

# **“Behold Your King Is Coming”**

Zech. 9:9 and Jn. 12:15



This is an in-depth study of the book of Revelation; chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, giving a prophetic historical account, with prophecy for the future; end-times and eternity, as presented by Jesus, from heaven, to his beloved friend and disciple, the Apostle John, who wrote what Jesus told him to write to the 7 Churches, while John was a prisoner on the Island of Patmos.

## **The Revelation of Jesus Christ**

**A Practical and Explanatory Commentary**

By

**Dr. Merritt E. Lawson, Jr.**

BA., M.Div., M.Th., D.Min.

President and Dean

of

**Covenant Bible Seminary**

**10810 Gravelly Lake Drive S.W.**

**Lakewood, WA. 98499**

**(253)-472-4322**

**[www.covenantbibleseminary.org](http://www.covenantbibleseminary.org)**

# A SYNOPSIS OF THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

by

Dr. Merritt E. Lawson, Jr.

Covenant Bible Seminary

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to Him, to show His servants things which must ‘shortly’ take place” (Ch. 1:1), is the only prophetic book in the entire New Testament. It contains the very last words of Jesus, where He said: Surely I am coming quickly” (Ch. 22: 20).

This Revelation was sent by Jesus, and given “by His angel, to His servant John, who bore witness to the ‘Word of God’ and to the ‘Testimony of Jesus Christ’, and to ‘all things’ that he (John) saw” (Ch.1:1-2). “Blessed is he who ‘reads’ and those who ‘hear’ the words of this ‘prophecy’ and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near” (Ch.1:3).

During the days of John, the Church was being persecuted by the Romans and the Jews, after Jesus’ Resurrection and Ascension to heaven. Nero had Peter and Paul killed, and Jesus wanted His Church, on earth, to know that He would return and win the battle over Satan and all powers of evil.

This Revelation is written in what is called “Apocalyptic Writings”, meaning veiled writings, because they contain the secret purposes of God, that only true believers in Jesus may understand. Satan’s antichrist’s, false teachers and evil powers, then and now, cannot understand what this Revelation means, even today. Many numbers and words are impossible to understand, without the mind of Christ and His Spirit. For example: there is the number 7, where there are 7 Churches, 7 bowls, 7 last plagues. There is also the number 6; and 666 and words like: beast, dragon, whore, and terms like “the river of the water of life” and “they shall reign forever and ever”; a “new heaven”, a “new earth”, a “New Jerusalem”, and “a lake of fire, burning with brimstone”, for all who reject Jesus as their Savior and God.

Yes, Jesus is coming again, as mentioned throughout the book of Revelation; in the meantime: “... all who desire to live godly, in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution” (2 Tim. 3:12). However, Revelation makes it clear that we, who trust in Jesus, win this war against Satan, now and for all eternity. When Jesus comes, “there shall be no more ‘curse’, but the ‘throne of God and of the Lamb’ shall be in it (heaven) and His servants shall serve Him... and they shall reign forever and ever” (22:3-5). Amen.

## CLASS STUDY GUIDE

VISIONS	SUBJECTS OF JOHN'S VISIONS	CHAPTERS
1	He sees Jesus and Jesus tells him (John) to write to the <u>7 churches</u> , about what <u>he has seen</u> , <u>(the past)</u> ; the things that are <u>present</u> ; and the things to come <u>(future)</u> , Ch. 1:19.	Chs. 1-3
2	He sees <u>God's throne in heaven</u> ; the <u>7 sealed book</u> and the <u>opening of six of the 7 seals</u> , by Jesus, who alone is worthy to open them.	Chs. 4-6
3	He sees God's <u>protection</u> of His "servants"; who are the 144,000, who are <u>sealed</u> , protected by God on earth, of the 12 tribes of Israel.	Ch. 7:1-8
4	He sees all God's people in Heaven, who went through "the great tribulation".	Ch. 7:9-17
5	He sees the opening of the <u>7<sup>th</sup> seal</u> , with <u>six of the 7 trumpets sounding</u> . The <u>5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> &amp; 7<sup>th</sup></u> trumpets are called Woe Trumpets, bringing worse judgement than the one before it.	Chs. 8-9
6	He sees the <u>Little Book</u> opened; the <u>Two Witnesses</u> . John then hears <u>the 7<sup>th</sup> angel</u> , <u>sound his final Woe Trumpet</u> , which brings the Final Judgment of God on unbelievers.	Chs. 10-11
7	He sees, in retrospect, <u>the birth of Jesus</u> , with Satan & 2 evil beasts trying to kill Jesus.	Chs. 12-13
8	He sees <u>Jesus and the 144,000</u> with the Gospel to be preached until the earth's harvest is reaped of both the saved and the lost.	Ch. 14:1-20
9	He sees those who have <u>victory over the beast</u> and <u>7 bowls of God's wrath against evil</u> .	Chs. 15-16
10	He sees an <u>evil woman</u> and an <u>evil beast</u> who rule the kings and leaders of the earth.	Ch. 17:1-18
11	He sees <u>angels who tell him about the destruction of the evil woman</u> . He then hears the Hallelujah Chorus.	Chs. 18-19:10
12	He sees <u>heaven</u> ; <u>Jesus</u> ; and an <u>angel</u> . He also sees the <u>beast and false prophet</u> meet their doom in " <u>everlasting fire</u> ", also called " <u>hell fire</u> " (Mt. 18; 8-9).	Ch. 19:11-21
13	He sees: <u>Satan bound 1,000 years</u> ; the <u>First Resurrection</u> with believers reigning with Christ 1000 years; Satan's release to make war; Satan's doom in the Lake of Fire with the <u>beast and false prophet</u> ; he sees God's Great White Throne Judgment.	Ch. 20:1-15
14	He sees the <u>New Heaven</u> ; the <u>New Earth</u> ; the <u>New Jerusalem</u> ; the <u>River of Life and the Tree of Life</u> . He then hears and writes the last recorded words of Jesus.	Chs. 21-22

**DATE:** The Revelation of Jesus Christ, to the Apostle John, on Patmos Island, was from A.D. 66 to 69, as Jerusalem and the Temple had not yet been destroyed in A.D. 70, as they still remained in Ch. 11.

**STUDY SOURCES:** The New King James Version of the Bible and a good comprehensive Bible dictionary.

**PURPOSE OF THE BOOK:** The purpose of the book of Revelation is to bless you by permitting you to know what has happened in the past, what is happening in the present and will happen in the future so believers will know that they are loved and protected by the Lord, regardless of what God is permitting and doing. The Revelation tells us: "Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near" (NKJV Rev. 1:3). The word "blessed" means: "enjoy great happiness, comfort and joy". This is a practical book that all Christians need to understand if they want to be blessed by the Lord.

**AUTHORSHIP:** God Himself is the primary author. God the Father and the Holy Spirit dictated this book through God the Son, Jesus Christ who sent His angel and communicated it to the Apostle John, who wrote what God told him to write to the 7 Churches.

**TEACHER:** Our teacher is Dr. Merritt Lawson. He is an ordained minister with the earned degrees of B.A., M.Div., M.Th., D.Min., from Faith Evangelical Lutheran Seminary, Tacoma, WA., where he served as Academic Dean and Professor of Practical and Systematic Theology. He was then Called to serve as President of Covenant Bible Fellowship, Inc., 1985, and founded Covenant Bible Seminary, where he serves as President and Dean of the Seminary, to the present.

## **Introduction to the book of Revelation:**

The entire structure of the book of Revelation has its foundation on 2 things that Jesus prophesied and taught His disciples, which are as follows:

**First, Jesus prophesied and taught His disciples that the Temple and all its buildings were going to be destroyed, when He said: “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down” (Mt. 24:1-2).**

The destruction of the Temple that Jesus had prophesied, did not happen immediately, but about 37 years later, it was destroyed in A.D. 70. No one expected the Temple, with all of its beautiful large buildings to be destroyed, but it happened just as Jesus said it would happen and Jerusalem was destroyed at the same time.

Jesus wanted the 7 Churches to know what was going to happen, in their own generation (Mt. 23:36), as the Temple was no longer needed, because Jesus had atoned for the sins of all people by giving His blood on the Cross, as the only perfect sacrifice, for all people who repent of their sins and believe in Jesus, as their God and Savior (Mt. 23:13-39).

The book of Hebrews, in all 13 chapters, makes it clear as taught in Heb. 9:12, where it says: “not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place, once for all, having obtained eternal redemption”. And in Heb. 9:28 it says: “So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him, He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation”.

**Second, Jesus prophesied and taught His disciples that: “... they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake ... and this Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations and then the end will come” (Mt. 24:9-14).**

Jesus went on to tell His disciples that His Second Coming, for the Final Judgment will be like it was: “in the days before the flood; they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the Ark and did not know until the flood came, and took them all away, so also will the Coming of the Son of Man be” (Mt.24: 38-39). Jesus had also made it clear in Mt. 24:36 “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only”.

We will now consider the author of the book of Revelation; the date it was written; the calendar of that time and today; the style of journalism that was used, called Apocalyptic Writing; Jerusalem and its Temple. These 5 things are very important: 1. the author; 2. the date; 3. the calendar; 4. Apocalyptic Writing; 5. Jerusalem and its Temple, as follows:

1. **Author:** The Apostle John, who also wrote the Gospel of John; 1st, 2nd & 3rd John was entrusted by Jesus to write what Jesus told him to write in the book of Revelation (Rev. 1:1-2). When Jesus was on the Cross, He saw His mother, Mary, and the disciple John, whom He loved, and He entrusted His mother, Mary, to John, when He said: "woman, behold thy Son" and to John He said: "behold thy mother" and John "took her to his own home" (John 19:26-27). John is also referred to as the disciple whom Jesus loved, in the Gospel of John, chapters: 13:23; 20:1-2; 21:7 & 20. There is no doubt in my mind that Jesus had his dear friend, John, write the book of Revelation. Also, this has always been the historical position of the Church.
2. **Date:** The internal evidence, referring to the Scriptures, as written in the book of Revelation, in Ch. 11:1-2, is where John sees the Temple at Jerusalem and writes, using language that makes it clear that the Temple was still there, at that time. This is substantial Scriptural proof that John wrote the book of Revelation prior to A.D. 70, when the Temple and Jerusalem were destroyed.

History makes it clear that the Temple and Jerusalem were destroyed in A.D. 70, by God, using Rome. Just prior to that time, Emperor Nero's persecution of Christians was in mind, because the Apostles, Paul and Peter, were both martyred around A.D. 62 to 68, under Nero, who was Emperor from A.D. 54 to 68. In support of this, Dr. Philip Schaff, in his book, "History of the Christian Church, Vol. 1, A.D. 1-100", on pages 428-429, says that John wrote the book of Revelation during the reign of Nero, around A.D. 68. Some teachers have used the date A.D. 95, when John wrote Revelation, but this is only a secular opinion and is not supported by the internal evidence of the inerrant Word of God, from the book of Revelation itself, in Ch.11:1, where John is told to "measure the Temple of God". Also, we are told not to "add to" or "take away" from the words of the book of this prophecy (Rev. 22:18-19). Only if one is to "take away" the words in Rev. 11:1-2, can one have a date later than A.D. 70 when Revelation was written. It would have been impossible for John to measure the Temple, if John wrote Revelation after A.D. 70, because it was no longer there. However, the Temple was still there, even in this vision, that Jesus gave to the Apostle John.

Nowhere in the New Testament is anything said about the Temple or Jerusalem having been destroyed in A.D. 70, but a lot is said about when Jesus cried out with a loud voice, when He was on the Cross, "and yielded up His spirit... and the veil of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom, and the earth quaked and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep, were raised; and coming out of the graves after His (Jesus') resurrection, they went into the holy city (Jerusalem) and appeared to many" (Mt. 27: 50-53; Mk. 15:37-39; Lk. 23:44-49 (class read)).

The reason that nothing is said, in the entire New Testament about the Temple or Jerusalem being destroyed, is because it simply had not yet happened. It was only after John had written all his books in the Bible, which were all written prior to A.D. 70, that they were destroyed. Therefore, we believe Revelation was written around A.D. 68, just shortly before Nero committed suicide.

3. **Calendar:** The calendar that we use today was not used in the time of Jesus. In fact, a calendar based on the birth of Christ was not developed until the 6th century A.D. and it was updated in the 16th century. This is basically the calendar that we are using today and it has been acknowledged that the best date for Jesus' birth is between 6 B.C. and 4 B.C., on our current calendar. The letters B.C. and A.D. stand for “before Christ” and the Latin, Anno Domini, means “in the year of the Lord of the Christian era”. The Bible says in Matthew 2:16: “then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding roth, and sent forth and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in the coast thereof, from 2 years old and under; according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men”. Historical records show that Herod died in 4 B.C., according to our current calendar, which was shortly after Jesus had been born, of the Virgin Mary.
  
4. **Apocalyptic Writings:** According to my old college dictionary: “apocalyptic writings are Jewish and Christian writings, between 200 B.C. and A.D. 300, that teach, symbolically, the destruction of evil and the triumph of good; specifically in the last book of the New Testament, the Revelation of Jesus Christ” (Webster's New World Dictionary 2nd College Edition). Also, “the word 'apocalyptic' is derived from the Greek word, apokalypsis, in Revelation 1:1, meaning: 'revelation' or 'unveiling'; and is applied to those writings because they contain revelations of the secret purposes of God; the end of the world and the establishment of God's Kingdom on earth” (Zondervan's Pictorial Bible Dictionary). Apocalyptic (veiled) writings as found in the Bible are always understood in the light of the clear (unveiled) passages in the Bible; using the Biblical hermeneutic principle to always let Scripture interpret Scripture. It is imperative that we walk in the light of the clear passages and totally believe them, if we want God's truth from His Word.
  
5. **Jerusalem and its Temple:** Jesus was very concerned about Jerusalem, when He said: “O Jerusalem ... that killeth the prophets and stoned them who are sent unto her, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and you would not!” (Mt. 23:37). Jesus also said that all the buildings including the Temple would be thrown down and that Jerusalem would be trodden down by the Gentiles (Mt. 24:2; Mk. 13:2; & Lk. 21:24). The destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple, was not recorded anywhere in the N.T., due to the fact that it all happened in A.D. 70, after the N.T. had been written. To this date, 2016, for over 2,000 years, the Temple has never been rebuilt, because there is no need for it, as Jesus paid the debt and gave His life for our sins, thus making the eternal sacrifice for all our sins. Jesus is our High Priest. This is the "better covenant" mentioned in Hebrews Ch. 8 and throughout the book of Hebrews, which was seen by John in his vision of the New Jerusalem, as he wrote: "I saw no Temple in the City, (the New Jerusalem) for it's Temple is the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb" (Rev. 21:22).

Also, the Apostle Paul told us that Christ, in His Church, is the Temple of God, where Paul wrote: “Do you not know that you are the Temple of God... For the Temple of God is holy, which Temple you are” (I Cor. 3:16-17). Before the Lord comes again, Satan will “sit as God in the Temple of God (the Church), showing himself that he is God” (2 Thess. 2:4b). This is happening today, in the Church, where the Bible is rejected and sexual immorality is being accepted by both the state and Church, just as it was in Rome, prior to A.D. 70. This was also what was happening in 5 of the 7 Churches. We will cover these 7 Churches next.

## 1st Vision, Ch. 1: 1-6.

This brings us now to John's 1<sup>st</sup> Vision, where Jesus tells John, to write to the 7 Churches about what he has seen (the past); the things that are (the present); and the things to come (the future). This 1<sup>st</sup> Vision will cover Chs. 1-3. We now begin with Ch. 1, v.1, as follows:

v.1. "The Revelation of Jesus Christ", is not only the title of this book, that Jesus told John to write, but it is the revealing of things that are covered up or not understood, "which God gave Him (Jesus), to show to His servants, things which must shortly take place." We must always remember that Jesus does not act alone, as He is God the Son, who is dependent on God the Father, as Jesus revealed what He said: "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do, for whatever He (the Father) does, the Son also does, in like manner" (Jn. 5:19). "He (Jesus) sent and signified it by His angel, to His servant John ...(v.1).

v. 2. who bore witness to the 'Word of God', and to the 'testimony of Jesus Christ', and to 'all things' that he (John) saw" (v. 2). John was God's witness to 3 things: (1) the Word of God; (2) the testimony of Jesus and (3) all things that he saw. God used John, His servant, as the key witness for the truth, in all these 3 things. I can think of no higher Calling than to have God, Call John, or anyone, to be His witness, against Satan and all other evil forces.

v. 3. John tells us, in his letter to these 7 Churches, that: "blessed is he who 'reads' and those who 'hear' the words of this 'prophecy', and keep those things, which are written in it; for the time is near". It is so very important for us, to really understand that God will bless us, if we read and hear the "words of this prophecy", because the "time is near" for all of us. We need to be ready and attend to the important things in our lives, because Jesus is coming for us, soon. In fact, we never know when Jesus will Call us home to heaven and we want to be sure that we have done all we can to be a faithful witness to those He has brought into our lives. This "Revelation" will also bless us with strong faith and joy, as we look forward to being with Jesus, the saints, and heaven, for all eternity, in the near future. For example, in 2012, there were at least 5 students here at the Seminary who Jesus called to be with Him in heaven. We just really never know when "the time is near" (v.3) for any of us. "We are confident, yes, well pleased, rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord" (2 Cor. 5:8).

vs. 4-6. John directly addresses his letter, "Revelation", to the "7 Churches", that were in the area of Asia Minor, in what is known as Turkey, today. There were probably more than just 7 Churches in Turkey, when John wrote to them; but these 7 Churches were the main Churches then, and they would carry John's "Revelation", by the power of God, to all other believers throughout the world. As we will see, there were only 2 good Churches out of the 7 Churches, but John greets them all, with pastoral love, concern and patience.

John says: "Grace to you and peace from Him (the Father) 'Who is' and 'Who was' and 'is to come'; and from the 7 Spirits (The Holy Spirit), who are before His throne ...(v. 4) and from Jesus Christ, the 'faithful witness', the 'firstborn', (resurrected) from the dead and the 'ruler over the kings of the earth'. To Him (Jesus) Who loved us and washed us from our sins, in His own blood ... (v.5) and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him (Jesus) be glory and dominion, forever and ever. Amen"(v.6).

Here, in these verses, 4-6, John has greeted these 7 Churches in the name of the Trinity: the Father and the 7 Spirits (The Holy Spirit) and in the name of Jesus Christ.

## 1st Vision, Ch. 1: 7-13.

v. 7. Regarding Jesus; John makes it clear that when Jesus does come: “He is coming with clouds and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn, because of Him. Even so, Amen.” In essence, all unsaved people, who ever lived, will see Jesus and mourn, because they rejected the only way of salvation which is by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

v. 8. Jesus is directly quoted by John, where Jesus says: “I am the ‘Alpha’ and the ‘Omega’, the ‘Beginning’ and the ‘End’, who ‘is’, and who ‘was’ and ‘who is to come’, the Almighty.” Also, in the O.T., in Isaiah 48:12-13 He said: “Listen to Me, Jacob and Israel, My Called: I am He, I am the First, I am also the Last. Indeed, My hand has laid the foundation of the earth, and My right hand has stretched out the heavens...”. Yes, Jesus, the Incarnate Son of God, is the “Almighty”.

v. 9. John tells these pastors, of the 7 Churches, that I am: “your brother and companion in tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ; was on the island, called Patmos, for the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.” From the pictures I have seen of Patmos, it reminds me of Alcatraz Island, located in San Francisco Bay, about 1 mile, offshore from San Francisco, where I grew up. If you want, you can find Patmos and Alcatraz on the Internet, using Wikipedia, as I have done. Patmos now has a gigantic Greek seminary on it, and Alcatraz became a National Historic Landmark.

vs. 10-11. John makes it very clear, to the 7 Churches, that he “...was in the Spirit, on the Lord’s Day and ... heard behind (him) a loud voice, as of a trumpet” (v. 10). What does it mean to be in the Spirit of God? Here he was in prison, all alone, but John was at peace in the Lord and he had joy in his soul. John had been worshipping God, as he honored Jesus, on the Lord’s Day, which was the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week, in remembrance of, when Jesus rose from the dead. John had set this day aside as being very special, because without the resurrection of Jesus we would all still be in our sins. Jesus overcame sin, death, hell, because He was without sin; and death could not hold Him. Jesus was sinless and died in our place, so that all those who believe in Him may also have everlasting life in Him. Then, as John was in the Spirit, in worship to Jesus, John hears: “a loud voice, as of a trumpet” (v.10). He then hears Jesus: saying: “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, what you see, write in a book and send it to the 7 Churches, which are in Asia (Turkey today): to Ephesus; to Smyrna; to Pergamos; to Thyatira; to Sardis; to Philadelphia and to Laodicea” (v.11). Jesus commanded John to do this, as Jesus is the Commander-in-Chief, of all believers, everywhere, forever.

vs. 12-13. John turned to see who it was that spoke to him, and in this vision, he saw: “7 golden lampstands” (v.12). These lampstands represent, symbolically, “the 7 Churches”, as identified in v. 20., “and in the midst of the 7 lampstands, ‘One like the Son of Man’ (Jesus), clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest, with a “golden band” (v.13) stood there before John. Now, in this vision, John sees Jesus, who spoke to Him and Jesus is standing and possibly walking, among these 7 lampstands that represented the 7 Churches. Jesus really cares and loves them because He died for them, so that they could testify that Jesus is “the light of the world” (Jn. 8:12). We who are born-again, are the Church, and today our testimony for Jesus is very important as we represent Him, with His light, to a world that is in total darkness. We today, need to check and see how our light is working. Is it dull or is it bright, or has it gone out completely? When was the last time you checked your light?



### 1st Vision, Ch. 1: 14-20.

v.14-18. John sees Jesus, in this vision, on Patmos Island, where John is a prisoner due to his faith in Jesus. Now, unexpectedly, here is Jesus with John, and John notices a remarkable change in Jesus: “His head and His hair were white like wool, as white as snow; His eyes like a flame of fire” (v. 14); “His feet, were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice, as a sound of many waters”(v.15); “He had in His right hand 7 stars (remember the 7 stars represented the 7 angels, of the 7 Churches, as mentioned in (v. 20); out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword (the Word of God) and His countenance was like the sun, shining in its strength” (v.16). John says: “when I saw Him, I fell at His feet, as dead. But, He (Jesus) laid His right hand on me, saying to me: Do not be afraid, I am the First and the Last” (v.17). “I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen, and I have the keys of Hades and of Death” (v.18).

These words, “Hades and Death”, mean the same thing and they refer to the abode of departed spirits of those who were spiritually dead. Read Lk. 16:22-23 regarding Abraham’s bosom (paradise) vs. Hades. Hades or Death could not hold or keep Jesus, because He was resurrected from the dead, due to the fact that He was God, in the flesh, and had never sinned. We, who trust in Jesus have nothing to fear about Hades or Death, when we die. As believers in Christ “we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and be present with the Lord” (2 Cor. 5: 6-8).

vs. 19-20. Jesus tells John: “write the things which you ‘have seen’, and the things ‘which are’, and the things ‘which will take place’, after this” (v.19). Jesus then tells John about: “The mystery of the ‘7 stars’, which you saw in My right hand, and the ‘7 lampstands’. The ‘7 stars’ are the ‘angels of the 7 Churches’, and the ‘7 lampstands’, which you saw, are the 7 Churches” (v. 20).

Concerning “angels”, the Bible says in Psalms 148: 2-5: “Praise Him, all His ‘angels’, Praise Him, all His ‘hosts’ (referring to the angels-v.2). Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all you stars of light (v. 3). Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens (v.4). Let them praise the name of the Lord, for He commanded, and they were ‘created’ (v.5).” These angels of God were created, before God created man. They serve the Lord and on special occasions they may even take the form of a human. I have personally experienced this in my life when I really needed the Lord’s help. “Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing, some have unwittingly entertained angels” (Heb. 13:1-2).

## 1<sup>st</sup> Vision Cont'd.

**Ch. 2 & 3:** John informs these 7 Churches about how Jesus sees them in their spiritual relationship to Him. These chapters also serve as a guide for us today, in regard to how Jesus sees us and all Christians in our relationship to Him, as His disciples in the Church. Here is an overview of these 7 Churches, regarding how Jesus sees them, as follows:

- (1) The Church at Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7), had lost its first love (v.4).
- \* (2) The Church at Smyrna (Rev. 2:8-11), was a good suffering church (v.10).
- (3) The Church at Pergamos (Rev. 2:12-17), was a fornicating sick church (v.14), and was located in the city where Satan was dwelling, which was strongly against believers living there. Satan's crowd killed a Christian man named Antipas, because he stood up for Jesus! This church also taught the false doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which was to: eat food sacrificed to idols, and commit sexual fornication, in the Church.
- (4) The Church at Thyatira (Rev. 2:18-29) allowed false teaching and fornication (v.20). Thyatira was a great city like San Francisco that was very materialistic with many false gods. The members of this church were also members of organizations that held conventions where evil parties were held with drinking and sexual immorality. There was a church member there called, "Jezebel", who said she was a prophetess and taught church members, to commit sexual immorality and to eat things sacrificed to idols (v. 20-24). She was like the Jezebel, in 1st & 2nd Kings. She was a church member, teaching false doctrines, that would destroy any church, even in Los Vegas.
- (5) The Church at Sardis (Rev. 3:1-6) was almost spiritually dead (3:1).
- \* (6) The Church at Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7-13) was loving and true to God (3:8).
- (7) The Church at Laodicea (Rev. 3:14-22) was lukewarm and worldly (3:16-17).

Read Chs. 2-3, to the class, as shown above, per individual Church.

The Apostle Peter also wrote about false teachers in the Church, who teach false doctrine. Peter makes it very clear as to what will happen to those who follow false teachers in 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:1-22 (have class read this chapter).

\* Only the Church at Smyrna (#2), and the Church at Philadelphia (#6), were good Churches. This is only 2 out of 7, and is very much the same as we have today in America.

It is good for us to note that the Churches that were at Smyrna and Philadelphia were the only 2 good Churches. The other 5 Churches needed to repent. Churches are made up of individual people, who have been or are still in one of these 7 relationships with the Lord.

We all would do well to take a little quiz and ask ourselves 7 questions regarding our relationship with Jesus today, as compared to the 7 Churches, as follows:

- (1) Have I lost my first love (Ephesus)?
- (2) Am I willing to be persecuted for being close to Jesus (Smyrna was a good church)?
- (3) Am I loving things of this world more than Jesus (Pergamum)?
- (4) Am I teaching anything against Scripture or loving sin (Thyatira)?
- (5) Am I almost spiritually dead (Sardis)?
- (6) Am I totally in love with Jesus and His Word (Philadelphia, was also a good church)?
- (7) Am I spiritually lukewarm and worldly (Laodicea)?

End of 1<sup>st</sup> Vision.

**2nd Vision: Chapters 4, 5 & 6. John sees God on His throne in heaven, holding a scroll with a prophetic message that is sealed with seven (7) seals. In this vision, six (6) of the seven (7) seals are opened by Jesus, who alone is worthy. Jesus will also open the 7<sup>th</sup> seal, later in our study.**

**Ch. 4:1-11: Here John sees God's Throne Room in Heaven, in this vision.**

vs. 1-3. John saw a door open, in heaven, and he heard a voice, like a trumpet, speaking to him, telling him to come up to heaven and he would be shown "things which must take place, after this". Immediately, John was in the "Holy Spirit" and he saw a throne in heaven and God was on the throne. God's appearance was like a jasper and a sardis stone, very precious, beautiful and rare. There was also a rainbow around the throne that looked like an emerald stone. These 3 stones, are also mentioned regarding the New Jerusalem, in Rev. 21:19-20.

vs. 4-5. Around God's throne there were 24 other thrones, with 24 elders sitting on them. These elders were clothed in white robes and they all had crowns of gold on their heads (v.4). From God's throne John saw lightnings, heard thunderings and voices. John also saw 7 lamps of burning fire, before God's throne, which were the 7 spirits of God. These 24 elders, symbolically, represent the true believers from the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 apostles. In other words, the entire Church of born-again believers in heaven. Also, God's power is seen in lightning and thunder with life represented by voices. The 7 Spirits of God, symbolically, represent the Holy Spirit, in apocalyptic writing (v.5).

v. 6. Also, before God's throne, John sees what appears to be a sea of glass, like crystal, which symbolizes God's purity, like a blinding light upon crystal, that one may not look upon because it is too bright. John is bringing out the majesty and holiness of God. John presents to us "four living creatures, full of eyes, in front and in back" (6). These "4 living creatures" are like the cherubims, mentioned in Ezekiel 10:2 & 20, but they are not the same, because the cherubims have: 4 wings and 4 faces, and these "4 living creatures" have 6 wings, but only 1 face each.

v.7. "The '1<sup>st</sup> living creature' was like a 'lion'. The '2<sup>nd</sup> living creature' was like a 'calf'. The '3<sup>rd</sup> living creature' had a face like a 'man'. The '4<sup>th</sup> living creature' was like a 'flying eagle'" (v.7).

v.8. "The 4 living creatures each have '6 wings', and they also have 'eyes' all around them and within. They do not rest day and night (praising God), as they say: 'Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was, and is and is to come'" (v.8). They are referring to the Son of God, Jesus.

vs. 9-11. When the 4 living creatures gave glory and honor and thanks to God (v.9), then the 24 elders fell down before God and they worship God, who lives forever and ever, and they cast their crowns before God's throne (v.10) and they say: "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all thing, and by Your will, they exist and were created (v.11).

Read John 1:1-5, 10-18.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Vision cont'd.

### Ch. 5:1-14: The Lamb takes the Scroll and only He is worthy to open the 7 seals.

v. 1. John saw a book or scroll, in the right hand of God, Who was sitting on the throne that was in heaven. The book had writing on both sides of its pages and it was sealed with 7 seals. This book/scroll contains the future of the world, in prophecy. Only as the 7 seals are broken can the parts of the book about the future, be revealed. Remember, Jerusalem and the Temple had not yet been destroyed. John saw them, in his vision in Ch. 11, that God gave him and the Temple was still standing.

v.2. John saw a powerful angel of God ask the question, with a loud voice: “who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?” The 7 seals prophesied the future.

v. 3. There was no one “worthy” in (1) heaven (no angels or believers); (2) no believers on earth; (3) no one under the earth (no demons, no one in hell). No one was worthy to open the book and to break each of the 7 seals. No one was even worthy to look at it.

v. 4. John was very sad and he wept with much grief, because no one was found worthy to open the book and break each of the 7 seals! John had been promised in Rev. 4:1 that he would see things “which must take place, after this”. But who is worthy to open this book of prophecy? No one was able or worthy to even look at the scroll.

v. 5. One of the elders comforts John in this vision, and tells him not to weep because: the “Lion of the tribe of Judah”, the “Root of David” is worthy. In Revelation 22:16, Jesus said to John: “I Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the Churches. I Am the Root and offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star”. Everything depended on Jesus’ victory over sin, death and the grave. Jesus is our Savior, He is the “Lion” and only He is worthy to open the 7 seals, because He has conquered sin and we, who are in Christ Jesus, are conquerors over sin. Jesus’ victory is seen by His opening of the 7 seals.

v. 6. Next, John sees a “Lamb, as though it had been killed.” It had “seven (7) horns and seven (7) eyes, which are the seven (7) Spirits of God, sent into all of the earth”. Here in heaven this Lamb, who is Jesus, gave His life as a ransom for all our sins, as a sacrificial lamb and He was victorious. He is very much ALIVE! This Lamb had 7 horns, a symbol of strength. The number 7 is a symbol for perfection. He also has “seven (7) eyes which are the seven (7) spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.” Seven (7) is a symbol for perfection as the Spirit of God sees everything. Nothing is hidden from the eyes of the Holy Spirit. He is powerful and He knows everything. Jesus, the Lamb, is seen here, in the center of the throne, in heaven. Jesus, the Son of God, is the center of everything, as are the Father and the Holy Spirit. One God, seen in three (3) persons.

v.7. In this vision, we see Jesus, the Son of God, Who came and took the seven (7) sealed book out of the right hand of God the Father, Who sat on the throne in heaven. Jesus and His Father are in perfect union and purpose, as seen in John 1: 1-5 and 10-18.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vision cont'd.

Ch. 5: cont'd and Ch. 6:1-17.

v. 8. When Jesus took the scroll, sealed with 7 seals, from God the Father, as the Lamb of God, then the “4 living creatures and the 24 elders fell down before the Lamb”, who is Jesus, our great High Priest (Hebrews 8:1-2). These 24 elders “each having a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints”.

v. 9. “And they ‘sang a new song’, saying: You (Jesus) are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God, by Your blood, out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation.” All people, at all times, may be saved.

v. 10. “And have made us ‘kings and priests’ to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.” All believers will reign on the new earth after Jesus makes “all things new (Ch. 21:5) and there shall be no more curse... we shall reign forever and ever” (Ch. 22:3-5).

v. 11-12. Then John “heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was 10,000 x 10,000 and thousands and thousands, saying with a loud voice: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing”.

v. 13. John heard “every creature, which is in heaven and on the earth, and under the earth, such as are in the sea and all that are in them, I heard saying: Blessing and honor, and glory, and power be to Him (God the Father) who sits on the throne (in heaven) and to the Lamb (the Son of God), forever and forever”. John hears all people praising God.

v. 14. Then John heard the “4 living creatures” say: “Amen”. “And the twenty-four (24) elders fell down and worshiped Him (the Lamb, Jesus), who lives forever and ever.”

This ends chapter 5. The 24 elders represent all believers, in Jesus, as their Savior.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vision Cont'd:

Ch. 6:1-17: John sees Jesus, the Lamb, open all 6 of the seals of the 7 sealed book, as follows:

vs. 1-2. In the 1st seal, that Jesus opened, John saw a rider on a white horse, with a bow and a crown, conquering and seeking to conquer. He is pride, that goes before the fall. He is not Jesus, he would be like Nero, who had Paul and Peter killed in A.D. 63, or Adolf Hitler, 1889-1945, the Nazi Socialist Dictator, 1933-1945, during W.W.II., he killed over six million Jews.

vs. 3-4. In the 2nd seal, John sees a rider on a red horse, with a great sword, who causes much war on earth. He takes away peace on earth. He would be like Hitler, who declared war on the U.S. in 1942, as did Japan and Italy. It was like what Jerusalem experienced in A.D. 70, when it was destroyed by God, using the Romans.

vs. 5-6. In the 3rd seal, John sees a rider on a black horse, who causes “famine and inflation”, due to all the wars. A denarius was a day's wages, with money becoming worth, less and less. Many died of starvation. Oil and wine were not to be destroyed, but saved for the winners of the wars, then and today.

## End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vision. Ch. 6 cont'd.

### Ch. 6:

vs. 7-8. In the 4th seal, John sees a rider on a pale horse, who causes death, with hades following close behind for 25% of the people. W.W. II., with Germany, Japan, Russia and the U.S., death totals that were much like this, as an example. Many thought that it was Armageddon, the end of the world (Rev. 16:16). When Jesus was on earth, He said: “For many will come in My Name, saying: ‘I am the Christ’ and will deceive many and you will hear of wars and rumors of war. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet” (Mt. 24: 5-6). Remember, Jesus gave this prophecy before the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in A.D. 70, and wars continue to this day, especially in the holy land and throughout the world. We have had wars and rumors of war, as Jesus predicted, and they will continue until His return for the Final Judgement.

vs. 9-11. In the 5<sup>th</sup> seal God answers the prayers of the souls of the martyrs’ and tells them to rest, to wait until those who will be killed and die for their faith, join them in heaven. Today, many Christians are being killed for their faith. In the U.S. you cannot even bring a Bible into a public school, college or university, let alone teach what it says about anything in a government institution. Today, Christians in Syria are being killed for their faith in Jesus by being beheaded.

vs. 12-17. In the 6<sup>th</sup> seal John saw a great earthquake where the sun, moon & stars cease to function normally. Also, the sky, mountains and islands are removed from their places and people hid themselves from the wrath of the Lamb, for they knew His wrath had come. Jesus said this also in Mt. 24:29-31; John says the same thing here in Rev. 6:12-17. This type of tribulation happened to Jerusalem, when it was destroyed in A.D. 70 (Mt. 24:15-28). Orthodox Jews still reject Jesus to this day. CBS partners with Jews for Jesus.

The 7th Seal is not presented until we get to the 5th Vision in chapters 8-9. Before we come to the 7th Seal, John has two more visions: Vision 3 and Vision 4, as follows:

3rd Vision (Ch. 7:1-8): John sees God’s protection of His “servants”; who are the 144,000, who are sealed, protected by God on earth, of the 12 tribes of Israel.

Ch. 7:1-8. John sees all “the servants of our God (v.3.) who symbolically represent the “144,000 of all the tribes of the Children of (believing) Israel” (v.4). Paul gives the definition of a “true Israelite”, which is: “of the heart, in the Spirit” (Rom. 2:29). Paul also refers to the “true believers” as the “Israel of God” (Gal. 6:15-16). Paul makes it clear that: “there is neither Jew nor Greek” (Gal. 3:28). “And if you are Christ’s, then are you Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Gal 3:28-29).

Paul also makes it clear that “they are not all Israel which are of Israel” (Rom. 9:6), but “if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved”(Rom. 10:9). You must believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead and that Jesus is your God, Messiah, your Christ (the Anointed One), the only Savior; “the Way, the Truth and the Life” (Jn. 14:6), or you cannot go to heaven. There is NO other way.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Vision Cont'd. Ch. 7:1-8.

John, also makes this truth very clear regarding the New Jerusalem, where the 12 Tribes of Israel (Rev. 22:12) and the Twelve Apostles (Rev. 22:14) have their names in the walls and foundation of the Holy City of God, the New Jerusalem, which is only for “true believers”. The numbers:  $12 \times 12 = 144,000$ , are symbolic numbers of all “true believers” who have been “sealed” by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14), to protect them in all tribulations, including even becoming a Martyr for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, such as Stephen, Peter, Paul and all “true believers” who are persecuted for our Lord and go through great tribulation for Him, even as we may experience in our own lifetime, today. 3<sup>rd</sup> Vision ends.

4th Vision: (Ch. 7:9-17): John sees all God’s people in Heaven, who went through “great tribulation”. John saw a “great multitude”, beyond number, of all believers in Heaven who went or will go through great tribulation (7:9-13). The Lamb (Jesus) blesses them “all” and they worship Him (Ch. 7:14-17).

5th Vision (Chs. 8-9). We now have the opening of the 7<sup>th</sup> seal: (we studied the prior 6 seals in Ch. 6. John sees the opening of the 7<sup>th</sup> seal with 6 of the 7 trumpets sounding. The 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> trumpets are called Wow Trumpets, that bring worse judgments than the one before it.

Now, here in Ch. 8, in this 5<sup>th</sup> vision, John sees the opening of the 7<sup>th</sup> seal. This is the final seal. Here in Ch. 8: 1-6 (read this text), the prayers of the saints are about to be answered, as God brings His judgment upon all living, unsaved people, in order to draw them to Himself.

Here in Ch. 8: 7-13; 6 of the 7 angels sound their trumpets and announce God’s judgments:

v.7. The 1st angel’s trumpet sounded and hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, thrown to the earth. 1/3 of the trees are burned up and all green grass is burned up. This is like a huge storm that hits the earth.

v. 8-9. The 2nd angel’s trumpet sounded and something like a “great mountain”, (meteorite), burning with fire, was thrown into the sea and 1/3 of the sea became blood, 1/3 of the sea life died and 1/3 of the ships were destroyed, due to the meteorite that fell into the sea.

v. 10-11. The 3rd angel’s trumpet sounded and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on 1/3 of the rivers and springs of water. The name of the star is “Wormwood”. Wormwood is a plant that contains oil in its leaves, and if eaten or drunk, leads to death (Lam. 3:15 & 19). It is a plant that is a symbol of bitterness. 1/3 of the waters became bitter (poisoned) and many people died from the bitterness of the water. They could have received the eternal Water of Life, but instead they chose the poisoned water of death, much like an ungrateful heart causes bitterness and grief in the life of Christ rejecters, who die, due to bitterness and hate.

v. 12-13 The 4th angel’s trumpet sounded and announced that 1/3 of the sun, moon and stars were darkened, causing 1/3 of the day and night to be “pitch” black. After the 4th angel’s trumpet, John saw an “angel”, in v. 13, flying thru heaven, crying out ... “WOE, WOE, WOE”, because most of the people did not repent. The next trumpets must now become stronger.

5<sup>th</sup> Vision Cont'd.  
Chs. 8-9.

We call these next three trumpets the “WOE TRUMPETS” (trumpets 5, 6 and 7), because they are much stronger judgments from God, than were the first 4 trumpet's of God's judgments.

God's trumpets still continue sounding today, throughout the world, as they did in John's day, to move people to call upon the Lord for salvation. For example: in my own lifetime there have been, great hail storms, fires, meteorites, two atomic bombs, thousands of ships destroyed at sea in WW II, plus many people are dying today due to drinking the bitter waters of hate. When Jesus died on the cross, great darkness was on the earth. Today, many people are living in total spiritual darkness, within their hearts, due to rejecting the Lord, using drugs and being addicted to alcohol.

Ch. 9:1-12. The 5th angel's "woe" trumpet:

v.1. The 5<sup>th</sup> angel sounded his trumpet and John saw a "star" fall to earth from heaven, from God. God's angel here is referred to as a “star”. Another name for an angel is “a messenger of God”. Also, John refers “symbolically” to Jesus as the “bright and morning star”(Rev. 22:6), and only Jesus has the “keys to hell and death”(Rev.1:18). Jesus is the One who gave this star/angel “the key to the bottomless pit”, which shows that Jesus, God, is in total control of even hell, itself and everything else for that matter.

v. 2. Here, God's angel opened the “bottomless pit” and here, in John's vision, John saw smoke come out of the pit, that was like the smoke of a great furnace. The smoke was so thick that John could not see the sun. The air was blackened, due to the smoke that came out of the shaft of the “bottomless pit”.

v. 3-6: The next thing that John saw, in this vision, were demon locusts that came out of the smoke, and fell to the earth (v.3). These demon locusts were given power like scorpions, but they could not kill (v.5). These demon locusts, in John's vision, were given authority only to torment those men who have not the seal of God on their foreheads (v.4). The demon locusts could only do this for 5 months, which is the lifespan of a normal locust. Men will seek death, but will be unable to die, as death flees from them. However, those who believe in God, are not hurt by these demon locusts, because Satan has no power against true believers in Jesus Christ. In fact, the Bible says: “resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). God always brings destruction, upon those who resist and reject the Lord, as He has done throughout human history.

v.7. These demon locusts were very unusual looking creatures. They looked like a little horse, with a crown on its head and their faces looked like human faces of men.

v.8. These demon locusts had hair like a woman's hair and their teeth were like lions' teeth. They would be your worst nightmare.



5<sup>th</sup> Vision cont'd. Ch. 9: 9-14:

v.9. These demon locusts had breastplates like iron and their wings sounded like thundering horses and chariots, rushing into a battle. They were somewhat like hornets on the attack.

v.10. Their tails stung like scorpions and in their tails they had power to torment people for 5 months (which is also the lifespan of a scorpion). In Joel Ch. 1:4 (read). Here we see what locusts could do, in the O.T. They are like a great army that can darken the sky. They destroy everything they touch. They are used by God to bring people to repent. God's judgment will be more severe, in judgments to come, because the people do not repent.

v.11: These demon locusts had a king, named in Hebrew, "Abaddon", and he is the satanic angel of the abyss, whose name is the same as "the grave" and "death". In Greek his name is Apollyon, which means "destroyer", as evidenced in 1 Cor. 10:1-21, where 23 thousand Jews, under Moses, were killed and others were destroyed by serpents, and the Destroyer. God is in complete control over the pit, as seen with either the demon locusts or the serpents (read 1 Cor. 10:1-22).

v.12. This ends the "1st WOE trumpet", but the "6th" and "7th" WOE trumpets are yet to come and they are going to be much worse. We need to always remember that fallen angels are evil spirits.

I personally witnessed what I believe to be, demons in some people, when I was a chaplain on the wards at Western State Hospital, back in the 1970's and 80's. If a person is not born again, so that the Holy Spirit lives within one's heart, demon possession can begin, through anger, resentment, bitterness, and hate, to the point where these people become a danger to themselves and to others. We call this insanity today, but it very well could be demon possession of the soul, by an evil demonic spirit.

This brings us to the "6<sup>th</sup> angel's WOE trumpet":

v.13. The 6th angel sounded his trumpet and John heard a voice from the 4 horns of the golden alter, that is before God in heaven (see Zondervan's Pic. Bible Dict., pages 31-32 "alter"). The golden alter is an O.T. symbol, of man's pardon from sin, that is only found through faith in Christ (Eph. 2:8-10).

v.14. A voice spoke to the 6th angel: "release the 4 angels, who are bound, at the great river Euphrates". This river is mentioned in Genesis, Ch. 2:14, regarding the time of Adam and Eve, when Satan tempted Eve and both Adam and Eve fell into sin (Gen. 3:1-19). These "4 angels", were "bound" by God. These judgments will be much more deadly, than the prior judgments, because the people will not repent.

5<sup>th</sup> Vision Cont'd. Ch. 9:15-21:

v.15. These 4 angels, who were bound by God, were released, who were kept ready for this very “hour, day, month, and year” to “kill 1/3rd of mankind”. God had these 4 angels released as a warning to all people to repent. Over 33 % of the people who will die, have rejected Christ as Savior. This is like when Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed in A.D. 70 and also, during W.W. II, when millions of Jews were killed, along with many other people. All this has already happened in history and will continue to happen again in the future, until God’s Final Judgment, when times will be like they were on earth “in the days of Noah” (Mt. 24:37 & Lk. 17: 26), as Jesus said it would happen.

v.16. John said he heard “the number of the army of the horsemen”, used by the 4 angels, which totaled “two hundred million” troops, in his vision, which symbolizes that they are beyond numbering. They represent all the wars and deaths, from that time, to the Final Judgment of God.

These horses and their riders, as we continue this vision, in Rev. 9:17-21, are symbolic of horrible wars to come, beginning with the Jew’s war against Rome, when the Lord used Rome to destroy Jerusalem and the Temple in A.D. 70, and until the final battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16:16), as follows:

- vs. 17-18. In this vision, the horsemen are pictured as having breastplates that were red, blue, and yellow; the horse’s heads looked like lion’s heads and their mouths belched fire, smoke, and sulfur. 1/3 of all the people were killed by the 3 plagues of fire, smoke and brimstone, which is sulfur, like what is found in many wars.
- v.19. The horse’s mouth and tail were its power, and their tails were like snakes that bite, and cause injury.
- vs. 20-21. The rest of mankind, who were not killed, refused to repent of their sins of the worship of demons, murders, sorceries, sexual immorality and thefts. They have brought this killing curse of God’s judgments, upon themselves, because they hated Jesus and loved evil. These judgments continue until the Final Day of God’s Judgment. People will not repent, and they continue to sin, because they sincerely love to sin and hate and reject Jesus. It will be like it was back in the days of Noah, as was predicted by Jesus (Mt. 24:36-39).

This judgment that John saw is not only physical, but it is spiritual, as these people love to continue to worship evil demons and accordingly will live forever in the Lake of Fire, because they honestly love evil and hate God’s Son, Jesus Christ.

This is the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> Vision of Chs. 8-9 where we saw 6 of the 7 trumpets of God’s angels, sounding their trumpets to make sinners repent and come to Jesus for forgiveness and salvation. We will study the 7<sup>th</sup> angel, when he sounds his trumpet, when we come to Ch. 11: 15-19.

This now brings us to the 6<sup>th</sup> Vision in Chs. 10-11.

**6th Vision, Ch. 10: 1-11: John sees God's Angel with a "Little Book" that John eats.**

**Ch. 10:1-11:**

- v.1. In this 6<sup>th</sup> vision, John sees another mighty angel of God. This angel is coming down from heaven, as John sees him. The angel was clothed by a cloud and a rainbow was on his head. His face was like the sun and his feet and legs were like pillars of fire. This is a very special angel of God, who is on a mission for the Lord.
- v.2. This mighty angel of God had a very special "Little Book", open, in his hand. In this 6<sup>th</sup> vision, John sees this mighty angel of God come down to earth, as he sets his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, to indicate that the "Little Book", the Word of God is for all people, on land or sea, at all times, throughout all history.
- v.3. This mighty angel of God cried out with a loud voice, like a large lion when it roars. Also, the Lord Jesus is called "the Lion of the Tribe of Judah" and He is King of kings. This angel means business and after he cried out, 7 thunders spoke, but their words were top secret and John was told not to write what he heard.
- v.4. John was going to write what he heard when he heard the 7 thunders speak. In Psalms 29: 3-4 it says: "the God of glory thunders... the Voice of the Lord is powerful, the Voice of the Lord is full of majesty". The 7 thunders represent God's Voice. John then heard a voice from heaven, that told him: "seal up the things which the 7 thunders uttered, and do not write them" (v.4).
- vs.5-7. This same mighty angel of God, that John saw, in this 6<sup>th</sup> vision, lifted his hand to heaven (v.5) and made an oath to God: "that there should be no delay, any longer (6.), but in the days of the sounding of the 7<sup>th</sup> angel when he is about to sound (his trumpet) the mystery of God would be finished, as God declared to His servants and prophets" (v.7). We will study the 7<sup>th</sup> angel, when he sounds his 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet, as presented in Ch. 11:15-19.
- vs.8-11. John hears a voice from heaven telling him to: "go and take the Little Book"(v.8), from this mighty Angel of God. This Angel of God then told John to: "eat it"(v.9), and "it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as honey to your mouth". In other words, when John put the Word of God (the "Little Book") in his mouth and ate it, he felt sick to his stomach as he realized how God's Word, the Bible would be rejected by most people. However, John was told that he "must prophecy" (preach), teach it to all people (v.11), as a witness for Christ. John witnessed for Christ until the day the Lord called him home to heaven. However, John's ministry is still going on today, especially concerning what John wrote in the Gospel of John, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> John plus the Book of Revelation that we are now studying. John is still preaching and teaching the "Little Book", the Word of God, the Bible, through you and me today, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**This ends Ch.10:1-11.** Now, we continue this 6<sup>th</sup> Vision here in Ch. 11:1-19, where we will see three (3) remarkable things, as follows:

## 6<sup>th</sup> Vision, Ch. 11: vs. 1-19:

In this 6<sup>th</sup> Vision, in Ch. 11: 1-19, John hears three (3) things: 1st, John is told to measure the Temple of God, the Altar and the people who worship there; 2nd, John is told about God's Two Witnesses; and 3rd, John hears the 7th angel sound the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet, which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final Woe Trumpet.

1st. John is told to measure the Temple of God, the Altar, and the worshippers there.

v.1. John is told to “measure the Temple of God, the Altar and those who worship there”. The Temple was destroyed in A.D. 70 and this would mean that the book of Revelation was written by John before A.D. 70 This internal Scriptural evidence that Revelation was written by John prior to A.D. 70, surpasses all secular opinions, regarding the date, when John wrote the book of Revelation.

v.2. John is told to set a boundary in his measurement, by not measuring the “Outer Court of the Temple”, which was used for Gentiles, who “will tread the “holy city”, for 42 months (3 ½ years)”, which Jesus predicted would be destroyed (Mt.24:2). It took Rome 3 ½ years (42 months) to destroy the “holy city”, Jerusalem and the Temple from A.D. 66-70), which is referred to as: “the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified” (v.8). This “great city” was apostate Jerusalem, where Christ is still rejected even today, by the Orthodox Jews.

2nd. John is told about God's “Two Witnesses”.

v.3. However, during this same time of sin and evil (3 ½ years x 360 days = 1,260 days), God says to John that He “will give power to My two witnesses”. This was said earlier, by Jesus, in Acts 1:7-8, when Jesus told his apostles (the Church) that “it is not for you (the Church) to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But, you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me (Jesus) in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth” (the Final Judgment- read: Mt. 28:18-20).

v.4. These Two Witnesses are also referred to in the O.T., as the “2 olive trees” that supply oil and represent the Holy Spirit. The “2 lampstands” represent the Church. Both are presented in Zechariah 4:11-14: “these are the two ‘anointed’ ones, who stand by the Lord of the whole earth”. These Two Witnesses are the Holy Spirit and the Church, working together as one to help bring all people to Christ, until Jesus comes again (read Acts 2:14-21, where Peter quotes Joel 2:28-32).

v.5. If anyone seeks to harm the Two Witnesses (the Holy Spirit and the Church) fire comes from their mouth and devours them. Their enemies must be killed in this manner (v.5). “The Spirit of Truth, who goes out from the Father, He will testify about me, but you (the Church) also must testify” (John 15:26-27). Let us read the whole text of John 16:1-15 about the work of the Holy Spirit through the Church. This symbolism of the “2 olive trees” presents the Holy Spirit and the Church, as Two Witnesses. God's Word is like a fire and if it is rejected by people, who want to kill the Church, the Bride of Christ; their evil spirit “must be killed in this manner” by being “born again” and becoming dead to self, through faith in the Lord, Jesus Christ. If not, they will die spiritually and end up in the “lake of fire” (Rev. 20:15).

6<sup>th</sup> Vision, Ch. 11: vs. 1-19 cont'd, with verses 6-11:

v.6. God gives His power to the Two Witnesses (the Church and the Holy Spirit) who testify for Christ, the Word of God. These Two Witnesses: the Holy Spirit and the Church have power to keep it from raining (drought) and to turn the waters into blood (poison) and to strike the earth with all kinds of plagues (diseases), like with Moses in Egypt. They will continue, again and again, before the Lord brings His Final Judgment. These things happened then and are happening in our lifetime, as God permits wars, drought (no water), diseases (like AIDS) and death, all over the world today, as He seeks to draw people to faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

v.7. When the “Two Witnesses (The Church and the Holy Spirit) have finished their testimony” ... “and the gospel of the Kingdom has been preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, then shall the end come” (Mt. 24:14; Rev. 20:11-15). Then, in this vision, John sees an evil beast that comes up out of the Bottomless Pit. It kills the Two Witnesses (the Church and the Holy Spirit) after they have finished their witness on earth, read Mt. 24:14.

v.8. Spiritually speaking, God permits this evil beast, that John saw, to temporarily kill the Witness of the Holy Spirit and the Church, because man will not repent and the Gospel has been preached in all the world (Mt. 28:19-20). Here the Two Witnesses follow Christ’s example, where Jesus permitted the Jews and Rome to crucify and kill Him, in Jerusalem, called “Sodom and Egypt” as mentioned here in v. 8. Unbelieving Christ rejecters are always very happy when God’s Word is no longer being preached. All the nations of the world, then and now, try to stop the Word of God from being taught and preached.

v.9-10. For 3 ½ days, all the Christ rejecters on the earth “gloat” over the death of the Two Witnesses, also called the Two Prophets. They celebrate because they think the Two Witnesses are dead. They also celebrate because these Two Witnesses were like the Prophets of old, who tormented the unbelieving people with guilt, conviction, and warnings of God’s judgments against them. Again, as in verse 3, the same is also true in verse 9, regarding the number 3 ½ which is half of 7. The number 3 ½ is symbolic of sin. The number 7 is always a complete number with God, symbolic of perfection (Gen. 2:3).

v.11. However, the Two Witnesses, (The Church and the Holy Spirit) like the Lord, after 3 ½ days, were resurrected and stood on their feet. Great fear came on those who saw them. There will always be those, then, now and in the future who teach and preach the Word of God, until Jesus comes again for the Final Judgment. For example: (Acts 5:29-32) “Peter and the other apostles ... said, we ought to obey God rather than men... we are His witnesses (the Church) to these things and so also is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.” Here we see the Church (the prophets/apostles) and the Holy Spirit, as the 2 witnesses for Jesus.

6<sup>th</sup> Vision cont'd  
Ch. 11: vs. 12-17:

v.12. John says, “they, (the Two Witnesses), heard a loud voice from heaven, saying to them, “come up here”. “They, (the Church and the Holy Spirit) ascended to heaven in a cloud and their enemies saw them”. Paul also writes about this ascension in I Thess. 4:16-18, where he wrote:

“for the Lord Himself will descend from heaven, with a shout, and with the voice of an archangel and with the Trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise (ascend) first, then, we who are alive and remain (on earth) shall be caught up together with them, in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And, thus we shall be with the Lord. Therefore, comfort one another with these words”.

v. 13. John saw, in this 6<sup>th</sup> vision, that in the same hour, when He received this vision, there was a great earth quake and 10% of the city (Jerusalem) fell. In a short time after John wrote the book of Revelation, Jerusalem fell in A.D. 70. John saw 7,000 men killed (7 is a complete and perfect number with God) and he saw the rest, who were afraid, and they give glory to God in heaven. Both the numbers, 7 and 10, represent what is complete, such as the complete destruction of Jerusalem and its Temple. Jesus is our Temple and He replaced the old temple by His atonement for our sins.

v.14. This ends the 2nd Woe Trumpet. But, John sees in this 6<sup>th</sup> vision, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Woe Trumpet of the 7<sup>th</sup> angel, coming quickly, and this judgment will be much worse than the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Woe Trumpet Judgments. We will now study the 7<sup>th</sup> angel, with the final 3<sup>rd</sup> Woe Trumpet, here in vs. 15-19, as follows:

3rd. John hears loud voices in heaven, as the “7<sup>th</sup> angel” sounds the final “3<sup>rd</sup> Woe Trumpet”.

v.15. Here, the 7<sup>th</sup> angel sounds his trumpet and John sees the future, in that: “the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our Lord and His Christ, and He (Christ) shall reign, for ever and ever”. John sees Christ reigning on the new earth, for ever and ever. We will study this more in Rev. Ch. 21:4, where... “there will be no more death”. “No more curse” (Rev. 22:3).

v.16. Then John hears the 24 elders, who represent the 12 believing tribes of Israel and the 12 Apostles, who represent all the true believers. John sees these 24 elders, seated before God, on their thrones, and he sees them as they fall on their faces and worship God.

v.17. These 24 elders worshipped the Lord, Jesus, and thanked the “Lord, God Almighty, the One who is and who was, and is to come”. They thank the Lord because He has taken His great power and reigned. Jesus reigns as King in the hearts of all “born again” believers. In I Cor. 15:25, the Apostle Paul wrote: “for He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet”. Jesus reigns in all the hearts of true believers, who are in heaven and those of us who are temporarily on this earth, until we are all together with Jesus in His new heaven, new earth and the New Jerusalem, forever and ever.

6<sup>th</sup> Vision cont'd. Ch. 11: 18-19.

End of the 6<sup>th</sup> Vision.

v. 18. John heard the 24 elders in heaven say: “the nations were angry and Your wrath has come. The time of the dead (spiritually and physically) has come that they should be judged; and that (the Lord) should reward your servants, the prophets and the saints, and those who fear (love) Your name, small and great. And (You) should destroy those who destroy the earth” (these are all the Christ rejecters who hate God, and love war. They will be judged by God). Read Jn. 5:24 & Rev. 20:15.

The part of this verse that says “judged” in this 18<sup>th</sup> verse, tells us of God’s Final Judgment of all unsaved people who have ever lived on earth. The “reward” part of this 18<sup>th</sup> verse is for believers only. John hears all this, as the 7<sup>th</sup> angel sounds his final 3<sup>rd</sup> Woe judgment trumpet.

v.19. In this final part of this 6<sup>th</sup> Vision “The Temple of God”, was opened in heaven. John could see the “Ark of God’s Covenant” in God’s Temple. The book of Hebrews makes it clear that “Christ is the Mediator of the New Covenant” (Heb. 9:15). The book of Hebrews also says: “Now may the God of peace, who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting Covenant, make you complete in every good work, to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory, for ever and ever. Amen” (Hebrews 13:13-21). “And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake and great hail”, that John saw, in this vision, showing God’s power and glory, forever. This is the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> Vision in Rev. Chs. 10-11.

7<sup>th</sup> Vision: We now come to Chs. 12-13, where John sees, in retrospect, the birth of Jesus, with Satan, and 2 evil beasts, trying to kill Jesus, in these 2 chapters, 12 & 13, as follows:  
Ch. 12:

v.1. John sees a great sign, in heaven, where he sees the symbol of a “woman” who represents O. T. Israel and the future N.T. Church of Jesus Christ. She is clothed with the sun, shining brightly on her, as she symbolically brings light to the world of lost sinners, who need Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. John sees the moon, under her feet, that is symbolically representing the lesser light of the “first covenant” (Heb. Chs. 8-9), that shows man’s need of God’s Savior; who the “woman”, in this vision, will deliver to the world. Her baby, Jesus, will pay the price for sin, for all who will receive Him. Upon the woman’s head, she had a “garland of 12 stars”, like “a wreath of flowers, as a symbol of victory” (Webster’s Dictionary 1976) that symbolically represented God’s chosen people, the 12 tribes of Israel, from whom the Messiah, our Savior came into the world, through this Jewish woman, the Virgin Mary, in this vision. We call this the “incarnation”, when God, “the Word, became flesh” (Jn. 1: 1-14).

v.2. In this vision, the woman, representing Israel, is with God’s child and John hears her cry out in labor and pain, to give birth to her baby, the Son of God, the Savior of the world, for all who will believe in Him.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Vision cont'd in Ch. 12: 3-9:

**v.3. In contrast to this, John sees another sign in heaven; a “great, fiery red dragon, with 7 heads, 10 horns and 7 diadems (crowns) on his heads”. In other words, this dragon had 7 heads, with a crown on each of his 7 heads. He also had 10 horns. This is a symbol of Satan, who is very powerful and the numbers 7 and 10 represent complete power, over man, unless they are born again, being enabled by the Spirit “to resist the devil” (Ja. 4: 7-10).**

**v. 4. This fiery red dragon (Satan) had a tail that caused 1/3 of the stars in heaven to fall to earth. These stars were created by God as mentioned in Gen. 1:16 and are named by God and He knows their number (Ps. 147:4). It is very interesting to read about these stars in a good Bible dictionary, under “astronomy”. This verse wants us to be aware of the power of Satan who has the power to cause 1/3 of the stars to fall to the earth by a sweep of his tail. Also, in this verse, please note the symbolism where Satan’s hatred toward Jesus is so powerful that Satan, stands: “before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child, as soon as it was born”. This symbolizes how badly Satan wanted to destroy Jesus and people like you and me, who sincerely love the Lord. However, Jesus won the war against Satan and He keeps us safe in Him, forever. Believers are “sealed with the Holy Spirit” (Eph. 1:13-14).**

**v.5. John, in this vision, sees the Christ Child, Jesus, being born, who is to “rule all nations with a rod of iron” (on Judgment Day). After Jesus’ victory over sin, death, the grave and hell itself, Jesus was resurrected from the dead and He was “caught up to God and to His throne” in heaven, from where He will return for the Final Judgment, and then He will make a new heaven, a new earth, and present the holy city, New Jerusalem, without sin, forever and ever, prepared as a bride (the Church) for her Husband, the Lamb’s wife” (read Rev. 21:1-10).**

**v.6. Joseph and Mary, with her baby, Jesus, in Mt. 2:13-15 were told by an “angel of the Lord” to escape to Egypt, so the “woman” here in this verse, who represents Israel and the N.T. Church of Jesus Christ, escapes much persecution as God cares for her, the “woman”, for 1,260 days, which is 3 ½ years, half the amount of the number 7, which is symbolic of imperfection, evil and sin. It is after Herod is dead that Joseph, Mary and Jesus return home to Nazareth, after Herod killed all the babies in Bethlehem, who were under 2 years of age (Mt. 2:16-23).**

**v.7-9. There is war in heaven, that John sees in this vision, as he sees God’s angel, Michael and Michael’s good angels combat Satan, who is the evil angel and leader of all the fallen angels who are evil spirits. John sees Michael win the war and the dragon, Satan, is defeated and cast out of heaven to the earth, with his fallen demonic angels, who seek to destroy the work of the Holy Spirit and the Church, in John’s day, today, and in the future, until Christ returns, and casts them into the lake of fire, forever (Rev. 20:10).**



7<sup>th</sup> Vision cont'd. Ch. 12:10-17 and Ch.13:1:

v.10. John heard a loud voice in heaven saying: “Now, salvation and strength and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the Accuser of our brethren (Satan), who accused them before our God, day and night, has been cast down.”

v. 11-13. We see Satan’s attacks in the lives of the persecuted Church, in all ages, who overcome Satan “by the blood of the Lamb”. God protects His servants and finally casts Satan into the lake of fire, forever (Rev. 20:10). In the meantime, we are to “submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). Satan and his evil spirits are always attacking the Church, the “woman” who gave birth to Jesus our Lord.

v. 14. The true Church, “the woman” is out of the serpent’s reach, as Isaiah wrote: “But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings, like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint” (Isa.40:31). The Church is nourished “for a time, and times, and half a time” that symbolically represents the number 3 ½ times, which is half of God’s perfect number 7, and shows, symbolically, that the Lord will always nourish His people “from the presence of the serpent”, who is Satan.

vs. 15-16. John sees Satan “spewing water”, like a flood, as a flood of lies came from Satan’s mouth, to overtake the woman (the Church). Satan is a liar and the only thing that can come from his evil mouth is a flood of lies about the Church and it’s Christ. However, the Church just went ahead and preached the Word of God and went to places where the Word of God was received. The earth, the people, helped the Church and swallowed up Satan’s flood of lies, as they do today, and the people left the Church alone, to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all who would not believe Satan’s flood of lies. Millions of people have come to faith in Jesus, by the preaching of the Word of God, even in bad places where God’s Word is never talked about.

v. 17. Satan, the dragon was enraged against the “women” (the Church) and went to war with her children. Each new generation must seek the Lord and receive Christ as their own personal Savior, just as their Christian parents had to do before them. God has no grandchildren. Satan is always making trouble for true believers who “keep the commandments of God and keep the testimony of Jesus Christ”. We must always remember that Satan, the dragon, is standing on the shore of the sea of people and lying to them all of the time. Satan is a liar and a murderer forever, and he will make war against the Church until God casts him into the lake of fire forever (Rev. 20:10).

Ch. 13 (the 7<sup>th</sup> Vision cont'd.): Here we see the first beast, coming out of the sea, (Ch. 13:1-10) and a second beast, “coming out of the earth” (Ch. 13:11-18).

In John’s vision, as he was standing on the “sand of the sea”, he saw a “beast” coming out of the sea: the “sea” represents unrest for a “sea of people” who have made a man their god, like the Chief Priests of the Jews did when they said: “we have no king but Caesar” (Jn. 19:15). Here, you see the religious leaders who profess that they believe in God, but are uniting with an antichrist Roman government that believed that the state, Caesar Nero, was their king and god.

**Ch. 13. (the 7<sup>th</sup> Vision cont'd.) Ch. 13:1-6:**

**v.1. The beast here is seen by John as “rising up, out of the sea” of people, having 7 heads, 10 horns and on his 10 horns the beast had 10 crowns. On each of its 7 heads it had a “blasphemous name” against God.**

These symbolic heads, horns and crowns of the beast will be explained to John, in more detail, in Ch. 17:1-18, which we will study later, when we come to Ch. 17.

**v. 2. This first beast that Jesus showed John "was like a leopard, with powerful feet like a bear and a mouth like a lion". John was presented here with a satanic beast that was persecuting the Church. This beast was Caesar Nero, (A.D. 54-68), with the help of the Pharisees and their Chief Priests, who had said: "we have no king but Caesar" (Jn.19:15). This beast received its power, throne and great authority from Satan, the "dragon". Satan always uses a person to work through as long as possible. Satan will then use another person, like Hitler, who killed 6 million Jews during W.W.II., in Nazi Germany.**

**v. 3. John saw one of its 7 heads, as if it had been killed by a deadly wound, but it had returned to life. The Roman world marveled about this as they followed the beast. However, the wound was not really healed, because it was Jesus Christ who gave the death blow to Satan and his beasts, when Jesus was crucified, dead, buried and resurrected from the dead, glorified and enthroned in heaven. Jesus told John: “I am He who lives and have the keys to Hades and of Death” (Rev. 1:18). Satan knows this about Jesus, so again Satan tries to copy Jesus with his beast, here in verse 3, which is another one of Satan’s many lies. The Roman world then followed the beast, Nero, as many people continue to do today, as governments, leaders and things continue to be worshipped in the lives of most people, then, now, and into the future, until the Final Judgment of God.**

**v. 4. The Christians in the 7 Churches, to whom John was writing, were under Satanic attack under the governmental authority of the Roman Empire. People who were not Christians, followed the dragon (Satan), through the beast, who was Caesar Nero, at that time. Nero had Paul and Peter killed, plus many other Christians for their testimony of faith in Jesus Christ, around the years of A.D. 63-68. Nero murdered his mother, 2 of his wives and many other political leaders. Much of the same thing is happening today throughout the world, and even in America. There have been thousands of Christians killed in Syria and Africa during 2015 and the Church continues to be targeted and persecuted by many people and groups today.**

**v. 5. “And he (the first beast) was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months”, 3 ½ years, which is half of 7. The number 7 is God's number of perfection, while the number 3 ½ is the number that represents, symbolically, a time of evil.**

**v. 6. “Then he (this first beast, in John’s vision, who was Nero), opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His Tabernacle (the Temple), that was in Jerusalem and those who dwell in heaven”. This first beast hated God and Christians as Satan does today, as he did when John wrote the Revelation.**

Ch. 13 The 7<sup>th</sup> Vision cont'd. Ch. 13: 7-10:

Jesus had earlier taught His disciples: "when you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, (Dan. 11:31-32) standing in the holy place, flee into the mountains" (Mt. 24:15-16). The tabernacle was the Temple in Rev. 13:6 and was the holy place. When the Temple was destroyed by God, using Rome, the "abomination of desolation" spoken of by Daniel and Jesus, was in the Temple, at that time. The "abomination of desolation" that was in the Temple, was in fact, the Chief Priests, who were to represent God and offer sacrifices for the sins of the people, but they had already told Pilate: "we have no king but Caesar" (Jn. 19:15-16). Then Pilate delivered Jesus to the Chief Priests to be crucified" (v.16). Here the Chief Priests, who were supposed to represent God in the Temple, became "the abomination of desolation" as they, the Chief Priests had Jesus, the Messiah, God's Son, murdered on the Cross, after they defected to Rome (Dan. 9:27; 11:31-32; Mt. 24:1-2; Mk. 13:1-37; Lk. 13:33-35; 19:41-46; 21:6-24, -read verses).

However, believing Jews, in Jesus as their Messiah, who were now Christians, were told by Jesus to flee (Mt. 24:16), to run for their lives, due to the persecution against them, caused by both the Chief Priests and the Romans. As the Christians fled from Jerusalem, the Gospel began to be preached to the whole world. The veil in the Temple had been torn, top to bottom, when Jesus died for our sins. There was no longer a need for the Temple, because "...grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (Jn. 1:17), when Jesus died for all the sins of all people, on the Cross. The Temple was no longer necessary and there has not been a temple for over 2,000 years, since Jerusalem was destroyed A.D. 70. In the New Jerusalem "the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its Temple" (Rev. 21:22).

Jesus had told his disciples that a "great tribulation" was coming, such as has not been seen since the beginning of the world. Jesus said: there will never be a great tribulation like it again. He also said: "unless those days were shortened, no one would survive, but for the elect's sake, those days will be shortened; then if anyone says to you (Jesus was speaking to His disciples): look, here is Christ! Do not believe it" (Mt. 24:21-23).

Jesus was speaking to His disciples, the future N.T. Church, regarding what they would experience personally, during a great tribulation of persecution that came upon all the Christians in Jerusalem and that area, which was caused by the Chief Priests uniting with Rome. This persecution, against true born again Christians, will continue until Jesus returns for the Final Judgment.

v.7-10. Jesus tells John, to write: "It was granted to him (Satan) to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him (Satan) over every tribe, tongue, and nation. All who dwell on the earth will worship him (Satan), whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb of God, slain from the foundation of the world. If anyone has an ear, let him hear. He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints."

Let us now review these 4 verses, 7-10; as follows:

Ch. 13 The 7<sup>th</sup> Vision cont'd. Ch. 13: 7-11:

v.7. God permits Satan to use this satanic beast in the person of Emperor Nero, in John's day, to come and make war against believers in Jesus and to persecute them, along with every tribe, tongue and nation. This will be repeated by Satan, again and again until the Final Judgment and the end of this world (Rev. 20: 12-15), as we know it today.

v.8. All unbelievers will worship this beast, who is given power by Satan. All lost people, whose names are not written in the Lamb's Book of Life, are all under Satan's power and worship Satan in some way or the other.

v.9. John writes: Listen to this: "If anyone has an ear, let him hear". In other words we all need to know and understand this truth. Jesus said: "He who is not with Me is against Me" (Mt. 12:30). The Chief Priests, the Pharisees and the Sanhedrin along with most Jews and the Roman Empire, in John's day, as John wrote this letter to the 7 Churches, prior to A.D. 70., were all against Jesus. It will be the same way when Jesus returns for the Final Judgment. Jesus told His disciples it would be like it was in the days of Noah, when He said: "But as the days of Noah were, so also will be the coming of the Son of Man..." (Mt. 25:37-39).

v.10. Satan's beast, the Roman Empire under Nero, when John wrote, lead others into evil captivity, such as Satan, making government a god and leading people into captivity in evil things. John gives us an example in Rev. 21:8 where he says: "the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death". These evil people will be cast into Hell, the Lake of Fire, forever. Believers are to have patience and faith as they wait on the Lord to bring it all to pass, until the Final Judgment of the Lord.

A second beast, comes out of the earth, Ch. 13;11-18:

It is here, in v.11, that John now sees another beast. Remember, the first beast had come out of the sea (of people) in Ch. 13:1-10. Now we see this second beast coming out of the earth. James tells us that: "if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your heart, do not boast and lie against the Truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic" (James 3:14-15). This second beast is from below, out of the earth, it comes out of the pit of hell. We will now study this second beast, here in vs. 11-18, as follows:

v.11. This second beast, here in v. 11, is presented to John, by Jesus. John sees it in this vision, as it ascends "out of the earth", the pit of hell. It looks harmless, "like a lamb", but it has a mouth that spoke like a dragon (it is satanic, it works for Satan). It had "2 horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon". This second beast that we see here appears to be harmless, but in reality it represents the religious leaders of the Jews and their Chief Priests who hated Jesus and had Him crucified by the first beast, that was Rome, in John's day.

Ch. 13 The 7<sup>th</sup> Vision cont'd. Ch. 13: 12.

v.12. Now, here in v. 12 we see this second beast, that appears to be harmless, who are the Pharisees and the Chief Priests in Jerusalem. Remember, it had an evil mouth that spoke like a dragon (Satan). For example; this is what it said about Jesus: "Crucify Him, Crucify Him" (Mk. 15:14). Even Pilate knew that the Pharisee's Chief Priests had Jesus turned over to Rome, the "first beast", because of envy (have class read Mk. 15: 6-15). Also, "when the Chief Priests and Officers saw Him (Jesus), they cried out saying: "Crucify Him, Crucify Him"" (Jn. 19:6). Here we see the Jews in Jerusalem, this multitude of people and their Chief Priests who are seen "like a lamb", as the second beast, who Jesus had condemned earlier, as "hypocrites"(Mt. 23:13-39). This second beast caused all the people to worship the first beast in Emperor worship whose deadly wound was healed with a new Emperor.

These Pharisees and the Chief Priests who had hated Jesus and supported the first beast-Rome, were in reality, the second beast, during this time. The Pharisees were the religious leaders of all the Jews in Israel (Mark 7:1-13), when John wrote Revelation. The Jew's Chief Priests were the ones who had cried out to Pilate: "away with Him, away with Him! crucify Him... we have no king but Caesar" (John 19:12-22).

Here in our study of Ch. 13: 12-18, Jesus is showing John, in this vision, that this second beast, the Chief Priests of Israel, were guilty of giving authority to the first beast (Rome), to have Jesus crucified. Remember, the Chief Priests said that their only king was Caesar. The Pharisees and Chief Priests supported the Emperor of Rome. Rome demanded that all the people, Jews and Gentiles, were to follow the first beast (Rome), who the historian, Josephus, said was Emperor Nero, when John wrote the book of Revelation around A.D.68. Nero committed suicide in A.D. 68, and Rome was without an Emperor, but this "deadly wound was healed"(v. 12), when Vespasian became the new Emperor, after others were killed trying to be the new Emperor. Emperor Vespasian and his son, General Titus then destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple in A.D.70. Jesus had warned about them when He said: "False Christ's and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to deceive, if possible, the very elect" (Mt.24:24). John, in addition to writing this book of Revelation also wrote the Gospel of John, and the Epistles of 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> John, where John makes it very clear: "that the Antichrist is coming and even now, many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour"(1<sup>st</sup> Jn. 2:18). Peter concludes his sermon to the Jewish leaders when he told them: "there is no other Name... by which you must be saved" (Acts 4:1-12).

John wrote: "And every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world" (1<sup>st</sup> John 4:3). Also John wrote: "For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist" (2<sup>nd</sup> John 7). This was evidenced through the first beast, Rome and the second beast, the Chief Priests of Israel, as the Roman state and the religious leaders of Israel, became one, in union, against Christians, in John's time.

7<sup>th</sup> Vision cont'd. Ch. 13: 13-18.

v.13. Now, in John's time, after the crucifixion of Jesus, this second beast-the Pharisees, and Chief Priests and all their religious leaders in Jerusalem, supported Rome, the first beast, in performing "great signs" where "fire came down from heaven, on earth, in the sight of men", much like the sorcerers and magicians did in Egypt against God and Moses in Exodus 7:8-13 (snakes); 7:20-22 (water made into blood): 8:1-7 (frogs), etc.

v.14. This second beast-the Pharisees and Chief Priests, who looked like a lamb, but spoke like a dragon (v.11), told the Jewish people to make an "image" to the first beast-Rome, "who was wounded by the sword, and lived". History tells us that in A.D. 68 Caesar Nero killed himself by the sword. When Emperor Vespasian became Caesar he continued Emperor worship and the Pharisees and Chief Priests supported it, because they had made Caesar their only king (Jn. 19:15), when they rejected Jesus and had Him crucified.

v.15. This second beast, also known as the Pharisees and Chief Priests, were "granted power" from evil spirits, through sorcery, witch craft and black magic, like in Moses' day, to make the image of the "first beast", "speak and cause as many as would not worship the "image" of the beast, to be killed". All people who refused to surrender their conscience and soul to Satan, the Roman state, would be killed. This was due to Emperor worship and the pride of men. Remember, the Chief Priests told Pilate: "we have no king but Caesar". This is an example of what may happen when the Church becomes one with the state, as the Chief Priests did under Rome, and like the Church did under Hitler, in Germany and Mussolini, in Rome, during World War II. The Church then played dead under Nazi socialism from 1935 -1945. However, 90% of all Americans prayed and 80% attended Church, from 1942-1946, and we defeated Nazi socialism that killed over 6 million Jews. America was a praying nation to the Lord Jesus Christ then, and God blessed America and we won WWII, and Israel became a nation again, in 1948. However, there are many nations today that want Israel destroyed, as in past history.

vs.16-18: Under this second beast, in John's day, the Pharisees and the Chief Priests, all the people in Jerusalem were required to receive "a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads" (v.16). "No one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name" (v. 17). Jesus told John to write: "Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast; for it is the number of a man: His number is 666" (v.18). The word "calculate" means to determine by reasoning and evaluating. However, the New International Version of the Bible translates v.18; "for it is man's number, his number is 666". Then, John would be saying that unregenerated man, who is unsaved and still in his sins, shows the "mark of the beast", in his life by what he does and what he says, as Jesus made clear: "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure (in his heart) brings forth evil things" (Mt.12:35).

There are all kinds of interpretations today about the number 666. Here are a couple, as follows:

7<sup>th</sup> Vision Cont'd. Ch.13 regarding interpretations of "666" through the 8<sup>th</sup> Vision, in Ch.14:1.

(1) I appreciate the view presented through Inter-Varsity Press by Dr. Leon Morris, in the Tyndale Commentaries of the book of Revelation, where he says:

"The mark is explained as the name of the beast or the number of his name; this leads into the next verse (18): Here is wisdom... the only clues John gives are that it is a man's number and that it is 666. In ancient times it was usual to employ letters to denote numbers. In modern times the most favored solution is Nero Caesar".

Nero was emperor from A.D. 54-68, 14 years, and it was during this time Jesus came to John and had him write the book of Revelation to the 7 Churches. The history of Nero shows a man who was one of the most evil and demonic of all the emperors of Rome. Many believe he was demon possessed (see "Nero", in the Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary).

(2) Also, I appreciate Dr. Morris Ashcraft, Professor of Theology at Midwestern Baptist Seminary, Kansas City, Missouri, in 1972, who wrote in his commentary on Revelation, in The Broadman Bible Commentary, where he said: "The mark of the beast is identified by the number of it's name, which is a human number (man's name) and is 666. In the Greek and Hebrew languages, characters of the alphabet were used in lieu of special symbols for numbers. For instance, in Latin X=10, C=100, M=1000. The numerical equivalents of the letters would be added to get the number of the name. This art was popular in ancient times. The most commonly accepted answer was Nero. John's call for wisdom means that when the beast appears, believers should recognize him. By using the name "666" for Nero, both the writer and the reader are safe from the charge of treason. When John wrote the book of Revelation, the Roman Empire ruled the world. You could be killed for treason if you said something against the Emperor".

It is my prayerful opinion that the number 666 may be understood symbolically as in apocalyptic writing, that represents the incomplete number 6, as compared to God's perfect number 7. In other words, the number 666 may symbolically represent: (1) an antichrist, who is a world leader; (2) a false prophet who is a world religious leader who supports the antichrist; (3) Satan himself. All 3 as 666, giving one 6, for each of them would represent all that is satanic.

Now, as we come to Ch. 14, we will see the exact opposite as presented here with the Lamb's Father's "name written on their (believers) foreheads", that symbolically represent God's perfect number 7, as 777 for the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in contrast to all that is evil, as presented in the incomplete number 6, as 666. Let us now study Ch. 14.

8th Vision (Ch.14 1-20): John sees Jesus and the 144,000 (all believers) with the Gospel to be taught and preached until the earth's harvest is reaped of both the saved and the lost.

v. 1. John sees the Lamb (Jesus) standing on Mt. Zion. Symbolically, "Zion" is used for heaven, as in Hebrews 12:22-23 (have class read these verses). John also sees the 144,000, who are all true born-again believers, with the Father's name, symbolically, written on their foreheads. Remember, it is not what is on your skin that matters, it is the Word of God that is within your heart that is evidenced on your face, when you have been saved by Jesus.

## Ch. 14 The 8<sup>th</sup> Vision cont'd. vs. 2-8.

v.2-3. John not only sees, but he also hears, in this 8<sup>th</sup> vision. He hears a voice from heaven that was very powerful, like a waterfall or a loud thunder. John also hears beautiful music played by harpists, with the singing of a new song in heaven that no one could learn except the "redeemed", the 144,000, who are symbolic of all the believing 12 tribes of Israel and all the believing 12 apostles and their disciples. The 144,000 represent, symbolically, all believers who are in heaven, now or in the future, from all ages.

v.4-5. The word "virgins" here, is symbolic in its language, in that the key words in the text are: "were not defiled" and "virgins", in the Biblical sense of 2 Cor. 11:2 that says: "I have betrothed you to one husband that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ". We who believe in Jesus have been made pure by being washed in the blood of the Lamb (Rev.1:5). We are sheep and "the sheep follow Him for they know His voice" (John 10:4). As sheep we ask no questions, we show no hesitation, we simply follow Him, wherever He goes, regardless if the way is easy or difficult. We, who believe in Jesus, are the Bride of Christ, who are the 144,000, "virgins" who are "not defiled", because we have been purchased at a great price. "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:20). Also, "you were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men" (1 Cor. 7:23). We are separate and owned by the Lamb, who is our dear Lord Jesus Christ. In the mouth of the redeemed, the 144,000, there was no guile (deceit) and we are "without fault (sin) before the throne of God" (v.5).

John sees and hears 3 angels in heaven:

vs.6-7. The 1<sup>st</sup> angel announces that the "everlasting gospel" is ready to be preached to all people on earth. The angel also announces that we must: "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come" and we need to worship Him (Jesus) who made heaven and earth and all things (Jn. 1:1-14, have class read this text). Judgment was soon to fall upon Jerusalem, where the Chief Priests said: "we have no king but Caesar" (Jn. 19:15). This judgment will come to the whole world, at the Final Judgment, like it did to Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

v.8. The 2<sup>nd</sup> angel announces, saying: "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of her fornication". Please look up the word "Babylon" in a Bible dictionary and you will see that it represents great wealth, luxury and vice. The Bible first mentions Babylon as Babel in Gen: 10:10 and Gen: 11:1-9 regarding the Tower of Babel about 3,000 B.C. Before this, everyone spoke the same language, but God caused them not to understand each other and they were totally confused. Babylon always represents spiritual and physical vice and fornication, with a rejection of God, much like ancient Rome, in John's day, when Jerusalem joined Rome in an "unholy marriage" when the Chief Priests told Pilate: "we have no king but Caesar!" (Jn. 19:15). In other words, the angel told John that Jerusalem had fallen and was soon to be destroyed, as this 2<sup>nd</sup> angel testified, when he said: "Babylon is fallen... because she made all the nations drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication" (v.8), when she rejected Jesus, her Messiah and committed spiritual fornication by an "unholy marriage" with Rome. Her testimony then told all the other nations that Jesus was not the Messiah, as she (Jerusalem) made Caesar her king, and false god, who was to be worshipped.



The 8<sup>th</sup> Vision cont'd. Ch.14: v. 8-14.

v. 8 cont'd:

The Orthodox Jews, to this very day, still reject Jesus as their God and Messiah, because of what the Jewish religious leaders, the Pharisees, taught them in John's day, along with their testimony of hatred toward Jesus and their witness to all the nations of the world. Also, the Church today is becoming more and more "one" with the world today, just as Jerusalem did when she became "one" with Rome, in John's day.

v.9-12. The 3rd angel announces, saying: "if anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on their forehead or hand, he himself will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of God's indignation. This person shall be tormented with fire and brimstone, in the presence of the Holy Angels and in the presence of the Lamb" (v.9-10). This goes for anyone living then, today or in the future, who rejects Jesus as their God and Savior. In v.11 we read: "And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name". In v. 12 we read: "Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus".

In my personal life, the verse that has helped me the most to have "patience", is found in Prov. 3:5-6. This verse has really helped me, especially in times of very serious trouble, to practice 3 things, as follows:

- (1) To trust only in the Lord with ALL my heart;
- (2) to not lean on my own understanding;
- (3) to acknowledge Him, in ALL my ways. The promise of this verse is: "He shall direct your paths".

This verse has been my key verse since 1953 and I am here to tell you today, that it really works, if it is practiced. If Christians will do these 3 things, they will be enabled to have: "the patience of the saints", as mentioned here in v. 12.

v.13. Here, in v. 13 we see that this is not another angel, but John hears a very special Voice, from heaven and this Voice tells John to write: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors and their works follow them". Your "works" for Jesus will follow you to heaven. You can depend on this truth, for eternity. It is the Holy Spirit who is speaking here. The Holy Spirit makes this truth known to John, so that he and all servants of Jesus should not be discouraged in our labor for our Lord.

v.14. John saw: "A white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown and in His hand a sharp sickle". Jesus is ready for the Final Harvest in this vision that He gave to John.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Vision cont'd Ch.14:15-20.

v.15-16: Then, John also saw and heard “another angel”, a 4<sup>th</sup> angel, who came out of the Temple in heaven, saying “with a loud voice to Him (Jesus) who sat on the (white) cloud: Thrust in Your sickle and reap for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest on the earth is ripe” (v.15). “So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped” (v. 16).

Regarding the Day of the Final Judgment, Jesus told His disciples: “But, of that Day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven but My Father only” (Mt. 24:36 and Mk. 13:32). In this vision, the Lord is presented as the “Son of Man” (v.14) and His Father tells His angel in v. 15, to tell His Son, Jesus, to: “Thrust in Your sickle and reap for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe” (v.15). It will be like it was in “the days of Noah” on this earth when Jesus comes for the Final (Judgment) Harvest of both the saved and the lost (read Mt.24:36-39).

v.17. Next, John saw “another angel”, a 5<sup>th</sup> angel, in this vision, come out of the “Temple” in heaven and he also had a sharp sickle.

v.18. Then, John saw “another angel”, a 6<sup>th</sup> angel, came out of the “Altar” in heaven. The Altar represents the prayers of the saints of God in Ch. 8:3-5. This 6<sup>th</sup> angel had power over fire, which represents God’s judgment on man. “He cried with a loud cry” to the 5<sup>th</sup> angel, mentioned in v.17, “who had the sharp sickle” and tells this 5<sup>th</sup> angel to: “Thrust in your sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe”.

v.19. “So the 5<sup>th</sup> angel thrust in his sharp sickle, into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God”. I think it is interesting to note that these 6 angels all assisted the Lord and this made Jesus and His 6 angels total 7, which is the perfect complete number with God.

v.20. “... the wine press was trampled outside the city (of Jerusalem) and blood came out of the wine press, up to the horses’ bridles, for one-thousand-six hundred furlongs”. A furlong is about 180 to 200 miles long, based on the measuring method of “furlongs” (as defined in Webster’s dictionary) and about 5 feet high, based on the size of a horses’ bridle. This represented the area of the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, with their false prophets and their Chief Priests, who had Jesus crucified. God’s judgment on Jerusalem had not yet happened when Jesus told John to write the book of Revelation. However, this prophecy also speaks of the Final Judgment that will come to the whole world as Jesus also prophesied regarding that it will be like it was in the days of Noah (Mt.24:34-39), when all nations will be judged by Him as “a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats” (Mt.25:32). However, believers “shall not come into judgment, but have passed from death unto life” (Jn. 5:24).

This ends Ch. 14. We now come to the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter and the 9<sup>th</sup> vision, as follows:

9th Vision (Chs. 15-16): John sees another sign in heaven. In this vision John sees believers who have victory over the beast, and the 7 bowls of God's wrath, against evil.

Ch.15 vs. 1-6:

vs.1-2. Jesus shows John "seven (7) angels" who have the "seven (7) last plagues". In these plagues "the wrath of God is made complete", regarding; "Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified" (Rev. 11:8), which was Babylon/Jerusalem. Remember, the book of Revelation was dictated by Jesus, to his dear friend John, addressing the ministry of the seven (7) Churches in John's day. The 7 Churches do not exist today that were there in John's day. That area is Muslim Turkey today. In v. 2., John also sees "something like a sea of glass" that represents God's eternal peace, but it is "mingled with fire and those who have victory over the beast", who are "standing on the sea of glass, with harps of God". They are in total peace, as they sing to the Lord the following song:

vs.3-4. Those "who have the victory over the beast" (v.2), sang the "Song of Moses and of the Lamb". The words that John heard them sing were, as follows:

"Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty!  
Just and true are Your ways, O King of the Saints!  
Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your Name?  
For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You,  
for Your judgments have been manifested" (v.3-4).

This song, the "Song of Moses and of the Lamb", is the song of God's deliverance for all people who believe in Jesus, the Christ. For Moses, it was God's deliverance from the Egyptians; for the Lamb (Jesus), it was God's deliverance from the beast of the Roman Empire and the beast of the Pharisees, and all other dead religions, then, now and in the future. Concerning this song, we read in the book of Hebrews: "Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, who was faithful to Him (God the Father) who appointed Him; as Moses also was faithful in all His house" (Heb. 3:1-2).

v.5-6. John now informs the 7 Churches, and all who will read Revelation, what he saw concerning the "Temple of the Tabernacle, (the dwelling place of God), of the Testimony in heaven, that was opened" (v.5). In v.6., John could see the seven (7) angels come out of the Temple in heaven, with the seven (7) plagues of God's judgments. The 7 angels were sent by God, and were "clothed in pure bright linen, having their chests girded with golden bands"(v.6). The pure shining linen and the golden chest bands that the seven (7) angels were wearing, represented God's holiness. This is also a good example for believers in Jesus, to wear clothing that honors and represents the Lord, in our daily living, especially today as we seek to serve the Lord.

9<sup>th</sup> Vision cont'd, Ch.15:7-8.

v. 7. In this vision (Ch. 15), John saw “one (1) of the four (4) living creatures”, that were mentioned in Rev. 4: 6-11. They are “living creatures”, part animal and part human. They are “living heavenly creatures”, servants of God. John sees only one (1) of these “four (4) living creatures” give the golden bowls, full of the wrath of God, to the seven (7) angels.

v.8. John sees here, that the “Temple in heaven was filled with smoke, from the glory of God and from His power”. God’s judgment, was about to come on Jerusalem and their antichrist pharisaical (hypocritical) leaders, of that time, due to their evil attitude toward the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ; the Anointed One of God, the King of the Jews, who they Crucified.

Jesus had told them: "You are hypocrites. For you are like whitewashed tombs...full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness... full of hypocrisy and lawlessness, serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of Hell? That on you may come all the righteous blood, shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, whom you murdered between the Temple and the altar. Assuredly, I say to you, all these things shall come upon this generation. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem the one who kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! I wanted to gather your children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. See! Your house (Temple) is left to you desolate" (Read Mt.23:27-38). It was desolate because God was no longer there, due to their sins and rejection of Jesus, whom they murdered on the Cross. Jerusalem and their Temple were soon destroyed by God, using Rome, in A.D. 70.

God, in His righteousness, must punish evil doers to bring about repentance into the hearts of those who will not "resist" the Holy Spirit, as Stephen preached to the Jewish crowd, just before they stoned him to death, as the first Christian martyr (Acts 7:55-60). Here we see Jesus standing up, in heaven (Acts 7:56), when they stoned Stephen as he was praying to Jesus, and said: “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit” (Acts 7:59). Stephen then knelt down and cried out in a loud voice: “Lord, do not charge them with this sin”, and then he died. Let’s look at Acts 6:7-15; 7:1-60; 8:1-4 (read these verses).

Coming back to Rev.15:8, we note, in this vision, that: “no one was able to enter the temple in heaven until the 7 plagues of the 7 angels were completed.” I am sure that Jesus’ disciples remembered His words to the “scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites”, in Mt.23:13-36, where He pronounced 8 woes on them, and said: “I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation”, in v. 36. It was in their own “generation” that their Temple and Jerusalem were destroyed in A.D. 70, much like it will be when God brings about the Final Judgment.

This ends the 15th chapter, which is simply an introduction for the 16th chapter, where John sees the seven (7) angels of God pour out their seven (7) bowls of God's wrath, on the earth.

## 9<sup>th</sup> Vision cont'd. Ch. 16:1-6.

Here in Ch. 16, the Lord's judgment was yet to come upon Jerusalem, when John wrote, not only because they had joined with Rome, as "one", making Caesar their king, in order to kill Jesus, but also Jerusalem was referred to as "the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified (Ch.11:8). God's judgment still continues to this day, on all people who reject Jesus. Jerusalem and its temple were destroyed, just as Jesus had prophesied and taught His disciples in Mt.24:1-2. It was destroyed in A.D. 70.

v.1. The seven (7) angels were told to: "Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on earth". These seven (7) angels, one by one, do as they are told in John's vision, as God continues to chasten Jerusalem, so that some of these Jews would repent and be saved.

v.2. The first (1st) angel, "poured out his bowl upon the earth and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image". These men had sores on their bodies that represented their soul's spiritual condition of hate toward Jesus and His followers.

v.3. The second (2nd) angel, "poured out his bowl on the sea (of people) and it became as blood of a dead man, and every creature there died". Most of the Jewish religious leaders and their people were dead spiritually, due to rejecting Jesus as their Messiah. Their heart was hard and clotted, like in 5 of the "7 Churches", that received this letter from John.

v.4. The third (3rd) angel "poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water and they became blood". Their water became contaminated with dead bodies, due to their war with Rome, which resulted in the destruction of Jerusalem. When a nation becomes blood thirsty against God's saints, they reap what they sow, even to this day and into the Final Judgment.

v.5-6. God's angel of the waters said: "you are righteous, O Lord, the One who is, and Who was, and Who is to be, because You have judged these things. For they, (the Jews) have shed the blood of the saints and prophets and You have given them blood (contaminated waters) to drink. For it is their just due". Jesus wants to give us "living water" (Jn.4:10-11).

You remember, that a young man, named Stephen had also condemned the Jews, years earlier, when the Jews of the Synagogue (Acts 6:8-15) wanted to kill him, as they had done to Jesus. The Jewish High Priest asked Stephen: "are these things so?" (Acts 7:1). From Acts 7:1-60 we read about what happened to Stephen and how Stephen saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God, as Saul/Paul was officiating at Stephen's death at that time.

In Acts 7:51-56 Stephen said to these Jews:

"You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears. You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your father's did, so do you. Which of the Prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it. When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, look I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man, standing at the right hand of God!" Read Acts 7: 57-60 and Acts 8:1-8 (NKJV).

## 9<sup>th</sup> Vision cont'd, Ch.16:7-16.

This is a two-fold prophecy of God's judgment, for then and for the future. The judgment comes when it is least expected. Jesus warned them in Mt. 23:33-36 (read these verses). God's judgment came "upon this generation", in A.D. 70, after John wrote this letter to the 7 Churches.

v.7. John said: "I heard another (voice) from the altar saying (in heaven) even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments". The "altar" in heaven is connected with the prayers of the saints (Rev. 8:3) and God's judgment was coming upon Jerusalem for becoming "one", as a Harlot with the beast who was Rome, under Nero, as the Chief Priests declared: "We have no king but Caesar" (John 19:15), just before the Jews had Jesus crucified.

vs. 8-9. The fourth (4th) angel, "poured out his bowl on the sun", and in this vision John sees "power given to this angel to scorch men with fire, who blasphemed God and did not repent nor give God His glory." Even today, God brings all types of plagues, fires, diseases and judgments on people, and they still will not repent of their sins and surrender to Jesus.

vs. 10-11. The fifth (5) angel "poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast", where Satan's throne is mentioned to the Church of Pergamos, (Rev. 2:12-16) and to the Church of Thyatira (Rev.2:19-25). Then, the beast's "kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain" (v.10). "They blasphemed God... because of their pains and their sores and did not repent of their deeds" (v.11). Their souls were full of darkness.

v. 12. The sixth (6th) angel "poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates and its water was dried up". The Euphrates River is 1,200 miles long. It begins in Turkey and flows to the Persian Gulf. The route to Syria, Damascus, Israel and Egypt, followed the Euphrates River. People depended on this river very much. This vision is to show that God controls everything, including the rivers, but most of all, He wants all people to receive His "Living Waters" (Jn. 4:10), in Jesus Christ. This judgment is not only for Israel, but is a picture of what is to come in the Final Judgment.

v. 13-14. John also "saw (in this vision) three (3) unclean spirits, 'like frogs', come out of the 'mouth' of the dragon (Satan); out of the 'mouth' of the beast (Rome's Caesar); out of the 'mouth' of the false prophet (Chief Priests)", during John's life time. However, this vision is also prophetic of the future, universally. Here we see in v.14 that it relates to spirits of demons to go out to the "kings of the earth and of the whole world together, to gather them to the "battle of that great Day of God Almighty", called the Final Judgment or Armageddon.

v. 15-16. Here, the account of the "bowls of God's wrath" is interpreted by Jesus Himself, Who says: "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame". In other words, no one knows when Jesus will return for true believers, and the Final Judgment! Believers, living on earth are blessed by God, if they are watching for Jesus and keep His robes of faith on them as they trust in Him, and seek to serve Him and live for Him. Other believers who are caught not doing this, will be ashamed of themselves as their disgraceful sinful life will be like being found naked, without wearing the robe of God's righteousness. Jesus knows everything we think, say and do and we will be ashamed if we are not living for Him, clothed in His righteousness, when He comes at "Armageddon." (v.16).

9<sup>th</sup> Vision cont'd. Ch. 16:17-21.

v.17. "The seventh (7th) angel poured out his bowl into the air." Paul had earlier written: "It is according to the 'prince of the power of the air', the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind and were by nature children of wrath, just as others" (Eph. 2:2-3). This is the same air where the 7th angel poured out his bowl and "a loud voice came out of the Temple of Heaven, from the Throne, saying: It is done."

v. 18. In this vision, John says: "there were noises and thunderings and lightnings and there was a great earth quake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not accrued sense men were on earth." What Jesus had predicted and taught His disciples, in Mt. 24:2, regarding the buildings of the Temple, where he said: "I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another that shall not be thrown down". This was shown to John by Jesus in this vision, that in reality and history took place in A.D. 70, and Jesus wanted the 7 Churches to know that this was going to happen soon, much like it will happen, at the Final Judgment, when no one will expect it either.

This vision is two-fold: First, we have the prophecy of Jesus concerning the destruction of Jerusalem with its Temple, due to their sins and murder of Jesus, plus the fact that there was no longer a need for the Temple, now, or in the future. Jesus paid for all our sins and there is no longer a need for the killing of animals and the shedding of blood, because Jesus shed His sinless blood for us on the Cross. There has not been a Temple in Jerusalem since A.D. 70, as God had it destroyed then, and that was the end of the Temple of the Old Testament. Praise God for the Cross of Jesus. The book of Hebrews makes this transition very clear and should be studied. Secondly, we have this prophecy concerning the future, of how God will destroy all evil at the Final Judgment, by fire (Rev. 20: 9-10) that we will study later when we get to Ch.20.

v. 19. In this vision, John again sees: "the great city", referring to Jerusalem, which was "spiritually called Sodom and Egypt, where our Lord was crucified", in Ch.11:8; but here in v. 19, Jerusalem is referred to as "the great city (that) was divided into 'three parts' and the nations fell". Today, there is a Muslim part, a Christian part, and a Jewish part. When God's Final Judgment does come, "the cities of the nations fell" (v.19). God the Father remembers Jerusalem as "great Babylon", that today still rejects His Son, Jesus Christ, as her Messiah. He gives "her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath", so that she may repent and believe in Jesus as her Messiah.

v. 20. Also, in this vision, when the Final Judgment comes, John sees: "Every island fled away and the mountains were not found."

v. 21. In this vision, John sees "great hail from heaven fall upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent". Each talent weighed, from 60 lbs. to 100 lbs. Regardless of this plague, from God, that preceded the Final Judgment, "men blasphemed God, because of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great".

Here ends Rev. Ch. 16.

## 10<sup>th</sup> Vision Ch. 17:1-7.

When we studied Ch. 13, that mentioned the “picture” of the beast, with 7 heads, 10 horns, 10 crowns with a blasphemous name on each of its heads; I mentioned that we will study this beast when we got to Ch. 17. So, here we are, so we will start in verses 1-2, as follows:

v. 1-2. John said, that “one of the seven (7) angels who had the seven (7) golden bowls (full of the wrath of God, Rev. 15:7) came and talked with me”. This angel told John: “I will show you the judgment of the great harlot, who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication and the inhabitants were made drunk, with the wine of her fornication”. This term “harlot” was used by God regarding Israel, in Hosea Ch. 9:1 (read this verse). God told Hosea to marry a harlot for an example of God’s love for Israel (Hosea 1:2). I recommend that all believers read the book of Hosea, that presents God’s love for unfaithful Israel. The final Words of God through Hosea to Israel, are: “the ways of the Lord are right, the righteous walk in them, transgressors stumble in them” (Hosea 14:9).

v. 3-4. John said the angel carried him away “in the Spirit, into the wilderness”, where he “saw a woman, (Jerusalem) sitting on a scarlet beast”, which was Rome in John’s day, and it “was full of names of blasphemy having 7 heads and 10 horns” (v.3). The “women (Jerusalem) was arrayed (dressed) in purple and scarlet and adorned with gold, precious stones and pearls and in her hand was a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication” (v.4). This was a picture of Jerusalem, just prior to A.D. 70, as she was spiritually unfaithful to the Lord.

v. 5-6. “On her (Jerusalem’s) forehead, a name was written: Mystery; Babylon the Great; The Mother of Harlots and of the Abominations of the Earth” (v.5). This is a picture of Jerusalem under her Chief Priests, who told Pilate: “we have no king but Caesar”, (John 19:11), when they were supposed to be faithful to the Lord, instead of Caesar Nero. In v.6, John saw Jerusalem, “the women, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus”. When John saw her he “marveled with great amazement” (v.6).

v. 7. The angel asked John: “why did you marvel?” The angel said that he would tell John “the mystery of the women and of the beast that carries her”, with “7 heads” and “10 horns”.

This “name” (title) on the women’s forehead tells us how badly Jerusalem had departed from the Lord, as His spiritual bride, like in the book of Hosea. Israel had, in fact, become one, in spiritual fornication with the world system of Rome, in John’s time. However, “Babylon the Great”, back in 587 B.C. under King Nebuchadnezzar, destroyed Jerusalem and their Temple, because the Lord judged Israel back then, for having been unfaithful to Him, and being like her heathen neighbors, with licentious worship with the Baal fertility cult, that also required offering people as human sacrifices. Jerusalem was then captured by Babylon, where later Ezekiel and Daniel ministered during that exile. God used Babylon, back then, to punish His people, Israel, and they were in captivity in Babylon for 70 years. Much of this is recorded in II Kings Ch. 24-25 and is presented in most Bible dictionaries under the word “EXILE”. Here in our text, God is again judging Israel/Jerusalem, in A.D. 66-70, by using Rome to do it.



## 10<sup>th</sup> Vision cont'd. Ch.17:8-10.

v. 8. John is told by the angel, that the beast, that he saw, “was and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition” (which is the final state of the wicked dead, called “hell” or the “lake of fire”. All Christ rejecters “who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life, from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast, that was, and is not, and yet is”.

v. 9. In John’s time after Jesus’ Resurrection and Ascension to Heaven, John is told in this vision: “here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven (7) heads are seven (7) mountains on which the women (Jerusalem) sits”, referring to Rome. After the Chief Priests told Pilate: “we have no king but Caesar” (John 19:15), Jerusalem became one in purpose with the beast, Caesar Nero. The women (Jerusalem), who sat on the beast (Rome) became of one purpose with Rome and that purpose was to crucify Jesus and kill Christians, as brought out in vs. 3-6 (read). The women (Jerusalem, the harlot) wanted Jesus crucified and Christians killed. She demanded the beast (Rome) to do it for her, as only Rome had the authority for capital punishment, which the Jews did not have, as they were under Roman Occupation.

v.10. The angel had told John that “the 7 heads are 7 mountains”, referring to Rome (v.9). Now, here in v.10, the angel said: “There are also 7 kings (in John’s time). 5 have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time”. From history we know that the 5 emperor/kings who ruled Rome from 27 B.C. through A.D. 68, were: (1) Augustus, 27 B.C. – A.D. 14; (2) Tiberius, A.D. 14-37; (3) Caligula, A.D. 37-41; (4) Claudius, A.D. 41-54 and (5) Nero A.D. 54-68. “5 (of these emperor/kings) had fallen”(v.10). They were all dead by A.D. 68, when Nero killed himself. All 5 kings had been under the control of the beast. The angel told John that, “one is”. The emperor who was living, at that time, was the 6<sup>th</sup> emperor, who was either Galva, Orcho or Vitallius, because all 3 of them were killed in the same year, A.D. 69. The final king, the 7<sup>th</sup> king, mentioned in v.10, who “has not yet come, and when he comes he must continue, a short time”, was the 7<sup>th</sup> emperor/king and his name was Vespasian, A.D.69-79. He and his son, General Titus, destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple in A.D. 70, which was only a “short time” (v.10), after Vespasian was king. All of these Roman Emperors may be found, for further information, under their name-Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ name of emperor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/name_of_emperor).

v. 11. John is told: “... the beast that was, and is not, is himself also the 8<sup>th</sup> (emperor/king) and is of the seven (7), and is going to perdition” (the lake of fire). He was the son of Vespasian and would become the 8<sup>th</sup> emperor/king, A.D. 79-81. His name was Titus.

Emperor Vespasian and his son General Titus, both enforced Emperor Worship, just like other Emperors had done before them, and had the full support of the Jewish Religious Council; the “Sanhedrin”, which was made up of the “Chief Priests, the Scribes and Elders (Pharisees)” (see “Sanhedrin”, page 751, The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary, 1963). They were all against the followers of Jesus, the Messiah. The Sanhedrin was the Supreme Court of Israel, which was abolished with the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, by Rome (Webster’s Dictionary, 1976). However, the Sanhedrin was recently re-established, Oct.13,2004, and is a “work-in-progress”, according to them ([www.traditioninaction.org/bev/060ber12-20-2004,htm](http://www.traditioninaction.org/bev/060ber12-20-2004,htm)).

## 10<sup>th</sup> Vision Cont'd, Ch. 17: 12-18.

The Jewish Council, the Sanhedrin, in John's day was represented by the Chief Priests, who had told Pilate, who was the governor in Palestine at the time of Christ: "if you let this Man go (Jesus), you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar"(Jn.19:12). The Chief Priests went on to say: "We have no king but Caesar" (John 19:13-15). This was and still is the position of the Orthodox Jews against Jesus, the Son of God, our Savior and Messiah, even to this day. Covenant Bible Seminary helps support Jews for Jesus, as we seek to lead Jews to the Lord. In no way are we anti-Semitic, as we help promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Jews.

vs. 12-14: The angel told John: "The '10 horns' which you saw are '10 kings' who had received no kingdom yet, but they receive 'authority' for one hour (a short time) as kings with the beast (v.12). These are of 'one mind', and they will give their power and authority to the beast (v.13). These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen and faithful"(v.14). This prophecy continues until the Final Judgment takes place, as brought out in Revelation Ch. 20, which we will study later.

vs. 15-18: Then (the angel) said to John: "The waters which you saw, where the harlot (Jerusalem) sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues (v.15). The 'ten horns' (10 kings) which you saw, on the beast, these will hate the harlot, (Jerusalem) and make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. (v.16). For God has put it into their hearts to fulfil His purpose, to be of 'one mind' and to give their (authority) kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. (v.17). And the 'woman', (Jerusalem) whom you saw, is that 'great city', which reigns over the kings of the earth" (v.18). This "woman", the "great city", was already seen by John as: "spiritually...called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified" (Ch. 11:8), which was Jerusalem. This is the 'great city', Jerusalem, that became "one" with Rome, that reigns over the kings of the earth, at that time. The history of Israel, as a powerful nation ruling over the "kings of the earth" goes back to King David and his son King Solomon. Jerusalem had become "one" with Rome from, approximately A.D. 33 to 70 when it was destroyed by God using Rome, in John's day. This is also a picture of God's Final Judgment, yet to come.

Unbelieving people, in all the world, want nothing to do with the Lord Jesus. Regardless, Jesus is now reigning forever, in heaven and earth, in the hearts and minds of all born-again people. Jesus will come, as He said: "as a thief in the night" (1 Thes. 5:2; 1 Pet. 3:10; Rev. 3:3; Rev. 16:15). The Lord also tells us that it will be like it was in the days of Noah (Mt. 24:37 & Lk. 17:26), when He comes for the Final Judgment, called the "Great White Throne Judgment" in Rev. 20:11-15, which we will study later. However, Jesus said: "most assuredly I say to you, he who hears My Word and believers in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life" (Jn. 5:24). Praise God for His grace and mercy in saving us.

This is the end of Ch. 17.

## 10<sup>th</sup> Vision Cont'd. Comments regarding Ch. 17.

Before we start our study of Ch. 18, we need to remember the words of Jesus to Israel, when He spoke to the Pharisees and scribes of Israel, who hated Jesus and His claims of being the Messiah.

In Mt. 23:36, after Jesus had pronounced “8 woe’s” on the scribes and Pharisees, He said to them: “assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation”. In less than 37 years, after Jesus said this, Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed. We must also remember what the Apostle John wrote, in Jn. 19:15, that Jerusalem’s Chief Priests had made it clear to Pilate that Jerusalem/Israel had no other king, other than Caesar and almost all Israel was in full support of what the Chief Priests had said to Pilate. The Jews conveyed this message; that Caesar was Israel’s new king, and Israel had no other king, but Caesar.

In Matthew 24:1-2 Jesus had told His disciples: “Do you see all these things?” (referring to the buildings of the temple) “I say to you, not one stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down.” Jesus had already told the scribes and the Pharisees that they were “serpents, a brood of vipers! HOW CAN YOU ESCAPE THE CONDEMNATION OF HELL?” (Mt.23:33). After Jesus told the scribes and the Pharisees what was going to happen to them, they had Jesus crucified and hundreds of Christians were killed, along with Stephen, Peter and Paul, prior to A.D. 70, when Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed by God, using Rome, due to God’s judgment on Israel.

I believe it would be very helpful if all Christians would read the “Works of Flavius Josephus: The Wars of the Jews”, books 1-6, published about A.D. 75, of about 250 pages. However, there is a condensed account of “The Wars of the Jews” by Josephus that gives an excellent condensed view of what happened about A.D. 66-70, in a few pages, which is also available on the Internet, if you would like to read about it.

Also, the “History of the Christian Church” by Philip Schaff in Vol. 1 Apostolic Christianity A.D. 1-100, pages 403-404 says:

“God Himself destroyed the house, in which He had thus far dwelt, in which Jesus had taught, in which the apostles had prayed; He rejected His peculiar people for their obstinate rejection of the Messiah; He demolished the whole fabric of the Mosaic theocracy, whose system of worship was, in its very nature, associated exclusively with the tabernacle at first and afterwards with the temple; but in so doing He cut the cords which had hitherto bound, and according to the law of organic development necessarily bound the infant church to the outward economy of the Old Covenant, and to Jerusalem as its center. Henceforth the heathen could no longer look upon Christianity as a mere sect of Judaism, but must regard and treat it as a new, peculiar religion. The destruction of Jerusalem, therefore, marks that momentous crisis at which the Christian church as a whole burst forth forever from the chrysalis of Judaism, awoke to a new sense of its maturity, and in government and worship at once took its independent stand before the world. This breaking away from hardened Judaism and its religious forms, however, involved no departure of the spirit of the Old Testament revelation. The church, on the contrary, entered into the inheritance of Israel.”

This brings us now to Rev. 18.

**11<sup>th</sup> Vision, Ch. 18-19:1-10.** In this vision John sees angels who tell him about the destruction of the evil women. He then hears the Hallelujah Chorus.

**vs. 1-2.** John now sees; **“another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory”** (v.1). With a loud voice the angel said: **“Babylon the great is fallen and has become the habitation of demons, a prison for every foul Spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird”** (v.2). We know what happened, in John’s day, to **Jerusalem and the Temple, in A.D. 70.** That was an example of **what will happen in the future to all Christ rejecters, when fire, will come down from God, out of heaven, and devour them all** (Rev. 20:9), at the **Final Judgment.**

The name, **“Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots”** (Ch.17:5) symbolically represented Jerusalem, in John’s day, that was run by Satan’s **evil scribes, Pharisees, and Chief Priests** who were the **spiritual leaders** for the whole nation of Israel. Israel was the **chosen nation** by God, where God’s plan of salvation and redemption was to bring eternal life to the entire world. The **entire history of Israel** may be reviewed in the **Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary.** From the trials from **ancient Babylon** and later from the **Roman Empire,** in John’s day, the Lord said: **“I will make a New Testament (New Covenant) with the house of Israel and I will put My law in their inward parts and in their heart will I write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people... for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin will I remember it no more”** (**Jer. 31: 31-34**). The Apostle Paul sums this up in Ephesians 2:1-22 (read these verses). Shortly after the Apostle Paul wrote Ephesians, the Jews had the Romans cut Paul’s head off, under Nero’s reign.

In John’s day, the city, **Jerusalem/Babylon, the Mother of Harlots,** was yet to experience her doom, as **Caesar Nero had already murdered the Apostle Paul and the Apostle Peter and hundreds of other Christians, while the Chief Priests, and the Pharisees were loyal to Nero, just like the Church in Nazi Germany, under Adolf Hitler, from 1933–45, was loyal to the Hitler administration.** I was 11 years old when W.W. II ended, and at that time, in San Francisco, where I was born, we were afraid **Hitler and Japan** were going to win the war. Seven years later, I was stationed in Osaka, Japan, with the **3<sup>rd</sup>. Marine Division,** as part of the **final days of the WWII Occupation of Japan.** I remember when America declared war on Japan, Dec. 8, 1941, and then Nazi Germany declared war on America, on Dec. 11, 1941. **At that time, 80% of Americans went to church and even in the public schools we prayed to the Lord to help us to win the war that was against Christianity and America.** Today, only about 20% of Americans attend church and even less pray for America. We are going down the old road that Israel traveled, when God punished Israel for leaving Him, and **committing spiritual adultery.**

We all need to remember what Jesus had to say about **Jerusalem/Babylon, the Mother of Harlots,** when He said:

**“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her ... I wanted to gather your children together... but you were not willing! See! your house, is left to you desolate”** (Mt. 23:37-38). **“Then Jesus went out and departed from the Temple”** (Mt.24:1a). Their house, the Temple, was **desolate,** because **God was no longer there.**

Jesus foretold the **destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple** in Mt. 24:1-2; and it all happened in A.D. 70, as described later by Josephus, the Jewish historian, in his writings of **“The Wars of the Jews”** A.D. 66-70. The Jewish leadership hated Jesus and had many believers killed.

## 11<sup>th</sup> Vision Cont'd. Ch.18:3-7.

v. 3. Now, coming back to Ch. 18:3 regarding "Babylon the Great" that had fallen (v.2), the angel now tells John: "For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury" (v.3). This was true regarding Israel in Jerusalem, especially when King Solomon ruled the nation and up to the time when the Chief Priests, Pharisees and scribes, ruled the nation of Israel, in John's day, when they became "one" with Rome and had Jesus crucified (Jn.19:15).

vs. 4-5. Then John "heard another voice, coming from heaven, saying: come out of her my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues"(v.4). The angel continued to say to John: "For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities" (v.5). The Chief Priests were supposed to represent the Lord in the Temple for the sins of Israel. Instead, the Chief Priests became antichrist, while they were hypocritically doing their duties in the Temple. These Chief Priests were really traitors, to the Lord, as they committed spiritual adultery and became "one" with Rome, spiritually speaking, in John's day.

The Apostle John, who Jesus told to write the book of Revelation to the 7 churches, also wrote the First Epistle of John, where he said: "Little children it is the last hour, and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us, for if they had been of us they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us" (1 John 2: 18-19). The Apostle John goes on to say: "who is a liar, but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who has the Son has the Father also" (I John 2:22-23).

Jesus Christ had made it abundantly clear that most of the Pharisees, scribes and the Chief Priests were not of Christ. In fact, most of this group were antichrist and they wanted Jesus killed, so they had Jesus murdered on the Cross. When Jesus gave John the book of Revelation, to give to the 7 Churches, He wanted them to know what was going to happen to Jerusalem and the Temple, as Jesus had prophesied in Mt.23:36, where He said to the scribes and Pharisees: "assuredly, I say to you, all these things (God's judgment) will come upon this generation." Jerusalem and the Temple were then destroyed in A.D. 70. Study Mt. Ch. 23, where Jesus condemned them for being hypocrites from vs. 2-39.

v.6-7. John is told that God is going to "render to her (Jerusalem/Babylon) as she rendered to you, (God's people) and repay her double, according to her works, in the cup which she has mixed, mix for her double" (v.6). In view of Jerusalem's history and knowledge of the Lord, the voice John heard from heaven, says to double her punishment, in other words, mix her a drink that is double in strength. "In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow". Only God knows what it will take to bring repentance to at least some of these self-righteous people. Her attitude needed serious change, as she (Jerusalem) said: "in her heart, I sit as a queen and am no widow, and I will not see sorrow" (v.7). I have known people with this type of attitude and only God knows what it will take to bring them to repentance.

v.8. “Therefore her plagues will come, in one day” (when she does not even expect it, just like the Lord’s Final Judgment will come, when it will not be expected either. In addition to “her plagues that will come in one day, death, mourning and famine” will also come, and then she (Jerusalem/Babylon) will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her” (v.8). This judgment was yet to happen, when John wrote to the 7 Churches and it is an example of what the Final Judgment will be like, throughout the whole world on Judgment Day.

vs.9-10. In John’s day, “the kings of the earth, who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her, will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning” (v.9). These kings who also had rejected the Lord, as did Jerusalem/Babylon, really loved her and missed her way of life, especially as they could see her smoke and her burning, that finally happened to that generation, as Jesus had prophesied in Mt. 23:36, as they were, “standing at a distance for fear of her (Jerusalem/Babylon) torment, saying, alas, alas the great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour, your judgment has come” (v.10). Even her lovers understood what happened to Jerusalem, but the Orthodox Jews, 2,000 years later, still reject Jesus Christ, God’s Son, who died for all our sins, and to this day they are still anti-Christ and want nothing to do with Jesus as their Messiah and King. However, I want you to know that Covenant Bible Seminary helps support “Jews for Jesus”, an evangelical missionary outreach that is headquartered at 60 Haight St., San Francisco, CA 94102. We thank God for their outreach to the Jewish people, as the Apostle Paul said: “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel, is that they be saved” (Rom. 10:1). Amen. Paul’s prayer, is our prayer today.

v. 11-20 (read these verses). Jerusalem had become “one” in spiritual fornication with Rome. She was dependent upon Rome for her religious and material power, in John’s day. She was afraid of Jesus and all He said and did. Jerusalem made it clear to Rome that she had no king except Caesar (Jn.19:15). The kings of the earth watched Jerusalem as she was later being destroyed by Rome, and they said: “for in one hour she is made desolate” (v.19).

What happened to Jerusalem during her “great tribulation”, from A.D. 66-70, when Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed, reminds me personally of what happened to Berlin, Germany under Adolf Hitler, when it was destroyed during W.W.II. in 1945. It had been the capital of Germany from 1871 – 1945, for 74 years. Germany had also been the home of Martin Luther, from 1483-1546. Martin Luther was an outstanding German theologian, translator of the Bible and the leader of the Reformation. He was a Catholic and wanted the world to know: “The just shall live by faith” (Rom. 1:17) and not by works righteousness, that the Pope stressed, at that time.

One day, after God’s Final Judgment, there will be a new heaven, a new earth and a new Jerusalem (21:1-2) where Jesus will be the Lord and King and we who are “born again”, shall reign with Jesus forever. Amen.

v. 20. John sees God’s judgment that was going to soon come on Jerusalem and the Temple, in his day, as Jerusalem was a “great city” and was made desolate, symbolically in “one hour”, in A.D. 70. Also in v. 20 the voice from heaven said: “rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you, on her”. Amen.

## 11<sup>th</sup> Vision Cont'd. Ch.18:21-24.

vs. 21-24. Then, John saw, in this vision, “a mighty angel take up a stone, like a great millstone” (which was, one of a pair, of large, flat round stones, between which grain was ground). The people, in John’s day knew what it was, but most people today have never seen one unless it was in a picture or a drawing. It was huge and very heavy. John saw the angel throw it into the sea, in this vision, and the angel said: “Thus, with violence the great city, Babylon (Jerusalem), shall be thrown down and shall not be found anymore”, which happened to Jerusalem in A.D. 70. Jerusalem was then plowed under and a new city was built there, by Rome, and for over 200 years the Jews could not go there, until Constantine, Emperor of Rome (306-337) converted to Christianity. The generation in John’s day, could not even find Jerusalem, anymore, let alone her musicians, craftsmen and not even a sound of a millstone could be heard, no lamps, no voice of people were heard anymore. This happened because Jerusalem left the Lord and had received her power by sorcery (vs .22-23). “And in her (Jerusalem) was found the blood of the prophets and saints and of all who were slain on the earth”(v.24). Jerusalem, the great city, is an example of what will happen toward the end of this age when God’s Final Judgment comes upon all Christ rejecters, living past or present.

None of us really know what will take place on this sinful and cursed earth, just prior to God’s Final Judgment. It reminds me of when I was a boy, living in San Francisco, where the United Nations was founded in 1945, by the nations that were opposed to the socialistic fascist coalition of Nazi Germany, Japan, Italy and their affiliate countries. The headquarters of the U.N. was then moved to New York City, in 1946 and in 1981 the membership of the U.N. consisted of 154 nations and today much is being said about having the United States pay taxes to the U.N. It appears to me that it is possible that before the Lord comes for His Final Judgment, we could have a one world government under the U.N. and Christianity could be outlawed and Christians could experience a great persecution, like the Church did in John’s day. Today, I believe we need a great revival in the Christian church, or we will become like Jerusalem, when she became “one” with Rome and committed spiritual adultery and prostitution against the Lord, with the Roman World Empire, of John’s day. Jesus said that it would be like it was in the days of Noah, when He returns in His kingdom, which was even more evil than it was in John’s day: “as the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil, continually” (read Gen. 6:5-8). It seems to me that history has a way of repeating itself. As the Lord protected those in John’s day, so He will protect those of us, who love Him, today.

This ends Ch.18.

**11<sup>th</sup> Vision Cont'd, Ch. 19:1-7. John hears the Hallelujah Chorus.**

**Ch. 19:**

**v.1. John then hears “a loud voice, of a great multitude, in heaven, saying: “Halleluia! Salvation and Glory and Honor, and Power to the Lord our God!” This is the only passage in the Bible, where the word “Hallelujah” is used. It is a Hebrew word that means: “Praise the Lord” as in a hymn or song of praise to God. Those who John heard with “a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven” are the believers in Jesus, thanking God for His judgments against satanic powers and Jesus’ victory over sin and His establishment of the New Covenant of God’s Grace that the Apostle Paul wrote about in Eph. 2:8-9 where Paul wrote: “for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast””.**

**v.2. Here the believers in heaven continue to praise the Lord, and say: “true and righteous are His judgments, because He (God) has judged the great harlot, who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He (God) has avenged on her (Jerusalem) the blood of His servants shed by her”. I think of Jesus who they crucified, Paul, Peter and all the other disciples, including Stephen, who they murdered, to say nothing about all the O.T. Prophets who they killed and the thousands of Christ’s servants, whose blood they were responsible for shedding. Only the Apostle John was not killed by these antichrist religious leaders of the Jews.**

**v.3. The destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple was great. “Again they (the believers in heaven) said: Alleluia. And her smoke rises up forever and ever”. Spiritually speaking, this is an eternal judgment of God for not only rejecting and killing Jesus, but they also blasphemed against the Holy Spirit of God. Remember, Jesus told them that they were: “Serpents, a brood of vipers”. Jesus asked them: “How can you escape the condemnation of Hell?” (Mt. 23:33).**

**v.4. “And the 24 elders (who represent the 12 tribes of the children of Israel (Rev.21:12) and the 12 apostles of the Lamb (Rev. 21:14) and the 4 living creatures, (who are God’s special servants in heaven) fell down and worshiped God, Who sat on the throne; saying, Amen! Alleluia!” This is a picture of absolute thankfulness to Jesus, the Son of God who saved them.**

**vs. 5-6. “Then a voice came from the throne, saying: Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great” (v.5). Then John heard “the voice of a great multitude (in heaven)... as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying: Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent (who has unlimited power and authority and is also Omnipresent, as He is present in all places at the same time and) REIGNS!”. Yes, Jesus reigns in the hearts of all who are in heaven and also in the hearts of all who love Him, on earth. In other words, Jesus reigns in the heart of all believers, everywhere, on earth and in heaven.**

**v.7. John hears the voice of a great multitude go on to say: “Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the Marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife (the Church, the Bride of Christ) has made herself ready”. This means that the wedding feast has now begun in preparation for the Marriage. The Church, Christ’s Bride is ready for the Coming of Christ, the Bridegroom. This is something to really get excited about! This is the reason we can shout: “Alleluia”. Jesus is coming again, to make all things new and perfect and we will reign with Him forever.**



## 11<sup>th</sup> Vision Cont'd, Ch. 19:8-10.

v.8. “And to her (the Bride, the Church) was granted to be arrayed (dressed, clothed) in fine linen clean and bright; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.” Our Lord, by His Holy Spirit, enables us to do “righteous acts”, because He has saved us, His Church, His Bride, and His love is in our hearts and we love “one another” and desire to see the lost saved, by God’s “righteous acts” working through our lives, as His Church, the Bride of Christ.

vs.9-10. This “voice” that came from the throne of God, mentioned in v.5 told John here in v.9 to: “Write, blessed are those who are called to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb! And He said to me, these are the true sayings of God” (v.9). John, fell at the feet of the one who spoke to worship him, but was told: ... “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and your brethren, who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the Testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy” (v.10). Jesus’ prophecy to the 7 Churches is what we are now studying in this book of Revelation. This ends the 11<sup>th</sup> Vision.

12<sup>th</sup> Vision, Ch. 19: 11-21. John sees, in this vision, heaven; Jesus and an angel; the beast and the false prophet as they meet their doom in “everlasting fire”, also called, “hell fire” (Mt.18:9).

v.11. “I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse and He (Jesus) who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in Righteousness He judges and makes war” (against evil).

vs. 12-13. John sees Jesus and he notes that Jesus’ “eyes were like a flame of fire (Jesus sees everything as God) and on His head were many crowns (as He is King of kings). He has a name written, that no one knew, except Himself”. Jesus “was clothed with a robe dipped in blood (as a symbol of His blood that was shed for our redemption on the Cross) and His name is called the Word of God”. John knew it was Jesus, because John wrote about Him in the Gospel of John (Ch. 1:1; 9-14; class read these verses).

v. 14. “the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him, on white horses”, like the one Jesus was riding. The Bible makes it clear that these armies that will follow Jesus, when He comes for the Final Judgment, are angels, as follows:

Mk. 8:38. “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My Words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him, the Son of Man will be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father, with the holy angels”.

12<sup>th</sup> Vision, Ch. 19: 15-18.

v.15. Then, John sees, symbolically speaking: “out of his (Jesus’) mouth (not literally), goes a ‘sharp sword’, that with it He should strike the nations”. This “sharp sword” is the Word of God. The Apostle Paul referred to the Word of God as the Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17). In Heb. 4:12 “the Word of God is living, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart”. With this “sharp sword”, that comes out of the mouth of Jesus, He strikes the nations (each and every person, individually, and these people will know Jesus is right and righteous in His judgment, regardless of what He says to them. “And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God”).

v.16. John saw on Jesus a “robe and on His thigh a name written; King of kings and Lord of lords”. There is no doubt about who Jesus is, as the Son of God, who will save sinners if they will repent and seek the King. The Apostle Paul wrote: “if you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Rom. 10:9). “For the Scripture says whosoever believes in Him will not be put to shame. For there is no distinction between the Jew and the Greek, for the same Lord, over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Rom.9:11-13).

vs. 17-18. Then John “saw an ‘angel’ (symbolically) standing in the sun, and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven: ‘come and gather together for the ‘supper of the great God’, that you may ‘eat’ of the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, both small and great”. This supper is a great contrast to those who are called to the “Marriage Supper of the Lamb” in Ch. 19:8. Here, the birds are called to eat the flesh of all those who followed Satan’s “beast” and the “false prophet” and died in their sins, unforgiven and unbelievers in the Lord. These are those who decided to follow Satan in this world, until they died.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Vision, Ch. 19: 19-21.

v.19. Here, John sees, in this vision, the “beast”, who represents all worldly leaders like Nero, Hitler and others and their worldly “kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him (Jesus), who sat on the (white) horse and against His army”. Here, in this vision, John sees these evil forces, as an ‘army’, ready for battle against all that is good and holy. The “beast” is their leader, and their objective is to fight against Jesus, who is the leader of His army, that represents goodness and holiness. Jesus, is the rider on the white horse.

v.20. John does not tell us anything about what happened regarding this coming war, in this vision. In fact, it was already won by Jesus, even before it happened. John simply tells us: “the ‘beast’ was captured and with him the ‘false prophet’, who worked signs in his (the beast’s) presence, by which he deceived those who received the ‘mark of the beast’ and those who worshipped his image”. John tells us: “these two (the beast and the false prophet) were cast alive into the lake of fire, burning with brimstone”. Brimstone is a highly combustible wood and in the Bible it is connected with God’s Judgment. For example; the Lord rained brimstone and fire upon Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:24).

v.21. In this vision, John tells the 7 Churches that: “the rest were killed with the ‘sword’ the Word of God, which proceeded from the mouth of Him (Jesus) who sat on the (white) horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh”.

This now brings us to the 20<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**13<sup>th</sup> Vision, Ch. 20. In this vision, John sees that Satan is bound 1000 years; he sees the ‘first resurrection’, with believers reigning with Jesus 1000 years; he sees Satan’s release to make war and Satan’s doom in the Lake of Fire, with the beast and false prophet; John then sees God’s Great White Throne Judgment.**

**v.1. In this vision, Jesus permits John to see: “an angel, coming down from heaven, having the ‘key’ to the ‘bottomless pit’, and a ‘great chain’ in his hand”. We note that this angel has the “key to the bottomless pit” and also “a great chain”. The “key” and this “great chain” are clearly symbolic, because an “evil spirit”, such as the devil, cannot be physically bound, locked up or chained, because it is not physical, but an evil spirit, “the prince of the power of the air” (Eph. 2:2 and 6:12), who hates God and all goodness.**

**v.2. In this vision, the angel “laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for 1000 years”. Peter and John had been very good friends, until Emperor Nero had Peter crucified upside down, as recorded in secular history. The Church, in Peter’s and John’s day were all wondering when Jesus was going to return and make all things new and perfect. In 2 Peter Ch. 3, Peter had written to the Church, about their concern, and this is what Peter had to say in 2 Peter Ch. 3: 1-13, as follows:**

**“1. Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), 2. that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, 3. knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4. and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." 5. For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6. by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8. But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 10. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12. looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13. Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”**

### 13<sup>th</sup> Vision, Ch. 20: 3.

It is clear that we should also take Peter's position regarding this text, especially concerning:

1. Scoffers will come in the last days (v.3);
2. Judgment will come on the ungodly (v.7);
3. With God one day is as 1000 years and 1000 years are as one day (v.8);
4. The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night and all will be burned up (v.10);
5. We look for a new heaven, a new earth in which righteousness dwells (v.13).

v.3. Now, John tells the 7 Churches, in v.3., that: "he (the angel) cast him (Satan) into the bottomless pit, and 'shut him up', and 'set a seal on him', so that he (Satan) should deceive the nations no more until the 1000 years were finished, but after these things, he (Satan), must be released for a little while".

Also, here in v.3 John uses the number "1,000" regarding Satan being bound and also regarding the reign of Jesus. When John wrote to these 7 Churches, he knew that they understood about the symbolic number "1,000", from not only Peter's letter to them, but also in the past "1,000" had been used symbolically, by King David in the Psalms. For example:

Ps. 50:10 says: "for every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a 1,000 hills". There is no doubt that the people understood that God owns all the cattle beyond the count of only "1,000 hills". Also, in Ps. 90:4, it says: "For a 1,000 years in your sight are like yesterday, when it is past and like a watch in the night". Again, here 1,000 is used symbolically, not literally.

In all of these verses and also those used in Rev. 20; the number "1,000" is used "symbolically" to represent: "God's absolute control" and "ownership of everything". As far as God is concerned, He owns all the cattle; He owns all the years on into eternity. This symbolic use of some words is what is called "apocalyptic", which means 'veiled writing'. This apocalyptic writing was used so that non-Christian people would not be able to understand, what it really said, when censored by the government of Rome, in John's day.

The Apostle Peter used the term: "1,000 years" symbolically, regarding the Lord's return in 2 Pet. 3: 8-10, and we should do the same. We should always let Scripture interpret Scripture.

Also, in v. 4., on this subject of 1000 years, John "saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness of Jesus... and they lived and reigned with Christ for a 1000 years". John wrote this over 2,000 years ago, so it is easy for us today to see that the term, "a 1000 years", as used here is totally symbolic. We will cover this more as we get into v. 4.

v.3. cont'd.

There is no doubt that Satan has been spiritually “bound” by Jesus’ ‘Resurrection to heaven’, where Jesus reigns over all the O.T. and N.T. saints, who are with Him in heaven and also all those who are His and temporally are still living on this earth. We are told in James 4:7: “Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you”. Yes, there is no doubt that Satan is bound and limited to do the evil that he wants to do. He can just go so far in doing what God permits, because of the completed work of Jesus. Satan is now scheduled for eternal judgment in hell, after he is “released for a little while” (v. 3).

v.4. First, John “saw thrones, and ‘they’ sat on them and judgment was committed to them”. John does not say who “they” were, regarding those who sat on these thrones. However, John told us earlier, about 3 thrones: the first throne belonged to Satan, in Rev. 2:13, where the church of Pergamos was located; a second throne belonged to the antichrist beast, a world dictator, who received his power from Satan, in Rev. 13: 2; and a third throne belonged to the beast, where God’s angel poured out his bowl, and his (religious) kingdom became full of darkness, in Rev. 16:10. Here we can see the trinity of evil: 1st., Satan; 2nd., the antichrist beast; 3rd., the false prophet beast, “and judgment was committed to them.” They will be “committed” to the prison of hell. Their judgment will take place at the “Great White Throne”, mentioned in Rev. 20:10.

Second, in contrast to this, John “saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the Word of God...”. “They lived and reigned with Christ for 1,000 (symbolic) years.” They are all with Jesus now, and with all other believers in Him. They have been reigning with Jesus, in heaven, for over 2,000 years now. The symbolic 1000 years means, a long period of time, or ‘forever’”.

v. 5. “But the rest of the ‘dead’ did not live again, until the (symbolic) 1,000 years were finished. This is the first resurrection”. These “dead”, mentioned in this verse, were not born-again believers in Jesus. They were dead spiritually. They did not go to heaven and reign with Jesus, like the ones did in v. 4. These people did not partake of life and experience the “first resurrection”, while living on earth. “This is the first resurrection” refers only to those who are believers in Jesus, as mentioned in v. 4. Jesus told Nicodemus, the Pharisee, in John 3:1-7: “You must be born-again”. No one can see the Kingdom of God or enter it, unless they are born-again. Being born-again is the “first resurrection”, from having been spiritually dead. A person who has been born-again will be willing to be a martyr, if necessary, for one’s Lord and Savior, Jesus, who gave His sinless life, to give eternal life, to the one who believes in Him. Verses 5 & 6, go together, and this is made clear, regarding the importance of the term: “first resurrection”, as referred to in v. 5 and further explained in v. 6, as follows:

### 13<sup>th</sup> Vision Cont'd. Ch. 20: 6-9a.

v.6. John says: “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the ‘first resurrection’. Over such the ‘second death’ has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him (Jesus) a 1,000 years” (forever). The “second death” has no power over the believer, because it is only for those who are ‘spiritually dead’ and die in that state of unbelief, which is the “second death”. They will end up in hell, after God’s Final Judgment.

In verses; 5-6, the most important “resurrection”, for anyone, is this “first resurrection”, mentioned in vs. 5, which Paul writes about when he says: “That I may know Him (Jesus) and the power of His ‘resurrection’, and the ‘fellowship of His sufferings’, being conformed to His death, if by any means I may attain to the ‘resurrection’, from the dead”(Philippians 3:10-11). Paul goes on to say in Eph. Ch. 2:1, 6-9: “You, He made alive who were dead in trespasses and sins (v.1)...and raised us up (resurrected us) together and made us sit in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us, in Christ Jesus (v.6-7). For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” (v.8-9).

Only the Father will decide when the symbolic “1,000 years are finished” for the Final Judgment, as Jesus said in Mt. 24:35-36: “that day and hour no one knows, no, not even the angels of heaven, but my Father only”.

vs. 7-8. “Now, when the symbolic ‘1,000 years’ are expired, Satan will be released from his prison (v.7) and go out to deceive the nations, which are in the four corners of the earth (this includes the entire world), Gog and Magog (refers to evil forces), to gather together to battle; whose number is as the sand of the sea” (v.8). These symbolic terms: 1,000 yrs. 4 corners; Gog & Magog; the sands of the sea, are not to be taken literally.

v. 9a. In this vision, John sees them as the “deceived nations” in v. 8, as “they went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the ‘camp of the saints’ and the beloved city” (v.9a). This final attack by Satan and his armies specifically targets “the camp of the saints” (believers in Christ) and the “beloved city”, which is Jerusalem. So, in essence, we see here Christians and Jews being targeted and attacked by Satan, using the nations, which has always been Satan’s primary method and purpose.

### 13<sup>th</sup> Vision Cont'd. Ch. 20: 9b-11.

v.9.b. In the last part of v.9 we read: “and fire came down from God, out of heaven, and devoured them (this is speaking of Satan and his huge army, that was too large to count). God simply will end that final war, with the largest flame thrower ever used in the history of the world. After that happens, Satan will be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone (hell), along with the beast and the false prophet. I personally believe this is the trinity of evil.

v.10. John sees in this vision: “the devil, who deceived them, was cast into the ‘lake of fire’ and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are. They will be tormented day and night, forever and ever”. In reading this text, it does not say much about the final war with Satan, except that Satan lost the war with God, and was put in hell, forever and ever. We do well to understand that the Bible teaches that hell is a real place, where rejecters of Jesus Christ will spend all eternity. This is the “second death”. It has no power over believers in Jesus Christ, because we are “born-again” and have given our life to the Lord. A believer in Jesus does not need to be worried about going to hell, because we are kept by Jesus our Savior, for all eternity, as the prophet Isaiah declared in Isaiah 26:3-4: “You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the Lord forever, for in the Lord is everlasting strength”.

v.11. In this vision, beginning at v.11, John sees God’s Great White Throne. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are “One”. The Father judges through the Son, as the Father has given the Final Judgment to the Son and His Holy Spirit. When Jesus was on earth, before the Jews had Him crucified, He told them beginning in John 5:22-24: “For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life” (this is the First Resurrection). It is not by works (Eph. 2:8-9).

We note here, in v.11, that “the earth and the heavens fled away” from the face of God, “and there was found no place for them”. In Ch. 21:1, we are again told “... for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away”. John saw a new heaven and a new earth. We will study this more in Ch. 21.



## 13<sup>th</sup> Vision Cont'd. Ch. 20: 12-15 and the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> Vision, Ch. 21:1.

v.12. In this vision, John “saw the dead (spiritually and physically), small and great, standing before God and the books were opened.” Then, “another book was opened, which is the Book of Life” (where the born-again people who belong to God have their names recorded for eternity and they are not judged, because the Great White Throne Judgment is only for those who are spiritually and physically dead). Then “the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books”. The Final Judgment has been given to God’s Son, by the Father (Jn. 5: 22-30). In Jn. 5:24, Jesus said: believers “shall not come into judgment...”

v.13. “The ‘sea’(of people) gave up the ‘dead’ who were in it; Death and Hades (being the same thing) delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged (by Jesus), each one according to his works.

v.14. “Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire, which is Hell. This is the second death. In other words, by rejecting Jesus, a person experiences the first death, which is spiritual. When they continue to reject Jesus and die physically and are judged by Jesus, they will then experience the second death, and spend eternity in the lake of fire, which is Hell.

v.15. Note this: “Anyone not found written in the ‘Book of Life’ was cast into the Lake of Fire”. God knows our names and He knows all about every single person, who He gave life to, at conception, and He is righteous and just in all His ways and judgments. Amen. There are only two groups of people in God’s sight, the saved and the lost. Which group are you in? We all need to ask ourselves this question, and if you are not sure, you need to make sure that you belong to Jesus. After a person dies physically, there will not be another opportunity to be saved, because you have become what you are, for all eternity, at the Final Judgment. Again, I say, there are only two groups of people, in God’s sight, the saved and the lost. Which one are you?

This ends Ch. 20 and the 13<sup>th</sup> vision and brings us now to our final vision.

## 14<sup>th</sup> Vision, Ch. 21 thru Ch. 22.

In this 14<sup>th</sup> vision John sees the new heaven; the new earth; the New Jerusalem; the river of life and the tree of life. John then hears and writes the last recorded words of Jesus, written for all people who will read or hear this Revelation of Jesus Christ.

### Ch. 21.

v.1. Then John, “saw a ‘new heaven’ and a ‘new earth’ for the ‘first heaven’ and the ‘first earth’ had passed away. Also, there was no more sea”. In Isa. 65:17, Isaiah, God’s Prophet, back around 750 B.C., also wrote: “For behold, I create ‘new heavens’ and a ‘new earth’ and the former shall not be remembered, or come to mind”. Also, in Isa. 66:72, Isaiah wrote: “For as the ‘new heavens’ and the ‘new earth’, which ‘I will make’ shall remain before me, says the Lord, so shall your descendants and your name remain”. Then the Apostle Peter said, in 2 Peter 3:13: “Nevertheless, we according to His promise, look for ‘new heavens’ and a ‘new earth’, in which ‘righteousness’ dwells.”

## 14<sup>th</sup> Vision Cont'd, Ch.21: 1b-7.

Also, in v.1 John says: “there was no more sea.” John referred to the “sea” in Rev. 20:13; where he said, “At the Great White Throne Judgment, the ‘sea’ gave up the dead that were in it... and they were judged, each one according to his works”. This word “sea” refers to the “sea” that gave up the dead. This refers to the “sea” of spiritually dead people, who will be resurrected and stand before Jesus, at the Great White Throne Judgment. This is for unbelievers only.

After the Great White Throne Judgment, that we studied in Rev. 20:11-15, we now see here in v.1., John saw 3 things: 1. a “new heaven”; 2. a “new earth”; and 3. “there was no more sea” of spiritually dead people. Rev. 20:15 says: “anyone not found written in the book of life, was cast into the lake of fire” and this emptied the “sea” of unsaved people and “there was no more sea.”

v.2. John said: “I saw the ‘holy city’, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven, from God, prepared as a bride, adorned for her husband”. Jesus is the Bride Groom and the Church is the Bride. The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 3:16: “Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

v.3. John heard a loud voice from heaven, saying: “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them, and be their God”. What does this mean? It means that all of God’s plan, from creation to when this will happen, will have been finalized and made holy and complete forever. This is what the name of Jesus means: Immanuel, God with us (Mt. 1:23).

v.4. The loud voice from heaven continued to tell John that: “God will wipe away every tear, from their eyes (the Bride of Christ, His Church) and there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away”. All the bad things that we, as His Church, experienced on the first earth, will go away, forever.

v.5. Now, in this vision, John hears the voice of God, who sat on the throne, say: “Behold, I make all things new. And He said to me, write, for these words are true and faithful”. When the Holy Spirit had John write the Gospel of John, in Ch. 1:1-14, before Jesus was crucified, dead and buried and was resurrected and ascended to heaven; John wrote about Jesus then, and said: “He was in the world and the world was made through Him and the world did not know Him” (Jn. 1:10). Now, here in Rev. 21:5, John hears Jesus, who made the first world, now say: “Behold, I make all things new” (v.5). Jesus said to John: “Write, for these words are true and faithful” (v.5).

v.6. John hears Jesus say to him: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life, freely, to him who thirsts”.

v.7. Jesus makes it very clear to John, here in v.7., that “He who overcomes shall inherit all things. I will be his/her God, and he/she shall be My son/daughter”. Jesus is no respecter of persons. You are either “born-again” and saved, or you are still in your sins of rejecting Jesus, and you are lost.

## 14<sup>th</sup> Vision Cont'd, Ch.21: 8-11.

**v.8.** Here, Jesus tells John who will not go to heaven and will experience the second death, in hell. Jesus told John: “the cowardly; the unbelieving; the abominable; (those who are nasty, disgusting, vile, loathsome, hateful); murderers; sexually immoral; sorcerers, (those who use evil spirits to have power over other people and their affairs, such as witchcraft or black magic); idolaters (those who worship idols or give excessive devotion to a person or a thing); all liars; shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death”. Is there any doubt about who will be judged by Jesus and end up in the Lake of Fire, which is eternal hell? Does anyone have any question about who Jesus will judge and why? What about believers who asked God’s forgiveness for their sins, who were caught up in many of these things that John mentions? For example: What if you, as a believer committed a murder? Or, if you were sexually immoral? What should you do? You need to repent and receive God’s forgiveness.

The Apostle John, who wrote the Revelation, also wrote I John 1:9 where he says: “if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”. Even a true Christian needs to confess his sins daily and sincerely seek to do God’s will in his life. This should be done until the victory over sin is accomplished through the power of God’s Holy Spirit, working in the believer’s life. However, we will continue to war against our flesh, until the Lord takes us home to heaven. None of us will ever be perfect in this life, but we have a Savior Who is perfect and He will continue to forgive us and draw us closer to Himself, as we pray and seek to do His will.

**v.9.** “One of the 7 angels, who had the 7 bowls filled with the 7 last plagues, came to John and talked with John saying: “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife”. Over the past 25 plus years, I have been blessed by God to officiate at the marriage of my two daughters and my two sons. I think that there is nothing more beautiful than a bride at a Christian marriage. I have also officiated at many other couples weddings, during the past 50 years and a wedding in Christ, is always a beautiful experience for the pastor, as well as the couple and their families, who attend the Wedding Service.

**v.10.** John says, in v.10, that the angel: “carried me away, in the ‘Spirit’, to a great and high mountain and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven, from God”. This is the “New Jerusalem” we read about in v.2., that “came down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride, adorned for her Husband”. When John wrote this, the old Jerusalem and the old Temple had not yet been destroyed, as John wrote this Revelation of Jesus Christ, prior to A.D. 70.

**v.11.** John tells us, this “holy Jerusalem” that he saw, had: “the glory of God. And her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.” I looked up a “jasper stone”, in my old college dictionary, where it was described as “a precious clear green stone”, which is as beautiful as a diamond.

## 14<sup>th</sup> Vision Cont'd, Ch.21: 12-17.

v.12-13. In this vision of the “holy Jerusalem”, John saw that it had “a great and high ‘wall’ with 12 gates, and 12 angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the 12 Tribes of the children of Israel: 3 gates on the east; 3 gates on the north; 3 gates on the south; and 3 gates on the west.” We see a total of 12 gates in the “great and high wall” of the City.

v.14. “Now, the ‘wall’ of the City (the holy Jerusalem) had 12 foundations and on them the names of the 12 apostles of the Lamb”. In consideration of the names of the 12 apostles, we know that in 1 Cor. 1:1; Paul was “called to be an apostle through the will of God...” and the same is said in 2 Cor. 1:1; Gal.1:1; Eph.1:1; Col.1:1; 1 Tim.1:1; 2 Tim. 1:1; Titus 1:1-3. In Lk. 22:3, we are told that: “Satan entered Judas Iscariot, who was numbered among the 12 apostles”, who killed himself, after he had betrayed Jesus. In Acts 1: 23-26 the apostles prayed, “You O Lord...show which of these 2 (Justus or Matthias)...You have chosen...with the 11 apostles”. I personally believe it is always better to wait upon the Lord, and He will make it clear, as to who He has Called, as He did when He later Called the Apostle Paul. We hear nothing more about Justus or Matthias, but God used the Apostle Paul greatly throughout the N.T., who sought no recognition, what-so-ever for himself. However, I personally expect to see Paul’s name, along with the other Apostles of the Lamb, and not the name of Judas Iscariot; “For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were, who did not believe, and would betray Him” (Jn.6:64).

vs. 15-17. John goes on to tell us, that the same angel, who talked to him in v. 9., “had a ‘gold reed’ to measure the ‘City’ (the New Holy Jerusalem), its ‘gates’ and its ‘wall’ (v.15). “The ‘city’ is laid out as a ‘square’, and its ‘length’ is as great as its ‘breadth’ (in other words, its width is the same distance from one side to the other). And he (God’s angel) measured the ‘City’ (the Holy New Jerusalem) with the (gold) reed: 12 thousand furlongs (equal 1/8 of a mile, or 220 yards, (almost 2 ½ football fields). Its length, breadth and height are equal” (v.16). In other words, the New Jerusalem, measured by God’s angel, is ‘foursquare’, a perfect square. “Then he (God’s angel) measured its wall: 144 cubits (18-22 inches) according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel” (v.17).

This measurement of the ‘wall’, by God’s angel, was 144 cubits, in v.17. This represents the square of 12, the number of the 12 tribes of Israel and also the number of the 12 Apostles. We studied this in Ch. 14: 1-20, where the 144,000 represent the believing 12 tribes of Israel and all the believing 12 Apostles and their disciples. In other words, here in v.17, the 144 cubits represent, symbolically, all born-again believers who will be in heaven for all eternity, with Jesus. In this “City”, the New Holy Jerusalem, there will never be any enemy against God and His people for all eternity. The “wall” of the New Jerusalem is not for defense, as John sees it in this vision, because we are all secure eternally in heaven with Jesus. It is only a symbolic picture of God’s beautiful “wall” of love and protection for His children.

I appreciate how the writer of the book of Hebrews, relates this “City, which has foundations whose builder and maker is God” (Heb. 11:10). “Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a City for them” (Heb.11:16).

**14<sup>th</sup> Vision Cont'd, Ch.21: 17-21.**

**v. 17. Cont'd.** This “City” of God, the New Jerusalem, is in all reality pictured as a “cube” in this vision. The “City” is perfectly square, representing God’s ‘eternal oneness’ with ‘His children’, through the sacrificial death of His dear Son, our God and Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave His life on the Cross, for all our sins, for all those who trust in Him (Prov. 3:5-6).

**vs. 18-21.** In this vision John is permitted to see the “construction” of the City, the New Jerusalem, where God has used nothing but the very best and perfect for His children in its “construction”. The Apostle Paul wrote: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him” (1 Cor. 2:9). Here in verse 18, John is permitted, in this vision, to see that: “the construction of its ‘wall’ was of Jasper and the ‘City’ was ‘pure gold’, like clear glass”(which was very expensive in John’s day).

**v.19.** “The foundations of the wall, of the City, were adorned with all kinds of precious stones:”  
The 1<sup>st</sup> foundation was Jasper; this is a precious clear green stone.  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> foundation was Sapphire; this is a beautiful transparent stone of deep blue color.  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> foundation was Chalcedony; only mentioned in v. 19, as a precious stone of different colors.  
The 4<sup>th</sup> foundation was Emerald; that is a bright green transparent precious stone.

**v.20.** There are 8 more foundations that John saw in this vision.  
The 5<sup>th</sup> foundation was Sardonyx; made up of layers of a white precious stone used in cameos.  
The 6<sup>th</sup> foundation was Sardius; a beautiful, very hard, deep orange-red stone.  
The 7<sup>th</sup> foundation was Chrysolite; that is a golden yellow stone that is precious and very hard.  
The 8<sup>th</sup> foundation was Beryl; a very hard mineral that occurs in crystals that are blue, green & pink.  
The 9<sup>th</sup> foundation was Topaz; a white, yellow, pale-blue crystal used as a gem stone.  
The 10<sup>th</sup> foundation was Chrysoprase; a light-green variety of Chalcedony, like in the 3<sup>rd</sup> foundation.  
The 11<sup>th</sup> foundation was Jacinth; another beautiful stone that is a reddish-orange color.  
The 12<sup>th</sup> foundation was Amethyst; a purple or violet colored gem stone.

**v.21.** “The 12 gates were 12 pearls: each individual gate, was of pearl, and the street of the City (the New Jerusalem) was pure gold, like transparent glass.” We know this is a symbolic picture of the New Jerusalem, so that we could understand, using words that we use, to describe the perfection and beauty of the New Jerusalem, that will come down from heaven to the new earth that God created. What God creates is always perfect and far beyond our own ability to describe it, with words, as John has done in presenting this vision to us. One day we shall be with Jesus, and serve and love Him forever. We will then see for ourselves the new heaven, the new earth, the New Jerusalem and all that God has created for those who love Him. We, the Church are His bride, forever. Amen.

14<sup>th</sup> Vision Cont'd. Ch. 21: 22-27.

v.22. In this vision, John could see that there was: **“no temple in it (the New Jerusalem) for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple”**. In other words, the whole City, the New Jerusalem, has the presence of the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb in it. We, as His children, who are in Christ Jesus, having been redeemed, **are one in perfect union with God, for all eternity**. We are in the presence of God, Who is everywhere in the City of God, the New Jerusalem and the new earth. Jesus, the Lamb of God, our Savior and Redeemer is there and we are one in Him, forever.

v. 23. Also, John sees that the City, the New Jerusalem, has: **“No need of the sun or the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it, and the Lamb (Jesus) is its light.”** In the whole City, the New Jerusalem, her light comes from Jesus, the Lamb of God for His Church, His Bride. God’s beauty and glory shines as light in the New Jerusalem, from the Lamb of God, who took away our sins by His death on the Cross, for us and for all who believe in Him.

v.24-25. It is interesting to note, that John says: **“the nations of those, who are saved, shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth (will) bring their glory and honor into it”** (v.24). **The gates shall not be shut at all, by day, as there shall be no night there”** (v.25). Regarding the new earth, John tells us that there will be **“nations”** and **“kings”** on the **“new earth, who are saved”**, and they will bring **“their glory and honor into it”** (the New Jerusalem).

v. 26. John says that: **“they shall bring the glory and honor of the nations into it”**. John said this also in v. 24, that we just read. **This is worth repeating**, because both Jews and Gentiles, who are saved, will be working together, as one, in their nations on the new earth. The kings of these nations, on the new earth will bring their glory and honor, into the New Jerusalem.

v. 27. We should praise God that: **“there shall by no means enter it (the New Jerusalem), anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life”**. In the New Jerusalem and on the new earth all those there will be **“saved people”**, who are **“born-again”**, and no sin will ever be in the New Jerusalem or in the new earth, forever. Amen.

This ends Ch. 21.

## 14<sup>th</sup> Vision Cont'd. Ch.22:1-4.

v.1. This same angel, in 21:9, who was “...one of the 7 angels who had the 7 bowls, filled with the 7 last plagues”, showed John: “a pure river of water, of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb”.

This river is not only “pure”, but it is also the “river of water of life”, it is life giving water, “clear as crystal” that flowed “from the throne of God and of the Lamb”. It was only through God the Father, sending His only Son, Jesus, Who redeemed us from our sins and death, by shedding His blood on the Cross, that we are saved and will be with Jesus for all eternity. This “living water” comes only from Jesus, as He had told the “woman of Samaria” about this living water in Jn. 4:5-10 (class read).

v.2. John also saw that: “In the middle of its street (the New Jerusalem), and on either side of the river, was the ‘tree of life’, which bore 12 fruits, with each tree yielding its fruit, every month. And the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations”. In this vision John sees that the Lord will provide for us in heaven, with Him, in the New Jerusalem, with everything we will ever need. In addition to God’s “river of water of life”, God provides the “tree of life” that gives us all the precious fruit we need and gives us the leaves of the tree of life, for the healing of the nations. This is a vision that John sees that makes it clear that all our needs and more, will be fulfilled in God’s perfect paradise. We must understand that this is a picture of all our needs being met through the Lamb of God. We are free from sin, forever. We will see God and will shall reign with Him forever, as we walk with Jesus in His eternal light, not for time, but for all eternity.

v. 3-4. The Lord wanted the 7 Churches and all of us who read and hear this Revelation of Jesus Christ, to know: “there will be no more ‘curse’ but the ‘throne of God and of the Lamb’, shall be in it (the New Jerusalem) and His servants, (you and I) shall serve Him” (v.3). “They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads” (v.4).

The Apostle Paul helps us to better understand that: “... your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own. For you were ‘bought with a price’. Therefore, glorify God in your body and your spirit, which are God’s” (1 Cor. 6:19-20). We, who are born-again, and have been spiritually resurrected to Life, have been “bought at a price” by Jesus, Who gave His Life on a cruel Cross so that we who believe in Him, may have Eternal Life and be “His servants” and “serve Him” (v.3), forever.

## 14<sup>th</sup> Vision Cont'd. Ch.22:3-7.

We who are saved and belong to Jesus are His servants and we have the high privilege to: “see His face and His Name shall be on their (our) foreheads” (v.4). We should see ourselves as being His servant. In fact, this is how this: Revelation of Jesus Christ begins, in Ch. 1:1 that says: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him (Jesus) to show His servants (slaves), things which must shortly take place” (1:1). Then, in this final chapter in v.4. we are told: “They shall see His (Jesus’) face and His name (Jesus) shall be on their foreheads” (v.4). It does not matter to me personally, if this is symbolic or physical. All I want to be is a servant-slave who belongs to Jesus, serving Him for all eternity with His name on my forehead for all to see that I belong to Him. God owns me, and I want His name to be reflected in all that I do and say.

v.5. Also, John saw that: “there shall be no night there. They need no lamp, nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light! And, they shall reign (with Jesus) forever and ever”. We shall be walking in the light of the Lord Jesus, forever. When Jesus was on earth, He said: “I am the light of the world. He who believes in Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life” (Jn. 8:12).

v.6. John tells us here that the Lord’s angel told him: “These words are faithful and true. And the Lord, God, of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must ‘shortly’ take place.”

v.7. Jesus is speaking and He says: “Behold, I am ‘coming quickly’! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.” The words “shortly” and “quickly”, as used in v.6 (“shortly”) and v.7., (“quickly”), have caused some people to misunderstand when the Lord’s coming will take place. These words, “shortly” and “quickly” have the same meaning as: swiftly; suddenly; rapidly; abruptly and unexpectedly. We must understand that Jesus did not say, in Ch. 22, vs. 7, 12 and 20, that I am coming “immediately”, which means: at once, no delay, this very moment. He said: “quickly” meaning swiftly, rapidly and unexpectedly, when He does come. This may happen at any time. Jesus told His disciples: “heaven and earth will pass away (that John saw in his vision, in Ch.21:1) but My Word will by no means pass away, but of that day and hour, NO ONE KNOWS, NO, NOT EVEN THE ANGELS IN HEAVEN, BUT MY FATHER ONLY” (Mt. 24: 35-36). Then Jesus told them: “Therefore, you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect Him” (Mt.24:44). Jesus’ disciples also died shortly after He said this, except for John.

It has been over 2,000 years, since Jesus told this to His disciples, but it will only happen when God the Father is ready to do it. In the meantime, many souls are being born and born-again and God knows who they are and He wants us to help them to know Him, personally, as their Lord and Savior. He wants us to tell them about Jesus, in any way that we can do it.



## 14<sup>th</sup> Vision Cont'd. Ch.22:8-12.

v.8. John now tells us here in v. 8, that he: “saw and heard these things”. Maybe it was like a huge screening, like a preview of what is to come, and John was so deeply touched in his heart that he: “fell down to worship at the feet of the angel, who showed (John) these things”.

v.9. The angel told John, in no uncertain terms: “Do not do that. For I am your fellow servant (slave); and of your brethren the prophets, and of those of who keep the words of this book. Worship God.”

v.10. John tells us that the angel said to him: “Do not ‘seal’ the words of the prophecy of this book, for the ‘time’ is at hand”. The angel was telling John to complete writing the prophecy of The Revelation of Jesus Christ, because the “time” is right; it is at “hand”. This means: immediately. This book needed to be sent, immediately, to the 7 Churches who were the first Christians to receive this prophecy from Jesus.

In Ch. 1:10-11 John said and wrote: “I was in the Spirit, on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, saying: I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last. What you see, write in a book and send it to the 7 Churches, which are in Asia (Turkey today): to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatra, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea”. This was Jesus, speaking to John telling him to write to the 7 Churches; what he saw in his visions, that the Lord gave to him. Now, here in Ch. 22:10 John is being told by the angel: “Do not seal the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand”. It was “time” to give this book, that John was writing, to the 7 Churches, so they would know what to expect in the near future, in their own generation. Jerusalem and the Temple had not yet been destroyed, that Jesus had prophesied in Mt. 24:1-2 to His disciples, including John, and it was going to happen very soon, in A.D. 70. And it did happen, when it was least expected, as it will happen again, at the Final Judgment.

v.11. The angel of God told John to write: “He who is unjust, let him be unjust; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy let him be holy still.” In other words, its too late to try and change. We are either saved or lost. God’s judgment on Jerusalem and its Temple, 2,000 years ago, is an example of God’s Final Judgment, that is also sure to come, when it is least expected. God’s judgment comes so swiftly that there is no time for change in a person’s life and what he believes. He is what he is. He is either saved or he is lost.

v.12. Jesus speaks and says to John: “And behold, I am coming ‘quickly’ and my reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.” Here is that word again, “quickly”, that means: swiftly; rapidly; unexpectedly, when Jesus does come for the Final Judgment. In God’s judgment He will give to everyone, according to their work, as a believer or an unbeliever.

## 14<sup>th</sup> Vision Cont'd. Ch.22:13-15.

v.13. Jesus continues to make it clear that He is God: “I am the Alpha and the Omega; the Beginning and the End; the First and the Last.” John also made this clear, regarding the fact that Jesus is God, when he wrote the Gospel of John, Ch. 1:1-4; 10; 14; as follows:

v.1. “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

v.2. “He (the Word) was in the beginning with God.”

v.3. “All things were made through Him (the Word) and without Him, nothing was made, that was made.”

v.4. “In Him (the Word) was Life, and the Life was the Light of men.”

v.10. “He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him”.

v.14. “And the Word became flesh (Jesus) and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

v.14. John continues to write in Revelation, Ch.22:14: “Blessed are those who ‘do’ His commandments, that they may have the right to the Tree of Life, and may enter through the gates into the City (the New Jerusalem).” John remembered, what Jesus told His disciples, just after Judas Iscariot went from their group to betray Jesus; and Jesus said: “A new commandment I give you that you love one another, as I have loved you, that you love one another. By this, ‘all’ will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (Jn. 13: 34-35). Yes, there is no doubt that: “Blessed are those who do His commandments”. We are blessed by loving one another, in Christ, which is only made possible by knowing and loving Jesus, with all of our hearts. Through our relationship with Christ, of being born-again, and experiencing the “First Resurrection”, from spiritual death, we have the God given right to the Tree of Life and we may enter into the City, the New Jerusalem, forever.

v.15. John wants us, to realize how “blessed” we are, because: “outside are the dogs; sorcerers; and the sexually immoral; and murderers; and idolaters; and whoever loves and practices a lie.”

The “dogs” in that day that John is referring to were wild dogs that ran together in packs and would go after the sheep, scattering them and trying to kill them. This was a picture of those people who were wicked, depraved, vile and vicious in their Christ rejecting hearts. Paul wrote about these “dogs” when he said: “Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers...” (Phil. 3:2). John is referring to “evil workers”, as “dogs”. These dogs were not like your loving household pet that you feed every day and your dog loves you. Then, there were those who were involved in “sorcery” and were seeking to call up “evil spirits” to give them power over other people in many ways; then there were the “sexually immoral” who were totally addicted to lust for sex with many other partners, much like we have in the world today; then there were “murderers” who just kill other people due to their hate and self-centeredness; “idolaters”, who worship other things than Jesus Christ; there were those who love and “practice a lie”. I have known people who would rather tell a lie than to tell the truth, when the truth would serve them much better. These people who reject Jesus and live their lives desiring to do these evil things, will be rejected from heaven. These sins are also listed in 21:8 (read verse), where it says that they will end up in the lake of fire, the second death, which is forever.

14<sup>th</sup> Vision Cont'd. Ch.22:16-19.

v.16. Jesus, Himself, is speaking to John in this 16<sup>th</sup> verse and He says: “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the Churches. I am the Root and Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star”.

Jesus tells His beloved friend, the Apostle John, that He, Jesus, sent His angel “to testify” to John, all these things that John was to write in his letter to the 7 Churches. John did not know that one day this book that he was to write would go out to the whole world in many different languages. The angel of the Lord was an eye witness to everything that Jesus told John to “write in a book and send it to the 7 Churches” (Ch.1:11).

Jesus further identified Himself as “the Root and Offspring of David.” This is shown Mt. 1:17, regarding the genealogy of Jesus Christ, where it says: “So all the generations from ‘Abraham to David’, are 14 generations; from ‘David until the captivity in Babylon’, are 14 generations; and from the ‘captivity in Babylon’ until the ‘Christ’, are 14 generations”. This verse shows Jesus’ legal relationship from Abraham to David, to being the Christ, the Savior for the world.

Then Jesus said, as an added testimony that He is “the Bright and Morning Star”, referring to the prophecy that God gave to Balaam, in Num. 24:17, where God said, “a ‘Star’ shall come out of Jacob...” (Israel).

v.17. John hears the Holy Spirit and the Bride of Christ say: “Come! And let Him who hears say come! And let him who thirsts (for the Living Water) come. And whoever desires, let him take the Water of Life, freely.” We need to understand that this “Living Water” that Jesus told the Samaritan woman about, in Jn. 4:14, where Jesus said to her: “... whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst. The water that I shall give him will become, in him, a fountain of water, springing up into everlasting life” (Jn. 4:14).

vs.18-19. In these vs, 18-19, John gives us all a very serious warning, from the Holy Spirit, as he, John, tells us all: “For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book (v.18); and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the Holy City and from the things which are written in this book”, (v.19). For a person to add or subtract from God’s Holy Word, indicates unbelief in God’s Word and a personal rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I personally take all these verses very seriously, regarding the entire Bible and especially this book of “The Revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ”. For this reason, I have tried to teach this book in a chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse manner. I firmly believe that the whole Bible is the final authority in all aspects of what we should believe and how we should live our lives, for the honor and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior. God knows the hearts of all people and only He is the judge as to why anyone would want to change His inerrant Word, the Bible.

**14<sup>th</sup> Vision Cont'd. Ch.22:20-21.**

**v.20.** John wants us all to know that Jesus, who testifies to these things, says: **“Surely I am coming quickly.”** When He comes it will be **unexpected, abruptly, suddenly and swiftly.** In fact, Jesus put it this way: **“For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be”** (Mt.24:27). No one, but the Father knows when Jesus will come, but when He comes everyone will know all about it! John’s response is: **“Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!”**

**v.21.** John in concluding the Book of Revelation pronounces this beautiful benediction: **“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.”**