

A
Study of
The Revelation
Of
Jesus Christ
In
The last days

Taught by Pastor W. Jack Casey

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How to Study Your Bible

1. Begin in Prayer 1 Cor 2: 9-14
2. Read the Bible Neh. 8: 1-3
3. Study the Bible Neh. 8:8
4. Meditate upon it Deut. 6:6-9; Ps. 1
5. Pass the Bible on to others Heb. 5: 12

How to Study Each Chapter

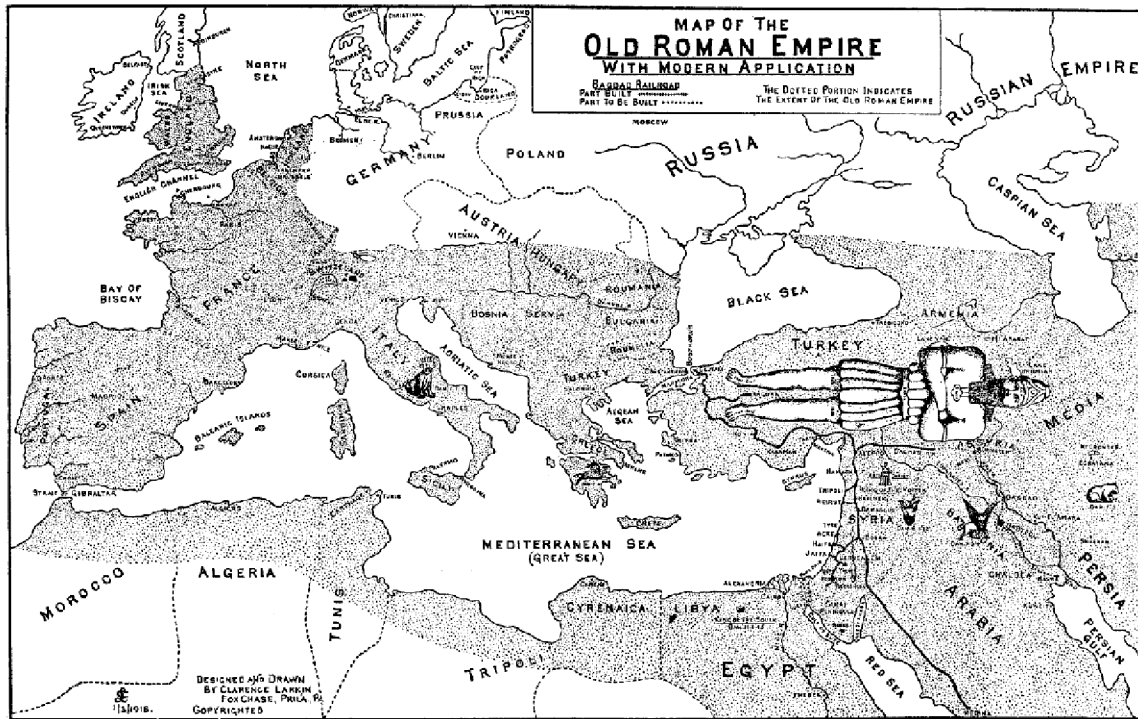
1. The Theme
2. The most important verse
3. The most prominent word
4. The teaching about Christ
5. The command to obey
6. The promise to claim
7. The new truth learned Psalm 119:18

Also every verse or passage has at least 3 applications

1. Past: this is the historical application
2. Present: This is a devotional or spiritual application
3. Future: This is a doctrinal or prophetic application

PREFACE

This booklet is designed as an overview of important sections of the book of Revelation it is not meant to be neither exhaustive nor overly technical. It is rather done with the idea of putting into the hands of the average person, information for these last days. It is my desire to see people grow in grace and knowledge, which will help them face our enemy, the Devil. It is with this thought that this study is presented. No attempt has been made to whitewash sin or minimize its consequences, nor is there compromise on the truth of God's word. I pray that these pages will inspire you to seek a close walk with Jesus.



Introduction:

The appropriate title is "the revelation of Jesus Christ by the Apostle John.

The Author of course is the Apostle John brother of James and son of Zebedee.

John wrote this book from the Isle of Patmos. This is a small rocky island about 35 miles southwest of Miletus. At this time in history Rome used this Isle for banishing people. The date of the writing of this book is sometime, between the years of 95-96 AD. This places it under the reign of the roman Emperor Domitian, his reign was one of extreme persecution of Christians.

There has over the last 2 millennium risen several different interpretations of developed, three of which are out of line with the context of the book and the Lord's way of revealing truth. Following are the different views in a brief look

First It is pure fiction- Held by the agnostics, it is allegorical no part to be taken literally, it is just symbolic of good versus evil. This view held by the liberal theologian.

The Second view: It is historical, in this view adherents say that the entire history of the church is covered showing the fight between evil and the church

The third is the preterist or the adherents see most of the great prophecies as being fulfilled in the past history of the church, particularly 70A.D. Continuous history it is still being fulfilled- this view held by the reformers

The fourth is the spiritual: this view and it's adherents see the book showing the total, permanent triumph of truth over error. This view is held by those who are Dominion Theologist

Last is the Futurist method: this view maintains that it is prophetic. This view says those events from 4:1 onward as yet to be fulfilled. This is the only view that does justice to this great book. Dr. David Cooper said "When the plain sense of scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense."

This book is the only prophetic book in the New Testament. This is the only book of all 66 to open with a promise of special blessing for all who study it and closes with a curse on anyone who would add or take away from it.

The author had previously reached farther back into eternity than any other writer, as we read in John 1:1-3. Here in Revelation he reaches farther into the future than any other.

There are two Old Testament books that Revelation can be compared to. Let's look first at the book of Daniel.

- a. Concerning the Jew see Daniel chapters 3 and 6.
- b. concerning the anti Christ see Daniel chapters 3,7,8,9,11
- c. concerning the length of the tribulation Daniel 9
- d. Daniel was a sealed book where as Revelation is not, compare Daniel 12:9 to Revelation 22:10

Second Revelation may be compared to the book of Genesis

- a. about the seas in Gen. 1:10 they are seen and in Rev. 21:1 they are no longer seen.

- b. About the first Adam and his Wife Eve Gen. 1:27, 28; Rev. 21:9 gives the last Adam and his wife the church.

- c. About the creation of the sun, moon, day and night Gen. 1:5, 16; compare this to Rev. 22:5 and 21:23

- d. About the tree of life in Gen. 3:22 and the return of the tree in Rev. 22:2

- e. About man hearing from God in Gen. 3:17 and again in Rev. 22:3

- f. About Satan's appearance in Gen. 3:1 and his disappearance in Rev. 20:10

- g. About the old earth being punished in Gen. 7:12 and the new Earth being purified in Rev. 21:1

- h. About man's home beside a river in Gen. 2:10 and again in Rev. 22:1

- i. About Abraham going to weep for Sarah in Gen. 23:2; in Rev. 21:4 God wipes away all tears for ever.

- j. About God destroying earthly cities in Gen. 19 and giving an heavenly city to the church in Rev. 21:1

- k. About Genesis ending with a believer in a coffin in Egypt in Genesis 50:1-3 and Rev. 21: 4 ending with believers in heaven.

Revelation is like a great trunk line with all prophecies coming through it to consummation. Prophecies such as Jesus Christ being Lord, the church, the resurrection of saints, the great tribulation, Satan, the man of sin, false religion, times of the gentiles, the second coming of Christ.

This book lists more of the Saviors titles than any other book. They are 24 titles in the 22 chapters of Revelation. The following is a random listing. Jesus Christ, Son of Man, the slain Lamb, faithful witness, Son of God, the angry Lamb, first begotten of the dead, keeper of David's keys, tender Lamb, Prince of Kings, keeper of the keys to heaven and hell, our Lord, Alpha and Omega, Lion of the tribe of Judah, the man Child, First and Last, root of David, king of saints, faithful and true, Word of God, King of Kings, Beginning and End, Lord of Lords, Bright and Morning Star.

The numbers 7 and 12 are very prominent. Notice the number seven: seven spirits, seven stars, seven lamps, seven seals, seven horns, seven eyes, seven angels, seven trumpets, seven thunders, seven heads, seven crowns, seven plaques, seven vials, seven mountains, seven kings. The number twelve is also important, twelve thousand, crown of 12 stars, 12 gates, 12 angels, 12 foundations, 12 apostles, and 12,000 furlongs.

There are more Old Testament quotations and allusions in this book than any other book in the New Testament: 13 from Gen., 27 from Exodus, 4 from Leviticus, 3 from Numbers, 10 from Deuteronomy, 6 from Joshua, 1 from Judges, 1 from 2 Samuel, 6 from 2 Kings, 1 from 1 Chronicles, 1 in Nehemiah, 43 from Psalms, 2 from Proverbs, 79 from Isaiah, 22 from Jeremiah, 48 from Ezekiel, 53 from Daniel, 2 from Hosea, 8 from Joel, 9 from Amos, 1 from Habakkuk, 2 from Zephaniah, 15 from Zechariah, 1 from Malachi.

This book is totally about God's lamb; as such it could be outlined this way.

- a. witness of the lamb ch 1-3
- b. worship of the lamb ch. 4-5
- c. wrath of the lamb invoked ch 6-19
- d. reign of Th. lamb ch 20
- e. wife of the lamb introduced ch 21-22

THE WITNESS OF THE LAMB

Chapter One

Intro: In this first chapter we will find four distinct sections. First is, the servant of God in verses 1-10, second is, the son of God in 11-20, third the sons deliverance, and fourth is, the sons definition in 19-20.

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

John the beloved Apostle receives and transmits a special message to deliver to believers.

This book is often called the apocalypse which is another word for revelation which is used here. This then is the apocalypse or revealing of Jesus Christ in His glory.

We see here in this first verse the source of the message.

The message is given by the Father to the Son who in turn gives it to an angel (possibly Gabriel or Michael). The angel then has then brought the message to John who is in exile on the Island of Patmos. This message will be about those things that were "shortly" to come to pass; this word means to soon put into motion.

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

The first phrase in this verse goes back to John gospel in chapter one verse 3. This is also strong proof of John being the writer.

John has in his previous 4 letters written the truth concerning the life of Jesus the Son of God. Not only recording His words but what John had seen with his own eyes.

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

The promise of the message is in 3a; this is the first of seven beatitudes in the book of Revelation the other six are in chapter's 14:13, 16:15, 19:19, 20:6, 22:7, and 22:14

The reason for the message is in 3b; the word "Time" here is not Chronos or clock time, but rather a fixed season. This season is described in Daniel 9: 24-27. God wants his saints to know the future. This can be found out by reading also Amos 3:7, Daniel 2:28, Matthew 11:25 and Luke 8:10 for instance.

Notice also that this verse starts in the singular "He" and changes to the plural in the word "they." There is to be a personal study and there is also to be a corporate study because the Lord wants all His saints to know the future as seen in the above verses.

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

John gives us now who the initial recipients of the message are to be. In particular the seven churches listed in chapters 2&3 found in modern day Turkey. However in general terms this letter like the rest of scripture is written to all Christians for our edification.

John sends the common greeting for the day, desiring god's bountiful grace and His inward peace to be towards all who would read this. If one scans the church letters you will see this same pattern of grace always being first because without it one will not have the peace with God or of God. This grace and peace is not from John, it is from the one who is alive, was before John, and is coming soon and from His perfect Spirit (identified by the number 7).

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

The theme of the message is the person and work of Jesus Christ. He is the faithful witness because He said that in three days He would rise again and He did. He was the first fruits of the coming resurrection as seen in 1 Cor. 15

His past work is that He "loved us"; He keeps on loving us, Jesus "washed us" this phrase is in the past perfect and means once for all time He has washed us.

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

His present work is that of SANCTIFICATION. Jesus death burial and resurrection has made all who believe in Him royal priests and joint heirs with Christ. Therefore He is worthy of all glory and honor. The last phrase of this verse contains the doxology of the message, this is the first of four doxologies; the others are in 3:11, 5:13, and 7:12.

Verse 7-8: Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Here is His future work that of our ultimate GLORIFICATION and the establishment of His eternal kingdom as we read here in Daniel 7:13-14 "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven,

and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." When Jesus returns to step down onto the Mount of Olives which we will see later in detail He will be revealed. This revealing here will be world wide and for all to see especially for the Jews who had him crucified. Jesus gives His life status and two of His names "Alpha" which is the Greek letter for first and then "Omega" which is the Greek letter for last; He is the beginning and end of all things. He then adds to it by saying he is (present) our high priest; was (eternity past) our prophet and is to come (eternity future) our king. He is the "Almighty" or self existing one.

There is one important point to note here this is not Him coming for the church which is in view because here He steps onto the Earth and the whole world will see it. He said when He comes for the church it will be as a thief in the night and we will meet him in the air.

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

John points out his relationship with them he says he is their brother and also one facing the same type of persecution they were. And were he was writing to them from was Patmos. The location of the message is Patmos a small island in the Mediterranean Sea; John was imprisoned there from AD 86to96.

There are four main reasons Rome persecuted Christians.

1. For political purposes – Christians rejected the Roman pantheon worship of many gods.
2. For economic purposes – Christians did not provide money for sacrifices to the false god's.

3. For "moral" purposes –the Romans viewed Christians as cannibals because of the Lord's Supper.
4. For "scapegoat" purposes – Nero blamed Rome's problems on believers and would even have the city set on fire, then blamed the Jews so he could have them eliminated.

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

The time of the message, is the Lord's Day this was on Sunday. This is so because this is the day Jesus arose from the dead. It was the eighth day of the Jewish week 8 being the number of new beginnings.

The mode of the message is in 10b, written letters. The Trumpet is heard 9 times in Chapters 4; 8:2, 7, 8, 10, and 12; 9:1, 13; 11:15. The silver trumpets of the temple gave loud sharp and clear tones and the voice of the Lord speaking to John will be greater to that of the temple trumpets and leaves no mistake as to who is talking.

THE glorified SON OF GOD described in 1:11-20

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

His declaration, once again is that He is the beginning and the ending of all things including the church age. John is told to record all he sees in a letter or book for us and send it to the churches listed. On a map of Turkey they go geographically northwest then northeast and then back to the south forming a seven. Here is the list (see photo App. A

1. Ephesus- a fully purposed church
2. Smyrna- a place of the incense "myrrh"
3. Pergamos- a church much married

4. Thyatira- the odor of affliction
5. Sardis- the red ones
6. Philadelphia- a church of brotherly love
7. Laodicea- a church of people's rights, god has no authority.

Verses 12- 16: And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went



a sharp

In these verses we have Jesus' glorified description what he saw as he turned is not what he expected.

First John sees Him holding 7 stars and walking amid 7 lamp stands of seven branches each. These are images of the real lamp stand in the sanctuary. Just as that one had no light of itself, only what was put into it. So these 7 represent the perfect light of Jesus in the church. The church has no light of itself; it only reflects the light of Christ. Jesus said we the church are to be a light on a hill. This is Christ present work maintaining the light of the church.

In verse 13 he sees a person walking among the lamps that John says is like (similar to) the Son of Man he knew on Earth. Full length robe; this robe speaks of Christ's inherent righteousness. His chest circled with a gold band pictures His judgment in strength and truth.

Instead of dark hair Jesus had on Earth, he has a Head of hair white as wool shows Him as the ancient of days the eternal one from the Old Testament prophecies. Jesus is the glorified Christ. One should compare this to the Song of Solomon chapter 5 verses 10-15.

John looked at Jesus face and said He had eyes that looked like flames of fire. These eyes picture for us his penetrating insight into the heart of the church.

His feet as polished brass, this is a picture that takes us back to the brazen altar, and the judgment of sin.

His voice was like many rivers running together – this is His authority to speak all He is about to say. Compare this with these two verses Ezekiel 1:24 "like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings" and Psalm 2:9 "Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

In Jesus hand are 7 stars, these represent the pastor's of the seven churches. Each star is small in comparison to the sun and Jesus has them in his hand a sign they are under His control. He has a sharp two-edged sword in his mouth. This is a picture of His Word going forth cutting in both directions read this verse Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword,

piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Today Jesus word cuts both sinner and saint right down to the core of their being.

John says that the radiance of Jesus face shone as the sun. One needs to read in Matthew 17:2 "And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light." Looking at the glorified Christ is like trying to look into the noon day sun you can only get glimpses, you are not able to stare at it. The use of the sun speaks to Jesus and His eternal nature. The suns rays that you can feel and not see typify the Holy Spirit. the ones you can see but not feel typify Jesus and the active rays you cannot feel or see typify the Father.

Verses 17-18: And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

We need to compare verse 17 with the following passages Matthew 8:14-15, 9:27-29, 17:7; Luke 5:12-13, 7:14, 22:51; John 9:6 this is the reaction when the natural man stands in the presence of the Holiness of God. Jesus reassures John with these words fear not "I am alive" and "I have the keys of hell and of death." Keys are mentioned four other times,

1st keys to the kingdom in Matthew 16:19

2nd the key of knowledge in Luke 11:52

3rd the key to the throne of David in Rev. 3:7

4th the key to the bottomless pit.

This image of Jesus with the keys of hell and death are assurance to John that Jesus is still in total control and was not dead nor did the devil control death or hell any more. One last point Dominion Theology says we the church has the keys, yet here Jesus says He has the keys so both cannot be true. I prefer to believe the bible and that Jesus has the keys and the church is subordinate to Him.

Verses 19-20: Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

Jesus tells John to write down all of this. First what he has just seen. Second what was then happening in the 7 churches? Third what John will see as the prophetic future? The definition of the word "mystery" is not who did it but a previously unrevealed truth or that it is a sacred secret until now.

The 7 stars John saw in Jesus hand were the angels of the 7 churches. This is a reference to the pastors of the churches. Before one begins to panic the word "angel" means messenger and is equally used of people and angelic beings; one must always look at the context and of whom and to whom it is being spoken to.

The 7 lamp stands were the 7 specific churches; lamp stands represent his work as High Priest, this is what Aaron did in the Old Testament he kept the golden candlestick in the tabernacle lit 24 hours a day. This is what Jesus does He keeps the church's lamp burning as our High priest, His church is to be a burning lamp set on a hill so the lost can see.

Letters
To the
Seven
CHURCHES OF GOD
CHAPTER 2

John now moves from what was to what is now happening in the church at that present moment. Now Christ chose 7 churches to represent all churches for at least 3 purposes.

First is the contemporary purpose: 7 messages to 7 churches (complete or total) from the head of those churches.

Second we have the composite purpose: these messages can be applied to all churches in all ages.

Third is the chronological purpose that is these churches represent the church as a whole at various times from the beginning to the end of the church age. Here they are in a brief sentence as follows.

1. Ephesus represents or pictures the time from 30 to 100 a. d. this is the "desirable" apostolic church.
2. Smyrna represents the time from 100-313 a. d. named after the herb "myrrh" it is the martyr church.
3. Pergamos represents the time from 314 – 590 a. d. this is the church of false "marriage" or a compromising church.
4. Thyatira represents the time from 590 – 1517 a. d. the time of continual sacrifice of the Roman church.
5. Sardis 1517 – 1700 a. d. represents the time of the remnant church or the reformers.
6. Philadelphia 1700 – 1900 a. d. represents the time of "brotherly love" or revival of the church of the open door.
7. Laodicea 1900-to the rapture and beyond. This church represents the time of people's rights or the worldly church. It is apostate, professing orthodoxy, dressed in robes, everyone is rich.

We find that here in Chapters 2 and 3 the only one with the authority to judge is Jesus; he is passing judgment on these 7 churches in particular and all churches of the last 2,000 years

The church at Ephesus



The Lord will address the messages to the pastor who is to then pass it on to the church. This church was founded by the Apostle Paul in Acts 18:19 *"And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews."* Ephesus was the chief city of Asia Minor. The city was both the religious and commercial center. The most prominent feature was the temple of Diana it is considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World. It measured 418 ft. by 240 ft. with 100 external columns 56 ft. high, it had 36 hand carved doors of cypress, the walls were of Parian marble, the staircase was made out of one cypress vine. Diana's Temple was the bank of Asia and the art gallery. The cities population was approximately 225,000 at that time.

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

The one providing the counsel is Jesus the Christ: What Jesus says of himself is that He holds the stars or pastors in His hands going back to chapter one, notice it is the hand of authority and power that holds the stars.

Verses 2-3 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's

sake hast laboured, and hast not
fainted.

In these two verses we have listed the good works found in the church at Ephesus. Their good works

1. They were Evangelistic towards the lost
2. It was a patient church
3. They were still a separated church from the world and false religion
4. It was an Orthodox Church or one that stayed with the revealed word of God!
5. It was a persecuted church but remained persistent to the cause of Christ
6. the church had become democratic as we will see in verse 6

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

The Lord issued one condemnation of this church. They were so busy working; they forgot to love each other. They had lost their consuming love for Jesus.

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

Christ gives them strong Counsel to bring them back to the place of fellowship they once enjoyed. They were to do 3 things

1. Remember that they were to be given to Christ and to return to the fire of zeal like a newborn Christian has.
2. to Repent of their indifference, indecision, and indulgence. Their hearts were to be given to Christ
3. They needed to Repeat the work they had started they needed to apply Psalm 51:11, because church's can fall out of the grace.

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

The Ephesians had one thing that impressed the Lord. This church hated those who had begun practicing the concept of clergy and then laity under that. This was the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes we find this from the word "niko" which means to conquer and "laos" the people. Nicholas of Antioch formed a group of Gnostics that believed you needed to indulge in sin to understand it. They said sin did not touch the spirit. Here before AD 100 is the start of a practice the Lord hates that is clergy vs. Laity.

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

Jesus gives them a Challenge and it is to all church's, look in First he that hath an ear; this is a reference to spiritual hearing not physical notice also that the tree that disappeared in Genesis 3:24 and is brought back here. Overcoming is defined in 1 John 5:4-5; Romans 8:37; 2Corinthians 2:14

In the prophetic sense Ephesus is the Church Period A.D. 30 – 100. This church saw the writing of the New Testament and the attempt to evangelize the Roman world.

The Church at Smyrna



Some details about the city of Smyrna, it was located some 40 miles north of Ephesus. It was a city of rare beauty and part of a direct trade route from India to Rome. It was celebrated for its schools of medicine and science. The temple of Bacchus was located there. This city was home to a large number of apostate Jews. It was the birth place of the Greek poet Homer. The pastor of the church located in this city was a disciple of John, a man named Polycarp; he was martyred here in 168 AD. This saint had served the Lord faithfully for 86 years.

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

We have in this verse the Counselor and the four qualities of our Lord that a persecuted church would need for comfort. Jesus wants them to understand He is first in everything. He is also the last Adam, the last sacrifice, etc. He is one who was dead and now is alive. In the past Jesus suffered and died but He rose again, for someone being persecuted these would be great words of comfort.

Verses 9-10: I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have

tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death,
and I will give thee a crown of life.

Here is the Commendation found in these verses as follows
First they had suffered greatly at the hands of the apostate
Jews. This persecution had caused the people of the church to
lose their lively hoods and forced them into poverty. Matthew
6:20; 2 Corinthians 6:10 are verses that support this. Upon
accepting Christ they would lose their homes, jobs and
sometimes their families. They had suffered persecution by
apostate Jews in vs. 10 for abandoning Judaism for
Christianity.

The counsel given to them by Christ was for them to continue
to be fearless! In giving the gospel to the lost and not
defending it; including these apostate Jews. They were to be
faithful in living for Jesus in all areas of life even to the point
of dying for their faith.

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

There is the challenge given to them by Jesus and it was 2
fold found here in this verse. They would face further
persecution they were to continue to be strong. Also they were
to hear the word and stay the course. If they do this Jesus
says that they will never see the second death.

The church at Smyrna pictures the time and conditions
covered in the Church Age from 100 to 313 A.D.

Jesus said they would face 1 days of tribulation this is a
picture of the 10 Roman persecutions during this era. They
were conducted under the following Emperors.

a. Nero (64-68) Killed Paul and had Rome Burned and blamed
the Christians for it giving him the excuse to hunt down and
kill thousands.

b. Domitian (81-96) killed thousands and banished John to
Patmos after having him boiled in oil.

- c. Trajan (98-117) passed laws against Christianity and burned Ignatius the disciple of John.
 - d. Pius (137-161) Killed Polycarp the leading church father
 - e. Marcus Aurelius (161- 180) Beheaded Justin Martyr; and called Christianity absurd
 - f. Severus (193-211) Killed Origen's father, Origen would go to Alexandria Egypt and found a school that would write the first apostate scriptures.
 - g. Thracian (235-238) called "Maximinus" commanded all Christian leaders to be executed.
 - h. Decius (249-251) Tried to exterminate Christianity
 - i. Valerian (253-260) most noted for executing Cyprian, bishop of Carthage
 - j. Diocletian (284-305) Last and most severe, hunted Christians for 10 years. He had them burned on crosses, used wild beasts, and every other cruel death. Yet his wife and daughter both accepted Christ.
2. Some champions of the time period
- a. Justin Martyr (100-167), b. Irenaeus (130-200) c. Tertullian (160-220) who at the end of his life became Montanist or Pre-millennial. And Eusebius; these men's writings are the start of the path of apostasy, by saying water baptism was essential.

The Church at Pergamos
2:12-17:



This is the compromising church or a church of much marriage as they brought in all sorts of pagan rituals and called them Christian. This is the beginning of the Roman Catholic type church. It was the political capitol of Asia and was located some 75 miles north and east of Ephesus. This city contained a library of over 200,000 volumes given by Mark

Anthony to Cleopatra. Here in Pergamos is where Parchment was first used as writing media.

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

The Lord again uses a quality of His nature to identify Himself to this church. Here is the one with the sharp twoedged sword; the word of God speaking to them.

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

Jesus begins by commending the church there because they were some Christians that had remained faithful in the face of the fact that it was a place of the devil. You see Pergamos was filled with pagan temples. Because of their stand many were martyred.

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

Had Jesus stopped there this would have been a very encouraging letter. However Jesus had something against them, what was it, they had begun to practice the doctrine of Balaam. We find that this doctrine has three distinct parts.

First is the "way of Balaam" that is he was covetous of money.

Second is the "error of Balaam", he supposed God could be forced to curse Israel.

Third is the "doctrine of Balaam," he could not bring a curse so he had Balac the King to have his people intermarry with the Israelites. This was mixing the holy with the unholy; all of this is found in Numbers 25:1-8.

This is where those who say that since the body isn't going to heaven then it can sin all it wants with no consequence.

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

They had also accepted and started practicing the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

It started as a deed in the church at Ephesus, now in the church at Pergamos it was a doctrine and practice of the separation of the people into an established order of clergy that stood above and verses the laity or the regular Christians.

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

The Lord gives sweet counsel from His love filled heart. He says to repent of these heresies and go back to a church of being brothers and sisters. If they did not then Jesus says that He will personally come against them with His word which is the sword of His mouth.

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

Jesus then gives this challenge: For those who overcome the temptation to join in these heretical teachings in verse 17. This has nothing to do with salvation rather it deals solely with not allowing oneself to be caught in the web of these Heresies. If they overcame this temptation this would be their reward

1. Hidden manna to eat – special fellowship with Christ
2. A white stone, with a new name each one personally given by Jesus to every Christian.

Those who stand true in any age will receive the same gifts.

These Church pictures the time covered between 315-590 A. D.

The key individual was Emperor Constantine. He is the Emperor who was a devout pagan. During a civil war he was nearing defeat until he supposedly had a vision of a shield with a cross on it. The next morning he baptized himself, then declared he was a Christian. He ordered his men to paint crosses on their shields; and to march through the river there at Milan. Once on the other side Constantine declared all of his soldiers Christians and they would fight as such. He did win the battle and in 313 he signed the edict of toleration. Soon pagans by the thousands were joining this new state religion. Bringing with them some of their practices including the following:

- a. Prayers for the dead 300a.d.
- b. Sign of the cross 300 a. d.
- c. Worship of saints and angels 375 a. d.
- d. Institution of Mass 394 a. d.
- e. Worship of Mary or Mother Goddess worship 431 a. d.
- f. Doctrine of extreme unction 526 a. d.
- g. Doctrine of Purgatory 593 a. d.

Nevertheless this time also had its true spiritual champions of the faith such as:

- a. John Crysostom 347 -407
- b. Jerome 340 – 420
- c. Augustine 354 – 430

And many thousands of others, the true church stayed underground; while the false church gained legitimacy in Rome.

The Church at Thyatira



Thyatira means "odor of affliction" it was located about 35 miles north of Pergamos. This city was founded by Alexander in 300 BC. This city housed the trade guilds. The first convert in this city was Lydia. The city is still in existence today and has a population of about 25,000.

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

Jesus is the one sending this letter out. This time His qualities of identification are that He is the Son of God who is looking into the church with eyes that saw the sin of this church and feet to trample out His judgment on them. These descriptive words of the Counselor are the strongest description yet. Jesus tells them I am the one who can see to the very core of every person and I will be the one to execute judgment both on the individual and the church as a whole.

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

Jesus gives them 5 commendations said of them. First they performed good works, which are those done for Christ sake.

Second they had genuine Love for each other.
Thirdly they were faithful in their service for the Lord.

Fourth their faith was strong in Jesus.

Fifth they had shown great patience in trials. Jesus adds their last works would be greater than what they had already accomplished.

Verse 20-23 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

This church as most of the others faced some condemnation for allowing wrong practices and doctrines in. Jesus then passes on His judgment on them, first on the list.

They allowed a false prophetess named Jezebel to be in their midst and not only to be there but to take a position of teaching doctrine that she said was from the Lord. This Jezebel has a trail in the Bible, such as Gen. 49:17 Dan is called a serpent, in Deut. 23:12 Dan is a lions whelp. In Judges 18 Dan gets a man for a priest instead of a Levite in verse 18 the priest is called "father," in verse 20, the father cares for idols, in verse 28 Dan settles in Sidon and Tyre, in verse 3-31 they are in total apostasy within 1,000 years.

Her Old Testament counterpart is the wife of Ahab in 1 Kings 16:29-33 he marries her and she is a prophetess of Baal. In chapter 18 of 1st Kings down in verses 24- 26 we find the

worship of the sun god started, in verse 28 we find black robed priests practicing mutilation for repentance.

Her sin in the church first she was exercising authority over men, one need only read 1 Timothy 2:12-14 to see where she was wrong. Secondly she was teaching immorality and idolatry as being right ways to live. She was totally unrepentant of what she was doing. She considered her acts as being directly from God, though in reality she was in direct contradiction to His revealed truth. The Lord gave her plenty of time to repent (325-500).

For her punishment, her followers will go through the great tribulation since they were not true Christians this is proven by the next statement. Her children will suffer the second death at the white throne judgment; historically from 500-1000 AD Europe was ravaged by the Black Death. Third Jesus would have her serve as an example to other churches concerning the wrath of God. You see ignorance is not innocence.

24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. 25 But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.

The Lord now gives the true remnant some wise counsel to those who stayed faithful to the truth refused to subscribe to her heretical teaching in 24 and 25: Note the "depths of Satan" that is, he also has Systematic Doctrines, and Text Books from which to bring confusion to God's people see 1 Timothy 4:1. The Lord encourages the believers to hold fast the truth of the gospel.

26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: 27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I

received of my Father . 28 And I will give him the morning star. 29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Jesus adds this challenge in 26-28 to these saints that if they would hold to their faith and do not succumb to these Jezebel doctrines they will be victorious in the end they will be rewarded as part of the bride of Christ. Jesus will give power to rule by His side with a rod of iron see Psalm 2:9; Rev. 20:16. The "Morning Star" is a title of the Lord.

This church apply pictures the Church time Period of 590 – 1517AD

The Abuses developing in the church during this time. This is the time that the Popes took control of Kings and Kingdoms. This is the time of the Goths, Visigoths, Gaul's, and Vandals. The great King Charlemagne reigned during the time period 742 to 814 AD

Monasticism arose at this time, this is where men began to seclude themselves in monasteries and abase themselves for the cause of Christ at least in their mind. For example Paul the simple prayed 300 times a day. The Monk Anthony ate only salt and bread; he never washed or cut his hair. Symeon lived 20 years on 60-foot pillar 3 foot in diameter. Benedict – rolled naked in a briar patch to control his lust. These are but a few of the things done in error thinking they brought the performer closer to God which was not even close.

Mariolatry or the worship of Mary starts at this time. This is another of Jezebels heresies which had its beginning in the church in AD. 300 then she was exalted as the mother of God, Queen of heaven. In Jeremiah 44 verses 17-19 and 25 the people begin to bake cakes and offer them to a Female deity called the queen of heaven. The idea of Immaculate Conception was formed during this time and since has grown into a perpetual line of virgin predecessors.

The following are some of the Unscriptural practices brought in and declared Christian.

1. Kissing the foot of the pope in 709
2. the worship of images (saints) in 786

3. the use of Holy Water in 850
4. the canonizing of dead saints in 995,
5. they then added fasting on Fridays in 998,
6. priestly celibacy was started in 1079,
7. the inclusion of the use of prayer beads in 1090,
8. the destruction of true Christians during the inquisition beginning in 1184,
9. the sale of indulgences to try and redeem your loved ones from hell in 1190,
10. the blasphemous teaching of transubstantiation or the turning of a piece of bread and some wine into the literal body and blood of Jesus in 1215,
11. the true Bible forbidden to laymen in 1229,
12. the doctrine of purgatory that fantasy place between life and hell where a soul goes to wait and see if the family can pay enough to get them out this was brought in 1439,
13. the Ave Maria or the adoring of Mary in 1508.

Here are some of the true champions of the time.

John Wycliffe 1320 –1384 AD Bible Translator.

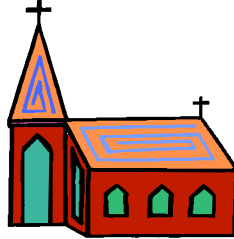
John Hus 1369 –1415 a professor of philosophy at the University of Prague. He was executed in front of his wife and child for not recanting;

William Tyndale 1484-1536 translator of the Tyndale Bible;

Erasmus 1466 –1536; also Peter Waldo and Anselm

Savonarola. These men were hunted down by Rome and destroyed for their work in producing Bibles in English so every one could have access to the Word of God.

CHAPTER THREE
THE CHURCH AT SARDIS
Chapter 3: 1-6



This City was located about 30 miles South of Thyatira; it was the capital city of the region of Lydia. The city was the capital of Lydia. Sardis was thought to be impregnable, but Cyrus of Persia captured it. Coins were first minted here. This city was noted for its great wealth.

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

The Counselor Jesus is here described as having 7 spirits or the perfect wisdom, one who knows all about a dead church that thinks it is alive. Jesus says that he holds all of the messengers to the churches in His hands; showing His authority over all.

The Condemnation 3:1b J. Vernon McGee said, "This is Protestantism. The great truths recovered by the reformers have been surrendered by the compromising church." Many churches today could and should call themselves Ichabod "the glory of the Lord is departed"

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

3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I

will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee

Jesus offers to the remnant believers the Counsel found here in 3:2-3. First those still spiritually vibrant need to be on guard and to gain spiritual strength. They need to do this because their works or ministry is not right with God.

They are to think back on the time they believed the word and held its truths tightly. They are to repent of their compromising practices, if they refuse Jesus will come like a thief in the night. First Jesus will take the faithful and second to judge the rest.

The Commendation 3:4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

God always has his remnant in every church and age. In this church there were faithful men and women who would not compromise or except false doctrine. To these He says they will walk in His righteousness.

5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. 6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Jesus utters a challenge to those who have victory against the false gospel. Reference 1st John 4:4 and 5:4. It is two fold for all who "overcome" that is those who do not compromise the truth for societal success. First their name will be in the Book of Life. Second his name will be confessed by Jesus to the Father. He will confess their faithfulness. Jesus again urges those who were still open to the truth and listen carefully to the Holy Spirit.

This Church is applicable to the Church Period of 1517-1700; this is the time of the reformation.

Here are some real champions of the Church.

1. Martin Luther 1483-1546, founded the Lutheran Church
2. Zwingli 1484-1531,
3. John Calvin 1509 –1564, founded the Presbyterian Church
4. John Knox 1515 –1572 founded Church of Scotland and became a missionary to India. He was a proponent of the separation of church and state.
5. Roger Williams 1604 –1684 founded the first Baptist church in 1631.

Here are some others Minno Simons founded the Mennonite Church. Zinzendorf of the Moravians he went to India.

The Church at Philadelphia



3:7-13

Here are some details of the City. It was the center of Greek culture in 200 BC; the city was located 30 miles to the Southeast of Sardis. Sardis was celebrated for the wine that was made there. Sardis also featured a large Jewish population. The city was destroyed in AD 17 and then rebuilt by Tiberius. The name of this city means brotherly love. The Quakers used it when they moved into Pennsylvania.

Verse 1 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth

Jesus says of Himself here that He is the true King and He holds the key that both opens the door and shuts the door.

Jesus alone controls when the door opens, and when to shut the door not man. This should remind us of another door back in Genesis where God the Father shut the door of the Ark and kept it shut until it was safe to open it.

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

Jesus knows the heart of this church their ministry work. This was not a large church there was two things they had that Jesus commends. First they openly confess to the inspiration of the Word of God. And second they openly confess to the Incarnation of the Son of God as Jesus. This church was given an open door to reach out to the unsaved. This is the first of 4 doors; this one is the door of service. Second is in 3:20 the door to the human heart. Third is the door to heaven in chapter 4 verse 1. Fourth is the door of the second coming in 19:11.

There is also this important note that there is no condemnation given to this church.

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

Jesus makes it clear that those there that were born Jews were not spiritual Jews. These would one day bow before the true church the bride of Christ.

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

Jesus gives this church the promise of not being here when the time of testing of Israel and the world comes, this is the time of the tribulation.

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

They are told to hold their ground in the fight of faith that their rewards are not taken away from them.

12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. 13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Those who fight and gain the victory the Lord promises that they will be remembered in the throne room of God, how with a special name and a new city. Jesus indicates that He personally would write this name. As with the rest of the letters this is addressed to those who were listening to the Holy Spirit. They are warned to keep the faith of the apostles delivered to them.

This Church applies to the time period of 1700 – 1900. this time period saw the door of salvation through Christ open all over the known world. John Wesley and George Whitefield during their ministry led 2 million souls to Christ.

This is the time of the industrial, science, and music revolution of men like Balboa, Hudson, Cortez, Magellan, Brahms, Beethoven, Handel, Wagener, DeVinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael.

Some true Champions of the time, were men like Jonathon Edwards 1703-1758, John Wesley 1703-1791, prayed 2 hours a day and preached 3 times a day un into his 70's George Whitefield 1714-1770, preached until his throat would stat bleeding.

Hudson Taylor founded the China Inland Mission William Carey 1761- 1834, missionary to India

Adonirom Judson 1788- 1850, missionary to China

David Livingstone 1813-1873, missionary to Africa

D.L. Moody 1837-1899.

Others were great men of prayer like George Mueller of England and E. M. Bounds of the civil war both relied totally on prayer for everything.

The list of giants could go on and on during this time.

The great tragedy of this time was that two men pretending to be Christians gained permission to rewrite the bible in 1884, they were Westcott and Hort. They made the first perversion called the RSV. It is also at this time that the British Bible Society does away with the KJV.

Starting the British empire down to the end of that once proud empire that the sun never sat on to its pitiful third rate nation it is today.

THE CHURCH AT LAODICEA



3:14-22

This City was founded by Antiochus II; he named it for his wife. By the time of John's writing it was the banking center for the region and had great wealth. The city was full of resplendent temples and theatres. The city had a large medical school and was known for the eye salve called "cellyrium" was produced. They also manufactured rich black wool, and boasted of several mineral streams.

This is the church that has lost everything of importance and only maintains the name Church on the door.

The very name Laodicea speaks volumes about this city and the church. Laodicea means "peoples rights" this was a city and a church that focused on the civil rights and opposed

god's rights. This church has Jesus locked out; this is the only refer to a physical building of the seven churches.

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God 15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. 16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Jesus reveals Himself in verse 14 as the "so be it" (amen), the faithful and true witness (Is 65:16). This is the opposite of this church which never fully tells the truth of scripture. He is always faithful to His words and promises. He is the "beginning of the creation of God"; Jesus here is the subject not the object. Jesus is the source of all that is good, all that is real i.e. wealth, purpose, love, and peace; a church must not depend on itself. Paul in Colossians 1:15-18 explains this verse. This is a reference to what he is and to what he does.

In verse 15 we find that just as Philadelphia had no condemnation this church has no commendation: there is nothing good about it all. Instead this is the apostate church. This church fights on both sides of issues; it will not take a stand against anything and accepts everything into the church. A lukewarm person or church doesn't know they need clothes and heat; a cold person does. A person must be sensitive to the need of having both. Jesus says it is better to have no commitment than a lukewarm one.

In verse 16 Jesus pronounces on the church as a whole. He announces that He will spew this church out of His mouth because they were lukewarm in their work. God does not believe in a middle ground, it is either hot or cold, up or down, heaven or hell, black or white, or lost and saved. This image Jesus used came from the fact that Laodicea piped cold water from Colosse and hot water from Heiropolis. By the time it arrived at the city it was lukewarm.

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: 18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

In verse 17 Jesus gives the condemnation to them. Christ rejects all who are half committed for two reasons. First they are false professions and second their true condition was wretched, and afflicted spiritually, they were naked, compare this with 2 Cor. 5:3; Matt. 22:11 -13. 1st we find what they thought they were in verse 17. They thought they were rich because they looked only at earthly money, material products and this caused them to think they had no need of anything including Christ. And 2nd What God said they were, lukewarm in works and they were lacking in everything else?

In verse 18 Jesus gives them some wise counsel to heal their condition. They are to obtain from God three things. 1st they were to obtain gold, sterling spiritual wealth, read also what Peter said in 1st Peter 1:7 (holiness). 2nd they needed White raiment that is Christ's righteousness, no matter how much clothing they manufactured they still needed Christ. 3rd Jesus uses something they all knew and understood, eye salve. They needed the eye salve of forgiveness so their spiritual eyes could see what was really important.

Paul even wrote to them about what was happening to them in Col. 2:1,3 and 4:16. Peter in 2nd Peter 1:5-9 said they were blind, that is their spiritual vision was affected.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he

with me. 21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. 22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Jesus gives them three challenges. The 1st is in verse 19 to repent and have a new zeal for the Lord. The word "love" is a Fatherly type of love. Jesus was going to chasten them to prove that He loved them. The 2nd is in verse 20 they needed to open the church so He can come into their worship services. There are four things to note about this verse about Jesus. He is the standing Christ, showing His readiness to enter ones life.

He is the Knocking Christ, this is the seeking Saviour

He is the pleading Christ, showing the compassion of Christ, how often people hear and reject Him.

He is the penetrating Christ, showing the Spirit of Jesus living within, 2 Cor. 5:17

He is the companion Christ, showing fellowship with Christ, Luke 24:32; 1 Cor. 3:16

The 3rd is in verse 21 to those who do this and gain the victory over lukewarmness, He will give opportunity to reign with Him.

This time of the Church Age covers 1890's- until the rapture. During this time the World Council of Churches founded in 1902 and the National Council of Churches in 1940. it is during this time that one perverted bible after another comes out starting with the ASV in 1901, the New RSV in 1952, the NIV in the 70's, and the NKJV in the 80's.

There are some true giants of the faith even in this time period. Men such as C. I Scofield, Larkin, B.H. Carroll, George Truett, Mel Trotter. Lester Roloff, John R. Rice, J. Frank Norris, Charles Fuller , M. R. DeHaan, Theodore Epp, Bob Jones Sr. and others

Here is a summary of the 7 Churches

A. Ephesus – Issue of Fundamentalism

B. Smyrna – Issue of Ritualism

C. Thyatira – Issue of Sacerdotalism –Idolatry and Priestcraft

D. Sardis – Issue is Liberalism Large active but dead

E. Philadelphia- Issue is Revivalism

F. Laodicea- Issue is materialism

Part two

THE WORSHIP OF THE LAMB

CH. 4-5

Introduction: The Apostle John opens chapter 4 with the phrase "after this" or after these things, what things? The events covered in chapter 2 & 3 and the catching away of the church. Up to this point the church has been mentioned 19 times. It will not be in view again until chapter 19. There can only be two conclusions from these facts.

First the church has been wiped out by Satan; this is unscriptural since Jesus said this would not happen in Matthew 16:18 "and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"

Second the church has been removed by being caught up as seen in 1 Cor. 15:51 "We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed" and 1 Thess 4:16-17 "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

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

John sees a door opened in Heaven, this should be compared with Jesus words in John 10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. John also hears a voice that calls out to him like a trumpet sound that is clear and sharp. It was not a trumpet but had that loud sharp sound like a trumpet. The key is in the words are "as it were" these are comparison words for John to give the readers his best wording to describe what he actually heard. Look here at 1 Thess. 4:16 For the

Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: also 1st Cor. 15:22, 24-26. This catching away is like a harvest they both have 3 parts. There are the "first fruits" which was Christ and the Old Testament saints that Matthew records as having got out of the graves and walking around Jerusalem at the resurrection. The second part is the actual full "harvest" which is the New Testament saints from AD 27 until the catching away recorded here. The third part is the "gleanings" which will be those who are saved during the tribulation, most of whom will be martyred for their faith along with the 144,000 Jewish witnesses' as we shall see as we go on. Notice the word "must" this word is saying that world events are not by chance, God is in full control of everything.

The phrase "caught up" is found 3 times, the first is here, the second is in chapter 11:12 and the third is in Proverbs 25:7 and refers to the Old Testament saints. In the second part of this verse John receives the invitation to come up to join Christ. We now go by way of the rapture to the third Heaven. John is now allowed a glimpse of the dazzling Kingdom of Heaven. John says in the Spirit, this is found in 1st Cor. 15:49-52, this is an entirely different realm of existence.

Verses 2-3: "And immediately I was in the spirit; and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

John sees the glory of the Lord; we need to compare this with Ezekiel 1:26-28. This rainbow John sees is a full circle instead of the arch like we are used to seeing this to show that God is a covenant keeping God. What God starts He will bring to a conclusion that honors Him. The color of emerald is there to describe His peace.

The word throne appears 45 times in this book making a word of prominence; it also portrays the Lord's ultimate power in the end of this age. John could not give definitive description of the awesome presence sitting on this throne in verse 3. So he turns to words and items that people could relate to, such as the Jasper stone which is a white diamond and pictures His glory this is the first stone in the high priest breastplate. John adds the sapphire as a Sardine stone which is blood red and pictures the Lord's grace. This is the last stone in the priest breastplate. The first stone is for Reuben which means "behold a son," the last for Benjamin "son of my right hand." God is reminding all of the first incarnation of Christ in His humanity and second is the exaltation of Christ's deity. These stones were the most brilliant and expensive, this showing us that God is the most brilliant and desired being in the universe.

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

Here John describes the scene around the throne. First there is the sight of the 24 elders with crowns on; these crowns are a symbol of authority. The elders are representative of all New Testament Saints see Luke 1:5-9. The Levite priesthood served in courses or ranks of 24 at a time. These are martyring not monarch crowns. The thrones show us closeness, a resting posture, and a permanent place in the Lord's presence. He also sees and hears lightning and thunder coming from the throne; this is a portent of the awful storm of wrath about to come upon mankind.

Verse 5: And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the

throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Here there are 7 lamp stands in view burning before the throne. There are several explanations for these that have been presented.

1st they represent Christ's perfect earthly ministry as seen in Isaiah 11:1-3 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

2nd they represent the 7-fold ministry of the Holy Spirit. That is the restraining of evil, convicting the lost, regenerating souls, sealing of souls, baptizing souls into Christ, indwelling saints, and filling saints for power and service. God's voice is so commanding it sounds like many voices, or a thunder clap or a lightening strike. There is the image of the coming storm or judgments.

Verse 6-8: And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come

John also sees a crystal sea that is as smooth as glass. This pictures the perfect peace of God. This is seen on Earth by the

molten sea seen in 1 Kings 7:23 And he made a molten sea, ten cubits from the one brim to the other: it was round all about, and his height was five cubits: and a line of thirty cubits did compass it round about this is a shadow of the real one John is seeing. Here the Priests came to do a ceremonial cleansing. Here in Heaven the sea is smooth as a crystal to indicate that we will never have to be washed again!

Next John describes the living creatures and their testimony. Who are they; they are seen first in Gen. 3:24 and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life where they are set to guard the entrance to Eden. They are next seen in Isaiah 6:2 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly, and then again in Ez. 1:5-10.

In Ez. 28:14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire we find here that there were originally five of these creatures. The fifth one is the only one said to be anointed, also seen in verse 16 of Ez. 1 and in Ez. 10:14 the 5th one had a fall, and is worshipped as a golden calf by Aaron and also known as Baal.

The purpose of these creatures is to remind us of Christ's offices as follows.

1. the lion face is His office of King (Matt) supremacy
2. the calf face is His office of servant (Mark) strength
3. the face of a man is His office of perfect humanity (Luke) intelligence
4. the eagle face is His office of God in the flesh (John) swiftiness

Notice all of the animal kingdom is represented except the reptiles.

Verses 9-11: And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, 10 The four and

twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

The Proclamation comes when these beasts give praise to Jesus, then all of the church follows suit and laying their crowns at His feet in submission and honor to Him. Here is true worship being offered and this will go on for all eternity. 24 elders, there 4 fold function is first subjection and subservience, second to worship, third the supreme worthiness of the lamb and fourth to vocally praise God for eternity.

There have been 7 events, now he sees an 8th that brings despair.

Chapter Five

This chapter brings a proclamation in Heaven. This is the eighth event so far, this one brings despair for John.

Verse 1-2: And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

What is this rolled up scroll? The scroll at this time was made of Papyrus sheets, the back of which was rarely used for writing on. This time it is for the volume of material and events involved and sealed until now so no one could know of these coming end time events. Most teachers see this as the deed to the Earth, lost by Adam's sin to Satan making Satan the prince of the power of the air.

All legal documents involving life and death had 7 seals. Here is just a little side note the KJV has 7 bars on the spine making it a perfect book. This angel puts forth a question crying out who is worthy to come and take the scroll and reclaim control of the Earth. Who is worthy to reclaim the earth's title? Read Jeremiah 32:6-16

The Investigation

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

Here are the results of the search for who would be worthy to take the deed. There is a three-fold search for one who is worthy. First the search in Heaven, was there any among the redeemed worthy.

- a. Adam originally had it but lost it to Satan.
- b. Noah –became a drunkard
- c. Abraham –went off to Egypt (world)
- d. David – Lusted and murdered
- e. John the Baptist – Doubted the Messiah

- f. Peter – Denied Christ
- g. Paul – Compromised his testimony Acts 21.

The second search is on Earth: Sinners on earth could not know or do what those in Heaven couldn't.
The third search is under the earth: No saint, no angel could open the scroll, so there is a certainty that no demons spawn could.

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

There is a great Lamenting, this is the final instance of weeping; sorrow has brought an ocean of tears since Adams fall.

1. Abraham wept over Sarah in Genesis 23:2
2. Israel wept over their slavery in Exodus 2:23
3. Moses wept over Miriam's sin in Numbers 12:13
4. Joshua wept over Israel's defeat in Joshua 7:6-9
5. Naomi weeps over leaving Moab in Ruth 1:9

The same is repeated over and over down through history. John is weeping because he can see that no one is able to claim this title; however his weeping is about to turn to great joy.

Verses 5-7: And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. 6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. 7 And he came and took the

book out of the right hand of him that
sat upon the throne

Here is the manifestation of the only one worthy. John turned hoping to see a Lion, but saw instead a Lamb, who is this lamb? It is Christ the Lord. He will have the only imperfect body even in that it still is perfect as it has 7 wounds in His head, back, face, 2 hands, and 2 feet. Jesus body in Heaven will bare the marks of the price paid for the redemption of man and the earth. In case one might be tempted to forget, when Jesus passes by you'll see the price paid for our sins and redemption, we will never forget the cost to the Lord.

The first thing to note is that Jesus has the characteristics of a lamb. Jesus referred to himself as a lamb 29 times in the New Testament. Four things about this word "lamb"

It is a pet lamb. The word for lamb here means a special household pet.

It is a slain Lamb. The word for "slain" refers to a violent death. The image of the throat cut in sacrifice or piercings of a crucifixion.

It is an all-powerful lamb, possessing 7 horns. The horn is always a symbol of power and authority. 7 horns then picture perfect power and authority?

It is an all-knowing lamb; the eye in scriptures speaks of knowledge. Thus 7 eyes refer to perfect knowledge and wisdom.

Second Jesus has the characteristics of a lion. Not just any lion, but the lion of the tribe of Judah. There are three key chapters that explain this. First we see in Genesis 49, where Jacob predicts Judah to be a lion. Second in 2 Samuel 7, where David was told his kingdom would be eternal. Third in Luke 1, here Mary is told her son would inherit all the Old Testament promises so Christ is both the lamb and lion.

Verses 8-14: And when he had taken
the book, the four beasts and four and
twenty elders fell down before the
Lamb, having every one of them harps,
and golden vials full of odours, which
are the prayers of saints. 9 And they

sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. 11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; 12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. 13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. 14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

The Adoration of the Lamb

First the source of this adoration comes from all directions and includes every creature in heaven. Notice those listed, we have the 24 elders, that represent the church. The image is from the Old Testament and the role of the priest in temple service. They served in courses of 24 at a time. This is seen in the book of Luke with John the Baptist father, Zachariah. There are the 4 living creatures, and an uncounted number of angels, even all upon earth and all under the earth hear this adoration being given.

Notice closely though that only the redeemed are singing in verse 9, the rest are chanting in verse 12. W.A. Chriswell said "Music made up of major and minor chords. The concept of wretchedness, death, and sorrow of fallen creation, the angels know nothing of this."

The subject of this worship is the Lamb; and what he once did is in verse 9. Those who are trusting in other things beside the blood will be frustrated when they have to sing "the blood alone."

1. Isaac once asked "where is the lamb" in Genesis 22:7
2. John the Baptist answered "behold the lamb" in John 1:29
3. All creation now says "worthy is the lamb" in 5:12
4. It is a new song in 5:9
5. The old song is of creation in Job 38:7 and Revelation 4:11
6. The new song is of redemption

What he now receives is power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessing in verses 11-13.

Verse 10: This verse in the ASV reads "and they reign on earth." This is in the present tense, this is deceptive, and it is one false statement that floods our seminaries. This is the same rendering as the Jehovah Witness bible and other post millennial groups. The truth is the verse is in the future tense and is correctly rendered like it is.

Verse 14 has one thing of note and that is that all will bow the knee there at the throne whether we are willing or not.

PART THREE

THE WORTH OF THE LAMB INVOKED CH 6-19

In chapter 4 we went to heaven, there the lamb took his place of power and received the scroll. Now we return our attention to Earth and the proceedings there. The wrath of Jesus is now invoked along 7 avenues.

1. The seal judgments
2. The reign of the devil
3. The vial judgments
4. The destruction of religion
5. The destruction of economics
6. The first Battle of Armageddon and
7. The destruction of anti-Christ and false prophet.

Chapter Six

In chapter 4 the church went to the marriage supper of the Lamb. Once there we saw the Lamb takes His rightful place of power and was handed the seven sealed scroll. Now our scene shifts back to earth and what is going to be taking place. From here through chapter 19 we have the time of Jacobs's trouble. The wrath of the Lamb is now invoked along 7 paths as follows. 1st the seal judgments 2nd the reign of the devil, 3rd the vial or bowl judgments, 4th the destruction of the one world religion, 5th the destruction of the world of economics, 6th the battle of Armageddon and 7th the destruction of the Anti-Christ and the false prophet. We come first to the seal judgments in Rev. 6: 1-17; also in chapters 8:1- 9:21; and Matt. 24:4-8

Verse 1-2: And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.
2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and

a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

The First Seal

This white horse and its rider are a symbolic picture of the antichrist subduing the revived Roman Empire better known today as the European Union. Instead of military force he will use conquest by diplomacy. Notice that this rider has a bow but no arrows this cannot be Jesus as some say as the Revelation 19 makes clear He will come with a sharp two edged sword and His vesture dipped in blood compare these verses with Matt. 24:3-5 And as he sat on the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what [shall be] the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man lead you astray. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am the Christ; and shall lead many astray.

Verses 3-4: And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. 4 And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should

The Second Seal compares with Matt. 24:8 But all these things are the beginning of travail. The uneasy peace, temporary and counterfeit comes to a sudden end. The Red Horse and its rider are a picture of a future world war that will erupt shortly after the false peace of anti Christ is established read Isaiah 57:20- 21 But the wicked are like the troubled sea; for it cannot rest, and its waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked. We will deal with this more as we go on into the book.

Verses 5-6: And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on

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

The Third Seal reveals a black horse with a rider holding a set of scales to weigh out food and goods. This is a natural consequence of war. Poverty and famine always follow war. Balances –depict careful rationing of food.

Penny – this was a day's wages and John sees that it will take that much purchase an amount equal to 1 quart of wheat or 3 quarts of barley. This is one eighth of a normal supply of food for a day. Stanford Professor Paul Ehrlich in his book the population bomb predicted that from the late 70's on the world would under go multiple famines with millions dying. We have seen them in Ethiopia, Somalia, China, and India along with other countries. They are multiplying around the world all the time and after the third world war it will be massive.

Verses 7-8: And when he had opened
the fourth seal, I heard the voice of
the fourth beast say, Come and see. 8
And I looked, and behold a pale horse:
and his name that sat on him was
Death, and Hell followed with him. And
power was given unto them over the
fourth part of the earth, to kill with
sword, and with hunger, and with
death, and with the beasts of the
earth.

The Fourth Seal

The identity of these riders, the rider death this pictures physical death. The rider Hell represents spiritual death you see the Devil will destroy the bodies and damn the souls of multitudes.

Look at the damage done by these riders: one fourth of all humanity perishes since we have surpassed 6 billion people

this one fourth will be well over 1 billion people. In World War 2, 1 in 40 people died this time it will be a much greater ratio. Notice the Beast this is not the lion or bear but a rat, they can carry up to 35 diseases. Fleas carry Bubonic Plague, which killed one third of Europe's population in the dark ages. Also Typhus, in 4 centuries killed 200 million. These and others will be on a rampage after World War 3. There is good reason to believe that this war will include germ warfare. One variety of germs is Psittacosis is very cheap to produce; a lethal dose that is capable of killing 20 million is less than 1 cubic centimeter.

Verses 9-11: And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? 11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

The Fifth Seal compare it to Matt. 24:9-15; and Daniel 9:24-27.

Here is religious persecution, these three verses are loaded. They refute soul sleep, this is obvious since these people are talking and aware of their surroundings; they refute the general resurrection since they were not resurrected with the church, as these are Old Testament Saints who will receive glorified bodies after the tribulation. They suggest the possibilities of an intermediate body see 2 Corinthians 5:1-3. They must have a body of some sort as they get robes for their bodies and wispy spirits couldn't wear one.

Verses 12-17: And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; 13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casting her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. 14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. 15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; 16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: 17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

The Sixth Seal is comparable to Matthew 24:29 But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. This judgment ushers in first the greatest earthquake in history; there have been hundreds of earthquakes. The earliest recorded was in July 365 in the Middle East. The most destructive was in January 1556 in China, 1 million lost their lives. The worst one on record in the U.S. was in San Francisco on April 18, 1906 700 people died and 500 million in damage. The most costly was in Anchorage Alaskan in March of 1964 were 114 died and there was some 750 million in damage. This one will make all of these appear as an aftershock. Matthew 24:37-39 And as [were] the days of Noah, so shall be the coming of the Son of man. For as in

those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and they knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall be the coming of the Son of man.

1. The greatest cosmic disturbances in history! This could be an all out nuclear exchange. In atomic explosions the atmosphere rolls back in on itself filling the void, this causes the most destruction. Along with possible meteor showers with meteors large enough to not be burnt up in the air but be visible like stars falling.

2. The greatest prayer meeting in history! These ungodly people would rather have a mountain of rocks fall on them than call on the Lord. Only problem is they are praying for the wrong thing. Only way to cover you from the wrath of God is the righteousness of the Lamb.

Chapter Seven

This chapter brings an Interlude in the opening of the seals. During this time the Lord calls out His final missionaries to the world in 1-17. And in the second part of chapter seven there is silence in heaven as the next set of events prepares to unfold. Between the 6th and 7th seal judgments God calls time out in Heaven. During this break two significant events take place.

Verses 1-3: And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, 3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

God the Father calls a halt to everything, He even has the very wind itself. Four angels are called to hold the air back into the four corners when another orders a second set of four that

controls what happens on earth and the sea to not let anything happen until Jesus witness's are sealed for their upcoming mission.

Verses 4-8: And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. 5 Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. 6 Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand. 7 Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand. 8 Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.

The conversion and call of the 144,000 sealed Jewish virgin young men. One very important thing to notice is that God chooses 12 thousand from each of twelve tribes. This is important because so many claim to be one of the lost tribes, when there never really was any of the tribes lost where God is concerned. The northern 10 tribes were taken into captivity and most never returned to the land and the records of who was from what tribe went by the way side that's all that has happened. These will go by twos out into the world to preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God is at hand. This is not a reference to only Jews being saved. What it does mean is that God is sending out 144,000, Billy Sunday's to evangelize the world. This is a huge number when one realizes there are only

about 35,000 missionaries of all persuasions on the field today, for a reference to this look at Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a testimony unto all the nations; and then shall the end come. Notice also Judah heads the list not Reuben the first born and also that Dan and Ephraim are missing from the list. For the reason for their not being there read Judges 18 & Hosea 4. Levi and Manasseh take their place. However both are listed in Ezekiel's millennial temple Ezekiel 48, so they forfeit their right to preach; look at Genesis 49:17 and Jeremiah 8:16 will also shed light on Dan's future notoriety.

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

The Conversion of "a great multitude" these verses have been the subject of debate and controversy. This happens when one fails to do what the Lord had instructed Paul to tell us and that is to rightly divide the word. Failing this will mess one up on most every thing else including knowing who this multitude is. Let's look at some of the facts about this group. First there is a number that John says is countless in verse 9 compare this with Matt. 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a testimony unto all the nations; and then shall the end come

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. 11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

Their praise here in verse 10 is different than the elders in chapter 4. There it was to the Lamb only here it is to God and the lamb together in glory. Notice also what is said in their praise as it too differs from that in chapter four. One more thing the elders are standing to the side watching these give praise and worship to God as one is talking to John.

12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. 13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they? 14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Their background is given in verse 14 this compares to Matt. 24:12-14. Notice these are not part of the church rather the elder who is part of the church says they were saved during the tribulation and they washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb. The church is never stated as doing any thing like that it is always the Lamb washes us not the other way around.

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. 16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. 17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Their Service is given in verse 15 they will serve before the throne at all times. Verse 16 gives another indication of them

facing the horrors of the tribulation as they were hungry and thirsty and had seen the horror and great sorrow of it all. e. Their Reward is found in verse 17 God will take all of the bad things away and replace them with His joy and blessings.

Chapter Eight

Here in chapter eight we have silence in heaven as the last seal is opened and a new set of sevens is released upon the earth.

Verses 1-8: And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. 2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. 3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. 4 And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. 5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices,

and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake. 6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

The seventh seal in chapter eight opens with the only recorded occasion in history that Heaven is silent. There is not the slightest sound or movement.

1. The purpose of the silence with the apparent weakening at the opening of the 6th seal God now waits further repentance? Why? Because God takes no pleasure in death Ezekiel 33:11

2. The duration of the silence: 30 minutes- 30 being the number for mourning, Examples are found in Deuteronomy 34:8 where Israel mourned 30 days for Moses and in Numbers 20:29 where they mourned for Aaron. We now see the contents of the seventh seal; in it we find the 7 trumpet judgments.

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

The first angel blows upon his trumpet and Plant life suffers judgment since it was the first created and it is the first destroyed; go back and read Genesis 1:11-12. It is an ecological disaster with out parallel, one third of plants and all grass gone. This will make the global warming that some keep talking about look like a walk in the shade.

Verse 8-9: And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

The second angel blows his trumpet sending a large meteor to hit somewhere in the Mediterranean Sea. The water turns to blood and one third of all aquatic life dies due to chemical reaction or radioactivity. Ships destroyed by violence of water as the impact of the meteor disrupts millions of tons of water. The ensuing carnage of rotting sea life and cargo, such as oil and gas and other material that will cover the surface will be unimaginable.

Verses 10-11: And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; 11 And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

The third angel blows his trumpet and another large meteor or asteroid with stifling and bitter gases splits into many pieces when it hits the atmosphere contaminating one third of water. This destroys one third of the Earth's fresh water. Wormwood is a plant that grows in Palestine it has very strong bitter taste worse than sulfured well water.

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

The fourth angel blows his trumpet and a third of the lights in the 2nd heaven go out and the sun loses a third of its power and that means the moon would lose a third also. Jesus may well have had this in mind in Matt. 24:22; and Luke 21:25. We can also reference this back in Amos 8:9. It is of interest to note that it is the fourth angel and it was on the fourth day

that God revealed the light. They were to be for signs and for seasons, God promised not to change the arrangement. Here Earth's light is limited by judgment. Between the 4th and 5th trumpet John gives a report.

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

We see an angel soaring through out the sky crying with a loud voice three woes that will be a part of the last three trumpets. The woes indicating the judgments will become more severe with each ensuing trumpet blast.

Chapter Nine

We now take up the last three trumpets they are marked from the first four by the three woes. These are the deepest darkest most painful days of the tribulation. This chapter contains the most revealing section on demonology. There are orders and classes of unholy angels.

Verse 1-2: And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.

Verse one thru verse twelve is all about the fifth trumpet and 1st woe: the location of these demons also Isaiah 14:12-15. "Shaft of the abyss indicates an entrance from the surface to

the center of the earth. Here is the first mention of the bottomless pit.

The identity of these demons: Some say these are from Genesis 6:12, it is but a theory. There are classes of demons.

1. Unchained demons such as in Luke 4:34; 8:27-31

2. Chained demons as recorded in Jude 6,7; 1 Peter 3:18-20, this pit is probably the Greek tartarus of 2 Peter 2:4

The one who releases these demons (9:1) this fallen star appears to be Satan look at Isaiah 14:12; in Luke 10:18 Christ gives Satan the key for a purpose.

Verses 3-4: And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads

The torment that these demons cause on the earth is described for us. The Pain of a scorpion sting is not always fatal, but is undoubtedly the worse pain to be inflicted. III. Boy stung in foot "rolled on the ground grinding his teeth and foaming at the mouth, his foot was now useless". They are limited as to what they can do harm to, no grass or plant life, no trees and no one that is sealed by God a reference to the 144,000 witnesses.

Verses 5-6: And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. 6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.

The duration of these demonic attacks: It will last 5 months, the torment will drive men to suicide, but they will not die. This is a very striking thing that men or women will try to die at their own hands and they will not be allowed to do so. If you are wondering why; it is so they can receive the full measure of the wrath of God. Dieing to soon would give them what they think would be relief and since they rejected the only real relief in Jesus then they will suffer the full cup of wrath. God allows Satan to hold the key and not let them leave.

Verses 7-10: And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. 8 And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. 9 And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. 10 And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.

The description of these demons: They are hideous in there appearance, they are like horses adorned for battle with crowns of gold, faces like a man, with long hair like a woman, teeth like a lions, steel breast plates and a scorpion tail with wings. Nothing like them has ever walked on earth before and John has no frame of reference to work with in giving this description. One writer said it was modern battle tanks, however I have seen the tanks of all the armed forces in operation today and not one of them come close to this. These are special creatures reserved just for this time of judgment.

Verse 11: And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the

Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.

The king of these demons: Apollyon or destroyer this is Satan's counterpart to "Michael the Archangel". The Horrible reality of these demons: the world says we are crazy; there can be no such thing. But there are demons and no matter what they are portrayed like in the movies to desensitize us for when they really appear, they are real.

Verses 13-21: And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, 14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. 15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. 16 And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. 17 "And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone." 18 By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. 19 For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt. 20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet

repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: 21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

The Sixth Trumpet: John has already stated there would be two demonic invasions. Now comes the second one the leaders of this invasion: four special satanic angels. These may serve like the 4 beasts around the throne.

The armies of this invasion: first they are 200 million strong (china keeps an army of this size and as of the writing of this update in 2007 the Chinese have built a multi lane highway to the middle east for the soul use of the government and military) they would occupy an area 1 mile wide by 87 miles deep shoulder to shoulder. Second they appear to ride some hellish horses with lion's heads, with smoke, fire and burning sulfur. The riders have fire red breastplates with Jacinth this is a dark blue in color.

c. The source of this invasion: from the Euphrates River and beyond, this is where evil began on Earth read Zechariah 5:8-11; and Genesis Ch3. It is where false religion began Genesis 4:3 it is also the place it will come to an end. Rev.17-18

d. The duration of this invasion: thirteen months

e. The damage wrought by this invasion: one third of humanity killed or approximately another 1 billion people, added to the one fourth already dead.

f. The results of this invasion (20, 21) nearly 50 percent of the world's population destroyed. Survivors have no repentance and actually increase their rebellion. There will be a 1,000% increase in crime. With an emphasis on sex and drugs (sorceries)

G. Interlude: We have here the 2nd interlude during this one three more events will take place.

A. The message of the angel of God 10:1-11: Who is he?
Possibly Christ
maybe Michael Daniel 12:1. What does he have? A little open
book! 7sealed
book of 5:1 Satan roars to frighten and Jesus roars to
announce
victory. What does he say? No further delay before the Earth
feels
God's angry judgment! 10:6 He orders John to eat the book
(9,10)
sweet to bitter – assimilate the word Jer. 15:16; Ezekial 3:1-3;
Pr. 16:24;
Psalm 119:103. Sweet to see gentiles judged, bitter to see
slaughter
of Israel by anti Christ.
b. The measuring of the temple of God 11:1-2: John goes to
work with
9ft. ruler Eezikial 40:5 measuring the tribulation temple. God
claiming

it as owns. He records identify of worshippers, outer court left out

(gentile) 11:2 Luke 21:24 go to Daniel 7:25;12:7

c. The ministry of the witnesses of God 11:3-14. 1st. Their identity (rev.

11:3) Who are these witnesses? Some hold that they are Elijah and

Enoch Hebrews 9:27. Some hold they are Elijah and Moses.

The

reason being Elijah stopped rained. Malachi 4:5,6; Matthew 17:11;

17:3. Moses - -Because of Jude 9 and ministry of turning water to

blood. 11:1,2 rod for judgment Psalm 2:9, Golden altar of incense is

for prayer, Gentiles over run the world for 42 months Luke 21:24.

2. Their Ministry: 1st. To prophesy in sackcloth before men. 2nd To

destroy their enemies in the same manner as is used on them.

3rd. To

prevent rain for 3 years and 6 months. 4th To turn water into blood. 5th

To smite the earth with plagues.

A. Their Death: Anti Christ is finally allowed to kill them.

The "beast"

could not kill first mentioned here in verse 7, is fully revealed in

chapter 13. He the witnesses until "they have finished their testimonies". Satan can only touch one of us when god gives permission. Job 1:12; 2:6. Satan will not permit their bodies to be

buried. Instead all Earth celebrates their deaths; it is a hellish Christmas. This is the only reference to rejoice in entire book.

This

prophecy could not have been fulfilled until mid 1960"s with early bird

satellite.

2. Their Resurrection (notice the word great used 3 times):
"stood upon" is to be
resurrected. 1st A great voice 11:12. 2nd A great fear 11:11. 3rd
great earthquake
levels 1/10 of Jerusalem and kills 7000 men.
H. THE SEVENTH TRUMPET (11:15-19)
Angel proclaims glorious news that soon Jesus will take over
the nations.

This brings a twofold reaction

1st The citizens of Heaven rejoice.

2nd The nations of the Earth become angry Psalm 2. This angel
prepares us

for the consummation and explanation of all things 10:7. At
the sounding of

this trumpet (11:19).

An actual tabernacle exists in Heaven Isaiah 6:1-8 and Exodus
25:9

II. THE REIGN OF THE DEVIL CHAPTERS 12 AND 13

A. The Devil and the Jews

1. His hatred of Israel in the past verse 1-5

a. A woman with twelve stars (1-2): This woman is Israel
Genesis 37:9-10,

this is the first of four women mentioned from here to the end
of the book.

They are as follows: 1st a suffering woman -Israel 2nd a bloody
harlot –

world religion, rev. 17 3rd an arrogant queen - the worlds
economic system

rev 18. 4th a pure bride – th^e true church rev. 19.

Notice that in verse two she cries aloud in agony.

b. A dragon with 7 heads 12:3-5: He is given at least 7 titles and subtitles in chapter 12.

1st The great red dragon Vs 3: Great because of vast power Matthew 4:8-9.

2nd Red because he was the 1st murderer Jn 8: 44. 3rd Dragon because of his viciousness 2 Cor. 6:15

2nd The Old Serpent 12:9: Old, which takes us back to the Garden of Eden

Gen 3. Serpent which reminds us of 1st body Gen 3

3rd The Devil 12:9: One who slanders 12:10 also job 1,2 along with Zech.

3:1-7; Luke 22:31.

4th Satan 12:9 the adversary 1 Peter 5:8

5th The deceiver of the world 12:9 He deceives men and angels 12:4 see also

Isaiah 14:12-15; and Ezekial 28:11=-19

6th The persecutor of the woman verse 4

7th The hater of Christ 12:5 We learn three things about Christ 1st His

incarnation "the man child" Galatians 4:4-5 2nd His Ascension "caught up unto

God" and 3rd His future reign "to rule all nations with a rod of iron" psalm

2:6-9

2HIS HATRED OF ISRAEL IN THE FUTURE 12: 6-17

A. His war against Michael 12:7: Satan loses this war and is cast down, the blood overcomes him. V11

B. His wrath against Israel 12:13-15,17: This will be the last most severe anti Semitic movement. Throughout history Satan has made every attempt to exterminate Israel, the following is a list of some means he has gone to.

Enslaving in ex.2, drowning in ex 14, starving in ex 16, tempting in ex 32, cursing in num.32, capturing in 2 Kings 17&24, swallowing in Jonah 2,

Burning in Daniel 3,devouring in Dan. 6, hanging in Esther 3, add also

Hitler's gas chambers where 6 million died. But God himself will step in and protect Israel. 12:14,17 also Czech 13:9. At least one third will remain safe at Petra. See the following Zech. 14:5; Isaiah 63:1; Daniel 11:41.

Edom by God's design will not be in antichrist's hands. Petra once housed 267,000 people as a large market center. It is inaccessible except through a narrow canyon only 2 horses wide. The walls are 400 to 700 feet up. Of every color in the rainbow.

3. THE DEVIL AND THE WORLD ch.13

A. His cohort the antichrist 13:1-10 Dan. 7:25; 11:36; 2 Thess.2: 3,4,9; 1

John 2:22; Rev. 6:2; 13; 1,2,6 these describe the most powerful and perverted person who ever walked the Earth.

1.His personal characteristics: he will be a genius (Dan. 8:23), he will be a

oratorical genius (Dan. 11:36) he will be a political genius (Rev. 17:11,12)

he will be a commercial genius (dan.11: 43) he will be a military genius

(rev. 6; 2,13:2) he will be a religious genius (rev. 13:8, 2 thess.2: 4) Rabbi

Marchus Melchior said "I believe messianic times would come if the United Nations were made Messiah. He would possess the leadership of Washington; the eloquence of Franklin Roosevelt; the charm of Teddy Roosevelt; the charisma of Kennedy; the popularity of Ike; the political savvy of Johnson and the intellect of a Jefferson.

B. His various names and titles.

1. The man of sin 2 Thess. 2:3
2. Son of perdition 2 Thess 2:8
3. The wicked one 2 Thess. 2:8
4. The willful King Dan. 11:36
5. The beast rev. 11:7, this title used 36 times in this book

A. His Old Testament Forerunners: just as Christ had a forerunner in the Old Testament so does the antichrist.

1. Cain – murder of the righteous Gen. 4:5-14
2. Nimrod – created tower of Babel and false god worship Gen. 10,11
3. Pharaoh – oppression of God's people Exodus 1
4. Korah – rebellion Numbers 16:1-3
5. Balaam – Curse's for money Numbers 23,24
6. Saul – Intruding in the priest office 1 Samuel 13:9-13
7. Goliath – proud and boastful of self-power. 1 Samuel 17
8. Absalom – attempt to steal the throne 2Sam. 15:1-6
9. Jereboam – substitute religion 1 Kings 12:25-31
10. Sennacherib – destroyer of Jerusalem 2 Kings 18:17
11. Nebuchadnezzar – created statute worship Dan. 3:1-7
12. Antiochus Epiphanes – Defiles the temple Dan. 11:21-35
13. Haman – tried to exterminate the Jews, book of Esther

4.HIS IDENTITY

A. Some believe the alrist will be a genlbecause he comes from sea.

He will be a Jew hiding as a gentile.

B. Some believe he will be a resurrected individual based on Rev. 13:3 and 17:8.

C. Some believe he will be Judas based on the following verses.

1. John 6:70,71 Judas as the devil
2. Luke 22:3 Satan enters Judas
3. John 17:12 Son of Perdition used twice of Judas
4. Acts 1:25 Judas goes to his own place
5. HIS RISE TO POWER

A. Through Satan

B. Through the Holy Spirit's permission

C. Through 10 nation league of the revived Roman Empire.

Ten dictators – the 10- Horns of Daniel 7:7

He will defeat three of them Daniel 7:8,24

The prophecy of the old Roman Empire is still unfulfilled Dan. 2:40-44

The Roman Empire is the last of 7 gentile world powers to plague the

nations. The seven heads of Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:7

Egypt- Exod. 1-12 Israel enslaved 400 years

Assyria- 2 Kings 17- captured Northern Kingdom

Babylon – 2 Kings 24 – Captured the Southern Kingdom

Persia – Esther 3 – Wicked Haman

Greece – Dan. 11 Antiochus Epiphanes

Rome – Luke 21 – Destroyed Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

D. through false religious systems Rev. 17

E. Personal charisma and ability

F. A false resurrection Rev. 13:3

G. A false peace Dan. 8:25

H. Through a plan of deception Matt. 24:24; Rev. 13:14. There are 91

occurrences of the phrase "to deceive" 22 pertain directly to antichrist

.There are three reasons that explain this deception.

1. Universal ignorance of God's word Matt 22:29

2. Fierce demonic activity 1 Timothy 4:1

3. The empty soul Luke 24:26

6. HIS ACTIVITIES

- A. He begins by controlling the western power block Rev. 17:12
- B. He makes a 7-year covenant with Israel, then breaks it at the three and one half-year mark. Daniel 9:27. There is ample scriptural evidence to show that the antichrist will allow the building of the temple. Dan. 12:11; Matt. 24:15; Rev. 13:14
- C. He gains absolute control over the Middle East after Russia invades Israel Ez. Chapters 38&39.
- D. He attempts to destroy the false religious systems Rev. 17:16&17.
- E. He attempts to destroy all of Israel Rev. 12.
- F. He sets himself up as God. Dan. 11:36; 2 Thess. 2:4-11; Rev. 13:5
- G. He briefly rules all nations. Psalm 2; Dan. 11:36; Rev. 13:16
- H. He is utterly crushed by the Lord Jesus Christ at Armageddon Rev. 19
- I. He is the 1st creature put in the lake of fire Rev. 19:20. Here is an article from the 1965 reader's digest by Jeanne Dixon. "A child born on February 5, 1965 in the Middle East will revolutionize the world and unite all warring creeds and sects into one faith. John 5:43

7. HIS AMAZING ABILITY TO IMITATE

HE will attempt to imitate the person and work of Christ.

- A. He comes in the very image of Satan Rev. 13:4; 2 Thess. 2:9
- B. He is the second person in the unholy trinity
- C. He comes up from the abyss while Christ came down from Heaven Rev. 11:7; John 6:38
- D. He is a savage beast; Christ is the lamb
- E. He receives his power from Satan Rev. 13:2; Matt. 28:18

F. He will receive the worship of all unbelievers Rev. 13:3,4,8 ; John 5:43

G. He will deliver mighty speeches Dan. 7:8 Rev. 13:5. Satan will provide

him vast knowledge of philosophy, science, wisdom Ez. 28:12

H. The greater part of his ministry will last some 3>5 years Rev. 13:5; 12:6,14

I. He will attempt to combine the 3 Old Testament offices of prophet, priest, and king.

J. His symbolic number is 6, Christ is 7 Rev. 13:18

K. He will kill his harlot wife Rev. 17:16,17

B.HIS COHORT THE FALSE PROPHET REV. 13:11-18

1 HIS IDENTITY: Who is this 2nd beast who is call^{ed} 3 times "the false prophet"

(Rev.16: 13; 19:20; 20:10) some believe he will be a Jew who will head up the apostate church.

2.HIS ACTIVITIES: This false prophet will mimic the Holy Spirit. This we can apply the following analogy between the Holy Spirit and the 2nd beast.

A. Holy SP^{irit} is the 3rd person of the triⁿity Matt. 28:19
false prophet is the 3rd person in the unh^{oly} trinity. Rev. 13:11-14

B. Holy Spirit glorifies Christ John 16:13-14.

False prophet glorifies the antichrist Rev. 13:12

C. Holy Spirit made fire come down at Pentecost Acts 2:3

False prophet will do likewise on Earth in front of men Rev. 13:13

D. Holy Spirit gives life Rom. 8:2

False prophet kills Rev. 13:15

E. Holy spirit marks all who belong to God Eph. 1:13

False prophet marks those who worship Satan Rev. 13:16-17

3.HIS MARK REV. 13:16-18

No other passage in God's word has had so much silly and serious speculation

than this one. How should we understand this number 666?
 In the ancient languages letters had numeric value, it is therefore possible to add the numerical value of a person's name and maybe arrive at 666. Some names, which have been so calculated, are Nero, Mohammed, Napoleon, Hitler, John Kennedy, and Kissinger. Notice the different letter combinations. When he comes, it will be obvious and unanimous who he is. The simplest explanation is this, 6 is man's number because he fell short. Man is a tri-part creature; body 6, soul 6, spirit 6. All three parts fall way short of God's perfection. He was to work 6 days and then rest. Nebuchadnezzar's image was 60 cubits high, 16 cubits wide. Whatever these numbers' deepest meaning may be, it limits him to man's level, far short of Christ. This mark is very important, for it is referred to again 6 times.

III. THE VIAL JUDGMENTS (14-16)

A. Those events preceding the vial judgments (14-15): these two chapters describe some heavenly action just prior to the vial judgments in ch. 16.

1. The song of the 144,000 (14:1-5)

- a. This group is the same as mentioned in chapter 7. There they are redeemed. Here they are raptured, notice Christ started with 144,000 and finished with the same 144,000.
- b. This group makes up the greatest numbered choir of all time!
- c. They sing a new song, accompanied by heavenly harps. (psalm 57)

- d. They are undefiled by women 14:4
- e. There is no guile in their mouth 14:5, also 2 Thess. 2:9-12
- 1. The messages from three special angels 14:6-12
 - a. The first message 14:6-7: An angel preaching the gospel to men, this has never occurred before this moment in time.
 - b. The second message 14:8: this angel announces the imminent destruction of political and economic Babylon Rev. 18
 - c. The third message 14:9-11: here is the last hellfire and brimstone message that will ever be preached to the unsaved. It is delivered not by

Jonathan Edward's or Billy Sunday but by an angel! Apparently no one responds to the invitation. Here God pours out his undiluted wrath as only before at Calvary. Northwestern University took a poll of the major denominations on whether they believed in a literal hell. 96% of Congregationalist, 30% of Lutherans, 96% of Episcopalians, 85% of Presbyterian, 92% of Methodist and 50% of Baptist said there was no such thing. This includes Billy Graham.

- 1. the message from the Holy Spirit 14:13
 - Up to this point in history the general rule is, blessed are the living (Ph. 1:23-24) but now it is better to die. It has been observed that this world is the only heaven the unsaved will ever know, and the only hell the saved will ever experience.
- 4. The first announcement of Armageddon 14:14-20
 - The full implications of these verses will be more fully discussed in Rev.

5. The sights and sounds of the temple in Heaven 15:2-4
 - a. John hears the songs of the triumphal 15:2-4
 1. What they sing- They sing the song of Moses and of the Lamb! 15:3
 2. Why they sing 15:4
6. John sees the smoke of the temple 15:5-8; Isaiah 6:1-8
 - A. Those events accompanying the vial judgments (rev. 16)
 1. The first vial judgment 16:2: germ warfare such as ebola and aids, worse than leprosy or cancer. Equal to the 6th plague of Egypt.
 2. The second vial judgment 16:3: water turns to corrupted blood of a dead man. At the 2nd trumpet one third ^died now all die, the stench and disease along the shores of the earth will be horrendous.
 3. The third vial judgment 16:4-7: 2 things stand out
 - a. This is an answer to the cry of the martyrs(6:10)
 - b. These verses indicate that God has a special angel over earth's waterworks. God is in control.
 1. The fourth vial judgment 16:8-9: The two most revealing verses on man is here and in ch. 9:20-21. What do these verses prove? That despite the most horrible disaster man will not repent.
 2. The fifth vial judgment 16:10: Poured out on his throne, this will be upon the 10 nations. And again they repented not of their deeds.
 3. The sixth vial judgment 16:12-14: The lord employs psychological warfare upon his enemies, conditioning them to gather together soon for Armageddon. The Euphrates River is 1800 miles long and 3600 feet wide and 30 feet deep it becomes both the cradle and the grave of man's

civilization. The first godless city was built by her banks (Enoch) and the last Babylon.

4. The seventh vial judgment 16:17-21 : 3 items are worthy of observation

a. It is done 2nd of 3 occurrences of this phrase. John 19:30 at calvary and in Rev. 21:6

b. World's greatest earthquake happens. The greatest recorded to date is

8.9 on the Richter scale in 1556 in Shensi, China. 830,000 people killed

this will seem like a tremor compared to this one which flattens all cities.

c. The greatest hail storm, each chunk weighing in at a 125 lbs of ice.

IV. THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WORLDS RELIGIOUS SYSTEMS 17:1

This is none other than the brutal, bloody, false church the wife of Satan. We will see the historical, current and future activities of this prostitute church.

A. The harlot viewed historically

1. Satan's church began at the tower of Babel. Gen. 11:1-9 some 24 centuries before Christ.

2. First full-time minister was Nimrod, Noah's wicked grandson. Gen 10:8-10

3. Secular history tells us he married a woman who was equally evil.

Semiramis claimed her son Tammuz fulfilled the prophecy of a savior.

4. She instituted a religious system where she and her son were worshipped.

She served as first high priestess. This system spread around the world.

- a. From Babylon it went to Phoenicia under Ashteroth and Tammuz
 - b. From Phoenicia to Pergamus. This is the reason for John's warning in Rev. 2:13
 - c. In Egypt the mother and child cult was known as Isis and Horus.
 - d. In Greece they went by Aphrodite and Eros.
 - e. In Rome it was Venus and Cupid
 - f. In China it was Shing Moo and her child. Some years ago, an artifact was uncovered dating some 200 years before Christ. It was a mother child statue.
1. What was the teaching of Semiramis
 - a. That she was queen of heaven
 - b. That she alone could administer salvation through sacraments.
 - c. That her son Tammuz was slain by a wild boar on a hunting trip.
 - d. That he was however, resurrected 40 days later. Thus her priestess entered a 40-day fast yearly leading up to the day he arose.
 - e. After the 40 day fast a feast was held called Ishtar. Were colored eggs were exchanged to symbolize resurrection. A green tree displayed and a Yule log burned. A cake with the letter T was eaten.
 1. About 200 b.c. God called Abram away from this. By the ninth century BC Israel returned to this under Jezebel in 2 Kings 16:30-33 under the name of Baal.
 2. Both Ezekial and Jeremiah warned against this Ez. 8:14; Jer. 7:18; 44:25
 3. By the time of Christ this cult had so influenced Roman life that the Caesar's were not only crowned Emperor but also Pontifex Maximus"

high priest "

4. During AD 306 a strong enemy threatened Constantine. He claimed he had a vision of a large blue flag with a red cross, along with a voice in that said

" in hoc signo vinces" in this sign conquer. He marched his army into a shallow river declared them baptized, had them paint cross's on their shields. The Roman priest of Tammuz discovered they could move into Christianity by changing some things such as Semiramis to Madonna and child and the sacraments. After 300 years trying to destroy the church from outside He changed tactics and took membership in the church. Christ preached against this in Matthew 23.

A. The harlot viewed currently: Is this false church at work today? Yes three

New Testament writers describe her.

1. Paul in 2 Timothy 3:1-5 and 4:3-4

2. Peter in 2 Peter 2:1

3. John in Rev. 3:15-17

This Harlot church will be composed of apostate masses of Protestants, Catholics, Jews and every other religion. Possibly headed by the world council of churches and national council of churches. Recent events in San Francisco help prove this view. A festival of Faith, men from Christian to Muslim 16,000 strong each praying to God in his own way, and at the end they had a responsive reading composed from the holy books of the 6 major

religions. Muslims Buddhists, Confucius, Jewish, Hindu, Christian.

A. The Harlot viewed prophetically

What will the future hold for this vile vixen? She throws all her weight

behind antichrist. For a while she will flourish in wealth and opulence. Then

things change (17:16). The reason behind this is her desire to control

antichrist. This has happened all through history. But he will not bow! He

will turn on her, and destroy her buildings, books, murder her priest. She

will meet her end not at the hands of saints, but antichrist. He detests her,

then despoils her, and then disgraces her. Then devours, and finally destroys

her. Let's summarize her future.

1. Her influence will be worldwide 17:1

2. This influence will be used to corrupt the entire earth 17:2

3. She will possess vast and unlimited wealth 17:4 wealth of R.C.C.

estimated at near 100 billion dollars

4. She is drunken with the blood of God's saints 17:3,7

5. She teams up for awhile with the beast 17:3,7

6. She has her name written on her forehead 17:5 In John's day it was

common for prostitutes to wear their name in jewelry on their forehead

7. She may have her headquarters in Rome 17:9 as Rome is the only city

built on 7 hills

V. THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WORLDS ECONOMIC SYSTEM REV. 18

We shall now trace economic and political Babylon through a twofold outline.

A. The location of the city: Is this city a literal one? Of that there seems no

doubt. It is an actual literal city that will outshine all other cities.

Headquarters for Antichrist: some believe it will be rebuilt on the Euphrates for the following reasons.

1 Ancient Babylon was never suddenly destroyed as prophesied in Isaiah

13:19.

2. The description of literal Babylon by Jeremiah in chapter 51 is very similar

to the one given by John in Revelation 18.

3. Babylon is said to be destroyed during the Day of the Lord, which is an

Old Testament term referring to the tribulation. Isaiah 13:6

1. According to Isaiah 14 Israel will enter into God's rest after Babylon is destroyed.

2. Archaeological discoveries have shown that bricks and stone from ancient

Babylon have been re-used for building purposes, contrary to the prophecy

of Jeremiah 51:26

3. Jeremiah predicts in chapter 24:17 that Babylon will drink of the cup of the

wrath of God last among the kingdoms of the earth.

4. The vision of the woman on the Ephah Zechariah 5:5-11 indicates a return

of wickedness and commerce to Babylon.

5. The destruction in Revelation 18 is best understood if taken literally.

Babylon is more than a city, it is an economic system such as Madison

Ave., Wall Street etc. news release of a few years back stated Iraq ministry

of antiquities will rebuild tower of Babel. It will be 300 feet high with a

base of 300,000 square feet. Iran will give 6 million dollars to aid this project.

A. The Description of the City

1. It had become the habitation of demons and false doctrine. (18:2) Also

Matt. 13:32.

2. Both rulers and merchants had worshipped at her shrine of silver. (18:3)

3. Her sins had reached into the heavens (18:5)

4. She had lived in sinful pleasure and luxury (18:7)

5. Her prosperity had blinded her to the judgment of God. (18:7) Verses 1117

comprise a list of 25 of the world's most expensive luxury items.

6. She had deceived all nations with her sorceries (drugs) (18:232)

7. She was covered with the blood of many of God's saints (18:24)

A. The destruction of the City: Rev. 14:8; 16:19; 18:1,2:

Babylon is being

rebuilt even now as a tourist attraction. Yet it will be used by Satan. This

city is mentioned more times than any other except

Jerusalem. Some 260

times in the Bible.

This city was founded by Nimrod in Genesis 10:8-10, it

occupied some 15

square miles with a wall 350 ft. high and 87 feet thick there were 250 watch

towers along with a large moat around the city. The cost to build it in that

day was 1 billion dollars. It possessed one of the Seven

Wonders of the

World the Hanging Gardens, which covered 400 square feet, rose up some

350 feet with stairs 10-foot wide to walk on. The tower of Babel was 300

feet high with one temple on top containing one statue worth 17.5 million dollars. All together the temple fixtures were worth 200 million dollars.

Let's see several features of her destruction.

1. The source of her destruction is God Himself. 18:8,20
2. The means of her destruction. Possibly an atomic explosion. 18:9,10,15,17,19
3. The reaction to her destruction: by those on earth 18:19; by those in heaven 18:20. There are only three events that cause heaven to rejoice.
 - a. when Satan is cast out ch.12:12
 - b. When Babylon is destroyed 18:20
 - c. When the lamb marries 19:7
4. The reasons for her destruction
 - a. She is the headquarters of all demonic activity 18:2
 - b. Her pride 18:7
 - c. Her gross materialism 18:12-13
 - d. Her drug activities 18:23
 - e. Her blood shedding 18:24
5. The Old Testament foreshadows her destruction
On October 13, 539 BC Babylon was captured by the Medes and the Persians. There are 5 reasons that great civilizations died.
 1. Undermining the sanctity of the home
 2. Higher and higher taxes. Money spent on lavish and useless programs
 3. Mad craze for pleasure. I.e. sports, relaxation , games of all sorts
 4. Building great arsenals of weapons, when the real enemy is within.
 5. The decay of religion; faith going into mere form.The phrase "history repeats itself" is an ominous thought for America. The average life span of the world's great civilizations is 200 years. These

nations progressed his way. From bondage to spiritual faith, to great courage to liberty to abundance to selfishness to complacency to apathy to dependence back to bondage.

VI. The Blood Bath at Armageddon Rev. 19:1-19,21

A. The glory feast of Heaven

Introducing a bride (19:1-10): This event is celebrated by heavens greatest word

' Alleluia" found only here in the New Testament and 24 times in the Psalms.

This is a celebration of the Lambs victory over the harlot, and his marriage to

the bride. (19:8) Dr. Lehman Strauss " Has it ever occurred to you that at the marriage, each of us will be wearing the wedding garment of our own making?"

B. The gory feast on earth.

Introducing a battle (19:11-21): There are five authors in the Bible that are chosen to describe in chilling and vivid detail this great battle.

They are David,

Isaiah, Joel, Zechariah, and John. Here are the passages that do so. Psalm 2:15,9;

Isaiah 34:1-6 and 63:3,4,6; Joel 3:2,9-16; Zech 12:2;

14:2,3,12; Rev. 14:14,20,

16:16, 19:11-21. Dr. Franklin Logsdon writes " a Norwegian academy of

science found that since 3600 BC. The world has known only 292 years of

peace in more than 55 centuries; there have been 14,531 wars large and small.

With more than 3.6 billion people killed. Since 650 BC. There have been 1,656

arms races, all except 16 ending in war, those 16 ended in economic collapse.

This war is the biggest, baddest, bloodiest most blasphemous of all. Let's see

the negative and positive of this war.

Negative

1. Armageddon is not the same as the Russian invasion. Russia invades from the north, in this one it is from all sides. Russia invades to capture Israel's wealth here to destroy the lamb and his people. Gog leads Russia, but antichrist leads in this one.
 2. Armageddon is not the final war in the Bible. The final one happens in ch. 20:7-9 at the very end of the millennial reign
- Positive

1. The location of the battle; From Megiddo on the north (Zech 12:11) to Edom on the south(Is. 34:5,6) about 200 miles from the Mediterranean Sea on the west to the hills of Moab on the East, nearly 100 miles. It includes the valley of Jehoshaphat (Joel 3:2,12) and the plains of Esdraelon. At the center is Jerusalem (Zech14: 1-2). Into this area will march nearly 400 million armed men. The Kings with their armies will come, this will truly be the "Valley of Decision" for all humanity (Joel3: 14) Into this sea of men God pours out his fierce wrath (rev.19: 15). There are 4 important names involved in the battle.
 - a. Valley of Jehoshaphat- a valley east of Jerusalem Joel 3:2
 - b. Valley of Esdraelon-a valley 20 miles long and 14 miles wide, north and west of Jerusalem
 - c. Megiddo – a flat plain in the valley of Esdraelon Zech. 12:11
 - d. Bozrah- a city in Edom, east of the Jordan and near Petra. It is the capitol of Edom. Marvin Vincent adds this " Every foe in the contest for

Palestine has camped here at Megiddo .Assyria to Napoleon In addition

in the Old Testament

1. Deborah&Barak defeated the Canaanites here Judges ch. 4,5

2. Gideon defeated the Midianites here Judges 7

3. Philistines defeated Saul here. 1 Sam. 31

4. David defeated Goliath 1Sam. 17

5. Egypt defeated and Josiah here 2 Kings ch 2,3

6. The reasons for the Battle: What draws all nations to this area. Here are the three most important reasons.

a. Because of the sovereignty of God, we are told God will gather them

(Is.34: 2)"He hath delivered them to the slaughter " Joel 3:2 also Zech.

14:2 says, " For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem"

Zeph. 3:8,

Rev.16:16

b. Because of the deception of Satan 16:13-14

c. Because of the hatred of the nations for Christ. Psalm 2:1-3; they realize

Christ's imminent return ch's 11:15 &12:12. They are Aware of his

touching down on the Mount of Olives. Zech. 14; 4. It is not unreasonable to assume they will gather to destroy Him at that time.

1. The chronology of the battle

a. The drying up of the Euphrates River 16:12

b. The destruction of Jerusalem: this is this is the saddest event. This will be

the 47th time this city has been taken over. Zech. 12:2; 14:2; Luke 21:20

-When Jerusalem is surrounded with armies, then desolation is close.

Movie science fiction has shown the earth united to fight all sorts of

invaders. However here it is not little green men or bugs, but Christ

Himself coming in glory to claim His Kingdom. Everyone was impressed

with the 160 hrs. Of the "Desert Storm" campaign against Saddam

Hussein. When Jesus attacks it will be a desert tornado, for the war on the

Beast and his allies will last at best an hour.

VII. The Destruction of the Antichrist and False Prophet ch. 19:20

Part four

The reign of the Lamb instituted chapter 20

I. The Great Chain (1-3)

Man has blamed their sinful state on Satan, so he is removed from their presence

to see how they will live.

II. The Great Resurrection (20:6)

A. the resurrection of Christ (1 Cor. 15:23)

B. the resurrection of believers (1Thess 4:16; 1Cor. 15:51-53)

C. The resurrection of Old Testament and Tribulation Saints (20:6)

D. The resurrection of the unsaved (Rev. 20:5,11-14): there are many passages

that speak on this resurrection such as Job 19:25-26; Psalm 49:15; Isaiah

25:8& 26:19; Dan. 12:2; Hosea 13:14; John 5:28-29; Hebrews 11:35

III. The great Reign 20:4,6

250 years ago Isaac Watts wrote a song based on Psalm 98

"Joy to the World" it

is sung at Christmas time, but has nothing to with Christ's first coming. In stead

it pertains to this one before us now. There are several things that will change

during this reign.

1. A revival of Palestine to Prominence as in David's time Joel 3:8; Amos 9:13

2. Changes In animals behavior Isaiah 11:6-9

3. Human life prolonged Isaiah 65:20-22

4. 7 Fold increase of light Isaiah 30:26 & 60:19-20

A. The Fact of the Millennium: this word is made up of two Latin words "mille"

or 1000 and "annum" or years (20:4). In the first 7 verses of chapter 20, 1000

years mentioned 6 times. Some still refuse to believe it will happen, they cite

2 Peter 3; 8 and then turn to Genesis and take 6 days and make them

thousands of years, which proves their inconsistency. There were at one time

3 major views of this time period.

1. Post Millennialism: The world will be Christianized, into a universal

society of saints. Then Christ will be asked to take command. This is

false, the Bible says that the world will get increasingly worse (1 Tim. 4;

1; 2Tim 3:1-5) This position was popularized by Unitarian Daniel Whitby

(1638-1726) It flourished until World War 1. Then Hitler's gas ovens put

it to rest permanently.

2. Amillennialism: This view says no thousand-year reign at all. The New

Testament church inherits all the promises and prophecies of Old

Testament Israel. This view also has for the most part died off except for

some localized groups, including some Baptists

3. Pre-Millennialism: This view holds that Christ is going to return just prior

to the Millennium and will conquer and rule during this 1000 year period.

Its roots begin in Apostolic Church times and are scriptural and prevalent today.

IV. The Great Revolt (20:7-10)

The eternal lake of fire will be Satan's final home. Look where he was, is, and will be.

A. In heaven, God's chief anointed angel Ezekiel 28:14

B. In heaven, God's chief adversary Job 1,2

C. On earth as antichrist spiritual guide Rev. 12:12

D. In the bottomless pit (Future rev. 20:10)

E. On earth again (20:8-9)

F. In the lake of fire (Future and forever) 20:10

Satan once free again will lead millions to revolt. Proving the inner hardness of

man's sinful heart. This immoral insurrection is doomed from the start (9-10)

this is the second battle of Armageddon or Gog and Magog 2

V. The Great Throne 20:11-15

A. The fact of this throne Hebrews 9:27; Daniel 7:9-10

G. The judge on this throne is Christ himself. John 5:22,27; Acts 10:40,42; 2

Tim. 4:1

H. The jury at this throne: 5 sets of books to be used

1. The book of conscience Romans 2:15

2. The book of words Matthew 12:36-37

3. The book of secret words Romans 2:16; Zech. 12:14

4. The book of public works 2 Cor. 11:15; Matthew 16:27

5. The book of life Ex. 32:32-33; Psalm 69:28; Dan. 12:1

A. The judged at this throne; only unsaved people will stand here Psalm 9:17

B. The judgment at this throne is the eternal lake of fire. Rev. 20:14-15; Matt

25:41,46

Part Five

The wife of the Lamb Introduced

Chapters 21-22

I. Her habitation- the fabulous city 21:1-22:5

A. The descent of this city 21:1-2: John here sees a new heaven and earth.

Between Rev. 20 and here the present earth is redone by fire
Matthew 24:35

1. The fact of this destruction Heb. 1:10-12; 2 Peter 3:10-11

2. The reason for this destruction: The rebellion is crushed,
the devil and all

his followers are in the lake of fire, all that remains is the stain
and taint of

sin on earth and heaven. God refines the earth to purge sin as
refiner

purges dross off of gold. Isaiah 48:10

A. The description of this city 21:3-22:5

1. The occupants: who will dwell in this shining city of the
stars.

a. The Father rev. 4:2

b. The son rev. 5:6

c. The Spirit Rev. 14:13

d. The holy angels in Heb. 12:12; Rev. 5:11 : these include

1. Seraphim Isaiah 6:1-7

2. Cherubim Rev. 4:6-8

3. Gabriel Dan. 8,9 Matt. 1

4. Michael Dan. 10,12; Jude 9; Rev. 12:7

a. The 24 elders Rev. 4:4,10-11

b. Saved Israel Heb. 11:16; matt 25:10,23; Rev. 14,15

c. The Church Rev. 19:1,7,8; 21:1,9-11

d. All the Redeemed Rev. 5:9; 7:9-10

e. Note who will be excluded: fearful, unbelieving, abominable,
murderers,

whore mongers, sorcerers, idolaters, liars. 21:8,27

1. the location of the city

A. Stationary city floating above the earth in space. Earth will
become its

satellite 21:24,26

1. The size of the city 21:16: 12,000 furlongs equals 1500
miles square it

would reach from New York to Denver Colorado, from Canada to Florida.

2. The shape of the city

Some see it as a cube, some as a ziggurat. It will be a pyramid in a globe of

diamond. The foundations causing a rainbow effect. The circumference of

the city will be some 8,164 miles in comparison the moon is 2,160 miles in

diameter. The New Jerusalem is 2600 miles.

3. the walls of the city: they measure some 216 feet high and made of Jasper

21:12,17

4. The gates of the city: There will be 12 of them, 3 on each side. Each with a

name of one of the 12 tribes inscribed on them. Each one is made of one

solid pearl about 150 miles wide each. They will never be closed. The pearl

is the most important aspect of these gates they set forth the church. Matt.

13:45-46. Pearl is a unique gem, it is not mined or found it is taken from an

oyster, a living organism. Each starts as a grain of sand that irritates the

oyster those then coats it with a fluid until the pearl forms.

The gates of

pearl will be a constant reminder to the church, that we are that grain of

sand that hurt Jesus. Who then covered us with his blood until he brings us

home?

5. The Foundations of the city: The city sets on twelve foundation stones each

being a precious gem.

A. First foundation –Jasper, bright clear as a diamond in the sun.

B. Second foundation- Sapphire blue opaque with gold specks

C. Third foundation – Chalcedony – sky blue with stripes of other colors through it.

D. Fourth foundation- Emerald- Bright clear green

E. Fifth foundation – Sardonyx – white with layers of red.

F. Sixth foundation – Sardis – a fiery red stone

G. Seventh foundation- Chrysolite- transparent golden yellow stone.

H. Eight foundation – Beryl- sea green stone

I. Ninth foundation- Topaz- golden transparent green.

J. Tenth foundation – Chrysoprasus- blue green stone

K. Eleventh foundation- Jacinth-

L. Twelfth foundation – Amethyst- flashing transparent purple.

Each foundation inscribed with an apostle’s name.

1. The Street of the city: a central boulevard in the city made of pure Gold.
Rev. 21:18,21
2. The throne of the city: It is described in Rev. 4:2,3,6
3. The river of the city : It is described in Psalm 46:4; Rev. 22:1
4. The tree of life in the city: Rev. 22:2: First found in Eden, banned from man after Adam’s sin. Gen. 2:9,3:24
5. The worship center of the city: Christ himself is the worship center Rev. 21:3,22
6. The light source of the city: Christ in his glory produces all the light needed. Rev. 21:23; 22:5
7. The Activities of the city: The popular view is that we will all be spirits sitting on clouds with harps & halos. This is good for movies but not true.
4 things for sure but not limited too.

A. Heaven will be a place of learning (1 Cor. 13:9-10) Eph. 1:15-21 is a prayer of Paul for their spiritual understanding to be opened fully. Since this isn’t possible in these bodies we will learn in the New Jerusalem. Eph.

3:12,17-19

A. Heaven will be a place of singing Heb. 2:9,12 also Isaiah 44:23; Rev. 5:9;

14:3; 15:3. It will no longer be a joyful noise, but heavenly praise. Holy glory for our worthy Lord.

B. Heaven will be a place of service (22:3,5) the full extent of what all this

service entails, is limited by our finite minds. (2 Tim. 2:12)

Tells us after

suffering for Jesus we will reign with him. I Cor. 6:2,3 tells us we will

judge the world and angels. (fallen) The universe is limitless after this.

C. Heaven will be a place of fellowship the question most asked is "will we

know each other in heaven?" The bible says yes. In Matt. 17:3 Jesus

spoke with Moses and Elijah centuries after they lived. John recognized different groups. The apex of this is in 1 Cor. 13:12. We will know and be known by all, most importantly by Jesus.

1. The duration of the city: Rev. 22:5; 22:11

II. HER HUSBAND – THE FAITHFUL SAVIOUR 22:6-21

A. His promise

1. To come surely (Vs 6)

2. To come quickly (Vs 7) also 12, 20

3. To reward the faithful. The more faithful we are, the greater our reward.

A. His Command verse 10: This book is to be studied, placed in our hearts and shared with others

B. His Self- description

1. Verse 1b He repeats 3 times with 3 different word groups, saying the same thing for emphasis on who He is. Jesus is the first and the last of everything.

2. Verse 16 declares His right to sit on the throne of David.

A. His Invitation (verse 17)

Notice the invitation is open to all that desire to be satisfied in their souls.

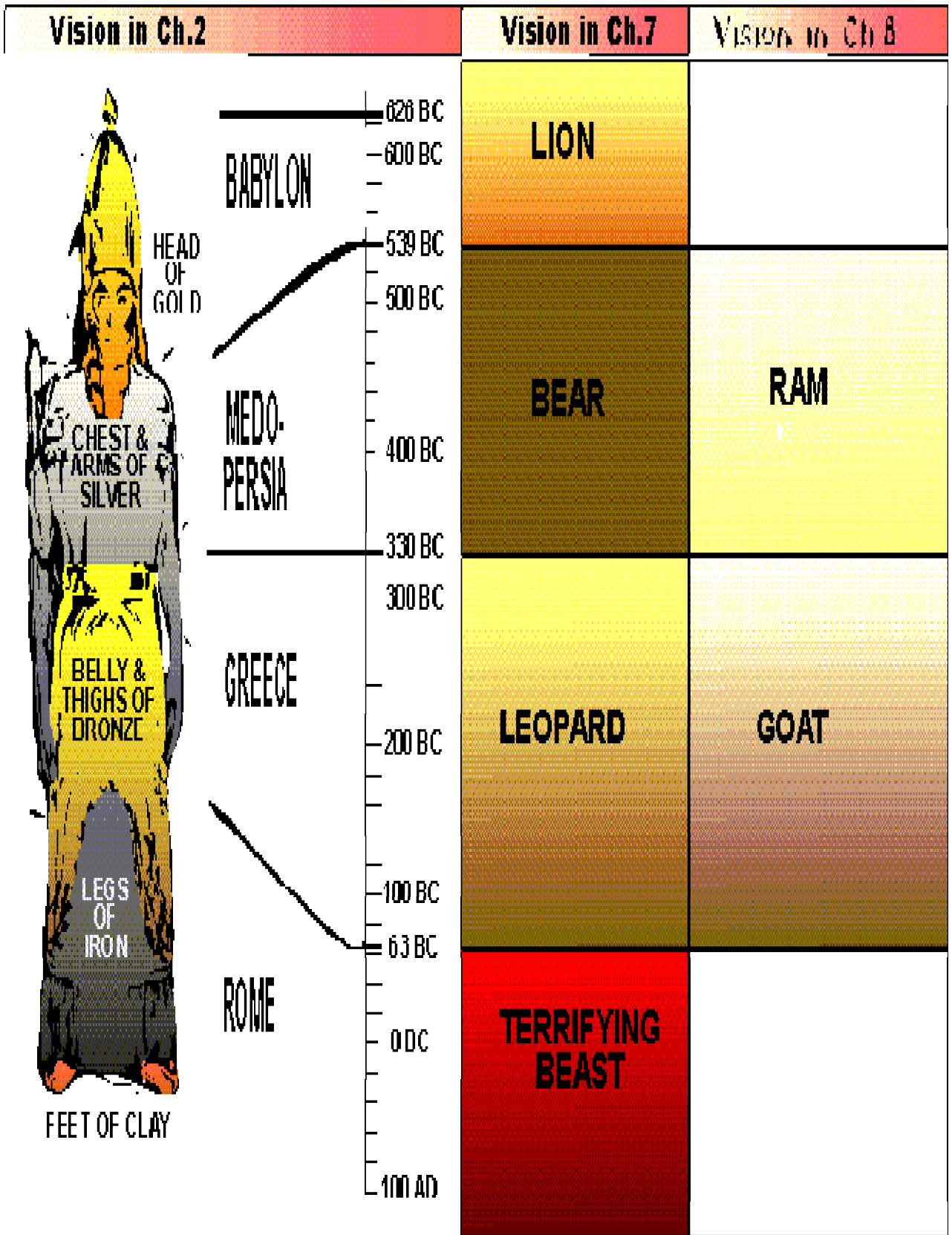
B. His Warning verse 18, 19

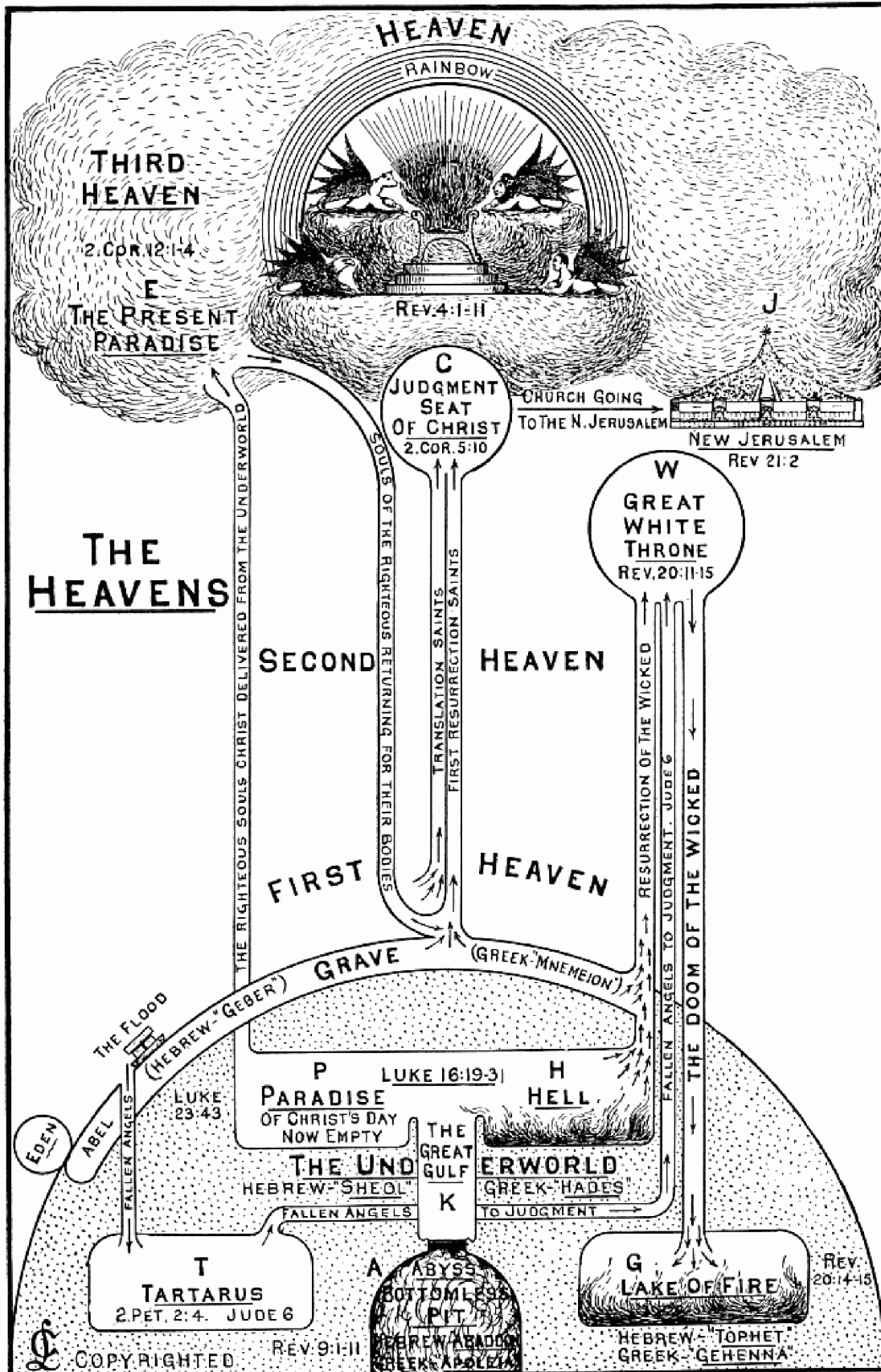
1. To add to God's word is to do what the cults would do!
2. To take from God's word is to do what the liberals do!

The first are those who try to supersede the Bible with some extra Biblical writings. Usually by the person who starts the group. The second is a reference to those who remove from the Bible those verses that they do not want to hear. Such as the Atonement, the blood sacrifice, virgin birth, etc. or to say some books or portions there of do not apply or simply do not exist; such as the Old Testament or even this particular book.

All God's word is here for our admonition and learning. It is a dangerous thing to do any of what I just said. Read, study, pray, see how God would use this to challenge you to a deeper life.

May God bless all who study this!





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| <u>Argentine ranchers cry help as drought kills cattle</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>World stocks hit by banking fears, Barclays slumps</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>Cholera kills 2,225 in Zimbabwe, infects 42,600</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>Powerful 7.3 Earthquake hits in eastern Russia near Japan: USGS</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>Russia issues tsunami alert after Earthquake</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>As lightning deaths soar, Cambodians look to superstition</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>Christian driver refuses to board bus carrying atheist slogan</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>Russia plans navy bases in Mideast and African ports</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |

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| <u>Battle over 10 Commandments rages on as Decalogue banned from display of historical documents</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>Mozambique floods kill 19; worse may lie ahead</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>Costa Rica earthquake deaths rise to 40, 25 still missing</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>Paris area synagogue hit in firebomb attack</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>Vietnam finds H5N1 Bird flu in smuggled Chinese birds</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>Fresh floods hit Fiji as heavy rain falls again</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>World markets sink on corporate earnings reports</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>Gay Anglican Bishop to offer prayer at Barack Obama inauguration</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>Soaring cost of living drives residents from California</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>UK economy downturn 'frightening'</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>Tony Blair Wants To Be President Of The Revived Roman Empire</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>Report: U.S. Surveillance Society Running Rampant</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>Pope Declares 'Holy War' on Phony Virgin Mary Sightings</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>In California, Hot and Dry Conditions Stir Drought Concerns</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>Nine dead, 200,000 displaced by floods in Philippines</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>Genetically Modified Crops Implicated in Honeybee Colony Collapse Disorder</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>New World Order Is Almost In Place</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>Big Brother's new target: Tracking of all firearms</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>Globalists cheer over impending collapse of U.S. Warning issued over drive for Constitution Convention</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>Search for 230 missing Indonesian ferry victims fruitless</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>67 missing after boat capsizes in Guinea-Bissau</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>Myanmar rat infestation causing food crisis: NGO</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>Rockets fall in northern Israel; Gaza fighting continues</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>STDs still on the rise, report says</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>World 'needs radical cuts' on CO2</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>Stockmarkets around world suffer worst year on record</u> | |
| <u>Israeli troops advance deep into Gaza City</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>New Tape From Bin Laden Urges Jihad Against Israel Over Gaza</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>Russian naval task force led by aircraft carrier docks at Syrian port</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |
| <u>5.0-magnitude earthquake hits West Papua, Indonesia</u> | Pastor Dale Morgan |

