievers. Some demons inhabit the earth seeking places to dwell and live, but others are confined to the gloomy dungeons awaiting judgment. **II Peter 2:4**

Those who wander about looking for a place to live should not be a worry to believers, because **John 15:1-11** tells us that our faithfulness to God will eliminate the possibility of demon possession. **I John 4:4** tells us that the power of Jesus is greater and if Jesus (Holy Spirit) dwells in you, the demon can't. **II Thessalonians 2:9-10** tells us that demons actually stir up the turmoil about them and promote the inferior power of demons as very much superior. **Jude 5** tells us that some demons have been imprisoned by God because they are waiting the day of the Lord. They have been reserved for this very time of torture and torment.

**The "Woe"** - When the Abyss was opened, a dungeon, perhaps the great gulf between paradise and tarturus, **Luke 16:6** Smoke rose from it until the earth was saturated with a smog like condition. Out of this smog will come these scorpion-like creatures which have no counterpart in all of history. They are 'infernal cherubim'. The description that John gives us tells us that they are unlike anything we know and are a conglomeration of images, beings, and armaments. It is probably not a bomber, plane, or missile because it inflicts spiritual damage on those who do not have the seal of the Lord on them. A special selection that would take pinpoint direction to only touch unbelievers.

They have a king over them, Abaddon in Hebrew or Apollyon, in Greek it means destroyer. He is evidently a leader in the army of the Devil. This group of demonic beings will be allowed to punish the earth for five months but are not allowed to kill anyone. They will be able to inflict stings on people that will last the five months of torture and people will want to die because of this pain.

The power of God will be over this part of the spirit world and God will protect believers from these evil-spirit creatures. The attention by God to the unbelievers seems to imply that this may be the hand of God to help some uncommitted individuals during the Tribulation period realize the power of God and turn in faith to receive the Messiah. This judgment has been pain but the scene now changes.

### Revelation 9:13-21 – 6th Trumpet / Four Evil Angels Release to Kill 1/3 Mankind

The voice for the sixth trumpet comes from behind the horns of the golden altar before God. The voice calls for the four bound angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates to be released. They are evil angels, they are bound. They have been kept and preserved for this very day and their release will signal the death of another one-third of mankind, one-fourth died in **Revelation 6:7-8**, so now one-half of all earth has died. It is not surprising that the Euphrates is involved in this event. It was one of the boundaries of the Garden of Eden, the boundary for the land promised by God to Israel, **Genesis 15:18**; it is used as a name for



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Israel's enemies, near here sin was introduced, the tower of Babel was constructed, Nimrod built the city of Babylon and introduced wide spread idolatry to the world. **Revelation 18** tells us Babylon will be rebuilt to become the headquarters of the commercial, religious, and military activities of the world under the rule of the Antichrist. They introduce a vast army of spirits that come from the Abyss and are under the leadership of the four bound angels.

This will culminate in another one-third of mankind killed, or by today's population one and five to eight billion and the total by today's counts would be over 3 1/2 billion or one-half of the world will have died. This first half of the Tribulation will be destructive in the loss of human life.

This judgement has been directed at the unrepentant with the apparent desire of God to seek more to come to Him. We can assume that this is directed towards those that have the mark of the beast, but we know for sure these are not people who have received Jesus as Savior.

These are not people who would be able to be a part of the millennial kingdom and once again we see that tremendous balance of God: justice and grace are given to all. Those who receive grace are exempted from judgement and those who refuse grace will receive judgement.

This passage goes a long way in teaching us why God does not offer purgatory. The people who witness these series of judgments against only the unbeliever and still claim their sinful pleasures instead of following God are a sign of how unrepentant some unbelievers can be.

This chapter closes with a list of five things that keep them from giving up their way of life and following the Lord Jesus Christ. **Revelation 9:20-21**

1. **Idolatry:** Human beings have a built-in desire for God. They will never be happy unless they have communion with God. Because of this, the devil, the master of deceit, has used idolatry to deceive people ever since the days of Nimrod, who built the idolatrous City of Babylon.
2. **Murders:** People who do not have the Lord, caught up in idolatry and competition, will see life as cheap and will kill at will to get the things that they want.
3. **Magic Arts:** These are sorceries and are a by-product of idolatry. The Greek word here is *'pharmakeia,'* and indicates that there will be widespread use of drugs for evil purposes, drunkenness and getting high through narcotics, primarily seeking hallucinations.
4. **Sexual Immorality:** Even when life is cheap, sexual promiscuity will still be a rampant disease of the human race. Our fascination as a civilization with lust is just a precursor of the fact that we can have a day of complete moral breakdown that will reach its culmination during the time of Tribulation.
5. **Thefts:** This will be a time of lawlessness upon the earth and people will get money or things by any means. In the quest for peace or contentment, people will turn further and further from God. They will choose this very life.

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## REVELATION CHAPTER TEN: Strong Angel with a Little Book

The first nine chapters of Revelation have brought us almost to the middle of the Tribulation. The prophecy stops for a moment and a parenthetical section is given to John. This section will focus on a description of the conditions that existed during the particular period of time covered by the preceding judgments'

### Revelation 10:1-4 - Angel from Heaven

A mighty angel appears coming down out of Heaven. Some say the angel is Jesus, but after the resurrection of Jesus He has always appeared as the son of Man, and this angel swears by the throne of God, something that Christ said He never had to do. The Book of Revelation shows us great insight into the role and work of angels. They are mentioned more than 65 times in Revelation and are always in a position of service. This angel has a little scroll in his hand, he stands on the land and the sea to show he has authority over all of the surfaces and he cries with a loud voice. This is the signal for the seven thunders, echoing Voices of God, like voices to respond.

They do speak, and John is about to write it down, when he is commanded to seal up what is said and to not write it down. This is the only time in Revelation that a message is sealed up. Since they were to be sealed and never shared, it is foolish to speculate what they were. In our desire to be ready for the end, we must not place more emphasis on speculation about the last days than in living for God while we wait.

### Revelation 10:5-7 - Delay No Longer

The angel lifts his hand toward heaven and swears by God and that clearly tells us this is not the Lord Jesus Christ. **Hebrews 5:13** tells us that God can only swear by Himself since nothing is greater. He declares that there will be no more time or the Greek work '*chronos*' often means 'no more delay.' Humanity has been living under the delay of God for centuries and this angel wants that delay to be over.

The mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets, verse 7. This is the usual meaning for mystery; God will reveal a truth that is only possible to know in His Word. This must mean salvation and it will last only 1,260 days longer. That is all of humanity's time left on this earth.

### Revelation 10:8-11 – John Takes and Eats the Little Scroll

These verses tell us that 'the mighty angel holds a little scroll in his hand' John is to take this scroll from the mighty angel in verse 8. This is a command from the Lord Himself and John responds and does what the Lord and the angel tell him to do.

What is this little scroll?

1. Some have said that it is the seven-sealed scroll that was in the hand of God and was taken by the nail-scarred hand of Christ. It was later given to the mighty angel, who in turn gave it to John. If this is true, the little scroll is the title deed to the earth, with the title description on one side and the seven seal judgments on the other. Since they have been revealed, it is no longer needed and so John is told to eat it.
2. Another suggestion is that the little scroll is the new revelation to John of events from this point on to Chapter 19. In either case it is the prophecy of God concerning future events. Since the

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mighty angel is pictured as standing with one foot in the sea and the other on the land, John must no longer be in heaven. He has apparently returned to the earth to take the little scroll. It is a scroll therefore that has to do with the events that are to happen on the earth.

After John asks the angel for the little scroll, he is told to take it and eat it and with that command, comes the warning that it will be sweet to the taste but bitter to the belly. Eating a scroll is a reference to the digestion of the Scripture into a life. **Jeremiah 15:15; Ezekiel 3:7-3** both show that the eating and the flavor are a part of learning and accepting the contents of the book. You cannot be a spokesman for God until you digest the Word of God. This is not learning about what someone else says about this Word, but the actual reading of the Word for yourself.

After eating the scroll, the angel instructs John to prophesy about the message to many peoples, nations, languages, and kings **Revelation 10:11**. John wrote the Book of Revelation and this command has been fulfilled for the Book of Revelation has been studied by peoples, nations, languages, and kings.

The picture of sweetness in the mouth and bitterness in the belly indicates the typical quality of God's Word, which is sharper than a two-edged sword. The sweetness comes to John in the predictions concerning our blessed Lord's return; the bitterness comes to John in being confronted by the fact that judgment is pronounced on the earth.

The Gospel is much like this. It is sweet to those who hear it and respond, thus receiving eternal salvation as the free gift of God. It is bitter to those who reject it, because the same gospel that guarantees salvation to those who receive it, guarantees judgment and damnation to those who do not.

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## REVELATION CHAPTER ELEVEN: Two Witnesses and the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet

The Revelation now turns exclusively to Israel and allows us to see how focused the book becomes on the battle over Israel. Israel will rebuild the Temple, but it will not be in belief of Jesus as Savior, but it will be the temple of disbelief thinking that the Messiah has yet not come. The great outpouring of revival from the 144,000 Jewish witnesses will not reach all of Israel and the nation will still be caught up in unbelief. God is so focused on the covenant with Israel that He will send two special witnesses during this time of the Tribulation and they will have a special mission to the Jews.

This Temple will be built in the future. It is the same one that God had Ezekiel measure for the End Times. It is a Temple that will be desecrated by the Antichrist and will contain all the items that people are now saving to put into the third Temple. The first Temple was built by Solomon after God gave him permission to build the Temple and it came to represent the Shekinah glory of God, but when the people would not hear the message of the prophets, the Temple and the City of Jerusalem were destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar. Seventy years later a decree was given for the rebuilding of the City and eventually the second Temple. This was the Temple of Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah. This temple was desecrated by Antiochus Epiphanes, much as the Antichrist will desecrate it at the end of the Tribulation. Herod the Great had his whole temple destroyed piecemeal and rebuilt adding great towers at the wall corners so the Romans, prohibited from entering the Temple, could observe all the happenings in the Temple, but it was still the second Temple. That Temple was known during the New Testament days as Herod's temple. Jesus clearly said in **Matthew 24:2** that it would be destroyed. That happened when the Romans destroyed the Temple and the City of Jerusalem in AD 70.

### Revelation 11:1-2 – Rebuilding the Temple

The Bible says that the Temple will be rebuilt at the end of time. **Matthew 24:15** The Bible also says that the Antichrist will desecrate the Temple at that time, **II Thessalonians 2:1-12**. With all the preparation, materials, money and people collected to rebuild it, it would only take a matter of months to rebuild it after the peace covenant with the Antichrist gives the Jews access to the Temple Mount. The rebuilt Temple will be a rejection of the teaching of Christ, **I Corinthians 6:19-20** and will show that even the great revival of the Tribulation will not reach all the Jews. The measurement of the Temple will be to show that it is inadequate in several ways, it does not measure up.

### Revelation 11:3-12 – The Two Witnesses

The two witnesses begin their work. They are given power to prophecy for 1,260 days and will wear the clothes of mourning. They will have power to use fire and to kill those that try to persecute them. They will also be able to shut the heavens from rain, **Revelation 11:6**; power to turn the water into blood, and have power over all the plagues.

Who are these witnesses?

1. Some say: Elijah and Enoch because they did not die but were translated.
2. Some say: Elijah and John the Baptist because of the role of being forerunners.
3. Some say: Elijah and Moses because of their role as the Law and the Prophets.

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Elijah is predicted to come in the end times: **Malachi 4:5-6** and he was the only Old Testament man of God who called down fire. John did not work with miracles; Enoch was a Gentile believer who had no connection with Abraham and his offspring. Those who feel Enoch needed to taste death, need to realize that all who are raptured from the earth will not taste death either. **I Thessalonians 4:13-18** Moses was the one transfigured with Elijah and the Lord in the New Testament; Moses was the one God used to bring plagues upon the Egyptians. Moses is the summation of the Jewish concept of the Law, and Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal in **I Kings 18**.

The work of the witnesses is outlined in the chapter. They will have great power and will combat the work and teaching of the Antichrist. They will preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They will be killed after their ministry is fulfilled. They will be killed by the Antichrist after he has faked his death and resurrection and he will be able to harm them only after their work is done. Their death will signal, a time of rejoicing around the world and people will act like it is Christmas. The bodies will remain in the streets and all the world will see that they are lying dead in the streets of Jerusalem.

After being dead for 3 ½ days, the breath of life will enter the two witnesses and they will be resurrected. They will not only rise from the dead, but a cloud will receive them into Heaven. The remainder of the world will see themselves as enemies of these two witnesses and they will not be moved by what they have seen.

## Revelation 11:13-15 - God Pronounces a Judgement on Jerusalem

The city of Jerusalem because of the lack of respect and treatment of these two witnesses will experience an earthquake that will destroy a tenth part of the city and will kill 7,000 people. This seems like it is the event that was needed to turn the hearts of the Jews around, for it says, "And the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of Heaven." It seems the survivors will turn in faith to embrace the message of the two witnesses so recently resurrected. All these events will come before the third woe is sounded. It is a time for heaven to announce that Jesus will soon control the earth and the kingdom of the world will be His.

## Revelation 11:15-19 - The Seventh Trumpet Judgment

The blowing of the seventh trumpet, the third woe does not initiate anything on the earth. Instead, it is much like the breaking of the seventh seal. It introduces the next series of judgments, the Seven Bowls. This occurs exclusively in heaven, and the scene we see from heaven will have five explanations (parenthetical events) that will explain all of the events that will take place during this entire period of the Tribulation time. The scene starts with the angelic chorus and they announce two things:

1. The kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord. John has seen that the Glorious Appearing of Jesus in **Revelation 19:11** which will end and eliminate the one-world kingdom of the Antichrist and this will start the Millennial Kingdom of the Lord.
2. And He will reign forever and ever. This is a strong term in Greek that means that once Christ comes to the earth, there will be no interruption of His government. Rebellion will break out at the end of the Millennium when "Satan will be released from his prison" Revelation 20:7, but our glorified Lord will squash it so quickly that it will not interfere with His kingdom.

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The 24 Elders fall on their faces before God and worship Him and announce His eternity. When they have finished their salute, the 24 elders proceed to make three predictions on the basis of the coming of Christ.

1. Nations will be angry. They will be angry and rebel against Him. Look closely at **Psalm 2** about this.
2. The dead will be judged. This will be the Old Testament saints and the Tribulation saints who have been slain. This does not refer to unbelievers, who will be judged a thousand years later at the end of the millennium, **Revelation 20:11-15**. The resurrection of the Old Testament saints and the Rapture of Tribulations saints will take place at the end of the Tribulation, at the glorious appearing of our Lord, and that is described in **Psalm 50:1-6**. Note this is a judgement (awards ceremony) that takes place in the air as God adds His believers of all times together.
3. Those who destroy the earth will be destroyed. This is clearly what will happen when the Antichrist and the False Prophet are thrown alive into the lake of fire.

The Temple of God in heaven was opened. **Revelation 11:19** Why this look at the Temple of God in Heaven? This is the story of the Rapture of Israel and the Tribulation saints, so the Church did not have a tabernacle, but Israel did, **Exodus 37**. It was a God designed tabernacle and Temple. God is assuring them that He is a covenant keeping God and because He is faithful, their redemption is guaranteed. The sounds of judgment take us out of heaven and back to earth.

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## REVELATION CHAPTER TWELVE: Satan vs. Israel, Time of the End

The first chapter of the parenthetical introduction by God. This is Satan versus Israel.

This chapter will begin the heavenly recap of the great conflict of the ages and bring us up to date with the judgments of God. The conflict between God and Satan began even before the Garden of Eden and Satan has used two principal forms to deceive human beings about God: 'religion' and 'government'. This Chapter will introduce the greatest wave of anti-Semitism the world has ever seen, and show that God is faithful. The nature of evil is expected, and Satan is seen in all his wickedness.

### Revelation 12:1-2 - Sun Clothed Woman Appears

The Sun-Clothed Woman appears. Although there has been much controversy over who she is, it is good for us to see that she is a sign and appeared in heaven. She will have this child and she is the nation of Israel that will bless the entire world through the birth of this male child. She has the moon under her feet and will reflect the message of God to all. God set apart the Jews as His people **Romans 9:4-5** and that nation gave birth to the Messiah.

### Revelation 12:3-5 - Red Dragon, Satan vs God

The second character of this chapter is the devil. Here he is a red dragon, red for the bloodshed that he has been responsible for, and a dragon that seven heads and ten horns with seven crowns on his head. This shows the influence that he has and will continue to have over the political systems of the day.

Verse 4 begins the historical tracing of Satan fighting against God and Jesus Christ. He fell from heaven and swept a third of the stars from the sky and flung them to earth. Satan at this point still had access to the throne of God to accuse believers, **Revelation 12:10** and **Job 1:6**. Satan stands over the woman to devour the child as it is born. Satan tried to exterminate Christ, Israel, God's line, and failing that has lined up with every anti-Christian and anti-semitic movement in an attempt to undermine the teaching of Jesus.

*In Verse 5*, the man-child is Jesus and here the Revelation shares several events from His life. He will rule with an iron scepter in the Millennium age and He was taken up to heaven after his death, burial and resurrection.

### Revelation 12:6-9 - Israel Flees, Battle Between Michael and Satan in Heaven

The woman will flee to a place that is prepared for her by God. **Daniel 11:40-45** speaks of this war of Gog and Magog, armies from the north and the south, against the children of Israel and how God will take her to this area of Edom, Moab, and Ammon or (Jordan) and protect her there.

The battle between Michael and Satan is a battle that is started by Satan as he attempts to wrestle control one more time from God. Michael seems to be a commanding general of the heavenly hosts. **Isaiah 14** and **Ezekiel 28** show us Satan in heaven, and even here Michael was superior to many of the angels. He had been in the confrontation with Satan in Jude 9 over the body of Moses. Michael was called the protector of Israel in Daniel 12:1 so we might safely assume that this war between Satan and Michael was fought over his attack on Israel. The end result of this heavenly war is that Satan is thrown to the last plane of life the earth and no longer resides in the heavens or the heavenly air round us. **Ephesians 2:2** tells us that he has

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been the ruler of that area, but now heaven cheers as he is eliminated from any influence in that area.

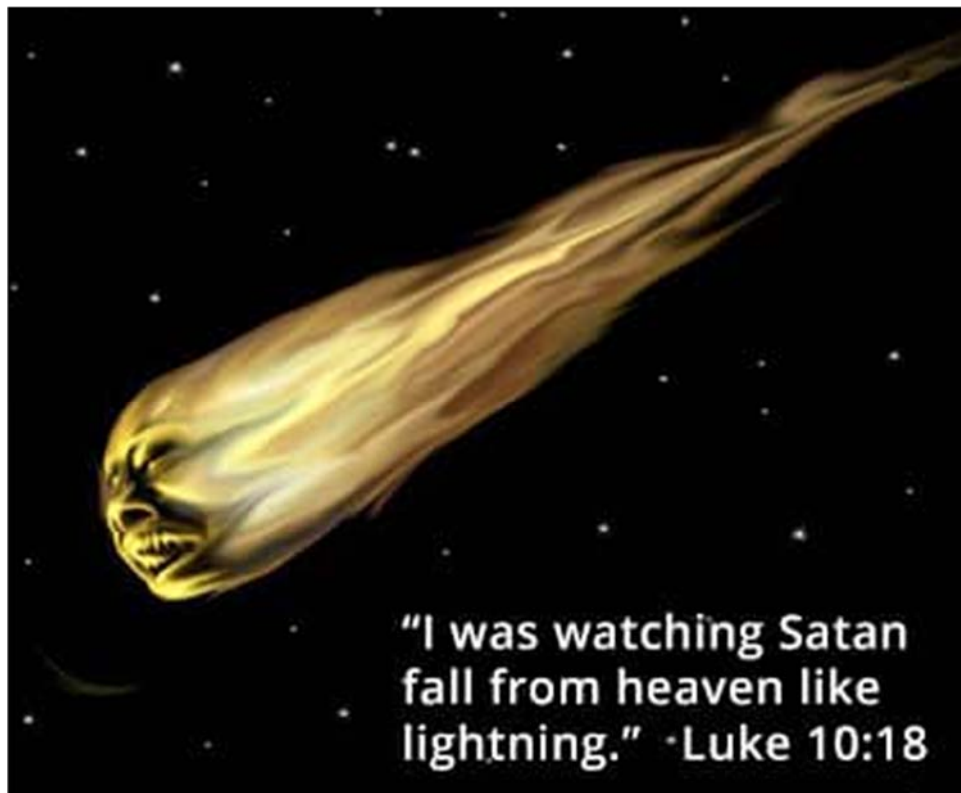
**Revelation 12:7-9**

## Revelation 12:10-13 – Victory, Satan Thrown to the Earth

This will be a great victory for the saints of all ages since this will limit Satan to just physical temptations on the earth and will eliminate the spiritual warfare that affects us all now. The saints have won this victory by three ways:

1. They have overcome him by the blood of the Lamb, (shed for believers).
2. They overcame him by the word of their testimony, (faithful in the fight against Satan).
3. They were more concerned with pleasing their Lord than with saving their lives.

This may cause rejoicing in heaven but it will not cause rejoicing on earth. Satan will launch a great battle against the nation of Israel and all of the new Tribulation Era converts. He will try to amass the greatest army possible to battle Israel and God.



*Figure 5 Satan Fall from Heaven*



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## Revelation 12:14-17 – Satan Declares War Against Israel

Satan will personally lead the command of the earth against his greatest enemy, Israel. But God will allow her to escape the trap of Gog and Magog by fleeing to the wilderness for 3 ½ years. Satan will actually try to destroy her but the earth will be opened by God and the armies that march against her will be swallowed up by this opening. God will use the very ground to stop them in their hellish madness. Satan will be enraged by this turn of events and he will now carry out his desire to eliminate all her offspring and all converted Christian believers. The Israelites will return to God in totality at this end time and God will save all that hold to the testimony of Jesus.

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## REVELATION CHAPTER THIRTEEN: Antichrist & the False Prophet

This next parenthetical view is to show how Satan and the Antichrist become close allies. The vision will also show how the False Prophet links up with Satan.

The Antichrist is a term that John uses only in his letters and it refers to all who oppose Christ. However, we know that one will arise that embodies all the anti-Christian attitudes, purpose and motives that Satan has implanted in him. We call him the 'Antichrist' because he is opposed to everything which Christ represents. In the Bible he is called: king, of Babylon *Isaiah 44:4*; lucifer *Isaiah 14:12*; the little horn, *Daniel 7:8,8:9*; a stern faced king, *Daniel 8:23*; the ruler who will come *Daniel 9:26*; the mighty king *Daniel 8:23*; the man of lawlessness or the man doomed for destruction *II Thessalonians 2:3-8*; the antichrist *I John 2:18*; and a beast coming out of the sea *Revelation 13:1*. He is most accurately described as the "man of lawlessness", but we will call him the 'Antichrist' to stay in tune with popular names.

### Revelation 13:1-10 - The Antichrist / Beast from the Sea

The description of the beast is not like any animal, so we must see him as one who has beast-like traits. He will have power and will arise to power from a more negotiated path. He will embody most all of the traits that Nebuchadnezzar saw in his vision, but he will be driven by empowerment from the devil. He will be the head of the restored Roman Empire, *Revelation 17:10*. He will be a mixed blood person, who arises out of the sea or a variety of people groups. He with the power of Satan will be able to stage a fake death and resurrection and this will cause the world to be followers of him. At this time, Satan will inhabit the Antichrist and they will be as one. They will worship this devil possessed man who is the Antichrist as well as the dragon, Satan, the power behind the Antichrist.

The beast will be a source of blasphemies and these will be uttered in proud words and blasphemies. This will heighten as the devil supplies his words and directions. He will be given power over people and they will worship what they can see. He will provide a visible god for them to follow and a majority of the people of the earth will choose to worship him. Some will not worship him and they will be martyred. They are the people who have had their names written in the Lamb's Book of Life. This is a place where you can have your name written only because you ask God to put it there by your life and words.

### Revelation 13:11-18 - The False Prophet/ Beast from the Earth

As soon as the Antichrist is described and the interaction with the devil is defined, the Bible shows a second beast who comes up out of the earth, probably an ethnically pure person who embraces many of the same traits as the beast of the sea. He has two horns but takes on the appearance of a lamb. He spoke like the dragon and so he will derive power of speech from the devil, who is the dragon. He will deceive human beings by acting like a lamb but he will really speak the words of Satan. He will have great supernatural power that he will use to force people to worship the Antichrist. This will include:

1. The setting up of "the image" that will be able to speak and breathe. He will be given power so that the image, (idol) will be able to be the source of death for all who do not worship it.
2. He will be able to establish power in his desire to have all worship the Antichrist by taking a mark, the mark of the beast and transferring that to people for the reason of trade and

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commerce. This will appear as though it is for the reason of trade, but it will be one more way to force people to worship the Antichrist.

What is the mark of the beast? It is a mark that has a man's number and it will tell the world that you are a follower of the Antichrist. It is always a reference to mankind, who was created on the sixth day and never measured up to the power of the Lord. This will be a physical mark that will be spiritually negative.

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*[Rev 13:16-17 KJV] 16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: 17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*

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Figure 6 Mark of the Beast

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## REVELATION CHAPTER FOURTEEN: 144,000 Missionaries & Five Angel Messages

The contrast between Chapters 13 and 14 is remarkable. It shifts the scene on earth dominated by two evil humans and the devil to heaven where Jesus Christ is honored and where He is the central figure of all voices of adoration. **Hebrews 2:22-24** tells us of thousands of angels that are able to assemble to worship Christ and now we see the 1,44,000 gathered not on earth, but martyred, and gathered now before Christ.

### Revelation 14:1-5 - 144,000 Sealed Jewish Missionaries

This is most likely the group of **Revelation 7** because they are of the same number and they have something written of their foreheads. The focus here is much more the fact that they are Christian and the Jewishness of **Revelation 7** is not the focus.

They have lived a great life on the earth and they have qualifications to follow the Lamb wherever He goes and to sing this song that no one else can learn. They are the first fruits of the Great tribulation revival.

The qualifications:

1. They were redeemed from the earth by faith in Christ. They were men who were first born again by receiving Jesus Christ as their personal Lord.
2. They were morally pure. This does not mean they were celibate all of their life, but it does mean that they have either kept the marriage bed pure or never known a woman.
3. They are obedient and available and the fact they follow the Lamb wherever He goes shows they are willing to be obedient.
4. They are very honest and always tell the truth. They resemble their Father God and not the father of lies, the devil.
5. They are blameless, these are men who in their desire to serve Jesus Christ and walk with Him, leaned on His power to live holy, consecrated lives.

They receive a special reward. They stand with the Lamb of God and they sing a song only they will know and can sing. The next event to unfold is the work of five angels.

### Revelation 14:6-20 – Five Angels Send Messages

**First Angel** - The first angel simply points out to us how faithful God is to redeem whoever will come. There are evidently no preachers left on earth at this time and the first angel goes to and through the entire earth to preach the Gospel to everyone. The fifth seal of persecution has left a terrible price on believers on this earth. This is the same adequate warning that God sent before the flood through His preacher Noah, and God sent before he destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. This message is the everlasting Gospel. This is the same Gospel that we preach, **Jude 3**, and it is the good news about Jesus spoken to everyone on the earth. This angel will be able to speak and use the language of everyone and we do not have any record that his preaching will be any more successful or unsuccessful.

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**Second Angel** - The **second angel** declares what will happen. This is a scene in heaven and the prophecy of the destruction of the false spiritual Babylon will be welcome news to all. The Babylon will be destroyed, spiritually and economically and the influence started with Nimrod will end. This is essential, for the last 3 ½ years of life on this 'ole earth' will be controlled by the army and the commercial controls set up by the Antichrist.

**Third Angel** - The third angel will pronounce doom on the worshippers of Antichrist during the Tribulation period. They evidently all had a mission to the earth: the first to preach, the second to tell of the fall of the enemies of God, and now the third to warn people not to follow and worship the Antichrist. The people who turn and take the mark of the beast will be ones who turn their backs upon God's method of salvation and take to themselves human methods. This will incur the judgment and destruction from Almighty God. They will suffer for eternity. This is certainly 'eternal punishment' for those who refuse to believe.

But the angel reminds people that the present-day sufferings are inconsequential in view of the eternal blessing prepared for those who love the Lord. It is so true what Jesus said, *"If you love me, you will obey what I command"* **John 14:15**. They will be blessed, and if they have died for their faith, then their deeds will follow them. **Matthew 6:20**. The Tribulation saints will be given special blessings for their faithfulness to Christ during that awful time of Tribulation. God's people can produce fruit that even survive death. In their faithfulness to God and to witness faithfully, they do produce what lives on.

**Fourth and Fifth Angels** - The fourth and fifth angels introduce the events following our Lord's return to destroy Antichrist and all his followers. This is one of the most thoroughly detailed outlines of what will happen in that last battle. It is a picture of Christ but it also shows a Godly principle. He will come at the right time. He will come when the harvest of the earth is ready. What does that mean? The harvest will all be alike and the harvester will be able to take the grapes that needed to be pressed and destroyed. Remember in the parable of the tares and the wheat, it would be harvest time before they were separated. This tragic picture of the culmination of all things is another indication of the depravity of the human heart. With such supernatural warnings, one would think that the ungodly would fall down and worship Jesus Christ, but nothing could be further from the truth. This is another reminder to us that when people reject the Lord, their problem is one of their will. The wine press is frequently used as a symbol of God's wrath and judgment: **Isaiah 53:3-6, Lamentations 1:15, Joel 3:12-13**.

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## REVELATION CHAPTER FIFTEEN: Vision of Seven Angels with Seven Trumpets

This is the shortest chapter of Revelation and it reveals three things that are about to happen.

1. Concludes the visions that John had at this interlude in the Bowl judgments.
2. Serves as an introduction to the Great Tribulation where the seven angels of God will pour out the bowls of God's wrath.
3. Reveals important truths concerning the wrath of God.

### Revelation 15:1-5 - Marvelous Sign from Heaven

John sees another marvelous sign and this would go with the two signs of Chapter 12. Those signs had been the woman representing Israel and the red wrath. This will be stored wrath of God that will be given because the wrath has been filled up. The remarkable thing about a sign in the Bible is it is describing an event that will really happen. Revelation is not full of signs and symbols; Revelation is the sign that God will come in Christ and put the world back together again. The word 'sign' is literally, "a symbol of revelation". God obliterated evil and it will be gone. The victors on the sea of glass, the floor before the throne, and the fire mixed in will refer to the judgments that will follow this sign. On this glass and fire floor are the people who have been victorious over the beast, his image and the number of his name. They were martyred by the beast and therefore have triumphed over him in destiny and in escaping the torment that would have come to him. They could certainly be the ones spoken of in **Revelation 20:4**, and the fruit of great revival in the second half of the tribulation. They were given harps for singing of God's praise and victory.

The song they sing with their harps is the song of Moses, the servant of God and the song of the Lamb, both deliverance songs. They sing a song of victory over their enemy. This recalls the leaving of the Israelites from Egypt and the reversal of Pharaoh's decision and his attack on the Israelites. The closing of the Red Sea on all of Pharaoh and his men that suddenly turned their terror into victory and lifted their hearts in gratitude to God. This is the very state of these Oh before the throne of God. They realize that they are out of the clutches of Satan and the antichrist. Their hearts are full of joy and they sing a song of eternal redemption by the blood of the Lamb. They will combine the song of **Exodus 151-3; 17-18** and the song to the Lamb of **Revelation 15:3-4** to summarize all that Jesus is. He is: creation, justice, object of worship, holiness, omnipotent and eternal. The Tabernacle of the Temple of God was opened, (tent of meeting), this is the Holy of Holies. The temple is referred to 15 times in the Revelation. Its prominence cannot be ignored. Each reference is either to the temple in Heaven or to the absence of the temple in the New Jerusalem. In this instance the reference is specifically to the tabernacle, and the Holy of Holies in which the ark of the testimony was kept. In the ark were the tablets of stone. Both the tabernacle and tablets of stone were duplicates of the originals in Heaven. God has always kept His covenant with Israel and with any to whom He has entered into a covenant relationship, including the members of the Church of Christ.

### Revelation 15:6-8 - Seven Angels Receive Bowl Judgements from God

This is the third time we have encountered a group of seven angels at once. The seven Churches each had an angel, seven angels were given the seven trumpets to blow and here seven angels receive the bowls of judgment from God for the end of the sinful earth. They come out of the temple and have been in a worship service with God. They have come from the heavenly Holy of holies dressed in priestly garments

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and are given a bowl by one of the living creatures. Smoke comes from the temple after the departure and the mercy of God will not be the primary act of God until the Tribulation is over. God will bring great judgment but it will be because of what the evil have sown. The angels will carry out the final wrath of God **Revelation 15:1**. This tremendous period of Tribulation seems to have several purposes.

1. Produce one or two more great revivals and many believers.
2. Destroy wickedness and corruption
3. Finally, be able to save the remnant of Israel
4. Put the earth back in order and reclaim it.

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## REVELATION CHAPTER SIXTEEN: The Seven Bowl Judgements

The angels immediately begin their work because they are commanded to begin the process. These judgments will be final and complete and each one will directly confront all evil left on the earth.

### Revelation 16:2 – First Bowl Judgement – Boil Sores

The first angel went and poured out his Bowl on the land and the boil sores of the 10 plagues form on all of the people who had taken the mark of the beast. This is the time when Antichrist is worshiped and the only ones who receive this plague, bowl judgment are for the ones who worship the beast.

### Revelation 16:3 – Second Bowl Judgement – Sea Turns to Blood, Sea Creatures Die

The second angel poured out a Bowl on the sea and everything in it died. This takes the third of the seas destroyed in trumpet judgment and now multiplies it all the seas. It will destroy industry, hinder shipping, cause a tremendous number of decaying bodies on the top of the sea, and send people into confusion about finding enough food.

### Revelation 16:4-7 – Third Bowl Judgement - Rivers & Springs Turn to Blood

The third angel is a sequel to the second, but this Bowl will destroy the water source for the people. This will cause great riots as the people will neither need to have God miraculously give them water or find a way to salvage this water. It carries an interesting description of how right God is, the point that those having to drink blood have only wanted the blood of the believers before this. The altar will offer the AMEN-yes, the judgments of God are just, perfectly just.

### Revelation 16:8-9 – Fourth Bowl Judgement – Sun Scorches Men with Fire

The fourth angel will have a judgment of scorching heat from the sun. He will pour his bowl directly on the sun and the solar flares will turn the sun from a relatively safe place for heat and light into a furnace of heart attacks, heatstroke's, and other afflictions. It will not be a time where the people who receive this bowl judgment repent, but they will become even more bitter towards God and curse Him. **Malachi 4:1-2** tells us how this plague will affect the two different groups on the earth at this time.

### Revelation 16:10-11 – Fifth Bowl Judgement – Darkness Falls on the Earth

The fifth angel will pour out his Bowl on the throne of the beast; darkness will emanate from his throne and his capital city darkness will come and encompass the remainder of the earth. The Bowls repeat 4 out of the 10 plagues of Egypt are repeated, just as this plague of darkness was in Egypt. It seems like it would be relief after this time of heat, but it will not. It will prevail for a long time on the earth, **Amos 5:18** and **Zephaniah 1:15**. The people will be so intensely upset by this plague that they will come to a point where they gnaw their own tongues and again curse God.

### Revelation 16:12-16 – Sixth Bowl Judgement – River Euphrates Dries Up

The 6<sup>th</sup> angel produces a Bowl that will cause all unbelievers of the world to congregate into one area. It dries up the Euphrates River and allows the kings of the East to come in judgment; first against the Antichrist and then the Lord Jesus himself. The kings of the east are a mighty force, **Revelation 9:16** tells us they have 200-million-armed people in their army. Then the second part of this bowl judgment is



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released. The Devil, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet all release demons or deceiving spirits and they will use a combination of trickery, magic and deceit to entice the armies of the world to join them and fight the final conflict against God. This will be in the very last days of the Tribulation. The group of armies will end up in the Megiddo Valley or Armageddon. It is a place where the armies of the world have fought: Nebuchadnezzar from Babylon, Napoleon, Christian crusaders, anti-Christian Frenchmen, Egyptians, Persians, Druse, Turks, Arabs, Saladin, and a great WW1 battle. They will gather to defend their false religious hopes.

In the middle of this great conflict, Jesus calls out to His faithful still on the earth to remain faithful in God and stay alert, awake, and ready.

## Revelation 16:17-21 – Seventh Bowl Judgement – Great Earthquake Alters Earth

The seventh angel pours out his bowl into the air and the earth will be altered. This is very severe topography changes. When the voice of the throne calls out, "It is done!", then the great earthquake will come and divide the great city. It probably means the earthquake will change the Jerusalem into three parts and that will be followed by the Gentile cities of the world being destroyed. Then every island of the world will vanish, reattach to the land mass from which they came and every mountain will be made small. It will start the renovation of the entire earth and the elements will be laid bare for the cleansing of the fire, *II Peter 3:10*. This will be accompanied with hail *Job 38:22,23* or meteorites. The destruction of the capital city of the Antichrist will be spelled out in Chapter 18. This chapter still ends in people rebelling against God.

Seven Bowl Judgements		
	1st Bowl	Loathsome Sores Rev 16:2
	2nd Bowl	Sea Turns to Blood Rev 16:3
	3rd Bowl	Rivers & Springs Turn to Blood Rev 16:4-7
	4th Bowl	Sun Scorches Men with Fire Rev 16:8-10
	5th Bowl	Darkness Falls on the Earth Rev 16:10-11
	6th Bowl	River Euphrates Dries Up Rev 16:12-16
	7th Bowl	Great Earthquake Alters Earth Rev 16:17-21

Figure 7 Seven Bowl Judgements

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## REVELATION CHAPTER SEVENTEEN: Destruction of Spiritual Babylon, False Religion

### Revelation 17:1-6 – Two Great Powers, One Religion and One Government

One by one the enemies of God will be destroyed and the first stone that is destroyed is the False Religion, the prostituted spiritual Babylon. Babylon is chosen as the name because ancient Babylon was the home base of Satan. It was the city that started false religion, before there was a town, there was a temple and worship. It was the area that first attempted self-government-separate from God, and the source of all the 'mystery' religions that permeated the world. The book of Revelation tells us that Satan moved to Pergamum where even history records that the mystery religion of Marduk moved. The mystery religions moved on their own to Rome and in time gave the emperors their power and authority.

The first eight verses show two great forces, one religion and one government. It shows that sometime during the Tribulation, the global ecumenical religious system was powerful enough to have controlling interest in the Antichrist's government. The woman, a symbol of this Church, was sitting on the beast. She had more power and more influence at this time than the Antichrist. The Antichrist or beast is here described in five details that show us who he is:

1. He was covered with blasphemous names. vs. 17:2
2. He had 7 heads. vs 17:3
3. He had 10 horns. Vs 17:3
4. He allowed the prostitute Church to ride on him or have some level of ruling authority over him vs 17:7
5. He met the requirement of being, being gone and reappearing. vs 17:8, the staged death and resurrection of the Antichrist.

### Revelation 17:9-14 - Judgement of the Great Harlot

The woman is described as sitting on the beast of the seven heads or seven hills. This could be the description of the kings (heads and kings are synonymous) earlier, but the seven hills have historically represented Rome in all settings, and most of the world would recognize the seven hills to be Rome. She will be described again in verse 15.

The Beast of Antichrist is described. The beast is described as one who once was and now is not. The Anti-Christ served as the 7th head or the last ruler of the Roman Empire and - the eighth head will be his arrival back from this staged death, burial, and resurrection. This will occur at the middle of Tribulation and will mirror the same time that spiritual Babylon is destroyed and the False Prophet becomes the henchman and miracle-worker leader for the Antichrist. The ten horns are the 10 kings that were in the dream of Nebuchadnezzar, and they will make up the confederacy of nations that support the Antichrist. **Revelation 17:13** tells us that they will give their power and authority to the beast. The last 3-1/2 years of the Tribulation they will promise complete allegiance and cooperation to the beast. Even here the beast and his downfall is a part of prophecy.

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The blasphemous names were interpreted in Chapter 13, where he had a blasphemous name on each head. The one-world organization from Nimrod on have always left out recognition to God Jehovah and especially His Son, Jesus Christ.

The prostitute is further explained and the reason for her destruction **Revelation 17:15-19**. The prostitute is sitting on waters, or as he explains to John, she is sitting on the people of the world. She is a world-wide system that has dominance over all peoples; this is why she is sitting on them. She is a great city. But she is not limited to being just a city. She has had all kings, many roots but will have only one city. Just as the "Bride" of Christ represents an uncounded number, so the city is a representation of the millions of adherents that the prostitute has that belong to her. She will circle the globe during the first 3-1/2 years of the Tribulation, and all will follow her. We need to see a similar pattern from Hindus, Buddhists, Confucianism, Taoists, Muslims, and primitive religionists that do not teach the moral standards of God, but have practices that are based on a form of behavior that produces guilt, and people then are to make personal sacrifices or self-abasement to atone for their sins.

This is true in form for the Roman Church as well. She will be able to dominate politics for this short period of history. Although she is a prop for the Antichrist, he has not consolidated power enough at this time to rule without her.

## Revelation 17:15-18 - Destruction of the Prostitute Religion

When will the prostitute religion be destroyed? The destruction of the prostitute religion by the 10 kings will occur in the middle of Tribulation, when the Antichrist stages his death, burial, and resurrection, and the False Prophet rises out of the ashes of this false church and aligns himself with the Antichrist and persuades the world to worship the beast. The reason the destruction of the city is included now is that at the last great earthquake, the cities of the world will be destroyed. The destruction of the religious realm will not only be the destruction of her houses of worship, the robbing of her wealth, and the elimination of her power, but will clear the way for the worship of the beast, but it will not be universal. Those who have received the Lamb of God will oppose Him, even at the cost of martyrdom.

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## REVELATION CHAPTER EIGHTEEN: Fall of Economic Babylon

### Revelation 18:1-3 - Angel Comes with Power and Authority to Destroy Babylon

Another angel comes with great power and authority. He is so authoritative that he lights up the earth with his glory. He describes the destruction of the city of Commercial Babylon. It seems that his city is the rebuilt city of Babylon on the Euphrates. **Isaiah 13:6-9, 14** and **Jeremiah 50, 51** describe the destruction of Babylon as being at the time of the "Day of the Lord". This seems to be a clear reference to the end of the Tribulation period. The ruins of Babylon have been used to build other cities, contrary to **Jeremiah 51:26** which says no rock, stone, or item will be taken from you. Six cities have taken supplies from the ruins of Babylon including the city of Baghdad. The prophecies indicate that Babylon will fall at once and will be overthrown and destroyed like Sodom and Gomorrah. This Babylon was never to be inhabited again but Babylon was a city until the late 1400's and has been slated to be rebuilt. It is being resurrected not only in the obvious signs of rebuilding but the government of Iraq has encouraged their people to move into the surrounding village of Hillah, population 250,000 which makes it difficult to know if part of that town was actually in old Babylon or just beside it. Did you know that the first building that Saddam built in Babylon was a temple to the sun?

### Revelation 18:4-5 - God's People Called Out of Babylon Before Destruction

God mercifully calls for His people to come out of Her before she is destroyed. This could be new converts at the very end of time and also could be the Jewish followers who were not in Israel and did not join forces to be protected by God when Israel was attacked. They would have followed the financial practices of the world and gone where the money was.

### Revelation 18:6-8 – Destruction of Babylon will be Strong and Severe

These verses explain why the destruction of Babylon is to be so strong and so severe. She has destroyed believers and good governments for years and extracted a price that has been lethal, and now that will happen to her. In one day, the destruction of the city will be complete. It will have death, mourning and famine and will end with the city being consumed by fire. It will leave the city as Sodom and Gomorrah, unknown and unrecognizable.

### Revelation 18:9-18 – Lament that Her Great Wealth is Gone

The world will witness this destruction and the lament of the world will be for the fact that the great importer of the world is destroyed. It is a lament that the one who furnished the capital and ran the money system for the world will have been reduced to ashes and destroyed. It will be a lament that the great wealth that she possessed is now gone.

### Revelation 18:19-24 - The World Knows God has Revenged His People

Even the people of the world will know that God has revenged his people from the excesses of this wicked government. The mighty angel of the Lord will take a millstone to demonstrate what has happened. The world has seen what it thought was the greatest of everything destroyed and realizes that the foundation of the world is weak and only a life built on the stone of Jesus Christ will survive. She has been revenged and destroyed because she split the blood of the world.

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## REVELATION CHAPTER NINETEEN: Praise, Marriage of the Lamb and the Coming Christ

### Revelation 19:1-6 - 24 Elders and Four Living Creature Praise God

The great Palm Sunday celebration breaks out in heaven. It is the song about Jesus that shows he is the author and completer of salvation glory and power. He has defeated Babylon and from her will never come anything again. She will not send her false religions into the world nor her false one-world economy. Praise is at the heart of true worship.

The 24 elders and the four living creatures express themselves for the fifth time and each time has been to praise to the Lord. They speak of what is and what is to come, the Lord God Almighty Reigns. Finally, the great choir of heaven sings once again praising God because the wedding of the Lamb has come **Matthew 25:1-3**

### Revelation 19:7-10 - Wedding of the Lamb

The chapter then contrasts the two great meals of Revelation 19. The first is the marriage of the Lamb. We know the Bridegroom is Jesus. **Matthew 22:1-4, John 3:29 and John 1:29**. The bride will be the believers of the Lord. We frequently call this the Church but it will include all the saints of the Old Testament and the believers of Tribulation period. The marriage will take in heaven, and the bride will come to earth with the Lord, still in her wedding garments. She will be dressed in white linen in contrast with the gaudy clothing of the great prostitute. **Revelation 17:4 and 18:16**. The angel will not accept the worship of John-because only God is worthy of worship of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Revelation 19:11-16 - The Glorious Appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ

The entrance of heaven will stand wide open and Jesus will descend with the cloud of white. He will have three names that represent His entire ministry and have descriptions of His rights to be the judge, but these are not full descriptions of all He is. He will be the only one armed in this vast army and He will come to judge and set up His Kingdom. He will carry the name of King of Kings and Lord of Lords on His chest and on His thigh to represent the authority and power by which He comes.

### Revelation 19:17-21 – Armageddon, Supper of the Great God



Figure 8 Armageddon

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The battle of Armageddon will truly be the supper of the Great God. The contrasting meal of the Lamb's Wedding Banquet will be the meal served to the vultures of the earth. Christ will immediately defeat the forces against Him. The Beast, (Antichrist) and the False Prophet will be seized and they will be thrown alive in the Lake of Fire to be the first occupants of this terrible eternal doom. The rest will become the feast that Jesus talked about in ***Revelation 14:14-20***. They are delusional in their own pride to fight against God.

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## REVELATION CHAPTER TWENTY: Millennial Kingdom, Elimination of Evil

### Revelation 20:1-3 – Satan, Bound and Thrown into the Abyss for 1000 Years

Although this has been called the Millennial Chapter of the Bible it is primarily about the elimination of evil from life. The evils in this old world are caused by the devil. One-third of the angels and a majority of the adult population of the earth have followed him in his rebellion against God. This chapter will seal his doom. His primary name in the Bible is Satan which means enemy or adversary and that is what he is. He is one who constantly sows discord among the people of the world. His origin is spelled out the best in the book of **Ezekiel 28:1-19** where the first of the chapter speaks about Satan and his control over the King of Tyre; but from **Ezekiel 29:12-19** the subject is Lucifer-Satan. His doom is predicted and the fall will be so severe that those who knew him before will be amazed at the terrible position he now occupies.

The passage begins with the apprehension of Satan by an unspecified angel who holds a key and a chain by which to bind Satan. His being bound and locked away will keep Satan from, doing what he does best, deceiving the nations anymore during these 1,000 years. His doom is certain but he has one more task to do. He must offer an alternative to those born during the Millennium so that all will enter into heaven "saved by grace with believing faith."

### Revelation 20:4-6 – Believers Resurrection

The subject of life after death is strong throughout all of Scripture and here it is described as the 'Believers Resurrection'. It is a bodily resurrection and it combines all the elements of believers from all of eternity. There have been three phases to the resurrection of believers: the Church was raptured; the Old Testament saints came at the end of Tribulation period and the Tribulation saints will come when the last saint is martyred. John merges them together and says that they will be holy and blessed who are a part of this first resurrection. It seems clear that the Old Testament saints will be resurrected right at the marriage feast of the Lamb because when we compare **Revelation 19:7-9** and **Psalms 50:1-6** we see believing Israel present as friends of the Bridegroom. Their resurrection, **Daniel 12:1-2** will occur in two phases also, verse 5.

The Tribulation saints will come to the Lord at the time of His Glorious Coming, and will join the New Testament and Old Testament saints in ruling during the Millennium Kingdom. But those of the Tribulation that did not accept Jesus will remain in their graves for the entire 1,000 years until they are resurrected for the Great White Throne Judgment. Those who take part in the first resurrection will be blessed and happy. They will be resurrected holy and will be exempt from the second death. The lack of any fear of death will only make their 1,000 years happier. They will reign with Christ and God will serve as priests for God. We need to realize that Israel under God was a theocracy and so everyone who was in a position of authority or power was put there because of their standing with the Temple or with God. This will be spiritual, governmental, teaching, helping, and all areas of control and ministry. This resurrection will be an award for those who knew, loved and served the Lord.

The Millennial Kingdom has several Old Testament scriptures of prophecy. They include: **Daniel 2:31-35; 2:44-45; Psalm 2:5-12; Zechariah 14:16-21; Isaiah 65:17- 25**. A source of details about this time period shows us that it will not be like any other time on earth. **II Peter 3:1-15** predicts that this last time will be a time when the Day of the Lord will destroy the earth, the surface of the earth will be burned up (laid bare)



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and on that, God will establish His Kingdom of righteousness, which will be the area for this 1,000-year kingdom.

## Revelation 20:7-10 – Satan Released at the End of the Millennium

Satan is involved in his final conflict and with it his eternal destruction. Satan has been bound during the 1,000-year reign and the only way a person can be tempted in this time will be to rebel against God, much like the angels. It will be a time of fruitful multiplying and God will bless this time. It will be a time when most of the world will be Christian by choice, but the Satan will be loosed one last time to make sure that people have truly chosen God and declared Jesus to be their Lord and Savior. Satan will have one last time to allow this group of people, just as he has every generation, to decide if they want to serve God or self (him). This deception will find many who follow him, but since it is just a test of salvation, as they march towards Jerusalem. Fire from heaven will come and purge this last blotch of evil off of the earth.

When he is thrown into the lake of fire, the antichrist and the false prophet are still there; there is no annihilation or purifying (purgatory). Those who are put into the lake of fire will be there for eternity.

## Revelation 20:11-15 – Unbelievers Judged by God

Here ultimate encounter with God is detailed for us. This will be the time those in **Revelation 20:5** are brought before the Lord to be judged, tried, and convicted. They are not believers, but unbelievers, who have never confessed and followed Christ on earth. They will be those who were important and unimportant. The Book of Life will be opened, but since their name is not in it, they will be judged by the "other books". These are the books of the law, **Galatians 3:10-11** where it says that those who try to live by the Book of the Law will not be saved.

The sea will also give up their dead, as will death and Hades and each will be judged by what they did, The Book of the Law. The believer has been judged by the Book of Life and the Lamb's Book of Life and their name has been added by grace not by obedience to the law. It is as though a recording angel has a video camera and mind reading device that has recorded everything that a person has done and it will be shown, played and described for each unbeliever on this day. The Christians had their films and books thrown away when God "forgave their sins and remembered them no more." The Book of Life is a book that can have names blotted out but never added. It is a book that reflects the uncertainty of life, but the Lamb's Book of Life is the one maintained by Jesus, and it will be one where your name is never blotted out, **Revelation 3:5** and where you gain immediate entrance into eternal joy, **Revelation 21:27**.

Why would you have your name blotted out of the Book of Life? The Bible gives us three reasons:

1. Sinning against God;
2. Not being clothed in the righteousness of Christ by salvation
3. For taking away the words of the book of this prophecy. **Revelation 22:9**

It seems as if God will do a double check, not only will the "Book of Your Deeds" be read about each unbeliever, they will also be checked if they are in the Book of Life. There are several new occupants of the Lake of Fire: the devil and all of his imps and demons, death, Hades, and the unbelieving dead.



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## REVELATION CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE: New Heaven and New Earth

### Revelation 21:1-5 - Introduces New Earth and New Heaven

God introduces the third earth: the first was destroyed by the flood **Genesis 5-8**, the second by purifying fire **Isaiah 65:17-20** and **II Peter 3:4-14**, and this New Heaven and New Earth of **Revelation 21:1**.

Why would you need to purify and change the earth after the Millennial rule?

1. First, sin was still present
2. Second, the devil had some say and influence
3. Third the destruction of God fell upon this second earth

Why would God need a New Heaven?

The heaven of the second earth still held remnants of the evil influence by Satan as well as the pollution of the earth and of mankind. It will be clean, pure, and free of any evil residue. This new earth will be greatly changed, no sea no mountains, and no deserts. It will be totally inhabitable and could certainly be much larger than the present 25,000 miles of circumference and 8,000 miles of diameter in the present earth. The Bible does not say how much larger but stresses it will be the great holder of the city of God and will be the place of eternal worship and joy.



*Figure 9 New Heaven & New Earth*

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The New Earth will include five other new things:

1. A New Jerusalem, which is the place that Christ said He would prepare for His bride. vs. 3
2. A new place for God's throne and we can safely say that wherever the throne of God is that is heaven. vs.5
3. A new Paradise and will replace every other place of reward or enjoyment. vs. 4
4. All new things, and not anything will be old. It will be new in form, design, and any way that God wants it to last for eternity. It will not die, diminish, or dissolve. vs. 5
5. A new source of light. vs. 23

## Revelation 21:6-9 - Eternal Life with Christ or Separated Forever

God once again spells out for everyone who reads this book that they have a choice to accept Him and have all rewards, or reject Him and forever be outside the new earth and new city. We need to remember that there are only two kinds of people. People who receive God and live forever or people who do not receive God and are separated from God forever, the second death.

## Revelation 21:10-27 - Vision of New Jerusalem

Jesus then shares with John and the readers all the items that will be a part of the great place of reward for the groom and the bride. He takes John to a high mountain, somewhere in heaven to show him a vision of this great city, New Jerusalem. Because John is looking at a city that is unlike anything he has ever seen, he will use the terms that he knows to convey the facts of the city to us. When we try to comprehend the glories, God has prepared in the holy city for those who love him, we must, like John only use terms and descriptions with which we are familiar to describe the things that are beyond our finite frame of reference.

The vision that John receives starts with a view of the wife of the lamb coming down in her new city, the place prepared by Jesus Christ. Remember Jesus spoke our world into existence, and what it will be when it is ready for millennia is beyond us. The city will be occupied with resurrected eternal-body people and will shine with the glory of God.

The city had a great, high wall-astounding for those who would think heaven will not need protection. It is not protection, but will stand as a visual reminder that you are in that city because of God. It will have everything anyone ever imagined that a great city should have, except jails, courthouses, hospitals, police stations, etc. It will have twelve gates and they will stand open at all times, and each will have its own angel. It will honor those who served the Lord in the Old Testament: 12 tribes-representing the bringing of the Gospel from Abraham to Jesus; those who served the Lord on earth; 12 apostles, whose names will be the very foundations of this great city.

The city will be 1,500 miles on each of four sides, a great four-square city of the Lord.

It is at this point that John uses the greatest terms of the earth to describe the most fundamental things in this city. He describes the wall, the city, the foundations, the gates, and the streets and exhausted his

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supply of precious stones and precious metals. The infrastructure of this city will be made of the finest things upon earth, but will merely be streets, roads, walls, buildings, and gates in this beautiful city.

The city does not have a temple because no one needs to seek access to God, He is present. It will be that city that Abraham sought, **Hebrews 11:9-10** and will be inhabited by all who believed in God. God (Christ) will be the light of the city and so the heavenly bodies will not be needed for light, heat regulation, or any other task. It will be perpetually lite because Jesus will always be present. Everyone will have access to the Holy City because the gates will never be shut. This will be broad enough to cover all who have ever been saved but will not include those who rejected God in life. They shall again, we are reminded, be kept in the lake of fire for eternity.



Figure 10 New Jerusalem

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## REVELATION CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO: New Attributes of Heaven and Final Messages

### Revelation 22:1-5 - New Things in the Heavenly City

Shows what some of those new things in this great Heavenly City will be. John records six challenging items that will be present that we have never seen before and that will make this city heaven.

1. The river of life-which will flow out of the Lord God Himself. It will be the source of spiritual life and newness for all of eternity. God will be the source of this life-giving spiritual and physical entity.
2. The tree(s) of life will be on either side of this great river and Genesis 3:22-24 assures us that they allow eternal life. They will have seasonal fruit and the leaves of this tree may be for emotional healing as well because they will allow everyone to live in peace and harmony forever.
3. The curse will be removed-the curse that God placed upon this earth because of sin will be unknown in its totality to us until we see that it is gone. It will be a time when our potential will be totally reached and it is so pure that God can and will put His throne in it.
4. The seal of God will be on everyone and only the blood bought children of God will be present and we will be granted something that no one of earth ever had-to be able to see the face of God.
5. There will be no more night-the flip-side of always light is no more night. So all things that affect us in the 'night of our lives' will be gone out of this beautiful city.
6. The believers will reign forever and ever. We need to see that God has gifted each one of us and that will bear great fruit in this eternal city. We will work where we have gifts, and bless one another. It will have an eternal reign quality to it.

### Revelation 22:6-9 - Blessed is He Who Heeds the Words of Revelation

John once more writes a great passage of evangelism to those who would listen. Jesus reminds them that His coming will be soon. We speak of that in the shortness of our lives and the quickness of its passing, but I want to mention one other quickness. Many of us have been convicted of our need for Christ but I am sure that it was not always a lingering thought. It was not something that most of us wrestled with for years, but instead it was something that came upon us and we needed to respond to it. So, it is with the message of Jesus for all people, remember He comes quickly. After hearing “Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book.” **Revelation 22:7** John, at the mere thought of this message, starts to worship the messenger again but He reminds John that only God is worth of worship.

### Revelation 22:10-17 – Jesus is Coming, the Alpha and Omega

Unlike Daniel, **Daniel 12:4** who was told to seal his message, John is told to open his prophecy and reminds all of us that the Rapture will be a gift from God, so we are to continue in our faithfulness and God will take us out of this life before the tribulation starts. Jesus again summarizes the message of the Book and says that those who follow him can come and go through the gates of this city at will, but those who did not follow him will be cast outside (the lake of fire) and will never have access to this city or the Lord again. The summary of Jesus includes the names that will bring us to salvation and the spirit and church (bride) remind us the same thing that Jesus taught to Nicodemus and the woman at the well in Samaria, whoever comes may take of the water of life forever.



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## Revelation 22:18-19 – Warning to Those Who Take Away from the Words of This Book

This is one of most awesome challenges in the Word of God against tampering with Holy Scripture. People today glibly ridicule, detract from, and cast disparaging remarks on Holy Scripture. God's judgment will come upon them swiftly in God's good time. Tampering with Scripture and proving if it is valid or not instead of accepting it, is a very dangerous thing. The punishment will be non-admittance to the tree of life or the holy city.

## Revelation 22:20-21 – Jesus is Coming Soon

The final two verses of the book remind us that Jesus is coming soon and our response should be---come Lord Jesus---yes come. Come now. AMEN! Revelation closes human history as Genesis opened it in Paradise. But in Revelation, evil is gone forever and everything good is eternal.



Figure 11 Jesus is Coming