

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

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'When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense, other wise it becomes non-sense'. Take the Word of God literally, unless symbolism becomes obvious and then it becomes explained in the same context perhaps, i.e. chapter, book or found explained in Scripture elsewhere, e.g. dragon, satan and the devil in Revelation 12.

Genesis is the **commencement**. Revelation is the **consummation** of all things. Parallels of many facts found in both books, e.g. garden, creation-new creation, river, tree of life, plus some opposites, e.g. man formed: man transformed; sin entered: sin barred; Paradise lost; Paradise regained; ground cursed: no more curse.

Christ is the First and the Last Word; the Alpha and Omega.

Three Methods of Interpretation.

1. Clement of Alexandria originated the non-literal view, with Origen and later Augustine, motivated by their anti-millennial, or non-literal acceptance of Scripture. The first two centuries of the early Church, in addition to the New Testament epistles, held the Premillennial and literal acceptance of the Word of God. Clement, Origen and Augustine claimed spiritual interpretation was the true interpretation, as opposed to the literal interpretation of Scripture, especially **Biblical Prophecy**. Though the early Church regarded the 'spiritualisation' of Scripture, especially Prophecy, as heresy, the later influence of Augustine has affected the Church right down to this present day. These men were responsible for turning the early Church away from the Premillennial, literal interpretation of Scripture, especially Prophetic Scripture. Theirs was called the **Allegorical or Spiritualisation** of Scripture.

2. The Preterist view. This view holds the opinion that Revelation is a record of conflicts of the early Church with Judaism and Paganism, with the closing chapters showing a picture of the triumphant Church. It is a historic rather than a prophetic view. Hendrickson, who has a well known commentary on Revelation dismisses both the historic and futuristic views, assuming that the book was intended for the use of the first century Christians to whom a detailed prophecy of the entire Church Age would have no meaning. Hendrickson suggests that the book is symbolic as a word of encouragement to early Christians suffering persecution, and illustrating the ultimate triumph of Christ. This Preterist view destroys any future significance of the book. **Preterist means what is already past.**

3. Historical view. Total Church history culminating in the Second Advent of Christ. Joachim, a Roman Catholic scholar is largely responsible for this view. Strange that this view is was adopted by the Reformation period and since, which counteracted the falseness of the Roman Catholic Church. The problem with this view is that each generation put themselves as the climax of the book of Revelation! Thus it was repeated in every generation that the Pope was the Antichrist and one beast of Revelation 13. The identification of various personnel, placing them in Revelation context clearly states that this cannot be the correct interpretation.

The historical or spiritual interpretations characterise modern A-millennialism.

4. The Futurist View. This is the view Premillennialists hold, i.e. the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is before He sets up the Millennium, i.e. the Church does not set up the Millennium by its Gospel efforts. (This is Post-millennialism). The Futurist view sees the future from Revelation 4, though the seven churches in Revelation 2 & 3 does have some future view as well as a historical view of the Church through the Church Age. Chapters 4 to 19 relate to future events preceding the coming of the Lord to the earth, the Second Advent. This is generally regarded as the chapters covering the seven years of Daniel 9:24-27, with the emphasis upon the second 3½ years of the Great Tribulation, also called the 'Day of Jacob's Trouble'. Revelation 19 describes the coming of the Lord to the earth and its results concerning the two Beasts, the nations, the nation of Israel, linked with Zechariah 14. **Always compare Scripture with Scripture.** Revelation 20 refers to the



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Millennium Kingdom, with chapters 21&22, the same plus what follows the Millennium – New Heaven and New Earth.

The Futurist view alone allows for literal interpretation of the book of Revelation, especially following chapters 1 to 3. Daniel and other, Old Testament prophets clearly enhance the Futurist view, concerning the end of Gentile powers and the salvation of Israel, as a remnant nation. Even many New Testament letters, plus the words of Jesus in the Gospels, strengthen the Futurist view.

John Calvin wrote commentaries on every book of the Bible except Revelation. As he took the Historical view as a Reformer he felt he could not adequately provide a commentary on the book of Revelation. This is not surprising.

Rev. 1:1 - 'Things which must shortly come to pass or take place'. Shortly or quickly, does not mean soon. It may take 2000 years, as it has done before God acts according to His Word. The word 'shortly' or 'quickly' means 'suddenly', as in 22:20. The Greek for 'shortly' is 'en tachei' which means quickly or suddenly coming pass, indicating rapidity of execution after the beginning of an action takes place. The idea is not; that the event may occur soon, but that when it does, it will be sudden. A similar word 'tachys' is translated 'quickly' seven times in Revelation, ending with 22:20. When the Lord does act, He acts with **swiftness, suddenness, unannounced**. We may get our word tachometer from this Greek word. It is used for measuring speed and velocity, when it occurs, as well as perhaps distance. The flood was sudden and dramatic, so also destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah – swift and decisive, when it came. It had been promised long, when the judgment came, it was sudden. The first coming of Jesus was promised long before, about 700 years, by Isaiah. When God does act, it is sudden, rapid, decisive and purposeful (see Galatians 4:4 re: first coming). He always achieves His objective. The events of chapters 4 to 19 cover a brief period of time, though detailed. The events will happen with great rapidity of succession and speed of occurrence. This will be especially so regarding the final seven bowls of wrath to be poured out in the second 3½ years of the Great Tribulation. The mills of God grind slowly but surely for all this long time, then suddenly, action! (see Isaiah 48:3, 5a, 6-9, 12). The parable of the servants in Matthew 24 especially verse 48, 'if that servant shall say in his heart, my lord delays his coming'... etc. The parable, may seem to suggest the context of delay. Not so. God's wisdom directs His actions. He is never early or late, always on time. Wait, watch, work and warn the world. In these days it is very relevant for the Church to watch for His coming (1st Thessalonians 1:10).

See Titus 2:11-13. He is coming first for His Church and at the end of the Tribulation period, Christ will return and we will return with Him (Jude 14:15; Revelation 5:10) to the earth. He will reign from Jerusalem and over the nations.

The next great event is 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18. When events begin eventually to happen, they will occur with rapid sequence and succession. Note suddenness and speed of Matthew 24:27, 'as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be'. Revelation 22:12, 'Behold, I am coming quickly (suddenly), and my reward is with me, to give to everyone according to his work'. World events seem to get faster and come on the world scene rapidly without warning these days. When the Rapture and Resurrection of the true Church takes place, events will happen with swiftness and sureness. Consequently His revelation to this earth will come with similar, sudden, swiftness. Parables of the Talents, Matthew 25:14,19 and the Pounds, Luke 19:11-12 suggests long time, but then sudden action coming again.

The parable of the Unjust Judge tells us that God will speedily avenge His elect (Luke 18:8). Note – will Jesus find real faith on the earth when He comes back, suggesting possibly not, because faith comes by hearing (Romans 10) and our ability to hear and receive faith comes by the hearing of the Word of God. That is becoming less and less now with many substitutes for the exposition of the Word of God. Where is the Bible expository ministry today? Where are the Bible teachers being raised up today?



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Revelation 22:10, The book of Revelation was never sealed up and hidden from man. Also, the instruction given to Daniel, chapter 12:4&9 was to seal up the vision given to him **until the time of the end. Now Daniel is truly being unfolded, unlocked and unsealed today.**

Revelation 1:3 & 22:7 means read and grasp this book's teaching.

"Blessed" One whom God makes fully satisfied, not because of favourable circumstances but because God indwells the Believer.

He that reads (singular), they (plural) who hear (collective listening). **1st Timothy 4:13 says, 'Till I come give attention to public reading of Scripture.'** They (all believers, plural), who keep this word in their hearts, are affecting their lives and longings. **Note the seven blessings in Revelation 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7 & 14.** Why is the book of Revelation rarely read, listened to & pondered in our hearts? (Mary pondered over her revelation) – why not the Church of all this present Age? (See Luke 2:19).

Revelation 1:3 – Time. Gk. Kairos. Means the necessity of taking action at a certain time, whether convenient or not. It is the right time and right opportunity comes for certain action in order to fulfil foreordained events. Kairos is a distinctly different word from 'chronos'.

'The words of this prophecy'. The book must be prophetic and not otherwise. Remember the above differing views.

'The time is at Hand'. 'Kairos'. Not immediate fulfilment, but will come with swift rapidity when God appoints the time. It does not mean 'soon', but it does mean 'sudden', swift and brief, when compared with the time waiting for the events to happen in history.

NB. The events mentioned in chapter 6 and up to the Second Coming of the Lord in chapter 19 cover the seven years of the Great Tribulation, the Day of Jacob's Trouble (for Israel – but Israel will be delivered out of it, (Jeremiah 30:7). Many events are recorded for such a brief time. The seven bowls of wrath, spoken of in Revelation 16 take place rapidly in the second 3½ years of the Great Tribulation, the judgments of God continuing to chapter 19.

Matthew 24:31-44, referring to Israel, is a suggestion of suddenness of occurrence, not the nearness of the time. Nearly 2000 years have gone by already. The prophesied events will happen and suddenly too. Noah was a preacher of righteousness for 120 years, then came swift retribution judgment against sin with devastating rapidity, though it appeared slow in coming. It came in time, at the right time, of God's appointing.

Matthew 24:22. 'Shortened' there means 'limited', in duration of time, not reduced length of days or hours.

Revelation 1:11 - 'Write what you have seen (and heard, verse 12 onwards). NB. I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. We hear God's voice from what we read and see from His Word.

Chapter 1:19 - 'Things which are'. **Chapters 2 & 3** and hereafter. **Chapters 4 to 22.** For example.

Chapter 4:1 & 8 - 'After these things.. the things that are... I looked... I heard... again the voice spoke of the **things which take place after this**' This verse gives strong indication that the interpretation of this book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ must be the Futurist view, even though for chapters 2&3 we accept the historical view may be accepted providing we can also see the Futurist view even there, also. Verse 8 says that the Lord God Almighty 'which was, and is, and is to come.' This relates to chapter 1:19. 'Which are... and are to come', indicating present and future events.

Consider chapter 1:3 again. 'Blessed is he that reads, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things that are written there: **for the time is at hand.**'



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Deuteronomy 4:2 says. 'Do not add to the Word that I command you, neither shall you take away from it, that you may keep the commands of the LORD your God which I command you'. This has a parallel in Revelation 22:19. '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 'that are written in this book.'

Christians will not do this, but liberals and apostates certainly will endeavour to try to.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF THE REVELATION.

v3 – The importance of this book. Read... Hear... Keep... store it in your heart.

v1 – 'Shortly take place'. Gk. en taxes. Not to soonness of an event, but rather the rapidity of the execution of events once something starts. E.g. events of chapter 5 to 20:3 inclusive will happen in seven years. Rapid events in a brief period of time. Much will happen in these seven years. Tachometer – instrument for measuring speed (lorries today). 1 Samuel 3;12. The Holy Spirit supervises every word. John is told to write (12 times). 28 times John says, I heard. Once he was forbidden (10:4) to write to write, 7 thunders. Precise supervision over such important issues, carefully documented. Here is a book to encourage believers in times of persecution and opposition. Our God reigns, is the theme of this book (5-8). Whatever man may do, God holds the reigns. **Amen**. That settles it. So be it. Revelation of the person of Jesus Christ, which the Father gave to John (v13 –18).

Purpose of the Father. His tender love and assurance once to his suffering children. I am in control – hold on to your Hope!! under pressure. Personal attention to His own redeemed ones. I know. I care. Trust me. The Father loves His own children so much we are the worth of the gift of His Son to Him. So much valued. First verse says it all!
Two or three witnesses. Father – Angel – John. About the Son. Jesus Christ.
Know assuredly...(Acts 2:36).

v3 – An open book. A neglected book. Satan hates it. Genesis and Revelation begin and the end about him. He hates you to know about his end. He tries to stop you from reading it. Blessing - cursing... add or take away (22:18-19).

Apocalypse. Unveiling. Draw back curtain. God on the Throne. Unveiling the Person of Jesus Christ by the Father. Jesus – Prophet, Priest and, King. Also Judge, executing Divine justice and retribution (2 Thessalonians 1:6-9). Jude 15. (no accident to be near Revelation.) Retribution – day of wrath. Day of the Lord (v10). **Reward** for Believers – faithfulness even unto death (2:10).

Recreation – New heaven and earth. Reigning (v16). Sceptre – Genesis 49:10; Numbers 24:17; Psalm 45:6-7,11; Hebrews 1:8-9.

v4 – Cf. Colossians 1:15-20. 7 spirits. Holy Spirit. 7 – fullness, completeness. Fullness of Divine Purpose 4:5 cf. Isaiah 11:1-2. Perfection. Spiritual – earthly. Loosed... set free from consequences and condemnation.

v5 – Cf. Hebrews 1:10-12; 1:1-3; 2:2:7-8. Eternal nature – uncreated Being.

v6 – Royalty of the Redeemed. 1st Peter 2:9. Hebrews 12:28; Jude 24-25.

v7 – Zechariah 12:10; 14:4; Matthew 26:64. Contrast the 'Amen' of v6. Different end.

AMEN – Definitely, assuredly (Acts 2:36), absolutely, certainly, surely, positively.



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

v8 – First word. Genesis. God said. Last word. Revelation 22:20-21. Amen – so be it.

Almighty. El Shaddai. Psalm 91. God who nourishes life – gives life – beginning. Creator God. Recreator God. Breathes new life into a situation where ;here would seem to be death (see v9).

v9 – Tribukum – threshing instrument of torture – punishment whip – scorpion sim.

John: Patience – Kingdom – Spirit.

v10 – Day of the Lord. Future. Trumpet, heralds announces summons.

v11 – See verse 6. cf. Isaiah 41:4; 44:6; 48:12

v12-18 – Jesus now. Best weapon, His tongue (v16). Our worst (James). N.B. Majesty, Priest, Judge = King Melchizedek. Get away from Sunday school picture of Christ. Would you fall down before your Sunday School image of Jesus? (v17). Because of Jesus portrayed here, He alone has the right to open the scrolls (5:1-8). The right to say “Fear not”. We can accept His credentials, believe His Word and be at Peace. (v8, 11, 17, Alpha and Omega). **Three times.** Significant in the Bible. (Paul’s thorn in the flesh, 2nd Corinthians 12:8; Exodus 23:14,17; Daniel 6:10, 13; Acts 10:16; 11:10; Matthew 26:34,75).

v19 – See verses 4, 8. Three times again.

v20 – He holds the Church(es) in His control. COMFORT (see 11:13). High Priest responsibility was to see that the priests kept the light burning on the Candlestick well trimmed, filled with oil. Jesus, High Priest has responsibility, so do we – to keep burning brightly and alight, glowing in a dark world which is getting darker (Psalm 104:1,2).

Isaiah 11:5 Macarthur says, this represents His celestial majesty, judicial authority, kingly, priestly presence. The girdle of the High Priest has a golden thread running through it as a symbol of purity and righteousness. Golden band – Deity, flawless, righteousness, perfection, purity, absoluteness. See description in Daniel 7:9. Eyes (v14) – Penetrating judgment, all seeing, searching and exposing evil as a judge (Hebrews 4:13). Brass, bronze, in the Tabernacle symbolised judgment upon sin. John saw Jesus 60 years before, but never like this. Similar to Transfiguration though.

Here then is the first introductory chapter to this book. As all introductions are important, this chapter lays down the sure principles and grounding of the whole of the book as a preparation, a real curtain raiser for the whole Revelation of Jesus Christ by the Father, intended for us as ten blessings at least:

1. Have a defence against distortion by false religions. Here is Truth.
2. Preparation for Persecution. Costly to any Believer.
3. Stimulus to worship and praise. More singing in this book.
4. Antidote to worldliness – be ready and prepared for Heaven.
5. Incentive to Godliness – 2nd Peter 3:11-12.
6. Motive for Evangelism. Heaven and hell are real! Judgment is coming!!
7. Interpretation of history and what is unfolding. Chernobyl.
8. Assurance of the outcome of the battle. Glorious HOPE.
9. Understanding of Christ – we are given the whole picture of Jesus. Lion-Lamb.
10. Bring story of God’s redemption to a happy ending. Fulfilled. Complete.



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Jesus only holds the answers to everything. Keys of Hades and Death. He took the keys from the enemy, went to death—Hades, hell and took control of the very problem confronting man, sin death, satan, hell.

Our God reigns. He holds the keys. He now has unlocked Heaven for us. No wonder the final psalms are psalms of praise, showing that He is not only Alpha but Omega as well. Not only the first but the last word.

REVELATION 2 & 3

Seven letters to seven Churches. Prophetic meaning and Content. Types throughout Church Age.

Ephesus – Apostolic Church period. To about mid first century. Shows first sign of decay.

Smyrna – The Suffering Church. Satanic opposition, persecution and poverty. Mid 1st Century – c.313 AD.

Pergamos. Church and State linked. Constantine – 6th Century, yet until now, as all types, until now. Unregenerate baptised. Infiltrated by the world.

Thyatira – Dark Ages – 1500 AD. Vatican and Roman Catholic keep people ignorant, in the dark in order to keep power, still now. MAJOR APOSTASY DEVELOPING.

Sardis – Reformation remnant. 1500-1650 AD, among a ‘dead’ Church.

Philadelphia – Missionary and Evangelising Church. An open door for the Gospel, until the present day.

Laodicea – Final Apostasy arising now.

OVERLAP – Sequence here, yet all existing throughout the Church Age, when they began until now.

PROPHETIC AND HISTORIC. Christ knows His Church – His Body, their number and their names. The Shepherd knows His sheep – they know His voice and follow Him. He distinguishes the true from the false – wheat from the tares. The grain go into His garner, the false go into the fire.

Church	The Lord	Their Faithfulness	Their Failings	Warning Remember!	Challenge	Promise & Reward
Ephesus	2:1	2:2-3,6	2:4	2:5	2:7	2:7
Smyrna	2:8	2:9-10	None	None	2:10-11	2:10-11
Pergamos	2:12	2:13	2:14-15	2:13, 16	2:17	2:17
Thyatira	2:18	2:19 & 24	2:20	2:20-23	2:25-26	2:24-28 (25)
Sardis	3:1	3:4	3:2b	3:2-3	3:2a, 5	3:5
Philadelphi a	3:7	3:8, 10a	None	None	3:10b-12	3:12
Laodicea	3:14	None	3:15-17	3:16-19	3:18-20	3:16 (adverse) 3:20-21

Note the order. Commendation before condemnation or criticism.

“HOLD FAST TILL I COME – Revelation 2:25.



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

REVELATION 4

4:1 – “What will take place later”. Revealed in chapters 4 to 22, leading up to the Second Coming of Christ, chapters 4 to 18, then the Second Coming in chapter 19, the aftermath, then the Millennial Kingdom, New Jerusalem and New Earth and New Heaven in which will dwell, or remain, righteousness, chapters 21 & 22.

The crucial truth throughout is the Second Coming and the end of Gentile power through the Great Tribulation events. Chapter 4 onwards **MUST THEREFORE BE FUTURE**. Any other view of interpretation gets lost in a maze of conflicting opinions. Though the Futurist is obviously correct, there is **not a strict chronological order**. but they are all FUTURE. There are parenthetical chapters of teaching truth, as we shall see as we progress through Revelation.

There are graphic detailed truths dramatically revealed with vivid illustration of events to occur – more than any other book of the Bible. In fact, this book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ is obviously a fitting climax to all Biblical Prophecy, relating to human history, properly centred in the Person and the Work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation of the future opens with a vision of Heaven (chapters 4 & 5), as the scene is transferred from earth to Heaven (see 4:19). From present to the future; human to Divine.

Revelation 1:19 – “Things you have seen”. The glorified Christ.

Revelation chapters 2 & 3 – “Things that are”. Churches messages.

Revelation 4 onwards – “Things hereafter”, to the end (see 4:1).

Chapters 4 & 5 are an introduction to the tremendous events to come, proving chronological, physical order, with parenthetical exceptions, – not symbolic presentation of moral truth. (Some symbolise Revelation as the battle between good and evil, with the Lord and the Church coming to victory finally). The Futurist view must have emphasis, events must be Future. Chapters 4 & 5 have not happened yet in a literal sense, but will happen, v1.

THIS FOLLOWS THE CHURCH AGE. If the Church and the Holy Spirit are not having their world-wide impact in this future period after the Church Age is complete, i.e. the Church is in Heaven and the Holy Spirit is working again as He did in the Old Testament, then the Great Tribulation must come and therefore be future.

4:2 – John must be in the Spirit to see Heaven, the presence of God. (1:10). John is a representation in type of the true Church taken to Heaven, after the Church Age is complete and before the terrible events of the Great Tribulation come on the earth, even though the book of the Revelation is not primarily occupied with God’s programme for the Church. Instead, the primary objective is to show events leading up to the climax of the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ; His Kingdom to come (Millennium) and eventually the Eternal State – New Heaven and New Earth. ‘Church’ as a word does not occur again until though it is implied in chapter 19.

Compare chapter 2:7 etc. with chapter 13:9. No church is mentioned in 13:9. The Church is in Heaven.

4:3 – The Glory of God. **Jasper**: clear crystal, symbol of purity, perhaps purple royalty.

Sardine. Red for redemption, also red for wrath and anger against sin, Glory and sacrifice. These stones had a relation to tribes of Israel, on the High Priest’s breastplate. Jasper and Sardine were the first and the last of the 12 stones. See **Exodus 28:17-21**. 1st Reuben, Last – Benjamin suggests inclusion of all other stones; Covenanted Israel. Reuben – means “Behold, a son”. Benjamin means “son of my might hand”. Double meaning, (1) Messiah representing Israel, also (2) Son of God, first begotten (uncreated). Reuben was the first son to Jacob. Benjamin was the



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

last son of Jacob, “son of my right hand” - type of Son of God at the Right Hand of God the Father in Heaven. The Son of God is the Alpha and Omega – the First and the Last. John sees God the Son and High Priest in relation to the nation of Israel. **Hosea 3:4-5 & Hebrews 1:1-3**. The New Jerusalem in **Revelation 21:18-20** contain these stones and emerald. Emerald is the stone of Judah. Messiah is from the tribe of Judah and Lion of Judah.

The Father and Spirit seen in chapter 4. The Son: the Lamb seen in chapter 5. **Trinity** present of course **together in Heaven now**.

4:4 – Elders are clearly saved people - clothed in white raiment and crowned (gold). Stephanos - the victor’s crown of laurel wreath of victory for winning through! **24 Elders: the True Church** and possibly the Old Testament saints with them. **Believers in Heaven here before the Great Tribulation comes**. See 1st Chronicles 24, 24 rotas of priests by families, representing all priests. Chapter 25, 24 prophets. Maybe the 12 symbolises 12 tribes of Israel as representative of the saved of the Old Testament (examples in Hebrews 11). Maybe the 12 Apostles represents the true Church.

4:5 – Cf. Isaiah 4:4. ‘Righteous judgments’. Law, the Word given at Sinai (Exodus 19:16). The Word judges. The Law condemns. Christ is the Word. The sword goes out of His mouth – the Word judges. **Revelation 19:15. SEE JOHN 12:48**. Also John 5:22. A fitting preliminary of what is to come in the Great Tribulation. God deals with the earth in righteous retribution.

‘Seven spirits’. The Holy Spirit, chapter 1:4 & chapter 3:1. See Isaiah 11:24. Revelation 5:6.

4:6-8 - ‘Living ones’. (Gk: Zoon). Not beasts.. (Gk: Therion – beast in Revelation 13). ‘Zoon’ -quality of life and suitable attributes to live in God’s presence pronouncing verse 8.

v7 – LION – King, majestic. **CALF-OX** – Patient working strength. **MAN** – Greatest in Creation, in intelligence. **EAGLE** – Greatest bird, sovereign and supreme in height. All representative of God, unmistakable majestic revelation.

v8 - ‘Full of eyes’- God’s omniscience, **Zechariah 3:6-10. See Isaiah 6:2-3**. Seraphim: they carry out God’s orders for mercy. Cherubim: they carry out God’s orders for judgment. **Genesis 3:24**. See Ezekiel 1:4-14 and 10:20. Scene of the Majesty, Purity and Holiness, Eternity of God – Result – Worship – Wor(th)ship, in verse 10.

v11 – See chapter 5:13. He alone is worthy of praise and worship; honour and ‘homage. **See Colossians 1:15-19. Hebrews 1:3-12**.

THE LION AND THE LAMB UPON HIS THRONE IN GLORY. Revelation 5:1-14

The one who became the slaughtered little lamb is really the Lion in Majesty, Sovereignty and the Government is upon His shoulders. Psalm 22:1-21; the Lamb. Psalm 22:22-31; the Lion.

In John 1:29 he is the ‘Anmos’ – Gk. the ‘sacrificed Lamb’. 1st Peter 1:19-20. The indication is the wrath of the little Lambkin, in the book of the Revelation. How remarkable! The Greek word here is ‘Arnion’, a diminutive lamb, or lambkin. Here is the Lamb who is now Majestic in character, regal as a Lion. John saw Him still as the little lambkin, slaughtered, meek, condemned as He was, to die. He was still bearing the scars of His unique death, but now He is alive for evermore. Those in Heaven saw Him as the Lion, in Heaven’s Glory and Splendour and regal Majesty. Earth’s view is the diminutive little lambkin, meek and dumb, led to the slaughter, Isaiah 53, from the point of view of man needing salvation, through sacrifice at Golgotha. Heaven’s Glorious view is of one who has conquered – the Lamb of Majesty and the Lion of Glory, full of authority and power, regal Sovereignty as God the Son at the right hand of the Father. He has gone from earth to Heaven,



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

from Golgotha to Glory. He is the Lamb at His first coming. There will be expressed the wrath of the Lamb and the regality of the Lion at His second coming.

Lamb: 28 times as 'Agnion' (Gk.). Lion only once in Revelation.

Seven horns and seven eyes speak of His supreme power and all seeing Deity as God the Son, having dignity and all authority. Matthew 28:19-20. The 'seven' signifies the Holy Spirit in the Godhead, being sent by the Lord to the earth, or it can be truly seen as the seven angels whose work it will be to carry out the seven Seals judgments (seven trumpets come out from the 7th Seal). Whatever the meaning, the commission for retribution is sent from the Throne. The Lamb had the right to take the Scroll from the hand of the Father – all Judgment is committed into the hands of the Son. **Daniel 7:13-14; 1st Corinthians 15:24-29; John 5:22-27**. The Lamb is worthy, **vs. 9, 12-13, and 13:8. Eyes – see Zechariah 3:9 & 4:10.**

5v3 – Scroll required the power of God for their opening revelation and for their execution. Even a strong, mighty powerful angel spoke, in v2. Perhaps Gabriel, who ordered the closing of the book of Daniel and its sealing of its revelation until the end times (**Daniel 12:4, 7 & 9**).

One worthy to open must have all authority and power in Heaven and upon earth, Matthew 28, is seen in v5 here. Cf. Genesis 49:9-10. The future Ruler of the earth. KING OF THE JEWS. Isaiah 11:1 (**READ**). Cf. **Revelation 5:5**. See Isaiah 9:7; Chapter 4:2; Jeremiah 23:5. The BRANCH. Zechariah. 3:8.

Taken from the Hebrew : Netzer.

"He prevailed". Gk. means He "conquered". The word comes first in the sentence, thus for emphasis. He has the power and the right as God and he is the prophesied Ruler of the earth, to break all seven Seals as well as to unfold the scroll first (v4).

5v5 - 'Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah'. **Note His credentials in v5**. Jacob's ancient prophecy comes to The fore. Shiloh is Messiah, assuming Lion character, the Deliverer of Israel Romans 11:26 and Isaiah 59:20-21, springing from David as a Root and Shoot, the Branch from the family tree long cut down, but alive in its roots according to the Prophetic promise of God to David, the Davidic Covenant (**2nd Samuel 7:12-17: Psalm 89**). Messiah is not only David's Son, He is David's Lord (Psalm 110). We know that neither jot nor tittle shall pass from the Word of God, so the Church must take note this remarkable Prophetic Truth concerning Israel's future King.

I.E. Davidson says, 'The Jewish and Christian Dispensations meet again here. They met at the cross of Jesus, but the Jewish Dispensation passed out for a time, whilst the Christian or Church Dispensation came in. They have remained widely separated during this long stationary period of time, between the 69th & 70th week of Daniel (Chapter 9:24-27). The Dispensations meet again at the Crown, here, when a series of prophecies commence their fulfilment. The Christian Church Dispensation passes out of time with Rapture and Resurrection of the true Church, to meet the Lord in the air. The fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy, long suspended, begins again in the forefront of world history, Israel finds her appointed place".

A. Krolenbaum of Messianic Testimony, once said, 'God must have left enough sap in the roots of the tree of Israel's Olive to begin to grow again after so long a dormancy'. How true Jewish wisdom (that is! **Genesis 49:9** – Lion's whelp or son (Son of David, the Lion), who like Israel was once a prey, but is now gone up, like Israel's resurrection, so too her Lion and Liberator!

v7 – The Lamb – the Lion of Tribe of Judah, the One to inherit David's Throne at Jerusalem has the sole right to take the Scroll out of the 'right hand (meaning authority) of God the Father enthroned, the Son at His right hand. The Seven Seals will pass judgment upon the sin of the world and separate Israel from the nations, who will come to attack her in her loneliness and isolation, but it is the King of the Jews, the Lion of the tribe of Judah's way of preparing the repentance of His nation, turning them towards Him, their Kinsman Redeemer; the only One' who



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

is able to save and preserve His family, the Jewish Nation, a Remnant as His Inheritance, to come to be their King and Ruler, David's Greater Son.

The crucified Lamb is now the crowned King and Liberator of His people. He is crowned with many crowns, the Lamb upon His Throne, and worshipped as God, in the new Song (verses 9 & 10).

v8-10 – Elders. The Elders could represent the redeemed Body of Christ (v10). Or, they could represent a higher being of angels. Chapter 4:4 tells us that these Elders are wearing golden crowns. The Church, when rewarded, do not wear golden crowns. These Elders present the prayers of the saints in golden vials or bowls – the Bible does not instruct us that this 'is a ministry of the redeemed in Heaven now. Certainly many angels are mentioned in v11. 'Angels sing here for the first time since sin entered into the world. In early days of creation, they sang (Job 38:7). Angels praised God at Bethlehem, they did not actually sing.

Note that the true Church are declared kings and priests unto God (v10). We will reign with Christ the King of the Jews. **He is not King of the Church, but rather, Head, Lord and Bridegroom of the true Church.** We have our part in the Millennium.

v8 – The Lamb is also the Great High Priest. He is the Mediator and Intercessor. He receives the prayers of the 'Saints' in the Great Tribulation. He is also the sacrifice and He presented His own shed blood to the Father, not the blood of an animal substitute, but His own – blood for the remission of our sins and to establish the New Covenant. As High Priest, He also bore the marks of being sacrifice, the nail print marks are still upon His body for ever. In **Leviticus 7:8** the High Priest must have the evidence of sacrifice in his possession as proof that that sacrifice has been made. So also the Lamb, bearing the marks **as having been slain (v6)**, bearing in His own body **the evidence 'as the sacrifice and the offerer** of Himself as sacrifice, all in one person. **HOW UNIQUE!!** 'Sacrificer' and sacrificed offered His own blood in Hebrews 9:11-12. Meekness and Majesty in Mediatorship! All in the same person – Sacrifice and Sovereign, the judged and the Judge, all in the same person. The One who passed sentence upon the sin of mankind, took the sentence upon Himself who knew no sin and was condemned for our sins that we may be pardoned, set free and redeemed to a right relationship with the Father through the Son and the operation of the Holy Spirit in our lives, through spiritual birth and regeneration by the Holy Spirit.

John writes, **"I looked"** (v11). Mentioned 44 times in Revelation. The words "I heard" are mentioned 27 times So also in Daniel 7:2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, & 21 - 8 times - "I saw". Also, Daniel 8:2, 4, 7. Verses 13 & 15 say "I heard".

We too, need to see or perceive and hear what the Spirit says to the Church, and see the Lamb enthroned as One who was slain for us. He will come for us, to take us to be with Himself for ever and he will come back to save a Remnant of Israel and they will see Him whom they pierced.

He was bruised for our / their iniquities. These are Christ the King High Priest's credentials as the Lamb who was slain, who is also the Lion, who will also be Sovereign. These are the 7-fold attributes ascribed to the Lamb. There will be perfect worship in Heaven (v12).

THE SEALS OF GOD'S JUDGMENTS. Revelation 6

There is no mention of the Resurrection or the Rapture for the true Church from now on. This is because these marvellous events have already taken place. The Bride is mentioned in chapter 19 and 'Church' is not mentioned until chapter 22:16, 5 verses from the end! From chapters 6-19, earthly events are in view and terrible they are. This is linked with Daniel's 70th week of Daniel 9:24-27, which covers the final 7 years after the true Church, which is the Bride of Christ, is taken



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

away to Heaven for the marriage of the Lamb with His Bride, whilst the final seven years of the Great tribulation take place on the earth. The final seven years of Israel's judgment, called the 'Day of Jacob's Trouble' (Jeremiah 30:7), or the Day of the Lord (Joel & Isaiah), before Israel's Remnant is saved and blessed at the Second Coming of Christ to Israel to become Israel's Redeemer King Messiah. The 'Day of Vengeance' is mentioned in Isaiah 61:2 & 63:4, **READ Zephaniah 1:14-18.**

Similarity to Matthew 24:4-31. There is a remarkable similarity between the progress of Revelation chapter 6 as a whole and the description given by the Lord of the end of the Age in Matthew 24:4-31. In both passages the order is

- (1) **War** (Matthew 24:6-7; Revelation 6:3-4)
- (2) **Famine** (Matthew 24:7; Revelation 6:5-6)
- (3) **Death** (Matthew 24:7-9; Revelation 6:7-8)
- (4) **Martyrdom** (Matthew 24:9-10,16-22; Revelation 6:9-11)
- (5) **Sun and Moon darkened, Stars falling** (Matthew 24:29; Revelation 6:12-14)
- (6) **A Time of Divine Judgment** (Matthew 24:32-25:26; Revelation 6:15-17).

The general features of Matthew 24 are obviously parallel to the events of the Book of Revelation beginning in chapter 6.

Any exposition of Revelation must be based on the understanding of the whole Word of God and that this Prophecy can be interpreted literally, as also other portions of Prophetic Scripture. Though there are signs and symbols, Revelation is intended to be understood with a far greater degree of literal interpretation than most people think and is linked with other Prophetic Scriptures to gain light and understanding.

Here are graphic descriptions of God's judgments and terrible events to come, which we, as the true Church (contrast with the false Apostate Church and world religions joined to it which remain behind to face the Great Tribulation, judgment of God), will neither suffer or see. Literal interpretation of Scripture teaches a Pre-Tribulational Resurrection and Rapture of the True Church to be with the Lord.

6 Seals. Revelation 6:1 to 17.

Parenthesis of selection of the 144,000 saved by the Lord and sealed for protection (In chapter 7). The **7th Seal** leads to the **7 Trumpet Judgments**, (chapter 8:1 to 9:21). **Another parenthesis** is chapter 10, the Mighty Angel – Little Book, also the Two Witnesses in chapter 11:1-14.

7th Trumpet. **Ch.11:15-19.** Israel and two Beasts in chapters 12 & 13. Lamb and 144,000 in chapter 14:1-5. Three Angel messages and reaping Judgment harvest, chapter 14:6-11.

6 Bowls of Wrath. Chapter 15:1 to 16:12. **Third parenthesis** is chapter 16:13-16. **7th Bowl.** Chapter 16:17-21. Chapter 17 & 18 Babylon falls – Political, Social, Economic and Religious Babylon.

SIX SEALS. TREMENDOUS JUDGMENTS ON THE EARTH.

Climax of this present Age. A warning to those living careless lives. Challenges the Christian to explain and evangelise. **Read Jude 20-23.**

Voice like thunder (see John 12:29), the coming storm, take cover if you can, world!

v2 – First Seal. This is not Jesus. He does not bring these events in His reign on earth – He ends them at His coming in Revelation 19, on a white horse. Note here, a bow but no arrows. Antichrist will conquer mainly by **false peace** & absence of war in most parts of the earth, especially Europe which will be the Revived Roman Empire. More later. See Daniel 7:8, 20, 8:9 & 11:40-43. The crown here is 'Stephanos', not 'Diademata' – regal crown – which Christ alone wears as a Sovereign crown. Christ's rule is permanent. Antichrist's rule is very much temporary.



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

v3 & 4 – Second Seal - War as in Daniel 7, 8 & 11 above. Short lived peace.

v5 & 6. Third Seal - Famine. Aftermath of war. Scarcity of food. Wine and oil untouched. A day's wages for a loaf of bread and no money left. Black symbolises suffering.

v7 & 8 - Fourth Seal. NB Death and Hades means awaiting judgment, not paradise awaiting Heaven. All true Believers go immediately to Heaven upon death. **Pale green** horse, ghastly colour. Death by war and famine and beasts, earth-wide. Over a billion dead by the world's population now. **See Daniel 12:1; Jeremiah 30:7; Joel 2:1-3.**

These events take place during the second half of the Great Tribulation 7 years period. **See Matthew 24:21-22.**

Not since Noah has there been such a judgment. This is greater, being more people dead. THE GREAT DAY OF GOD'S WRATH, verse 17. Though this is Antichrist's activity – it is all in God's plan. Even Antichrist is God's instrument, though he does not know it, neither does Satan. This all culminates in the Second Coming of Christ. 2nd Thessalonians 1:6-9. **READ this.**

v9-11 – Fifth Seal. Scene shifts from earth to Heaven. Martyrs of the Great Tribulation time. Blood under the altar. (Exodus 29:12; Leviticus 4:7). Martyrs ask for judgment on their persecutors, who must still be living **as this must apply the to Great Tribulation period & not the Church Age** where we are told, as a Church, in Matthew 5:44, 'Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you'. Obviously this is a different time period – the reference in Revelation must be the Great Tribulation period. The Matthew reference applies to the Church now.

There will be added martyrs before the judgment comes. The martyrs are to wait until the Second Coming of Christ, when the judgment is meted out. (2nd Thessalonians 1:6-9 again). **See also chapter 7:9-15, & 13:6-15.** Believers in the Great Tribulation are called upon to be faithful unto death, if needs be. This will be the testimony of many in the Great Tribulation period.

v12-17 – Sixth Seal. Terrible scene. God's direct intervention into human affairs of the world at large. Verse 17. Previously it was God using human evil as His instrument. Now it is God's own judgment in action.

DIVINE PUNISHMENT ON A BLASPHEMOUS WORLD.

Catastrophic, climactic character of this period - by devastating, Divine determination to deal out death, destruction and disturbances in the heavenly realm and earthly scene (Remember Matthew 24). All shall know where these terrible actions derive from, (v16-17. See Joel 2:2,10,30-31. Isaiah 13:6-13 and 34:4. Cf. Revelation 6:14).

In our days God is not settling accounts. Neither are wicked are judged collectively, nor the saints rewarded individually.

This Day of Grace will be followed by the Day of the Lord (Judgment), not a 24 hour day, but a period of time. The Day of Wrath, verse 17. (See John 3:18 & 36). 'Who shall be able to stand?' Only those who become Great Tribulation saints and many suffer martyrdom. This is brought out in the next chapter.

For ourselves, we must witness, watch, warn and snatch from the burning (Jude 23), while there is time **NOW**.

This present Age is closing soon and the Lord is first coming for His own redeemed, true Church – the Bride of Christ – every Believer in Christ. The curtain is coming down to close this Age before these terrible events come to pass.



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

'THE SEALED 144,000' Revelation 7

Who are they? What will be their message? Are they the same as chapter 14? The Day of Grace is over by this time in God's Chronology. The message is the Gospel of the Kingdom. This is the same message of the Old Testament Prophets through to Matthew 13, when the King was rejected.

v2-4. 144,000 selected from the twelve tribes of Israel, sealed by God's protective instruction. Chapter 7 is a parenthesis between the 6th & 7th Seal. John the Baptist preached the Gospel of the Kingdom to Israel in the Gospels. But now see **Matthew 24:14**. That recorded there is not the Gospel of Grace which the Church preaches today. We do not preach the Gospel of the Kingdom, which relates to Christ's Millennial rule as King of Israel and His reign over the nations.

The great multitude are saved after the Rapture and Resurrection of the True Church. The Church Age or period of time, has ended by this time. The Holy Spirit will be working in a limited way – not as significant as between Pentecost and the end of the Church Age.

v1-3. Holding back the wind of judgment destruction. Daniel 7:2; Jeremiah 49:36, until the sealing protection is accomplished. Remember the protection of Noah, Lot and Rahab, removed before judgment took place.

v4-8. Israel exists and identity of Tribes known to God. Israel means Israel and not the Church. (Israel as a term is never used for the Gentiles). Dan and Ephraim are omitted, Manasseh entered. Why? Dan and Ephraim went into idolatry. (Deuteronomy 29:18-21; Judges 18:2, 20 & 31, etc.) Dan eventually joined up with Naphtali, also Ephraim was known as the northern kingdom. Dan in the very north of Israel entered idolatry, golden calf erected by Jeroboam. Dan is readmitted to blessing, see **Ezekiel 48:2**, where it is first named, but furthest from the Millennial Temple. God has a future for Israel, no doubt. It is plain and literally to be believed and received. The 144,000 are not the only Jews to be saved after the Church Age is completed. Jewish people saved in the Great Tribulation, plus another one-third at the Second Advent of Christ Messiah, **verse 9**. Many of the Jewish people, not sealed or part of the 144,000, but are saved, may well be martyred in the Great Tribulation.

v9-14 – Tribulation saints, many are martyred. These are Jewish people and Gentiles around the world. **Antichrist cannot stop God working in salvation.** Note the white robes, see chapter 6:11. Palms are a symbol of triumph and victory – often seen on coins of Israel. Note 7-fold praise and worship as in chapter 5.

v14. Greek: **TRIBULATION, THE GREAT ONE.** See Matthew 24:21; Daniel 12:1; Jeremiah 30:7. This a particular group of people at a particular time in future world history. These did not worship the Beast, (See chapter 13:5), and are martyred. These are not from among the 144,000, remember they are sealed with Divine protection and are safe. The Tribulation saints / martyrs are forgiven, ransomed, restored, cleansed and saved by the sacrificial blood of Christ and are in Heaven praising the Lord. They are pure, dressed in Christ's righteousness, as a robe. **See Revelation 1:5.**

v15-17. Special privileges of the martyred Great Tribulation saints. They are given a place of prominence and honour – serving in the presence of God who is dwelling **among** them – honour and wonderful fellowship for these martyrs.

v16. They are now free from suffering. (See chapter 13:17, where the world is under the mark of the Beast. These saints are free from all that now, in Heaven with the Lord).



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

v17. Tender comfort and care of the Shepherd Saviour.

Notice contrast in God's Sovereign purpose – 144,000 protected, to serve in extreme hostility as preacher Evangelists, while countless numbers who believe their message are martyred (Chapter 6:11). God always planned to use Israel as His witnessing people to the world. (Israel was given so many benefits and blessings, plus responsibilities. **See Romans 9:4-5**). Jewish people wrote the Scriptures, including New Testament letters! We have a Jewish Bible, written by Jewish people, which is a witness to God who calls Himself the God of Israel throughout Scriptures. We know there is much about Israel's future, even in the Book of Revelation, including the city of Jerusalem and also the New Jerusalem.

7TH SEAL TO TRUMPET JUDGMENTS – NOS. 1 TO 4. Revelation 8

Was this God's answer to the martyrs' prayers in chapter 6:9-11 and chapter 7?

8:1-5. Golden censer – incense + prayers of these saints – censer **thrown** to the earth.

v6 – Read

v7 – Judgments thrown to the earth. (7 to 11, earth and seas judged).

v8,9 – Judgments thrown into the sea. (Exodus 7:20-21; Hosea 4:3; Zephaniah 1:2-3.)

v10 – Great star fell. No need to throw it.

v12 - Heavens. Sky. Sun. Moon. Stars struck. Partial darkness. (v12 – heavens judged (small 'h'), but affects the earth).

v13 – Angel, better 'Eagle', utters 'woes' three times. The strong majestic bird rushing towards its prey, referring to the rapid approach of God's remaining vengeance. Vulture is sometimes used (Luke 17:37). The bird of prey is associated with blood, death and rotting flesh (Job 39:27-30). Three remaining trumpet judgments worse because they are 'woes' (see Matthew 24:21).

NB. The first 4 trumpet judgments hit nature. The 5th & 6th in chapter 9 are judgments against man. These two are much worse. They are 'woes' and appear in chapter 9. The 7th trumpet leads to the bowls of wrath.

In **v1** there is a half hour silence in Heaven – an enormous impact. Think of one minute silence and a large crowd, all quiet, say at a match, or all over the country at the same time (Armistice Remembrance or Holocaust Day in Israel). **IMPACT OF SILENCE** (Acts 21:40).

The Trumpets and Bowls really come out of the 7th Seal. **IMPORTANT** development as judgments poured out from Heaven in increasing intensity, beginning here from the end of the 7th Seal. Imagine the silence before a thunderstorm, birds all quiet. Something tremendous is about to take place. Silence before the judge's verdict in court.

Trumpets needed for different purposes (Exodus 19:19; Joel 2). Trumpets played a major part in the national life of Israel. They were used in ceremonial processions, assembling people to hear God, for war, journeys and special feasts, warning of the coming Day of the Lord, announcing the new year. As a signal for war, the trumpet was a natural association with God's judgment. Here they are precursors of Divine judgment in the Day of the Lord (Zephaniah 1:14-16).



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

v3 – This angel is not the Lord himself, but a special angel with a special position before God. Christ would need no incense for prayer with the Father. Censer = firepan. Fire hurled to the earth is judgment as vengeance and retribution by God in answer to the martyrs' prayers.

v5 – Censer (Exodus 37:25-28; Hebrews 9:4). Taken into the Holy of Holies by the High Priest on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) once a year. This censor was hurled to the earth. Thunder, lightning, voices and earthquake contrast to the silence. Devastating impact. Wrath against a godless, rebellious mankind. Similar presence of God's activity in Exodus 19:16-19. Mount Sinai. The earthquake emphasised the magnitude of the importance of what John witnessed.

The trumpet judgments remind us of the plagues in Egypt. The 1st trumpet parallel to Egyptian 7th plague (Exodus 9:24), the 2nd trumpet judgment parallel to the Egyptian 1st plague (Exodus 7:19-20), the 4th trumpet recalled the 9th plague (Exodus 10:21) and the 5th trumpet paralleled the 8th plague (Exodus 10:12). In both cases God's people Israel + living Tribulations saints here, were delivered from a world violently hostile towards God.

The judgments now beginning were held back until the servants of God were sealed (chapter 7:3), 144,000 Jewish people from the 12 tribes.

OT prophets understood that the miracles of Egypt were to be repeated in the future. (Isaiah 10:22-25; 11:12-16; 30:30; Jeremiah 16:14-15; 23:7-8; Ezekiel 38:22; Micah 7:15). See also Amos 2:10; 4:10; 8:8-9; 9:5-7. **The same principles of interpretation apply in prophecies as in historical narrative - receive them LITERALLY. To contend otherwise is to stand in judgment over the text rather than listening to its message, fundamentally prophetic.**

vs.8-9 - 'Mountain' = Literal mountain from Heaven, meteoric mass, ablaze with fire – why not? Sun, moon and stars affected in verse 12. **INTERPRET LITERALLY AS FAR AS CAN REASONABLY BE APPLIED.** Gk. Apsinthos – a word found nowhere else in the Greek Bible.

Poisonous plant (Lamentation 3:15). Calamity: Amos 5:7. Wormwood + Jeremiah 9:15; 23:15. Wormwood made sweet water bitter. Opposite to the cross which sweetens life. This is Judgment - **bitter to death. Wormwood – a symbol of Divine judgment.** Death may not result, only suffering. **The first 4 trumpets are to punish. not necessarily to kill.** Waters were only embittered by the wormwood, not transformed into wormwood.

v10 – Gk. 'lampas', torch, meaning a meteor shooting through the atmosphere. Earlier stars (6:13) are equally identified as falling meteors. Actual stars remain in the sky until the time of the 3rd & 4th trumpet judgments.

All elements are affected in chapter 8 and are vital to man's welfare. These are afflicted and affected.

v12 - 'Darkness'. Also found in Exodus 10:15, 21-23; Isaiah 13:9; Ezekiel 32:7-8; Joel 2:10, 30-31; Matthew 24:29; Luke 21:25-26. Darkness is a symbol for judgment, but it will be actually produced as a judgment from God. **All these judgments must be taken literally because the plagues in Egypt were actual and real also.** Reduction of light warns of more severe judgments to come – actual and literal. All these are Divine, supernatural activities of judgment against a rebellious, hostile world.

The 5th & 6th Trumpet Judgments. "WOE, WOE, WOE" (8:13) Revelation 9

Verse 1 to 12. 'Terror from the pit. 5 months horror, for unprotected men'.

v1 - The star fallen is Satan. Jesus said he saw Satan fall like lightning from Heaven (Luke 10:18). Compare this with Isaiah 14:12-15. The 'bottomless pit' = Gk. 'Abyssos', the abode of demons (Luke 8:30-31). Found 7 times in Revelation: 9:1,2,11; 11:7; 17:8 & 20:1&3. This is the



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

place of detention for the wicked angels (see **Luke 8:30-31**). Satan is given power to release demons with the key. He is confined there himself in Revelation 20.

v2 Smoke etc., spiritual pollution, dark evil. This judgment of the 5th Trumpet is demonic and satanic oppression is rampant. **Torment and terror loosed upon the earth.** Hordes of demons, hideous description, not science fiction this time, it is for real. Satan only wants to hurt men. Why?

- (1) God created man in His own image and man is an eternal being – destination – heaven or hell.
- (2) Men can be saved – nor grass or trees (v4).
Locusts normally eat green things - these are not locusts but can devour (see **1 Peter 5:8**).

A plague of locusts is greatly feared. See **Exodus 10:10-17; Joel 1:4-7**. These locusts 'sting' men, torment which cannot lead to death, though man would wish he could die. The whole human race is attacked except the 144,000 and those saved in the Great Tribulation. (See **2nd Timothy 2:19**). The torment is against the ungodly, those who take the mark of the Beast, no doubt. In Malaya the 9 inch scorpion is dangerous with its sting, painful suffering which can also kill small children.

v5 – Only **LIKE** a scorpion. Free choice of men denied. They want to die but cannot.

v6 – Mankind generally will be in the grip of demonic power. See Gospels for the conflict between demons and Jesus - **no contest!!** Anything to do with Satan is hideous – here is evil unmasked. The world will not laugh at satanic description then! These demons, for that time, when it arrives, cannot be destroyed (see verse 9). Breastplate protection, speed or attack. A fearful spectacle. Unstoppable 5 months mentioned again, (verses 5 & 10). These are servants of Satan, whose name means Destroyer. Yet, they all in turn, serve God, actually, unknown to them.

v11 – Satan is no longer an 'angel of light'. He is now unmasked at this time for what he and his demons really are.

Divine restraint will be removed (see **2nd Thessalonians 2:6**).

v12 – One down, two to go. Woe and calamity judgment (**Matthew 11:21**). Full character of Satan will be known by experience.

v13-15 – Four angels released. The 6th Trumpet. This judgment is partially an answer to prayer - 'golden altar of incense' (**Chapter 8:3**). Evil angels were **bound**, now loosed at the appointed time to kill one third of humanity. Precise timing (see v15). Note the 4th Seal in chapter 6:8 where it says a quarter of the earth is killed. Thus total killed is $\frac{1}{4}$ plus $\frac{1}{3} = \frac{7}{12}$ th of the earth's population. More than half of the earth's population is killed (See **verses 15 & 18**).

Daniel 11:44 – invasion from the east (**Compare with chapter 16:12 & 9:14-16**). Quick judgments, one after the other. Tremendous 'military' power, unstoppable in conquest. Description of deadly warfare (see **verses 17-19**).

During the second half of the Great Tribulation terrible conflicts occur. No peace until Jesus comes again. He is the Prince of Peace.

v20-21 – Man is still unrepentant. Hard hearted. Astounding **human depravity**. Murder, Occult, Sorcery, Immorality, Theft. Greek: Pharmakeia = Drugs, sorcery, magic, witchcraft. Gk: Porneia = Perversion, Adultery, Incest, Fornication = Pornography. The beginning of these things are around us now, today, in an increasing impact on society, even while the Church is still here. This is nothing to compare with the way it will be in the days to come portrayed in Revelation 9, during the days of the second half of Daniel's 70th week (Daniel 9:24-27), a 'week of 7 years'. In the



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Hebrew it is a 'Shabua' or 'Heptad' of years. This is the second half of the Great Tribulation, i.e. 3½ years (read Romans 1:24, 26, 28 here).

Satan's name means 'Destroyer'. He is living up to his name in the days to come, but a **limit is set** (read Daniel 9:26-27; Matthew 24:22 important here). 'Shortened' in Gk. means 'limited'.

In Abraham's day, Genesis 15:13-16, the iniquity of the Amorites was not yet full, thus judgment on them was postponed for 400 years, until it was full, ready for judgment. The word in the Greek is 'Pleroma' meaning a filling up to fullness and when to the brim – full, it is ready to overflowing. That is the time when judgment comes. So in the coming days, the world's iniquity will become full to the brim, overflowing, topped up, and ready to be judged.

Judgment will come upon those who live in Iraq, the Euphrates, as this land, to the river, was given to Abraham by Covenant right for His people Israel. This will come to pass, at the appointed time, probably when Messiah Jesus comes again to the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14).

'MIGHTY ANGEL – LITTLE BOOK' Revelation 10:1-7

v1-4 – Chapter 10 is a parenthesis from v1 to 11:14, until the 7th Trumpet is sounded (11:15). (See chapter 10:6c-7 which says, 'there should be time no longer. 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 has declared to his servants the prophets'). The angel is not Christ (**v6**). Christ would not swear by someone greater, meaning God, there is no one greater than Christ (**see chapter 5:2** where 'strong angel' is mentioned). In **chapter 10:1** 'mighty angel' is used. Anyway, Christ does not come towards earth in mid-Tribulation period, so this must be an angel. 'Seven Thunders' may be related to the seven times voice of Jehovah heard as thunders in **Psalms 29:3-9**. The meaning of the seven thunders was not allowed to be written in verse 4 of Revelation 10. John knew what was said but it was not to be written for humanity's ears or reading (see Deuteronomy 29:29; 1st Corinthians 13:12). Paul was taken up to the third heaven, but he could not utter what was said. When Jesus talked with the Father concerning Lazarus in John 12:29, no one around Him knew what was said, 'the people heard and said that it thundered, other said, an angel spoke to Him'. The Father spoke and it seemed like thunder (Job 37:5), 'God thunders marvellously with His voice, He does great things which we cannot comprehend'.

v5-7 - '**Announcement of the End of the Age**'. '**Delay no longer**' (see chapter **11:15**). Time is not to end (there is the Millennium to come), but time has run out for man's wickedness. The rule of Christ must now come. Again, **chapter 11:15**; see **Habakkuk 2:3 = Hebrews 10:37**.

v7 - '**Mystery of God**'. Full manifestation of God's power. The 'Stone' smashing Gentile power. Christ Messiah is the 'Stone' in Daniel 2, who comes to set up His Kingdom. This Kingdom was revealed and declared to God's Prophets of the Old Testament. This is the earthly Kingdom – the Millennial reign of Christ over Israel as King and over the nations. This will lead to the New Earth eventually. Ignorance of God which characterises this Age will exist no longer then. **Habakkuk 2:14 = Isaiah 11:9; Jeremiah 31:34; Matt.4:4; Psalm 119:103; Hebrews 5:13-14**.

v8-11 - '**Eating of the Little Book**'.

Voice from Heaven. See **chapter 4:1; Ezekiel 2:9-10; 3:1-4, 14; Jeremiah 15:16-18**. John also obeys the word contained on the scroll. He receives it and acts on it faithfully to deliver to man the revealed word (Acts 20:27). To John **sweet** promise – Grace and Love to God's own redeemed children – fellowship, hope of Glory, Eternally secure (**Psalm 19:9-10**). Bitter - John's bitter suffering for his faith. Also reveals Divine judgment on a Christ rejecting world 2nd Thessalonians 1:3-12 **READ**). The word is sweet to the Believer, but bitter to the unbelievers.

v11 – fulfilled through the Book of the Revelation of Christ.



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

'TWO WITNESSES' REVELATION 11

The time is the Great Tribulation, almost certainly the second half of it: 3½ years.

The scene is Jerusalem (**v8**). The rebuilt Temple (vs. 1-2).

The depravity: extreme godlessness (vs. 8-10).

The judgment of God comes through the two witnesses (vs. 5-6). Their ministry of 3½ years, when completed and finished (v7), results in martyrdom.

C.H. Spurgeon said, 'a Believer's life is immortal until their work is completed.'

v11 – Their resurrection – the victory is the Lord's. Their ascension (v12). 'Their enemies see them rise and ascend into Heaven.' The Lord makes victory visible, in this case, not the Church though, to the losers.

v13 – Judgment on Jerusalem. Fear. Glory to God.

THREE WOES. Remember chapter 8:13.

1st woe is past: 5th. Trumpet. **Chapter 9:12**. A woe is a calamity: Matthew 11:21.

2nd woe: Chapter 11:14a: 6th Trumpet + two witnesses.

3rd woe: Chapter 11:14b: 7th Trumpet. Kingdom of Christ

v1 - 'Measure the area of the Temple which is mine and given to my people Israel: the Holy Place and Holy of Holies. This is the **Tribulation Temple**. It becomes desecrated. Antichrist declares himself god. 2nd Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 13:13-15. (The False Prophet is the religious leader – the 2nd Beast) See Daniel 9:27 about the Antichrist. See also Daniel 12:11 – he is the political Antichrist, the 1st Beast.

MEASURING ROD OF GOD (Chapter 11:1-2). Measure or judge worshippers too (11:1). God is judge of man's worship – we are all accountable to Him (Romans 14:12). The reed is 10 feet long – no one can measure up to God's standards. All come short (Romans 3:23).

v2. 3½ years. Domination by Gentiles (Daniel 9:27; Luke 21:24; Revelation 11:3; 12:6; 13:5). This is the second half of the Great Tribulation.

PROPHECY OF THE TWO WITNESSES (11:3-6).

v3 – Sackcloth (Isaiah 37:1-3; Daniel 9:3). Facing catastrophe: suitable clothing for expression, dress accordingly. '**GOD'S LIGHTBEARERS**' (v4). 'Olive trees'. 'Candlesticks' (Zechariah 4:1-6, 14). Oil symbol of the Holy Spirit. Oil gave light. The Spirit gives light. Joshua (High Priest) and Zerubbabel (Civil leader). Both pairs of men (two witnesses, Joshua and Zerubbabel) carried out their duties, not by human power, but by Divine power. The Lord Jesus Christ will come and exercise both offices when He comes to Israel as their King.

v5-6 – Judgment power of God keep the two witnesses safe for as long as God decides (see Elijah: 2 Kings 1:10-15; Moses: Numbers 16:1-2, 31-35). Elijah prayed: no rain for 3½ years. Moses: remember blood and plagues (Exodus 7:17-19). No one knows the identity of these two witnesses. There is no teaching in Scripture to say that God sends back to earth anyone who has died, except Jesus. Moses, therefore, cannot be one of them. The Scriptures do teach that Elijah will come again, but this will not be discussed here. There is no evidence to suggest that Enoch will be one of the two witnesses. The Lord does not give us liberty to bring conjecture in here. The two witnesses remain unknown.

DEATH OF THE TWO WITNESSES (11:7-10).

Satan, acting through the Antichrist from the pit, kills the two witnesses (v7). He is the Beast from the 'sea' (chapter 13:1), meaning Gentile nations surrounding the Mediterranean Sea, i.e. the



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Revived Roman Empire (Daniel and Revelation teaching). Almost certainly, as Daniel implies, the Antichrist will be Jewish. How else would he get into the Temple when it is rebuilt and demand worship in the Holy of Holies, saying that is God, i.e. the Messiah of Israel. (2nd Thessalonians 2; Revelation 13). He will become the ruler in Europe and over the world of humanity.

The beast out of the 'land' (chapter 13:11), will be the false religious leader of that day when it comes.

v10 - 'Those that dwell upon the earth'. Those who are at home and rooted, entrenched in this world – earth-dwellers – whose hope and life centres only in this earthly realm – this present life – no hope beyond this earthly scene (how sad). This phrase is used many times in the Book of the Revelation, e.g. 3:10. There go we but for the Grace of God! Man is so deceived by thinking that if you can silence the servants of God, you can also silence God! How futile; how depraved – how deprived of real understanding.

WITNESS IS AN OBSTACLE to wickedness, unbelief and satanic power. The power of Christ is judgment, Sovereignty and Glory which soon follows these events in chapter 11:1-14 (see v14 & 15). God in His Sovereignty has the last word.

TWO WITNESSES RESTORED TO LIFE & TAKEN TO HEAVEN (11:11-12).

These are the only two people to be resurrected (they stand upon their feet (v11) and then seized away, snatched away, raptured up to Heaven (v12)). The difference here from the Church rapture and resurrection is the fact that they were seen by the 'earth-dwellers', around them, (v11). Multitudes witness this awesome, and to them, fearful event and terrifying it is. **GOD SAYS - I WIN!!** He says to the world, you must witness this, you must see what I do for **My Two Witnesses!** God is addressing those who reject Him!

JUDGMENT ON JERUSALEM (11:13). NB. Fear of this kind does not bring salvation, they only recognise His awesome power to judge, not to save in these circumstances.

v14 – The Second woe is past – the final phase of the 6th Trumpet. The Third woe in the 7th Trumpet is announced to come quickly. The end of the Age of man's realm – (the Times of the Gentiles). Man's day leads to God's Day. It is rapidly approaching.

Revelation 22:20 says, 'He who testifies to these things says, "surely I am coming quickly", which in the Greek means suddenly and without notice or warning, but not necessarily meaning soon'. Amen, even so, come Lord Jesus.' The word in Revelation 22:20 is to the Church, but the rapid, unexpected Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is also to become true, when He comes back to this earth, to Jerusalem, Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14).

Quick review of chapter 11:15-18 – The 24 Elders worship God, giving thanks that He has exercised His great power and Sovereign rule. Though the nations were angry about all this, God's wrath has come upon the earth – unbelievers soon to be judged and His saints to be rewarded who remained faithful in the Great Tribulation (not the Church here). The original Temple in Heaven was opened in Heaven, the original Ark of the Covenant became visible, with great display, see v19.

Revelation 11:19 to 12:17 – The Woman, the Child and the Dragon.

11:19 – The rebuilt earthly Temple in Jerusalem is desecrated but nothing can touch the Temple of God in Heaven. All was safe and secure there in His presence, symbolised by the Ark of the Covenant. This is especially a relevant verse with its Jewish connotations, as chapter 12 focuses upon Israel, though there are some rumblings of Great Tribulation, some created by Satan, the rest created by God. Nevertheless it is God's judgment, but Salvation comes to Israel's Remnant.

Chapter 12



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Time: Second half of the Great Tribulation (see v6, 9, 14).

Place: Israel, and almost certainly Petra in Edom (Jordan, today) see Isaiah 63:1-7; Isaiah 16:1-5; Daniel 11:41; Psalm 60:8-12.

People (v17). Israel, not the Church. Especially Believers / Remnant of Israel and Tribulation saints – Gentiles. Those involved in this scene: Satan; Michael – Archangel who looks after Israel (Daniel 10:21 & 12:1; Jude 9; Revelation 12:7); and Angels.

Events of chapters 12 to 18 inclusive follow Seals and Trumpets judgments at the time of the second half of the Great Tribulation and not chronological order. They all happen together in that period of 3½ years. Curtain raisers to the dramatic climax re-entry into the world of the Lord Jesus Christ; His Second Coming to this earth. Chapters 12 to 14 have seven leading persons or people.

- 1) The Woman – Israel.
 - 2) Dragon – Satan.
 - 3) Man-Child – Christ.
 - 4) Michael and angels.
 - 5) Israel – Remnant Seed of the Woman who are the redeemed and Believing Jews.
 - 6) Beast out of the sea – Antichrist – world dictator.
 - 7) Beast out of the earth – false prophet of the religious world, the world religious leader.
- These are the main characters on the world stage, in the Great Tribulation.

v1 - Israel. "Sign" – not wonder (Gk: Semeion (sign), not Teras: wonder). Here is a sign of important truth (1-6). See Genesis 37:9-11. Joseph, his parents and brothers – sun, moon, stars: - **these are the people of Israel.**

v2-5 – Birth of Messiah and suffering of Israel. He suffered with them.

v3 – Cf. Chapter 13;1. Dragon: Satan. See Daniel 7:7-8, 24-25. Revived Roman Empire (v4). 1/3rd. Angels: initial rebellion at the beginning. War in heaven between Michael, angels and Satan and his fallen angels, who are defeated and cast to the earth from the first heaven. Remember that Satan is the prince of the power of the air – first heaven above us. Satan's worst work is to come when he is cast to this earth from the 'air' (v9).

v4 relates to the time when Herod attempted to murder Jesus when he was about 2 years old in Bethlehem. He killed all the boys in Jerusalem. Herod represented the Roman Empire in Israel. The future revived Roman Empire will also be an enemy of Israel under Antichrist. In v4 Christ's birth is emphatic here.

v5. Cf. Psalm 2:9. Messiah, King, Son of God (Revelation 19:15).

Between verses 5 & 6 there is a **PROPHETIC TIME LAPSE**. An example of First and Second comings of Christ mentioned in the same sentence through out Scripture – there are many in the Old Testament particularly. (Church Age is missing in the Old Testament – it is a 'Mystery. See Romans 16:25-26; Ephesians 3:3-9. Colossians 1:27, for explanation.)

v7-9. Cf. Daniel 10:21 & 12:1. Satan is not yet cast to the earth. He has access to the 1st & 2nd heavens above the earth (prince of the power of the air). He was cast out from the 3rd Heaven – God's residence, when Satan fell through rebellion against God. Though the book of Job reveals that Satan has access to God. Satan is cast to this earth after losing the battle with Michael and God's angels, beginning of the second half of the Great Tribulation is in focus here.

v10-12 – The coming time of Satan's wrath and ultimate victory of the Redeemed Tribulation saints – some are Gentile Tribulation Believers and Israel's Believing Remnant.



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Note the announcement in v10 (see Revelation 11:15). Salvation is the sense of deliverance from Satan and completion of the Divine programme. Victory in v11.

v12 – Rejoicing of those already in heaven. Remorse for those ‘earth-dwellers’. Judgment of God and wrath of Satan.

v6, 13-16 - **See Matthew 24:15-22**. Foreshadowed by Matthew 2:16-18. ‘Rachel weeping for her children’ (Jeremiah 31:15), also relates to chapter 12 – Israel’s suffering at the future time and many martyred – Jewish and Gentile Tribulation saints.

Satan’s pride distorts his mind in fury and frustration because he knows his time is short. He actually believes he can prevent God from fulfilling His Divine programme for Israel. (Remember Pharaoh; Esther – Haman; Herod; Hitler before 1948.)

V14 - ‘Eagle’s wings’ (Exodus 19:4; Deuteronomy 32:10-12). ‘Deliverance’. ‘Times’. See Daniel 7:25 & 12:7.

v15-16 – God’s control and protection of the Remnant of Israel who become Believers, by natural and supernatural means (Exodus 15:11-12; Numbers 16:31-33). Only the 144,000 are sealed with Divine protection.

NB. v1 – Israel generally. Verse 17 – Rest of her offspring: Jewish believing Remnant.

Chapter 12 is the important introduction to important revelations in chapter 13. The principal performers are on stage together in chapter 12. More details in chapter 13. The two Beasts are Satan’s instruments. Used in the Great Tribulation.

THE BEAST FROM THE SEA. THE POLITICAL ANTICHRIST - (REVELATION 13:1-10).

The ultimate world ruler, beginning with the Revived Roman Empire, then all Europe (7-8). Here is Satan’s world dictator. He hates God and all His people (v6).

v7 – The Beast makes war with the Tribulation saints, overcoming them. He demonstrates his power over all – (v7-8).

Revived Roman Empire. Daniel 7:7-8; 17-22, **23-25**; 8:23-26; 9:26-27; Revelation 13:3; 17:3, 7,10 to 13.

v1 – **Heads**. Confederation of nations with rulers.

Kings. End time rulers out from the Revived Roman Empire.

Crowns. Symbols of Government rule and authority.

v2 – All in blasphemous opposition to God.

Leopard. Speed of Greece – conquering of Alexander the Great over Persian Empire.

Bear. Medo-Persia **strength** and **tenacity** – power to hold on. **Babylon/Lion. Majesty and Power**.

John looks back whereas Daniel looked forward, hence the Beasts are in reversed order in Revelation. All abilities rolled into one Beast. Satan gave Empires power, strength, authority.

v3 – The original Roman Empire died 476 AD. Now the systems framework of the Roman Empire are being brought back to life today. Yet verse 3 says one of its heads died and was brought back to life. One contributing but powerful nation died and revived. **WATCH GERMANY!!**

(a) Part of Europe.

(b) Blasphemes God and His people.



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

(c) Worshipped pagan deities.

(d) Nietzsche said, 'God is dead'. That is his philosophy. Now Nietzsche is dead and God is still alive and very much so!!

v4 – Worship of Satan.

v5-6 – Blasphemous character. (See also Daniel 7:8, 11, 25).

42 months = 3½ years. Second half of Great Tribulation. Antichrist will make a Covenant with the Jewish people and the Temple will be rebuilt. Judaism becomes real in Jewish worship. Worship and sacrifice will then be stopped mid-way through the 7 years period – Daniel's 70th week. The Time of Jacob's Trouble (**see Matthew 24:21**). Christ comes to terminate the Beasts and Times of the Gentiles. Christ will then set up His Millennial Kingdom. The Kingdom is not in existence now, it was postponed but not cancelled when Christ Messiah was rejected (see Matthew 12). The King is not here in physical person, so there cannot yet be the Kingdom of Heaven here. The King is absent and 'gone on a long journey' back to Heaven, (see parable in Luke 19:11-27, especially verses 11 & 12, being the basis and reason for the parable), Christ is now sat at the Father's right side. The Church does not establish the Kingdom. At the moment Christ is building His Church, not His Kingdom. His Kingdom has Israel at the centre of His rule from Jerusalem. Israel is not yet back in a right relation to God, hence no Kingdom now.

v7 – Satan offers Antichrist the world (Antichrist accepts it) – deceiving lie, though he is the god of this world, the world does not belong to him. God permitted him to become ruler and prince of the power of the air, serving the ultimate purposes of God for history. That is why Satan could offer the kingdoms of this world to Jesus (Matthew 4:8-10). Satan has always wanted this world for himself. Jesus rejected Satan's offer. Antichrist will accept it. Antichrist worships Satan. He will overpower all opposition, as Rome did (Daniel 7:23).

v8 – Universal worship of the Antichrist (**see John 5:43**). Important comment by Jesus here. One world religion: Ecumenical worship. Tribulation saints terribly ostracised, persecuted, hounded to death.

v9 – Give close attention, 'If any man have an ear, let him hear'. It is important here to notice that the words 'Unto the Churches' are omitted (see the letters to the 7 Churches in chapters 2 & 3, namely 2:7, 11, 17 & 29; Ch.3:6,13 & 22). This fact clearly teaches that the one true Church, the Body and Bride of Christ, is now with the Lord in Heaven and not present in the world during the Great Tribulation. Satan cannot reach the Church with his blasphemous, destructive intentions. The True Church is safe in Heaven, see verse 6, 'He opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His Name, and His Tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven'.

v9 is addressed to the world's population as an urgent warning of coming judgment (**see v8**).

v10 – **Law of Divine Retribution** (Genesis 9:6; Romans 12:19; Deuteronomy 32:32-43; Galatians 6:7).

Babylon (Revelation 18:5-8, 20). Retributive judgment is meted out in the same way as people dealt with and destroyed others. The Living world is judged: Revelation 19:20-21; Matthew 25. The Dead are judged at the Great White Throne (Revelation 20:11-15) having been resurrected to face the final Judgment and enter the Second Death which is eternal torment unceasingly in the Lake of Fire, for ever. (Teaching on annihilation is false teaching. Suffering is eternal for the lost. Job 21:20; Luke 16:23-24).

Satan's desire is to be like God (Isaiah 14:14) and the consequence of this was plunging creation into sin. He still lures the world to obey and worship him instead of God. That will become even clearer soon and will be brought into Divine Judgment.



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

THE BEAST FROM THE LAND. Revelation 13:11-18

False Prophet (19:20). Lamb – religious character, mild manner, lamb-like, but really from the dragon – motivated by Satan. False prophet is a religious deceiver (2 Corinthians 11:14-15). Apostate religion will be at its height at this stage of religious history. It will be destroyed by the false christ – the Antichrist. The second beast assists the first Beast; the Antichrist; towards world worship of him and his image (v13-17), sharing his leadership over the world. It is the height and final phase/hour/time of the Times of the Gentiles (Luke 21:24). Revelation 13 gives much insight into the character of the Great Tribulation – one world government, religion and economic system – a new world order – one world. This is Satan's final attempt to cause the world to worship him and turn from the worship of the true God and Jesus Christ as the true Saviour.

This ends any possible dream of the Postmillennial view of Revelation and Prophecy, i.e. the world getting better and better. Final religion will be Apostate Christendom joined with world religions – Satanic and blasphemous.

1. DECEPTIVE MIRACLES. The false prophet, second Beast; performs great signs. God is not in this, there is no mention of His name. Fire comes from heaven, visible to man, perhaps an imitation of Pentecost? Remember Elijah's God sending fire from Heaven, 2 Kings 1:10-12. (Elijah comes again before Christ). There will be the deception of the Jewish people in this way. Will this be an attempt to copy the miracles of God through the Two Witnesses? Revelation 11:5. Satan does have the power to deceive through miracles causing men to worship (1) Antichrist and (2) Satan.

The political Beast is a person and an Empire – a power system, having the same aims because the Empire is headed up by the political Beast.

The image of the Beast becomes the centre of false worship. The image is mentioned 3 times in chapter 13 and more times in chapter 14:9 & 11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20 and 20:4. This is the final point at the final state of religious apostasy, the height of idolatry, (e.g. tower of Babel). There has been false religion in the world for thousands of years.

v15 – Gk. Pneuma. Breath, spirit, to the image. NOT life. The appearance of 'life', manifested in 'breathing'.

- 2. DEMONIC MANIFESTATION.** First Beast worshipped as a god.
- 3. DEATH TO MANY (v15).
- 4. DEVILISH MARK. (vs.16-18).

Small and great – referring to position of influence.

Rich and poor – referring to possessions and income.

Free and slave – referring to place in society and image among people. The mark signifies Beast worshippers - a device forced upon people.

5. DEVIL'S MATHS MYSTERY (v18). No speculation permitted. The 666 number of man, each falling short of 777, the number of completeness and perfection. 888 is the number for Jesus. The number '8' being the number for resurrection. '6' is man's number – he works for 6 days, to rest on the seventh. Remember Nebuchadnezzar's image of gold, measuring 60 cubits x 6 cubits x 6 cubits!

The meaning of the number of the Antichrist, 666, can only be known when he comes on the scene of future world history, thus proving that the FUTURIST view of Prophecy is the correct view of understanding Bible Prophecy and not the Preterist view (first century Church experience) or Historicist view, that relates Revelation to only the Church Age.



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

The Antichrist will be the head of the Revived Roman Empire, then becoming world ruler as the earth is divided up into ten sections for easier domination. Each section under one of ten rulers or kings, who will rule with Antichrist for a short time or 'one hour'. Revelation 17:12 says, 'ten horns which John saw are ten kings which have received no kingdom as yet (NB. again value of Futurist view), but receive power as kings one hour with the Beast'. Antichrist will be the substitute instead of the real Christ – **for a short while**.

The first Beast, Revelation 13, is the "little horn" of Daniel 7:8; "the prince that shall come" of Daniel 9:26; "the wilful king" of Daniel 11:36-45. The "man of sin, the lawless one", 2 Thessalonians 2:3. We do not know if one is Gentile and the other a Jewish person. The Antichrist will be the ruler of the Revived Roman Empire – the final Roman ruler at the end of Gentile power. Satan will be allowed to have his way – **for a short time**.

False religion will sweep the world and then be destroyed by the Antichrist when false religion will have served its purpose to ensure Antichrist's world rule and world unity, note, religion, rather than power politics, though power politics will be working through religion. 2 Thessalonians 2:4 says, "(Antichrist)... opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped, so that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God". Verses 10 – 12 say that God sends strong delusion that the world will believe the lie that the Antichrist is God and Christ, because the world, as it will become, will not receive THE Truth, so that the world will be condemned, because people will not believe the Truth.

The Victory of the Lamb – Triumph of the Christ – Judgment of the Wicked. REVELATION 14 - Note the 7 divisions (vs. 1-5, 6-7, 8, 9-12, 13, 14-16, 17-20)

This chapter prepares for the climax beginning in chapter 15.

The 144,000 are the same 144,000 in chapter 7. The scene: Jerusalem at the beginning of the Millennium.

This proves chapter 7 true. God is faithful to His Word. ALL are preserved through the Great Tribulation triumphant, not one is missing (see Psalm 132:13-14, 17-18; Psalm 2:6-8; Psalm 48:2; Isaiah 2:2-3; Matthew 6:13).

Verse 1. These belong to the Father and the Son. Chapter 7 just says 'Seal'. Here there is mere detail.

God is the Father of the saved Jews; identification with the Lamb – Salvation through faith. Position:

Mount Zion, the place of security, blessing, glory. The earthly Jerusalem in the early Millennium.

Verses 2 & 3. Different scene: Heaven, probably martyred saints of Great Tribulation in contrast to 144,000 whose sealed lives are spared. **NOTE: If the church was still on earth why would the Lord anoint and mark with protection 144,000 Jews called to believe and serve Him in the Great Tribulation. The protection is needed because of Antichrist. These do not in any way represent the Church symbolically. The Church has not been guaranteed protection either from danger or death! The True Church, the Body and intended Bride of Christ is in Heaven before the Great Tribulation seven year period begins – raised and raptured to be with Christ forever.**

Both groups experience trials of Great Tribulation and alone are worthy of singing this new song **that only they know (see chapter 7:10-17)**. Martyrs of the Great Tribulation whilst the 144,000 are Divinely preserved.

Verses 4-5. Spiritually pure – following the Lamb, faithful and obedient. No blemish in their lives.



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

No Falsehood, especially in religion (see Revelation 21:27 & 22:15), also Romans 1:25. **"FIRSTFRUITS"**. Godly nucleus of Israel, the first token of the redemption of the remnant of Israel and the glory which will be Israel's, **Isaiah 46:13**, in the Millennial Kingdom. The 144,000 remain on the earth. They come through unstained, untainted, undefiled, especially by Apostate religion of the Great Tribulation i.e. false worship of the Antichrist, false Messiah, false god (**2 Thessalonians 2:9-12**) Gk. Pseudos: false, deception, lying. In these 144,000 there is no compromise, like Daniel's three friends in the furnace of affliction, heated 7 times hotter. This is a picture or type of Israel's faithful remnant in the Great Tribulation. These 144,000 were undefiled by woman, i.e. the whore of Babylon. Often woman is linked with false religion. **Zechariah**: woman: lead talent: Shinar.

These 144,000 will be the firstfruits like **Romans 11:16** and then whole remnant of Israel in **Romans 11:26**. Here will be the purity of Israel in the Millennium, see **Zephaniah 3:13**.

Christians of today and of any age are called to be without blame (Ephesians 1:4); without blemish (Ephesians 5:27; Colossians 1:22); faultless (Jude 24).

Revelation 14. The 144,000 are the same as in chapter 7. One group on Mount Zion, Jerusalem.

Chapters 14 & 15. Scenes in heaven and on earth in preparation for final series of 7 Bowl judgments of chapter 16 and the judgments of chapters 17 & 18.

Verse 5. "blameless". Gk. amomoi – sacrificial animals without defect. No blame attached to them because they are clean through the blood of the New Covenant. Christ took the blame for our sin and we are now free from blame and consequent condemnation. One day we shall be faultless and presented to God's throne (Jude 24). We are not perfect in life, though our standing before God we are perfect and complete, wanting nothing to be accepted by the Lord. We wear Christ's righteousness and thus are blameless. These 144,000 are free from lying and deceiving – blameless in that respect.

MESSAGE OF THE THREE ANGELS. (6-12).

1. Everlasting Gospel – the good news of God's righteousness and judgment/justice rather than salvation type of good news (see v7). He will at last act in His appointed time, set by Himself and will then establish His sovereign rule in His forthcoming Kingdom. Vindication for the martyrs in v12 (see Chapter 6:9-11). The word 'preach' in v6 means 'make declaration', but not for salvation. Even the prophets preached a declaration of condemnation!
2. **Verse 8**. "Babylon is fallen". Anticipation of it. Man's godless system is doomed – prophetic of chapters 17 & 18. Those who identify with Babylon and the Beast will drink of the wine of God's wrath, i.e. take the full cup. (14:10 & 17:2). This will bring comfort to those who are tried and tested living in that day, i.e. the Tribulation saints – Jew and Gentile (v12).
3. **Verses 9-11**. Judgment on Beast worshippers. The third angel adds detail to that of the second angel in v8. The precise description is in v10. 'Without mixture' means 'full strength' – no mercy nor Grace now. Jesus spoke about the end of the wicked and hell more than the New Testament writers. The righteousness of God is linked with His love – preventing those who love Him from being contaminated and having a different destiny! Verse 9 is in the present continuous tense. Those who continue to worship the Beast, shall have the same continuous unchanging torment of verse 11.

Second group of three angels (14-20). The blessing of the saints. Note the voice direct from heaven (chapter 10:4,8; 11:12; 14:2) and again in 18:4 & 21:3. So here v13. **SEVEN TIMES**. God



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

speaks personally and directly concerning those who suffer martyrdom. They may go into hiding but are hunted in those days to come. What a comfort and strength for them to have God speak directly concerning them. Contrast this with the statement for the condemned - 'torment for ever', for the world who worship the Beast.

Verse 14 depicts Christ in judgment supported by the message of the three angels.

1. Overripe means withered and beyond harvesting – fit for burning as rubbish. Gk. 'exerantha'. Matthew 21:19-20 & Mark 11:20. Also Mark 3:1 & 3; Luke 8:6; Revelation 16:12. So ripe that it dries up and withers (like flowers resulting in seed-heads). Christ put in the sharp sickle to cut down in judgment (15-16); Matthew 13:30,39-42. Angel speaks of the 'Son of Man' – the Judge (John 5:22,27). The righteous judgment of God is pronounced from the Temple in heaven.
2. **Verses 17-20.** Gather grapes ready, full grown, prime condition, juicy. Trample them in the wine-press of the wrath of God. Another word for 'ripe' here is Gk. 'ekmasan': fully ripe. This will never take place within the walls of the city of Jerusalem, which is called the city of peace. Judgment is kept well outside the city, from the valley of Jehoshaphat to Armageddon and beyond, stretching to 180 - 200 miles, v20, beyond the borders of Israel. Blood spattered as high as the horses' bridles – great slaughter (Isaiah 63: 1-3). Not only Christ as Judge but angels also.

This chapter strongly relates the preservation of the 144,000 and others, in contrast to the terrible judgments inflicted upon the world, following Satan, worshipping the Beast and rejecting Christ.

God had spoken personally **SEVEN TIMES**. He has also spoken out **SEVEN BEATITUDES** in Revelation 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6 & 22:7 & 14. (There are nine in Matthew 5:1-11). These are also God's personal pronouncements. Jesus speaks in Matthew. The Father speaks in Revelation here. The Spirit speaks in chapter 14:13.

There are seven divisions of God's dealings in chapter 14, the latter day crisis.

1. The full remnant of godly Jewish people associated with the Lamb on Mount Zion, waiting for the Kingdom.
2. Testimony to the Gentile nations scattered all over the world.
3. Fall of Babylon.
4. Fearful doom, in this world and beyond for eternity, for those who worship the beast and his image, receiving the mark of his name.
5. Blessedness for those who die for the Lord in that time.
6. Discriminating process of the harvest – salvation and judgment.
7. Awful infliction of vengeance on religious apostasy; the first, at least, of these two last acts of judgment being executed by the Son of Man – the very close of this age – the wrath of the Father and the Lamb, the Son.

(William Kelly – book of Revelation).

Remember that the 144,000 are preserved through all this. God's justice will triumph in righteousness and victory.



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

SONG OF MOSES AND SONG OF THE LAMB

Revelation 15:1-4

What is the link between the Song of Moses, Exodus 15:1-21; Deuteronomy 32, and the Song of the Lamb?

Answer: Deliverance and Victory wrought by God Alone.

Rightly so, it brings Him Glory, Honour, Praise and Worship. The deliverance of Israel from the Pharaoh and Egypt – one nation. Exodus 15 is to be compared with the deliverance of Israel from many nations, prophetically rendered by Moses in Deuteronomy 32:1-43. (Judgment, v19-35; retribution on enemies, v40-42b; God's faithfulness, v1-4, 7-14, Leviticus 26:40-45; people's foolishness, v5-6, 15-18; God's redemption and future for Israel, Deuteronomy 32:43c; God's favour, v36-39).

The deliverance of the tribulation saints from Antichrist the Beast, his image, mark and number, by God's victory, even though many are martyred from among the believing of Israel in the Great Tribulation, causes them to sing worship and praise to the Lord God of Israel, the Almighty. This is the Song of Moses. **Revelation 15:3**, The Song of the Lamb is sung by the saints of all ages, singing their worship and praise of the Lamb who has delivered them and wrought victory for them through His redeeming sacrifice, atoning death, resurrection for our justification, His victory over sin, death, hell and satan, even our old nature too. We too shall join in the Song of the Lamb even though we are not martyred.

Chapters 4 to 19 deal with the judgements of God in the Great Tribulation (see Jeremiah 30:7 – Day of Jacob's Trouble).

Deuteronomy 32 relates fulfilled history of Israel and also prophetic history of Israel – future. (Deuteronomy 31:29). Latter days. End Times. Genesis 49:1 “Jacob called his Sons said, ‘Gather together that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days’”. Read **Numbers 24:14-19**. Prophecy of the Second Coming of Messiah for triumph. **Deuteronomy 4:30** says, “When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you turn to the Lord your God (v31). For the Lord is a merciful God, He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them” (see verses 6-8, & 27-32). Ezekiel 38:16 says judgement on Russia in the latter days. Hosea 3:4-5 speaks of blessings upon Israel in the latter days. Micah 4:1-4 –Final Millennial blessings upon Israel and the nations.

In Revelation 15:1-4 seven angels are to bring the seven plague judgements against the earth. **Five of the plagues recall 5 of the plague judgment against Egypt** (Exodus 7 to 10). **The 1st & 3rd plagues¹** are particularly reminiscent of what God did to punish Egypt, a picture of the world in Biblical symbolism, in order to deliver Israel. Other features in context resemble God's previous deliverance². **Crossing the river** (Revelation 16:12) (sea for Israel parted and they crossed on dry land); Song of Moses (Revelation 15:3, cf. with Exodus 15 & Deuteronomy 32). Followed by prophetic blessings upon the tribes of Israel in Deuteronomy 33. The giving of the Law at Sinai – **smoke** indicated the presence of the Lord (see Revelation 15:8.) (Cf. Exodus 19:18.) Erection of the **tent tabernacle** (Revelation 15:5, cf. Exodus 35 & 36). These similarities hint that the seven bowls have a similar purpose, punishing the world as a whole and delivering the faithful in the Great Tribulation into the presence of the Lord. Some of them through martyrdom.

¹ Darkness – Revelation 16:10-11, 9th plague – Exodus 10:21-23; Death – 10th plague, Exodus 11:4; 12:29-30; Darkness repeated, Exodus 14:19-20 (light to Israel).

² Hail – 7th plague, Revelation 16:21, Exodus 9:22-26 (note the protection of Israel).

The scene in Revelation 15:2 is one of victory, peace and tranquillity, so different from their earthly turmoil, This is the 3rd song with several parallels (Revelation 11:15-18 & 14:1-5). The sea of glass emblem of God's splendour, majesty, purity and holiness. In Revelation 12 the earth swallowed up the river (vs. 15-16), like a type of the parting of the Red Sea and Jordan. Enemies likewise destroyed. The fire symbol of judgement against enemies destroying them. These may be



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

the martyrs of Revelation 12:11-12. They are now victors and sing as victors though martyrs. The beast may have overcome them (13:7), but now the roles are reversed. Some Israelites are free from the beast and are safe in Petra in the second half of the Great Tribulation 3½ years (Revelation 12:13-17). They do not encounter the Beast in Petra (Daniel 11:41). Martyrs are specially rewarded (Revelation 20:4-6), who give their lives in martyrdom. Dual understanding of victory and deliverance from the temptation, test and trial concerning the Beast, his image, mark and number. This is not the Church but the Tribulation martyrs after the Church is completed and taken to Heaven before Great Tribulation begins (Revelation 16:7 & 19:2 = 15:3).

Verse 3. What a celebration song! God is called just and true as in Deuteronomy 32:3-4. All nations bow to God (Revelation 15:4 cf. Deuteronomy 33:27-29). The fire of God's anger, (Revelation 15:2, cf. Deuteronomy 32:22-24a). Deuteronomy 32:42 has a striking similarity to future events at Armageddon (Revelation 14:19-20 & 19:15,18-21). Exodus 15 relates more closely with Revelation 15 because it does not parallel with Deuteronomy where Israel is disobedient, then punished, then rescued. There is no record of disobedience in Exodus 15, just a great rescue act!

There is a link with the Passover as the Lamb is worshipped – thus the link with Exodus. The Greater Lamb comes to their deliverance (Cf. Exodus 15:11 with Revelation 15:4). The martyrs are absorbed into the wonders around them, in the presence of the Lord and the Lamb.

There are two songs – Moses and the Lamb. One recounts the faithfulness of God to Israel in recognition of the large numbers of Israelites that are among the overcomers. The Song of the Lamb celebrates the ultimate victory over sin and the forces of the Dragon – Satan, that is based upon the sacrifice of the Lamb of God. The two songs are distinct but not separate. There is a common link – God delivers and gives victory through the blood of the Lamb. Both songs are historical and both have a future context too. The Song of Moses came from his lips. The Song of the Lamb came also from the lips of the Lamb – not in words but in action, through sacrifice and victory of resurrection, the power and victory over sin, death, grave, satan and hell. Remember the Lamb and the Lion of last year from Revelation 5:5-6. **The Lamb gave the Song and the reason to sing the Song!** Read the praise in Psalm 111:2 & 139:14. His works were great and wonderful in judging the Egyptians at the Red sea. So also will be great and cause astonishment in punishing the world through the seven last plagues, leading to ultimate victory song cf. 4:8, 11:17 & 16:7.

Heaven shouts Hallelujah four times in praise for God's judgements in chapter 19:1-6. God is King of the nations (Revelation 15:3 cf. Psalm 22:28).

After the purging of the earth through the plague judgements only believers are survivors. Judgment of the goats (Matthew 25) remove the unbelievers who survive Armageddon. The saved who are alive live on into the Millennium. The saved of all ages are present on the Millennial earth. Worshipers respond to God. All nations worship the King of the nations (Psalm 86:8-10; Jeremiah 10:7).

Verse 4. "Glorify your NAME". i.e. total revelation of Himself through names, eg. JAH Shalom. Praise Him for who He is, all that He has accomplished and will accomplish on the Millennial earth, followed by the N.E. N.Hvn. Holiness unto the Lord! Zechariah 14:20.

"Holy". Not the usual word. This is 'hosios'. Only here and 16:5. **It means 'sacred'**. His sacred character is one reason for worship of Him. Not so much holiness of sinlessness but rather as unapproachable majesty and light of purity possibly. This is what 'hosios' brings out. The word applies to Christ in Acts 2:27 (chapter 13:35) & Hebrews 7:26. The word implies uniqueness of His Holiness.

Old Testament prophecies speak of the nations coming to worship God Psalm 2:8-9; 24:1-10; 66:1-4; 72:8-11 & 86:9; Isaiah 2 & 9; Chapter 66; Daniel 7 & Zephaniah 2; Zechariah 14:9; Malachi 1:11.



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Recognition that this will happen only when Christ returns is a confirmation of the futuristic interpretation of Revelation.

The overcomers do not sing about their own victory over the Beast but about the Sovereignty, Justice and Glory of God.

The Song of Moses expresses victory and triumph over the power of evil by God's judgments whether in past history or future in the Great Tribulation. The Song of the Lamb is the exaltation of the Messiah, who had been rejected of me, by the redeemed of all ages. He was the suffering servant. Many martyrs suffered **but Christ was no martyr!** Atonement and redemption came by the blood of the Lamb. He came to give His life a ransom for many – the living or martyred Believers.

The Song of Moses is sung by the faithful martyred remnant of Israel, though not all believing Israelis are martyred in the great Tribulation, amidst unfaithful, rebellious apostate Israel. The Song of Moses celebrated (**Exodus 15:1-11**), the glorious victory of the Lord God Almighty, the God of Israel, delivering His people and judging Egypt. He is worshipped and praised for His wonderful acts – past and future.

The Song of the Lamb tells of redemption obtained in the past and His coming exaltation by the worshipping and believing from among the nations, in all His unique wonder, majesty, Glory, honour and splendour (Revelation 4:9-11; 5:8-14).

SEVEN ANGELS - SEVEN LAST PLAGUES Revelation 15

The final step in the outpouring of God's wrath on the earth (v1).

'SIGN' related to previous signs (12:1 onwards). Angels here not to be confused with the previous two sets of three angels. John saw the martyred dead (6:9-17). Sea of glass as in 4:6.

v3 & 4 – In both Songs, God is praised for His great deeds, justice and truth, glory and holiness. All nations **shall** worship God (4b). Many other Scriptures relate universal worship by the world in the Millennial Kingdom (Psalm 2:8-9; 24:1-10; 66:1-4; 72:8-11; 86:9; Isaiah 2:2-4; 9:6-7; 66:18-23; Jeremiah 10:7; Daniel 7:14; Zephaniah 2:11; Zechariah 14:9 & 16).

The awful hour of wickedness and blasphemy against God characterises this period leading up to the Second Coming of Christ, which will be followed by full vindication of God's judgment and holiness, in the next period.

v5-8 – Heavenly counterpart to earthly Tabernacle/Temple. Seven angels came out. One living creature gave them bowls of wrath. Smoke from 'the Glory of God' kept anyone out. What a fearful picture of impending judgment in v5-8.

READ Exodus 40:34-35.

The judgments poured out in chapter 16 fully justify this **ominous introduction**.

THE VIALS OF GOD'S WRATH Poured OUT ON THE EARTH Revelation 16

Chronologically close to the Second Coming of Christ. Judgments proceed with **rapid succession**.

Time of world wax, rapidly coming to the climax (see Daniel 11:36-45).

FIRST BOWL (v1-2). Poured out on the earth. Judgments are greater and more severe than preceding events.

Question: Are Trumpets and Bowls synonymous, identical or are the Bowls subsequent to the Trumpet judgments?



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

There is much similarity:

- a) Earth (8:7) - Land (16:2).
- b) Sea (8:8 & 16:3) Rivers, Springs (8:10 & 16:4). Sun, moon and stars (8:12). Only sun mentioned in 16:8-9. 5th Trumpet - demon possession, sun and sky dark (9:1-3), which is similar to 5th Bowl - darkness on earth, agony from sores among men (16:10-11). 6th Bowl - dry up Euphrates (16:12). 7th Trumpet implies Great Tribulation is at an end (11:15-19). 7th Bowl - loud voice, "It is done!" (16:17). Resulting destruction of the earth by earthquake and hail as in 7th Trumpet (11:18-19) - (cf. 16:18-21).

Yet there are **striking differences**, even though the order is the same.

The Trumpets tell us that 1/3rd of the earth is afflicted. In the Bowl judgments the entire earth is afflicted and are much more severe and final in character. It is right to interpret that the Bowl judgments come out of the 7th Trumpet judgment. The Bowl judgments are more intensive and extensive as the Second Coming of Christ approaches. The world is reeling under previous judgments and gigantic world war. The Bowl judgments are selective and only extend to the wicked. (16:2, 8-11). Several affect nature. Beast followers receive sores in the 1st Bowl and 5th Bowl (v10-11).

SECOND BOWL (v3) – Poured out on the sea. Blood appearance as in 2nd Trumpet. So in the plague in Egypt (Exodus 7:20-25). Terrible judgment, worldwide.

THIRD BOWL (v4-7). Poured out on rivers and springs which became blood - judgment because the blood of martyrs was shed. God is just (see 15:3).

FOURTH BOWL (v8-9). Great heat from the sun scorches men, who blasphemed the name of God, unrepentant.

FIFTH BOWL (v10-11). Poured out on the throne of the Beast. His kingdom full of darkness, full of sores and in great pain. Men continued to blaspheme God, unrepentant. This is the last reference to failure to repent (cf. 2:21; 9:22; 16:9. 16:21 – blasphemy because of plague of hail.)

SIXTH BOWL (v12-16). Euphrates dried up. **LITERALLY**, for preparation of the mobility of the kings of the East (Orient). In that area is the greatest population and military might. **Euphrates is the water boundary between Israel and Asia. in the East. Predicted in Isaiah 11:15.**

FROGS = DEMONS. Satanic purpose to combat Christ's Second Coming with His armies from heaven (chapter 19). "Battle" inferred in v14, Armageddon, is better translated "war" from the Gk. 'polemon' - the "war of Armageddon". The word "campaign" is well suggested here. Greek is Harmagedon. 'Har' means mount, total meaning is mount of Megiddo.

John heard Christ. READ verse 15. Warning – stay alert, Tribulation Believers! Anticipate His return – have Christ's Righteousness as your dress! Sixth bowl judgment prepares for the FINAL ACT and is the later stage of development related to the Euphrates in 9:14. **The time factor between the 6th Trumpet and the 6th Bowl is comparatively short.**

SEVENTH BOWL (v17-21). Voice out of heaven's Temple - 'it is done!'. Similarly the 7th Trumpet (11:15-19). Greatest earthquake of all time. Other earthquakes in **8:5 & 11:19**. The whole earth, **perhaps not Israel** affected. Whole cities reduced to rubble. Destruction of what is left of the world empire. The city is Babylon (in verse 19). Perhaps **Babylon literally** on the Euphrates, the capital of world government. Perhaps it could be Rome. Topographical changes (v20), may include Israel here.

v21. 100 lb. weight. Hailstones destroy anything left standing. Still people curse God.



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

The stage is set for the Second Commit of Christ. Before that dramatic future incident comes, there is there is the detailed destruction of Babylon in chapters 17 & 18.

Babylon opposed Israel and the true Church faith through history, in every realm of life.

Chapters 17 & 18 are not chronological within the scheme of Seals, Trumpets and Bowls of God's wrath (chapter 17) shows the climax of **world religion**. It fits the first half of the Great Tribulation. The destruction of Babylon by 10 kings (v16). Chapter 18 shows Babylon as the **political** power, a great city, time seat of great world empire dominating the second half of the Great Tribulation. Babylon is mentioned 300 times in the Bible. It is viewed as the Satanic religious programme opposing true worship of God. **The End Times bring religious and political power together and indicate God's final judgment upon it.**

RELIGIOUS BABYLON DESTROYED Revelation 17

17:3 – Seven Heads. 10 Horns – the centre of world government. The 10 kings had not yet received a kingdom. 7 heads may refer to prominent riders of the future revived Roman Empire.

v5 – 'Mystery' describes the title. Babylon – a source of false religion (Babel Genesis 10-11. "Confusion" 11:9). Nimrod and Semiramis had a son, 'Tammuz, who was killed by a wild beast, and was resurrected – mythology and 'mystery' religion. Teachers of the Babylonian mystery religions moved to Rome from Pergamum – Influential in paganising Christianity: ritualistic churches. Babylon is used as a symbol of apostasy and blasphemy, a substitution of idol worship for the worship of God in Christ. Babylon is judged in Revelation 17 & 18, both politically and religiously.

Babylon. There is no Biblical reference to Babylon alter Genesis 11 until the prophecies of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel, in relation to the captivity of Israel and onwards. The predictions of Isaiah have to do with Babylon's ultimate destruction in the Day of the Lord. The near and distant understanding of Prophecy is often mingled as in Isaiah 13:1-11, part of God's programme to punish the whole world (verse 11). The Second Coming of the Lord and Babylon is in Isaiah 13:20-22. These verses have so far not been fulfilled. The interpretation is made more difficult by varied meanings of 'Babylon'. Sometimes the word is used for the city itself, its political power, or in a religious sense. Babylon has been the foundation of many pagan religions (Isaiah 13:20-22; Revelation 17 & 18). 'Babylon' will be revived at the end of the age, in its varied forms. Sudden destruction is prophesied in Isaiah 13:19-22. Isaiah 14 confirms ultimate destruction at the second advent and Day of the Lord. Judgment on Babylon is clear in Isaiah 47:15. Jeremiah has two chapters about Babylon's judgment and destruction (chapters 50 & 51, particularly 51:62-64), 'those days... that time'.

Babylon has influenced Rome. Roman Catholicism is very evident in religious and political power – idolatrous worship in its extensive religious system aiming for world power. Woman and child worship moved from Babylon to Pergamos. Later it was transferred to Rome by Julius Caesar, combining political and religious power to control the masses of people in the empire.

Babylon is the human system and way of life generally through administration of the public, human organisation, social structure and local order, self-propagating, term of office by term of office and control of life – even in religious terms.. This way of life is set up by humanism and world system of life contradictory to the ways of God – as a human institution, leaving God out. The whole social order of the world has fallen under Gentile world domination (Daniel 2). The 'Times of the Gentiles' began with Nebuchadnezzar in 606BC. It ends with the second coming of Christ. **The political and religious system will be destroyed.** (Babylon destroyed).

It is interesting that Babylon is called 'lady of the kingdoms' in Isaiah 47:5. She shall be put 'into darkness', to be no more 'lady of the kingdoms'.



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Woman. Symbolised apostate religious system – devoid of any true believers in the system. Apostate church attempts to kill believers of true faith.

John was amazed. Angel explains in v7-8. Supernatural revival of the world ruler and his political system (Revived Roman Empire, leading to his world rule, supernatural speed), will impress the world as being supernatural and leads to the worship of the Beast and Satan.

v9-10. Seven heads; Seven mountains; Seven lungs, – all persons. Some have suggested that these are five prominent Roman emperors that have come and gone, the 6th is Domitian present emperor of John's day. The 7th is unknown, the 8th who is of the seven in the Roman Empire, will be the Antichrist, world emperor when he comes, coming out of the revived Roman Empire. Perhaps the 7th head is the revived Roman Empire and the 8th is the Antichrist himself. It could be better to consider that there have been five powerful empires that had dealings with the Jewish people in history, namely, Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece – the five that have fallen. The 6th empire is Rome. The 7th is the revived Roman Empire, which must exist for a short time and the 8th being the Antichrist & his eventual world empire, developing initially from the Roman empire. He goes to perdition.

Explain verse 11. The Antichrist is the Beast, politically a Roman emperor seeking world power out of Europe.

All human government originated from Babylon. Daniel 2 & 7. Even today, human government system is power through bureaucracy, in order to control people. Education is controlled by governmental bureaucracy, thus controlling what people think and believe, especially science, viz. Evolution. The government controls what they want us to know about history, even rewriting it! World rulers will be picked, un-elected as in the case of Europe – from the 'intellectual elitist'. Satan controls, by permission, pagan religion, human government – though God sets up and puts down at His will, and Education.

Alliance between Antichrist and apostate world church/religion.

v12-14. Ten kings support Antichrist, war against Christ and His second coming. They have brief power, v12.

v15. One ecumenical world religious system. Even today pagan religion is becoming fashionable.

v16-18. Beast and ten kings hate and destroy the 'prostitute', perhaps mid-point of the seven years Great Tribulation when the political Beast assumes role of world ruler (Dan 9:27; Matt.24:15). He will assume the place of God, demand worship from everyone and will seem to have been killed (Daniel 11:36-38. 2nd Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 13:3-8 and 15). Following the destruction of the one world church/religious system, mid point of the Great Tribulation, the final world religious worship of the Beast/antichrist himself will be formed.

God wants to bring evil leaders into judgment, v17; Zechariah 14:2-3. It is important to note that Babylon is to be destroyed in the Day of the Lord. THIS IS STILL FUTURE. Isaiah 13:6 & 9.

v18. 'Woman'. Could be literally Babylon or Rome (see Zechariah 5:5-11).

It is interesting to note that Babylon is called:

The glory of the kingdoms – Isaiah 13:19.

The golden city. (Insolence) – Isaiah 14:4.

Queen or lady of kingdoms. – (Mistress of seduction) – Isaiah 47:5. Even the most beautiful music and song will be heard in religious Babylon and in the Apostate church.

The golden cup - Jeremiah 51:7.

Abundant in treasures – Jeremiah 51:13.



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Praise of the whole earth – Jeremiah 51:41.

POLITICAL BABYLON DESTROYED **Revelation 18**

This is a different event to that of chapter 17. The hurling of the great millstone into the sea signifies the violent destruction of Babylon (see Chapter 16:19-21). The judgment makes it a home for demons. God's people are told to leave the city (v4). Destruction by fire is also indicated (v8; see Jeremiah 51:25 & 58). The city will be uninhabited (Jeremiah 50:13, 39-40; 51:26, 37, 43). The merchants (traders) are grieved. They became rich by trading through her (v11-13,15-16). The city had great wealth, luxury – both economic and political power, but not religious – different from chapter 17. Those who traded by sea in great distress and lament, v19. All three groups, merchants, kings, (v.9), and sailors lament the fall and destruction of Babylon with great horror, it seems. The destruction of Babylon is so sudden and final – ONE HOUR!! (see v10,17 & 19). Believers have good reason to rejoice (v20). The violent destruction by a millstone cast into the sea. No more music, craft or pleasure (v22). One reason for judgment was magic: sorcery (v23, also see **9:21**). The nations are deceived by sorcery. Babylon is guilty of time murder of saints.

Remember that the destruction of the religious Babylon is mid-tribulation, but the destruction of the economic-political Babylon is at the end of the tribulation seven years, preceding the second coming of Christ. This will be the final blow to the 'Times of the Gentiles' which began with Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon and his attack on Jerusalem in 606 BC (see Luke 21:24).

CLIMAX OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION **Revelation 19**

The focus is on heaven and the second coming of Christ. Great victory acknowledged by angels and saints – a rejoicing with a roar of praise, 4 Hallelujahs !!!! v1, because of the judgment of Babylon. Hallelujah occurs only here in the New Testament. There has been the vengeance upon the harlot for martyring the saints, 17:6. Here is the beginning of the eternal punishment of the wicked, v3.

v1-3. Hallelujah of multitudes in heaven and also the 24 elders in v4-5.

v6. What a description of the heavenly scene here! Verse 1 has been the praise for vindication of the martyrdom of the tribulation saints (chapter 6:10). Great rejoicing as anticipation of the second coming and the wedding celebration of the Lamb with His Bride.

v6-8 is the last of 14 praises in Revelation by saints, angels, 24 elders and the 4 living creatures (see chapter 4:8 & 11; 5:9-10,12-13; 7:10, 12; 11:16-18; 15:3-4; 16:5-7; 19:1-4, 6-8).

v9. The Bride is distinguished from those invited to the wedding supper. The literal interpretation treats different groups of saints in a different way. The Lord has a different programme for Israel as a nation and also for those in Israel who are saved. The programme for Gentiles in the Old Testament who come to faith in God is different from the New Testament programme for the Church, as a different group of saints. In the Revelation, Tribulation saints are distinguished from other previous groups. It is not a difference in blessing, but a difference in programme designed for each separate group, which corresponds to their particular relationships to His overall programme. Here, the Church will be attended by angels and by saints who are distinct from the Bride. In verse 9 "Wedding Supper" is 'phase 3'. Phase 1 is the salvation of the Church in this Age of Grace; phase 2 will be the Rapture and the Resurrection – going home to heaven (John 14:1-3 et al). The Millennial Kingdom will follow on from the Wedding Supper of the Lamb.



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

We must distinguish between the Marriage of the Lamb with His Bride and the Wedding Supper of the Lamb. The word for 'Bride' in verse seven is 'gyne', literally wife. The word associated with Wedding Supper is 'gamos'. 'Nymphe' is bride to become a wife, presumably (John 3:29; Revelation 18:23; 21:2 & 9; 22:17).

The Wedding Supper or Feast is an earthly feast, corresponds with weddings in the Bible (Matthew 22:1-14; 25:1-13). Thus this will take place at the beginning of the Millennial reign of Christ on the earth. The importance of the announcement and invitation to the Wedding Supper/Feast is repeated in chapter 22:17 is seen in the angel's announcement in 19:9.

v10. Command to worship God, not the angel. Prophecy testifies of Jesus (v10c), to bring glory to Him. In the Church Age the Holy Spirit does this (John 16:13).

The tremendous revelation in these verses ,1-10, is a fitting introduction to what is about to be revealed – the Second Coming of Christ. He is the subject of the whole book of Revelation (see Revelation 1:1). 'The revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave to John'.

v11-21. The Second Coming of Christ – a major event in the Divine programme – a prominent doctrine of Scripture. This is a future literal coming. The Rapture and resurrection of the Church had been an earlier event, which is when we meet Christ **in the air**. The second Advent of Christ is to the **earth**. There is no translation or rapture of saints referred to here in chapters 19 & 20. The living Tribulation saints remain in earthly bodies to enter the Millennial Kingdom.

The Revelation of the rider on the white horse (v11-13). This is not the rider of chapter 6:2, who is the world ruler – Antichrist coming with deceptive diplomatic peace for Israel and the world of mankind. The rider in chapter 19 is from Heaven. The white horse is the sign of triumph over wickedness. Note the description of the rider and especially in v16, (see chapter 17:14 & 1st Timothy 6:15). He is the Christ, see v13. (Rev.14:20; Isaiah 63:2-3).

The coming of the King with His armies from Heaven (v14-16).

The 'sword', v15. Gk. 'rhomphaia' – unusually long sword, sometimes used as a spear - piercing action, or striking down an enemy. Rule: iron rod or sceptre. (Psalm 2:9; Revelation 2:27). Wine-press of wrath (v15) – judgment, coming of the Son of Man in great Glory – Matthew 24:30. The final stage of the war. Armies brought by demons to Megiddo and down to Jerusalem (Zechariah 14:2; Revelation 16:12-16; see Matthew 24:22), 'for the elect's sake those days will be limited or none shall be left alive'.

Destruction of the wicked. Millions destroyed instantly. Result – great supper of God for the birds of prey. The Battle of chapter 16:14 is summarised in chapter 19:19-21. Miraculous demonic power cannot save the Beast and the False Prophet from being thrown into the lake of fire. The wicked dead up to this point are in Hades (Luke 16:13). See Matthew 25:41. The lake of fire has been reserved for the devil and his angels. It will not be occupied by humans until the judgment of the Great White Throne (see chapter 20:14-15). Armies are killed, v21. The defeat of the wicked is complete. This destruction and judgment is unparalleled in Scripture since the flood.

Revelation 19:1-10.

v1-6. 4 Hallelujahs. Praise for God's judgments and destruction of Babylon in all its forms. This just before the Second Advent of Christ. The Great Tribulation is coming to an end.

First and Second Hallelujah by all in Heaven but certainly by the Great Tribulation martyrs. **Salvation** – Deliverance.

Moral **Glory** – true and right judgments. **Honour. Power** = execution of that judgment. Vengeance.



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Third Hallelujah. 24 Elders may represent the Church in Heaven (v4).

Fourth Hallelujah (v5-6). Angel calls upon every servant of God to continually praise Him. **Thunderous response**, includes those attending the Throne of God.

v7-8. Marriage Supper of the Lamb announced.

'False wife' harlot has been destroyed. Time now for the display of the Bride and Bridegroom. The marriage has already taken place in Heaven. Babylon and harlot destroyed. The Great Tribulation is at an end. Now the Bridegroom is preparing to display the splendour of His Bride at His Second Coming to the earth coming with His Bride, ready for the Marriage Supper, with Believing Israel attending. (5 bridesmaids represent the watchful saved of Israel, Matthew 25:1-13). The word for marriage is the same as that translated in v9, "Marriage Supper". Gk. Gamos. In Jewish life the third stage of marriage customs is the bridegroom bringing his bride to his house for the marriage supper after the wedding. Remember, the Bride is the true Church.

v8. Holiness righteousness of the Church in her finest hour (Ephesians 5:26-27). Sanctification is a continuous process in us. Justification is instantaneous the moment we are saved and God declares us righteous.

v9-10. 'Blessed state of those called to the Marriage Feast.' Awesome statement by the angel. John's reaction was to fall and worship the angel, but John was told not to worship the angel but to worship God only.

"Testimony of Jesus...spirit of Prophecy". The centre of prophecy is designed to declare the beauty, dignity, splendour, majesty and loveliness of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit's work is to reveal Christ to us in His Person and greatness (Revelation 4:11; 5:11-14; Philippians 2:9-11) and 'Things to Come' (John 16:13-15).

"Christ is the major theme of Scripture and the central theme prophecy. The Second Advent is the high point of Revelation and all history" (John Walvoord).

Revelation 19:11-13.

Read Walvoord p.274 – 6 lines above section: 'Revelation of the King of KINGS'.

The humiliation, shame and degradation of Jesus Christ crucified cannot be the last picture the world sees of the Son of God. He will come to earth again not to suffer but to be sovereign (v16), to triumph over His enemies (see 11c). Human rebellion then will end and King Jesus will reign from shore to shore. If any Christian teaching minimizes the Second Coming of Christ, first for the Church and then to the earth, at the end of the Great Tribulation, how weak and poverty stricken the Church is. How limited the hope of the Christian which does not include the glorious climax to God's programme to exalt His Son and put creation under His control (1 Corinthians 15:24-25). Greater than any 'ticker-tape' procession for an honoured through New York. Greater than a Roman General parading through Rome with spoils of victory behind him (Colossians 2:15). How different from the Rapture this event is (see booklet of mine) Isaiah 63:1-6; Zechariah 14:3-4. The splitting of the Mount of Olives does not take place at the Rapture of the Church, but at the Revelation of the Son of God. Similarly Matthew 24:27-31. All living will see the Revelation of Christ to the earth and know Christ is present (Revelation 1:5, 7-8).

v11. 'I saw Heaven opened'. The final curtain is raised and Christ revealed with armies from Heaven (v14). White horse of victory and triumph (not same as chapter 6).

v12. Cf. 1:14; 2:18. 'Eyes flame of fire'. Righteous Judgment against sin and rebellion – an experience for the world.



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

v14. Saints and angels.

v15. Sword, Rod of Iron. Judgment and rule (see Isaiah 11:4). THE BATTLE OF THE GREAT DAY OF GOD ALMIGHTY.

v17-19. Angel more brilliant than the sun, speaking of the Glory of God (v17). Contrast verse 9. Marriage Supper of the Lamb to include saints other than the Church. '**Supper**' Gk. deipnon – **principal meal of the day**. Even of sharp contrast – same word for both, in Greek (see Matthew 24:28).

v19. Beast and ten Kings (Revelation 13:1-10; see v1-2, 10).

v20. DOOM OF THE BEAST AND FALSE PROPHET. Cast **ALIVE** – only ones cast into the lake of fire (see chapter 20:15). The first ones there. Unbelievers in Hades awaiting the Great White Throne (20:10).

v21. DOOM OF THE ARMY OF THE BEAST. Execution, if not killed in battle – entire armies.

THE DEFEAT OF MAN BY THE OMNIPOTENCE OF GOD.

The present age reveals the Grace of God **with JUDGMENT SUSPENDED**. The age to come settles accounts. Those who refuse Grace receive judgment.

MILLENNIUM AND RESURRECTION.

Revelation 20

The Millennium. Many passages speak of the Second Coming of Christ followed by the His reign of Righteousness: Psalms 2:24; 72:96; Isaiah 2; 9:6-7; chapters 11 & 12; 63:1-6; chapters 65 & 66; Jeremiah 23:5-6; 30:8-11; Daniel 2:44; 7:13-14; Hosea 3:4-5; Amos 9:11-15; Micah 4:1-8; Zephaniah 3:14-20; Zechariah 8:1-8; 14:1-9; Matthew 19:28; 25:31-46; Acts 15:16-18; Romans 11:25-27; Jude 14-15. Revelation 2:25-28; 19:11 to chapter 20:6.

The interpretation of Revelation 20 affects our approach to Prophetic Scripture. We interpret chapter 20 directly following chapter 19. Also chapters 21 & 22 follow chronologically (e.g. 'after' in 19:1 or 'and' in 20:1, where the Greek is 'kai' for 'and' which often indicates action in logical chronological sequence). 'Kai' : 'and' continues right through chapter 20, beginning each verse except v5. Having dealt with the Antichrist and the False Prophet and the armies, He deals with Satan.

Amillennialists say Satan was bound at the first coming as the result of the work of the cross and resurrection of Christ. **NO!** He will be bound at the Second Coming of Christ. Satan has been exerting his power against Christians and endeavouring to control the world, trying to take it out of God's hands permanently (see 1st Peter 5:8). In Revelation 13:4 we read that Satan empowers the Beasts. Satan was cast out of heaven at the beginning of the Great Tribulation to the earth and will then be more active than ever (Revelation 12:9,13,15,17). He is deceiving nations today and demons are behind nations leaders as Daniel 10 tells us. **Thus we must conclude that the Millennium is FUTURE.**

Further support is that Satan is set free for a short time.

Resurrection and reward of the Martyrs (v4-6). John saw them, therefore they must have intermediate bodies awaiting resurrection bodies. John saw the beheaded martyrs of the Great Tribulation. As the Church had been Raptured and Resurrected, it would make sense to single out these as separate and distinct. Maybe the 'thrones' are occupied by 12 Apostles (Luke 22:29-30). The Tribulation martyrs rewarded; Israel judged (Ezek.20:33-38); Gentiles judged (Matthew 25:31-



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

46). These events precede the Millennium, leading up to it. Great Tribulation martyred saints are resurrected. All these are grouped and called 'the First Resurrection to LIFE'. All are believers. The Two Witnesses and the 144,000 will also enjoy the Millennium. The Old Testament saints will be resurrected also at the Second Advent of Christ (Daniel 12:1). The resurrection of the unsaved dead is after the Millennium and will be the resurrection to DEATH – the 'Second Death' at the end of the Millennium.

The Millennium is mentioned 6 times in chapter 20. Also note that other precise times are specific in Revelation, e.g. 42 months; 3½ years; 1260 days. Why not 1000 years?

Final Doom of Satan (v7-10). Note the second Battle of Gog and Magog (not to be confused with the one recorded in Ezekiel, which almost certainly will be at the beginning of the final seven years before the Second Coming of Christ). Satan deceives those born in the Millennium who remain in stubborn rebellion and unbelief. There is this final short war which the Lord instantly judges (vs.8-9). This is the final anti-God effort. The beloved city of Jerusalem (Psalm 78:68 & 87:2) is attacked where Christ is reigning. (Satan's further attempt to destroy Christ. He never learns, so much pride!). Judgment by fire as for Sodom and Gomorrah. Satan's last attempt to exalt himself is shattered! His eternal torment is assured in the lake of fire. There is no teaching on annihilation in the Scriptures. Condemnation and suffering torment is eternal for the lost, also the 1st & 2nd Beast are still there in the lake of fire when Satan joins them! (Revelation 20:1-10).

Resurrection to LIFE leads to reigning with Christ in the 1000 years Millennium (see John 5:29 which is divided in two by the Millennium. See Daniel 12:2).

The Reign of Christ (v1-6). Rewards for the Martyrs (v4). Reigning with Christ (v4 & 6; see 22:5). Release of Satan (v7). Rebellion of Sinners (v7-8). Retribution of God upon them. (v9-10), also upon the living (v9) and the dead (v11-15). Satan joins the two Beasts in the lake of fire (v10). Resurrection to the Second Death (v12-13). Eternal torment (verses 10, 14-15).

John saw what happened (v1-3) but needed Divine revelation regarding why. Thus the vision was interpreted to John. No human interpretation allowed for various views on this.

John 'saw' (v4 & 5), but again needed Divine interpretation (v6). No one is allowed to spiritualise or allegorise what is Divinely interpreted – as Amillennialists do. Thus only the Premillennial acceptance of Truth literally fits Scripture.

John saw thrones v4 and those who sat upon them.

John did not see what is recorded in v7-10. He was instructed of this.

NEW JERUSALEM. NEW HEAVEN. NEW EARTH. Revelation 21:1 to 22:5

Do not confuse with the Millennium (see 2nd Peter 3:10-14).

Verse 1 is God's statement about the Eternal State like a main heading of God's final purpose. No place for the sinful (v8, & 27), they experience the second death. The saved are secure. The gates are always open (v25). There is no night there. God is the eternal light there, Father and Son are present.

The New Jerusalem (21:2-8; see 3:12). It is suspended above the earth, perhaps in the Millennium, certainly afterwards. This is a literal city, not a group of people (v2).

'Loud voice from heaven' (v3). The last of 20 times in Revelation, the first was chapter 5:2. The saints have a new intimacy with God in eternity (v6-7), which is not possible here. Earth has no similar characteristics to heaven now. "Everything to be new" (v5).

v6. Spiritual blessings to be desired as a thirst.



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

New Jerusalem as a Bride (vs.9-11). Its beauty in verse 11. A city (v12-27). Note the '12's' (v12-14). This is not the Millennial Jerusalem which is **earthly** in Ezekiel 48:31-34. The north side would have Levi, Judah and Reuben. The Church will be within the New Jerusalem. Israel will be on the outside, most likely, as they were outside the tabernacle. Distinction between the Church and Israel must be maintained. Measurement of 1400-1500 miles on each side (v16), either a cube or a pyramid 2¼ million cubic miles. Wall 216 ft. thick (v17). Beautiful stones (v19-21). The city is a literal future dwelling place for the saints of all ages and angels, with the Trinity of the Godhead.

v22-27. Nations (Gentiles) in the city (24-26), as well as the Church. The city is mentioned in Hebrews 12:22-24. The 'spirits of just men made perfect', include all other saints. Note the mention of the LAMB' s Book of Life (v27; also 3:55; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15). Only here as 'the LAMB' s Book of Life. The saints reign with Christ (Revelation 2:26-27). No more night or curse.

The New Jerusalem will seem to be the home of the Redeemed during the Millennium.

Our future home is heaven (Philippians 3:20-21; 2nd Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 11:10; 12:22; John 14:1-2).

The streets were of pure gold, the city full of light of the presence of the Glory of God, the Shekinah Glory (see Psalm 72:17 & 19). There had been glimpse of this future Shekinah Glory of the Kingdom – the presence of God given to Isaiah (chapter 6) and also the Transfiguration of Jesus.

Verse 14 tells us that the wall had 12 foundations, having the names of the 12 Apostles (see Matthew 19:28). Twelve is the number of administrative completeness or perfect government.

Ephesians tells us that the Church is built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets. Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone (v20). Ephesians also tells us that the true Church is a Body, a Building and a Bride.

The precious stones are identical with the stones on the High Priest's breastplate.

Jasper, clear as crystal. Sapphire: blue. Chalcedony: blue and coloured stripes. Emerald: green.

Sardonyx: red and white stripes. Sardine: red. Chrysolite: pale green or golden. Beryl: sea green. Topaz: yellow. Chrysoprasus: different shades of green. Jacinth: violet Amethyst: purple.

v22:2. Tree of life for the health of the nations in the Millennium (see Revelation 2:7). 'Trees leaves' from the Greek 'therapeian' - 'health-giving (therapeutic), even though there is no sickness there, contributes to physical well-being of those in the New Jerusalem and Eternal State. Tree of life: Genesis 3:22,24. River is real, too, as in Ezekiel 47:1,12 & Zechariah 14:8.

v22:3. No more curse.

v22:5. No more night. The Lord is the light. Saints reign for ever with Him.

NOTE. In chapter 21:10-11 the Bride's brilliance like a very precious stone, crystal clear and pure. Her light is God's light. The city had the Glory of God, the radiance of dazzling splendour. Brilliance is from the Gk. 'phoster' (phosphorous), resulting from the Divine presence. Philippians 2:15 is the only place where 'phoster' is used. The Glory may be seen in the face of Jesus Christ (2nd Corinthians 4:6). Remember how angel in Revelation 10:1 shone with brilliant light. Quite a phenomenon, which comes from the Greek word 'phainomenai' – shining. 'Phoster' implies light-bearing, used figuratively of believers shining in spiritual darkness. We are to be salt and light here.

Christ is the light in Revelation 21:11 reflected in the Bride and the City of the New Jerusalem. Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12). Remember He was transfigured with Glory and Light, a foretaste of the Millennial King and His Kingdom of Millennial Glory.

FINAL WORD FROM GOD (v6-21).

Certainty of Christ's return (v6-7). Trustworthy and true word. Not to confuse people but to confirm and reveal. The book of Revelation is no elaborate or confusing mystery with no key to unlock its truths. It is the Word of God and not John's imaginations. It is intended to describe future



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

events, to be taken literally even though symbolism is present, it is understandable and explained. The Word of God is not obscure and hidden from us. The Holy Spirit is our teacher.

The theme of Revelation is, "Behold, I come quickly" (22:7,12,20). Emphatic 3 times. This will be a sudden event, or quick, when He comes. This book contains more promises of blessing than any other book of Scripture, yet it is the least read (Cf. 1:3 & 22:7). The beginning and the end is similar (1:3 cf. 22:18-19). 'Things which must suddenly be done' (1:1 cf. 22:6). Sudden when the time for action comes! (Matthew 24;27). "He is Alpha and Omega – beginning and end" (Cf. 1:8 with 21:6 & 22:13). "He is Faithful and true" (Cf. 3:7, 14 with 19:11). He has the right to judge. All has been committed to Him by the Father. John saw and heard all this. He is the witness to Truth.

v8-9. Worship of the angel by John! **NO!** Worship God. Do not worship angels – no angelic deity or mediation as in Roman Catholicism. Angels are fellow servants, with obedient men and women.

Command to proclaim the prophecy of this book (verses 10-11).

Daniel was told to seal up his book. Dan.12:9. John told not to do so. Revelation is meant to reveal facts and events, not hide them (v16), regarding the second coming of Christ (v11-12). People will continue as they are, no time for change then God will bring every sin to judgment (v15). Choice often fixes character! 2nd Thessalonians 2:1.0 Present choice – permanent character. 'The time is at hand', meaning near. Crowns and rewards for the faithful were given at the Bema throne of Christ, when He came for the Church. Now, rewards have responsibilities attached to them (v12). Rewards are wages. Condemnation for the unfaithful. The Lord pays wages (parable), so does the Devil (Romans 6:23).

Tree of Life (v14). Also mentioned 3 times (22:2,14,19; see Genesis 2:9,16-17). Believers have freedom to enter the gates of the New Jerusalem. Evil is excluded (v11 & 15). Third time mentioned here (see 21: 8 & 27; Philippians 3:2).

'Alpha and Omega', understood by Greeks (Gentiles). 'Root and Offspring of David', 'Bright and Morning Star' understood by Jewish people. DIVINE AFFIRMATION OF JESUS HERE (see 2:28 & 5:5; Numbers 24:17; Isaiah 11:1). Historically Christ comes from David (v16). First time 'Church' mentioned since Revelation chapter 3.

Invitation by the Spirit and Bride (v16-17). Revelation for the Church. The Church extends invitation to others before judgment falls and it would be too late then! Longing for His coming. Spirit and Bride inseparable. If any man should be thirst, let him come freely (Isaiah 55:1). Even late as it is, still Grace available.

Final Warning! No adding or taking away from Scripture. It is the Word of God (Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Proverbs 30:6). No prophets after the New Testament was fully written and Scripture collected. Anything added must therefore be false in the Church! The inspired Word of God in its entirety is not to be despised or denied. This is rejecting God, too.

v20. "I come quickly". Verb is present tense with implication for the future, but is impending action, i.e. imminent possibility. **Final prayer and promise here.** John says, "Amen, come Lord Jesus".

The Second Coming of Christ brings full and final deliverance for all God's redeemed people. Revelation 1:1 spoke of events to "shortly take place" – a Revelation of Jesus Christ. The book ends with the same thought that He is coming again.

No other book of Scripture more sharply contrasts the blessed future of the saints of all ages with the fearful future of those who are lost. No other book is more explicit or vivid, stark reality of description of judgment, but also the saints eternal joy and blessing in contrast.

So many saints leave this book alone – what a loss of blessing promised to those who hear, read and keep what is written in Revelation with its wonderful truths and prospects for all believers.



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Their knowledge is the poorer and their hope is not brightened by Christ's coming. God's people who understand Revelation can say with John, in prayer, "Come Lord Jesus" (v20).

There are seven blessings in Revelation (1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7 & 14).

You do not have to understand everything but you can believe this as Truth because of the person who gave us the Word of Truth, who is the Truth – Revelation 22:16, "I Jesus". He is also the last Word, as well as the beginning. Revelation is the declaration of our Hope. Titus 2:13-14. Sure Salvation by Grace. The words "surely" (Gk. nai: word used to enforce an affirmation) and "Amen" seals the certainty.

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