

REVELATION CHAPTER ONE

Many people neglect this book because it has strange language and signs and pictures. Some parts are difficult to understand. Other people spend a lot of time studying it like a puzzle. Revelation is about Jesus. It is about his power and his strength. This Jesus is not the babe in the manger nor the mild teacher offering Himself to the nation of Israel. This book is the Revelation of Jesus Christ the Lion of the tribe of Judah.

In each of the 7 letters, Jesus says, 'He who has an ear to hear so He expects us to hear what he says. We need to understand that the church belongs to him. He can say what he likes. He can do what he wants with his church. The book of Revelation brings a message to each one of us along with a promise of blessing to those who read, and hear, it. This is the only book which promises a blessing to those who read it.

Most Christians know that the book of Revelation has three sections, past, present and future. Most do not realize that it also has four divisions which correspond to the four gospel accounts of His first coming. In other words, there are four divisions recording His Second Advent.

John records the first account through the unveiling of the seals, in Revelation chapter six.

Revelation eight and nine give us the second account through the six trumpets with the seventh trumpet marking the return of the Lord Jesus.

Chapters eleven through thirteen give us the third account starting with the two witnesses and going through the complete ministry of the Antichrist.

Revelation sixteen gives us the fourth account with the vials being poured out. This account goes completely through the Tribulation, ending with Armageddon.

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

These first two verses reveal three things. The book reveals Jesus Christ as the sovereign Lord of the universe. John is the one who receives this revelation. This book is an eyewitness account.

3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Here is the blessing promised to those who read, or hear, this book. This blessing in verse three is the first of seven in this book. In Old Testament times and in the early church an official of the church stood in front of the congregation and read a passage of scripture. This is what is alluded to here. Both the reader and the listeners are to be blessed.

4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

The message also comes from the 7 Spirits in front of God's throne. There are references here to Father and Son and the words 7 Spirits (capital "S") appear between these two names so this no doubt refers to the Holy Spirit. Seven is the number of something perfect or complete. Now the message is to go to the seven churches of Asia. These churches have three applications each. They are historical churches that actually existed in John's lifetime. Then they are churches that represent types of local churches in the tribulation period. Finally they represent types of churches in church history. There is some overlap of these types. Our church is the Laodicean church, the one about which Jesus has nothing good to say.

5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

This is from Jesus Christ who was a prophet, is now a priest and will be a king when He returns. Don't get these offices confused and try to make Him a king now, on the earth. There is nothing about this present earth that would make any sane person think that the Lord Jesus Christ was king of it. Don't try to make Him a king now. He is a priest now. The term "first begotten of the dead" can throw you since several others came back from the dead before Jesus rose from the dead. The difference is that all of these people later died. Jesus rose never to die again.

6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

God has made you a priest in this age. You can talk to God on your own behalf and you can talk to God on behalf of others. That is what a priest does. When Christ comes back we will reign, with Him, as kings, on the earth. We will see this clearly in Rev.5:9-10

7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

This is speaking of the Second Coming and not the Rapture. The clues are “every eye shall see Him”, and “they also which pierced Him”. These things are not true of the Rapture. Imagine, if you will, what a lost person will feel when they actually see the Lord Jesus Christ coming in the clouds.

8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Nine times in this book, the term “Almighty” is used to describe God or the Lord Jesus Christ. What this means, in redneck, is that no one can oppose Him and win. Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. The term is used four times in the book of Revelation. It is used, each time, to describe the Lord Jesus Christ.

9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

John would probably be on Patmos for the rest of his life. He was there because of the word of God and his testimony of Jesus Christ. He had been faithful in preaching God’s message. He suffered for his faith. The authorities would probably have John at “hard labor”. At any rate, he was not there just enjoying his retirement.

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

The commentators are all over the place concerning the term “Lord's Day”. You can't make it the “day of the Lord” since that is future so this is simply Sunday, the first day of the week. “In the Spirit, (capital “S”) would mean in prayer and meditation, communing with the Holy Spirit.

11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

This verse lets us know that John has actually been carried into the future. He sees these things just as we see the things around us. Your personal view of Christ reveals your attitude toward sin and service. Carnal believers view the Lord as a permissive God of love. If those same carnal believers bother to read the book of Revelation then they will see Jesus as a God of judgement.

12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

There are verses in the Old Testament that describe candlesticks but none of these verses describes 7 separate candlesticks.

13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

Jesus Christ was among the candlesticks. Jesus explained that the 7 candlesticks represented the 7 churches of verse 20. He is wearing a coat or robe and has a golden sash around His chest. Jesus is described as being in the middle of the candlesticks and since these represent churches we can assume He is in the middle of His churches. He is 'like a son of man' and this refers to Daniel 7:13. where we read about a person from heaven. He comes with the clouds. He receives great power. People from every nation and language will worship him. His rule will last for ever. His kingdom will last for ever. This person looks like a human person.

14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

Notice the difference between this description of Jesus and the one in Song of Solomon where he is described as having eyes like a dove and black eyes, hair and beard. He was a typical appearing Jew. Here He is no longer the Lamb but almighty God.

15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

His voice is like Niagara Falls.

16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

In verse 20 the stars are defined. The sharp, two edged sword is the Word of God.

17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

At any time, Christ has the whole universe in His hand but at the same time He is able to look after any particular person.

18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

He lived a sinless life, He was crucified and died and now He is alive again for all eternity. I thank God that my Saviour has the keys to death and Hell.

19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

Here we have what John has seen, is seeing, and will see that is future. These are the three divisions of the book of Revelation; past, present and future.

20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

Once again the commentators are all over the place. Why not believe what is written? The seven stars are angels. So, apparently each church has an angel, in heaven, which watches over it. These angels are called "stars" here.

REVELATION CHAPTER TWO

These letters were delivered to 7 churches in Asia. This was in the first century AD. These letters were a great comfort to the early Christians but, they apply to the church in all ages. You can see Satan's attack on these churches in three ways. He attacks by persecution, he attacks by error and he attacks by sin. It is the same today as it was in the first century. It is good to remember that these passages concerning the churches apply doctrinally to churches in the Tribulation. They apply, in type, to historical churches ending with the Laodicean church which is the church of the end time, in other words, that's us.

1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

This portrays Christ where He should be as head of the church. Don't miss all the sevens mentioned in the book of Revelation. Seven is God's number of completion or perfection.

2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

The very church which sent Paul on missionary journeys had a problem with false apostles. Satan has seen that the church has always has more than it's share of false apostles, false prophets and false preachers. For a good example go to Matthew chapter seven and at verse 21 and following. These are verses that are often used to scare Christians into doubting their salvation but look at who they are really written too. Verse fifteen tells you Jesus is speaking to false prophets. False apostles, false preachers and false prophets send more people

to Hell than almost anything else. It is hard to change a person who believes they are doing right in the eyes of God.

3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

Paul visited Ephesus. He spent over two years there and he started the church there. The Christians at Ephesus refused to worship the emperor. And they refused to worship Diana of the Ephesians. Jesus says to them, 'I know your perseverance.

The next thing that Christ approves is that the Christians do not accept evil people. These were men who claim to be apostles but were not. This also applies to allowing people with known sin in their lives to become members. Now, that said, everyone is welcome to come and worship but membership would not be extended to those with known sin. That could be anything from drunkenness, drug addiction, homosexuality or other forms of fornication. The Christians in Ephesus have passed the test. They continue to live as Christians. They continue to be faithful to Christ. They live for the name of Jesus their Lord.

4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

The world is beginning to creep in. Those who were on fire have begun to cool off. This is something we, in the modern church, have to watch in our own lives.

5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Here is someone, an entire church in this case, who is going to have their candlestick removed. Remember, that candlestick represents a church. This doesn't happen in our age of grace. There is evidence that they did listen to Christ's words. Good things were happening in the church but that did not continue. A traveler visited the city many years later and found only three Christians there. They hardly knew the names of Paul and John, or the apostles. Many churches today no longer exist. They may still have their buildings. They may still have a preacher and a few people but their candlestick is gone. The light has gone out. Ephesus city has gone as well. Sad.

6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate.

The Nicolaitanes are church leaders who have become little dictators. This would apply to priesthood and popery but can be extended to cover other modern church leaders who seem to have forgotten that the Lord Jesus Christ is

the head of the local church as well as the head of the Church, the body of Christ. Little men with big egos who have entered the ministry so that they have people under their control.

7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

See what we meant earlier about these things applying to the Tribulation doctrinally? We Christians do not have to “overcome” nor do we need to eat of the tree of life in order to have eternal life. We have eternal life from the Lord Jesus Christ. This is what “rightly dividing the word of truth” means.

8 And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

Smyrna means myrrh and myrrh is associated with death. This is the church period from 200 AD to 325 AD. There were ten official Roman persecutions during this period to kill off the Christians. As with most persecution, of the church, the more the persecution the more the church grew in size and number. This persecution goes on until Constantine comes to power. During his reign he makes Christianity legal and begins to combine the church with the pagan world.

9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

This is the period where the false teaching that we are spiritual Jews and inherit the promises made to the Jews comes into being. According to this, God is through with Israel. This is also the period where we get December 25 as Christmas and rabbits laying eggs. Pagan worship, is brought in and mixed with Christian doctrine. Notice what the Holy Spirit has to say about these “pretend” Jews. They belong to Satan.

10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

The promise in this verse is not that God will give you eternal life if you are faithful unto death. Rather, the promise is that you will receive a reward, a crown of life. Tribulation ten days refers to the ten persecutions mentioned in the comments of verse eight.

11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

There is an implied threat here. This implies that if you don't overcome you will be hurt. The Christian has already overcome. See 1John 4:4 and 1 John 5:4 for proof that Christians have already overcome.

12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

The church goes downhill fast in this period. Constantine has combined the church with pagan worship and this period carries it further. This is the time when the two manuscripts, Sinaiticus and Vaticanus are written. These are used as the basis for some of the modern translations such as the ASV and RSV and some other trash translations.

13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

Notice that Satan has moved .His seat was at Babylon but is now at Pergamos. We know nothing about Antipas except that he was a martyr and that the lord Jesus held him in high regard.. The authorities probably killed him because of his faith. There were many martyrs in the early church and there are still many martyrs today. I am thinking of the Middle East and north Africa when I think of martyrs today.

14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

Remember from the Old Testament that King Balak wanted Balaam to curse Israel. Balaam tried to speak but words of cursing would not come. Instead, the Lord gave Balaam words of blessing. So Balaam hatched another plan. They brought in the Moabite party girls to make friends with the Israelite men. They would get them to take part in their evil meals. So Balaam advised King Balak to trap the Israelites. This was what was going on in the church.

15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.

We have already discussed the Nicolaitians. It means rule over the laity. Think of it as little dictators with Napolean complexes, or think of it as priests, cardinals, bishops and popes. Either one works.

16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

Christ commands these people to repent, or he will fight against them. Christ did not say 'I will fight with you.' He said, 'I will fight with them.' His words were not for the ordinary people in the church but for the false teachers.

17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Even with all the bad things going on at Pergamos Christ still has a few that remain faithful. Christ offers two precious gifts for those who win the victory. They are for those who continue in the faith. The gifts are the hidden manna and a white stone. This stone has a new name written on it. No one, that I read, knows the meaning of the white stone. Let's not leave Pergamos without mentioning that this is the period that sees the rise of the Roman Catholic Church.

18 And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;

The word Thyatira means "odor of affliction" and it is this period, under the Roman Catholic Church that the Body of Christ is persecuted as it never was before. This is the period we know, as the "dark ages". This is the only letter that uses the title 'Son of God'.

19 I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.

These are good things and Jesus lists them first.

20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

Jezebel calls to mind the wife of Ahab in the Old Testament. That Jezebel killed God's prophets. This Jezebel teaches false doctrine and such false doctrine that destroys the true church. Their sin was wrong sexual behavior. It could have been adultery or homosexuality or any other perversion. It was probably every type of perversion. The phrase 'Unless they repent' means that there is still an opportunity for mercy. There is hope for mercy to those who repent. We have churches today that teach that homosexuality is alright with God, even to the point of accepting openly gay preachers and other church leaders.

21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

This is God's warning to get out of any such church that you may be a part of.

22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

Those who participate in Jezebel's sin will be punished with her. The Hebrew phrase ,”cast her into a bed”,means that God will cause sickness to come to her. Also be sure to notice that this is the God of love speaking here.

24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

So God is going to cause Jezebel,and her followers, to be sick and I am guessing,sick unto death. The rest of the congregation who are not following the false doctrine will get a pass.

25 But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.

26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

These two verses ,25 and 26,are further proof that this is not doctrine for this age. We do not have to hold fast nor overcome. He holds us and He has already overcome.

27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

28 And I will give him the morning star.

All Christians will be kings and priests under the Lord Jesus Christ. We will not be sitting around heaven playing harps, but will have real jobs to do.

29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

As we close the age of the church at Thyatira the lesson we take is not to introduce any teaching, into the church,other than from God's word.

REVELATION CHAPTER THREE

1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

The church at Sardis had a good reputation, and it appeared to be alive. In reality, there was nothing but inward deadness. Their spiritual deadness was at least partially due to some type of defilement because the Word says there were only a few which had not been defiled.

2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

This church was growing but the members were not growing spiritually. This is true of many churches today. These have very few spirit filled members that keep the church from becoming a corpse. The rest have their complete focus on anything but the things of God.

3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

This is doctrinally for the Tribulation. It matches Matthew 24 and 25, (coming as a thief in the night), as well as Revelation 16:15. While I am thinking about it, this is why you never start a new convert in the book of Matthew. Start new converts in the Gospel of John.

4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

Most of the churches now are like this church in Sardis. They do not like to preach or teach on the blood of Jesus. It was the shed blood that defeated Satan and purchased our salvation. We read in Hebrews 9:22 just how important this shed blood is; the passage in Hebrews says . "**And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.**"

5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

This is a verse that some try to use to prove you can lose your salvation. Remember that these are Tribulation passages. We do not have to "overcome". Jesus has already done that for us. So, the implication here that someone may be blotted out of the book does not apply to us, in this age.

6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Keep in mind that this is the period when the church was beginning to come out of the "Dark Ages". There were some great preachers but they were few and far between. Some great things did happen such as the translation of the Bible into English by Wycliff and Tyndale.

7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

Philadelphia literally means one who loves his brother. Our own city in the US is called the city of brotherly love. This is ironic since there were 277 murders, all other violent crimes are up by a large percentage over previous years. So much for brotherly love.

8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

This is the church of the open door and this period in church history sees some of the greatest revivals yet. Here we see the greatest missionary outreach in church history. It is no coincidence that this is the period of the 1611 King James Bible. This period is from 1500-1900. The word of God is carried to the ends of the earth during this time.

9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

This bunch of liars teaches the same heresy as those in Sardis. Some of this same heresy persists until today. There will always be those who try to take the promises of the Jews by claiming that God is through with the Jews and that the Church has replaced them. That was heresy then and it is heresy now.

10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

This has been the greatest period in church history with more great missionaries, more great evangelists and more great preachers than at any other time. Be sure to notice that Jesus has nothing bad to say about this church.

12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and

the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

This writing of the name of God just means that we are sealed. This new name of Jesus that is written upon us is showing that we are Jesus' possession. We are His; we have been bought and paid for with His blood. We will have an eternity of nothing but pure joy in this New Jerusalem with Jesus. Once we have passed from death into life through accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we are sealed by Jesus Himself. We belong to Him. No one can snatch us back away from Him.

13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Again we are told to hear this. We are about to go from the best of the churches to the worst. Just as Jesus had nothing but good to say of the Philadelphian church, he has nothing good to say about the Laodicean church.

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

Now we begin the period from 1900 until the Rapture. Things go to Hell fast with the coming of the "modern" translations of the Bible. These new translations are promoted as the King James bible in updated English. That is Satan's masterpiece and a lie straight out of Hell. These new bibles are taken from entirely different manuscripts from Alexandria Egypt. Finally, be sure to notice that little word "of". Jesus is not the object of this sentence but the subject. That makes a big difference. In other words, He is not the first thing that God created but has been there from the beginning.

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

The redneck version is, we, as a church, are so disgusting that we make the Lord Jesus Christ want to vomit.

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Big buildings, fancy pews, big bank accounts, when the money could be better used for missionaries. Our priorities are wrong. We spend more on television and internet access than we do on missionaries. We spend more on cell phones

than we do on bibles and literature. We spend more on dog food than we send to missions. We spend more on sports than we give to our churches. Our priorities are wrong, wrong, wrong and this is why we make our Saviour sick.

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

One of the commentators had this to say, "This church and these wealthy people really should be pitied by us." Hello, did he not miss the point entirely? God is speaking of our church here. What he is saying in verse eighteen is to repent and turn to Him and get our priorities right. Look at what we are and what we have become. We put everything ahead of the things of God.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

When someone has believed and accepted Jesus as their saviour and begins to take Him for granted, it is very sad. This is what we see in this church at Laodicea and in our formal churches of today.

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

How sad is this? He is not even in the church but stands outside and knocks. The church has slammed the door on the Lord. Be sure to notice though, that an individual can still open the door and fellowship with the Lord. He does not say that this can apply to the church.

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

The Laodicean Church is the period of the great falling away into apostasy. We are headed for a one world church and one church leader who will be the false prophet.

22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Once again He warns us to hear what He has to say in this book. To recap; Historically these churches refer to churches in Asia Minor during John's lifetime. Doctrinally they apply to churches in the Tribulation period. Spiritually they apply to the church from the Book of Acts to the Rapture.

REVELATION CHAPTER FOUR

1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

Jesus has been speaking in the previous chapter directly. Now John is speaking, and we hear from him about the things he saw. This is after Jesus finishes His messages to the seven churches. The churches are now gone until they come back with Christ at the end of the Tribulation.

We will see the number "seven" throughout Revelation. Seven means "spiritually complete" or perfection. Perhaps God used this number to signify that the church is now complete.

John looks toward heaven and sees a door. This cannot be a real door since Jesus is the door to Heaven and, in this age, the door of heaven is always open.

2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

The phrase "in the spirit" is not in the same sense as Christians being filled, nor indwelt, by the Holy Spirit. This "in the spirit" is John having a real "out of body" experience. His spirit is caught up to the third heaven, and by the way, as far as scripture tells us, there are only three heavens. If there are more God has not chosen to reveal that to us. Milton's "Paradise Lost" has seven heavens but that's just John Milton, not God. Verses one and two are a perfect picture of the Rapture. A trumpet sounds and someone is told to "come up hither". This trumpet in verse one, can either be a real trumpet or the voice of the Lord Jesus which sounds like a trumpet. I take it to be a real trumpet since we are told elsewhere His voice is like the sound of many waters.

3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

There is something different about this rainbow in heaven. First it is said to be like an emerald. Our rainbow has shades of red while this one in heaven has shades of green. Second, it is said to be round about the throne. That one is open to interpretation but to me, considering the floor of glass, or ice, it is a complete circle and not the half bow that we see here on Earth. We will find another rainbow in the book of Revelation in chapter ten. That one will be around the head of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is 10:1 if you want the reference.

4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

The twenty-four seats were actually miniature thrones , subordinate to God, but nevertheless they surround the throne of God.

The twenty-four elders who represent the redeemed in heaven acknowledge that humans were created by God for His pleasure. Their response of praise recognizes the sovereignty of God over our lives.

These are people redeemed out of every nation so these 24 are redeemed men. Once you know that these are men then it is obvious that the first verse of this chapter is speaking of the Rapture,in type, and that these things happen before the Tribulation.

The number twenty-four, I believe, could be two twelve's. One twelve for the Old Testament and One twelve for the New Testament. Please understand that the commentators are all over the place on the identity of these 24 elders. It is impossible to identify them absolutely. What I am giving here is general consensus among the commentators. What that means in "redneck" is,"this is my best guess".

The twelve prophets represent the believers of the Old Testament. The twelve disciples represent all believers from the New Testament.

John, observes these events immediately after the church age has been concluded and just prior to the beginning of the Tribulation. These men, whoever they are are redeemed saints who are in heaven just before the Tribulation that follows. Like John, they are part of the pre-tribulation rapture in their glorified bodies worshiping all three members of the Trinity. This scene in heaven occurs after the Rapture and just before the Tribulation begins.

These Old Testament believers were looking forward to Messiah and were preached to, when Jesus preached in hell and brought captivity captive out with Him. Notice all twenty-four were dressed in white robes. This shows that all twenty four were believers even though twelve of the elders picture Old Testament saints. All through the Old Testament people like David were looking for the Savior. They believed, even though they were looking forward instead of backward to Him. Notice that I did not say 'looking forward to the cross". That statement is absolute nonsense since you can't look forward to something not in existence. That said,there are over thirty-seven Old Testament scriptures which mention the coming of Jesus Christ. These were fulfilled, every one. So we know that there were Old Testament believers.

The crowns on the elders heads were gold. They had not earned these crowns they were placed there by God and were a free gift. Crowns are for rulers, and we believers are promised that we will reign with Jesus.

5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Let's talk about these seven spirits of God which we have already said is the Holy Spirit. Isa 11:2 tells us what these six of these spirits are. **And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;**

6 And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

This sea of glass is the floor of heaven. Job said the 'sky is like a molten looking glass'. Paul said, "Now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face". Paul had been there.

7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.

The real purpose in life, for every person and for every creature is to please God. No person will be truly happy or have inner peace until they seek to please God with their lives.

8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

Be sure to notice the doxology here. Holy (Father), holy (Son), holy (Holy Spirit). And the Trinity, Lord God Almighty. These cherubim around the throne are stationary and have six wings each. Those pictured in Ezekiel one have wheels. Ezek 1 says **And I looked, and,**

behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness [was] about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire. {1:5} Also out of the midst thereof [came] the likeness of four living creatures. And this [was] their appearance; they had the likeness of a man. {1:6} And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings.

{1:7} And their feet [were] straight feet; and the sole of their feet [was] like the sole of a calf's foot: and they sparkled like the colour of burnished brass. {1:8} And [they had] the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings. {1:9} Their wings [were] joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward. {1:10} As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle. {1:11} Thus [were] their faces: and their wings [were] stretched upward; two [wings] of every one [were] joined one to another, and two covered their bodies. {1:12} And they went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; [and] they turned not when they went. {1:13} As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance [was] like burning coals of fire, [and] like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning. {1:14} And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning. Most students think this passage from Ezekiel describes a spaceship or flying saucer but that isn't the point. These beasts represent the living creatures of the earth. Now we have angels, cherubim, elders (that's people) and the beasts of the earth all worshiping the Lord. Before we leave this remember that there were five cherubim. One has lost his position and been kicked out. That one is Satan.

9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

This "when the beasts give glory and honor and thanks" is an endless thing. "The giving of "honor" ,and thanksgiving goes on and on for eternity.

The song of the living beings is giving praises continuously. The eternity of God is difficult for us to understand because our minds are programmed to a life with a time clock.

10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

In addition to the angels the elders also worship. By offering their crowns and throwing themselves down they are placing themselves below Him.

11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

God is a jealous God who will not allow the believer to mess around with false gods. Keep in mind that anything you put ahead of God is a false god. Before the world existed, He spoke, and the universes came into existence. So, if you are God why not just leave well enough alone and not bother with this mess called mankind? We are to Jesus like our children are to us. They are great joy, but at the very same time, they can bring us hurt. The joy far outweighs the hurt. Perhaps that is the way it is with God dealing with us. The joy outweighs the sorrow.

REVELATION CHAPTER FIVE

1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

This book is never identified and is the subject of much discussion. The choices seem to be the Bible, The book of Daniel, the book of Revelation or perhaps, the title deed to the Earth.. One well known commentator believes it is the Book of Revelation and bases his reasoning on the fact that if the book is were divided into groups of three it would have seven seals with chapter 22 on the outside back. That last is a stretch.

2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

The suggestion here is that the “strong angel” cannot open the book and can not find anyone who can. In addition, this is not a matter of strength since no one is found “worthy” to open the book.

3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

This scene in heaven indicates that only Christ, is qualified to open the seals of this scroll and claim His kingdom over all the earth.

4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

John was upset that no one could open the book. This indicates to me, that he knew what was in the book. Book of life maybe. We still don't know what the book was.

5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

The names of our Lord are never given by accident, but all convey a part of His nature. The lion is the king of beasts and Judah is the ruling tribe of Israel, this indicates that Christ is to come as King to reign. One interesting note is that even though Jesus is descended from David in the flesh, He is also David's God.

6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

John saw Jesus as an actual lamb. We have to distinguish between literal and figurative and in this case it is literal. Now, we know that Jesus is not a grass eating animal but he is pictured as a sacrificial lamb in many scriptures and here John sees Him as such. There is the Holy Spirit again shown as the seven Spirits of God. These spirits are

1. The Spirit of the Lord
2. The Spirit of wisdom
3. The Spirit of understanding
4. The Spirit of counsel
5. The Spirit of power
6. The Spirit of Knowledge
7. The Spirit of the fear of the Lord

This is an important verse because it shows us the scars of the sacrifice are in Heaven. The only imperfect body in Heaven will be that of the Lord Jesus Christ. He will bear these scars for eternity.

7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

In a sense this is Jesus, the Lamb, taking the book from His own self since He is God.

8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

All ,both saved and lost, will bow before the Lamb. We read that every knee will bow and every tongue confess to God, Romans 14:11. Apparently every prayer that we have prayed is stored in heaven.

9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

They sing about the blood of Jesus in heaven. As far as I can find they sing of only three things in Heaven. Those songs are of praise, thanksgiving and the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

You are a priest now in that you can speak directly to God and can intercede for others. "Shall" indicates something future so we shall ,one day ,reign as kings on the earth.

11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

10,000 x 10,000 = 100 Million + 1000's and 1000's. This is not a literal number, it just means a number too large to count. This is a very large company of people, ministering spirits, angels, and beasts and is meant to show us the absolute majesty of God. The voice had to be loud to be such a multitude.

12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

The interesting thing here is that this huge gathering was all saying the same thing and that was total adoration and recognition of Jesus of who and what He is.

13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

Jesus created the universe and everything in it. If you think trees and fish can't speak then remember Balam's jackass in the Old Testament. God is certainly able to give anything a voice. This praise was not for a limited time, but is to reach into eternity.

14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

These representatives of the Redeemed are saying, our worship of Him will never cease. Even in heaven, we will be praising and worshipping Him.

We close chapter five with every area of creation worshipping both the Father and the Lamb

REVELATION CHAPTER SIX

1 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.

The Church is now gone from the Earth and John is now in the third Heaven. The Lord Jesus ,who is the only one found worthy ,now steps forward to open the seals. With the opening of the first seal judgment now starts on mankind. The purpose of the Tribulation is to bring mankind,especially the Jews ,to belief in Christ. This first beast turns out to be a lion by what follows.

2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

There is a great deal of controversy about the identity of this white horse rider. The Catholics and Southern Baptists try to make this Jesus, as that then has them working to bring in the kingdom". This rider has a crown so he is a king. Satan is the god(king) of this world. This rider is followed by war,and famine and Death and Hell. In verse nine he is killing people who believe the word of God. This rider carries a bow. People who say this is Christ try to compare it to the white horse rider in chapter nineteen which is the Lord Jesus Christ. These two white horse riders are very different.

3 And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.

The second beast is the calf.

4 And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

The "red" of the red horse indicates bloodshed. This red horse means war and,

in my opinion, it means a very large war. In fact, this is probably World War Three. When Daniel's "three kings" oppose the Antichrist, he will respond in deadly fashion, swiftly crushing his enemies and bringing death on a massive scale never before known. It is likely that this is widespread atomic war.

5 And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

We are now in the third year of the Tribulation.

Famine often goes hand in hand with war. Balances are scales used to weigh valuable commodities like silver and gold. In this case food will be so valuable that balances are used to weigh the food.

6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

You may remember, from Matthew 20:2, the parable of the vineyard that a day's wages at that time was a penny. A measure of grain is about a quart. So, enough wheat to feed yourself for one day will cost a day's wages. If you have a wife and one child, then you eat barley. If there are more in the family, then no one gets enough to eat. The black horse rider is told not to hurt the oil and wine. This can mean any one of several things. First, only the rich would be able to afford oil and wine in these circumstances. Then, vines and trees are deep rooted and would stand drought better so might continue to produce something even in famine. Finally, oil and wine are types of the Holy Spirit so this instruction may be to leave God's people alone. Since God always provides for His people this would make sense.

7 And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.

It is no coincidence that this is the fourth seal and the mid point of the Tribulation. Israel has had the covenant with the Antichrist now for three and one half years. Here, in the middle of the Tribulation the Antichrist is assassinated. He is dead for three days and then rises from the dead. It is at this point that the Antichrist breaks the covenant and desecrates the Temple. This Temple desecration is probably done by offering human sacrifices. It could be said that Israel has made their covenant with Death and Hell

8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with

death, and with the beasts of the earth.

This pale horse would either be gray or light strawberry roan. At this point one fourth of the people of the Earth are killed. If it happened now over two billion people would be killed. I see the earth in complete chaos at this point. People are starving, they are killing each other, disease is taking out a large number because there are too many dead to even bury, and finally, even the animals are starving and attacking and killing people. This will be a good time to keep in mind that God will not forsake the righteous. The fact that Hell follows Death shows that those slain are unbelievers.

9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

We are now coming into the second half of the Tribulation.

These martyred people are pictured as souls. This brings up several interesting things. Souls have a spiritual, recognizable body. It resides inside the physical body until death when it leaves the body just as the person dies. We know this from Genesis 35:18, where Rachel's soul departed just as she died and was able to suggest a name for the child as the soul left. So, the soul is a spiritual body which we cannot see. Inside that resides the spirit, either alive or dead, depending on whether a person is lost or saved. So, John saw these souls and they wore clothes so they had a body. They had a voice and could speak. They were all killed in a certain way, that is, they were beheaded. This is likely those who refuse to take the mark of the Beast.

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

These souls have feelings. They want revenge.

11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

More will be killed. This may be a good time to point out that there is more than one Rapture. The Tribulation saints, including the 144,000, get taken up sometime late, or at the end, of the Tribulation. We can be sure of this because we find these people in heaven in chapter seven.

12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the

moon became as blood;

These things happen just before the end of the Tribulation. The sixth seal brings natural disasters of various kinds (Matt. 24:7, 29). The earth and the heavenly bodies literally go into convulsions. Joel 2:30, 31 predicts many of these judgments in nature as signs of the day of the Lord.

This terrible earthquake is told about in Isaiah 2:19, which says; "**And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.**" This will obviously be the greatest earthquake the Earth has ever had. Ezekial 32:7-8, tells of the darkness of the sun, moon, and stars.

13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

In Luke chapter 21, we read how many will be betrayed by those of their own household. This is verse 16 which says; **And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and [some] of you shall they cause to be put to death.**

Luke 21:25-26, we read again of the commotion in heaven. "**And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;**" Luke 21:26 "**Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.**" You can easily see that this is prophesied, not just of John, but by dozens of prophets throughout the Bible.

14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

This is that great earthquake mentioned at the sixth seal. This is also at the end of the Tribulation just before Christ's return. Think of the force required to move mountains out of their place and do notice that it says "every" mountain.. Notice also that the heavens are gone. I assume that would be the heavenly bodies.

15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

For some supernatural reason these people wish to die but can not die. It is also supernatural that in spite of all this evidence, these men will not repent and seek the one who could save them.

16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

It is clear from this that no one has control of his, or her, own destiny. Everything is in control of a sovereign God.

17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

We have now been taken completely through the Tribulation period and are up to the Day of the Lord. This is the close of the first account.

REVELATION CHAPTER SEVEN

Revelation chapter seven is what is known as a parenthetical chapter. What this means, without the two dollar word, is that this chapter is not in chronological order. We know this because the 144,000 Jews, of verse four, were sealed before the sixth seal was opened.

1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

This suggests that before the world experiences disasters ushered in by the sixth seal judgment at the end of the first quarter of the Tribulation, God will raise up 144,000 Jewish evangelists to spread across the world and bring in a soul harvest of huge proportions. Each of these witnesses will receive a mark on his forehead. We don't know what this seal will be but the context seems to suggest it will be visible, at least to Christians. Whatever the seal is, it affords these 144,000 Jewish witnesses some kind of supernatural protection, at least until the great soul harvest of Rev. 7: 9 is finished.

2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

This seal of the living God, on this angel, and on the 144,000 is probably the name of God. There is another interpretation. This may be a physical seal and is to be used to seal the 144,000. It does not say the angel had the seal on his forehead.

3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

These angels at the four directions of the compass are the first four trumpet angels. Their instructions are to wait until the witnesses are sealed.

4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

These are young, male, Jewish, virgins. Sorry ladies. This is 12,000 from each of the twelve tribes and this should be taken literally. It is most certainly not Jehovah's Witnesses currently living on the Earth.

5 Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand.

I will read through the list of tribes because there are important omissions and additions.

6 Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand.

7 Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand.

There is no doubt that these witnesses will be on the Antichrist's "most wanted list". The lesson is that God's man or woman is indestructible until God is finished with him here on earth.

8 Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.

I'm sure you noticed that Ephraim and Dan are not listed. In their place Joseph and Levi are substituted. Joseph had two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. Manasses is listed in verse 6. Ephraim is not sealed in the Tribulation. Their name is blotted out under heaven in the Book of Hosea. That's Hosea 11:12 for your notes. They are said to be joined to idols. As for the tribe of Dan, they were the first to go into idolatry. They also adopted black robed priests which they called Father and used various statues as "an aid to worship".

9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

The throne and the Lamb are in Heaven. This puts this great mixed multitude of saved Jews and Gentiles in Heaven. These were “under the altar in chapter six but are in Heaven in chapter seven.

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

We cannot take credit for our salvation since it is a free gift. Jesus purchased our salvation with His precious blood so He deserves all the credit..

11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

This is another view of Heaven. God the Father is on the throne. Jesus is sitting at His right hand. The four living beings are very near the throne. The twenty-four elders, representative of all Christendom, are very near, as well. The angels encircle the throne. All fall before the throne of God in worship and praise.

12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

This blessing here is seven fold. This is a spiritually complete blessing.

13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

Christians will know tribulation on a personal level but the Rapture takes place before the period of time we call the Tribulation.

14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

These have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb. Contrast that with Christians of this age who are washed in the blood of the Lamb. These Tribulation saints did a “work”. They washed their robes in the blood.

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

We, Christians, are before the throne because we decided to accept His salvation, and to be washed in His blood. We are to be His Bride and to dwell with Him forever. It speaks of "day and night" here, but there is no night in heaven. We are in the presence of the Light, and there is just one eternal day with Him.

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

Jesus is the Light, and there will be no need for the sun or the moon. Isaiah 49:10 says this; **They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.** That reminds us of the 23rd Psalm. Put simply, He takes care of us.

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

This is one that many Christians have wrong. There will be tears in Heaven. First, at the Judgment Seat of Christ there will be tears for the things we should have done and did not. We may also be able to see who is NOT there and that would certainly produce tears. Next there will be many tears at the Great White Throne Judgment when we see members of our family cast to the lake of fire for eternity. There are two times mentioned when God wipes away tears, here in verse 17 and again in chapter 20 following the judgment of the unsaved dead. It would be more accurate to say that there are no tears in eternity.

REVELATION CHAPTER EIGHT

Now we take up, where we left off in chapter six. The seventh seal is about to be opened. The seals were an overview of the seven years. The trumpets will show the continual bombardment that God rains down on the unbelievers.

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

This silence is entirely opposite the usual sounds of heaven. It is the result of the revelation, by the Lord Jesus Christ, to the angelic hosts concerning what is about to fall on the earth. The opening of the seventh seal introduces the 7 trumpet judgments, which are all judgments of God sent on the earth. Don't miss the fact that the seventh seal contains the trumpets. Another way to look at it is that as the seventh seal is opened out come the trumpet judgments. As bad as the seal judgments were, the trumpet judgments will be worse.

2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

The use of the trumpet throughout the Bible is for two purposes: to assemble the people for worship, or to assemble the people for war.

3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

Keep in mind that this is in Heaven. This would be the Temple in Heaven which the tabernacle of Moses was copied from. This temple in heaven is mentioned in Rev.11:19 and remains in Heaven until eternity begins. When eternity begins the New Jerusalem comes down from heaven and it does not have a temple. Rev 21:22 -23, speaking of the New Jerusalem, says this; **And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. {21:23} And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb [is] the light thereof.** The censer is an object for burning incense. The incense was likely frankincense. Obviously, from this verse, and others, the prayers of the saints are permanently kept in some fashion.

4 And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

Here again is evidence that our prayers don't just go off into the wild blue yonder. They go to the very throne of God. Nobody is praying to this angel. He is just carrying the prayers and incense.

5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

Just as God finally destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah when they would not repent, there is a time when the fury and fire of God will descend upon this earth in punishment. Throughout the Bible God has used natural disasters and the weather to deal with mankind. He still does. All of these natural disasters, "thunderings, lightnings, earthquake" are God dealing with mankind. The wrath of God has begun. The trumpet judgments are literal. Five of the plagues of Egypt are repeated in the Book of Revelation and no one suggests that Egypt's plagues were anything other than literal.

6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

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

One third of the trees and grass are burned up. With this the famine of the seals gets worse. In case you have forgotten, grain is grass and that passage does say ALL of the grass was burned up. Hail mingled with fire and blood sounds pretty terrible. With the possible exception of the Genesis flood, this is the worst ecological disaster in the history of mankind.

8 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;

When the Second trumpet is blown, John sees "something like a great mountain burning with fire". This is likely an enormous meteorite crashing through the atmosphere and into the sea, and "a third of the sea became blood." As a result, a third of everything living in the sea dies, and a third of the ships on the sea are destroyed. Even today nearly half of the world's people are affected by diseases related to insufficient and contaminated water. Think of the plagues that will be spread when the water supply turns bitter, then to blood.

Another view is that this will be a nuclear holocaust. The fact that North Korea and Iran both have nuclear weapons gives us something to think about.

Consider the super polluted air with radiation and now with 1/3 of all vegetation gone along with the oxygen they provide. Yes, even our oxygen supply depends on plant life. An even greater tragedy is all the green grains are burned up. We, and other developed nations send millions of pounds of food annually to third world countries who cannot feed themselves. When we no longer have enough food for ourselves the shipments will stop. This will seal the doom of millions more.

9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

When this verse says "a third part of the creatures", that includes every living thing from the smallest microbe to the largest whale. One third of the ships contain a lot of people and these died as well.

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

The first, second and third trumpets happen at the same time as the fourth and fifth seals. This is evident because one fourth of the world's population is destroyed in both accounts. Notice that this "great star" from heaven falls on the springs and rivers polluting the rest of the earth's water. This could be a meteor, or nuclear weapons, or something entirely different, and new, created by God for just this purpose.

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

Quoting here from an internet news source. "Russia and the US both have over 100 nuclear powered submarines each capable of firing ICBM missiles with multiple thermonuclear warheads. The Russian Typhoon class nuclear subs are the largest, fastest, stealthiest, deepest diving and deadliest in the world. Each one carries as standard ordinance 20 ICBMs with 10 warheads each. That's 200 warheads that can turn 200 large cities into vast devastated cemeteries. These can be launched from under water and hit 95% of our major population centers in less than 8 minutes from launch."

12 And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

All life on this earth depends on the sun. In some way God reduces, by a third, the amount of radiant energy reaching earth from the sun and all other heavenly bodies.

13 And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

The last three trumpets will be especially severe, as announced by the threefold repetition of Woe, woe, woe. They will be directed toward the unbelievers still alive on earth. As bad as things have been, up to this point, they are about to get much worse. Here again, notice the mid-time separation of this, four angels have sounded, and three more are about to sound.

For what it's worth, this is the verse that some point to to give angels wings. Angels do not have wings. You and I can fly through the heavens and most of us have at some point. They call the things we use airplanes and helicopters, not wings.

REVELATION CHAPTER NINE

1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

We are now entering the last two years of the Tribulation. We know this by looking at the time involved in the next two trumpets. The locusts are on the earth five months then we are told in Revelation nine that the sixth trumpet lasts one year, one month, one day and one hour. This is about a year and a half and then the vials take place in the last six months. None of this is exact but it gets us close. It is likely that this "pit" is Hell. We know that Hell has a key, which is now in the possession of the Lord Jesus Christ. In ancient times pits were often used as prisons. Remember Joseph from Genesis?

2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.

When the pit is opened the , here come the demons to destroy. They have such a vicious nature that God has had to restrain them to keep the human race from being annihilated before the appointed time. Now the restraints are off. These are not "ordinary" demons and this shows that there are more than one kind of demon. They were told that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. Keep in mind that more than two thirds of the grass and trees are already gone. With more than a third of the grass and trees and a third of the ocean plankton and seaweed gone, oxygen has to be getting a little thin. There will be religious activity still going on at this time, so there will be a flood of false doctrine and blasphemy of the Lord Jesus Christ. It will be a kind of religion of the flesh, an "anything goes" religion. This is very much like what is going on today in most churches.

3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

These have to be demons as they had no power themselves. It is given to them. They demons are given physical forms so that they will have power to torment. It is fortunate for mankind that they are limited to five months.

4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.

Once again we have evidence that the saved have some visible mark in their foreheads. 777 perhaps.

5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.

They torment for five months. In the bible five is the number of death. You may sometimes hear five called the number of grace but that is an error. Death five letters, Satan five letters, devil five letters etc.

6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.

7 And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men.

The shape of horses suggests war and the crowns are for conquerors. The faces of men indicate intelligence. Really? The lost, at this time, aren't showing much intelligence. These monsters seem to be half human and half animal.

8 And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.

I have no idea why these demonic beings have hair like women. One commentator suggested that it was to show their beauty, but these beings are anything but beautiful. Teeth like lions is to show their fierceness.

9 And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.

The breastplates of iron show that they are indestructible.

10 And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.

Imagine being stung by a scorpion so often that you wished to die and could not. God's instructions are, "You may torment those who have the Antichrist's mark, but you may not kill them and you may not touch those who belong to Me."

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

This "king" is Satan and is the star, of verse one, which was thrown out of heaven. Just as he led these angels out of heaven, he leads them in this mission of destruction. Satan, even though fallen, must do every thing the Lord commands him. God alone can stop Satan. This time God allows, and even orders, this to happen. Satan, Apollyon, Abaddon, Lucifer, the devil must still obey God. He, as we, or any other being, or angel, are created and subject to the desires of the Creator. God alone could stop this destruction. The two names, "Apollyon" and "Abaddon" mean destruction.

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

As bad as it is, there are two more woes. The open warfare on the streets of Syria just a little bit of the things to come. A mother in that area of the world has no idea when her family leaves the house whether they will return alive or not.

The descendents of Ishmael and Isaac (the flesh and the spirit) are still in mortal combat after all these years. Just as there is a spiritual battle of the flesh and the spirit that we must face each day, there is a physical battle in Israel between the Arab and the Jew and that battle will go on into the Tribulation.

13 And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.

There is some symbolism in these two verses. The number six indicates man or mankind. Horns, mean power. The number four means worldwide. This "golden altar" is associated with God. God is never associated with other metals.

At the blowing of the 6th trumpet, the 2nd woe is released: the release of "the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates". The angels apparently lead an army of 200 million demonic horsemen. These horsemen kill a third of mankind with fire, smoke and brimstone. That sounds a lot like Sodom and Gomorrah.

15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.

We are now nearing the end of the Tribulation. This army of demonic horsemen comes from the east and heads for Israel. They come at a certain exact time. They are to kill one third of the three quarters that are left.

16 And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.

I have heard it suggested that the 200 million will come from the Chinese who can currently field an army of that size. This is very doubtful, both from the description of their appearance and due to the inability to equip, feed, transport, not to mention the water it would take to support that size army. I truly believe this will be a supernatural rather than a human force, especially as the four angels are commanding this army.

17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire

and smoke and brimstone.

It is clear these are not actual horses since the heads are the heads of lions. Some try to make these horses some modern weapon of war but these are clearly some kind of demonic being. They depict Hell in that they kill with fire, smoke and brimstone. Brimstone's modern name is sulphur and it burns with a very hot flame.

18 By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.

This demonic cavalry kills one third of the three quarters that are left on earth. This brings Earth's population down by half. If it happened today that would be about four billion people dead.

19 For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.

Unlike the demonic scorpion stings of the 5th trumpet judgment, which could only cause intense pain, the bites of these creatures will be fatal.

20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

It is hard to imagine that after more than six years of suffering and death from the judgments of God, combined with the 144,000, the two witnesses, an angel who gives the Word of God to humans, not to mention the countless number of Tribulation Saints, that the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent. All of the things worshiped in verse twenty describe us day. These are things of the world. We are either on the side of Jesus or on the side of Satan. There is no middle ground.

21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

The following is quoted from the internet. "Idolatry, mysticism, spiritism, satanism and all forms of false religion will become normal as demons lead people into more wicked and vicious behaviors. Violent crimes like murder will be absolutely rampant. Under the influence of the massive demon forces that have been unleashed upon the world, false religion, murder, sexual perversion and crime will be unparalleled in human history." If that sounds familiar, just pick up a newspaper or watch the World News tonight. And still, people do not repent.

REVELATION CHAPTER TEN

Chapter ten is another parenthetical chapter. In Revelation eight we had the first,second,third and fourth trumpets. In Revelation nine we had the fifth and sixth trumpets,but not trumpet number seven.

1 And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:

This is the same angel we had in Chapter 1 verses 14-15. This is the Lord Jesus Christ .

2 And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,

The fact that the book is open shows that it is about to be read. I believe, This "little book", the Bible. We,like John, are to "eat" this book. In other words,to get it inside us. One foot on the sea,(that would be the Mediterranean), and one on the land shows authority over the whole earth. When a sea is mentioned in the book of Revelation it is always the Mediterranean sea with the exception of the mention in chapter 21:1 where it says "**there shall be no more sea**".

3 And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.

Only the believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are supposed to understand what is in the Book, and then only through the guidance of the Holy Spirit . This message is not for the world in general. Jesus, stops John from revealing these things by telling him not to write this down.

4 And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.

It is said by some commentators that these things John is told to seal up are related to the war in Heaven where Satan is cast out. Though we are not told that,the timing is right. It should be apparent that this is the generation in which knowledge has increased. This is the generation in which many will experience John's eyewitness testimony, to their everlasting regret! This is the generation of the end times. Everything has been accomplished that has been prophesied to happen before the Rapture.. Now we wait and we don't have long to wait.

5 And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven,

This is the same angel that we saw in verse two.

6 And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:

Time no longer literally means "delay no longer" and indicates that the time of the end is very near. From the sounding of the seventh angel's trumpet, the world will move quickly toward the fulfillment of all the prophecies of the Bible, ending with the coming of Christ to the earth.

7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

The 'delay' mentioned is the time between Christ's resurrection and His second coming. This was something hidden from the Old Testament Jews and, for that matter, hidden even from the apostles. Even Paul believed Jesus would return in his lifetime.

8 And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth.

9 And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.

John is told to eat the little book, and when he does, it becomes sweet in his mouth but bitter in his belly. This sweetness is the beautiful message received, but the bitterness is the disappointment when they refuse the message. This bitterness is also the terrible judgments that come upon Israel as a result of rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ.

10 And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.

Psalm 19:10 says the word of God is sweeter than honey to the believer. It is bitter in that it separates you from friends and relatives and makes you look like a fool to the world.

11 And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

The Seals and trumpet judgments have brought us close to the end of the Tribulation. Now John must prophesy again through the period a second time. This time he will concentrate on the persons involved. That would be Satan, the Beast, the False Prophet, the great whore ect. One final note before we leave this chapter. Verse eleven is itself a prophesy. You and I are reading this prophesy and it has certainly been read by nations, peoples, tongues and kings.

REVELATION CHAPTER ELEVEN

1 And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.

This reed is a measuring stick. By the way, we still use these. On a construction site if you have 20 2x4's to cut to the same length you only measure the first one and use it to measure the others. Notice that this is not the heavenly temple but a new temple to be built in Jerusalem. This will be the temple the Antichrist later desecrates.

2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.

These verses show us that temple worship, with animal sacrifices, will be restored sometime before, or in the first half of the Tribulation. Jesus speaks of this in Matthew 24:15 which says; **When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)** . So we have the fact that there will be a temple prophesied by both Daniel and Jesus Christ. Folks, things like this are why we know that our Bible is true. One other note before we leave this verse. Some try to claim that Daniel was not a prophet and that the book of Daniel was written later. We have it on pretty good authority here that Daniel was a prophet. The Lord Jesus Christ said, **"Daniel the prophet"**.

3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

Bible months are 30 days so this is forty two months or 3 ½ years. The one speaking is the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

These two olive trees and candlesticks are the witnesses Moses and Elijah. Now, you will hear some say that these witnesses are Enoch and Elijah, their reasoning being that these two men did not die and the Bible says, "it is appointed unto man once to die". That is flawed reasoning since there have been many who died more than once. I'm thinking of those like Lazarus, Dorcus and the sleepyhead who fell from the third story as Paul preached. These people died twice. Furthermore there will be a great multitude who will never die. Think Rapture. Then there is another group who believe that one of the witnesses will be John himself. They base their belief on Chapter 10 vs 11 which says; **And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.** There are two things wrong with this belief. First, you never base a doctrine on one verse. Second, this prophecy is fulfilled by the fact that John wrote the Book of Revelation and that book has done exactly what the verse said.

Now, the reason we know it is Moses and Elijah are the miracles they perform. These will be many of the same miracles they performed while they were here the first time and these were the two on the mount of transfiguration..

5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

The police and military will be powerless to stop them. Anyone who attempts to stop them from preaching is instantly destroyed. Even Antichrist's with his satanic powers is powerless to stop these witnesses. Their message will be a declaration to all the nations on this earth to repent and to acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the world's rightful ruler. These witnesses operate during the last half of the Tribulation. Just so we don't get mixed up, the 144,000 Jewish witnesses preach during the first half. There will, a huge harvest of souls during the Tribulation period. These two and the 144,000 are the reason many will refuse to take the mark of the Beast.

6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

These are the same plagues performed by Moses and Elijah in the Old Testament.

7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

This beast is a man who comes up out of the bottomless pit. This man is Judas Iscariot and we will see how we know that when we get to Chapter seventeen. For now, remember that he is called the son of perdition and that he went to his own place. That place is not Hell but the bottomless pit.

8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

Note that the Antichrist will have no power over them until "they have finished their testimony." In other words, they will be "immortal until their work is done", and this can be said, even today, of all God's people who are doing His work. You won't go until God says you will go.

9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.

This is a sad commentary on the people alive at this time that they can let dead bodies lie in the street for three days. On the other hand, so many people have been killed in the seven years that what are three more dead ones?

10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

One well known local commentator says this happens at Christmas time. Maybe but I think he is on thin ice with that one. The bible doesn't say what time of the year it was.

11 And after three days and an half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

How could the whole world see their dead bodies? Prior to 1940 this would have been impossible but now, with satellite television the whole world can see these witnesses resurrected in an instant. Don't you know this has to be a shock to those who believe the Antichrist is God.

13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Now we are very close to the end. God loses no more time dealing with unbelievers. Salvation can no longer be put off until later because there is no later. We see here that 7000 people lose their life in this earthquake but do notice that some are saved even here..

14 The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

The seven vials or bowls are probably contained in the judgment of the seventh trumpet. The blowing of the 7th trumpet is like the breaking of the 7th seal in that it introduces the next series of divine judgments. They will occur in a very brief period of time at the end of the Great Tribulation. The Tribulation period is winding up. We are very near the return of Christ at this point.

16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

God is worshiped by the elders because what He promised is now accomplished. Their gratitude is for the establishment of the millennial kingdom. Those who have tried to destroy the earth will themselves be destroyed by God.

God meant this earth to be a rich source of blessing to mankind, but Satan, has led man to rebel against God, causing this earth to be a place of suffering.

18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

The fulfillment of this passage is found in Rev.20:9 where fire comes down from Heaven and consumes everything. Don't miss the fact that there are rewards passed out at the Great White Throne judgment. This shows clearly that there are saved people at this judgment. This judgment takes place at the end of the Millennium.

19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

These are the same events we studied in Rev.6;12-14. We will study them again when we reach chapter sixteen.

REVELATION CHAPTER TWELVE

This is another parenthetical chapter and is used to introduce some of the main characters.

1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

This woman is the nation of Israel. There is a great deal of controversy concerning this woman but the verses that follow clearly show that this woman is Israel. The woman is not the church, since the church did not bring forth Christ, He brought forth the church. The crown of twelve stars pictures royalty and relates to the 12 tribes of Israel. Go to Genesis 37 verses 9 - 11 and read about the dream Joseph had about the sun, moon and 11 stars which were bowing down to Joseph. Joseph was the twelfth.

2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

The child she bears is the Lord Jesus Christ. This would be the first Advent. This Scripture is spiritually speaking of the birth of Jesus and of Christianity.

The birth pains refer to the period before the birth of Christ when Israel was waiting for redemption by the Messiah

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

The Red Dragon is Satan. The seven heads with seven crowns represent the seven major kingdoms with which he has ruled the Earth. The first of these kingdoms started with Nimrod and the tower of Babel.

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

In this verse stars are used to represent angels. Satan with one third of the

angels are cast out of Heaven. Attempting to devour the man child, refers to Herod having all the young male children killed in his attempt to eliminate the baby Jesus. Satan somehow managed to convince a third of all God's angels to join him in rebellion; Perhaps these are the beings we now call demons or fallen angels, or perhaps the demons came from a prior creation.

5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

This is the resurrection and tells us again where the Lord Jesus Christ is today. He will rule with a rod of iron and that will come to pass shortly. An iron rod speaks of the resoluteness of Christ's rule. He will swiftly and immediately judge all sin and put down any rebellion.

6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

This is immediately after the middle of the Tribulation when Israel flees. This happens when Satan desecrates the temple and demands that the statue be worshiped. If there is one thing that Jewish believers know, it is not to worship idols. This place prepared of God is the rock city of Petra. Here the remnant of Israel will again be fed with manna from heaven and will be supernaturally protected by God. Not all of Israel will go to Petra. Many will take refuge in the Gentile nations. This last is important since God will judge the Gentile nations on how they treat Israel.

7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

As far as we know, angels can not be killed, so how, and why, do they fight? Yet they do fight. There are continual spiritual battles being fought.

8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

There is an order of command in heaven as there is here on the earth. We see here, that not only the church of the Lord Jesus Christ is being attacked here on the earth, but that there is war in heaven as well.

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Satan is defeated to such an extent that he is not allowed in heaven any more, not even to accuse the believers. He has had at least limited access as we

know from the book of Job. His defeat was sealed, on Earth and in Heaven, when Jesus died on the cross and was resurrected.

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

The devil is thrown out of Heaven once and for all. Time. It is almost over for him. The last half of the Tribulation will be a time of terrible trouble on earth. Good references if you are keeping notes are (Jer. 30:7; Dan 9:27; 12:1; Matt 24:15-22). It will be Satan's final attempt to prevent the return and the reign of Christ. He has only a short time so his wrath intensifies of his persecution of Israel.

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

The following is a quote from the internet. I used this because I could not have said it better. "You can see here the word of our testimony is when we open our mouths and declare that we believe Jesus Christ is Lord, and also believe He rose from the grave. We must proclaim this, even if we know it will mean our life. We are not to regard life here on this earth as very valuable. The life that is important is in heaven. This world is not the Christian's home. We are just passing through."

12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

Right now the devil is in an all out push to destroy the church as it was a hundred years ago. Remember that we are the church that makes the Lord Jesus want to vomit. Satan realizes his time is running out, and he is working on the believers. His scheme is to tell us not to be a fanatical Christian. He is trying to make us not take God real seriously. Satan often attends church. He doesn't mind going to most churches, because he hears very little of the Word of God and no sermons on the blood. Watering down Jesus is one of his favorite tools to destroy the church.

13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he

persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

Satan's persecution of Israel is an attempt to exterminate God's people, in order to prevent the fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham and David. i

14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

This is obviously symbolic since the woman is Israel. Consider this, and this is me, not scripture. Who is a friend of Israel, and who has the eagle as a national symbol, and plenty of aircraft to fly Israel out? If, indeed, this is America, then that is good news for us. It means we are still in business as a country at this time.

15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

This could be a literal flood of water or possibly a large army, (a flood of soldiers). In either case the next verse tells us what happened to them.

16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

Whether it's people or water the result is the same. God intervenes and the earth opens up. This brings to mind Korah and his people who were swallowed by the earth in Numbers 16:31-33. Those verses say this; **And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that [was] under them: {16:32} And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that [appertained] unto Korah, and all [their] goods. {16:33} They, and all that [appertained] to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.** This is the same type of thing that happens to the flood in the Tribulation.

17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Satan has always had a hatred for the nation of Israel because that is the race the Messiah came from. Israel is to inherit the Earth and Satan is the god of this world. He can't be happy about that. Since by the end of the Tribulation the Jews are down to a remnant perhaps he still thinks he can win.

REVELATION CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Things during the end times will be chaotic and that describes our situation, today, perfectly. Confusion and uncertainty will cause the people to welcome a strong leader that could bring hope and security in a time of fear and apprehension. People will desperately seek a strong, charismatic, leader who can pull the world back from the very brink of disaster. What this disaster will be we do not know but my vote goes for economic disaster. That coupled with a worldwide famine would have people willing to accept any leader who could make things better.

Those people will get their wish as a powerful, charismatic leader preaching peace and plenty comes on the scene. He will turn out to be much more than the world bargained for. He will be a dictator whose cruelty will be more than any the world has ever known. This man will be the Antichrist as he will rule the world and be worshiped by it.

1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

The sea here represents the Gentile nations of the world, from which this beast comes. The beast is the Antichrist, the false messiah. He is the final Gentile world ruler. He has other names and in various other scriptures he is called the "little horn", the willful king, the coming prince, and the man of sin. (2 Thess. 2:3). In scripture a beast can be either a king or a kingdom. In this case it is a king.

2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

His resemblance to a leopard, a bear, and a lion refer to the first three beasts in the vision of Daniel 7 (representing the empires of Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece). John's Beast includes the people and cultures of the three previous empires, merged into the Roman Empire.

As the first scripture indicated a beast with seven heads. These 6 again are Syria, Egypt, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. All of these are empires of the past. Number seven is the revived Roman empire. Notice how it is described; the beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. So the

seventh beast is Rome. They were, and then they were not, but they will be prominent again during the end times.

3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

There are two main views on this. One that this describes the death of the Antichrist himself, the healing of the "wound", and the apparent resurrection of the Antichrist. I believe this.

Some believe it to be the decline and apparent disappearance of the old Roman Empire, then the revival of the new Roman Empire. Whichever the case, it causes amazement throughout the world.

4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

The power and authority of the Beast come from Satan himself. Satan has his own "trinity": Satan acts as the Father, the Antichrist as the Son, and the False Prophet as the Spirit who attempts to bring glory to the Antichrist. John makes it plain that the beast's power and authority and kingdom are given to him by Satan but this is allowed by God. And is His complete control. It is good to keep in mind that this is all part of God's plan from the beginning. This happens at the mid point of the Tribulation. We know this because Satan's desecration of the temple happens at the mid point. This is the beginning of the Great Tribulation, (that is, the second half), which Daniel spoke about when the sacrifice Satan will defy God and will be given supernatural power. ceases.

5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

The first half has been bad but the next forty two months will be much worse. Now the Antichrist, indwelt by Satan, seems to have total worldwide control.

6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

The Antichrist defies God and is given supernatural power from Satan. This might be considered odd since all of Satan's power is granted by God himself until you realize that this entire Tribulation is set up by God to punish the Jews and bring them to belief in the Messiah.

7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

Today the world is prepared for a one world governmental and one world religion. Both this one world government and religion will be the devil's government, established during, or shortly before, the Tribulation. In the middle of the seven years he will assume control himself and, we are told, will exercise power over "every tribe, people, language and nation." Satan's "authority" will be all but unlimited, and almost everyone on earth will worship him.

8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

The unbelievers of the world will believe the Antichrist is god and will worship him without hesitation. All of these will gladly take the mark of the Beast. Those written in the Lamb's Book of Life will refuse to worship, the Beast and will pay for that with their lives. That statement, "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world", simply means that this has been a part of God's plan from the beginning.

9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.

10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

The thought of verse ten is that the Tribulation saints must have patience and wait for the Satan to be dealt with by the Lord Jesus Christ. Those who have real saving faith will endure the persecution of the Beast and will not recant. You do realize, I hope, that this is a work that is spoken of here.

11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

Here comes a different beast. The first came out of the sea, this one comes from the earth. This one is the False Prophet. He is a deceiver and his role is to bring people to worship the first beast. This is a religious leader who promotes global worship of the Antichrist.

12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

We are still speaking of the second beast. Scripture says, "He had two horns like a lamb." The Lord Jesus Christ is often referred to as "the Lamb of God" so this is a fake of the Lord Jesus Christ. The False Prophet coming out of the earth will look like a lamb with two horns. Lambs do not have horns, which are

symbols of authority; instead, they are meek and mild animals. The False Prophet will come to Israel in sheep's clothing, but God terms him "a beast".

The fact that "He spoke like a dragon" suggest that he will get power of speech from the Satan who is the dragon. This False Prophet will deceive human beings by acting like a lamb; but really he will speak the words of Satan. There is a close relationship between these two world leaders is seen in the fact that the False Prophet will be given power by the Antichrist. His whole purpose will be to work toward the complete dominance of the earth by the Antichrist, including forming a one world religion satisfactory to the Antichrist. The Book jumps around but keep in mind that this second beast comes on the scene early and is active in the first forty two months.

13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

The False Prophet will produce the miracles of Elijah and he will lead people to worship a false messiah.. The False Prophet will deceive unbelievers of the earth by means of wonders and miracles, accomplished through satanic power. Because of the miracles it will be hard not to believe this False Prophet.

14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

In the middle of the Tribulation, after the Antichrist has been slain and resurrected, the False Prophet will cause people to build a large statue very much like Nebuchadnezzar's image and will demand that it be worshiped. The False Prophet will cause an image of the Antichrist to be built and will have power to "give breath to the image". In other words this image will seem to be alive and will be able to speak. An order will be issued that all who do not worship this image will be killed. The method of execution used will be beheading.

15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

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.

Some worry that you might receive this mark accidentally through some thing

like a national identity card or chip implanted without the person's knowledge.. This will not happen. In order to take the mark one must agree to worship the Antichrist as god.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

Everyone who accepts this mark during the Tribulation has already made his choice, and that choice will permanently keep its wearer from heaven. Remember when you get the mark you must swear allegiance to the Antichrist as god. It isn't merely economic, it is a worship system. Accepting the mark is a rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a permanent, irreversible rejection.

Many currently worry that they will accept the mark accidentally, such as the case with national ID cards. This is not so. To accept the mark of the beast, one will knowingly agree to renounce God and to take this mark. Without the mark, no one will be able to buy or sell and will live in fear they and their family will die. Accepting the mark means eternal death.

13:18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number [is] Six hundred threescore [and] six.

The False Prophet will use this mark as a means of forcing people to worship Antichrist. Everyone must have his mark on their foreheads or on their hand in order to buy or sell. Imagine the pressures of having to possess such a mark in order to secure the necessary food for his family.

There are many views on what the 666 stands for but no where is it given in the bible as to what it means exactly. It will be a brand or tattoo and it will not be the numbers 666. The bible says "that is the number of his name", it does not say that is the number people will be given. Each number will probably be different like our social security numbers are now. It will be a means of keeping people under observation (just as our social security numbers are now). My thinking here; how about a worldwide social security number tattooed on your forehead or the back of your hand? That would work and be easy to sell to people. We do know that to accept the mark is to accept Antichrist as God and thus deny God. Only those who walk with Christ will be able to understand why taking of this mark can not be done even if it means death to their physical body.

REVELATION CHAPTER FOURTEEN

Before we begin the bowl judgments that come out of the seventh trumpet, we will look on the upheaval that will take place at the end of the three and one half year period, or the at the middle of the Tribulation.

1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

Here we again see Christ pictured as a Lamb. This is symbolic of course as this Lamb has a father. He is seen standing with the 144,000 Jewish male virgins who are the witnesses. There are two views on the location. Some say actual Mt Zion on Earth and some say this scene is in Heaven. It should clear up as we go forward.

2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

Now we know for sure they have musical instruments in Heaven.

3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

We are told in Revelation chapter fifteen that this song is the song of Moses. This indicates that they are related to Old Testament law. The fact that they also sing the song of the Lamb indicates salvation by grace through faith.

4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

When you think about this it is odd. No where else in scripture has God required celibacy, only that we abstain from fornication. Here these 144,000 are called the "firstfruits" so this indicates to me that they are in Heaven in which case there has been another Rapture here at the mid point of the Tribulation. There will actually be three Trib Raptures, one before, one in the middle and one just before the end. "Firstfruits" also indicates that these are the first saved during the Tribulation.

5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

They are ethically blameless which, to me means they have led upright lives and, more important, they are covered by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

Here we have “another” gospel preached. Recall what Paul said in Galatians Ch 1 vs 8; **But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.** Folks, that means let him go to Hell. But, that said, now the gospel has changed from the gospel of the grace of God, and the gospel of the kingdom, to the Everlasting gospel which is fear God for the hour of judgment has come. What Paul said was right for our age but the gospel message has changed several times. Different instructions for different dispensations.

7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

This is God's last warning to mankind. Basically it is fear, and worship, God and not the Antichrist.

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

This has actually not happened yet but will soon. This can be considered a prophecy as well as a warning to believers to get out of that city and I do believe the believers will know which city it is, otherwise the warning is meaningless. This is not necessarily the actual city of Babylon though it could be. In any case it will be the center of world commerce. New York or London maybe?

9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

We have discussed this before. If a person takes the mark they go to Hell. So the choice is take the mark and be able to buy, sell, and work for a living but spend eternity in the lake of fire, or refuse the mark and be hunted down and beheaded. Think of the tremendous pressure one would be under to take the mark and be able to feed their family.

11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

Verse eleven is a picture of Hell and the lake of fire. There is also this to consider. What happens if a believer takes the mark? They go to Hell so in the Tribulation they can lose their salvation. The only alternative is to say that no believer will ever take the mark. If you think that is even a remote possibility think of all of the Christians you know. How many of them would take the mark believing "God would understand"? I know a lot who would take it and so do you. As you consider this keep in mind that these people in the Tribulation, are not "born again", they are not in the Body of Christ, and they are not spiritually circumcised. In other words they are very different from those of us in this dispensation.

12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

This is another indication that these people are now under the Jewish rules as well as a mixture of grace. Notice the phrase "they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This is a mixture, a thing different from former dispensations. This is the very thing, mixing law and grace, that the apostle Paul continually warned the New Testament Church against.

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

Here is another difference. Their works follow them while our works go ahead of us. These dead, spoken of here, which die in the Lord are Tribulation martyrs; they will be blessed through rest, resurrection, and reigning with Christ during the Millennium. They are rewarded for their works and obedience.

14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

This is the Lord Jesus Christ. The sickle represents judgment. Surprise! If you count this one on the clouds as an angel then that makes seven angels.

15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

This is the Lord Jesus Christ taking out the believers. This is the very end of the Tribulation,.It is the Rapture of the Tribulation saints. This is the last of the three Raptures and takes out the last of the believers.

17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

In Matthew 13 Christ tells the parable of the wheat and tares. This is what we see going on at this time. The “wheat” was raptured out and the tares are about to be harvested.

18 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.

The sixth angel tells the fifth angel to harvest the grapes. The grapes represent the those who have taken the mark and worshiped the Satan.

19 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

This is the battle of Armageddon where Satan's followers are killed . Keep in mind that the things mentioned in verse 17,that is the Rapture of Tribulation saints occurs as the Lord is returning to the battle. In other words they go up to meet the returning Lord Jesus in the air and come back with us to the battle.

20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

That is a lot of blood,but then Satan had a lot of followers. I suppose the billions of gallons of blood would reach to the horses bridles.

All that said there is one other thing I need to mention before we go on. There is a third group of people in the Tribulation. There are believers,there are those who take the mark and worship Satan, and there is another group who are not believers but through rebellion, against the Antichrist, have not taken the mark. They have managed to keep themselves hidden and alive. These are the nations who will go on into the Judgment of the Nations. This Judgment of Nations is mentioned in Matthew 25:31-46. This will be the first major event following the Battle of Armageddon. We will discuss this judgment in a later chapter.

REVELATION CHAPTER FIFTEEN

Revelation chapter 15 begins the preparation for the seven vials. The wrath of God began with the seven seals in chapter 6 and will be finished with these seven vials. Chapter 15 is an introduction to these last seven and final plagues on mankind. In Chapters 15 and 16 we see the final outpouring of God's wrath before Christ's return.

1 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.

The word seven is used 54 times in the book of Revelation. This seven indicates that things, including the wrath of God, are nearing completion. The last seven plagues are poured out and then the Lord comes back.

2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

This is the sea of glass before the throne that we saw in chapter 4 vs 6. Apparently the throne room has a floor of glass. I would go further and say it is probably prismatic and reflects all the colors from the light given off by God's glory. The victory over the beast is won by refusing the mark of the beast and by faith in Jesus Christ. Do note that in this period of time it takes both.

3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

In the Tribulation the saints will sing both the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb as God's grace will now come through faith and works. This, by the way, is another verse that proves that the Church age Christians do not go through the Tribulation. These sing the song of Moses and that is Old Testament and for the Jews.

4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

This looks forward to the millennium when all the nations will go up to Jerusalem to worship. Looking back, you may remember that all Jewish men had to attend Passover I, in Jerusalem, at least once in their lives. This is probably a similar thing with representatives of the nations going up once a year.

5 And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:

This is the second time the temple in Heaven is opened.

6 And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles.

These seven angels appear as men, indeed they are called men later in the book. This "tabernacle" is the original tabernacle in heaven that the one on the earth was patterned after. Moses was given very detailed instruction, by God, on how to build the earthly one. At Jesus crucifixion the the tabernacle was opened and the temple curtain in front of the Holy of Holies, was torn from the top to the bottom. Torn from the top to show it was not done by man, but by God.

7 And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever.

We know these "vials" are from God, because they are gold. Again the number seven signals completion. They are ready to pour the wrath out on the inhabitants of the earth. It is interesting that God does not put an end to sin with these vials. Apparently it still exists during the millennium as Christ has to rule with a rod of iron. Furthermore, when Satan is released at the end there is more rebellion. Sin does not end until Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire and eternity begins.

8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.

This indicates that men have access to the temple except in this case. For a man to go into this strong presence of God would probably be deadly. During this time no human being will have access to the presence of God on His throne until the end of the Tribulation, for He will not be dealing with people in mercy. During the last three and one half years of the Tribulation, He will deal with human beings in judgment.

REVELATION CHAPTER SIXTEEN

Revelation chapter 16 describe the final seven Vials of the wrath of God. No repentance is invited and no mercy shown. The judgments are somewhat parallel to the trumpets of chapters 8 and 9 but are more universal in their effects than were the trumpets, and they affect people on a more personal level.

1 And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

If the plagues of Egypt were literal, and they certainly were, why shouldn't we expect these judgments likewise to be literal? The seven angels, each holding a vial, seem reluctant to carry out their task. There is no doubt in my mind that angels have at least as much, and probably more, empathy as humans do. But that said, they are obedient to the voice of God. These vials constitute what the Lord Jesus referred to as the "great distress" or great tribulation Mat. 24 v.21. Four of these seven judgments occurred literally in Egypt. In addition, part of the 6th judgment; that of drying up the Euphrates River and producing frogs, was also literally fulfilled during the history of Israel. Frogs were generated as one of the plagues of Egypt, and both the Red Sea and Jordan River were stopped so that God's people could walk across on dry ground.

2 And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.

This first vial judgment is foul and loathsome sores. One commentator suggests that these sores will be like leprosy or the sores of the last stages of AIDS. That seems as likely as anything else. My guess would be boils like those that afflicted Job. John makes it clear that these sores afflict only those who worship the Antichrist and have the mark of the Beast; no Tribulation saint suffers from them.

These vial judgments all happen after the middle of the Tribulation as that is when the Antichrist sets himself up as God. This indicates that God, in His marvelous grace, will not bring judgment on believers during this latter half of Tribulation, but will protect them as He did the Israelites during the plagues of Egypt. I believe God protects the believers during the other plagues as well.

3 And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.

Now the second angel pours out his vial on the sea, and it turns into blood like that of a dead man, and every living thing in the sea dies. God has already caused a third part of the sea to turn to blood during the 2nd trumpet, but this second vial includes the entire sea. Imagine when all living creatures in the seas die. The smell of rotting fish is one of the worst and the potential for disease will be awful. This judgment will also interfere with shipping and ruin the fishing industry. Think of the confusion as people search for water fit to drink. If I read this correctly there will be no water, only water mixed with rotting blood and fish.

4 And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.

The third vial is a sequel to the second. God will destroy the only remaining sources of water, the rivers and fountains or springs of the deep, by turning them turn to blood.

This means literal blood, for if Christ can turn water to wine, He certainly can turn water to blood. Be sure to notice that this will be corrupt blood, which will breed disease and pestilence. One of our most basic needs is water. I assume that if there are still believers here, that God will provide water from another source. Imagine the riots as the world fights for whatever water might still be available and you can bet that God will leave just a tiny bit to fuel these riots. I say that because this is a period of wrath and judgment and not mercy. This describes devastation beyond what we can comprehend.

5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.

This seems to indicate that there are angels in charge of different forces of nature. “**Angel of the waters**” could mean just that, or it might mean simply the angel who poured the vial on the water. Notice here, this is not the people saying that God is righteous. The people still do not repent. The angel here is saying that this judgment that God has brought is justified.

6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

What a wonderful and ironic “eye for an eye”. It seems that blood in their water supply is in punishment for the blood of the saints and prophets. . They deserve this punishment.

7 And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.

As bad as these judgments are, they are well deserved. Everyone likes to think of God as love, but everyone needs to remember, that He is also the judge of the world. By His own testimony He is a jealous and wrathful God. Just as there is no record of anyone repenting, there is no mercy being shown by God.

8 And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.

People's mouths already parched from lack of water, these unrepentant sinners suffer even more intense thirst when God causes the sun to "scorch" them with "great heat". Do they repent? No, instead they blaspheme God. I rather doubt that repentance at this point would do them any good.

The environmentalists are telling us every day that the ozone layer is now so thin that it might go away altogether. If it does, people would die by the

thousands from harmful rays from the sun that had not been filtered to make them safe.

You see, God put this earth together in a very special way. Everything works together. Man has messed up many things including the atmosphere. An interesting thing to note is, that it takes just a very light sprinkling of the shed blood of Jesus to protect us. As I read this book I thank God we will be in Heaven with the Lord Jesus Christ.

9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.

They still have the sores and water turned to blood to deal with. Now the sun increases its heat to a point just below killing the unbelievers. They did not repent and the worst thing they could possibly do was to curse God yet that is what they do. This type of "heat" would burn up all crops, cause droughts, and probably even melt the polar ice region.

10 And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,

Notice that tremendous darkness envelops the beast's kingdom. This same thing occurred in Egypt during the plagues; the whole land was in darkness so oppressive that Moses said you could actually feel it. That's the sort of thing that will come upon the kingdom of the Antichrist at this time. This divine judgment will give a physical illustration of their spiritual darkness. Obviously this plague comes after the excess heat from the sun.

11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

These judgments are so clearly supernatural that everyone will know that they come from God. Instead of falling down before Him to become the recipients of His mercy, people only "cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done." They not only blaspheme God, but refuse to change their ways. It should be understood that those who reject the Lord do so not because of doubts, but as a result of hardness of heart and love for sin.

12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

The Euphrates River is the eastern border of the land God gave to Abraham. It is about 1800 miles long and so large that it forms a natural barrier against the

armies of the world. It served as the eastern border of the Roman Empire. The sixth vial judgment will dry up that river to make way for the "**kings of the East.**" The "kings from the east" will march an army across to battle with the Lord. It is not clear to me that they know who they are going to fight. This army will probably be about four million strong and they will be joined in the valley of Megiddo by huge armies from all over the world. This river could have dried up because of the problems caused by some of the other vials. There will be such a drought that this waterway will dry up and these armies from the east will come into Israel on dry land.

13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

The three unclean spirits are demons who support the activities of Satan, the beast and the false prophet. These unclean spirits will perform supernatural signs as part of their deception. Undoubtedly they will work wonders to deceive the eastern kings, seducing them to make the difficult journey to their doom at Armageddon.

14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

This is the battle of Armageddon. It tells us here that these are "spirits of devils". They are the followers of Satan. These "spirits of devils" have power to do miracles but their power is limited. The Bible says that at the end, the devil will have power enough to call down fire from heaven. His miracles will be so convincing that people will believe a lie. These evil spirits are so deceiving, that they convince these armies to come against Israel. They willingly come to the battle of Armageddon, believing they will win. This battle is actually the forces of evil coming against God Himself and this war has actually been going on for centuries.

15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

We see here that this comes unexpectedly. The believers are told to "watch" and "keep their garments". These are "works". This is a warning to the surviving believers to be watchful and alert, and to remain faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ during this time of intense persecution.

16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

The bible says the blood will run to the horses bridles in this valley of Megiddo during this battle. This valley is also called by the name Jezreal in other places. Now watch this next. There have already been twenty major battles fought at Megiddo, but never a battle like this one. This battle will be the twenty-first, that's three times seven. Three is the number of the Trinity 'or Godhead. Seven means spiritually complete. This will truly be the war to end all wars. Shortly after this, probably about seventy five days, Jesus will set up His thousand year reign.

17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.

This "great voice out of the temple" was God speaking. In Genesis, when God made the earth in six days, then He said "it is finished". When Jesus hung on the cross six hours, He said "it is finished". I believe that is just what this "It is done" means here. This is the end of six 1000 year days of work on the earth, and is just before the 1000 year Sabbath of rest.

18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

The seventh vial with seven being the number of completion. Then came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. This will be the largest earthquake in the history of the world. The great city, either actual Babylon or some other city that is now "spiritual" Babylion, is split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. Now notice that this has two applications. First the cities actually collapse from the earthquake but the also collapse financially from the lose of Babylon their financial center.

It says, "every island fled away and the mountains could not be found". I take that statement literally. From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. Still mankind does not repent but curses God for letting this happen.

19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

This happens suddenly so imagine what the world will look like when every mountain and island is suddenly either removed from the earth or reduced to rubble and spread over the earth. In either case the whole appearance of the world will be changed. This, no doubt is in preparation of the Millennium when the world returns to it's former Edenic state.

21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

When the seventh angel pours out his vial into the air that voice of God will be heard from the Temple before the throne, conveying a most welcome message: "It is done!" It is most welcome because it signifies the end of the Tribulation and the conclusion of the day of God's wrath on the ungodly.

REVELATION CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

Chapter 16 is when the Tribulation is finished, and now chapter 17 will cover when Babylon the Harlot or the Religious Babylon is Destroyed. Archaeologists believe that Babylon is the cradle of civilization. It is the city started by Nimrod and is on the bank of the Euphrates river. Revelation 17 is the destruction of religious Babylon and that takes place about the center of the seven years when Antichrist no longer needs the one World Religion. And yes, this one world religion started in ancient Babylon and continues today in one of our largest denominations. There are two Babylons mentioned. Babylon the governmental system will be destroyed at the end, when commercial, political Babylon is destroyed in chapter eighteen. With the Mother of Harlots" out of the way, all inhabitants of the earth, except those written in the Lamb's Book of Life, will worship the beast. This is what Satan has wanted from the beginning.

1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

This "whore" here is not a literal woman but is the idolatrous church, the church that worships idols. This statement "sitteth upon many waters", has a double meaning. First it is worldwide, and it speaks of large groups of people. This is not the true church but the apostate church. God calls it the harlot church; in other words the church that is not faithful to God. This church, claims to be Christian, but is not. This will be the one world religion which will appear after the true church has been taken out. This is the part of the church that has compromised with the world and is no longer a chaste virgin in the sight of God. I believe that a large portion of the church falls into this category today. Worldliness has crept into our churches. The sad thing is that if she would repent, God would take her back, but she will not repent.

2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

Chapters seventeen and eighteen picture God's judgment on this false religious system called here the Harlot. This is a system that was, at one time, a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ but over the history of the church has fallen farther and farther away from the true gospel and has gone into a man made system of idol worship and apostasy. Keep in mind that there are two Babylons, the religious and the political system.

3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

This woman sitting on the beast shows the false church's close association with Satan. The scarlet color of the beast indicates Satan. Now, I will just go ahead and say this. Most commentators say the "woman" is the Catholic Church and, in a sense, they are right. But it is much more than that. As time goes on the Catholic Church will work more toward a one world religion, taking in a large part of the other religions of the world as well as a large part of the apostate Protestant Church but always with Rome as the head. This will be a true "one world religion."

4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

The fornication referred to is likely spiritual fornication, that is, religious apostasy, rather than physical adultery.

5 And upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Abominations Of The Earth.

The number of capitalized words in this verse is thirteen. This is not a coincidence. This Babylon the Great will do what ancient Babylon did. That is, it will oppress God's people, and propagate a false religious system. Most of the false religions of the world can be traced back to ancient Babylon.

6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

This blood is of the tribulation martyrs but also the martyrs that have been killed through the ages. There is no way to tell the number of bible believing Christians that were killed in the Dark Ages alone. Total number of Christians killed by the "so called" church has to be numbered in the millions since it has been going on since the time of Nimrod. It will start again during the Tribulation. I am not speaking of Muslim extremist here but of the "so called" church itself. You have

to wonder how could these people get so far away from God and still occupy a pew? The answer is quite simple. They never read or study their Bible themselves. They allow someone else to read it and tell them what it is says.

7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

The beast carries her so she must be separate from it. To understand this beast it must be considered separate from the heads and horns.

8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

The man called the beast is in the pit at this time but will ascend out of that pit during the Tribulation. This person is Judas Iscariot, the son of perdition, who "went to his own place".

9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

This is that city that sits on seven hills, or mountains. Rome was known throughout the ancient world as the city that sits on seven hills. The woman represents an idolatrous, anti God religious system centered at Rome.

10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

These fallen kingdoms are Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and, it says one is. In John's day that would be the old Roman empire. One, the Antichrist's kingdom is still to come. His kingdom will be formed inside the old Roman empire.

11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

This will be the eighth kingdom and will be the kingdom of the Antichrist. I am puzzled by that last phrase. We know that Judas went into Perdition and comes back as the Beast but this seems to say he goes again.

12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

These ten kings agree to the rule of the Antichrist but rule under him. These same are some of those that fight against Christ at Armageddon. These ten are not kings yet but will come to power either as the Antichrist rises or shortly before that time.

13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

Keep in mind that these kings will rule independently of the Antichrist for the first three and one half years then will give their power to him for the last three and one half years.

14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

This proves that these kings are not yet in power but will be in time for the Tribulation. The “called, and chosen and faithful”, are us and the other saints with Him. Not everyone is called to specific service but all are called as servants, soldiers, and students of God's word until death.

15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

This explains the “waters” referred to earlier. It is the multitude of people deceived by the false church and it is worldwide.

16 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

The ten kings and the Antichrist will turn on the religious system and destroy it completely at the mid point of the Tribulation. Oddly enough, this is God's plan from the beginning. He has them destroying each other from this point going forward.

17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

Don't miss the fact that God is influencing the hearts and minds of these demonic kings.

18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

This “woman” is a city that sits on seven hills and is more than a city ;it is also a state and a religious system. This city is extremely wealthy with gold, silver and

pearls. Its emblem is a golden cup. She is arrayed in purple and scarlet. There is only one city in the world today which fits that description. Vatican City, in Rome.

Lastly here is a quote from Dr. Peter Ruckman's commentary "The Revelation of Jesus Christ". "Revelation 17 teaches clearly, beyond any shadow of a doubt, that when Jesus Christ comes back and lands on this earth at the battle of Armageddon, He comes to attack and destroy Satan incarnate, reigning with ten kings, over a ten king federated Roman Catholic world that professes to be Christian and in reality is nothing but a godless ecclesiastical whore".

REVELATION CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

There is disagreement among the commentators as to whether religious Babylon and commercial Babylon are the same, or separate, places. Since I believe they are two separate, but closely aligned, entities that is what we will go with. So, here in chapter eighteen we will see commercial Babylon destroyed.

1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

"After these things" indicates that the events described in chapter 18 will not take place until after the events of chapter 17 have been fulfilled. This indicates two Babylons. Babylon the prostitute of chapter 17 will be destroyed by the kings of the earth. The Babylon of chapter 18 will be destroyed by the judgments of God. The kings who destroy the Babylon of chapter 17 rejoice. In the Babylon of chapter 18, the kings and merchants lament and weep for her. These merchants did not care that the religious system was gone.

2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

Since chapter 18 seems to describe the destruction of a literal commercial city, the governmental capital of the world during the Tribulation, that begs the question, "Where is that city?" Again, Bible prophecy students are not in agreement. Some suggest the city of Rome, and some years ago suggested New York City because he felt it was the commercial center of the world. Some who believe we should take the Scriptures literally whenever possible are inclined to believe that the city of Babylon will be rebuilt.

In chapter 18 this Babylon is referred to as a city. The literal interpretation would dictate that indeed this Babylon, of chapter eighteen, is a city. Why does this matter? Because the other Babylon, the "woman" was a religious system.

In reality the "woman", of chapter seventeen, was the corrupt religious system and not a city. The same applies here. Commercial Babylon, the city, is a corrupt commercial, and political system that will be destroyed at the end of the Tribulation.

3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

The corruption may have had its beginnings at the city of Babylon, but it has spread to every corner of the earth. It will not be until the earth is totally destroyed that this evil will be no more. Those who mourn are those who are losing their ability to deceive the nations any longer.

4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

The doctrinal application is for the Jews who are cooperating with Rome in the last days. This is also a warning to believers to come out of the apostate church. Yes, there are believers in there then just as there are some true believers in the apostate church today. What makes an apostate church? One of the worst things is worshiping idols but there is a long list in addition to that. Any church that substitutes anything for the shed blood of Jesus is apostate. Saved by water baptism-apostate. Saved by keeping sacraments-apostate. Paul said it best in Galatians 1:8 **But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.** Now this does change in the Tribulation and then the same thing would apply to that gospel, the kingdom gospel, which is preached again during the Tribulation.

5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

Believers must separate from the Harlot, and her sins, or they will share in her judgments.

6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.

I believe we can take this literally. Commercial Babylon will suffer double judgment for what she has done to the Saints. This is a classic case of reaping what you sow.

7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much

torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

Notice the arrogance of this city. This reminds us of what The Lord Jesus had to say about us, the end time church. Revelation 3:15 says; **I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. {3:16} So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. {3:17} Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:** We had this just a few weeks ago as we studied our own church period. It sounds like this end time commercial and political system has the same problem. The difference is that our church is in Heaven and this system will be destroyed.

8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

This one day may be a literal day or it may be symbolic for sudden destruction. The fire may be literal or symbolic. I believe it is literal fire as it was in the original burning of Rome.

9 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,

These verses are three laments. One from the kings, one from the merchants and one from the seamen (that last one would be the shipping interests). These "kings" are earthly governments who have profited by trading with this great city. That trading has now stopped completely and suddenly. What is left of Earth's economy is gone.

10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

I believe this is both an evil system and many evil cities, as well, being destroyed. The one hour simply means the judgment will happen quickly as was predicted in verse eight.

11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:

The merchants can no longer carry on commerce. There is nothing to buy or sell. This would include whatever food, electricity, and fuel was left after the plagues. Notice again the difference in this system and the religious system. The kings killed the religious whore but they weep for the commercial system. This

hit their pocketbook.

12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble,

All of these things are available, with a couple of possible exceptions, in commerce today. It is illegal to buy or sell ivory in most countries but some still goes on. I can not find a single definition of thyine wood that makes sense. We will call it a rare, and beautiful, wood and let it go at that. One commentator said it was a wood with deep grain. You know he made that one up.

13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.

Several types of things are mentioned in this verse and all are worldly things. Bibles and other things of God did not make the list. This "souls of men", is an interesting phrase. This probably refers to slavery with human trafficking being the most likely. A lot of that goes on all over the world today. They thought no more about selling a person than they did any other merchandise.

It seems all trade has just about ceased. Probably, all the plagues and wars have stopped everything.

14 And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.

All commodities that were available are now gone and will never be available again. The commercial system is completely shut down. This is probably the time when a loaf of bread would cost a whole day's wages. There will be no money at all left for any thing else. Even the wealthy will not have food for the food is just not there to buy. At this point they are very near the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

15 The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,

These merchants weep because their materialistic passions can no longer be fulfilled. The weeping that begins then will last for eternity in hell.

This is a classic example of people who work all their lives for "stuff" only to lose their souls and spend eternity in the Lake of Fire. There will be no excuses at the The Great White Throne Judgment.

16 And saying, Alas, alas that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!

These unrepentant people mourn as God brings His judgment against them, knowing they items will never have these items again.

17 For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off,

The shipping industry has nothing left to ship. I think that we can extend this to any other carriers as well. Things such as rail and truck shipments have stopped. There is literally nothing left to ship. Right now, in 2016, we are three days away from starvation and rioting in the streets over food. Stores no longer carry a stock but depend on daily truck shipments to keep the shelves stocked. The ships, trucks and trains stop there is nothing left to feed the people.

18 And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city!

The people cry and mourn but still do not repent. They see what is happening and know it comes from God but will not repent. This is stubbornness beyond belief.

19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.

Casting dust on their heads is an ancient expression of grief. These last few scriptures speak of ships but it can be applied to the whole shipping system including trains, planes and trucks. All of these services would be shut down if there were no more electrical system, no more banking system and no more computers. available.

20 Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

This is what the inhabitants of Heaven think about the fall of Babylon.

21 And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

Whether this is only a real city, or a sinful commercial, social and political system that corrupts the entire world, it doesn't matter at this point. This is speaking of

total destruction. This is punishment as bad as it gets. I believe this shows the finality of this judgment of God. Remember Babylon is destroyed by God Himself, not by the devil.

22 And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee;

Literally everything grinds to a halt everywhere.

23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.

The Babylonian system started back in Genesis ten ,with Nimrod,and has continued to the present day. One day soon it will collapse never to return.

24 And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

Three reasons are given for the destruction of Babylon. Her arrogance,Her deception of the nations,and her persecution and martyrdom of the saints.

REVELATION CHAPTER NINETEEN

The first five verses show how Heaven reacts to the destruction of the corrupt religious,commercial and political system. The Babylonian system began in Genesis 10 and has continued ,in one form or another, to this day.

1 And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:

Both the population of Heaven and spiritual people rejoice over many things including the salvation of sinners,the confusion of apostates,the destruction of the religious system of Rome and the restoration of Israel.

2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

It appears that the redeemed are looking on from heaven and approving of the destruction of Babel, because the Messiah was bringing justice and righteousness to the world. They have waited for the time when God's justice would triumph and now that time had come.

3 And again they said, Alleluia And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.

The smoke shows the permanence of the destruction. This religious and commercial system will never be allowed to rise again.

4 And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.

For the final time in Revelation these elders and four living creatures that were closest to God's throne take part in the worship. The word Amen derives from a Hebrew word meaning truly, or so be it.

5 And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

God is all powerful and reigns over the universe. We are about to look at the Marriage of the Lamb and here is the timetable. The betrothal takes place on Earth during the Church Age. That would be now. Then, at the Judgment Seat of Christ the Church will be made spotless and without wrinkle. The marriage, (called a presentation), takes place in Heaven and is followed immediately by the Marriage Supper which lasts for seven days (seven years)

7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

In the Old Testament Israel is pictured as God's wife. Here the Church is the wife of Jesus. Believers are welcomed into Heaven and have the privilege of union with Jesus Christ forever. The rejoicing here is because the time has finally come for the Lamb (Jesus Christ) to claim His Bride. This bride is composed of every born again believer from the Church Age. Old Testament saints and New Testament saints, saved before the Church came into existence, will be at the wedding ceremony as friends of the Bridegroom.

8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

“fine linen, clean and white” is the symbol of the Bride's righteousness and purity. This was “granted” to her because her righteousness comes from the Lord Jesus Christ.

9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Be sure to notice that these things are still in Heaven at this point.

10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

From this we see three things. Angels are not to be worshiped, angels are our fellow servants and the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. That last one is deeper than the others. No other “holy” book dares to predict the future and if they did the prophecies would not be accurate. Our Book, by the Holy Spirit dares to prophesy in great detail and they prophecies are always correct. So, Jesus' testimony is that He knows the end from the beginning.

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

This is Jesus Christ on the white horse this time. The return of the Lord Jesus Christ is the most important doctrine in the Bible. It is more important than the doctrine of salvation or the resurrection. Now, to you and I, our salvation is more important but to God the Father the return and reign of His Son is more important. One other thing about this verse. This verse, and others like Acts 11:5-6, let us know that there are animals in Heaven. Heaven is called Paradise and that is a Persian word meaning “animal park”.

12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

The eyes like fire represent judgment while the many crowns indicate He is King of Kings.

13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

Jesus blood dipped robe is like the one attributed to God in Isaiah 63:2-4 and following; **Wherefore [art thou] red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? {63:3} I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people [there was] none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. 63:4} For the day of vengeance [is] in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.**

This is no longer the babe in the manger nor the mild mannered teacher who willingly went to the cross for us.

14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

The whole army is on "white horses" and have white linen because they are washed in the blood of the Lamb. They have on pure white linen for the righteousness of Christ.

15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

The sharp sword is the Lord Jesus true weapon, not His armies. He speaks and it is done. The iron rod depicts His absolute authority.

16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, King Of Kings, And Lord Of Lords.

There are at least ninety names throughout the Bible that have been used for Jesus. The name He was called at the time had to do with the circumstance at hand. Here He is coming to the earth to take over as Supreme Ruler, so He is called by the name "KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS".

17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

Verses 17 – 21 depict the final disaster. Another angel appears and calls the birds. It is interesting that Israel now has an ever increasing number of birds of prey especially vultures. They have become so numerous recently that they are becoming a hazard to aircraft.

18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

The supper of the great God is very different from the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. This supper is a call to all the birds to gather to eat the flesh of those slain in battle.

19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

The Antichrist and the ten kings have gathered their armies to do battle with Jesus and His army. This seemingly invincible army with all of its firepower, now awaits the arrival of the Rider on the white horse. Don't miss the mental picture here. Tanks, millions of armored soldiers, planes with missiles and bombs, ships offshore with their missiles and guns all pointed in the direction of the coming battle and on the other sits a man on a horse with an apparently unarmed army

on horseback, behind Him. This scripture is speaking again of the battle of Armageddon.

20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Before the battle can even begin, it's over. The Antichrist and False Prophet, are thrown alive into the lake of fire. These are the two most evil men the Earth has ever seen so it is fitting that they should be first into the Lake of Fire. This Lake of Fire replaces Hell and goes on out into eternity. This is the ultimate destination of Satan, his angels, the demons and the unredeemed.

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

With the battle of Armageddon we have now seen the end of the Tribulation. It is important to recognize that there are two major battles, this one and one at the end of the millennial reign. It is easy to get these two confused. So we end this chapter with the Antichrist and False Prophet thrown alive into the Lake of Fire. Satan will be bound, in the bottomless pit, for the one thousand year reign.

REVELATION CHAPTER TWENTY

Revelation chapter 20 is the time when Satan will be bound and put into the bottomless pit where he will not be able to influence the people who have lived through the seven years of Tribulation. Can you imagine a life where Satan isn't around to tempt anyone? It should be a time of paradise but it is not.

Most who enter the millennium will live for the entire one thousand years and will have children. The curse is lifted and even the animals will live in peace with each other.

But human nature is what it is. The children will still have to be taught about Jesus, even though He will be with them. Many will not accept Him. Remember the nature of man. Many of those children will be rebels and with a tremendous population explosion during those one thousand years, there will be probably billions of people at the end much like it is now. According to verse eight the number of unbelievers will be as the sand of the sea".

1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

This angel has been given authority and comes from heaven near the throne. We can assume from this that Jesus has turned the key to the bottomless pit over to this angel and has given him power for this job. This "great chain" is controversial. Some say that no chain could hold Satan but God has more than one kind of chain. If He created the Devil then He certainly has a means to hold him.

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

Here we see the devil spoken of as the dragon which we read about in a previous lesson. We also see him recognized as the serpent. He is the same one who deceived Eve in the garden. The devil will not be on the earth to tempt the Christians until the 1000 year reign of Jesus is over.

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Now when evil things are done we will have no one to blame but ourselves. The Bible tells us that the heart of man is evil continually and the Millennial kingdom proves it completely. By the end of the thousand years there will be so much sin that God will destroy, and rebuild, it for the last time.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

There are two classes of people here. The thrones are occupied by Christians. They were promised to the apostles in Matthew 19:27-30., and promised to Christians in Romans 8:17 and 2 Timothy 2:12. The souls of them that were beheaded are Tribulation saints. We last saw these people under the throne. Both groups live and reign with Jesus Christ for the thousand years.

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

Christians, from all generations, will live here on this earth during the millennium and will rule and reign with the Lord Jesus. We will rule with Christ as His subordinates so we will have jobs to do. We will have a thousand years to get to know Christians from all generations. Imagine being able to meet, and talk with, Adam, or Paul or Ruth.

Finally, after 6000 years God's promises to Abraham will be fulfilled.

6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

This second death mentioned here is for the lost. Not only will the Christians reign on this earth with Jesus for 1000 years, but we will live for all eternity in heaven with Jesus. Christ's 1000 year reign is the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham, Isaac, Israel and to David. Christ is present in Jerusalem, ruling the world, and the saints of all ages administer the kingdom under His direction. All evil is prohibited and punished immediately, (remember that He rules with a rod of iron). Satan is locked, in the pit, so that he cannot be the cause of any sin. Mankind sins anyway so this is the final proof of the incorrigible nature of man's sinful heart.

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

Here we go again. Another great "battle", which is not much of a battle, is coming up. When Satan is loosed he finds a great multitude of people ready to try and overthrow Jesus. I personally find this difficult to understand unless the multitude do not really know who Jesus is. After all, these are people who have grown up in the millennial kingdom and unless they have been told they may either not know or simply not believe that this ruler is the Son of God. Obviously there are a lot of people who reject the Lord. When Joseph sent for his father and family 70 people came to Egypt. A little over 400 years later there were millions who God led out of Egypt. There will be a lot more people than 70 that will go into the millennium and there will be 250% more time for increase. There will probably be many billions of people at that time so Satan could have a huge gathering that will join together for that final battle. "the number of whom [is] as the sand of the sea." We are told in Psalms 110:2 that the Lord has many enemies here. Psalm 2:9-12 tells us that He has many enemies during the millennial reign. Some people just can't stand anyone in authority over them.

9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

This wraps it up. This great multitude of people who rebel against the Lord Jesus Christ are killed by fire from God.

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

Now Satan is finished for good. He joins the false prophet and Antichrist in the Lake of Fire. Please understand that the false prophet and beast have already been burning for 1000 years. Notice the last phrase, "for ever and ever". That means they will remain in that lake of fire for eternity. This is the Hell that was prepared for the devil and his angels.

11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

This is judgment day the Great White Throne judgment where all the unsaved dead are judged. In addition there will those saved during the Tribulation and Millennium. I picture this as everything just exploding and disappearing. There sits God, on His throne, suspended in space with the unsaved standing, in their filthy rags, waiting to argue with God about whether they were good enough or not.

God's use for the earth is over. The earth was reshaped by the tribulation judgments, restored during the millennial kingdom. Now God will create a new heaven and a new earth as it states in 2 Peter 3:13 **"Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness"**

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

The Book of Life is an interesting book. No one seems to know what the book really is. There are guesses but nothing concrete. What we do know is that there are names written in it and if a name is not there that person goes to the lake of fire. There is a huge mass of these unbelievers standing before God's throne. This will include everyone from kings down to the lowest native in Africa. All will now face judgment.

Notice that "books" is plural here. There are books which contain a person's every thought, word and deed, which is one more reason for me to be glad I am saved. Nothing will be hidden. God knows the secrets of the heart.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every

man according to their works.

Picture this All of the lost dead are waiting in torment ,in the flames of Hell right now. They are ,without a doubt,aware of the coming judgment and surely have no hope of mercy. These are all of the unbelievers though all ages who have died. They will be raised up by Christ for final judgment.

Before the sea vanishes, and goes out of existence, it gives up the dead that are in it. The sea is mentioned but this applies to the whole world. God will call back all those who have long since turned to dust. Even those blown to atoms at Nagasaki and Hiroshima come back and God will have new bodies for all who died throughout history. All this to go into a lake of fire for eternity.

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

The second death is eternal punishment in the lake of fire, experienced only by the unsaved. Once this final judgment occurs, there is no further need for either death or hell. An eternal separation is now made between those who have life and those who have "death". This final hell is described as the lake of fire. It may already exist but presently is not occupied until the beast and the false prophet is cast into it and they don't go in until the end of tribulation.

Those who die in their sins in this world will die a second death in eternity. They will be sentenced to the lake of fire forever at the great White Throne Judgment.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

At this point all sin has been removed from the Earth. Even Satan is not mentioned again.

REVELATION CHAPTER TWENTY ONE

The first heaven and the first earth are replaced by a new heaven and a new earth, This was prophesied by Isaiah in chapter 65 v.17. The present universe will be cleansed from all the effect of sin. Since there will be no more sea, the increased land space will be able to support large numbers of redeemed people from all ages. More comment about "no more sea" later.

The New Jerusalem is a holy city, totally without sin. It is being prepared as the habitation of the bride of Christ. This will be home of the Church Age Christians ,the Bride of Christ.

1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

We saw the Earth and Heavens, plural, pass away in the last chapter. Now God has created a new earth and new heavens. The "new heaven" is the atmospheric heaven around and above the earth. This area has been the domain of Satan and must be purified before the heaven of God can come down to the new earth. This new earth will be perfect and to that of the Garden of Eden. The vast oceans of water that now cover three fourths of the world's surface will not be included, leaving much more productive land for the population of the redeemed. The inference of that is that the earth will return to a simpler, pastoral lifestyle. Think farmers and shepherds. The Tree of Life will be restored and there will be water that flows from the throne of God. It didn't rain in the Garden of Eden. Plants were watered from beneath the earth. The water in the Garden of Eden flowed out in four rivers. This river that flows from the throne of God is the same water that Jesus told the woman at the well, if she drank it, she would never thirst again. One other thing needs to be said about "no more sea". Remember that there was a sea of glass, or ice, beneath the throne of God. That sea is also gone since God will be coming down to dwell with men.

The tabernacle of God is with men.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

The city was like a bride at her best and most beautiful. New Jerusalem will be coming down to the new earth mentioned. The old heaven and earth is no more. The city is said to be a bride because it contains the bride and takes on her character.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

This announcement is that now God will come down and live with men. The curse on the earth is wiped away and God has restored every believer. Just like God walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, He will be with us continually. As Matthew 5:8 states: **The pure in heart shall see God.** Believers will see God as He is. Think about that. No one has seen God the Father but we will be able to in eternity.

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

All tears, pain, sorrow, and death will be removed in New Jerusalem where Christians will live. The effects of the curse, placed on the Earth back in Genesis, are removed. God does not fix creation, He re-creates it for His

children to enjoy for all eternity. We will know perfect peace and joy in heaven. There won't be any reason to cry in heaven. The devil and all his problems are gone. Even better, mankind's sinful nature is gone. Every negative thing has been done away with.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

Jesus commanded John to write, because all the things He has been shown are true. Here we see God sitting on the throne saying that He "makes all things new". When we are saved we become a new creature. This is true for the believer and it is now true for the earth and heavens.

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

Each of the seven letters to the churches in Revelation 2 and 3 end in the promise of he that overcomes will inherit these things. This is for the tribulation and Millennium, not for us in eternity. The Church, the Bride of Christ, will inherit all that is His. He promises that He will be our God and we shall be His son.

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Look at the contrasts between verses seven and eight. This is the concept through the ages, that there are only two kinds of people with God, believers and unbelievers. They live differently on earth and go to different eternal destinies. Believers go to "eternal life" while unbelievers go to Hell and the lake of fire.

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

Keep in mind as we go through this list that we are under the blood of the Lord Jesus. This does not apply to us.

Fear is not of God. If you have the Saviour there is nothing left to fear. Mankind's greatest fear is death, but for the believer, **to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord**. That is instantaneous. Jesus will not be someone's Savior, unless they believe that He is their Savior.

Abomination, means vile, and, detestable wickedness. Scripturally this usually applies to homosexuality. Not politically correct but ,nevertheless,true.

Notice here this says "murderers" not accidental killing or killing in war. This is premeditated murder, or those who hate their neighbors.

We see here "whoremongers". Notice that this is "whoremongers", and not whores. Apparently pimps get the greater condemnation.

"Sorcerers" has to do with the occult and also drugs.

"Idolaters" has to do with anything or anyone you put ahead of God.

"Liars" are mentioned. There are no little white lies. Any untruth is a lie.

All of the above are good principals to live by even in our dispensation. The difference is, we are forgiven.

This almost has to be a tribulation verse but here it is in chapters dealing with eternity.

9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

This is a reference not only to the bride of the Lamb but to the wife of the Lamb. The wedding has already taken place

10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

John again sees the new Jerusalem descending from Heaven. He remarks on the beauty. The stone we know as jasper is not the stone the bible speaks of here. This one is clear and sparkling. Most commentators consider this "jasper" stone to be a diamond. The city looks like a huge sparkling jewel.

11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

From John's vantage point atop a great and high mountain, he sees New Jerusalem came down out of heaven, showing that it comes from God. New Jerusalem may sit on the earth or be suspended some distance above it. It is also possible that it will be in orbit above the earth. The shape is probably that of a pyramid. One commentator has it a double sided pyramid. That is, one point up and one down. Things like this are fun to discuss and play with. The truth is, no one knows these things.

12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

The wall is unnecessary from a protection standpoint. Nothing can harm the city nor those in it. It will stand as a visual reminder that all do not have access to God. The mention of the twelve apostles shows the inclusion of the Church in the family of God. The twelve tribes are mentioned to show that all believers are now the family of God. The gates are positioned in the same position that the tribes were encamped around the tabernacle in Numbers 2. The angels are stationed to serve His people.

13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.

14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I believe this points to the fact that the Jews will finally rule the Earth and probably anything else that might be colonized in the future. The Jews will be in resurrected bodies like the Christians so will not reproduce. Those alive as flesh and blood during eternity will have children just as they do now.

15 And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.

16 And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

The city lies foursquare. The size of this city indicates that each border is between twelve and fifteen hundred miles long. This would be equal to the area from the Atlantic ocean to Colorado on one side and from the Canadian border to the southern tip of Florida on the other. In addition to the length and breadth, the city will be fifteen hundred miles high. This great size will afford sufficient space for the mansions of the saints.

17 And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.

A cubit is 1-1/2 feet so the wall is 216 feet across. In Babylon the walls, were wide enough for chariot races. This is even wider. To emphasize the city's dimensions are literal and not mystical, John tells us that the measurements are given according to human measurements. This is also one more verse that tells us angels are men without wings.

18 And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.

The massive walls a material called jasper which is what we know as diamond. Next the city itself was pure gold, like clear glass. I have heard that our purest gold is 99.99 per cent pure. The gold of the city will be perfectly pure.

19 And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald;

20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.

These are the twelve stones that were on the breastplates of the old Testament priests. Each stone is associated with one of the twelve tribes.

21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

Imagine perfect pearls this size. BTW it says "like a pearl". Since each gate is open you will be able to see the entire pearl. What a sight this city must be. Think of Paul who had been there and come back. No wonder he lived the kind of life he did. He wanted to get back there.

22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

Both God the Father and the Lamb will be visibly present and can meet with them any place.

23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

This refers to the city only. There will likely be sun, moon and planets for the Earth. Another good possibility is that the city will give off so much light that no sun is necessary.

24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

Now, there is a little controversy in this verse. The nations and kings are people in flesh and blood bodies in eternity. They must eat of the tree of life in order to live forever. They, and their offspring must go into the city to eat of the tree of life. There is obviously a difference in eternity that we have missed. Check this against verse eight.

25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

In other words the gates will never be closed.

26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

The New Jerusalem seems to be a Gentile City though that probably isn't the right term to use. The Jews will inherit the new earth. This was promised to them back in Genesis. All will have some access to the city and tree of life. This suggests that all of humanity will make at least one trip to the New Jerusalem.

27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Again we have a problem. This as well as verse eight seem to suggest the possibility of sin in eternity. Yet, we are told in verse four that there will be no more death and the wages of sin is death. The only guess I can make is that some of these passages refer back to the Tribulation. We do know for sure that most of these apply to eternity because that is where New Jerusalem is located.

Reserve yourself a room in the looney bin, and sit and think about this for a while.

REVELATION CHAPTER TWENTY TWO

We have now come to the last chapter of the Bible. We are now out in eternity but like the last chapter this one refers back, in some places to the millennium and even to the churches in one verse. Through verse five we are still dealing with chronology. After verse five to the end we have various final warnings and exhortations. The reason we need to know this is because such great scholars as Larkin and Schofield have put verses 1-6 back in the Millennium. This is what comes of one scholar copying those who went before. The problem that causes this is flesh and blood people in eternity. You can't have it both ways. If a person must eat of the tree of life to gain eternal life then it follows that that person must be flesh and blood and not in a resurrection body.

1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

John sees this river flowing from the throne of God. Even in heaven, we will drink water and eat food, not out of necessity, but because of the pleasure and fellowship it gives us. Just like everything else in the New Jerusalem, the river is clear as crystal so clear that it sparkles as it flows along. This is the water of life that Jesus offered to the Samaritan woman at the well.

2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Here we are reintroduced to the tree of life. This tree has not been mentioned in the Bible since Genesis 3. What if Adam and Eve had eaten of that tree in the Garden of Eden. They would have lived forever in a dying, aging body. I believe that is the real reason God put them out of the garden. It was an act of compassion on God's part. The tree bears twelve kinds of fruit that yields its fruit every month. "Every month" is an interesting way to put this as there is no time in eternity. I think the Holy Spirit put it that way to make it easy for both John, and us, to understand. "Healing of the nations" is also interesting since it shows nations in eternity, nations which need healing. This leads to a whole new line of thought. Healing implies either sickness, or friction between nations, or both. Sickness implies again flesh and blood. The job in eternity, to colonize the stars, looks better and better.

3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

The effects of the Edenic curse will be gone forever. God's saints will serve him and reign with Him forever. We will be busy serving God for all eternity. We will both serve Him and reign with Him. We can be sure He will have things for us to do as we reign there forever. The phrase, "they shall see his face," means that, as believers, we will have access to the King on a regular basis.

4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

The saints, in their glorified bodies, in New Jerusalem will see God's face. Being perfectly holy and righteous, through His blood, we will be able to be in God's presence without being consumed. That was impossible for mortal men. The greatest blessing of eternity is that they shall see his face. The name of God in our foreheads shows ownership and consecration.

5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Since in the New Jerusalem God is always present, His glory makes all other sources of light unnecessary. The Lord Jesus is the source of all Light. The sun has no more purpose in New Jerusalem. This presence of God and the Lamb is all they need. This Kingdom has no end. It is for all of eternity. We shall reign, with Him, forever and forever.

6 And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the

things which must shortly be done.

This closes out the chronology of the Book of the Revelation. Verse seven and the verses that follow contain blessings and warnings.

7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

Jesus says, "**Behold, I come quickly.**" We find this expression three times in this chapter.

8 And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.

John is overcome by the presence of the angel and starts to worship him. We must not worship angels for they are created beings. We worship only the Creator. We are warned over and over not to worship angels and John is told several times here in Revelation not to worship this angel.

9 Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

Nine tells us not to worship angels, or possibly, depending on how you interpret the verse, prophets. It is possible that this "angel" is the prophet Daniel because the resurrected saints are said to be as the angels (Matt 22:30). Also Daniel had a "little book" which he was told to seal up until the time of the end. That's good advice; worship God and not angels nor prophets.

10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

Here John is told not to seal up this book. The command not to seal this prophetic message is quite different than what the Lord told Daniel, Dan 12:4 says this; "**But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end**". The reason for the difference is simple; "the time is at hand."

11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

This is a warning. Whatever condition you are in when the Lord returns, that is what you are stuck with for eternity. Whatever you are going to do you had better do it before He comes back. Another thought is that if you die in one of these conditions there is no chance to change. There is no purgatory.

12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

This is Jesus speaking directly here. All Christians should be watching the sky for in a moment when you think not, the sky will open, the trumpet will blow, and Jesus will call us home. The rewards believers will enjoy in heaven will be capacities for serving God. The greater their faithfulness is in this life, the greater will be their opportunity to serve in heaven, not to mention the crowns believers will receive. Having knowledge that Jesus could return at any moment should produce diligent, obedient, worshipful service to God, and continuous witnessing to unbelievers.

13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

This is the warning given during the Tribulation and Millennium.

14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

This implies that works are necessary in order to be able to enter the city and eat of the tree of life.

15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Dogs here is a reference to people as it was in 2 Peter 2:22.

16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

This final invitation is not a human invitation, but a call to sinners by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

This marks the first use of the word "church" since chapter three. The reason why there is no reference of the Church during the time of tribulation on earth described in chapters 6 through 18, is because the church, has been raptured to heaven, and will not be on earth during those times.

17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Jesus has said come in verse 16. Now both the Holy Spirit and the Bride say come. That water of life flows from the throne of God.

18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

The speaker here is the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a severe warning to those who would tamper with the Word of God. Let us hope that this is not a reference to Bible believing commentators, and teachers, who mistakenly translate or incorrectly teach some passage. The Lord's warning here is addressed to those who engage in deliberate falsification or misinterpretation of Scripture, in other words the cults and Bible correctors.

20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

This should be every true Christians prayer.

21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Thus the purpose of the Book of Revelation is not to satisfy the curiosity of believers about the future but to reveal the glory of God's Son and call believers to live godly, obedient lives.

Before we leave the Book of the Revelation there are a few more things we need to cover. I want to go over the seventy five "missing days" and also come up with a good timeline for the periods we have been studying for the last few weeks.

DANIEL'S SEVENTY FIVE DAYS FIVE DAYS

The seventy five days are between the end of the Tribulation and the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom. There are several things that take place during this time that we did not cover in the regular lessons. First, where did the seventy five days come from. Scripture tells us that the first half of the Tribulation is 1260 days or three and one half years. Scripture also tells us that the last half will be 1260 days, or another three and one half years, for a total of seven years. The seventy five day difference is found in Daniel and the difference is intentional and not a mistake. Daniel 12:11-12 says this; **And from the time [that] the daily [sacrifice] shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, [there shall be] a thousand two hundred and ninety days. {12:12} Blessed [is] he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.** So if you add those differences you see that Daniel added seventy five days after the Tribulation was over. So, what happens in that period of time?

The False Prophet and Antichrist are thrown, alive, into the Lake of Fire. They get to burn there alone for the next thousand years. Then they get plenty of company.

Satan is bound and chained in the bottomless pit for the next thousand years..
The judgment of the Gentile nations. The “sheep” nations apparently get to go,unsaved,into the Millennial Kingdom.
God changes the Earth back to it's Edenic state.

THE JUDGMENT OF THE NATIONS

We call this the judgment of the nations but it is actually the judgment of the Gentile nations. We find it in Matthew 25:32-46 **When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: {25:32} And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth [his] sheep from the goats: {25:33} And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. {25:34} Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: {25:35} For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: {25:36} Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. {25:37} Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed [thee?] or thirsty, and gave [thee] drink? {25:38} When saw we thee a stranger, and took [thee] in? or naked, and clothed [thee?] {25:39} Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? {25:40} And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done [it] unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done [it] unto me. {25:41} Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: {25:42} For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: {25:43} I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. {25:44} Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? {25:45} Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did [it] not to one of the least of these, ye did [it] not to me. {25:46} And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.** Now be sure to notice that nowhere does it say that these are saved. It does say they are righteous. Apparently these nations are declared righteous because they helped the Jewish people during the Tribulation. That is the only qualification listed. The goat nations are sent into the Lake of Fire. This judgment will take place just outside the city of Jerusalem, in the valley of Jehoshaphat which is between the

city and the Mount of Olives. We know this from a passage in the book of Joel. That's Joel 3;1-3 if you are taking notes.

MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB

The marriage supper of the Lamb is the event that follows the marriage. The wedding has already taken place in Heaven. The Bride at this supper is the Church, that is all Gentiles and Jews saved during the Church Age. The Church Age runs from the giving of the indwelling Holy Spirit, in Acts, to the Rapture of the Church. All other saved persons from other ages, up to the beginning of the Tribulation, will be at the Marriage Supper as friends of the Bridegroom. They are not part of the Bride.

Now, all that said, there is controversy about just when the Marriage supper occurs. Some put it at the beginning of the Millennium but the marriage supper is to be a time of joy and feasting and fellowship. The Second Advent will be anything but that. It will be a time of judgment and chaos.

I believe it happens between the Marriage and the millennium during the Tribulation on earth. Here is my reason for believing that. In addition to being God, Jesus was, and is, a Jewish Man. The Jewish marriage custom was a betrothal lasting about a year. That's the Church Age. The Jewish man then comes for his bride and takes her to his father's house for the consummation. That would be the Rapture of the Church (the Bride). Immediately after this the Marriage Supper (feast) starts and lasts for, guess what, seven days. That would be the seven years of the Tribulation.