

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

INTRODUCTION

AUTHOR: THE APOSTLE JOHN

External Evidence

1. Irenaeus (120-200) quotes every chapter of the book.
2. Tertullian (160-222) likewise, quotes almost every chapter and states that the Apostle John was the author.
3. Hippolytus (170-236) quotes extensively from chapters 17 & 18, also attributing the book to John.
4. Clement of Alexandria (155-220) and Origen (186-253) both agree, with both confirming the Apostle was on the Isle of Patmos Rev 1:9.
Eusebius (260-340) dates John's return from the Isle as immediately following the death of Domitian, which occurred in AD 96.
5. Irenaeus stated that John lived in Ephesus after returning from Patmos until the reign of Trojan (98-117).
6. His authorship was never questioned until the 3rd century AD.

Internal Evidence

Rev 1:1, 4, 9: 22:8

Time of the Writing

Taking the above historical references as true, John would have written the book in AD96 or 97. The death of Domitian by assassination occurred in AD96 and the Apostle was said to be released from his exile shortly after this.

Circumstances of the Writing

While on the Isle of Patmos, John received his visions and was told to write them in a book and send these writings to seven specific churches. Rev 1:9-11

Outline of the Book – How It is Laid Out

Prologue – Rev 1:1-8

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------|
| I | The things which John saw | Rev 1:9-20 |
| II | The things which are
Seven letters to the seven churches | Rev 2:1-3:22 |
| III | The things which shall take place after
these things | Rev 4:1-22:5 |
| | A. The Tribulation Period | Rev 4:1-19:21 |
| | B. The Millennium | Rev 20:1-15 |
| | C. The Eternal State | Rev 21:1 – 22:5 |

Epilogue – Rev 22:6-21

How We Will Handle The Text

We will not

- treat the text as a record of the conflicts of the early church with Judaism and paganism ending with a contemporary triumph of the Church.
- nor will we treat it as a description of persecution; that was experienced by the first century Christians.

We will

handle the text as futuristic at the time of John's writing and chapters 4:1 – end, as still futuristic in our day.

We will also treat the book by interpreting it literally, even while recognizing the frequent symbolism used, hence handling these symbols and their interpretation as being fulfilled in a normal way.

For example:

1. The various judgments of God are actually poured out on the earth as described in the seals, trumpets, and bowls.
2. Chapter 13 is a prophecy of the future world empire with 2 humans heading up both the political and religious institution, they being described as two beasts.
3. The harlot of chapter 17 is a real operating apostate church which will reach its apex during the literal 7 year (84 months of 30 days each, 2520 days) tribulation period.
4. All the events described (Rev 4:1-ff) relate to the climax of human history. Rev 2:1 – 3:22 describe both the conditions of seven literal churches which existed in John's day and are prophetic of the church age which began at the day of Pentecost and is about to end with the Rapture.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

CHAPTER 1

Prologue Rev 1:1-3

Vs 1 The Revelation (unveiling) of Jesus Christ in His present and future glory.
It is an unveiling of truth involving the future events surrounding, not only His Second Coming, but also the establishment of His kingdom.
Matt 24:3
It is the Father's plan for His Only Begotten Son.
That which David said would occur "in the latter days", Dan 2:28, is here described as "shortly", that is, quickly or suddenly coming to pass.
The idea is not that the event may occur soon, but that when it does, it will be sudden!
Note that the revelation is Given by God to Jesus Christ to show to His bondservants. Christ uses His angel to deliver the revelation along with using the Apostle John as the human agent.

Vs 2 John is an eyewitness. He received this revelation, himself!
He testifies to the truth that it is the Word of God.
He also testifies that this book is the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Vs 3 Verse 2 is the foundation for that which is said in vs3.
1. Blessed is he (singular) that reads
2. Blessed are they (plural) that hear
3. Blessed are they that heed those things which are Written. Rom 10:13-15
All 3 statements are in the present tense – implying continued reading, hearing and heeding.

This book is the only book of Scripture containing such a promise of blessing.

There are actually 7 "beatitudes" contained in this

Book: 1:3, 14:13, 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, 22:7,14

Note: The above statements "imply" that not all will read, hear, or heed this book.

This book, as a whole, is prophetic and its message is important "for the time is near!"

1. Daniel mentions the "end of time" 5 times:
Dan 8:17, 11:35, 40, 12:4,9
There will be a time when the end arrives!
2. John says "the time is near". Rev 22:10

3. The word used indicates "a season of time", rather than a specific hour.
The events described are near from the standpoint of prophetic revelation, rather than being "about to occur".
It is true that one day and one generation will be facing the hour, maybe hours!

Salutation – Rev 1:4-8

Vs 4 John is writing to Seven churches located in the western half of Asia Minor.

Grace is our standing before God.

Peace is our fully submitted experience.

Grace embodies God's attitude toward us along with His loving gifts.

Peace is the experience that results from Grace realized.

Grace and Peace are from:

1. Him who is, was, is to come Rev 4:8, 11:17, 16:5
2. The Seven Spirits who are before His throne:
each of the 7 Churches are said to have an Angel who is assigned to them.
Rev 2:1, 8, 12, 18 3: 1, 7, 14
God administers His Grace, using the created realm, especially angels. Heb 1:13-14

Vs 5-6 Note the source of this letter: John to...From Him....

From the Seven Spirits....From Jesus Christ

1. The faithful witness
Rev 3:14; 1 Thes 5:24; Heb 3:1-6; 2 Tim 2:3;
Rev 19:11
2. The first born of the dead
 - a. as to resurrection
1 Cor 15:21-22; Col 1:18; Heb 12:22-23
 - b. as to position
Col 1:15-16 (over creation)
Rom 8:29 (over church)
3. The ruler of the kings of the earth
 - a. as to position
Rom 13:1-2
 - b. as to practice
Eph 2:2; Rev 17:18; 19:1-2, 6
4. The one who loves us (present tense) keeps on loving us.
Rom 8:33-39

5. The one who released us (aorist tense) once for all by His own blood
Heb 9:22-28; 10:1-18
6. The one who made us to be a kingdom
1 Pet 2:9; Rev 5:9-10; Col 1:12-14
7. The one who made us priests to His God and Father 1 Pet 2:4-5
 - a. Rom 12:1-2
 - b. Eph 5:2
 - c. Heb 13:15
 - d. Heb 13:16

To Him belong everlasting glory and dominion.
Amen. "So be it".

Vs 7

Behold – "See" – He is Coming with the clouds

Jn 14:3; Acts 1:9-11; Matt 24:29-31; 26:64

Every eye will see Him (There will be two responses)

1. The nations (lost) that have fought against Him will mourn. Matt 24:30
2. Israel will rejoice Rom 11:25-29 "Even those who pierced Him" – Israel – Zech 12:8-10.
Even so, Amen – So be it – Yes, Lord!

Vs 8

The Jesus Christ of verses 5-7 is:

1. I Am
2. The Almighty
3. The Alpha and the Omega
4. The Lord God Who is, and Who was, and Who is to come.
Note in verses 4 & 5 that God the Father is described
Thus separate from Jesus Christ.
They are separate yet They are One.

Proof that Jesus Christ is the God of the Bible:

1. Rev 22:12-13 The One who is coming to render to every man according to what he has done is:
 - a. The Alpha and the Omega
 - b. The First and the Last
 - c. The Beginning and The End
2. Rev 1:8 The Alpha and the Omega
 - a. is the Lord God
 - b. is...was...is to come
 - c. the Almighty
3. Rev 1:17-18 The First and the Last (the Almighty)
 - a. the Living One

- b. was dead
- c. is alive forevermore

Jesus Christ is the God of the Bible – anything less ignores the revelation which God has given to us.

Isa 9:6-7; 26:19-21

(If we had the Old Testament only, we would think that it is the God of Israel – Father - ?? No, Not Correct – Jesus was also the God of Israel – That was coming after “indignation runs its course.” The New Testament is clear that it is Jesus Christ Who comes to earth at the end of the Tribulation. See my notes: “Christ in the Old Testament”

Isa 43:3; 44:6-8; 45:21-22; 49:26

The Things Which You Have Seen 1:9-18

Vs 9

I John

1. your brother
2. your fellow partaker (sharer)

2 Pet 1:1

a. in the tribulation

1 Pet 1:6-9; Jas 1:2-8;

b. in the kingdom

Col 1:12-14

d. in the perseverance – the hope of faith that results in endurance

Rom 5:1-5

Which are in Jesus Heb 13:12-13

The Island of Patmos is a rocky island 10 miles long and 6 miles wide in the Aegean Sea, southwest of Ephesus.

The early Church Fathers record that John, who was very old at the time, was exiled to work the mines there by Domitian.

It was under these difficult conditions that God revealed to John the end of the world that now is.

Note:

1. Moses wrote the Pentateuch in the wilderness while the generation he led out of Egypt all dropped dead.
2. David wrote many of his Psalms while being pursued by Saul.
3. Isaiah lived in the worst of times for Israel and ended

- up dying a martyr's death.
4. Ezekiel wrote in exile while his nation remained in captivity.
 5. Jeremiah's life was one of trial and persecution.
 6. Peter wrote his two letters shortly before martyrdom.
 7. Paul ended his life early awaiting execution.

All of the above, because of the word of God and the world's dislike and intolerance of it, John experienced in his life for the testimony of Jesus.

Vs 10-11 John was taken beyond his normal state into a state where God could reveal the contents of this book.

1. Ezekiel Ezk 2:2; 3:12, 14, etc
2. Peter Acts 10:10-17
3. Paul Acts 22:17-21

Such an experience was not common, but did occur.

John entered "the Lord's day" which is that which is described in the book.

Isa 13:6,9; Ezk 30:3; Joel 1:15; 2:1-ff, etc.

He heard behind him – a loud voice – like the sound of a trumpet.

"Write in a book"

Rv 1:11,19 (2:1, 8, 12; 3:1,7,14) 14:13; 19:9; 21:5

This message is to be written and sent to each of the Seven churches.

The message for each generation is the same.

Churches and ages differ – the message stands forever.

Vs 12 The voice came from behind John, when he turned, he saw seven golden lampstands.
Each church, represented by a lampstand is to shed light to the world in which it has been placed.
Matt 5:14-16; Rev 1:20

Vs 13-16 In the middle of the churches, John sees "the Son of Man".
Heb 2:17-18; 4:15-16
His clothes are that of a high Priest.

1. robe reaching to the feet Ex 28:2-4
2. a golden girdle across His breast Ex 28:29

3. hair whit like white wool, like snow
may signify age – Ancient of Days Dan 7:9
(and/or purity)
4. Eyes – a flame of fire
Judge as well as priest
1 Cor 3:10-15
Jn 5:22-23
Rom 14:10
2 Cor 5:10
Rom 2:16
4. Feet – burnished bronze
The altar and utensils of the
Tabernacle were all of bronze or
overlaid with it.
Ex 38:1-7ff
Its quality is stressed!
5. Voice – like the sound of waters.
6. His right hand – seven stars
Rev 12:1
The angels assigned to stand for
The seven churches (or representative
Of the churches)
7. His mouth – a sharp two edged sword
Heb 4:12
Rev 19:15

God has spoken – man has chosen not to listen –
Man Will Hear!!!

8. His face – the sun shining in its strength.

Vs 17-18

When John saw Him – John’s response

Not like Jn 13:22-25 – BUT LIKE:

Abraham Gen 17:3

Manoah Judges 13:20

Ezekiel Ezk 3:23; 43:3; 44:4

Daniel Dan 8:17

Jesus’ glory was veiled when He walked the roads of
Palestine in John’s day.

At the time of the writing of the book of Revelation,
Jesus has returned to the glory He had with the Father
before the world was. Jn 17:5

Jesus responded:

1. He laid His right hand upon John.
2. Fear not “I am” the first and the last
Isa 41:4; 44:6; 48:12-13
The God of the Old Testament, the God of Israel.
Rev 2:8; 22:12-14
3. The Living One – present tense, lives continually

4. who in time died, rose from the dead, is alive forever
5. As the One who conquered death, He has “the keys of Death and the place of the departed dead”. Rev 20: 13
He will release the souls of the departed dead to judge them.
He also has the key to Gehenna and no being will ever leave it. Heb 2: 14-15
Note: Having the keys of death – no man dies but by Divine decision.
Having the keys of Hades – Jesus Christ is Sovereign over the life to come.

Vs 19

Write therefore:

1. the things you have seen
2. the things which are – the present church age – chapters 2 & 3
3. the things which shall take place after the church age

Vs 20

The seven stars – the messengers of the church

The seven lampstands – the seven churches themselves

REVELATION

CHAPTER 2

That which follows is from the One who:

A. Holds the Seven Stars in His right hand

Rev 1:20

Stars - messengers (ministers) of the Seven Churches

What does God tell us about His relationship with the Stars?

1. Angels

Dan 12:1; Job 38:4-7; Isa 14:13

2. Stars in the heavens

Ezk 28:18

Ps 147:4

He knows each & every one of them

He knows their name! He named them

He placed them in the expanse Isa 40:26

He placed them so they might give light

Jer 31:35

Isa 13:10-11

He stops them from shining -

speaking by means of their

absence Ezk 32:7

Does He have a similar relationship with the shepherds of His Flock?

B. Walks among the Seven Golden Lampstands

Rev 1:12-13, 20

Churches (individual believers when gathered - Mt 18:20)

1. Jesus is not speaking as One from heaven He is in their midst! He has never left. He shares in our experiences.

Even when we have fallen, He does not leave us.

2. Corporate - revelation

He cares about the local "bodies of Christ"

a. not just the perfect ones

b. if it's a church - He is in its midst.

Thoughts Concerning The Seven Letters

1. Taking a "futuristic approach" to the book:

a. The Seven Letters appear to present the progression of the Church Age from Ephesus, being characteristic of the Apostolic Period in general, downward to the climaxing in Laodicea, which is the final state of apostasy in the Church.

b. Many also believe that the Churches were chosen because they represent the basic type of church in each of the consecutive ages that will exist.

2. There are similarities when comparing the Letters:

a. Each message begins with "I know your..." (deeds being the most common facet)

- b. Each offers a promise “to him that overcomes”
- c. Each has the same concluding sentence – “He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches”
- d. Each letter contains a description of the Lord
- 3. Most of the letters contain words of warning while all contain words of promise.
- 4. In General, these messages are letters of reproof, rebuke, and reassurance.

THE CHURCH IN EPHESUS Vs 1 – 7

Note:

- 1. Paul had ministered for three years in this city. Acts 19:1-20:1
 - a. His ministry had produced widespread effects. Acts 19:10-12; 18-20 20:17-21
 - b. His preaching of the gospel had affected the worship of Diana (Artemis) Acts 19:23-41
 Note: The temple of Diana which had been built in Ephesus was considered to be one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

- 2. Timothy had been left in Ephesus by Paul to strengthen the church and correct the strange doctrines that were being taught there. 1 Tim 1:3
- 3. The Church Fathers tell us that the Apostle John settled to minister in Ephesus upon being released from Patmos.

Jesus Christ is said to be the One who holds the “messengers” of these churches in His right hand, a place of sovereign protection and Divine authority over them and He is a continuous presence throughout the entire Church Age.

Vs 2 – 3 He knows:

- 1. Their deeds (labor) and toil
- 2. Their perseverance (patience)
- 3. Their response to those who are evil
- 4. Their response to those who are in theological error
- 5. That their labors are motivated “for My Names’ sake” and they have not grown weary

Vs 4 – 5 Their fatal flaw - They have left their first love!

By Interpretation – What is the Biblical History of the Church at Ephesus?

- 1. Their defect was a matter of heart, rather than head or will.
The love that they once had, had grown cold.

2. Thirty years prior to John's writing, the Apostle Paul described this Church's condition.
Eph 1:15-16
3. The Apostolic Church began as a post-Pentecost Church.
Acts 2:41-43
It was characterized by love and devotion –
 - a. for Christ, Himself
 - b. to the Word of God
 - c. to the saints by seeking fellowship with them
 - d. to the promise of Christ's soon appearing
2 Tim 4:8
4. The Church of Ephesus is now, at the time of John's writing, a "2nd generation church".
They apparently continued the motion but had lost the motivation.

Note: Our affections end up determining our actions.

1 Tim 6:10; 1 Jn 2:15; 5:21; Matt 10:37; 1 Cor 7:34
To correct any departure from God, the first step is to go back to the place of departure.

Their sin results in a warning from the Lord.

The church (body) will cease to exist if they do not "repent".

(See notes on repentance contained in our 2nd Peter, chapter 3 verse 9 study).

Failure to repent results in temporal judgment.

Vs 6 This church is commended for hating the enemies of the truth.
To love all is often unbiblical!

The church of Pergamum had those who embraced these same false teachers at a later date.

Rev 2:15

Oh that we might take a stand and hate more.

Ps 139:21-22

What God hates, the Christian ought to hate as well.

The modern tendency to blur distinctions of moral and theological truth has lead the Church and its' people down the path to where we find ourselves today.

When becoming Christian becomes popular, the conscience of the Church quickly blurs.

When there is no difference between being a part of the church and being a part of the world, maintaining biblical doctrine becomes difficult.

Replacing the Bible with Psychology and/or philosophy (paperback Christianity) often becomes the beginning of the end

Note: We are not sure who the Nicolaitians were. Some believe that they were followers of Nicolas (possibly the same man named in Acts 6:5).

The early Church Fathers mentioned a sect which advocated "license" in the area of conduct that were known by this name.

Vs 7 Hearing followed by action is what God is desiring (demanding- their lampstand will be removed.)

Rom 10:13-14

Though the message is directed to the church and the church's continuation is determined by its response; the ultimate effect will be upon the individuals who make up the church.

Overcomers will be recognized!

As to the Tree of Life – it is first found in the Garden of Eden, (Gen 3:22), and is later found in the new Jerusalem.

Rev 22:2

From Revelation, chapter 22, it would appear that prospering in the millennium is the result that overcomers can anticipate.

Elsewhere all true Christians are said to be overcomers.

1 Jn 5:4-5

THE CHURCH IN SMYRNA – Vs 8 – 11

The apostolic church of the first century with all the power and prestige brought to it by the apostolic presence was replaced by a suffering church

that continued until Constantine reigned in the beginning of the 4th century.

Jesus Christ describes Himself as the eternal God who has always existed in

The past and will always exist in the future. He is also the One "who became

Dead" and He is the one who lives because of His own resurrection.

Vs 9 He assures them that He knows of their oppression by their enemies and their abject poverty (having been robbed of their goods in the process of their persecution.)

He reminds them that they have actually become rich.

2 Cor 6:10

Their persecutors were dominated by hostile Jews empowered by Satan, himself.

Rom 2:28-29

Being a Jew was of no benefit in the sight of God if not accompanied by faith.

Rom 4:12

Vs 10 – 11 Their present persecution (95-96 AD) is only the forerunner of that which is going to come.

The devil will yet cast some from within the church into prison doing all that is in his power to stamp out their testimony.

1. God will allow this. Job 1:8-13a; 2:1-7
2. It will be a test. Jas 1:2-3; 1 Pet 4:12-14
1 Pet 1:6-7 (Heb 11:17)
3. It will last but 10 days; a long time from the human's perspective, but a moment in the eternal plan of God (about 200 years).

4. That which God requires – Be faithful until death!

Note: It is not difficult to understand why the ungodly suffer, but why the Godly Lord!

There are many reasons given in the Bible for suffering:

- a. discipline
1 Cor 11:30-32; Heb 12:3-13
- b. preventive action
2 Cor 12:7
- c. as a teaching method
Heb 5:8
- d. development
Rom 5:3-5
- e. bear a better testimony for Christ
Acts 9:6
- f. many cases are left unexplained.
Death often ends up being the fruit of belief.

Heb 11:35-40

5. The Crown of Life – The glories of eternal life are in contrast to the trials of martyrdom. Note: There are other Crowns listed as rewards for the overcomers:

- a. for those who exercise self-control
1 Cor 9:24-27
- b. for those who minister in the lives of other believers
1 Thes 3:19-20
- c. for those who have lived in a state of expecting His appearing

2Tim 4:8; 1 Jn 3:2-3

d. for shepherds who have cared for
God's flock - 1 Pet 5:1-4
in contrast to false shepherds- Ezk 34:1-10

Vs 11 He who overcomes – shall not be hurt by the second death.
Rev 20:6
(The Second death is described in Rev 20:14)

THE CHURCH IN PERGAMUM – Vs 12-17

Vs 12 Christ has the sword, the two-edged one, the sharp one.
(The Word of God) Rev 1:16; 2:12,16; 19:15,21; Heb 4:12
(The Word of God is that which will judge. Jn 12:47-48)

As to the sword being double edged:

1. It separates the vessels of grace from condemnation.
It cuts loose the chains of sin which bind us.
2. This same word becomes the means of condemnation
for those who reject the grace of God.

Vs 13 Pergamum is said to be the place where Satan's throne is...where Satan dwells..

The people of this city worshipped two successive religions which used the serpent as a symbol. The first referred to its deity as the serpent god.

1. Asklepios was the god of healing. Snakes and the handling of reptiles was central to the worship.
A Pergamum coin shows the emperor Caracalla standing with a spear in one hand before a great serpent entwined around a branch.
Another archeological find describes the same god enthroned with a staff in one hand and the other on the head of a serpent.
2. An altar to Zeus was discovered in 1871. This altar bears the inscription dedicating it to "Zeus the Savior".

Christ commends them that in spite of their evil environment the Christians have held fast to His Name and not denied the faith.

Eph 4:4-6

These believers were holding fast even though one of theirs, Antipas, had been killed.

Heb 12:3-4

Pergamum also became involved with emperor worship (imperial cult) during the Roman period. Tradition says that Antipas died by burning in a brazen bull during Domitians' reign.

Vs 14-15

Rebuke for Compromise

Vs 14

First area of Compromise – held the teaching of Balaam
Num 31:13-16 followed by
Num 25:1-15

The reference may well mean that the believers of Pergamum were joining themselves with the pagan citizens of the city.

To allow yourselves to be “unequally yoked” with unbelievers in any way will take its toll over time.

2 Cor 6:14-18

A prime example is that of Solomon's experience.

1 Kg 11:1-8

Note: The “teaching of Balaam” is different than
“the way of Balaam” which is selling one's
prophetic gift for money.

2 Pet 2:15; Num 22:7, 15-22; Jude 11

Vs 15

The Second Area Requiring Rebuke

Rejection of the teaching of the Nicolaitians Rev 2:6 has
reversed to acceptance of it.

A believer and/or a church can never let go, compromise, and accept
wrong teaching.

It never goes away; hundreds of years later the threat remains as Strong
as it was in the beginning.

Vs 16

The God-given Requirement – Repent or Face Temporal
Judgment.

This Church has positioned itself so that Jesus Christ becomes its foe.
That which can correct, The Word of God, becomes that which
condemns.

There is no alternative to compromise with the truth except that of
Divine judgment.

The apostasy which is seen in its early stage in this Church will grow into
the future apostate Church found in Rev 17.

Vs 17

To him that overcometh...

1. hidden manna

a. manna is traceable to the book of Exodus.

God provided manna for the Israelites sustenance.

Ex 16:1-12, 32-35; Heb 9:4

b. Jesus spoke of Himself as the manna which the Father sent from Heaven which provides so sufficiently that those who receive it will never hunger again.

Jn 6:48-51

>Christ is the manna (food) that sustains believers eternally.

Jn 6:27

>He is the only manna that satisfies the spiritual hunger of man.

Jn 6:35

aa. He is hidden from the unsaved who are said to "not know God"

1 Jn 4:7-10

bb. He is known by us in part now.

We will know Him in a fuller sense when He comes for us.

1 Jn 3:1-2

An overcomer will know Him as He can be known.

2. White Stone – Several possibilities are given but no conclusion is possible.

a. Taken from the Roman custom of wearing a white amulet inscribed with the name of a god. Worn in such a way that only the wearer knows the name inscribed.

b. The white stone may be similar to the stone found on the high priest's headdress.

Ex 28:36-38

c. It may be similar to the stones which God wrote His moral law on.

Ex 31:18; 32:16; Jer 31:33

d. No definitive explanation really satisfies – the significance has been lost to the generation that received the revelation.

3. A new name written

Isa 56:5; 62:2-4; 65:15-16; Rev 3:12; 14:1; 22:1-4

Whatever the meaning of the white stone or the name that is written, it seems to signify Christ's favor to the overcomers and is recorded as a motivation to those who find themselves in an historical situation where a decision must be made to stand on the truth and separate from the compromisers that surround them.

THE CHURCH IN THYATIRA – Vs 18-29

Vs 18 To this church the one speaking is the "Son of God" rather than the "Son of Man" (Rev 1:13)

1. Son of God –

- a. Christ referred to Himself as "Son of Man" far more often than He did "Son of God".
- b. He accepted the title whenever it was used by others and the fact that He declared Himself to be so became the basis for the Jewish leaders to charge Him with blasphemy in His trial.

Lk 22:67-71

c. Also note: Jn 10:31-33

- d. As the "Son of God" in John's gospel >He has life in Himself just as the Father does.

Jn 5:26

- >He must be honored in the same way as the Father is.

Jn 5:23

- >On the Divine side He has a Father and on the human side He has a God.

Jn 20:17

- e. Christ's resurrection declares His Deity – Rom 1:1-4

2. Son of Man –

- a. Christ almost universally referred to Himself by this title

Matthew – 30 times

Mark – 15 times

Luke – 25 times

John – 12 times

- b. Hebrews tells us why the title Heb 2:17-18 along with Mk 10:45

One would suppose that Christ used this name because it is appropriate for the situation that the Church of Thyatira has put herself in.

See the notes on Rev 1:14-15 concerning His eyes and His feet

Vs 19 Christ commends the Church for her deeds, love, faith, service, and perseverance, and that they are increasing over time unlike the Church in Ephesus.
Rev 2:4-5

Note: When considering the Indictment, this Church is considered to be the Church of the Middle Ages.

1. This Church sought to combine Christianity with the pagan religions it came in contact with, absorbing the ceremonies of these religions into Christianity.
2. They began exalting Mary to the role of deity and that of co-redeemer, teaching that intercession to God must be made through her.
3. Idols in the form of religious statues were introduced.
4. Turning observances into sacraments began.

Heb 10:1-18

Vs 20 Indictment – Thyatira had a Jezebel

1. The Jezebel she was named after is found in:

1 Kgs 16:28-22:40

a. She was responsible for killing Naboth for possession of his vineyard

1 Kg 21:1-16

b. She killed practically all the prophets of the Lord and did what she could to kill the prophet Elijah.

1 Kg 19:2

c. She was so wicked that God determined that a special death was warranted for her.

1 Kg 21:23; 2 Kg 9:22-37

2. The Jezebel of John's day

a. calls herself a "prophetess"

Historical Note:

There are several women called "prophetess" in the OT

Ex 15:20; Jdg 4:4; 2Kg22:14; Neh 6:14; Is 8:3; Lk 2:36

This ministry is seen continuing into the NT church times.

Acts 2:17; 21:9; 1 Cor 11:5.

The function of a prophetess does not appear to be any different when comparing the two testaments.

b. John's problem with Jezebel is not that she calls herself a prophetess, but rather that she teaches and thereby leads John's bond-servants astray; the result

being:

>they commit acts of immorality (associated with idol worship).

The word for committing adultery is used rather than the one for fornication; this not being the word John uses throughout the book may mean that violation of the marriage covenant.

>eat things sacrificed to idols

1 Cor 8:1-3; 10:25-33; Rom 14:1-23

Vs 21 Christ had given Jezebel time to repent. 2 Pet 3:9-10 and she does not want to repent.

Vs 22 Rather than dispose of her, God uses her to purge the church of those who would join her in her bed.

Joshua 2:20 – 3:1

Tribulation is what awaits the Church and her people when they sin; and repentance is the only acceptable solution for the fallen people of God.

Vs 23 The consequence for the Churches' sin will extend down to her children – those who are reached by her.

The judgment will be so dramatic that all the Churches will know that Christ is the One who searches hearts and minds.

Vs 24-25 Exhortation to the godly remnant

The evil character of the followers of Jezebel is such that they are apparently beyond the point of being retrieved.

1 Jn 5:16-17

To the rest, what you have, hold fast.

Vs 26 The invitation found in this letter is directed to Believers, who meet 2 requirements:

1. He who overcomes - found in every letter

2. He who keeps my deeds until the end - found only in this letter

Continuing in the "Works of God" appears to be a requirement if one hopes to reign with Christ.

Jn 6:28-29

The Apostle John further tells us what such a continuation looks like.

1 Jn 3:2-3

Consider 2 Tim 2:11-13; Rev 20:4; while these passages clearly state that believers reign with Christ, Rev 2:26 may not.

A proposition that might be considered!

1. All who believe go to heaven.
2. Those who are unfaithful will not share in the millennial reign of Christ at all.
3. Those who "pass the test" will participate in the 1000 years, ruling with and for Christ.

Note: As to God's focus throughout the 1000 year reign, see my notes.

Vs 27

Quotation taken from Ps 2:1-9

1. The world rulers will rebel against God and His anointed King. Vs 1-3
2. God has decreed that King Jesus be established on Mt Zion. Vs 4-6
3. Jesus was "begotten" by the Father, that He might reign over the peoples of the earth. Vs 7-8
Acts 13:26-39; Heb 1:5; 5:5-6; Phil 2:5-11
4. The first time He came, He came lowly and riding on a donkey.

The second time He comes, He will come in power and great glory. Vs 9
Rev 19:11-21

Vs 28

Verse 26 "To Him I will give authority over the nations", as a quotation from Ps 2:8, is a reference to Christ reigning, not believers!

If the intent is to speak of believers reigning, then 2 things are said of them:

1. They will be given authority over the nations
 2. They will be given the "morning star"
- If the first refers to Christ, then the second stands alone as a promise to him who overcomes, who keeps Christ's deeds.

Morning Star:

2 Pet 1:16-19

When the morning star arises in our hearts, Jer 31:31-34 will be fulfilled.

Rev 22:16

Jn 14:21

Final Thought:

Is there a difference in glory, star from star?

1 Cor 15:39 - 41

Is there a difference between those who "know" Jesus
in eternity?

THE BOOK OF REVELATION CHAPTER 3

The Church in Sardis - Vs.1-6

Vs. 1 - Jesus describes Himself with the same terminology He used to introduce Himself to the seven churches - Rev.1:4,16. The seven spirits who stand before Him in the Rev.1:4 are said to rest on Him in Is.11:2-5; Rev.5:7.

- 1) Spirit of the Lord
- 2) Spirit of wisdom and understanding
- 3) Spirit of council and strength
- 4) Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord

He is qualified to judge righteously, and He will judge the church in Sardis. The leaders of the churches are held in Christ's hand, which means that they are responsible to Christ and will be required to give an account to the Lord Himself.

This church has a reputation - a name - the world is unimpressed, but Christ knows their deeds - that they are really dead!

NOTE: There is no commendation for this church, just judgment if she doesn't wake up - a church with a name, but no real substance; Successful in the world's eyes but empty in Gods.

Vs. 2 - Wake up (as a church) Eph.5:15-17 esp. vs.14 (as individual members of the church). Strengthen the things that remain, which are dying. Their works are not achieving God's will - Heb.10:7-10.

Vs. 3 - Remember

- 1) what you have received - Lk.12:48
- 2) heard
- 3) keep it "and"
- 4) repent

If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief at an hour you won't expect - Mt.24:42-44; 25:13; I Thes.5:2-6; 2 Pet.3:10. (It will always be unexpected when we live not expecting).

Vs. 4 - Invitation and promise to the godly remnant. The white garment is the righteousness of the saints - not the righteousness of God - Rev.19:8. Character and service will ultimately be manifested outwardly.

Vs. 5 - To the overcomers (there are overcomers in every church).

- 1) white garments Rev.4:4; 6:11; 7:9,14.
- 2) name remains in the "book of life" - Ex.32:32-35; Ps.69:22- 28; Rev.13:7-9; 17:8; 20:15; 21:27.
- 3) confessed before Christ's Father
- 4) confessed before Christ's angels - Lk.12:8-9.

Vs. 6 - He who has an ear!

THE CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA - VS.7-13

Vs.7 - He who is Holy - definition - God, morally perfect - I Jn.1:5; I Tim.6:14-16. What are the implications for us?

NOTE: The God of Israel is called "the Holy one of Israel" - Is.1:4; 5:24 etc... Is.6:1-5.

"The Holy one of Israel" is Jacob's Redeemer! Is.41:14; 43:14.

"The Holy one of Israel" is Israel's God and Savior - Is.43:3.

He is Israel's King - Is.43:15.

There is no God but Him - Is.45:5-7, 21-25.

He will enter the human race - Is.9:6 to save - Is.52:14; 53:1-12; Lk.1:26-35.

He will reign from David's throne - Is.9:7; Rev.19:11-16.

This one who is "the Holy one of Israel" in the O.T. is Jesus Christ in the N.T. For there is only one who is Holy - Lv.11:44-45; I Pet.1:14-16 (good Mt.19:16-17)

He who is Holy is the one writing to the seven churches.

He who is true - Jn.1:1, 14, 17; 5:30-34; 8:31-32, 44-47; 14:6 (Mt.22:16) Jn.19:35.

Pilate asked the question - Jn.18:38. John has given us the answer - Jn.19:35.

God planned it this way - Jn.14:25-26; I Jn.1:1-3.

He who has the key of David - Is.22:15-25 esp. vs.22 and 23.

Historical Reference:

1) Shebna - steward who is in charge of the royal household will be replaced by Eliakim - vs.15, 19-20.

2) The God of Israel will

a) clothe him - vs.21

b) give him authority - vs.21

c) the key of the house of David will be set upon his shoulder - Lord keeper vs.22

1) He will control the wealth of the house of Judah.

2) He will control the positions filled within that house.

3) He will be second only to the king.

3) Jesus Christ is the Head of the coming house to be built, all wealth and position will come from Him!

Vs. 8 - Our entire life lays open before His eyes - not what we have believed but rather what we have done.

In the context of this statement, it is the church as a body which is being spoken of.

There is a "body life" as well as an individual life; A joint testimony.

Christ has put before this body of believers an open door - no one can shut it, and they must walk through it!

The open door would not lead the body into...

1) political power

2) a social gospel

3) defending the weak

Christ's open door would lead...

This body of believers has "a little power"

(No word of rebuke – their "little strength" forms the basis for their commendation.)

- 1) They have kept my Word
- 2) have not denied My name

Vs. 9 - Behold, I will cause those who bear the name "Jews" (should have rejoiced in my saving work in their life, should have known - Rom.9:1-5; Eph.2:11-22; Rom.2:17-29).

Bear the name that connects them with me and yet they belong to "the synagogue of Satan" - Jn.16:1-3 (manifesting the outward markings of Christianity but not possessing the inward life makes you an automatic member of Satan's church - there is no in between position).

lie - Jesus doesn't hold back on His judgments; liberals are not another branch of the church, they lie, they belong to Satan.

There is a promise to those who have possessed even "a little power".

- 1) Those who have belonged to Satan's synagogue will be made to come and bow down at their feet.
- 2) made to know - the Jesus Christ who has loved them.

NOTE: It won't happen to them in this life time, but there is an eternity to come and it will happen! Phl.12:5-11; Rom.8:14-18.

Vs. 10 - Because you have ... I will...

- 1) "kept the Word" - which is the foundation perseverance rests upon - Rom.15:4.
- 2) "hour of testing" Mt.24:9-28; Ezk.20:33-44; Rev.6:1 - 19:7.
- 3) "keep you from"
 - a) There is a difference between being kept from and kept through the hour. The 144,000 (Rev 7:1-8) are kept through while the church of ... is kept from (pre - tribulation rapture).
 - b) The church John. wrote to has all died and none of them will experience the hour. This argues that the church of Philadelphia is a prophetic type of a (the) church that will be in existence when the tribulation occurs.
 - c) Believers during the tribulation will experience the full effect of that hour - Rev.6:9-11. This would argue that believers of the tribulation are not a part of the church; Israel is Satan's focus and there is no indication that they will be a part of the church.

For these believers will be delivered out of the tribulation to prosper throughout the millennium.

Rev.12:1-17; Rom.11:25-29. Mt. 25 speaks of the humans who will be invited to enter the kingdom; Jews and Gentiles are the only people mentioned. (also note Deut.30:3-9). All of the above argues for a pre-tribulation rapture.

NOTE: Some additional reasons for a pre-tribulation rapture:

- 1) The "trial" that is to come upon the earth is directed toward "Jacob" (Israel), not the church - Jer.30:7.
- 2) Daniel's 70th week is about Daniel's People and his city - Dan.9:27; 12:1.
- 3) Revelation 6-18 speaks about it in detail, never mentioning the church unlike Rev.1:1 - 3:22.
- 4) It is stated as a time to test "those who dwell upon the earth", not the church - Rev.3:10, 6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 13:8, 12, 14; 14:6; 17:2, 8.
- 5) Christ's bride (church) is seen as being in heaven, clothed, before the return of Christ occurs - Rev.19:7-9.
- 6) Also see II Thess.2:1-12 and I Thess.4:13-18.

Vs. 11 - (Remember II Pet.3:9-15).

Vs. 12 To the overcomer - this blessing:

- 1) He will become a pillar in the temple of Christ's God.
 - } The pillar cannot be taken literally because there is no temple in the new Jerusalem - Rev.21:22. It must, therefore, be intended to visualize a spiritual reality.
 - a) a place of prominence - Gal.2:9.
 - b) experience permanence, security, and position in God's eternal home (never to go out again) 2 Chr.3:15-17. Just as the kingdom cannot be shaken, - Heb.12:28 - neither will the overcomers be shaken.
- 2) Three names will be written upon them.
 - a) the name of Christ's God - Num.6:24-27; Jer.33:14-16.
 - b) the name of the City of Christ's God - Rev.21:9-10; 22:14; Heb.12:22-24.
 - c) Christ's new name - Rev.2:17.

Vs. 13 - He who has an ear...

THE CHURCH IN LAODICEA - VS.14-22

Vs. 14 - The Amen - "so be it" of God - He is sovereign and His promises will be fulfilled - 2 Cor.1:20. When Christ speaks, it is the final word; the faithful and true witness to the church which is neither faithful nor true.

- 1) the faithful witness - Rev.1:5.

2) He who is true - Rev.3:7.

That which He is about to tell this church can be "taken to the bank".

The beginning of the creation of God - He is the source - It does not mean that Jesus was the very first being created by God. (See our notes on Rev.1:5; Jn.1:3; Col.1:15,18; Heb.1:2) says this.

Vs. 15 - 16 - Note that there is no commendation for this church, i.e... nothing good to say (If we are living in the last days, this either is or is becoming our church).

The head of the Laodicean church during the life of Paul was Archippus - Col.4:15-17 around 61AD. John is writing around 95 or 96AD. What must have happened to this church over 35 years?

Three states of the church are given.

- 1) Cold - the gospel leaves them unmoved and arouses no interest in the things of God.
- 2) Hot - on fire for Christ - leaves no one wondering where they are in their spiritual commitment.
- 3) Lukewarm - What would this church look like?

This state is not a transitional state, but rather became the permanent state of this church - when this happens, God's response is described. He vomits! Apparently the lukewarm state is an obnoxious state to God. Better is the one who makes no profession than the one who has made a profession and yet demonstrates no outward life.

It is also interesting to note that Jesus does not condemn this church for any particular acts; they are lukewarm and this is a change that is sufficient to remove their candlestick.

Vs. 17 - Their problem - their attitude, their perception of themselves.

They are materially rich which cloaks their spiritual poverty.

Spiritually they are...

- 1) wretched - our permanent moral condition rather than our actual transgressions - Rom.7:15-25; Ps.51:5; Eph.4:22.
- 2) miserable - Jms.4:9.
- 3) poor - lacking in spiritual goods - living in a state of poverty when spiritual wealth is available for the asking.
- 4) blind (2 Cor.4:4; those who live like mere men) - I Jn.2:9-11; Rom.2:17-29; 2 Pet.1:5-11.
- 5) naked - they have made no clothes - Rev.19:7-8.

Vs. 18 - Three things this church lacks –they need to obtain: gold, clothes, and eye salve.

- 1) gold - material wealth, vs.17, has left this church in no better condition. Their belief that they are in need of nothing has missed the truth of their impoverished condition. They are exhorted to buy the gold that comes from Christ - I Pet.1:6-9; 2 Cor.4:16-18.

- 2) clothes - white garments - Rev.19:6-9; Eph.2:10 - again bought from Christ.
 Only those that come from Him enter eternity. The shame of man's nakedness is his natural contribution.
 The finest clothes produced by man always end up as filthy rags - Is.64:6. "All our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment".
 They may look good to us (seem right) – Prov.14:12, "but it's end is the way of death".

- 3) eye salve - from Christ is needed. Both pastor and people of this church seem to have become blind to the things of God and they are not aware of their own blindness (I Jn.2:9-11).
 The church of the last days will become very much like Israel at the time of Christ - Mt.15:12, 14; II Pet.1:5-11; Rom.2:17-29.
 Does this passage not describe the church in America?

Vs. 19 - The objects of God's love become the objects of His reproof and discipline - Heb.12:5-11.
 In context He is dealing with the church not individuals!
 Also note that being lukewarm places the church in the position of needing to be dealt with.

NOTE: "love" is from the word "phileo" not "agapao", a Greek term for affection with less depth - Why the choice of word?
 reprove - (rebuke) when the Lord does it, more than talk is involved.
 discipline - Hebrews 12 makes it clear that the fact that God does not give up the believer becomes a sign that we are owned by Him. Also, note I Cor.11:31-32 - being lukewarm must be synonymous with sin!
 There is always an alternative to sin followed by judgment! It is repentance.
 Repentance results in a removal of the need to judge with temporal judgment by God. (again see II Pet.3:9-12).

Darby is quoted as saying,
 "The immediate occasion, object, inner spring of all the terrible judgment which is coming is the professing church itself. It ought to have been God's witness on the earth... but, having become corrupt... brings down the wrath of God."

Babylon the whore - false Christendom - will ride upon the government of antichrist and be destroyed by God before the tribulation ends - Rev.19:1-3.

Vs. 20 - This invitation is offered to the church and needs to be acted upon by the members of it. No one is compelled to obedience. No one is saved against his will. No group of believers must open their door of worship to Christ. The only cure for being lukewarm is the re-admission of the excluded Christ. Christ remains on the outside unless He is welcomed in. This is the church of the last days. It will not remain forever - Lk.12:35-40. The idea of dining with God reflects the ultimate relationship that exists with those we share a meal with.

Vs. 21 - He who overcomes

- 1) The Father's response to the Son - Phil.2:9-11; Heb.2:9-11 who overcame - Heb.5:7-10.
- 2) The Son's response to the believer who overcomes!
 - a) The church of this present age - Mt.19:27-30.
 - b) The tribulation saints - Rev.20:4.

This invitation is to the church that is "wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked". The church age is God's age of grace! As long as breath is in us, grace is offered. There will be no more grace offered once the breath is gone. Today is the day for the believer to repent.

Vs. 22 - He who has an ear, let him hear... Remember Rom.10:13-14.

REVELATION CHAPTER 4

Vs 1 Having concluded the "things which are", ch.2 & 3 –
after these things, we must now consider events which will take place
after the church has been removed (raptured).
Chapters 4 & 5 are what the "raptured" John sees upon arriving in
heaven, while ch. 6 & following describe that which takes place upon the
earth.

NOTE: The church is not mentioned again by name in the book until Rev.22:16,
and by description in Rev.19:7-9.

This would argue that the church is not involved in the events between these
two passages.

Heaven – describes 3 different "places":

1) air above the earth – where birds fly
- dew comes from
- winds, rain, etc...

2) stellar space – Deut.17:3

3) The "abode of God" - a place, not a state of being: "third
heaven" – 2 Cor.12:2.

a) Jesus came down from heaven

Jn.6:38.

b) He taught us to pray "Our Father who art in heaven"

Mt.6:9.

c) Our reward comes to us in heaven

Mt.5:12.

d) Joy is experienced by those in heaven

Lk.15:7.

e) Angels are in heaven

Mk.13:32.

f) A "place" awaits the believer after death

Jn.12:2-3.

g) Jesus called it Paradise – Lk.23:43, so also Paul

2 Cor.12:1-4.

h) As the heavenly Jerusalem, it's appearance is described

Rev. 21 & 22. Note the tree of Life – Rev.22:2; 2:7, with Lk.23:43.

i) Heb.12:22-24.

The first voice I heard – Rev.1:12; 1:10

Come up here – I Thess.4:13-17

Verses 2 & 3 - The very first thing the Christian sees upon entering heaven is the throne
of God.

Vs. 2 – 3 – Immediately John was transferred from this realm to the next. The first thing he sees is God upon His throne and that which strikes him first is the color he sees.

1) jasper stone – crystal clear – Rev.21:11 (diamond)

2) sardis – red (ruby) – the jasper and the sardis were the first and last stone on the high priest's breastplate (reverse order) Ex.28:15-21.

The first stone represented Reuben, while the last, Benjamin. Both stones are used to describe the majesty of Lucifer as originally created – Ezk.28:13.

3) a rainbow around the throne.

NOTE: John's vision of the one sitting on the throne is not one of a "form", but rather an awareness of color. The glory of God appears to have been the intent of the vision.

Vs 4 The twenty four elders upon their own thrones

Who do the elders represent?

1) It is a matter of Revelation that God's purpose in saving man is that he might minister before Him as Priests, along with reigning with Him

Rev.20:6

2) The O.T. Priesthood was divided into 24 divisions

I Chr.24:7-18.

(The musicians as well – I Chr.25:8-31).

Each division was headed by a man who represented it. When these priests met together, even though there were only twenty four, they represented the entire priesthood. In the same way these 24 in Revelation represent a body.

3) To further understand who they represent, they are said to be clothed in white garments

Rev.19:8,

and are wearing a "stephanos" (not a diadem) on their head

Jms.1:12, I Pet.5:4, etc...

4) The Church has already been raptured at this point, while O.T. believers have not!

Is.26:19-21.

5) They cannot be angels either because angels have not yet been judged at this point I Cor.6:3 (Because their work is not yet finished as the church has been. In Rev.5:11, they are part of a heavenly group which includes angels which are said to be distinct from the angels.

Vs 5 Lightening and thunder are experienced

Rev.8:5; 11:19; Ex,19:16-17.

Seven lamps of fire – the seven Spirits of God

Is.11:2-3; Rev.1:4; 3:1.

These seven lamps are the means by which John is informed of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

(done Mt.3:16; tongues of fire Acts 2:1-4
speaking in non-learned languages Acts 2:7-8).

Vs. 6 – 9 A sea of glass like crystal – Ezk.1:22; Rev.22:1.

John appears to pass over the sea and is captivated by the four living creatures.

1) full of eyes – in front and behind – Ezk.1:18; 10:12. God sees
everything in His creation – never sleeps.

2) lion, calf, man, flying eagle – Ezk.1:4-14.

3) six wings – Is.6:2-3.

4) never ceasing to declare the holiness of God.

Glory – very great praise or distinction bestowed by:

Common consent

Admiration

Adoring praise

Honor – high respect, esteem

Recognition of a high rank with distinction conferred.

Thanks – a grateful feeling or acknowledgment as for a gift, favor,
service: gratitude, appreciation, acknowledgment.

To Him – who sits on the throne Rev.4:2; 5:1,6-7.

Who lives forever and ever – Rev.1:18.

Vs. 10 – 11 The 24 elders (church) join the living creatures in worshipping He who sits upon the throne.

They cast their crowns before the throne acknowledging that their
rewards in heaven are also a gift from the God they are worshipping
Eph.2:10.

When all is right in the universe – all glory, honor, and power are
recognizes as coming from God and are the result of His created purpose
Col.1:12-17; Rom.9:16, 18, 21-23; Eph.1:11; Rev.10:5-7.

REVELATION - CHAPTER 5

- Vs 1 God who is sitting on a throne, has a scroll sealed with 7 seals, (Roman law required a will to be sealed with 7 seals), in His right hand.
This scroll of parchment is written on both sides and contains the prophecy of impending events which will be unfolded in the book of Revelation.
- Vs 2 A "strong angel" (mighty or powerful)
 There are 2 other "strong" angels mentioned in this book:
 Rev 10:1 and Rev 18:21
 This angel proclaims as a herald....
 Who is this angel? Gabriel?
 He is the angel sent by God to give Daniel understanding regarding his vision.
 Dan 8:15-17; 9:221-23
 and was also involved in "concealing and sealing up until the end time", an understanding of that which is to take place.
 He may well be involved now in seeking for the unveiling of that which he had helped to seal.
- Vs 3-4 No created being is able to open the book and reveal its content.
 (Both the revelation and its execution require God.)
- Vs 5 The lion of the tribe of Judah Gen 49:9-10
 The root of David Isa 11:1-12, 16
 He has overcome (conquered)
 He is worthy to open the scroll, to break of 7 of its seals.
- Vs 6 John turns his focus to the lion/lamb
 lion - refers to His Second Coming
 lamb - refers to His First Coming
 Jn 1:29, 36; Acts 8:32-33
 He is:
 1. standing between the Throne with the 4 Living
 Creatures and the Elders (see notes on Rev 4:2-9)
 2. as if slain
 Rev 5:9, 12; 13:8
 3. having 7 horns
 horns are representative of kings elsewhere in the
 book Rev 13:1; 17:12
 4. and 7 eyes

Rev 1:4; Isa 11:1-2; Zech 3:8-9; 4:10-14

- Vs 7 God the Son takes the scroll out of the right hand of God
The Father. Dan 7:13-14
All judgment and power over all the earth are committed to Christ the
Son. This is true both during the Tribulation Period, and the 1000 year
Kingdom to follow.
- Vs 8 The 4 Living Creatures and the Elders falling down
before the Lamb and worshipping Him is the clearest proof of the Deity
of the Lamb.
They are worshipping Him in the presence of the
Father.
The harp and trumpet are the only 2 instruments
mentioned when speaking of heavenly worship.
Bowls...full of the prayers of the saints alive on earth during this period of
time. Ps 141:2
- Vs 9-10 Thou didst purchase men from...(limited atonement?)
If the men purchased come out of the tribulation, then they might be
natural people.
Rev 20:4 makes it clear that resurrected humans are the object of the
Promise.
Both might well be the answer.
As to their function - 1 Pet2:4-5, 9-10; Mt 25:31-46
- Vs 11-12 The angelic realm joins in the worship of the Christ!
Worthy is the Lamb to receive:
1. Power
2. Riches
3. Wisdom
4. Might
5. Honor
6. Glory
7. Blessing
- Vs 13-14 Every created thing joins in the worship of the Son.
(as He stands in the presence of the Father)
Phil 2:5-11
- Remember, Chapters 4 and 5 are a Heavenly view - that which John has
seen upon being translated upward.
Heaven is a real place!
Those created beings that John has seen are real beings.

Beginning in Chapter 6:1, our focus returns to the events that are to take place on planet earth during the 7 year tribulation period.

REVELATION - CHAPTER 6

The beginning of the Great Day of God's Wrath

From earth's experience, we have come to "the things which shall take place after these things". Rev 1:19

NOTE: The Rapture must have taken place already because if it has not, it is not described in the following pages and therefore does not take place during the events being described!

Israel is now the focus. We are in Daniel's 70th Week. Dan 9:27

Daniel's people (Israel) and his city (Jerusalem) is the focus of both

Daniel's God and Satan! Dan 9:24

WHEN COMPARING	REV 6	MATT 24
1. WAR	vs 3-4	vs 6-7
2. FAMINE	vs 5-6	vs 7
3. DEATH	vs 7-8	vs 7-8
4. MARTYRDOM	vs 9-11	vs 9-10, 16-22
5. LIGHTS OF HEAVEN STOP SHINING	vs 12-14	vs 29
6. A TIME OF DIVINE JUDGMENT	vs 15-17	Ch 24:32 - 25:26

The Seven Seals cover the entire Tribulation Period.

Within the Seventh Seal, there are Seven Trumpets.

Rev 8:1-2

Within the Seventh Trumpet, there are Seven Bowls.

Rev 11:15; 15:5-7; 16:1,17

There are Seven Thunder Judgments which are not described, and cannot be inserted into the chronological sequence.

Rev 10:3-4

Vs 1-2 The First Seal

An individual - the prince who was to come

Dan 9:26

who will ultimately head up the revived Roman Empire

Dan 7:23-26

He is Satan's masterpiece and the counterfeit of all that Christ claims to be.

He is the beast of Rev 13:1-8.

He is the 8th and final king of the Gentile Reign

Rev 17:8-14.

He carries a bow but no arrows and conquers the entire world.

The crown given to him is a "stephanos" for he is a victor in the affairs of man.

Dan 7:8,20; 8:9-10; 11:36-43

Vs 3-4 The Second Seal

Military warfare breaks out and peace is taken from the world.

Vs 5-6 The Third Seal

With war comes famine.

In Roman times, a day's wage was a denarius - a days wage for one meal of wheat or 3 meals of barley with no money left for anything else.

Oil and wine - staples of the Roman diet, will not be available for lack of money to pay for it.

Vs 7-8 The Fourth Seal

Death

Hades is said to be following death, collecting the lost as they die.

(see my notes "Where do we go when we die?")

One fourth of the world population dies under the judgment.

(1.5 billion people if it happened today).

They die as a result of:

1. sword - warfare
2. famine
3. pestilence
4. wild beasts

Vs 9-11 The Fifth Seal

The scene shifts back to Heaven.

John sees a vision of those who will be martyred for their faith in Christ.

They are seen "under the altar", just as the sacrifices of the OT were poured out under the altar.

Ex 29:12; Lv 4:7

They were slain:

because of the Word of God

because of the testimony they had maintained

The above two are connected!!

NOTE: These believers are from the Tribulation Time because the martyrs from the Church Age have already been raptured and would not be waiting for anything. Also their persecutors are said to still be alive upon the earth.

Becoming a believer in the Tribulation will result in signing one's own death warrant. Rev 7:13-14; 13:6-7

NOTE: These martyrs have died during the Tribulation Period.

They will not receive their resurrection bodies until the end of the Tribulation Period.

Rev 20:4

Yet they are given robes to wear while they wait. Would this not imply that they are inhabiting an intermediate body between the time of their death and their resurrection from the dead?

2 Cor 5:1-5

Vs 12-17

The Sixth Seal

Vs 12-14

Up until this time much of the judgment of God has been carried out by human hands!

This judgment appears to represent the wrath of God coming from Him directly.

1. earthquake

2. the sun becomes black

Joel 2:1-2, 10-11, 30-32

3. the moon becomes like blood

4. the stars of the sky fall to the earth

5. the sky is split apart

6. every mountain and every island is moved out of its place

Vs 15-17

Lost humanity, at this time, seeing all they are seeing, attempts to escape from the presence of God rather than seek His grace.

Individuals from every walk of life will react the same.

Being rich doesn't buy your way to Heaven, nor does being a slave buy your position.

Again: Revelation chapter 6 appears to overview the entire 7 year period.

Chapters 7 through 18 will give us greater detail of the individual events and persons which will make the Tribulation, the period that it is.

The Second 3 1/2 year period will be the greater focus.

REVELATION – CHAPTER 7

A break in the chronological sequence – 2 major players – verses 1-8.

Believing Israel as represented by the 144,000 and vs 9-17.

a great multitude of martyred believers who died as a testimony to their faith from every people group upon the earth at that time

- Note:
1. At the time of the Rapture, all believers will be removed from the earth. I Thess 4:13-18
 2. The Holy Spirit will move His residence back to Heaven. 2 Thes 2: 1-12
 3. Those who believe during the Tribulation are never referred to as being a part of the Church.
 4. The pattern followed by Christ is the same pattern that the Holy Spirit follows:
 - a. Christ was omnipresent and active on the earth before His Incarnation.
At His Incarnation He came and dwelt among men in a unique way.
At the time of His Ascension He left the earth
While continuing to stay, by indwelling His Church and being Omnipresent.
 - b. The Holy Spirit was present before Pentecost just as Jesus Christ was.
His Coming on the Day of Pentecost and remaining until the Rapture represents a unique time of His Presence.
After He leaves at the Rapture, He will continue His presence in much the same way as He was present before Pentecost.
 - c. With both, humans have believed during each phase of their presence, but from Pentecost to the Rapture there has been a unique relationship experienced by those believers with both persons (Christ and the Holy Spirit).

Chapter 6 ends with a question: "Who is able to stand?"

Chapter 7, verses 1-8 gives us a partial answer to that question.

Israel will, - all 12 Tribes!

Vs 1-3 The Vision of the Four Angels

They are standing at the Four Corners of the Earth,
Isa 11:12; Rev 20:7-8

Holding back the Four winds of the Earth. Dan 7:2; 8:8

These Four Angels have been granted permission to harm the earth and the sea.

The time referenced in this statement is the beginning of the Tribulation.

The destruction of Planet Earth is what lies ahead.

Another Angel ascends from the East to seal 144,000 Jews with the seal of the Living God.

The Seal symbolizes Divine protection and ownership and God's commitment to protect and preserve all 12 Tribes of Israel.

Vs 4-8 The 144,000 who are sealed.

The Twelve Tribes of Israel

1. Distinct Tribes in existence at the end of the Tribulation. Rev 14:1-5; 21:1-3, 10-14
2. The one nation of Israel is defined as "the 12 Tribes of Israel"
3. Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel, adopted the 2 sons of Joseph, Gen 48:1-6 with Ephraim and Manasseh being added or replacing Joseph.
 - a. Joseph receives a double portion of the inheritance.
 - b. There are 13 tribes of Israel
 - c. Every listing of the Tribes has one Tribe missing.
 - i. Some lists leave Joseph in and Ephraim and Manasseh out. Gen 49:1-28
 - ii. Others leave Joseph and Levi out. Num 1:15-16
 - iii. Joseph and Manasseh are stated as one; Levi is out. Num 13:4-15
 - iv. Simeon and Issachar are out. Deut 33:6-ff
 - v. etc.

4. In Rev 7:4-8, Joseph is in; Manasseh is in, Ephraim and Dan are out.....Why???
 - a. Maybe the antichrist comes from the tribe of Dan. Gen 49:17
 - b. The tribe of Dan had a history of idolatry throughout their time in Canaan. Judges 18
 - c. The golden calves were set up in Dan and Bethel (Ephraim). I Kgs 12:25-33

5. In the Millennial distribution of the Land, both Dan and Ephraim will have a part. Ezk 47:13 and Ezk 48. Levi is not included because the "Temple Mount" will be his inheritance. Joseph is not listed because his "double portion" will be received by his sons.

The multitudes saved in the tribulation and subsequently martyred.

Vs. 9 – 10 - The multitude described

There are two categories of humans – Israelites, and Gentiles (Greeks). In verses 5 – 8, we were told that there are Jews saved out of all 12 tribes. In verse 9 a great multitude beyond human computation is seen coming from all nations, tribes, peoples and tongues.

1.) They are seen standing before the throne – Rev.4:1-11.

2.) Before the Lamb – Rev.5:6-14.

3.) Clothed in white robes – Rev.19:7-8 (in resurrection bodies)

Rev.6:9-11 (pre resurrection bodies) followed by Rev.20:4.

The coming to life is equivalent to being raised from the dead receiving the resurrected body.

In chapter 6 and 7, they are quite alive awaiting their resurrection bodies – 2 Cor.5:1-9.

4.) Palm branches in their hands – Lev.23:40-44. (This was the "feast of booths" which commemorated God's provision for them in delivering them out of Egypt and through the wilderness.)

5.) They cry out – these are all martyrs: they have suffered to the point of death – Heb.12:1-4, yet they do not lose sight of who suffered to give them their salvation.

Application – If credit were to be shared between humans and God for salvation, these could claim some credit – they don't!

Who is there who has suffered for less who thinks that they deserve recognition – all recognition goes to God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb Eph.1:3-6 (Father), 7 (Son), 8-12 (Father).

Vs. 11 – 12 The heavenly host joins in with the martyred tribulation saints.

They, the angels – Rev.5:11 (2/3 of the number created – Rev.12:3 -4,9) acknowledge our God as their God forever and ever. Similar to Rev.5:13-14, the angels ascribe to God:

- 1.) blessing
- 2.) glory
- 3.) wisdom
- 4.) thanksgiving
- 5.) honor
- 6.) power
- 7.) might

In Rev. 5, it is Christ who is the focus, in chapter 7, it is God. Remember that it is the Father's desire that all honor the Son even as they honor the Father – John 5:23, and when all honor the Son, He will honor the Father – I Cor.15:28.

Vs. 13 – 14 The martyred dead are identified – the ones who come out of the great tribulation (2nd half) – Matt.24:21. The command in Matt.24:14 and 28:19-20 will have its ultimate fulfillment.

NOTE: The importance of the blood.

Acts 20:28 – The church of God which He purchased with "His own blood" .

Rom. 5:9 – "justified by His blood".

Rom.3:25 – Christ is the propitiation (satisfaction) for our sins through faith in His blood.

Eph.1:7 – "we have redemption through His blood"

Col.1:20 – "made peace through the blood of His cross"

Heb.9:22

I Pet.1:18-19

Saving faith is focused on the shed blood of Jesus Christ. It never "progresses: from that focus.

Vs. 15 – 17 – For this reason... their experiences in the tribulation:

- 1.) They are before the throne of God.

- 2.) They serve God day and night in His temple.
- 3.) God will spread His tabernacle over them.

It is now over – no more:

- 1.) hunger – no mark of the beast = unable to purchase.
- 2.) thirst
- 3.) sun beating down – as they attempted to flee the beasts' forces.
- 4.) heat

The Lamb in the center of the throne:

- 1.) will be their shepherd.
- 2.) will guide to springs of the water of life.

God will wipe every tear from their eyes – Rev.21:4 (Because this describes the new heaven and earth I Cor.15:28 must have taken place.)

REVELATION – CHAPTER 8

THE SEVENTH SEAL – SEVEN TRUMPET JUDGMENTS

Vs 1 Picks up chronologically with chapter 6
The 7th Seal contains all the subsequent developments
Which lead up to the Return of Christ. (The 7th Trumpet
Judgment contains the 7 Bowl Judgments.)

There is “dead silence” in Heaven for half an hour; the
silence which can be felt before the jury foreman reports
the verdict.

Vs 2 An introduction to the 7 Angels (God uses Angels to
carry out His plans in a similar manner to the way He uses humans.
Heb 1:14; Rom 10:13-15; Rom 7:7

The Law is spoken of as “an active entity” doing the work
of God by itself.

In fact, it was delivered by both Man (Moses), and angels
yet once delivered, works the work of God.

Luke 1:19

The fact that these angels stand before God indicates
Their place of prominence within God’s creation.

Trumpets and their use are prominent in the Scriptures

1. At the giving of the Law Ex 19:17-19
2. To announce special days Liv 23:23-25; 25:9
3. To announce the movement
of the people Num 10:2-10
4. The OT tells us it was to be
used to announce the coming
Tribulation Period. Joel 2:1-ff

Vs 3-4 Altar: Rev 6:9; 8:5; 9:13; 14:18; 16:7 which is in
Heaven Ex 30:1-10
(altar of incense) Ex 37:25-29; Heb 9:1-5

Incense: Ex 30:34-38 is added to the prayers of the
saints.
Many believe that the incense represents the
work of Christ, mixed with the prayers of
believers, which together became a soothing
aroma to God.

These prayers prayed on earth, delivered by the Holy Spirit Rom 8:26-27, through our High Priest Heb 7:18-28, end in the presence of Him who sits on the throne.

Vs 5 Censer (fire pan): Lk 16:12-13 in the service of the Temple; was used to take fire off of the Altar, to be carried into the Holy of Holies, where incense was added. Here the angel takes the fire on the censor and throws it to the earth, as a part of the judgment which comes from God.

Note: Family Heads are also said to use censors in their position before God. Num 16:6-ff.
Thunder, lightening, and earthquakes (smoke filling The room). God is in it.

Vs 6 The Seven Angels with the Seven Trumpets prepare to Sound their trumpets.

Vs 7 The First Trumpet sounds – desolation is spread over the earth.
Vegetation is destroyed and blood is mixed in with the destruction. Ex 9:18-26
One Third of the land is affected.

Vs 8-9 The Second Trumpet sounds – the sea is God's focus. To be taken literally – a Heavenly Body strikes the ocean and destroys all that is in its path upon impact. Again, a Third part is affected.

Vs 10-11 The Third Trumpet sounds – any heavenly body entering Earth's atmosphere would enter burning. The result of the "wormwood" hitting the water is to turn it bitter and therefore, undrinkable. This is the exact opposite of that which occurred with Israel in the wilderness. Ex 15:22-26 They did not – so He has.

Vs 12 The Fourth Angel sounds – God shakes the Heavens. He is God of the Universe; there is no God besides Him. All are dependant upon Him for their continued existence.
Heb 1:3; Isa 40:12

In Egypt darkness was experienced for 3 days.

Ex 10:21-22

During this judgment, in the Tribulation Period it will be experienced by a Third of the world.

Vs 13

John heard an "eagle" (earlier manuscripts). Later manuscripts use the word "angel".

Mid-heaven – the atmosphere. Rev 19:17; 14:6

Woe to the earth – it is not almost done.

It is, in fact, just Beginning!

Little time is left in comparison but the pain and suffering that has been experienced is nothing compared to that which lies ahead for planet earth.

God's focus of judgment will now move from man's created home – earth, to man himself!

REVELATION CHAPTER 9

The Fifth and Sixth Trumpets: The First and Second Woes

Vs 1 In Rev 6:12-13 and Rev 8:12 refer to literal heavenly bodies

The star of 9:1 is a person:

1. A more accurate translation found in many of the transcripts reads "a fallen star". The word "fall" is in the perfect tense, signifying completed action.
2. Isa 14:12; Lk 10:18 refers to Lucifer, "a star", who fell. Rev 12 describes the "fallen star" along with a third of the other stars being cast out of Heaven.
Job 38:7
2. As to the timing of the "being cast out" The event has already taken place (past tense), when the keys are given to the person.

The one who has the keys – Rev 1:18 – gives this key to Satan.

There is nothing outside the direct control of God (Jesus).

The bottomless Pit (Abyss)

1. Lk 8:31 demons are (can be) sent there as a form of punishment.
Jude 6
with Gen 6:1-7
2. Christ went there after His crucifixion. Rom 10:7 (One does not need to ascend to Heaven or descend to the abyss to find righteousness. Christ offers that righteousness – by faith).
I Pet 3:18-20
3. Satan, who is given the keys during the tribulation, to open the pit up, will, at the end of the tribulation, be confined to it for 1,000 years.
Rev 20:1-3
4. The abyss is found 7 times in the Book of Revelation:
9:1,2,11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1,3

Vs 2 Records the use of the key – The abyss "erupts", polluting the world with spiritual corruption.

The Fifth Trumpet can be characterized as demonic and Satanic oppression.

Vs 3-6 Locusts are set free upon mankind

1. Even as a demonic hoard – they receive their “limits” from God. They may do this...but not kill.
2. They are commanded to hurt those who do not have the “Seal of God”.

These would be the 144,000, Rev 7:2-8 and probably those humans who have believed at this point. 2 Tim 2:19; Eph 1:13-14

3. Locusts are used in prior judgments.
Ex 10:12-20; Joel 1:4-7
These locusts are obviously different, being demonic creatures, reserved for this day. They were not created to be evil, Gen 1:31, but became as such at a time following the Creation.
4. Their sting is compared to that of a scorpion.
The pain caused by their sting lasts 5 months. It is so awful that men will seek death to escape it.
4. Note that the prior plagues which involved natural things have now been expanded to include demonic activity.
5. Why would it be that a person who desires to kill themselves would not be able to do it? We find in the gospels that demonic control results in the person losing their own will and acting out the will of the demon(s). (Satan partners with no human!)

Vs 7-11

The locusts described:

1. These “spiritual” beings are called locusts because they function as a judgment and plague of the Lord. Spiritual beings do not possess a physical body. Their description is intended to symbolize their Characteristics.
 - a. They are the size of horses, prepared for battle
 - b. Crowns of gold:
They reign upon the earth, not man; their will shall be done.
 - d. faces of men, hair of women, and teeth of lions: frightening instruments of Divine judgment Man has a history of joining himself to demonic beings, thinking that they will be his servants.
Man is deluded. They are destroyers. When

Divine restraint is removed, their true character is exposed.

d. breastplates of iron:

They are immune to destruction.

e. wings (not omnipresent) which sound like chariots going to battle:

Speed.

f. tails – resembling a scorpion’s tail – they have the power to hurt

g. These beings are instruments of divine justice, utterly wicked in themselves, and released from the pit to accomplish the terrifying judgments of God.

2. These beings have a king over them, “Abaddon”, or “Apollyon”. Both names mean “destroyer”. Abaddon is also referred to as a place.

Prov 15:11; Job 26:6

Vs12 The first of three great judgments has passed; Two more “Woes” are yet to follow!

Vs 13-15 The Sixth Trumpet: The Loosing of the Four Angels

1. These angels are bound!

There is no instance in Scripture where holy angels are bound; wicked angels are.

Jude 6; Rev 20:2

2. Again, even wicked angels are under the control of God. He works all things

after the council of His own will. Prov 16:4

3. This judgment comes exactly at the hour of God’s appointment.

Though men and angels are used to accomplish the purpose of God, the time schedule is determined by God, not man.

4. A Fourth of humanity has been killed prior to this judgment. One-third more have now been killed. This is the largest death count that occurs at one time in the history of mankind. These two judgments alone, account for Half of the world’s population.

(The Noahic Flood destroyed 99.999% of humanity, but the world population was probably not as large at that time.

6. The Euphrates River will be dried up to prepare the way for the armies of

the Orient to march upon Israel. Rev 16:12

7. The altar of God in Heaven has Four Horns and judgment is pronounced from it.

Ex 30:1-10

Vs 16-19 The Army of Two Hundred Million (twice 10,000 times
10,000)
1. Many believe that John is describing Modern Warfare.
2. The Tribulation begins with "peace and safety" It doesn't last
long.

Ultimately, peace will be promised to the
world by offering to remove God's people
from the planet.

Vs 20-21 Man's response to World Events
They do not repent:
1. of the evil works of their hands
2. of their worship of demons
3. of their worship of idols
4. of their murders, sorceries, immorality, and thefts

REVELATION CHAPTER 10

(Note: 10:1 – 11:14 forms a parenthetical section)

The Mighty Angel; The Little Book; and the Seven Thunders

Vs 1 "Another Strong Angel"

Another of the same kind – an angel similar to the other angel which was previously introduced.

Rev 5:2

1. "Coming down out of Heaven", in contrast to Rev 9:2 – coming up out of the pit The entire angelic realm is involved in carrying out the judgment of God.

2. "Clothed with a cloud" – 9 of the 20 occurrences of clouds in the NT are connected with scenes of judgment.

Matt 24:30; 26:64; Rev 14:14-16

Because Christ is the One seen in the clouds in judgment, there

are

some who believe That the Angel is Jesus, similar to the Angel of Jehovah revelations of the OT.

3. "The rainbow was upon His Head" A rainbow surrounds God's Throne in Heaven.

Rev 4:3

It is a sign of a covenant between God and the Earth. Gen 9:13

God's covenant remains!

4. "face like the sun" – Rev 1:16

Again, this Angel is either Christ, or has left His Presence.

Ex 34:29; 2 Cor 3:7 (Rev 18:1)

5. "feet like pillars of fire"....

His right foot on the sea and His left foot on the land"

a. Throughout this book, fire equals judgment

b. "standing on both the sea and the land" Rev 10:2,5,8 – stresses

the

extent of the judgment and this Angel's power and

authority.

Nothing will escape this judgment sent from God.

As the Noahic Flood was universal, so will

the Tribulation Judgment be!
Men today who deny the universal flood, will
not miss the universal judgment to come.

Vs 2-4

"A Little Book"

In Rev 5 we had a "book" which revealed the coming judgments of the tribulation.

Here in chapter 10 we have a small book, already opened. We are not told what is written upon it but, in context, what it may have is the judgments that this angel is to carry out.

They are summarized as the Seven Peals of Thunder. (Thunder means that the lightening has already struck.)

God has chosen not to reveal them to mankind before their occurrence.

Rev 1:1

NOTE: The fact that John was about to write the Seven Thunders down, means that he understood the revelation.

CONCLUSION: This revelation was for John. God wanted him to know but not the rest of mankind.

1. "his voice like a lion roaring"

It will be hard not to hear this Angel when his appointed time comes.

Vs 5-7

Announcement of the End of the Age

1. The Angel swears to God – would not be Jesus Christ

2. God – who has created "all" things

Heb 1 :1– 3; Genesis

3. The delay is over! The sounding of the Seventh Trumpet will end the mystery!

4. "The mystery of God" – why God allowed Satan and fallen humanity to reign over God's creation Rev 20:7-9 speaks of further rebellion, but God will put an end to it immediately.

5. We will see that the Seventh Trumpet involves extensive judgment – The Seven Bowl Judgments.

6. Christ (God) as Creator has the right to put an end to this present creation.

Rom 9:18-24

Vs 8-11

The eating of the Little Book

1. John eats the book – the prophecy is fulfilled.
2. The symbolic act of eating a book is not limited to John.

Jer 15:15-18; Ezk 2:9 – 3:4,14

3. Why the eating of the book?

- a. John, by eating the book, partakes of its content.
- b. In his act of obedience he appropriates the statements,

promises,

and affirmations which are contained in the book.

- c. The book, in effect, is the revelation of God, given to man.

4. Once eaten, His Word becomes our words.

5. His Word tastes sweet to us, but at the same time, it affects our

community

with the world of lost humanity.

Ultimately, we must separate ourselves from them.

When we do, they hate us; we are not one of them, therefore life takes on a bitterness.

John's experience is an example: God is revealing to John that his persecutors will receive their judgment, but for now, John experiences the Isle of Patmos.

6. The "many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings" includes all of

humanity.

The Tribulation is that which awaits the world!!

REVELATION – CHAPTER 11

Vs 1-2 The Measuring

1. “The Temple of God” refers to the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies, not the outer court.

The Bible records God causing something to be measured on several occasions:

- a. Jerusalem
Zech 2
- b. The Temple of the Future Kingdom
Ezk 40
- c. The New Jerusalem
Rev 21:15-17

The act of measuring seems to signify that what is being measured,

belongs to God. It is an evaluation of His property.

2. The Jewish nation was given the Holy of Holies as the place where God

would meet with them.

Ex 26:31-34; Lev 16

During the tribulation it will be desecrated and becomes the home of an idol of the world ruler.

2 Thes 2:3-4; Rev 13:14-15; Dan 9:27; 12:11

3. Those who worship in it – The individuals who come to the temple, belong to God (are answerable to Him) and come up short, leaving them to the judgment to come. A Jewish Nation that has not yet believed.

Rom 11:25-27

4. The outer court and city have been granted to the Gentiles’ domination for the 2nd half of the tribulation.

Dan 9:24-27

The tribulation begins with a covenant of protection by the anti-christ, which will be broken exactly 3 ½ years into the 7 year agreement.

Matt 24:15-21

Vs 3-4 The Two Witnesses – 2 Prophets vs 10

1. Probably during the 2nd half of the tribulation period because opposition by the anti-christ will not occur until then.

Their ministry will coincide with vs 2.

2. These 2 are human beings – not angelic beings:

- a. They have mouths, ears and feet vs 5, 11-12

- b. After their martyrdom, John saw their dead bodies vs 8-9

3. The Bible does not name them.
4. They are identified with the 2 olive trees and the 2 lamp stands.
Zech 4:1-14
(Joshua, the high priest and Zerubbabel the builder)

Why 2 lamp stands....

5. They will be clothed in sackcloth.
Isa 37:1-2; Dan 9:3

Vs 5-6 The Miraculous Ministry of the Two

1. They defend themselves with fire.
2 Kgs 1:9-12
2. They can stop the rain upon the earth.
1 Kgs 17:1
3. They turn water into blood
Ex 7:17-19
4. They bring plagues upon the earth as they will.
(Plagues of Egypt)

Vs 7-10 The Death of the Two Witnesses

Their enemy who makes war with them, overcomes them,
And kills them.

1. The beast, not a beast that comes up out of the abyss
2. The descriptive term "beast" is always used to describe the anti-christ

in

this book:

13:1; 14:9,11; 15:2; 16:2; 17:3; 19:20; 20:10

3. The beast who is a human world ruler will have a satanic, demonic source and character.
2 Thes 2:8-10
4. The beast who partners with Babylon the harlot is identified with the beast who comes out of the abyss.
Rev 17:8

????????????????????

AN OVERVIEW OF THE BEAST

THE BEAST AND HIS PROPHET

Dan 7:1-11 Daniel's Vision of the Four Beasts

1. The Fourth Beast Dan 7:7-11, 19-28

- a. the 10 horns
Dan 7:24
- b. the horn that subdues the 3 horns
Dan 7:24-25
- 2. Paul's "man of sin (lawlessness)"
2 Thes 2:1-12 (son of destruction)
- 3. John's anti-christ
1 Jn 2:18,22

Overview of Beast continued

He rises up out of the Gentile masses.	Rev 13:1
He stands out among men.	Rev 13:4
Satan gives his own authority to this man.	Rev 13:2-4
He is worshipped (as deity).	Rev 13:4; 17:8; 2 Thes 2:4
The 10 nations who form a union will submit themselves under the beast and give their power and authority to the beast.	Rev 17:12-13
He receives the service of another great man who serves him (premier-false prophet).	Rev 13:11-17
He speaks "great things."	Rev 13:5
The "harlot" (false Christianity) who rides on the back of the 10 nation final world empire will be destroyed by the beast in the end.	Rev 17:3-5,16; 19:1-4
He opposes Christ at His Second Advent.	Rev 19:19-21
He wears diadems.	Rev 13:1
Militarily, he is supreme.	Rev 13:4
He and his prophet become the first 2 occupants of Hell.	Rev 19:20

- Vs 7 When they have finished their testimony, God will allow them to be killed.
 No one will lose their life before God's time – Eph 1:11b, and God has appointed a time for many of His children to die "untimely deaths".
 Jn 21:21-22; Rev 13:7
- Vs 8-9 So significant is their deaths to the rulers of the world, that they will not allow them to be removed from the spot where they are slain. All satellite TV viewing is focused on their dead bodies.
- The great city is Jerusalem, morally the equivalent of Sodom, and synonymous with Egypt; the slavery of Sin, and hostility which is focused on the destruction of God's chosen ones.
- From the world's perspective, God's message of judgment has died with its messenger. Kill the messenger and the message won't stand!
- Vs 10 The day of their death, the death of their message becomes a world-wide reason to celebrate.
- Man's true heart is expressing itself.
- The phrase "those who dwell on the earth", (repeated often), may well focus on more than their physical location.
- Lost humanity loves the world and the things of the world.
 1 Jn 2:15-17
- Their focus, their hope, their heart is limited to the present life. They are married to that which is to perish.
 2 Pet 3:10-13
- Vs 11-12 The Witnesses are restored to life and caught up to Heaven
- The world will be looking at the witnesses, being in the street, celebrating their deaths, when before the world's TV cameras, the Witnesses will rise from the dead.
- Note: This act of resurrection and ascending is distinct from any other resurrection.
 The rapture has already occurred and the resurrection of

OT believers and tribulation believers are yet future.
Rev 20:4; Isa 26:19-21

Also Note: that the breath of life comes from God.
Great fear does not equal a desire to be saved.
Rev 16:10-11

Being received into Heaven is often described as being
received into a cloud.
Acts 1:9; 2:34

Lost humanity hears the voice from Heaven and watches the
actual ascension (and they do not believe – Jn 16:8-14).

- Vs 13-14 The Second Woe, the Sixth Trumpet, is about to be completed.
1. a great earthquake which destroys one-tenth of Jerusalem
 2. 7 thousand people die
 3. the rest – those who are still alive
 - a. give glory to God
 - b. refuse to repent Rev 16:11
- Vs 14 The deterioration of earth by the coming judgments will
continue to pick up speed.
We are very close to the Second Advent and yet have a
number of judgments still to come.
- Vs 15 The Seventh Trumpet Sounds
1. Loud voices (plural) are heard in Heaven In the previous
announcements a
singular voice was heard.
 2. Older manuscripts read “the kingdom of the world” while later ones
read
“the kingdoms of the world”. There is but one kingdom with Satan as
its king – yet from man’s there are many.
Dan 2:31-35,44; 4:3; 6:26; 7:14,26-27
 3. “You are of your father the devil” – will be replaced with “children of
God”
alone.
 4. The kingdom has become “of our Lord and of His Christ.”
1 Cor 15:22-28
 5. He, His Christ, will reign forever and forever.
Dan 7:9-14

- 6. The transfer of power is spoken of as complete.
 The end result is not in question!
 That which is spoken of as complete is spoken of that way because God has determined it.
- 7. The reign of Christ beyond the 1000 years along with the continuation of Israel is the outworking part of the plan of God.

Vs 16-17 The Worship of the Twenty-four Elders

This is the 6th time that these elders are mentioned. These verses: Rev 4:4,10; and 5:8 give details, while the others are just references to "the elders."

They give thanks to the "Eternal One" who exercises two types of power: the ability to accomplish His will and authority.

He has begun to reign – first step – His enemies are being turned into His footstool.

- Vs 18 Events marking the reign of Christ – the main features of the Transition from the kingdom of earth to the kingdom of God
- 1. The words "enraged" and "wrath" are played upon each other.
 What it literally says is:
 - a. The nations are angry with an impotent rage.
 - b. God is angry with an omnipotent rage.

The wrath of man is wicked, the wrath of God is Holy.

- 2. The time has come for the dead to be judged.
 - a. The dead in God will be judged concerning their reign with Him through the 1000 years.

The prophets, the saints (Christians), and righteous Men made perfect

- b. The living dead will be judged by removal from the earth, departing to Hades.

Matt 25:31-46

Vs 19 The Opening of the Temple of God in Heaven

The very fact that John sees the Ark demonstrates that the veil no longer exists.

In Rev 15:5-6, the final seven plagues are said to come out of the Ark.

The Ark housed the Ten Commandments (moral Law of God) and stood as a testimony of man's sinfulness.

The judgments of the tribulation are God's response to man's handling of that moral law.

As will be shown later the Seventh Trumpet is the Seven Bowl Judgments.

They come quickly and at the ending of the Tribulation period.

Lightning, thunder, earthquake, and a great hailstorm are part of God's finale.

REVELATION – CHAPTER 12

Rev 12:1 – 14:20 (11:16-14:20) forms the third section which breaks with the chronology presented in the book. In this section we find 7 of the “major players” of the Tribulation.

1. Rev 12:1 A great “sign” appears in Heaven, portraying a reality on the earth.

The description of the sign is similar to Joseph’s dream.

Gen 37:9-11

“A woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet;
on her head a crown of 12 stars – Israel

Jer 31:35-36 Ps 89:35-37

- a. She gives birth to a child (Son) Rev 12:5
- b. The dragon stands before the woman,
awaiting that birth Rev 12:4
- c. The woman will be preserved by God
for 3 ½ years
(1260 days or 42 months of 30 days each) Rev 12:6,14
This period begins with the breaking of
the covenant. Dan 9:24-27
- d. The dragon persecutes the woman (because
she gave birth to the child). Rev 12:13
- e. The earth helps deliver the woman Rev 12:16
- f. The woman’s other offspring are attacked by
the devil. Rev 12:17

2. The Great Red Dragon – Satan

Rev 12:3

a. Seven Heads, Ten Horns, Seven Diadems

Dan 7:7-8, 24; Rev 13:1

Both the dragon and the human world ruler are described
the same way.

b. The dragon is identified.

Rev 12:9; 20:2

c. His fall brought down 1/3 of the Angelic realm, Isa 14:12-17; Ezk 28:11-19 and
they will be cast out of the Heavenly realm onto the earth for the
second half of the Tribulation.

Rev 12:3, 7-9

d. He is referred to as the accuser of the brethren.

Rev 12:10

e. He knows the plan of God.

Rev 12:12

- f. He is overcome by the followers of the Son.
Rev 12:11
- g. He hates the woman Rev 12:13, attempting to kill her Rev 12:15,
with water from his mouth.
Rev 12:16
- h. He makes war with the woman's other children.
Rev 12:17
- 3. The man child, Jesus Christ Rev 12:5
 - a. given birth by the woman
 - b. His birth is anticipated by and reacted to by the dragon.
Rev 12:4; Matt 2:16-18
 - c. The male child is born that He might rule the world!
Isa 9:6
Note: Isa 66:7-9
 - d. After His birth, but before He reigns, He is taken up to
Heaven.
Acts 1:10-11; Zech 14:1-6
 - e. Satan hates all who hold to the testimony of this male child.
1 Tim 3:16
- 4. Michael and his angels Rev 12:7; Dan 10:13,21; 12:1 These angels have been, and will
be, present in many of the events of human history:
 - a. at creation Job 38:6,7
 - b. at the giving of the Law Gal 3:19; Acts 7:53; Heb 2:2
 - c. at the birth of Christ Lk 2:13
 - d. at the resurrection Mt 28:2
 - e. at the ascension Acts 1:10
 - f. at the second coming Mt 25:31; 13:39; 24:31;
2 Thess 1:7
 - g. They separate the righteous
from the wicked Mt 13:41,49
 - h. They transport souls Lk 16:22
- Also Note:
 - a. They are limited in knowledge. Mt 24:36
 - b. They are ministering spirits. Heb 1:14
 - c. They will be judged by believers. 1 Cor 6:3
 - d. They are not to be worshipped. Col 2:18
 - e. Women are to remain covered
because of them. 1 Cor 11:10
- 5. The other children of the woman – Jewish remnant – that will come out
of the Tribulation period

Rev 12:17; Rom 11:11-29

The next 2 Major Players are found in chapter 13:
The Beast and his Prophet

REVELATION CHAPTER 13

The Beast and the False Prophet

Vs 1-2 The Beast who comes up out of the sea

This passage involves both a Revived Roman Empire which rises to worldwide dominion and an evil individual who takes over the leadership of that world power, exercising total satanic power in carrying out his leadership.

Rev 17:8-13

Some versions put the first statement of Rev 13:1 as part of the last verse in chapter 12.

Wherever placed, we find the dragon (Satan) standing on the shoreline of the sea, which represents his one-world empire – 1 Jn 5:19; Rev 11:15, awaiting the emergence of his “son” who will carry out his (devil’s) heart’s desire.

NOTE: Problem with the translation: Some manuscripts read “I stood”, while others read, “He stood”:

1. John stood on the seashore (more probable reading) ---OR---
2. The beast stood on the seashore

There is no significant difference in the two.

(Some of your Bibles will say the one, while the rest will say the other.)

Verse one describes the Revived Roman Empire, which will be established before the beast takes control of it.

Verse two is a description of the ultimate leader of this empire: anti-christ.

Dan 7:7-8,19-25 makes this same distinction.

In Rev 12:3, the dragon who is behind the human leader is presented as the real force.

In Rev 17:3,7 this world-system’s connection with false Christianity is described.

In Rev 13, the world ruler has already taken control of this final phase of Satan’s kingdom.

Ten horns wearing ten diadems, seven heads with

blasphemous names, combining the most significant characteristics of the previous forms of the world government.

1. leopard – Alexandrian Empire: swift It’s world-wide consolidation will take less than a life-time.
2. bear – Medo-Persian: strength and tenacity

3. lion – Babylon: majesty and power
4. Satan has been freed by God to finish that which God created him to do.

NOTE: When described in Rev 17:10-12, there appears to be both a consecutive progression of these rulers and a simultaneous reigning of them.

This difference might be resolved by regarding the heads as successive, referring to kings or emperors, and the horns as kings who will reign simultaneously, receiving their power from the beast (empire, not individual), in both its historic and prophetic characters.

Vs 3

Again Two Possibilities: One of his heads....healed

1. If the head comes out of the consecutive progression, then the Roman Empire which appears to have died will come back to life in all its glory, amazing the world and causing them to come under its influence.
(Much the way the USA has developed, even more so... if the EU continues and consolidates, it could ultimately Become the fulfillment!)
2. If the last world ruler – anti-christ – is meant, then he will recover from a deadly wound which will magnify him as “the” world ruler of choice.

In either case, the revival of the future empire and its final ruler is a miracle and a demonstration of the power of Satan.

Vs 4

The final form of apostasy – 2 Thes 2:3 – is not simply the worship of an idol but the worship of Satan himself. The beast is Satan’s substitute for Christ. Phil3:3

NOTE what impresses the world about the beast!
Who is able to “wage war with him”?!

Love, humility, etc. are not characteristics which impress the world; power is!

The world situation that requires a world leader, coupled with his ability to rule it, helps make him an awesome human from the world’s perspective.

Vs 5-6 This final world ruler will be filled with both boasting and blasphemy. Dan 7:8,11,25
He comes into power before the Tribulation begins, being able to make a covenant with Israel for 7 years.
He receives permission – Job 1 & 2 – to act out his real person half way through the Tribulation – Mt 24:15-22

Speaking blasphemies is central to his being and his ruling.
His hatred of God, His Christ, and His followers is what makes him tick.. Dan 11:36-45

Believers have not been invited to reign upon this earth, they have been asked to “meet Him outside the gate.”
Heb 13:12-14; 1 Jn 2:15-17; Jn 3:19-20

Vs 7 World-wide domination, the dream of countless rulers, is finally achieved.
Dan 7:23,25; 9:27; 12:10; Rev 7:9-17

Vs 8 All the world, except the saints, will worship him.
The Lamb’s Book of Life: Rev 17:8; 20:12-15; 21:27; Lk 10:20; Phil 4:3

“From the Foundation of the world”
Eph 1:4

The ecumenical movement will be successful!

Vs 9-10 Exhortation to hear Rev 1:3

NOTE: “If anyone has an ear, let him hear” is not followed by the phrase “what the Spirit says to the churches”. This is another indication that the church is not present – thus – Pre-Tribulation Rapture!

There is nothing that can stop the outworking of God’s plan.
Eph 1:11

God’s plan for His children is not written the way the children would have written it.

Rev 14:12-13; 17:6

There are also children of wrath prepared for destruction.

Rom 9:21-24; Rev 14:15-20

God's will is being done even as Satan carries out his own plan.

"Here is the perseverance" – Rev 14:9-13 – God has judged those who have persecuted us.

Vs 11-18

The Second Beast – The False Prophet Rev 19:20

Vs 11-12

John now sees another beast coming up out of the earth,

Occupying a secondary role, supporting the first beast.

"Another beast" – another of the same kind – nature, character, power, etc.

He comes up out of the earth. 1 Sam 28:13

Though he is the same, he is different. He is the religious, (ecclesiastical) side of the unit, while the first beast is the political power.

1. He makes those who dwell on the earth to worship the beast.

Vs 12

2. He makes an image of the first beast, performs miracles, and causes everyone to worship the image.

Vs 13-15

3. He causes everyone to receive the mark of the beast.

Vs 16-18

He has Two Horns like a lamb, looking like a religious character, yet what

he

has to say better reflects what Satan would be saying.

He is active on behalf of the first beast, exercising the authority of the

first

beast in his presence.

He prepares the world so that it will worship the first beast as God, when he proclaims himself as such.

2 Thes 2:4

In Rev 17:16 with Rev 19:2, Religious Babylon is destroyed by the beast (anti-christ), prior to the Return of Christ.

If the false prophet heads up that final ecclesiastical unit, then possibly, the anti-christ will participate in the false prophet's destruction.

Vs 13-14

He makes fire come out of Heaven.

Acts 2:3; 2 Kgs 1:10-12; Rev 11:5

Satan has the power to duplicate many of God's miracles.

Ex 7:11, 22; 8:7

There comes a limit where even Satan drops behind when up against God.

Ex 8:18-19

All that the false prophet does is called "deception."

The wound of the sword and the coming back to life is mentioned for the third time in this chapter. This must be the event that becomes the basis for all that the first beast says and does.

He next tells the world to make an image of the beast.

Dan 3:1ff

This image is referred to 7 more times in the Book of Revelation.

14:9, 11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4

The image becomes the capstone of idolatry in Satan's kingdom.

Vs 15-17

The false prophet causes the image to "breathe and speak".

Demonic possession results in a person speaking with the demon's voice.

What the false prophet does is not as important as the response of the world to what it sees done.

The means to buy and sell now comes into play. The false prophet causes all who would survive to receive the mark of the anti-christ.

It appears that receiving the mark signifies that the person has worshipped the image. If you worship, you receive the mark. If you don't worship, you die.

The mark of the beast, his name or his number, serves as a Necessary identification to conduct business and to purchase the Necessities of life.

Thought of another way it becomes another device to Force all people to worship the beast.

Vs 18

The number of the beast – 666

QUESTION: Is there any indication that either the anti-christ or the false prophet are Jewish.

REVELATION CHAPTER 14

Verses 1 – 5 The Lamb and the 144,000 on Mount Zion

Vs 1 The Lamb was standing on Mt Zion
Heb 12:18-24; Isa 4:2-6; Micah 4:1-7; Rev 21:2-5,9-27
With Him 144,000 Rev 7:1-8
His Name and the Name of His Father – they belong to both
(Some believe that the time John is seeing is after the
Tribulation and Millennial Kingdom.
Others place them on the earth during the Tribulation because
Of John's experience recorded in vs 2 & 3.

Vs 2 & 3 If the 144,000 are on earth, then those singing in Heaven may
be the multitude who were martyred during the Trib.
It would follow that only the 144,000 could learn the song
reserved for those in Heaven.
Because the information contained in this section is not in chronological
sequence, a number of possibilities exist.
NOTE:
1. In Rev 5:9-10 the four living creatures and the elders sing a new song.
2. In Rev 14:3 the 144,000 sing an unknowable song before the four living
creatures and the elders.
3. As stated before, some think the 144,000 are being seen after the Trib
has come to completion.

Vs 4 The 144,000 live their lives in separation unto God.
1 Cor 7:32-35
They are called the first fruits because they were the first
humans saved after the Rapture.
Rev 7:1-8
Again, to belong to Christ is to belong to the Father and visa
versa.

Vs 5 No lie is found in them.
Jn 8:44; Rev 21:27; 22:15
They are blameless – untarnished from the world they are in.

NOTE: Fitting in with the idea that John is seeing the 144,000
after the Trib has concluded.
1. They are living, natural men who will continue throughout
the 1,000 year kingdom.

2. They will spend the entire Kingdom Age in the presence of the Lamb, following Him wherever He goes.

Vs 6-7 The Angel flying in Mid-Heaven

Vs 6

Another Angel (one of ten)

1. Rev 7:2-3 Led in the sealing of the 144,000
2. Rev 8:3-5 Stood at the altar holding a golden sensor...
Filled it with the fire of the altar and threw it to the earth.
3. Rev 10:1-2 He had in his hand a little book.
4. Here in Rev 14:6-7
5. Rev 14:8 Proclaims the fall of Babylon
6. Rev 14:9 Warns mankind not to receive the mark of the beast.
7. Rev 14:15 Calls for the sickle to reap
8. Rev 14:17,19 Joins the one who sat on the cloud in the reaping.
9. Rev 14:18 further described in Rev 16:8-9
10. Rev 18:1-3 Has great authority and is illumined with his glory

Having an Eternal Gospel to preach – Matt 24:14

“Gospel of the Kingdom”

The world will hear the message.

Vs 7

The context of the message is given – The hour of judgment

Has come!

Why is this “good news”? Because the reign of God is in Preparation!

Vs 8

The Fall of Babylon is proclaimed (in Heaven).

I. As to its political position on planet earth:

Gen 10:8-11; Micah 5:6

The city of Babylon, capitol of the Gentiles’ kingdom
reign upon the earth

Its destruction was prophesied and its judgment carried
Out in OT Times.

Dan 2:26-45; Isa 13:1-22; Jer 51:59-64

Commercial Babylon (world system) will be
destroyed at the Return of Christ.

Rev 18; Rev 19:17-21

(Both Egypt and Babylon are used in the Bible as the world, operating without input from its Maker.)

II. As to its religious meaning, its beginning is found in Gen 11:1-9

Extended Notes on Babylon and Its Symbolism

1. In Nimrod's system there was the Supreme Father God, who was not worshipped. His wife was the mother goddess, the human queen, Semiramis. She and her son were both worshipped

2. Building on the promise of Gen 3:15, Semiramis bore a son, whom she declared was conceived miraculously. His name was Tammuz. From these two was introduced the mystery religion of the "Mother-Child".

3. From Babylon this mystery religion spread to all the surrounding

nations.

- a. Egypt – the mother goddess was Isis the son-god was Horus
- b. Greece – the mother goddess was Aphrodite the son-god was Eros
- c. Rome – the mother goddess was Venus the son-god was Cupid

In all of its forms the symbols were the same, the image of the queen of heaven with a child in her arms.

4. Linked with this central mystery were countless lesser mysteries:

- a. purgatorial purification after death
- b. salvation by sacraments
- c. the offering of round cakes to the queen of heaven
Jer 7:17-18; 44:15-25
- d. Temple virgins (prostitutes)
- e. weeping for Tammuz for a period of 40 days, ending with Semiramis receiving back her son from the dead.

Vs 9-11 The End that awaits the worshippers of the Beast

(There is no promise that the end of their suffering has come.

Rev 7:16-17 – There is no end!)

If anyone "worships the beast and his image"

Rev 13:15-18

Remember, if you didn't worship – you died
Rev 13:15

What is physical death when compared to the 2nd death?
Rev 20:5-6; Mt 10:28

The wine of the wrath of God is said to be “unmixed” or full-strength – not diluted with either mercy or the grace of God.

Tormented in the Lake of Fire (Gehenna)

1. in the presence of the holy angels (1 Tim 5:24)
2. in the presence of the Lamb
3. smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever
4. no rest day or night
(without Christ, God has no ability to do otherwise)
Rom 3:21-26

Vs 12 Perseverance and the Faith of the Saints
Rev 13:10

1. who keep the commandments of God
 1 Jn 2:3-11
2. keep their faith in Jesus

Vs 13 I heard a voice from Heaven
Rev 10:4,8; 11:12; 14:2; 18:4; 21:3

Can it be that direct communication is taking place between God and man; that no intermediate means is used?

In this verse it is the Spirit speaking.
The blessing is pronounced upon a specific group of people!
They may rest...their deeds follow with them.

This is the Second of the Beatitudes in Revelation 1:3, here,
16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7,14

Vs 14-20 There is a Two-Fold Harvest Taking Place
First One: vs 14-16

1. Many believe the One settling on the cloud is Jesus Christ.
2. An angel delivers the message

3. This may be a harvest of believers.

Rev 14:13; 6:11

Second One: vs 17-20

1. An angel

a. came out of the Temple

b. He has a sickle similar to the first one

2. Another angel comes out from the altar and tells the first angel to reap.

“ripe” – in their prime, almost bursting with juice

The angel swings his sickle and throws the clusters into God’s wine press.

Rev 19:15

This may chronologically be the time following Christ’s Return.

Isa 63:2-6

The wine press is outside the city of Jerusalem and the blood flow rises to the height of a horse’s bridle for a 200 mile radius!

Righteous and true is Your Person.

He is both righteous in providing salvation Rom 3:21-26,
and in judging every man that does not receive Christ's
provision for them. 2 Cor 5:18-19

Christ is "King of the nations" and will be recognized as such
By every created being. Phil 2:5-11
(Ps 2:8-9; 24:1-10; 66:1-4; 72:8-11; 88:9; Isa 2:2-4; 9:6-7;
66:18-23; Dan 7:14; Zech 14:9)

Vs 5-6 The Holy of Holies in the Heavenly Tabernacle is opened.

"Tabernacle of Testimony" refers to the entire tabernacle, which
contained the Ark, which held the ten commandments.
Ex 38:21; Num 1:50-54; 10:11, etc

What John sees is the curtain parting and seven angels coming out
Of the Holy of Holies in Heaven.

Note: On earth only the high priest entered on the Day of
Atonement, after sacrificing for his own sins, Lev 16.
The angels, who have no sin, apparently experience
complete access to the temple in heaven.

As to the linen they are dressed in – see our prior notes.

Their golden sashes may be the same as Christ is seen wearing in
Rev 1:13.

Since angels do not possess imputed righteousness – Heb 2:14-16,
the connection between the two passages is uncertain. No real
explanation is found in the Bible.

Vs 7-8 In verse 6 the angels are differentiated by the fact that they are the
angels who had the seven plagues.

In verse 7 we are told how they received them.

The word "wrath" is the word "anger".

God's anger is satisfied from a temporal view here.

From an eternal view, it is never satisfied – Rev 14:10 – for
those who did not accept the means to satisfy His anger.

Rom 3:25

Once this final set of judgments is begun, no created being is able
to enter the Temple (Holy of Holies) until they are completed.

Ex 40:34-38

Note: Just as God lives forever and ever so does the judgment of
the lost.

REVELATION – CHAPTER 16
THE BOWL JUDGMENTS

Vs 1 The Command to Pour

Note: This chapter contains many “great” things
(same Greek word in all)

1. vs 17 tells us the voice being heard was great (loud)
2. vs 9 great heat (fierce)
3. vs 12 great river, the Euphrates
4. vs 14 great day of God, the Almighty
5. vs 18 great earthquake...so great an earthquake
6. vs 19 great city...Babylon the Great
7. vs 21 great (huge) hailstones
8. vs 21 the plague of the hail...was extremely great (severe)

This chapter of the Bible includes many great things.
We are at the end; every action and every participant is at its maximum.

Vs 2 The First Bowl – loathsome and malignant sores

The word “sore” is the same Greek word found in the LXX for the boils inflicted on the Egyptians in Ex 9:9-11.
(The judgments inflicted on the Egyptians must have been very severe.)

Those affected by this plague are many. Rev13:8
Every lost person alive on earth.

Vs 3 The Second Bowl – sea becomes blood and every living thing in it dies

With the Second Trumpet – Rev 8:8-9 – one third were affected.
With the Second Bowl – it is universal.

Vs 4-7 The Third Bowl – the Second plague’s effects are extended to the rivers and springs of water.

The “angel of the waters” affirms the righteousness of God for this judgment.

The bloodletting during the Great Tribulation of believers will be without parallel in the history of mankind. Matt 24:21

When the Creator was mocked, beaten, and spat upon, He did not defend Himself or hurt His enemies. Not so with His children.

In verse 7 some manuscripts add “another out of”, which is probably reflective of the meaning of what is being said. The utterance would come from a Being, rather than from the altar itself.

Vs 8-9 The Fourth Bowl – parallels the Fourth Trumpet – Rev 8:12

Again, one third versus universal judgment...

With this Bowl Judgment the sun increases its intensity and burns mankind with its heat.

The Tribulation is almost over and the reality of God is obvious, yet, lost man’s response to God is to blaspheme Him. Spiritually dead men do not repent.

Vs 10-11 The Fifth Bowl – judgment directed at the Beast, and his subjects

The throne of the beast focuses on the authority which the beast has taken up.

The wicked in their suffering are said to gnaw their tongues for pain. Still no repentance.

This is the last reference to their failure to repent.

Rev 2:21; 9:20-21; 16:9

Vs 12-16 The Sixth Bowl – the drying up of the great river Euphrates, in preparation for the conclusion of Armageddon

Vs 12 The river Euphrates formed the Eastern boundary of the ancient Roman Empire. It is also the Eastern boundary of the land which God promised to the seed of Abraham.

Gen 15:18; Deut 1:7; 11:24; Joshua 1:4

The kings of the East are the rulers of the Orient who will descend upon the Middle East for the Final World Battle.

Vs 13-14 John experiences an additional vision which is a commentary on the Sixth Bowl.

He sees three demons who appear as frogs coming out of the mouths of the satanic trinity.

The demon indwelling the false prophet is probably the power behind the miracles worked by the false prophet.

Rev 13:12-15

These demons are involved in the gathering of the forces of the

world in the beautiful land for the final battle. Dan 11:40-45

- Vs 15 1 Thes 5:2,4; 2 Pet 3:10; Rev 3:3
The third beatitude found in the Book of Revelation...
- Vs 16 Mount of Megiddo outside of Jerusalem
- Vs 17-21 The Seventh Bowl – the final act of God prior to the Return of Christ
A voice coming from the Temple again...It is done.
Lightening and thunder are experienced.
An earthquake unlike any ever experienced takes place.
- Vs 19 The great city Babylon is divided and destroyed. Rev 18:1-24
Every one of her sins is remembered by God.
- Vs 20 Destruction of the planet is experienced everywhere.
- Vs 21 Hailstones come down and men blaspheme God.
Note: Salvation remains beyond lost humanity, apart from the drawing power of God!

REVELATION – CHAPTER 17

THE DESTRUCTION OF RELIGIOUS BABYLON

Religious (Ch 17) and Commercial (Ch 18) Babylon represent such a significant entity that they each warrant a chapter in the book of Revelation.

Satan, in the person of anti-christ, is not the only “force” that matters.

These two world systems precede his entrance and are the human’s input and control of the fallen world order. (Satan didn’t make us do it; we did it because we are depraved.)

Religious Babylon is destroyed prior to the end of the Great Tribulation.

Rev 19:1-3 states that she has been destroyed, yet Rev 19:11-16, which describes the Return of Christ, has not yet happened.

It would make sense that her destruction would be brought about shortly after the Great Tribulation begins, because anti-christ sets himself up as the object of worship precluding all others.

Chapter 17 is broken down into two parts: Verses 1-7 describe the Vision, while Verses 8-18 give the meaning of the Vision.

THE VISION – vs 1-7

Vs 1

One of the Bowl Angels gives John the tour

Note: It has been asked if the angels know the plan of God, prior To its unfolding.

This angel both knows the Vision and is the one who explains its fulfillment.

He knows all this more than 1900 years before its occurrence.

In fact, he is one of the players in the fulfillment of the plan.

Also, realize that, an angel who carries out the plague of God, at one point in time, takes a “walk” with a believer so that he can show and explain that which his God has planned. Rev 7:11-12

THE JUDGMENT – 2 Peter 3:8-10

Great Harlot

1. sits on many waters vs 15
2. joined herself to the kings of the earth vs 2
3. served the “wine of her immorality” to the people of the earth vs 2
4. clothed and adorned vs 4
5. holds in her hand a gold cup full of abominations vs 4
6. has a name on her forehead vs 5
7. drunk with the blood of the saints/witnesses of Jesus vs 6
8. carried by the beast vs 7
9. destroyed by the kingdom of anti-christ vs 16
10. she is the great city vs 18

In chapter 18 the vision shifts to the political entity.

It must be remembered that both the religious and the political entity work as a unit.

Sits on many waters – again vs 15

Vs 2 Two spiritual concepts which sum up her prostitution:
“The people of the earth were made drunk (become controlled by Eph 5:18) with the wine of her immorality which she fed them”,
and “the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality with her.”

NOTE: Spiritual adultery is not ordinarily used of heathen nations who do not know God, but of people who outwardly carry the name of God while actually worshipping and serving other gods. Israel is often described in this condition in the OT Ezk 16 and 23; all of Hosea.

In the NT Christians are warned to avoid this type of adultery.

Jas 4:4

This body or organization has developed prior to the beginning of the Tribulation period. She is fully functional from the first day. If she carries the name of Christ and yet was not raptured, then this body is made up of professing Christianity from our age. Her organizational structure will also precede the tribulation period. We will see if the further information provided in the chapter will help us determine who this organization might be.

Vs 3-4 The Vision of the Woman on the Beast

- Vs 3 John receives an invitation from the angel, vs 1, which he accepts, vs 3.
 He is carried into wilderness (no article) in a "spiritual state".
 (If he entered a state of "in the Spirit" Rev 1:10, and has continued in that state from the time the revelation began, then it would appear he has been transferred to a "new section" and is continuing in that state.)
 In this transferred place he saw a woman (same one described in vs 1 & 2) sitting on a scarlet beast; the beast having seven heads and ten horns, covered with blasphemous names.
1. The fact that she is riding the beast means that she is not the beast
 2. Her position, that of riding the beast
 - a. indicates she is supported by the beast
 - b. and that she is in a dominant role and at least outwardly she , to some extent, controls or directs the beast
 3. "Church and state" are merged. Religious Babylon is supported by political Babylon and, in fact, has some influence over political Babylon.
 4. The woman has such a close association with the beast that it is clear how apostate the organized Christian church becomes at the time of the end.
 5. The only worldwide church recognized in the Bible is this apostate church. It is the remnant (majority) that is left behind when the rapture occurs.
 6. The description of the beast as having seven heads and ten horns will be explained shortly. Vs 9-13
- Vs 4 The woman is clothed in....The present-day ecclesiastical Churches (Catholic, Russian, and Greek orthodox, etc.), decked in such garb! No church in John's day represented such wealth. The church present today does. (John would never have guessed the transformation if God had not revealed it to him.)
- The golden cup held in her hand stands for the height of abomination committed by her.
- The re-working of the "finished work of Christ" so that it never finishes would be a good candidate for the interpretation.
- Vs 5 The name of the woman
1. Mystery – a descriptive reference to the title, not a part of the title itself. This is the mystery religion that began in Nimrod's time and has circled the Globe, coming to its fullness at the time of the Tribulation.

2. Babylon the great
3. The mother of harlots
4. The mother of the abominations of the earth

Vs 6 Apostate Christendom is unsparing in its persecution of those who attempt to maintain a true faith in Jesus Christ.

The only death toll larger than that of the followers of Jesus will be those who refuse to receive the mark of the beast.

Both martyrs come from the same group (believers), but Babylon the whore of the first half of the Tribulation will be replaced with the image of the beast in the second half.

I saw the woman.....I wondered greatly!

Vs 7 The angel tells John that he will explain what he has just shown him. He explains the beast first in detail, then the woman and subsequent action relating to her.

Vs 8 The beast that you saw – Rev 13:1-9; 11:7; 12:3; Dan 7:7,19-28 was...is not...is about to come up out of

1. was – a world government that has ruled in history – the Imperial Roman Empire
2. is not – disappears
3. is about to reign again for a short period – the Revived Roman Empire

The final form of this empire will be so closely connected with the dragon that it will be indistinguishable with his purpose and his ways.

This empire, which will fulfill all Satan's desires will go to destruction – the kingdom of this world will be destroyed by the kingdom of Christ.

And that part of the human population who has not been chosen from the beginning for salvation.

2 Thess 2:13-14; Rom 9:21-24; Eph 1:4-12 (written...from the foundation Matt 25:34) will be so impressed with the beast, with the fact that it has resurrected and that it displays such awesome power. Rev 13:4

Vs 9-11 The Revelation that is to follow is difficult and complex

1. A common interpretation believed by many:
The seven heads are seven mountains – Throughout its history Rome has been described as the city of seven hills. The base for

the beast, geographically is Rome; the woman's (religious Babylon) base will be Rome also.

2. An alternative interpretation worth considering:
 - a. The seven heads are both seven mountains and seven kings.
 1. The term "mountain" is used as a descriptive term for a political empire.
Ps 30:7; Jer 51:24-25; Dan 2:35; Isa 2:2, etc
 2. The woman has been carried by all of these empires.
(It is not the papacy alone that is described but rather it is a form of false religion carried and supported by these consecutive "mountains".)
 3. Each kingdom or mountain is known for its greatest ruler.
 4. The seven mountains would be:
 - Five have fallen:
 - >Egypt
 - >Assyria
 - >Babylon
 - >Medo-Persia
 - >Greece
 - One is:
 - >Rome
 - One is to come
 - >Anti-christ's kingdom

NOTE: Daniel's visions involved 5 kings which were current or yet future to Daniel. The first two had already seen their day.

Remember that these "mountains" are the empires that affected Israel and are not in contradiction with the other empires of world history.

It is the one yet to come that is the object of this revelation. Anti-christ is the focus. The final empire will be in existence when the Tribulation begins. It will have a leader or ruling tribunal (3 horns). Anti-christ, the eighth king will rise up over the 3 horns; tear them out and replace them. He is the eighth. As to being one of the seven, he will reign with them before he makes his move and reigns over them.

THE ANTI-CHRIST GOES TO DESTRUCTION - Rev 19:20

Vs 12-15

The ten horns are ten kings joined in a confederacy which forms the final Gentile world empire.

Unlike the seven previous kings who rule consecutively, these reign as one. They begin by reigning with the anti-christ.

1. These 10 have the same purpose (heart) as the anti-christ. Their united vision will include the extermination of the Jews.
2. They give their authority to the beast, he does not take it. They use their power to support his vision.
3. They, as one, wage war with the Lamb.
The Lamb will overcome them Rev 19:11-16
4. Those who are with Him Zech 14:1-6, are called-
Rom 8:28
 - a. chosen 1 Pet 2-10
 - b. faithful
5. The waters which the harlot sits upon and the 8 kings rule over is an empire which contains many languages, nations, and people. (An EU type of set-up)
The situation described is one of great political power, shared with the woman who controls the multitudes of the world.

Vs 16

The ten horns along with the beast will destroy the harlot.

This means that she will be destroyed before the beast removes the three horns.

1. make her desolate
2. naked
3. eat her flesh
4. burn her up with fire

Vs 17

God works all things to accomplish His purpose. Nothing about the Tribulation is outside of God. Every player in the period was given its part by God. He wrote it!

Vs 18

The woman – false Christianity the final form which Nimrod began will be headed by the great city. There will be a united world “Christian” church operating during the first half of the tribulation. This apostolic church will be headed by a religious center – ROME???

The church centered in this city will finally reign over the kings of the earth

REVELATION – CHAPTER 18

Verses 1-3 THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FALL OF BABYLON

Vs 1 “After these things” means that the action recorded in chapter 18 takes place at a later time than the action reported in chapter 17.

Again, religious Babylon falls at the mid-point of the Tribulation while Babylon the world’s political and commercial system survives until the end of the Tribulation.

“Another angel” – in context, an angel different than the one seen in chapter 17:1.

>Being described as “another” means that this is an angel and not Christ in a different form.

>His great authority and power and the fact that the entire earth is illuminated with His glory would indicate that he is an angel of the greatest order and is about to carry out a great work on behalf of God!

Vs 2 “Fallen” is repeated; and the tense of the verb indicates that the action is completed, though the context indicates the event is yet future.

Religious Babylon’s destruction is already past. Rev 17:16

1. Completed action when describing a yet future event sometimes is used to stress the certainty of that which is being described.
2. The first “fallen” might be in reference to the fall of Religious Babylon at the halfway mark, while the second “fallen” is referencing the secular fall. Many times throughout the book, both Babylons are described as functioning together.

Rev 17:1-3,9

“She” is not referring to Religious Babylon, but rather to

“the kingdom of the world” (singular). Rev 11:15

This kingdom had Nebuchadnezzar’s empire as its head and has been progressively worse as time has passed.

It’s ultimate functioning will be seen when Satan reigns over it personally and demonic spirits permeate it.

Rev 9:1-11

(Remember that the different phases of this world’s kingdom do not stand alone, but rather, build upon the prior phases.)

The kings and the merchants of the earth mourn the destruction of political and commercial Babylon; no one mourns the destruction of religious Babylon. Rev 18:9-11

Money and power have always been the world's focus.
Rev 16:19 is a short reference to this fall.

Babylon the great:

> a dwelling place of demons

> a prison of every unclean spirit

> a prison (cage) of every unclean and hateful bird.

Isa 34:8 – 15; Matt 13:32

Vs 3 Babylon has had evil relationships with all the nations.

She has committed fornication with all her kings and the merchants have become rich from these acts of immorality.

They have abandoned God and fallen in love with the world.
1 Jn 2:15-17

Verses 4-5 A Call For Separation

Vs 4 Another voice from Heaven is heard.

To the Believer, who is reading this book, come out of her!
Rev 1:3 (Gen 19:15-17; Jer 51:6-10; 42-45)

We must "come out" of her

1. so that we will not participate in her sins

(sanctification is an active choice – it does not just "happen")

2. so that we will not have her plagues inflicted on us

There is something worse than the damage she can do to us.

Matt 10:28

Vs 5 Her sins have piled up as high as Heaven and God has remembered.

1. Her tower never reached the distance – Gen 11:3-4

Her sin did!

2. When God remembers, He acts!

Verses 6-8 Her Indictment

Vs 6 The other voice continues to speak

1. pay her back – give back that which is due

Habakkuk 1:2-4; Rev 6:10

2. give back double.....mix twice as much for her

There is no mercy for the world!

- Vs 7 To the degree that she glorified herself...
 To the degree that she lived sensuously
 (are we not guilty of the same sins? Jas 4:2-10)
- To the same degree – give her (both reward and punishment are received by degree)
 1. torment Rev 20:10,15
 2. mourning Rev 14:9-11
- Her wishful thinking – “I sit as a queen, I am not a widow...will never see mourning” Rev 3:17
 She is certainly not a widow. There is no end to those who join themselves to her.
- Vs 8 For this reason – her attitude and her actions
 her judgment comes in one Day (Day of the Lord – 7 years)
 1. plagues
 2. pestilence
 3. mourning
 4. famine
 5. burned up with fire
 Luke 12:16-21
 Satan and all his forces are no contest for the Lord God.
 He is the judge. He is strong.
- Verses 9-10 The Reaction of the Kings of the Earth to Her Judgment
- All the kings of the earth, each with his place in the structure will watch at a distance out of fear.
- These kings – individuals – Dan 4:17; Rom 13:1-2
 who had the power to do good but who:
 1. committed acts of immorality with her – slept with her
 2. lived sensuously with her – they were bought by her ability to pay
 3. will weep and lament over her – when they see her burn
 2 Pet 3:7-12 remembering 2 Pet 2:4-9
- “The fear of her torment”....am I next?
 Woe, woe to the world. It’s over. It’s gone. God has put an end to it!
- Verses 11-19 The Reaction of the Merchants (People of Means) of the Earth

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The world, life is all about money 2. No one to buy verses 12-13
Vs 14	gone from you passed away no longer found
Vs 15	The merchants...who became rich...weeping and mourning Matt 6:19-21
Vs 16-17a	The world...but I thought...what happened...what will happen to me?
Vs 17b – 19	Those who delivered the goods of verses 12-13 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. throw dust on their heads 2. cry out 3. weep 4. mourn <p>That which has been built since Adam left the garden is destroyed in 7 years. There will be NOTHING LEFT!!! LAID WAIST!!!</p>
Vs 20	There will be a group of people who will be rejoicing when they hear the news. God has inflicted the judgment of the believers upon the world. The righteous triumph as victory follows suffering. For all those who are waiting for...the time of waiting has ended.
Vs 21	Babylon is a great stone. A third strong angel is up to the plan, Rev 5:2; 10:1 Just as a stone which is thrown into a body of water disappears as it sinks, never to be found again, so Babylon disappears! Jer 51:61-64
Verses 22-23	In you no longer – why – because you earned it
Vs 24	Her sin!

REVELATION – CHAPTER 19

Vs 1-3

The Response to Rev 18:20

1. Babylon, in all its forms has been destroyed!
2. The Rebellion which began in Gen 3:6-7 is over. (except for Gog and Magog)
3. God will wait no longer.
4. The time for the transition from Tribulation to Millennium has come.
5. The transfer from darkness to light, from black to white, from days of judgment to days of blessing, from the end to a new beginning, has finally come!

A great multitude Rev 7:9, who God has pronounced judgment for Rev 18:20, seems to be martyred dead of the Tribulation.

Hallelujah – 4 times in the NT and every case is in this chapter. (vs 1,3,4,6) (The NT Hallelujah Chorus!)

Salvation – deliverance

Glory – moral glory in judgment

Power – might seen in the execution of that judgment

(Honor – later manuscripts)

Belong to our God.

God's actions are "true and righteous" and they are in response to the prayer of His children. Rev 6:10

The smoke of her judgment rises up "forever and ever."
Rev 14:11-12

Vs 4

The 24 elders and the four living creatures join in to the worship service!

Vs 5-6

The final Alleluia comes from "the Great Multitude".

Note that a "voice from the Throne" is inviting the Great multitude to join in to the worship service. This voice does not come from God, but rather from an angelic being who also claims God as "our God."

(The Great Multitude is made up of):

1. bond-servants
2. those who fear Him
3. the small and the great

The verb "praise" is in the present tense, meaning that those present are to "keep on praising" the Lord. The text of the praise chorus "Hallelujah! for the Lord our God, the Almighty reigns."

Vs 7-8

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb is announced.

1. The Marriage of the Lamb – does it take place in Heaven or on the earth after Christ's Return?
2. It is clear that the Great Multitude who comes out of the Tribulation sees itself as a different body than the Bride (pre-Tribulation Rapture argument.)

The Marriage of the Lamb...His Bride...made herself ready....

Christ is the Bridegroom. Jn 3:29; Matt 9:15; 25:1-13
The Church is the Bride. (Not believing Israel; they are the attendants.) 2 Cor 11:2; Eph 5:25-33

As to the timing of the Process:

1. Betrothal period – from the time of the purchase to the time of the marriage – ends with the Rapture
2. Marriage itself – Rev 19:7-8
3. Marriage supper (Reception) – Rev 19:9 1000 Year Kingdom

Made Herself Ready – clothed in fine linens, which are her righteous acts done during the Betrothal period. The examination which results in the fine linen is "The (Bema) judgment Seat of Christ.

The following is taken from my notes "God's Prophetic Program for the ages pg 14

4. Judgement (Bema) Seat of Christ

a. Two words for judge are used.

i. criterion - **1 Cor 6:2-4** - To judge guilty or innocent

ii. Bema - reward seat - place where umpire of the arena sat to issue rewards to the winners

Time - directly after the rapture **Lk 14:13-14; 1 Cor 4:5 with 1 Thes 4:14-18; Rev 22:12**

Place - The Heavens **2 Cor 5:1-8; 1 Thes 4:15-18; Heb 12:18-24**

Judge - Lord Jesus Christ **Jn 5:21-29; Rom 14:10-12; 2 Cor 5:9-10; Heb 4:14-16**

Subjects of Bema seat - Believers **2 Cor 5:10**

Basis of examination

Not our sins: **Jn 5:24; Rom 8:1; Heb 10:17-24; 1 Jn 4:15-18**

Based on our works and whether they are acceptable or worthless **2 Cor 5:10; Lk**

6

Result of examination

Rewards lost **1 Cor 3:10-15; 9:22-27**

Five (5) Crowns as rewards (stephanos-wreath, not diadems-kingly crowns) are mentioned in the New Testament:

a. to those who get mastery over the old man - **1 Cor 9:25**

b. of rejoicing for soul winners - **1 Thes 2:19**

c. of life for those enduring trials - **James 1:12**

d. of righteousness for those loving his appearing - **2 Tim 4:8**

e. of glory for being willing to feed the flock of God - **1 Pet 5:2-4**

Question: Why were we saved ?

To glorify God **1 Cor 6:20**

To bear fruit for God **Rom 7:4**

Vs 9

In verses 5-7 a Great Multitude of His bondservants begin their own "Hallelujah Chorus" because the "Marriage of the Lamb" has come.

In verse 9 – then he Rev 14:13; 19:5 (also note Rev 21:5)
– told John, to

write that those who are invited to the Marriage Supper are truly blessed.

1. Are all invited to the supper who were part of the marriage?

2. Is the bride partial at the supper?
3. Are there "attendants" at the supper who are separate from the bride? Matt 25:1-13 (further clarification: Matt 25:14-30) the bride being the church, and the attendants at the wedding being believers of other ages.

Note: God does not treat all believers of all ages exactly alike. The Divine purpose is not the same for Israel, Gentile Believers outside the church age, the Church of the present age, or even the elect angels! This same truth also applies to the individuals who make up the individual bodies. In all these relationships, God is completely sovereign, righteous, and wise.

This is the Fourth Beatitude of the Book of Revelation. These beatitudes are "true words of God".
(1 Tim 1:15; 3:1; 4:9; 2 Tim 2:11; Titus 3:8 –
"Trustworthy Statements"

Vs 10

So awesome is this revelation, that John's immediate response is to fall down and worship the angelic being who made the proclamation. Such a reaction to any created being is inappropriate!
The word translated "servant" means "fellow slave".
Worship God!

"The Testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

1. All prophecy 2 Pet 1:20-21, at its very heart is designed to reveal the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Jn 16:12-14
2. Christ is not the only theme in Scripture, but He is the Central Theme.
3. This statement sets the stage for verses 11-16.
In the Gospels, Jesus is revealed in rejection, humiliation, suffering and death.
In Revelation 19:11-16, He comes in triumph, glory, sovereignty, and majesty.
This "presence" will remain for all eternity.
Phil 2:5-11

- Vs 11-16 The high point of the Book of Revelation
 The high point of all human history Ps 2
 The King of kings and Lord of lords comes.
 (Returns Lk 2:7,15-16)
- Vs 11 Heaven opened. Jn 14:1-3 (anticipates the Rapture
 1 Thes 4:13-18) Rom 11:25-29; Zech 14:1-6;
 Matt 24:27-31 Second Advent)
- a white horse Rev 6:2
- He who sits upon it – Faithful and True Rev 1:5; 3:7;
 Isa 11:1-5
- in righteousness He judges and wages war. Isa 64:1-2
- Vs 12 His eyes are a flame of fire Rev 1:14; 2:18
- On His head – many diadems Rev 12:3
- A Name written – which no one yet knows Rev 2:17; 3:12
- Vs 13 Clothed in a robe dipped in blood
 Isa 63:2-3; Rev 14:20
- His Name – Word of God Jn 1:1-3 – He who created has
 returned to judge His creation.
- Vs 14 Armies (plural) clothed in fine linen – follow Him on white
 horses.
1. angels
 2. righteous men made perfect
 3. church of the first born
- Vs 15 From His mouth – a sharp sword – with it He strikes down the
 nations.
- From that moment forward the nations will be ruled with a
 “rod of iron”. Rev 2:26-27

He treads the winepress of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. Rev 14:19-20

1. When the day of judgment arrives, it is too late to expect mercy from God.
2. There is nothing more inflexible than Divine judgment, when Divine grace has been repudiated

Vs 16 On His robe; on His thigh – King of kings and Lord of lords.

- Vs 17
1. To see an angel standing in the Sun – This angel must really shine
 2. cried out with a loud voice Rev 6:10; 7:2, 10; 10:3; 14:15; 18:2
 3. The birds of prey which fly in midheaven receive the invitation.

Vs 18 Come assemble for the Great Supper of God – God is serving!
The main course – the armies of the earth!
Ezk 39:17-29; Matt 24:28

Vs 19 Daniel 1:36-45

- Vs 20 The beast and the false prophet
1. first to be cast into the fire of Hell
Rev 20:15
 2. precede Lucifer's entrance by 1000 years
Rev 20:10
 3. the beast
the false prophet:
 - a. who performed the signs
 - b. who deceived those who received the mark by worshipping the image

Vs 21 The army of the beast is doomed!
Christ, Himself kills the remaining armies. Rev 19:15
So numerous were the fallen, that "all the birds were filled with their flesh."

REVELATION – CHAPTER 20

The Binding of Satan – verses 1-3

Vs 1 John sees another angel,
(Rev 7:2; 8:3; 10:1; 14:6,8,9,15,17,18; 17:1; 18:1; 19:17)
operating at the command and in the authority of God.

This angel possesses the key to the abyss (bottomless pit).
(Rev 9:1,2,11; Lk 8:26-33 esp. vs 31; Rev 10:5-8)

Vs 2-3 The angel is empowered to perform 5 functions:

1. to lay hold of the dragon Rev 12:3-4
(the serpent of old Gen 3:1-7; devil, Satan)
2. bind him for a thousand years (with the great chain, vs 1)
NOTE
 - a. Is this the language of appearance?
How is a spiritual being bound by a chain?
 - b. The word translated "chain" is found in:
Mk 5:3; Acts 12:7; 28:20; 2 Tim 1:16
 - c. Spiritual chains – different words – are also found
elsewhere in the Bible. 2 Pet 2:4 with Jude 6
 - d. Picture – Satan is not merely restricted, but he is
rendered completely inactive.
 - e. Would not the thousand years referenced in verse 2 be
as literal as the same thousand years referenced in vs 6?
 - f. Consider the quantity of life when Satan is loose –
Tribulation period and Gog and Magog with life when he
is bound – Millennial Kingdom.
3. Throw him into the abyss.
4. Shut and seal the abyss – he is out of the picture.
5. Possibly release him after the Millennium. Rev 20:7

The Resurrection and Judgment of the Tribulation Believers – vs 4-6

Vs 4 Who are “they” who are sitting on thrones, who are granted the right to judge?

1. bond servants Rev 22:3-5; Rev 5:8-10
2. twenty four elders Rev 4:4
3. Apostles Lk 22:25-30; Matt 19:28

John also sees the Tribulation Believers who had been martyred during the Tribulation.

1. beheaded for their witness for Christ and the Word of God
2. had not worshipped the beast
 - a. not his image
 - b. neither had they received his mark
3. Rev 6:9; 12:11; 7:9-17

These come back to life Jn 5:29; 11:25
and reign with Him for 1000 years. 2 Tim 2:12

Vs 5-6 The statement of the completion of the “First Resurrection”

The following is taken from my notes “God’s Prophetic Program for the ages pg 13

VI. RESURRECTIONS

- A. All people everywhere from all time will be resurrected **1 Cor 15:21-28,35-49; 2 Cor 5: 1-9!!**

Resurrection is not the same as restoration. In more than 40 New Testament references to resurrection, with the possible exception of **Lk 2:34**, it always refers to a literal resurrection, never in a spiritual or nonliteral sense, and has to do with the raising up of the physical body.

Dan 12:1-3; Jn 5:25-29; 1 Cor 15:12-58; Isa 26:19-21

- B. There are two kinds of resurrection in God's program:

1. **The Resurrection UNTO LIFE (First Resurrection) Lk 14:13-14 Phil 3:8-11**

The time order or sequence of the first resurrection is given as follows:

1 Cor 15:23

- a. Christ - **Matt 28:1-7; Heb 6:19-20; Jn 5:22; Heb 2:14-18**
- b. A handful of Old Testament believers - **Matt 27:50-53**
- c. The church prior to the tribulation - **1 Thes 4:13-18; 1 Cor 15:51-58**

d. Believing Israel at the end of the tribulation (all O.T. believers)
Job 14:13-15; Dan 12:9-13; Ezk 37:1-14 (May represent the Nation of Israel in 1948); Isa 26:19-21

**2. The Resurrection UNTO DAMNATION - GREAT WHITE THRONE
JUDGEMENT**

Rev 20:5-15

NOTE: This passage clearly teaches that there is a 1000 year gap between the First and the Second Resurrection. Other passages such as Dan 12:2 and Jn 5:28-29 refer to the truth that both the righteous and the wicked will be resurrected rather than the timing of those resurrections.

The "loosing" of Satan and the Final Revolt – vs 7-9

This final rebellion can only be appreciated when the context in which it occurs is remembered. For 1000 years man's experience can be summarized as follows:

1. Jerusalem will be the capital of the earth.

2. Peace will be the universal experience.

Isa 11

3. There will be justice for all.

4. The wicked will be dealt with.

5. The animal kingdom will become tame.

Revelation – chapter 20 continued

6. The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord.

7. All nations will serve Him.

8. The earth will be filled with the glory of the Lord.

9. No Satanic oppression or evil

10. For the period of 1000 years, the earth will experience the presence of God and His perfect, divine government.

11. Israel will be exalted and Gentiles will be blessed.

12. God's purpose for creating the Garden of Eden will be realized.

13. At the beginning of the reign all rebels will be purged out. Ezk 20:34-38

At the conclusion of the above experience, organized opportunity to express open rejection of God will become available.

The descendants of those who enter the kingdom age will make up this vast body of rebellious people.

This final battle is referred to as being spearheaded by Gog and Magog.

These two powers are mentioned in Ezk 38 and 39.

They appear to refer to two unrelated events which are separated by more than 1000 years.

Consider the following observations

GOG and MAGOG

- a. That which occurs after the Millennium Rev 20:7-9
- b. That which occurs prior to the Millennium Ezk 38-39
 - 1a. Satan is prominent
 - 1b. Satan is not mentioned

 - 2a. Participants will come from the four corners of the earth.
 - 2b. Participants will come from the north of Israel.
Ezk 38:6,15; 39:2
 - 3a. The number of soldiers will be beyond count.
 - 3b. Many nations will be represented in the battle.
Ezk 38:5, 22

 - 4a. Heaven and earth will disappear
Rev 20:11
 - 4b. There will be at least 7 months following the battle.
Ezk 39:9-16

 - 5a. The GWT, which necessitates the resurrection of all the lost, follows immediately after the battle.
Rev 20:11-15
Also the dead are said to be burned up!
 - 5b. Why bury the dead over a seven month period, Ezk 39:12-13, if they are going to be immediately raised from the dead when they are?

 - 6a. No time remains after.
 - 6b. Seven years remain after.

Ezk 39:9-10

7a. Israel was drawn to God 1000 years prior to the stated event.

Rom 11:26-27

7b. In Ezekiel, the battle is a catalyst which God will use to draw

Israel to Himself.

Ezk 39:7, 22-29

As seen above, the events after each battle are so different that two separate battles must be being spoken of!

In Revelation 20, we have very little information provided relating to that battle.

In Ezekiel 38 and 39, we have a great deal more information provided:

1. The invading armies – chapter 38

vs 3 Magog (Rosh) – Russia
 Mesheck - Moscow
 Tubal - Tobolsk

vs 5 Persia - Iran
 Ethiopia - Ethiopia
 Put - Lybya

vs 6 Gomer - Germany
 Beth – togarmah – Turkey

vs 13 Sheba – Arab states surrounding Israel
 Dedan – Arab states surrounding Israel
 Tarshish – Spain

2. The setting

> The invasion takes place at a time when Israel occupies the Land. Ezk 38:8

This re-gathering is described in Ezk 37:1-14.

It is a time in Israel's life when she will be back in the Land, yet be unsaved. (1948 – 2nd Advent).

> The anti-christ will be the leading force in the Revived Roman Empire and will provide Israel with a commitment to allow her to stay in the Land, setting the Arab-Israel confrontation concerning her right to be in the Land.

Dan 9:27

Isa 28:18 refers to the covenant as a "covenant of death"

and a “pact with Hell”.

At its beginning, Israel will experience a time of peace.

Ezk 38:11

3. Ezekiel further states that this invasion will occur in:
 - a. the latter years Ezk 38:8 – time prior to the last days
Deut 4:27-30; Dan 2:28; 8:23; 10:14
 - b. the last days Ezk 38:16 is related to the time of Israel’s salvation or Millennial age.
Isa 2:2-4; Micah 4:1-7

Will the battle take place before the Tribulation or in the First Half of the Tribulation?

Dwight Pentecost of Dallas Seminary offers the following as to how he sees the battle of Gog and Magog of Ezekiel 38 & 39 taking place:

1. Israel makes a covenant with the beast and occupies her land in a false security.
Dan 9:27; Ezk 38:8,11
2. Because of a desire for spoil at the expense of an easy prey, the king of the north, satanically motivated, invades Palestine.
Ezk 38:11; Joel 2:1-21; Isa 10:12; 30:31-33; 31:8-9
3. The beast breaks his covenant with Israel and moves into the Land.
Dan 11:41-45
4. The king of the north is destroyed on the mountains of Israel.
Ezk 39:1-4
5. The Land of Palestine is occupied by the armies of the beast.
Dan 11:45
6. At this time the great coalition of nations takes place that forms one government under the beast.
Ps 2:1-3; Rev 13:7
7. The kings of the east are brought in against the armies of the beast (Rev 16:12) as a result of the desolution of the government of Gog.
8. When the nations of the earth are gathered together around Jerusalem, Zech 4:1-3 and the Valley of Jehosaphat Joel 3:2, the Lord returns

to destroy all Gentile world powers so that He might rule the nations Himself.

This is further described in:

Zech 12:1-9; 14:1-4

Isa 33:1 – 34:17; 63:1-6; 66:15-16; Jer 25:27-33; Rev 20:7-10

(taken from Bib Sac 114:456 (Oct 57) p 347)

Vs 10

The doom of Satan

1. The deceiver – who was first deceived himself when he launched his career to be like God Isa 14:14, and then deceived Eve in the Garden.
2. Satan joins the beast and the false prophet who have been in this fire for 1000 years.
The Word of God clearly declares that death is not annihilation and that the wicked exist forever in torment.
(See my notes on Hell.)

Vs 11

The Great White Throne

Our first view of “a throne” is found in Rev 4:2.

It is mentioned more than 30 times in this book.

This throne is probably different and Jesus Christ is probably the One sitting upon it.

Jn 5:22; Matt 19:28; 25:31; 2 Cor 5:10

The majesty of the One sitting on the throne causes the present Heaven and earth to flee away.

(In Rev 21:1, John sees a New Heaven and a New Earth replace the first.)

The end of this present world is found in many places in the Bible: Matt 24:35; Mk 13:31; Lk 16:17; 21:33; 2 Pet 3:10

Vs 12-13

The Resurrection of the Lost

These are those passed over at the times of the First Resurrection.

Those raised will come from all walks of life and degrees of greatness. Their time has come Heb 9:27.

There is also a judgment of works – their last conviction, no propitiation appropriated by them, and hard work on their part to earn their level in the Lake, all become factors in their eternal destiny.

Overview of the scriptural revelation of God declaring the importance of works in eternity.

As to death and Hades giving up the dead which are in them – see “Where do we go when we die”.

Vs 14-15

The Lake of Fire

All who died physically and were in Hades, the intermediate state, are now cast into the Lake of fire.

The fact that their name was not found in the Book of Life is what sets their destiny in the Lake.

God’s means of being propitiated was not appropriated by these individuals.

This, and this alone, is what determines whether an individual ends up in Heaven or Hell; all others are secondary.

REVELATION – CHAPTER 21

- Vs 1 I saw (vs 2 & vs 22)
A new Heaven and a new Earth
Isa 65:17; 66:22; 2 Pet 3:13
- The old have disappeared.
No sea on it; possibly only a river flowing from the Throne of God.
Rev 22:2
- The Millennial Earth will have bodies of water upon it.
Ps 72:8-11 (the Millennial reign)
Isa 11:9, 11; Ezk 47:10, 15, 17, 18, 20 etc
John is apparently struck by the fact that no seas exist on the New Earth.
- Vs 2 New Jerusalem, the Holy City, in contrast to Rev 11:8, comes down out of Heaven.
It was not just created; it had existed prior to this time and God sends it down.
Heb 12:22-24; Jn 14:2
A city having the freshness and beauty of a bride adorned for marriage, for her husband.
- Vs 3 That which has been promised has become reality!
The Tabernacle of God is with men. Rev 13: 6
The Tabernacle of God has moved to the New earth.
What does this mean?
1. God will dwell among men
2. They shall be His people
3. God Himself will be among them.
- Vs 4 He will wipe away every tear (singular)
1. The comfort of God, not the remorse of His children is the focus.
2. The tears refer to tears shed on earth, as believers endured suffering, rather than tears shed in Heaven because of human failure.
3. In the same vein, no more sorrow as a result of death, crying or pain.

4. Not only will the old heaven and earth pass away but also all "The Fall" associations that belonged to them.

Vs 5 He who sits upon the Throne says "I am making all things new".
John is again told to write....

Vs 6 The Alpha and the Omega
The Beginning and the End
The First and the Last Rev 22:13
The Living One Rev 2:18
I was dead and behold I am alive
The Almighty Rev 1:8
To the one who thirsts...the water of life
Rev 7:17; Jn 4:10, 13-14

Vs 7 Overcomers will inherit
Matt 19:29
Matt 25:34-40
Rev 2:7, 17
(More than 1 Jn 4:4; 5:4-5 ? 1 Jn 2:13)
I will be their God and He will be My Son.

Vs 8 The end which awaits the lost – The inheritance of unbelief
That which separates the two lists 1 Cor 6:9-11

washing Eph 5:25-27; Titus 3:5
sanctification 1 Pet 1:1-2; 1 Cor 1:30-31
justification 2 Thes 2:13-14

Second death Rev 20:15 (Rev 2:11)
Jn 5:24 The second death is "coming into
judgment" or "come into condemnation"
1 Cor 15:22
1 Thess 4:13-14

Vs 9-11 The New Jerusalem as the bride

As in Rev 21:2, the comparison of the city with a bride stresses its beauty and its close relation to Jesus.

John is shown the Heavenly city of Jerusalem in much the same

way that Moses was shown the Promised Land.

Deut 34:1-3

Again as in Rev 21:2:

Holy city

coming down

out of heavens

from God

The city reflected the light of God and at the same time was crystal clear.

Vs 12-14

The wall and the gates of the city

Wall

1. great and high

The Gates

1. 12 in number (city is square) 3 gates per side

2. guarded by 12 angels

3. inscribed with the names of the 12 tribes of Israel

Ezk 48:30-34

4. built upon 12 foundation stones, each one inscribed with an
'Apostle's name.

NOTE: By mentioning both the Apostles and the Tribes of Israel in relation to Eternity future, God never replaces Israel with the Church!

They remain distinct bodies, along with the Gentiles, Rev 21:24 throughout Eternity.

Further information concerning both the walls and the gates will be given in verses 18-21

Vs 15-17

The Dimensions of the City

Using a rod, a measure is about 10 feet long.

The City is square.

A furlong (KJV) is equal to 582 feet, the measured distance is equivalent to 1,342 miles – often stated as 1500 miles.

Thus, the city is 1,342 miles square.

The angel also measures the wall as being 216 feet high.

Angels and humans would measure it the same!

Vs 18-21 Further descriptions.
1. The walls are jasper.
2. The city as a whole, is pure gold though like clear glass in appearance.
3. The foundation stones are covered with precious stones
4. Each of the 12 gates is a single pearl
5. The street of the city was transparent gold

Vs 22 The Temple of the City – There is none.
No longer is there any need for a structure for man to be aware of the presence of God, God Himself is present.

Vs 23-24 The Light of the City
No need of a light source – God is there!
All of the city is transparent because God's light reflects throughout it.
Believing Gentiles, prior and post church age, will populate the Eternal kingdom. God has included a remnant from all!
All three categories of humanity will continue separately.
As we saw in our study of Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar never became Hebrew, but he may well have become a believer.

Vs 25-27 Access to the City
Again, God has made everything for its own purpose and the Gentiles are one of those creations.

Vs 27 stresses the fact that nothing will affect the new creation as Satan afflicted the old.

REVELATION – CHAPTER 22

Vs 1 The River of the Water of Life
If chapter 22 is referring to the Eternal state and not the Millennium, then that which is described is similar to Ezk 47:1-12 and Zech 14:8 (which is the Millennial Sea) but not the same.
The dual Throne of God must reflect 1 Cor 15:28.

Vs 2 The River of Life is said to flow down the middle of the street (singular) Rev 21:21 – street (singular) with the branches of the Tree of Life overhanging both sides of the River, having been planted in the Middle of the River.

Some believe there will be trees (plural) planted on both sides of the River, similar to that which we find in Ezk 47:12.

Assuming that this Tree is the same as the one found in Gen 3:22,24, two observations could be made:

1. Physical death would have been impossible if Adam and Eve had eaten from the Tree
2. Everlasting life required the eating of the fruit.

It must be noted that Adam and Eve were in a natural state and the occupants of the new earth are in a resurrected state.

The leaves of the tree are for “health giving” or to promote life in the New Jerusalem and are not for correcting ill health, which does not exist.

Again, “Nations” is a translation of the word for Gentiles.

Vs 3 Unlike the Millennial Earth, where the effects of sin will still be experienced from the standpoint of judgment, no such situation will exist in Eternity to come.
All will have been raised or translated and all judgments will be behind the participants.
Thus, there is no more curse, death, etc.

Service to the King and not rebellion will be the experience of all!

NOTE: We will not only be "Sons of God", and His "bride",
We will also be Bondservants and we will serve Him.

Vs 4-5 The Final Picture

1. We will see His face.
That which was true in the original creation must be different in the new.
Ex 33:20
2. His Name will be on our foreheads – we clearly belong to Him.
Rev 7:3; 14:1; 3:12
3. There will no longer be any night.
No more 1 John 2:8-11; Eph 6:12
4. Daylight
5. Reign forever and ever.
6. The age of Christ being our mediator is over.
No advocate is needed.
All things have been made new.

A.T. Piersom summarizes verses 3-5 as follows:

Perfect Restoration – There shall be no more curse.

Perfect Administration – The Throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it.

Perfect Subordination – His bond-servants will serve Him.

Perfect Transformation – They will see His face.

Perfect Identification – His Name will be on their foreheads.

Perfect Illumination – No longer any night...no need for

Perfect Exultation – They will reign forever and ever

EPILOGUE

Vs 6

The angel tells John "These revelations are faithful and true".
The God of the prophets sent His angel Rev 1:1
to show His servants, through the Apostle John, the events
which will shortly come to pass (must take place).

Vs 7

When the action comes, which is recorded in this book, it will

be sudden.
Blessed is he who...Rev 1:3
Note that the 1st and the 6th Beatitudes are the same.

Vs 8-9 The Revelations received by John overwhelm him and he begins to worship the wrong created being.
He is corrected – WORSHIP GOD!!!

Vs 10 Unlike Dan 12:4, the words of this book are to remain open,
With a blessing received for all who heed it! Rev 1:3 and 22:7
God will not conceal it!

We are living “in the time”.
The Church Age can be ended at any moment.
There are no more phases to God’s program.
The next and final act will be the Tribulation Period and all will progress naturally until That Day arrives.

Vs 11 If the prophecies of this book of Revelation are rejected, there is no other message from God.
If the warnings of this book are not sufficient, there is no more that God has to say.
The wicked must continue in their wickedness and be judged.
The holy and righteous must continue with their way.

Vs 12 “The Blessed Hope” and assurance of Reward is given.
2 Pet 3:10-13.
The Believer will receive his reward “then” and not before.
Heb 11:39-40; 2 Cor 5:10-11

Vs 13-16 Though the means of communication is an angel, it is Christ Who has been speaking; Christ Who is the Alpha and Omega – The Almighty.

The final Beatitude of the book of Revelation is given:
Those who wash their robes:
1. have a right to the Tree of Life
2. may enter by the gates into the City

The Apostle John will be a part of that event. John's response to Jesus' promise – Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Vs 21 John's benediction is pronounced on the recipients of the letter.
It has been written and sent to the churches.
All therefore, is limited by context to those who belong to the
churches which the book of Revelation was intended for.

The Grace of the Lord Jesus be with all believers!!!!