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### Secrets of the Revelation of Jesus Christ

*Secrets of the Revelation of Jesus Christ* is a combination of scripture and explanatory passages. Some words, and phrases, seem to the writer to need further clarification, and these have been printed in italics, to indicate to the reader that he can find supporting scriptures and more information in the section referred to as “Notes”.

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# Secrets of the Revelation of Jesus Christ

Robert Lee

*"Heaven, in creating the people of the world, makes men who have foresight awaken those who have not, and it makes men who have been awakened awaken those who have not."*

-Yiyin (17<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. Chinese philosopher, quoted in: Mencius 9-7)

*"Growing in 'knowledge' of necessity includes learning new truth, examining old truth, and correcting what was erroneously held to be truth." -Marvin Rosenthal*

*"He that answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame unto him."-Proverbs 18:13*

Our Lord, in giving us the "Revelation", has sounded an alarm of the coming persecution of Christians throughout the world. Many secular history books testify to the truth of the Revelation. In light of all that have already been fulfilled, the remaining prophesies can more easily be understood. "Secrets of Revelation of Jesus Christ" has been written under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to increase the understanding of the Church concerning the prophecies that remain. It is presented in easy-to-understand terms with explanations based on the Word of God and on secular history.

We in the M24 Christian Ministry believe that it is the desire of our Lord that every Christian understand the truths of the Revelation. This is our hope: that you will unite with us in the urgent need to alert the Church of the persecution that is coming soon. It is imperative that the Church be well acquainted with the Revelation before The 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel begins.

## Introduction

The word "revelation" means sudden understanding of something that was hidden. The prophet Amos said, "Surely the Lord God does nothing, without revealing His secret to His servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7). John's vision, that is, what John saw while awake, was given to him during a time of Christian persecution to strengthen the Church for what was still to come: a counterfeit truth which was being prepared and spread by men under the influence of Satan. It was, and is, so cleverly done that only God's prophetic word, as revealed in Revelation, can identify and counter it. Satan's plan, of course, is to draw men's heart away from God and His word; "If they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20).

The "light" of the Book of Revelation will be presented in two parts: "Things that were", meaning what was happening during John's day, and "Things which shall be hereafter", that is, future world events, beginning in his era and continuing until the end of time. The presentation will be both historic and prophetic. The Lord Jesus Christ as presented in Revelation is the one spoken of by the prophet Micah, "Who is to be the ruler of Israel, whose origin is from old, from ancient days" (Micah 5:2).

"Secrets of the Revelation of Jesus Christ" presents the Lord Jesus Christ in four visions: Christ and the Church and Christ and the World (understanding), then Christ and Victory (embodying action), and Christ and Eternity (relying on faith). These visions reveal the treachery of Satan and the grace of God. Thus "Secrets of Revelation of Jesus Christ" is a source of encouragement and inspiration: a guide, presented here in these three aspects: **Understanding, Action, and Faith**.

## Understanding

Jesus Christ in relationship with his Church and the world (all other people) can only be comprehended through revelation. God said to man "behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding" (Job 28:28). So, the Book of Revelation distinguishes between that

which is of God, good, and that which is of Satan, evil. The first two visions, Christ and the Church and Christ and the World, will be viewed in three time periods: past, future, and present.

The Church was about 66 years old, and was having tremendous growth, when the Apostle John wrote the Revelation. This was during a time of Roman Imperial persecution of Christians, which began when the Emperor Nero (54-68) blamed them for the burning of the City that he himself had ordered. He laughed while watching the destruction, planning all the time to build a new city, and at the same time get rid of the troublesome people known as "Christians".

It was about this time that the Apostles Peter and Paul were martyred. A second persecution followed in A.D. 95. It did not last long but was brutal. It was directed by the Emperor Domitian, and accounted for the deaths of 40,000 Christians. During this persecution the Apostle John was imprisoned on the penal island of Patmos, and there received the Revelation from God. The third Imperial persecution was by Trajan, beginning in A.D. 98. John, having lived through the first two, was about to experience the third. There were four other persecutions that lasted through Marcus Aurelius' reign (A.D.161-180), followed by a period of peace that ended in 193. Further periods of persecution alternated with periods of tolerance, culminating with a savage persecution begun by Emperor Diocletian (284-305).

Surprisingly, in 311 Emperor Constantine decreed tolerance towards Christians, and in 325 made Christianity the Empire's religion. This opened the door for the Roman Catholic Church to exert itself to become a conquering power.

The Roman Catholic Church established the office of bishop in about 67-79 A.D. Linus was the first Bishop, and by 154-168 bishops like Anicetus were enforcing a domineering policy. This growing influence under the guidance of Zephyrinus (202-218) was based on the Scripture "and I tell you, you are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). At that time the feeling of the religious leaders was that Rome, the capital city, should be the head of the Church, even as it was the head of the empire.

As Bishop of Rome, Sylvester I (314-335), under the Emperor Constantine, along with the Bishops of Alexandria and Antioch, received full jurisdiction over their provinces. There was not even a hint that they would be subject to the Emperor. During the fourth century the bishops began implementing their desire for world power on a broad scale. The authority of the Bishop of Rome was firmly established in 741-752 under Pope Zacharis.

The title "Pope", beginning about 500, was being interpreted as "Father", in spite of Jesus' admonition, "call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven" (Matthew 23:9). The term "Papacy" defines the existence of a Pope, his authority and all that has to do with him.

This historical background information provides a needed introduction for understanding the book of Revelation today. The Apostle John, presented in the Gospel of John, is the same John named in the Revelation. He received the Revelation from God, delivered by Jesus Christ His Son and an angel, who declared what must soon take place.

"What is and what is to take place hereafter" will be presented in the light of world history, with explanations of selected words and phrases.

## The Origin of the Revelation

Chapters 1-3

**1 "The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to His servants what must soon take place; and He made it known by sending His angel to His servant John, 2 who bore witness to the Word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. 3 Blessed is he who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written therein; for the time is near."**

## Salutation



4 “John to the *seven churches*” (the number 7 represents completeness) “...that are in Asia, grace to you and peace from Him **who is** (Christ) and **who was** (Jesus Christ) and **who is to come**, (also Jesus Christ) and from the seven spirits (which represent Christ) **who are before His throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ**” (Christ dwelt in a human body and was called Jesus; thus Jesus united God and Man) “...the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood 6 and made us [kings and] priests to His God and father,” (here prophets are not mentioned, which suggests that John is the last of the prophets) “...to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

## Prologue

7 “Behold, He is coming with the *clouds*,” (a covering of God’s presence) “...and every eye will see Him, every one who pierced Him; and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of Him. Even so. Amen. 8 ‘I am the *Alpha and the Omega*,’ says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

## Historical Background

9 “I John, your brother,” (John identifies himself with the suffering Church, as a member of the family of God) “...who share with you in Jesus the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance, was on the island called Patmos” (an Island, 10 miles long, 6 miles wide, treeless and rocky. It was a prison island in the Aegean Sea about 60 miles southwest of Ephesus) “...on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day,” seems to mean that his mental faculties were wholly taken over by the Spirit of God, while he worshipped that which was from the beginning.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men” (John 1:1-4). This was what the apostles had heard, what they had seen with their eyes, what they had touched with their hands, concerning the Word of life. The life was made manifest, and they saw it and testified to it, and proclaimed the eternal life which was with the Father, and was made manifest to them—that which they had seen and heard that very thing they proclaimed, so that we may have fellowship with them; and their fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:1-3). For more about fellowship, see our “12 Secrets of Life”—The Work of the Holy Spirit.



## A Loud Voice

“...and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet 11 *saying* ‘I am the Alpha and the Omega, write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.’”

These churches represent the characteristics of the “Church”: Ephesus: abandoned your first love; Smyrna: persecution will increase; Pergamum: supported false teachings; Thyatira: believed a false prophetess; Sardis:

"Awake, and strengthen what remains"; Philadelphia: no complaint, hold fast to what you have; Laodicea: "neither hot nor cold." The character of the churches may be seen: two very good (Smyrna and Philadelphia), two very bad (Sardis and Laodicea), and three part good and bad (Ephesus, Pergamum, and Thyatira). For more information about the Church (the body of Christ), see our "12 Secrets of Life."

The letter to each church concludes with, "**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches.**" It is stated seven times. The number seven is a sanctified number, which represents Christ, and means completeness and perfection. It is used here to emphasize the finality of the warnings. Also, the Lord identifies Satan by name as being the enemy of God.

### The Origin of the Seven Churches



These churches were founded by the Apostle Paul who was a Jew formerly known as Saul of Tarsus. Saul was educated according to the strict manner of the law of the Jewish fathers, being zealous for God. He persecuted those who believed in the new religion then known as the "Way" (Acts 9:2; 24:22), binding and delivering to prison both men and women, as the high priest and the whole council of elders directed him. From the council Saul received letters to take prisoners and punish them even unto death. One day as he journeyed to Damascus from Jerusalem, seeking those who followed the "Way", he was called by Jesus Christ to serve Him among the gentiles.

**12 "Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lamp-stands, 13 and in the midst of the lamp-stands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe"** (which represents the priesthood) **"...and with a golden girdle round his breast** (strength); **14 His head** (wisdom) **and His hair were white as white wool, white as snow** (Ancient of Days); **His eyes were like a flame of fire**, (omniscience) **15 His feet were like burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace** (stability), **and His voice was like the sound of many waters** (purification); **16 in His right hand** (might) **He held seven stars, from His mouth** (authority) **issued a sharp two-edged sword, and His face was like the sun shining in full strength** (brilliance in intelligence).

**17 "When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. But He laid His right hand upon me, saying, 'Fear not, I am the first and the last, 18 and the living one; I died, and behold I am alive for evermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades"** (keys represent the authority of those two fallen angels). **19 "Now write what you see, what is and what is to take place hereafter."** That which is "hereafter" was for the Church of John's time and continues through the present time and into the future. **20 "As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lamp-stands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches and the seven lamp-stands are the seven churches."**

The world vision begins with Chapter four and runs through chapter sixteen. It could be appropriately introduced by quoting the Apostle Paul, “*let no one deceive you in any way*”.

“**A**fter this I looked, and lo, in heaven an open door! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a *trumpet*,” (identified as the Lord Jesus Christ) “...said, ‘Come up hither, and I will show you what must take place after this.’ 2 At once I was in the Spirit, and lo, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne!” God is seated in the place of authority. 3 “**A**nd He who sat there appeared like jasper and carnelian, and round the throne was a rainbow that looked like an emerald. 4 Round the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clad in white garments, with golden crowns upon their heads.” It is not clear as to who they are or whom they represent, Israel or the Church, or both. 5 “**F**rom the throne issue flashes of *lightning*, and voices and peals of thunder,” which show His majesty and power “...and before the throne burn seven torches of fire, which are the *seven spirits of God*;” (that is the spirit of Christ, totally complete in deity) “... 6 and before the throne there is as it were a sea” (that represents a vast number of redeemed people, not as individuals, but as the body of Christ) “...of glass” (calm, as is the reign of God) “...like crystal” (pure, clear, without blemish or sin). The picture is this: God is on His throne, and Jesus Christ is standing before Him, between Him and His bride, the Church. “**A**nd round the throne, on each side of the throne, are four *living creatures*, full of eyes in front and behind:” (thought by Bible scholars to be cherubim; they are certainly referred to by the prophet Ezekiel by face description. The meaning of each face is not clear) 7 “...the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. 8 **A**nd the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all round and within, and *day and night*” (which does not imply that two time periods exist in heaven, because there is no night in God’s heaven; this may be used as a familiar reference for human adjustment, before our being ushered into a timeless state of existence where there is no night, into the presence of the eternal God) “...they never cease to say” (some versions erroneously say “sing”) “...‘Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!’ 9 And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who is seated on the throne, who lives for ever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who is seated on the throne and worship Him who lives for ever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, *singing*, 11 ‘Worthy art Thou, our *Lord and God*,’” (the Apostle Thomas’ statement, “my Lord and my God!” identifies the one who is seated on the throne as Jesus Christ) “...to receive glory and honor and power, for Thou didst create all things, and by Thy will they existed and were created.””



Almighty, who was and is and is to come!’ 9 And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who is seated on the throne, who lives for ever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who is seated on the throne and worship Him who lives for ever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, *singing*, 11 ‘Worthy art Thou, our *Lord and God*,’” (the Apostle Thomas’ statement, “my Lord and my God!” identifies the one who is seated on the throne as Jesus Christ) “...to receive glory and honor and power, for Thou didst create all things, and by Thy will they existed and were created.””

## The Scroll with Seven Seals

1 “**A**nd I saw in the right hand of Him who was seated on the throne (Father God) a scroll” (which contains the secrets of the future) “...written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals;” (to be opened in order) 2 “...and I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?’ 3 And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, 4 and I wept much that no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it, 5 Then one of the elders” (John does not indicate that he recognized the elder who spoke to him, which indicates that he may be from a future time) “...said to me, ‘Weep not; lo, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, (Jesus Christ) the Root of David, has conquered, so that He can open the scroll and its seven seals.’ 6 And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders, I saw a

**Lamb (Jesus Christ) standing, as though it had been slain, with seven *horns*" (horns always represent power and strength) "...and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth; 7 and He went and took the scroll from the right hand of Him who was seated on the throne."**

## Four Creatures and Twenty-four Elders

8 "And when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty- four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and with golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints; 9 and they sang a new song, saying, 'Worthy art thou to take the scroll and to open its seals, for thou wast slain and by thy blood didst ransom men for God from every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 and hast made them kings and priests to our God, and they (the kings) shall *reign on earth*.'" This refers to the time of the one-thousand-year reign of Christ on the earth.

## Angels Worship the Lamb

11 "Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!' 13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all therein, saying, 'To Him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might for ever and ever!' 14 And the four living creatures said, 'Amen!' and the elders fell down and worshiped." It is this kind of worship that Satan wants for himself.

## The Seven-Sealed Scroll Opened

Chapter 6



*The opening of the first five seals reveals Satan's implementing man's wrath against man, and that of all seven discloses the events of two separate time periods. The first began in Egypt, around 1600 B.C., when the Pharaoh enslaved God's people, and will come to a close with the beginning of Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week. The second will begin with Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week at the ratification of a strong pact between many Jews and the Antichrist. It will continue for one "week of years", that is, with "the beginning of sorrows", and will last until the end of "the Day of the Lord".*

1 "Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say, as with a voice of thunder, 'Come' 2 And I saw, and behold, a white horse," (which indicates world power. This first applies to the Roman Empire and later to Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week. Satan, the rider, appears as an angel of light, preparing the way for the three following horses. History shows that Bishop Anicetus (154-168) posing as an angel of light, led the Roman Catholic Church in exerting a policy of domination.) "...and its rider had a bow (military might); and a crown was given to him," (which represents royal authority, is Rome as she was about to begin her golden age of world power (96-180)) "...and he went out conquering and to conquer. 3 When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, 'Come!' 4 And out came another horse, bright red; its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that men should slay one another; and he was given a great sword." Civil war, plus an enormous increase of ferocious wild animals, contributed to a huge loss of population, which led to the downfall of Rome.

5 "When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, 'Come!' And I saw, and behold, a black horse, (famine, a result of war) and its rider had a balance in his hand;" (scales are used

to weigh food because it will be scarce) 6 “...and I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, ‘A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius;’” (the money that represented a day’s wage for labor during the Roman Empire period, which indicates extreme poverty) ““...but do not harm the oil or the wine!”” Oil and wine were to be available only to the wealthy ruling class.

By the beginning of the fifth century, all of the Roman soldiers had left Britannia to defend other areas. During this time period, British history declares that its people “entered a period of alarm”. 1. In 441 a Gaulish chronicler records, “The Britain’s in these days by all kinds of calamities and disasters are falling into the power of the Saxons”.2. The Emperor, Honorius answered the Britons’ pleas for help with a message that the people should “take steps to defend themselves”.3. “The mass migration from Northern Germany had begun. Thereafter, the darkness closed in.”4. This period came to be known as the Dark Ages.

7 “When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, ‘Come! 8 And I saw, and behold, a pale horse, and its rider’s name was Death, and Hades followed him;’ (collecting the human spirits and imprisoning them in a definite place in the unseen world. *Death and Hades* are co-workers.) “...and they were given power over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.” The identity of the white horse is confirmed by the subsequent appearances of the red horse (war), the black horse (famine), and the pale horse (death).

9 “When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the *altar*” (in the presence of God’s throne) “...the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne;” (these are martyrs whose prayers rise up as an offering to God) 10 “they cried out with a loud voice, ‘O sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before Thou wilt judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell upon the earth?’ 11 Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer,” (Those crying out are the ones slain during the first four-horse period, which includes the period from Emperor Nero (64) to Diocletian (305). They are told to wait for those who will be martyred, the ones who will die at the hand of the Papacy (600-1800). They also will have to wait for those who will be martyred under the revived Papacy during the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel (the second four-horse period, and others that will be killed for His name’s sake) “...until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been. To be killed primarily relates to Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> week, when the Pope (the beast) will exercise his worldwide authority against Christians, killing those who will not worship him. This will separate out Jews and Christians for persecution. God reminds His people to fear Him and give Him glory.

12 “When He opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, 13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale; 14 the sky vanished like a scroll that is rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.” The sixth seal is a part of the final judgment of the Day of the Lord. It predicts the fall of the Roman Empire (2<sup>nd</sup> Century A.D.), as well as the future events of Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> week, and finally the dissolution of the first heaven and the first earth.

The Roman Catholic Church was growing in strength while Rome’s government was in decline. Civil war in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century produced great changes and a period of violent cultural shock. This was followed in the 4<sup>th</sup> century by upheavals that caused the Roman Empire to divide. The western empire fell in 476, the eastern in 1453. From the ruins of the western came the papal empire ruled by popes. Rome continued to rule the world, and “in 538 the terrible 1,260 years of papal oppression, predicted in Daniel 7:25 and Revelation 13:5-7, began.”5.

In the gospel of Matthew (24:29) Jesus said that “immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken”. 15 “Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the generals and the rich and the strong, and every one, slave and free, hid in the caves and among the

rocks of the mountains, 16 calling to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; 17 for the great day of their (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) wrath has come, and who can stand before it?'

### Daniel's Description of the 70th Week (Daniel 12)

The beginning of sorrows	The Great Tribulation	The Day of the Lord	30 days of mourning	45 days' cleansing of temple	Kingdom Age
Daniel 11:36-45	Daniel 12:1	Daniel 12:2a	Daniel 12:11	Daniel 12:12	
3½ years   3 ½ years	Seals   Trumpets   Bowls (plagues)				

### Jesus' Description of the 70th Week: Matthew 24:4-31

Jew and Gentile believers will be "raptured" at the end of the Great Tribulation

RAPTURE (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17, Revelation 7:14b)					
The beginning of sorrows	The Great Tribulation -shortened- Matt. 24:22	The Day of the Lord	45 days for cleansing of Temple	Kingdom Age	
		Its last 30 days will overlap Israel's time of mourning, during the time of the bowl judgments (Revelation 15:7)			

It is logical to conclude that the time block that follows that which was shortened (The Great Tribulation) must be occupied by that which immediately follows it: 30 days of mourning (a part of the wrath of God). Thus, it is reasonable to suggest that the Great Tribulation will be shortened by 30 days, which puts all of God's wrath within Daniel's 70th Week, and also within The Day of the Lord (Zechariah 12:9).

### Four Angels

Chapter 7

The events of this chapter fall between the sixth and seventh seals to provide a contrast between the doomed and the redeemed. The chapter serves as an encouragement to God's chosen to remain steadfast in faith during the predicted persecution revealed in Chapters 8 through 20.

1 "After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth," (in God's numerical system four represents the cosmos as a whole) "...holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree. 2 Then I saw another angel ascend from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, 3 saying, 'Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God upon their foreheads.' 4 And I heard the number of the sealed a hundred and forty-four thousand sealed, out of every tribe of the *sons of Israel*," (that is, those that are on the earth at the time of the Great Tribulation: twelve thousand out of each tribe: of Judah, Reuben, Gad, Asher, Naph'tali, Manas'seh, Simeon, Levi, Is'sachar, Zeb'u'lun, Joseph, and Benjamin. Although Judaic genealogies always begin with the first-born, Judah was listed first to indicate that he would inherit. Reuben was born first, but God gave his place to Judah, because Jesus Christ would come from the tribe of Judah and He is the one of the eternal inheritance.) 9 "...After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude" (that John did not recognize) "...which no man could number,

from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,” (these are those that will experience the rapture of the Church) 10 “...and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!’ 11 And all the angels stood round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying, ‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.’ 13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, ‘Who are these, clothed in white robes, and whence have they come?’ 14 I said to him, ‘Sir, you know.’ And he said to me, ‘these are they who have come out of *the great tribulation*; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.’”

## The Great Tribulation

*The 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel* is the seven-year period appointed by God to bring the Church age to a close. The first three and one half years, “The Beginning of Sorrows”, will be followed by the Great Tribulation, also known as “the hour of trial” and “the time of Jacob’s trouble”, which will last approximately the first half of the second three and one half years. It will begin with the abomination of desolation. According to Jesus “when you see the desolating sacrilege spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand)”, be advised that the “wrath of man has begun”.

Instigated by Satan, it will be poured out on God’s children, Jews and Christians, by the beast (the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church) and will affect the whole world, trying those who live in those days. That day is so great that there is no other like it, and, according to Daniel, the Great Tribulation will last 1290 days. But Jesus said, “If those days had not been shortened, no human being would be saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened” (Matthew 24:22).

He also said that great cosmic disturbances would immediately follow the Great Tribulation, which will be followed by a trumpet call to initiate the “rapture”. At that time, God’s children, the Church, will be taken out of the world, just before the beginning of the judgment of The Day of the Lord, and they will be safe in the presence of Jesus Christ.

“The Day of the Lord” will include Israel’s 30 days of mourning, which is the time of the bowl judgments. See the chart above “Daniel’s description of the 70<sup>th</sup> Week”.

15 “Therefore, are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night within His temple; and He who sits upon the throne will shelter them with His presence. 16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; the sun shall not strike them, or any scorching heat. 17 For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and He will guide them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

## The Seventh Seal

Chapter 8

1 “When the Lamb opened the seventh seal,” reveals the seven trumpet judgments; “seven” represents finality. The double seven seems to emphasize it. It ushers in “The Day of the Lord” which ends with the bowl judgments of the seventh trumpet. The seven seals and the seven trumpets announce various related events. The first four trumpets begin the judgment of God on the earth. The three remaining trumpets are His judgment against mankind. The first five seals reveal the permissive will of God. It is permitted that the wrath of man against man under the influence of Satan is demonstrated. The sixth seal revealed the wrath of God against the earth. The seven seals and the seven trumpets speak of God’s judgment, first on Rome, then on the world during Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> week, with greater violence than that upon Rome) “...there was silence in heaven for about half an hour” (a short time, even if taken literally, to contemplate the fearful awesome coming events). 2 “Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. 3 And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer; and he was given much incense to mingle with the

prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar before the throne; 4 and the smoke of the incense rose with the prayers of the saints from the hand of the angel before God. 5 Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth; and there were **peals of thunder, voices, flashes of lightning; and an earthquake.**" Reversing the order of lightening and thunder in Chapter 4:5 emphasizes the total majesty of God. The first result was an earthquake that occurred when Siricus, Bishop of Rome (385-398), claimed universal jurisdiction over the Church. Following him, Innocent I (402-417) proclaimed himself, "Ruler of the Church of God."<sup>6</sup>. The earthquake just mentioned sets the stage for what was about to happen concerning the earth at that time. The prophet Isaiah stated clearly that *the earth*, not just man, is defiled. 6 **"Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets made ready to blow them."**

### The First Trumpet

7 "The first angel blew his trumpet, and there followed *hail and fire, mixed with blood*, which fell on the earth; and a third of the earth was burnt up, and a third of the trees were burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up." This is a vivid representation of the Gothic invasion of Italy (409 A.D.) by barbarians from the North who burned cities and massacred the population. This also, as do all the trumpets, refers to Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week.

### The Second Trumpet

8 "The second angel blew his trumpet, and *something like a great mountain*," (when used symbolically the word "mountain" means strength, power, authority, and dominance) "...burning with fire was thrown into the sea; 9 and a third of the sea became blood, a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed." This description fits the defeat of Rome's dominating sea power by vandals who swept across Gaul (France) and Spain. They had built a navy that destroyed the Roman navy during a 30-year time period (422-452). From 432-440 the Western Empire was rapidly dissolving, as illustrated by what took place in Roman Britannia, referred to in chapter 6. During that time period the Roman Catholic Church was changing its nature, making itself over into the image of the Roman Empire.

### The Third Trumpet



10 "The third angel blew his trumpet, and *a great star fell from heaven*," "Lucifer, O Day Star, son of Dawn", who is called Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. Lucifer shows his red-hot anger "...blazing like a torch," (and God gives him greater authority to harm mankind in order that his evil nature may be revealed) "...and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the fountains of water. 11 The name of the star is *Wormwood*." A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died of the water, because it was made bitter." God changed Lucifer's name to "Wormwood" which indicates his true nature: bitter, polluted, and evil. Wormwood's blazing anger was released

through a man known as Attila the Hun. He appeared on the Danube riverbank to fight the Romans in about 440. With a military force of 800,000 he slaughtered their armies at three rivers: The Marne, Rhone, and Po, until they ran red with blood. He was later buried beneath the Danube.

During the time of the conquest of Attila the Hun, Leo I (440-461) proclaimed himself "Lord of the whole Church" and advocated "Exclusive Universal Papacy". He declared that anyone who resisted his policies: (1) would be on a sure path to Hell, and (2) would receive the death penalty for heresy. However, the eastern Bishop retained his rights separate from Rome. Leo I was instrumental in persuading Attila the Hun, and later Genseric the Vandal to spare Rome.

## The Fourth Trumpet

**12** “The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars. So that a third of their light was darkened; a third of the day was kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night.” This trumpet released a horde of barbarians from the Rhine country (today’s Germany) lead by Odeacer (476) who captured the city of Rome. In so doing he put out the light of Roman civilization, and the Dark Ages began. As the Western Empire collapsed, the Roman Catholic Pope Simplicius (468-483) became the most powerful figure in the West. **13** “Then I looked, and I heard a [vulture]”; (it was neither an angel nor an eagle, but a bird that feeds on carrion) “...crying with a loud voice, as it flew in mid-heaven, ‘Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets which the three angels are about to blow!’” These woes sandwiched between the end of chapter eight and the beginning of chapter nine emphasize the magnitude of suffering coming upon defiled mankind. They point to the end of the Roman Empire, the first papal period (538-1798), which fulfilled the 1,260 years identified by Daniel. Finally during Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> Week the revived Papacy will demand obedience to the Pope and those who will not obey will be martyred.

## The Fifth Trumpet

Chapter 9



The fifth trumpet releases the first woe, and refers to events of two time periods; the first began when Mohammed declared himself a prophet and the second will begin during the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel’s prophecy.

**1** “And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star (who is Lucifer) fallen from heaven to earth and he was given the key of the shaft of the bottomless pit;” (a place where God imprisons the angels of Satan pending their final judgment; it is not Hell). **2** “...he (Satan) opened the shaft” (like a mining shaft) “...of the bottomless pit, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace,” (This is Satan’s attempt to copy God’s cloud-cover. This smoke signifies the presence of Satan: evil, and death, which contrasts with the covering

of God: love and life) “...and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke from the shaft. **3** Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth,” (the demons were like locusts, in that they covered the land with destruction. When Mohammed set himself up as judge of men and enforcer of God’s will, the fallen angels began to possess and control his men, causing them to do their bidding, which at that time was to foster the rise and spread of Islam.) “...and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth; **4** they were told” (by Satan when he was authorized by God) “...not to harm the grass of the earth or any green growth or any tree,” (to a desert-dwelling community, as were Mohammed’s people, vegetation was a blessing; therefore it was not to be destroyed) “...but only those of mankind who have not the seal of God upon their foreheads; **5** they were allowed to torture them for five months, but not to kill them, and their torture was the torture of a scorpion, when it stings a man. **6** And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; they long to die and death will fly from them.”

This prophetic scene applies to “the time of the locust” that is the time of the development of Islam (7<sup>th</sup> century A.D.) as well as to the time of Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> week, when the 144,000 Jews will be protected by God’s seal on their foreheads. The fifth trumpet speaks of the near future and at the same time of the distant future, the two superimposed on each other. There are three occasions on which God seals a multitude: the first in Ezekiel 9:4, the second in Revelation 7:3, and the third in 9:4. Once again, God’s numerical signature is applied to His word.

**7** “In appearance the locusts were like horses arrayed for battle; on their heads were what looked like crowns of gold; their faces were like human faces, **8** their hair like women’s hair, and their teeth like lions teeth; **9** they had scales like iron breastplates, and the noise of their wings was like the noise

**of many chariots with horses rushing into battle. 10 They have tails like scorpions, and stings, and their power of hurting men for five months lies in their tails.”**

Arabia, the area located between Egypt to the south, Iran to the North, and Israel to the West, was and still is a land of locusts. Islam was birthed in Mecca (570 AD), when Mohammed, stirred by the horror of Christian and Jewish Idolatry, declared himself a prophet, and became a warrior. By the sword he enforced the destruction of idols (yet encouraged slavery, polygamy, and the degradation of womanhood).

The forces of Mohammed’s military were primarily horsemen, fearless in their determination to conquer. In appearance they wore beards, their hair long like that of women, with yellow turbans that looked like gold, and they wore coats of armor. Their purpose was the destruction of idolatry, that is, the worship of images, relics, and statues.

The warfare was planned for five months, which coincides with the normal active period for locusts: 150 days. This, converted to the year-day interpretation of Ezekiel, equals 150 years. Mohammed’s onslaught began in 630 and was continued by his followers until about 786, when its leader Al-Rashid sought peaceful relationships with other nations. Thus Ezekiel’s formula of 150 years was fulfilled.

During the period of Arab warfare against idolatry, the Papacy was firmly established, and was forcing the church to comply with its rules. This included the worship of statues of the saints (idols), as a necessary part of their worship (Council of Nice 787). In 538, the 1,260 years (three and one half year-day conversion) of papal oppression began (Daniel 7:25). Zacharis (741-752) became the first earthly Papal King, then Stephen II (752-757), by his own design, took possession of a large part of central Italy. This was the beginning of the Papal State, or temporal domain that lasted until 1870.

The Palace of the Roman Caesar’s became the residence and governmental headquarters of the Pope, and is known as the Vatican. The Papacy, representing itself as the Church of God (which it is not), is a political machine that took control of the Church, placing itself between God and the people. The Pope ruled supreme by every devious method possible, including crusades designed to exterminate “Christians”. In 1798 the French leader Napoleon Bonaparte brought the “Holy Roman Empire” to its end by military might.

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Our understanding of Daniel’s visions (Chapters 2 and 7 viewed as one) becomes quite vivid when we read the seal and trumpet judgments. The description in Daniel 7:4-8 of a lion that “had eagle wings”, represents Babylon (605-538 B.C.); then “one like a bear” was the Meads and Persians (538-331 B.C.); “another like a leopard”, was Greece (331-301 B.C.), and “a fourth beast”, was pagan Rome (168 B.C.-A.D. 5<sup>th</sup> century). The “other horn, a little one” (Daniel 7:8, 8:9) can now be identified as Papal Rome (538-1798).

**11 “They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit (Satan); his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon (“destroyer”). 12 The first woe”** a time of deep sorrow “...has passed; behold, two woes are still to come.”

## **The Sixth Trumpet**

**13 “Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet (which began the second woe), and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God, 14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, ‘Release the four angels’”** (evil angels that did not keep their own position before God) ““...who are bound at the great river Euphrates.”” This river marked the boundary of the land given to the descendants of Abraham. Thus, God is ushering in His judgment against its people that occupy that land. **15 “So the four angels were released, who had been held ready for the hour, the day, the month, and the year,”** a specific appointed time “...to kill a third of mankind. 16 The number of the troops of cavalry was twice ten thousand times ten thousand; I heard their number.” A Turkish army of 200 million crossed the Euphrates River in 1057, and replaced the Arab rule of what had been the

Mohammedan lands. Their barbaric treatment of Christians led Europeans to organize seven crusades (1095-1272) in an attempt to regain the Holy Land.

The Turks were halted in their advance by the huge Mongol armies of Genghis Khan (1206-1227) that came from central Asia, burned 50,000 cities, and murdered five million Asian people, plus 630,000 Christians in Asia Minor. Tamerlane (1336-1402) followed in Genghis Khan's footsteps, burning, murdering, and building great piles of human heads at the gates of conquered cities as Genghis Khan had done. **17 "And this was how I saw the horses in my vision: the riders wore breastplates the color of fire and of sapphire and of sulphur, and the heads of the horses were like lions' heads, and fire and smoke and sulphur issued from their mouths. 18 By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed, by the fire and smoke and sulphur issuing from their mouths."**

The Turks were the first to use gunpowder, the use of which would appear to their enemies as fire coming from their horses' mouths. During 1453 the Turks captured Constantinople. This was the final stage in the collapse of the eastern Rome Empire, at the hand of the Turks, which began in 1057. This complies with the 396 years of Daniel's prophesy to the hour, day, month, and year. **19 "For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; their tails are like serpents, with heads, and by means of them they wound. 20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot either see or hear or walk; 21 nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their immorality or their thefts."** This indicates the blindness and hardness of heart that exist within humanity toward God.

## A Little Scroll

Chapter 10



**1 "Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire. 2 He had a little scroll open in his hand."** The little open scroll represents the available sweetness of God's Word for the people. **"And he set his right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land, 3 and called out with a loud voice, like a lion roaring; when he called out, the seven thunders sounded. 4 And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, 'Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down.'** 5 And the angel whom I saw standing on sea and land lifted up his right hand to heaven 6 and swore by Him who lives for ever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, that there should be no more *delay*, 7 but that in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the **mystery of God**, as He announced to His servants the **prophets**, should be fulfilled." This indicates that the end of the age is near, and that all of the remaining prophetic mysteries will soon be accomplished. For more about this, see our book, "12 secrets of Life": Visions.

**8 "Then the voice"** (that of the Lord Jesus Christ) "...which I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, 'Go, take the scroll which is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.' 9 So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll; and he said to me, 'Take it and eat; it will be **bitter** to your stomach,'" (which refers to the period of time when Innocent III (1198-1216) prohibited the reading of the Bible in the vernacular; this policy will be reinstated with the revived Papacy: a time of "bitterness", which includes death and hardship) "...but **sweet as honey in your mouth.**" The sweet precedes the bitter, and represents the period that began with the Reformation. It has lasted until the present, and will last until some time during the 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel. The time of bitterness to the stomach is very near. **10 "And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it; it was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter. 11 And I was told, 'You must again prophesy before many peoples and nations and tongues and kings.'**" This implies that John's Revelation (as a part of the Bible) would be available to many nations.

This did in fact happen after the Dark Ages, beginning with Martin Luther, and extending into the present.



## A Measuring Rod

Chapter 11

**1 “Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told: ‘Rise and measure the temple of God”** (This measuring also confirms the Lord’s directive to Ezekiel (43:10): “And you, son of man, describe to the house of Israel the temple and its appearance and plan, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities”. Thirdly, it points to the future rebuilding of the temple (completely destroyed by Rome in A.D. 70) so that “...the man of lawlessness maybe revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself

against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God” (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).) **“...and the altar”** (erected by Moses for animal sacrifices (Numbers 7), its purpose was changed by Jesus to a sacrifice of praise: “through Him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His name (Hebrews 13:15).) **“...and those who worship there,”** (“...the kings of the earth...will bring into [the temple] the glory and the honor of the nations...those [whose names] are written in the Lamb’s book of life” (Revelation 21:24, 26-27).

John was instructed to measure something that cannot be measured with a rod. He was apparently to focus his attention on the magnitude of the temple that “is the *Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb*”, as well as on the Altar which had become *a vast city*, and “those who”, represents the Kings of *the new earth*. This seems to be for the purpose of emphasizing the result of God’s work that cannot be measured except with awesome respect.) **2 “...but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample over the holy city for forty-two months.”** The worldwide apostate Church will be active in such a way as to trample under foot the things of God.

## God’s Two Witnesses

**3 “And I will grant my two witnesses”** (Enoch and Elijah, who will be witnesses for God before those who dwell on the earth. These two witnesses are a personification of “the *water and the blood*”. Water is defined in part by Scripture as the “*Word*” as is blood, which represents *Jesus Christ*. “The blood of Jesus His Son cleanses [all who believe in Him] *from sin*”. The blood points to the martyrdom of members of the Church and of the chosen of Israel.) **“...power to prophesy for one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth,”** a coarse material used as a garment during a state of intense repentance and pleading with God. For more information about being empowered by the Holy Spirit see our book, “12 Secrets of Life”.

In the book of Jonah *God reveals* His purpose and will for Israel through the Ninevites’ acceptance of Him. Nineveh, sin-laden, heard the preaching of one man, Jonah, with the result that every person repented in sackcloth and ashes. Israel, also sin-laden, heard the preaching of one man, Jesus. The apostles and other early Christians initiated Israel’s return to God. Thus the straying sheep (Israel) began the homeward trek. The members of the twelve tribes who are scattered over the face of the earth will return to Israel by a mass migration. Once restored to the land, those who survive the Day of the Lord will hear the truth of the risen Lord, and will receive Jesus as their Messiah. They will repent, and mourn for 30 days as a ceremonial cleansing of the temple.

**4 “These are the two olive trees”** (Each olive tree represents in part a man: one, Enoch, the chosen “Gentiles”, the other, *Elijah*, God’s chosen people, “*Israel*”. These two men did not die. They were taken

to stand before God for a time, before completing their unique task. Elijah appeared on the mount of transfiguration, and according to the prophets Malachi and Joel he will come before the day of the Lord, not at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. "...and the two lamp-stands" (which represent Israel and the Church. On completing their work, which is testimony in Jerusalem, these two men will be killed. The three pairs witnesses, olive trees, and lamp-stands numerically total 6. The number 6 represents contamination or sin. God thus declares the incomplete state of man numerically.) "...which stand before the Lord of the earth." That they are two anointed ones assures fallen man of the hope of redemption by the grace of God. 5 "And if any one would harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes; if any would harm them, thus he is doomed to be killed." During his natural life Elijah was given the authority to have fire destroy those who would harm him. He also demonstrated his authority before the prophets of Baal. More over Elijah did not die, but was transported to heaven in a whirlwind escorted by a chariot of fire drawn by horses of fire. 6 "They have power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to smite the earth with every plague, as often as they desire." This definitely refers to two individuals who will preach in Jerusalem during the 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel.

7 "And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that ascends from the bottomless pit will make war upon them" (a forecast of persecution against Jews and Christians by the Papacy during Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week) "...and conquer them and kill them, 8 and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which is allegorically called Sodom" (the flesh, civilization), "...and Egypt" (slavery). These two existing conditions identify Jerusalem and the world, "...where their Lord was crucified." This description of Sodom and Egypt as applied to the world shows that civilization is in bondage to the flesh, which *results in spiritual death.* 9 "For three days and a half" (God is allowing this additional time for their repentance. If they refuse, it establishes their absolute rejection of the testimony) "...men from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb, 10 and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell of the earth. 11 But after the three and a half days a *breath of life* from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. 12 Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them 'Come up hither!' And in the sight of their foes they went up to heaven in a cloud. 13 And at that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the [remnant was afraid]" (The word "remnant" in the Bible normally refers to a remaining few of God's chosen people, Israel. Note that the earthquake takes place in the city of Jerusalem. Therefore, the "remnant" refers to Jews) "...and (they) gave glory to the God of heaven. 14 The second woe has passed; behold, the third woe is soon to come."

## The Seventh Trumpet

15 "Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet," (to begin the third woe) "...and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign for ever and ever.' 16 And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying, 'We give thanks to thee, Lord God Almighty, who art and who wast, that Thou hast taken Thy great power and begun to reign.'" Note the change of tense 1:8 and 4:8 refer to "who is to come". 18 "The nations raged, but thy wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, for rewarding thy servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear thy name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth" (Satan's children). 19 "Then God's temple in heaven was opened," (this is the beginning of the heart of the book) "...and the ark of His covenant was seen within His temple; and there were flashes of lightning, voices, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail" which is a return to the order of arrangement in Chapter 4:5).



1 “And a great portent, a sign, appeared in heaven, a woman” (here, “woman” refers to Israel) “...clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars;” (which indicates governmental perfection) 2 “...she was with child, Jesus Christ, and she cried out in her pangs of birth, in anguish for delivery. 3 And another portent appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon,” (Satan, whose nature is to kill) “...with seven heads” (fully, that is, completely evil) “...and ten horns,” (which represent authority and strength) “...and seven diadems upon his heads.” This indicates that he is the Prince of the world. 4 “His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven,” (angels that had agreed with him: Satan) “...and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, that he might devour her child, Jesus, when she brought it forth; 5 she brought forth a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron (Herod the Great a puppet of the Roman government ordered all of the male children under the age of two to be killed in an attempt to destroy the Son of god (Matthew 2:16)) “...but her child was caught up to God and to His throne.” Caught up to God refers to Jesus’ ascension into heaven after His death and resurrection. Apparently Satan and the other fallen angels followed Jesus when He was caught up to God in an effort to block His redemptive work, but were defeated by Michael and his angels (verse 7), and they were thrown out of heaven (verse 8).

### The Reformation and its Forerunners

As the forerunners of the Reformation were beginning to have adverse effects on the control that the Papacy had over the people. At that time they were intensely persecuted during a crusade ordered by Pope Innocent III (1198-1216). The Albigenes, for example, were attacked, and within 100 years, beginning in 1208, the crusade was completed with the destruction of millions of them, unto the death of the last man, woman, and child.

The Papacy began to decline in about 1300. About that time, outspoken men such as John Wycliff, England (1324-1384), John Huss, Bohemia (1369-1415), and Savonarola, Italy (1452-1498) fueled the fires of the widespread discontent at the corruption of the Roman Catholic Church and its clergy. They opened the way for the Reformation which owed its beginning to the direct contact of the mind with the Scriptures. Martin Luther (1483-1546), a German Roman Catholic priest initiated the reformation, when on October 31, 1517 he nailed to his church door in Wittenberg his 95 propositions, supported by scripture, which refuted Papal mandates for worship. His courageous act changed the course of history. His action was supported by many other men, notably Ulric Zwingle (1484-1531), and John Calvin (1509-1564), both in Switzerland, and John Knox in Scotland (1515-1572). During the next fifty years the Reformation swept Europe.

The Roman Church retaliated with a counter-reformation against “Protestantism”. It was spear-headed by the brilliant and brutal leadership of the Jesuits, and lasted about one hundred years dying off in 1689. This was paralleled by religious wars, such as the notable “Thirty-year War” in Bohemia and Hungary (1618-48).

Christian “persecution is the spirit of the Devil, even though carried out in the name of Christ.”<sup>7</sup>. The Protestants killed some during this period, but not over a few thousand, whereas the Papal persecutions killed Christians and others in the multi-millions before they ended in about 1700.



## Escape into the Wilderness

**6 “And the woman”** (here the woman represents the Church) “...fled into the wilderness,” (which refers to the founding of America. Beginning in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, hundreds of thousands who fled Europe went into the “wilderness” because they were being persecuted for their faith in Jesus Christ. One notable mention is that John Winthrop, who with a host, fled England (1630) declaring “Revelation 12:6”) “...where she has a place prepared by God, in which to be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.” This suggests that those who went to America would find shelter and the spiritual freedom that they were seeking. This formed a solid foundation for a nation established under God’s authority and direction. The time period for “nourished” was during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. For more about the family see out book “12 Secrets of Life”.

## War Arose in Heaven

**7 “Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they were defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. 10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, ‘Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. 11 And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony”** (these are the means of conquering Satan then and now) “...for they loved not their lives even unto death. 12 Rejoice then, O heaven and you that dwell therein! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!” *This refers to* “one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as a day”. Considering this, we are at the close of the second “day” after our Lord’s resurrection. This may be further established on the reckoning that it is also the close of the sixth “day” since creation. At the beginning of the seventh “day” Satan will be bound for a thousand years, and during the same period of time Christ will reign on the earth. At the close of that thousand years Satan will be thrown into eternal punishment, the earth and its heaven will be destroyed, and will be replaced by a new earth at the close of that “day”. Therefore, not only is Satan’s time short, but also believers’ time to do the work our Lord has for each one.

## The Dragon Thrown Down

**13 “And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had borne the male child. 14 But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle**



**that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.”** The eagle represents the United States of America. It is the symbol of strength, and projects its destiny. It appears in the “Great Shield”, and on the “Seal of the United States” which is pictured on the reverse of the one-dollar bill.



The Great Pyramid is also pictured there. The symbol consists of a pyramid with the “omniscient” eye of Baal over it, and under it the words, “New World Order” in Latin. The symbol was designed in 1782 by Free Masons, and put on the reverse of the official shield of the United States. It was only during the presidential term of Franklin D. Roosevelt that the pyramid was added to the dollar bill.

The New World Order was in its infancy when this pyramid was designed. Its incompleteness is revealed in that the upper part is separated from the base. Once this system is in place the top of the pyramid will be joined to the base, which will symbolize the completion of the plan initiated by Satan hundreds of years ago. The various “New World Order” groups will then take there places, with the Antichrist at the top.<sup>8</sup> **15 “The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman to sweep her away with the flood. 16 But the earth”** (the “wilderness”, which is America) **“...came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river which the dragon had poured from his mouth.”** The woman here represents the children of God who fled into the wilderness. The river represents the persecutors, the English, “flowing like a river” into their colonies in America (1776-1783). They were trying to retain their religious and political control. They pursued those who fled into the wilderness, but the colonists defeated them. **17 “Then the dragon was angry with the woman, and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring,”** (Jews and Christians in other parts of the world) **“...on those who keep the commandments of God and bear testimony to Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.”** For more about Spiritual Children, see our book “12 Secrets of Life”.

### A Beast Rising Out of the Sea

Chapter 13

Please note that the arrangement of the “heads” and “horns” is not uniform in the various translations of the Bible. Some translations put the heads before the horns in 13:1, as it is in 12:3, which is logical to our way of thinking, but does not fit in with the way the scriptures relate to historical facts; neither does it match the RSV, which this author is principally using as a source of Scripture quotations. The second reference (13:1) should be “horns and heads”. Horns followed by horns suggest uninterrupted authority whereas horns followed by heads would represent a break in authority, as will occur between 13:1 and 17:3).



**1 “And I saw a beast”** (Satan incarnate, the Pope, the pretender Christ) **“...rising out of the sea, with ten”** (human completeness, the signature of worldly power) **“...horns (authority) and seven heads (perfection), with ten diadems (royal crowns) upon its horns and a blasphemous name”** (one that profanes God’s name) **“...upon its heads. 2 And the beast”** (the same beast as in Chapter 11, still more fully described in Chapter 17. The beast is Satan, who failed to destroy the Church by persecution, and now seeks to do it through the Pope, the beast incarnate, who makes himself to appear as the Son God.) **“...that I saw was like a leopard, its feet were like a bear’s and its mouth was like a lion’s mouth.”**

These three, *Leopard, bear, and lion* are here in reverse order of what the prophet Daniel described

(Daniel 7:4-6). Here they represent three periods of Christian persecution: the leopard: the Papacy's dominion of the past; the bear: the Papacy that will be revived; and the lion, the "King of the jungle": the European Common Market that is currently being established. Thus it follows that the European Common Market will soon become the "King of the World," (a jungle) which will yield its power to the Pope, that is, the Antichrist who will then have dominion over the world. This foreshadows the destruction of the United States of America. **"And to it (the beast) the dragon (Satan) gave his power"** (Satan's power will enter the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church to accomplish his will, just as he did with Judas Iscariot.) **"...and his throne"** (Satan now copies God by having his servant, the Pope, a false savior, sit down on his throne, pretending to be God's intermediary for sinful man, just as God set His Son on His throne.) **"...and great authority."** The authority that God has allowed Satan includes the present-day forming of the European Common Market. "Great authority" also suggests that these three, the leopard, the bear, and the lion, will represent the leadership characteristics of a one-world power. The Pope will be seated on Satan's throne, exercising supreme power over the world, as did the Roman Emperors with their legions of military strength. The European Common Market countries will soon become the "legions", and they will exert great authority over the world. This will be Satan's supreme moment: he will establish his throne as he directs the world's pretender son of God, the Pope. The false prophet (Catholic American President) will promote the Pope as the savior of the world. In light of this, the Pope will be working in coalition with the government of the United States during the first half of Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week. Thus, Satan will falsify the prophesied return of Jesus Christ, who is the true Savior.

## A Mortal Wound

**3 "One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound,"** refers to the defeat of the Papacy by the French military leader Napoleon Bonaparte in 1798, after which it had no military power **"...but its mortal wound was healed,"** (the future revival of the Papacy to world power. Its healing source: America. America's political power will be its *reviving strength*. Satan, glorifying himself, will work through the lamb beast (the next *American Catholic president*), and the leopard beast (*Roman Catholic Pope*). This will probably happen during the early 21<sup>st</sup> century) **"...and the whole earth"** (the Roman Catholic Church which is in practically every part of the world) **"...followed the beast with wonder. 4 Men worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast,"** (when men worship according to the dictates of the Pope they will be worshiping Satan, as Christians worship God through Jesus Christ) **"...and they worshiped the beast, saying, 'Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?'**

**5 And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words,"** (The words of the mouth of Pope Benedict XVI on April 16, 2006 illustrate the position of the Roman Catholic Church on the resurrection of Jesus Christ, quoted from BBC World news, (Easter Sunday): "the resurrection of Christ ushered in what he called 'a new dimension of life...it was a qualitative leap in evolution.'") **"...and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months; 6 it opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming His name and His dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. 7 Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them and authority was given it over every tribe and people and tongue and nation,"** (Historians estimate that the Papacy murdered more than 50 million during the Middle Ages and early Reformation Period. One method the Papacy instituted beginning in 1229 was the "Inquisition". A Roman Catholic governing body directed the search for heretics: people who did not believe what the Papacy taught the church. Taking this into consideration, imagine how many more Christians may be martyred during the predicted *global inquisition*.) **8 "...and all who dwell on earth will worship it, every one whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb that was slain."** God is reminding and encouraging His chosen people to withstand the coming brutal persecutions for His name's sake. **9 "If any one has an ear, let him hear: 10 If any one is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if any one slays with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the**

**saints.**" This is a second word of encouragement to those who will be persecuted. It emphasizes the merciless onslaught that will come against Christians.

## The False Prophet

**11 "Then I saw another beast"** (the False Prophet) "...which **rose out of the earth;**" (America, where multiple forms of "religion" now flourish) "...it **had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon.**" The American catholic president will promote the Pope as the savior of the world and he will require everyone to worship him or suffer death.

Note: there are six actions of the beast (here underlined) in verses 12-16, which show very clearly his ingenious, though evil, nature.

**12 "It exercises all the authority of the first beast** (the Pope) **in its presence, and makes** (forces or compels) **the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed.** **13 It works great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in the sight of men;** **14 And by the signs which it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast,**" (God, in complete control, in order to accomplish His purpose, will allow the false prophet to work in order to reveal Satan's true nature.) "...it **deceives** those who dwell on earth," (all except Christ's chosen ones) "...bidding them make an image for the beast which was wounded by the sword and yet lived; **15 and it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast so that the image of the beast should even speak, and to cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain."**

Satan's purpose is constant: to separate everyone from God, and to kill those who will not worship him. The first image was erected in *Daniel's time*. The image referred to here is Satan's second attempt to have God's people worship him through an idol. He failed the first time, and will fail again. Those who carry out Satan's design, the beast and the false prophet, along with Satan himself, will be thrown alive into the "*Lake of fire*". This will be God's retribution for the "punishment" of his three servants, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who were thrown alive into a *fiery furnace*. The lake of fire is a far worse destiny than the fiery furnace, from which there will be no hope of deliverance. **16 "Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, 17 so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name."** This singles out Jews and Christians for persecution.

**18 "This calls for wisdom: let him who has understanding reckon the number of the beast, for it is a human number, its number is six hundred and sixty-six."** The number 666 translated from the Latin language means "Latin Kingdom." Latin is Papal Rome's official language. This "marking" of Satan's is his way to duplicate what God will do with the 144,000 Jews in order to appear as god. The number 666 in Hebrew, and in Latin, translates to Nero-Caesar, and represents misused political power.

## Mount Zion

Chapter 14

**1 "Then I looked, and lo, on Mount Zion"** (God's place of deliverance and safety) "...stood the Lamb, (Jesus Christ) and with Him **a hundred and forty-four thousand** who had His name and His Father's name written on their foreheads. **2 And I heard a voice from heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder; the voice I heard was like the sound of harpers playing on their harps,** **3 and they sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders.** No one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who had been redeemed from the earth. **4 It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are chaste; it is these who follow the Lamb wherever He goes; these have been redeemed from mankind as first fruits for God and the Lamb,** **5 and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are spotless."**

## The Three Angels

6 “Then I saw another angel flying in mid-heaven, with an eternal gospel to proclaim” “...to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and tongue and people (by those who believe in Christ Jesus, in such a way that “*the earth will be filled* with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea”) For more about this see our book “12 Secrets of Life: Visions; 7 and he said with a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give Him glory, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the fountains of water.’” This refers not to physical water, but to spiritual – the water of life from wells (ministries) that men formerly drew from. The works of men such as Finney, Edwards, and Hudson Taylor were such wells. Many former and present day open wells will become artesian wells that will flood the earth. Men will not go to the artesian wells for the water of life; *it will come to them*. One may ask, how this will happen? Answer: it will be accomplished by the *Holy Spirit*, as directed by the *zealous Word* of the Lord. 8 “Another angel, a second, followed, saying, ‘Fallen, fallen is **Babylon the great**,’” (the end result of what is to follow concerning Babylon, alerting the reader or hearer to the fact that the horror of it all will not be indefinite, it will end – it has “fallen”. It represents the throne of world government, which reveals the spirit of worldliness that drives the nations. Its fate is pronounced: “fallen”.) “...she who made all nations drink the wine of her impure passion.’ 9 And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, ‘If anyone worships the beast and *its image*, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he also shall drink the wine of God’s wrath poured unmixed into the cup of His anger, and he shall be tormented



with fire and sulphur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.’” Likewise the human penalty for disobedience to the Pope’s mandate is death, and the divine penalty for accepting its mark, everlasting torment. 11 “And the smoke of their torment goes up for ever and ever; and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name.’ 12 Here is a call for the *endurance* of the saints,” (during a time of suffering) “...those who keep the commandments of God and the faith [in] Jesus.” 13 “And I heard a voice from heaven saying, ‘write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord henceforth.’ ‘Blessed indeed,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!’”

## The “Rapture”

14 “Then I looked, and lo, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud *one like a son of man*, (Jesus Christ) with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in His hand. 15 And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to Him who sat upon the cloud, ‘Put in your sickle, and reap,’ the final harvest, as of a crop of wheat, of all God’s chosen people ‘...for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe.’ 16 So He who sat upon the cloud swung His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.” This harvest refers to the “rapture of the Church”. Although the word “rapture” is not mentioned in the Bible, the expression “*caught up in the clouds together*” supports the concept. For more information about this see our book, “12 Secrets of Life”: Visions.

17 “And another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. 18 Then another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has power over fire, and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, ‘Put in your sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for its *grapes are ripe*.’” The fruit of Satan’s vine (the unbelievers) is sin-ripe for harvest. 19 “So the angel swung his sickle on the earth and gathered the vintage of the earth, and threw it into the great wine press of the wrath of God;” a symbol of the intensity of His wrath, 20 “...and the wine press was trodden *outside the city*,” (the dwelling place of sin, where God does not dwell; also refers to

Armageddon) "...and blood flowed from the wine press, as high as a horse's bridle," (this is meant to be a literal measurement) "...for one thousand six hundred stadia", that is approximately 333 kilometers or 200 miles. The blood of the "kings of the whole world" is the retribution of God against "Babylon the great, mother of harlots and of earth's abominations...drunk with the blood of the saints and the blood of the martyrs of Jesus" (Revelation 17:5-6).

## The Seven Last Plagues

Chapter 15

1 "Then I saw another portent in heaven, great and wonderful, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the *wrath*" (rage, fury which is the product of a gradual rising resentment) "...of God is ended. 2 And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with *fire*," (persecution, the purifying act of God as by fire; the purification complete, only the lingering remembrance remains) "...and those who had conquered the beast" (those who have come through the purifying trial) "...and its image and the number of its name, *standing beside the sea of glass*" (those who have come through the fiery trial without a trace of the world clinging to them) "...with harps of God in their hands. 3 And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, Saying, 'Great and wonderful are Thy deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are thy ways, O King of the ages! 4 Who shall not fear and glorify Thy name, O Lord? For Thou alone art holy. All nations shall come and worship thee, for Thy judgments have been revealed.' 5 After this I looked, and the temple of the tent of witness" (*the temple has three identities*: the tent of the testimony in the wilderness was the first "temple" on earth, then the Jerusalem temple, and third the "tent of witness in heaven" which is the model used for the two earthly temples) "...in heaven was opened, 6 and out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues, robed in pure bright linen, and their breasts girded with golden girdles. 7 And one of the four living creatures gave the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives for ever and ever (these are the same living creatures (Revelation 4:7) that stand next to His throne. It appears that one of their duties is to deliver God's commands to angels who are to carry them out. God's seven bowls of wrath, coupled with the last seven plagues, will bring about not only the completion of His punishment, but also that of His "wrath"); 8 and the temple was filled with *smoke*" (a covering, here signifying the presence of God) "...from the glory of God and from His power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were ended."

## The Bowl Judgments

Chapter 16



1 "Then I heard a loud voice (the Lord's) from the temple telling the seven angels, 'Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God.' 2 So the first angel went and poured his bowl out on the earth, and foul and evil sores came upon the men who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. 3 The second angel poured his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a dead man, and every living thing died that was in the sea. 4 The third angel poured his bowl into the *rivers*" (the river valleys where the blood of martyrs was shed by "Babylon the great", including future persecutions) "...and the fountains of water, and they became blood. 5 And I heard the angel of water say, 'Just art Thou in these Thy judgments, Thou who art and wast, O Holy One.' The "who is to come" (1:4) is here replaced with "O Holy One", a confirmation that He will come. 6 "For men have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and Thou hast given them blood to drink. It is their due!" 7 And I heard the altar cry," (most likely from the souls under it) "...'Yea, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are Thy judgments!' 8 The fourth angel poured his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch men with fire; 9 men were scorched by the fierce heat and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues, and they did not repent and give Him glory. 10 The fifth angel poured his bowl on the

throne of the beast," (the Papal throne) "...and its kingdom was in darkness; men gnawed their tongues in anguish 11 and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores, and did not repent of their deeds. 12 The sixth angel poured his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the *kings from the east*." This no doubt refers to a massive military movement from the East, comprised mainly of troops from Russia and China, along with those of the countries in between and surrounding the pathways to Israel.

### Three Foul Spirits

13 "And I saw, issuing from the mouth of the dragon (Satan, the Devil) and from the mouth of the beast" (the Pope; his name will be known at that time) "...and from the mouth of the *false prophet*," (the "lamb-beast", he will be America's next Roman Catholic President who will support the Apostate Church; these three, the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet will be working in alliance) "...three foul spirits like frogs; 14 for they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the *kings of the whole world*, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. 15 ('Lo, I am coming like a thief!' This is the Lord's encouragement, and warning to Jews to remain faithful to God during seemingly insurmountable trials. 'Blessed is he who is awake, keeping his garments that he may not go naked and be seen exposed!') 16 And they assembled them at a place which is called in Hebrew *Armageddon*"; the valley of the Euphrates River, where mankind had its origin; where earthly government began its rebellion against God with the building of the Tower of Babel. Under the sixth trumpet (chapter9) a demon-controlled Turkish army launched its attack from the Euphrates River delivering heavy persecution to the Church. Here at Armageddon where human history began it will end.

17 "The seventh angel poured his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, 'It is done!'" The Lord Jesus had three primary works to accomplish: first, that of the cross, "It is finished" (John 19:30a); second, in the future, the execution of the "Day of the Lord"; "It is done!" and third, "Behold, I make all things new...It is done!" (Revelation 21:5-6) 18 "And there were flashes of lightning, voices, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as has never been since men were on the earth so great was that earthquake. 19 The great city" (Rome, whose fall will be in three stages, the same as the Roman Empire, as is described in Chapters 8 and 9. The first part that fell was the Caesar's Rome, then the Papacy's Rome; finally it will be followed by the fall of the *revived Papacy Roman Empire*) "...was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered great Babylon, to make her drain the cup of the fury of His wrath. 20 And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found;" (this should be considered a literal interpretation of the results of the earthquake) 21 "...and great hailstones, heavy as a hundred-weight, dropped on men from heaven, till men cursed God for the plague of the hail, so fearful was that plague.

### Judgment of the Great Harlot

Chapter 17

Beginning with this chapter and continuing thru 21:8, God and His people become aggressive in order to establish **victory** over Satan.



1 "Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, 'Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who is seated upon many waters,' (people, nations, tribes, and tongues) 2 "...with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and with the wine of whose fornication the dwellers on earth have become drunk.' 3 And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a *scarlet beast*" (the red dragon, "who is called the Devil and Satan") "...which was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. 4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and bedecked with gold and jewels and pearls,

**holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her fornications; 5 and on her forehead was written a name of mystery: ‘Babylon the great, mother of harlots and of earth’s abominations.’ 6 And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.**

Now for a composite view of Revelation 12:3, 13:1, and 17:3: the “great red dragon with 7 heads, 10 horns, and 7 crowns on his heads” (12:3) is identified as the “Devil and Satan” (12:9). Then “a beast...with 10 horns and 7 heads, with 10 crowns upon its horns and a blasphemous name upon its heads” (13:1) reveals Satan incarnate. The “scarlet beast which is full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns” (17:3) mirrors 12:3, and indicates the strong and unbroken activity of Satan during these two time periods. The Lord thus exposes the evil “seven-headed” activity of Satan.

### **Why marvel?**

**“When I saw her I marveled greatly. 7 But the angel said to me, ‘Why marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her. 8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is to ascend from the bottomless pit and go to perdition; and the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will marvel to behold the beast, because it was and is not and is to come. 9 This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains’** (Rome; because it is built on seven mountains) **‘...on which the woman is seated; 10 they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen,’** (Egypt, 1600-1200 B.C., Assyria, 900-600 B.C., Babylon, 606-536 B.C., Persia, 536-330 B.C., and Greece, 330-146 B.C.) **‘...one is, the other has not yet come,’** (The “is” is Rome, 200 B.C.- A.D. 400, and the “not yet come,” Papal Rome 600-1800) **‘...and when he (the beast) comes he must remain only a little while’** (1,000 years is as a day, so 1200 years is still “a little while”). **11 ‘As for the beast that was and is not,’** (the Papal Roman Empire, 600-1800, which no longer exists, but will be revived) **‘...it is an eighth’** (Papal Rome during the near future will be re-established as a world power) **‘...but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to perdition’**”, because it is a false religion in which Roman Catholics are required to adore images.

### **Where is the Great Harlot?**

Then, where is the Great Harlot during the “is not” period of Papal world authority? She has gone into a “*wilderness*” which has been identified as America. She is portrayed as magnificent, clothed in purple (authority) and scarlet (wealth). **12 ‘And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour,’** (a short time period, approximately 15 days by Ezekiel’s year-day formula) **‘...together with the beast. 13 These are of one mind and give over their power and authority to the beast’**; ten European Common Market countries will be ruled by kings who will have royal power, which they will give to the Pope (the revived Papacy) **14 ‘...they will make war on the Lamb, (Jesus Christ) and the Lamb will conquer them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with Him are called and chosen and faithful.’** These are those whose names were written in God’s “Book of Life” before the foundation of the earth was laid. **15 ‘And he said to me, ‘The waters that you saw, where the harlot is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. 16 And the ten horns that you saw,’** (are ten kings that rule ten countries, which will evolve from the European Common Market) **‘...they and the beast will hate the harlot;’** (who is a dominating force over the USA, where her image is visible) **‘...they will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire, 17 for God has put it into their hearts to carry out His purpose’**. Thus God orders the destruction of “the great city”, which is the USA, because it has taken on the characteristics of the great city, Babylon.

## America

The United States of America, a modern nation with sin-filled cities, is becoming to be like *Sodom and Gomorrah*. As these cities were designated for destruction by fire and brimstone because of their sin, so America is designated for destruction by fire. God is hereby warning her people: those who belong to God will have to endure the wrath poured out by Satan through the Papacy. Then sudden destruction will come upon the nation by fire, possibly the result of a series of nuclear warheads targeting principal cities. Regardless of the means, the USA will be “no more”. But how might this happen?

The United States of America is a dominant political world power that sustains, and will continue to sustain the great harlot until it is destroyed. The ten kings of the European Common Market will hate the USA out of jealousy (Revelation 17:16a). This jealous competitor, will striving for world political dominance. Its ambition will be fueled by the Papacy, and this competitor will plot the overthrow of America. As a ploy, the Pope will shun her for her resistance and opposition to his worship mandates. He will direct the European Common Market to begin World War III, targeting America. The confirmation lies in the fact that Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by fire, and that God always confirms His Word by two witnesses. ‘**...by being of one mind and giving over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. 18 And the woman that you saw is the great city (Rome) which has dominion over the kings of the earth.**’ Thus the angel confirms what John saw.

### Time Out

The following is a composite view of the “7 heads and 10 horns” as presented in 12:3, 13:1, and 17:3.

7 heads: indicate completeness;

10 horns: demonstrate world power by military strength,

7 diadems: represent absolute authority.

The picture as presented in 12:3 quickly covers the period from the birth of Jesus Christ to the founding of America. Its seven-headed source of evil is identified by name, Satan. He is the controlling agent of the horns through the ages.

World power at the time of Revelation 12:3 was held by Caesar’s Rome (7 heads), which dominated the world until A.D. 476 when the Papacy came to power (10 horns). Beginning in 538, the Papacy flourished until Napoleon destroyed its authority (7 diadems) in 1798, which fulfilled Daniel’s prophecy of 1,260 years of persecution (Daniel 7:25). The ten horns of Revelation 12:3 are followed by the 10 horns of 13:1, which indicates the uninterrupted authority of Satan working through the Papacy. The heads of 17:3 follow the horns of 13:1, which reveals that Satan’s authority through the Papacy will be diminished for a time.

Then the picture again changes to seven heads and ten horns. This means that there must be a time-span between the two seven-head periods, before the ten horns (European Common Market) will rise to world power. This period of time is almost over. During this interim period, however, there have been those who have attempted to gain world power that ended in failure: Napoleon of France, the Kaiser of Germany, Hitler of Germany, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic.

Presently America fills the gap as defender of democratic ideals throughout the world, while the next world power, the European Common Market, is preparing itself. Yet, *America*, the seat of the great harlot, will produce the “false prophet”, who will be the next Roman Catholic elected as America’s president. America will be destroyed at the hand of the European Common Market, and the great

harlot, who has nourished America's richness, will flee to Europe. The destruction of America may be spearheaded by Germany, since she was defeated by America in two world wars. Whatever the case, the third world war will be the final one.

## Fallen, fallen

Chapter 18

**1** “After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority; and the earth was made bright with his splendor. **2** And he called out with a mighty voice, ‘*Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!*’ This is a confirming pronouncement of doom. ‘**It has become a dwelling place of demons,**’ (America, as viewed from God’s prospective) ‘...a haunt of every foul spirit, a haunt of every foul and hateful bird; **3** for all nations have drunk the wine of her impure passion, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich with the wealth of her wantonness.’”

### “Come Out of Her, My People”

**4** “Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, ‘Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues;’ (again the Lord is warning His children not to succumb to Satan’s evils. A practical example would be not to become involved or associated with a “church” or group of people that has any characteristics similar to those of the five warned churches) For more information about this see our book, “12 Secrets of Life”: The watchman of God. **5** ‘...for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. **6** Render to her as she herself has rendered, and repay her double for her deeds; mix a double draught for her in the cup she mixed. **7** As she glorified herself and played the wanton, so give her a like measure of torment and mourning. Since in her heart she says, ‘A queen I sit, I am no widow, mourning I shall never see,’ **8** so shall her plagues come in a single day, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she shall be burned with fire; for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.’ **9** And the kings of the earth who committed fornication and were wanton with her, will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning;” (many will lament America’s destruction when they realize the magnitude of their economic loss) **10** “...they will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say, ‘Alas! Alas! Thou great city, thou mighty city, *Babylon!*’ “The glory of kingdoms” continues in spirit from one major world power to the next until America, co-existing with the European Common Market countries, is “no more”. Its destruction will be like that of Sodom and Gomorrah, which were destroyed by fire.) **In one hour** (suddenly and swiftly) **has thy judgment come** (by fire).”

The demise of “Babylon the Great” was foretold three times:

➤ *First*, as a “great city”, which can be identified as America: submitted to the false prophet, it will unite itself with the Papacy in spirit and conduct, and the destruction of the USA will be followed by the destruction of the Papacy of Rome. That of America is prophesied by the three “in-one-hour” declarations (verses 10, 17, 19).

➤ *Second*, as “the great harlot”, and “the mother of harlots”: her fornications are pictured in 18:5, 7, and 9-20. Her demise is portrayed in 18:6, 8. God’s appeal to His people is to “come out of her...lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues”. The woman, seated on the “scarlet beast” (Satan, her source of control), is “the great harlot.” She “is seated upon many waters” i.e. “people and multitudes and nations and tongues”, and “her plagues will come in a single day”. She is identified by her adornment: “arrayed in purple and scarlet, and bedecked with gold, and jewels and pearls... (17:4)”. The great city was also “clothed in...purple and scarlet, bedecked with gold, with jewels, and with pearls” (18:16). These nearly identical descriptions identify them as one and the same “Babylon the Great”.

➤ *Third*, as a world power: the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies will gather to make war at “Armageddon”, the place of their annihilation. The beast (the Pope) and the false prophet (America’s next Roman Catholic president) will then be “thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulphur”, and thus will come about the dissolution of the final seat of authority of the Papacy.

## Babylon and the Papacy

“Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of her impure passion” (14:8). Her impure passion is exemplified by the Papacy, which was (and is) permeated with sin, to such an extent that it is indistinguishable from “Babylon”. The demonic nature of the Papacy can be illustrated by two historical records: first, that of Sergius III (904-911): his office, referred to as “the rule of Harlots”, extended to the year 963 with his bastard sons in power. Second, Dante’s writings after his visit to the Papal Palace during the rule of Boniface VIII (1294-1303) referred to the Vatican as a “sewer of corruption”. These two records well represent the character of the Papacy, and its similarity to Babylon.

## Weep and Mourn

11 “And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her, since no one buys their cargo any more, 12 cargo of gold, silver, jewels and pearls, fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet, all kinds of scented wood, all articles of ivory, all articles of costly wood, bronze, iron and marble, 13 cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and slaves, that is, human souls. 14 ‘The fruit for which thy soul longed has gone from thee, and all thy dainties and thy splendor are lost to thee, never to be found again!’ 15 The merchants of these wares, who gained wealth from her, will stand far off, in fear of her torment, weeping and mourning aloud, 16 ‘Alas, alas, for the great city that was clothed in fine linen, in purple and scarlet, bedecked with gold, with jewels, and with pearls! 17 In one hour all this wealth has been laid waste.’ And all shipmasters and seafaring men, sailors and all whose trade is on the sea, stood far off 18 and cried out as they saw the smoke of her burning, ‘What city was like the great city?’ 19 And they threw dust on their heads,” (Satan’s children mimic God’s repentant mourners) “...as they wept and mourned, crying out, ‘Alas, alas, for the great city where all who had ships at sea grew rich by her wealth! In one hour she has been laid waste. 20 Rejoice over her, O heaven, O saints and apostles and prophets,” (thus God tells His children to celebrate the downfall of “the great city”, the throne of power) “...for God has given judgment for you against her!” 21 Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, ‘So shall Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence, and shall be found no more;’” (it becomes the theme concerning Babylon: to be fallen) 22 “...and the sound of harpers and minstrels, of flute players and trumpeters, shall be heard in thee no more; and a craftsman of any craft shall be found in thee no more; and the sound of the millstone shall be heard in thee no more; 23 and the light of a lamp shall shine in thee no more;” (the lamp is the torch of the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor) “...and the voice” (the proclaimed redeeming Word of God to the nations) “...of bridegroom and bride shall be heard in thee (America) no more; for thy merchants were the great men of the earth, and all nations were deceived by thy sorcery. 24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slain on earth.” The “all” are non-Christians who also perished because of the prostitution of Babylon.



## A Great Multitude

Chapter 19

1 “After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying, ‘Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, 2 for His judgments are true and just; He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication, and He has avenged on

her the blood of His servants.' 3 Once more they cried, 'Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever.' 4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who is seated on the throne, saying, 'Amen. Hallelujah!'" 'Hallelujah!' appears three times here, again representing the numerical signature of God. They, the chosen people of God declare it, first, by "salvation", second, by "the smoke from her goes up for ever and ever", which is quite fitting because the Great Harlot through the centuries has burned multitudes of God's children, and third, the "Amen. Hallelujah!" expresses their joy. 5 "And from the throne came a voice crying, 'Praise our God, all you His servants, you who fear Him, small and great.' 6 Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying, 'Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. 7 Let us rejoice and exult and give Him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His Bride has made herself ready; 8 it was granted her to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure'—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

9 And the angel said to me, 'write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb'. And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.' 10 Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'you must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.' For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

11 Then I saw *heaven* (the dwelling place of God) opened, and behold, a white horse!" This is a different horse and rider from the one in Revelation 6. "He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire," (which identifies this rider as Jesus Christ, He is described in Revelation 1) "... and on His head are many diadems; (crowns) and He has a name inscribed which no one knows but Himself. 13 He is clad in a robe dipped in blood, (that of martyrs) and the name by which He is called is The Word of God. 14 And the armies of heaven, (consisting of the redeemed) arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, followed Him on white horses. 15 From His mouth issues a sharp sword (the Word of God) with which to smite the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; He will tread the wine press of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. 16 On His robe and on His thigh He has a name inscribed King of kings and Lord of lords."

## An Angel Standing in the Sun

17 "Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly in mid-heaven," (*There are three "heavens"*: the first is the earth, the second, the mid-heaven (the sky, the firmament, or the solar system), and the third is the heaven where God dwells) "...'Come, gather for the great supper of God, 18 to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great.' 19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth," (the Pope and his followers) "...with their armies gathered to make war against Him who sits upon the horse and against His army. 20 And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet" (two individuals whose names will be revealed when they become active) "...who in its presence had worked the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulphur" (the place of eternal punishment: the second death). 21 "And the rest were slain by the sword of Him who sits upon the horse, the sword that issues from His mouth; and all the birds were gorged with their flesh." God has identified three enemies of the Lamb: first, "the great red dragon" who is called Devil and Satan, second, the "beast", and third, "Babylon the great". The first enemy to be defeated will be Babylon the great, next the beast (and with it the false prophet), and finally, a thousand years later, the Devil.



1 “Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain. 2 And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,” (a millennium, referred to as the millennial reign of Christ on this earth) 3 “...and threw him into the pit,” (which then becomes Satan’s prison) “...and shut it and sealed it over him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years were ended. After that he must be loosed for a little while.

4 Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom judgment was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded” (speaks of the severity of Christian martyrdom)

“...for their testimony to Jesus and for the Word of God, and who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life, and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 The rest of the dead (those not of God’s people) did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection.” The “first” implies that there will be another, of those who are not Gods’ children. 6 “Blessed and holy is he who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and they shall reign with Him a thousand years. 7 And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be loosed for his prison 8 and will come out to deceive the nations which are at the four corners of the earth, that is, *Gog*” (*Gog*: the chief Prince of Meshech and Tubal which is an area located directly North of Israel in modern day Turkey, and from it will come the attack force leading the military from the *North and Northeast*. Persia, modern day Iraq and Iran, with Cush, modern day Sudan, south of Egypt, and Put, modern day Libya (Verse 5), along with Gomer, modern day Russia, and Beth-togar’mah from the uttermost parts of the North (Verse 6), will converge upon Israel (Verse 9). See the Map at the end of this writing.) “...and *Magog*,” (along with six other sons of Japheth, who was a son of Noah, whose descendants as noted by historians occupied vast regions, in part, known today as Turkey, Russia, Mongolia, China, Sudan, and other countries that make up the “hordes, and many people”) “...to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. 9 And they marched” (an army on horseback coming from the uttermost parts of the earth) “...up over the broad earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city; but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, 10 and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

### A Great White Throne

11 “Then I saw a great white throne” (God’s seat of judgment: where unbelievers will be tried and sentenced for what they have done) “...and Him who sat upon it; from His presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them.” (that is to say the earth and sky are no more) 12 “And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Also another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, by what they had done. 13 And the sea gave up the dead in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead in them,” (these are two fallen angels; also, “Hades” is a compound Greek word meaning the unseen world including both heaven (good) and that outside of heaven (evil)) “...and all were judged by what they had done. 14 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire, (this is the second death, the place of eternal punishment) 15 and if any one’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

1 “Then I saw a *new heaven* and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; 3 and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people,’ (the restoration of the personal relationship with the Lord God, which was lost in the Garden of Eden) “...and God Himself will be with them; 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.’ 5 And He who sat upon the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’ Also He said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ 6 And He said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the fountain of the water of life without payment. 7 He who conquers shall have this heritage,’ (a thing passed from one generation to the next, here also used as a word of encouragement) ‘...and I will be his God and he shall be My son. 8 But’ (a reminder of the penalty for sin) ‘...as for the cowardly, the faithless,’ (only by *faith* in Jesus Christ can one behold the truth and majesty of the everlasting God and His kingdom) ‘...the polluted, as for murderers, fornicators, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their lot shall be in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death.’”

### The Bride

9 “Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues, and spoke to me, saying, ‘Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.’ 10 And in the Spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. 12 It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed; 13 on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates! 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.”

### A Measuring Rod

15 “And he who talked to me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. 16 The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its breadth; and he measured the city with his rod, twelve thousand stadia; its length and breadth and height are equal. 17 He also measured its wall, a hundred and forty-four cubits by a man’s measure, that is, an angel’s. 18 The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold,” (thus, the true city of gold is revealed) “...clear as glass.” The ancient city, *Babylon*, was a city of gold and wonder. It was Satan’s attempt to copy God’s eternal city of wonder and gold, but God’s city is infinitely superior. 19 “The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every jewel; the first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. 21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass.”

## No Temple



**22** “And I saw no temple in the city,” (the temple was the place where God met with His people on earth) “...for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. **23** And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. **24** By its light shall the nations walk; and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it, **25** and its gates shall never be shut by day—and there shall be no night there; **26** they shall bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. **27** But nothing unclean shall enter it, nor any one who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.” This verse is a reminder that the inheritance of eternal life is only for the sinless, whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. *God began with a garden, and ends with a city.*

## The Water of Life

Chapter 22

**1** “Then he showed me the *river of the water of life*, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb **2** through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. **3** There shall no more be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall worship Him; **4** they shall see *His face*, and His name shall be on their foreheads. **5** And night shall be no more; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they shall reign for ever and ever.”

## Trustworthy and True

**6** “And He said to me, ‘these words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent His angel to show His servants what must soon take place.’ This is an affirmation of what was said in chapter 1 verse 1, that most of God’s prophecy has been fulfilled; only a little remains. **7** ‘And behold, I am coming soon.’ Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book. **8** I John am he who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me; **9** but he said to me, ‘You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brethren the prophets,’ (The angel identifies John with the prophets, confirming him not only as an Apostle, but also as a prophet, holding the office of Prophet, which is different from one who makes prophecies from time to time as the Spirit directs. This apparently was necessary due to the Jews’ attitude concerning who could be a prophet. Therefore, the Lord makes it quite clear that John is appointed His Prophet.) ‘...and with those who keep the words of this book (Christians). Worship God.’”

**10** “And he said to me, ‘Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. **11** Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy. **12** Behold, I (Jesus Christ) am coming soon, bringing My recompense, to give every one for what he has done. **13** I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.’”

## The Tree of Life



14 “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.” As there is a second spiritual death, there is a second spiritual life. The first death was instituted when Adam disobeyed God’s command, and ate the forbidden fruit, and thus died spiritually. The opportunity for restoration was offered, and the second death is the result of man’s rejecting the opportunity for reconciliation with his Creator. By this second rejection a man brings on himself eternal separation from God. The Lord began the book of Revelation by calling attention to the tree of life, and ends the Book by emphasizing the importance of it.

Man’s first life was breathed into him by the Lord God. A second life will be assured to the born-again believer as he eats fruit from the tree of life in heaven. Eating that fruit sustains a mode of life, a personal relationship with God, as it did for Adam and Eve

while they were in the Garden of Eden. They were forced to leave the garden after they broke their relationship with God. Since then, eating fruit from the tree of life has been forbidden until one’s admittance into the Holy City.



Then what can one do to have an intimate personal relationship with God? We must each admit that our sin has separated us from God “as it is written: None is righteous, no, not one; since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”. “But God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.” Why would He die for us? “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” How can I receive the gift? The word of God tells us “everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved”. But how can I call upon a name I do not know? God says that “if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved”.

Listen to the words of Jesus, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by Me”. What does He mean, “I am the way”? He means that He is the only way to the Father there is no other way. He also said: “behold I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me”. The door that He is knocking at is the door of your heart. “Eating”, suggests intimate friendship. Would you invite an enemy to have lunch with you? No, of course not; you would however invite a friend. Jesus wants to be your friend. You can be His friend by inviting Him into your life, saying: Lord Jesus, forgive me for my Sin. I believe that God raised you from death, and that you live. I open the door of my heart and ask that you come into my life, live your life through me, give me wisdom, strength, and courage to live my life for you. Come into my heart, Lord Jesus, Amen.

Welcome to the family of God!

15 “Outside are the dogs” (“gentiles”, unbelievers, confined to the lake of fire) “...and sorcerers and fornicators and murderers and idolaters, and every one who loves and practices falsehood.

16 ‘I Jesus have sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches.’ The Lord begins the Revelation with an address to the churches and ends it with a testimony to the churches. ‘I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star.’”

17 “The Spirit (God) and the Bride (the Church) say, ‘Come’. And let him who hears (the believer) say, ‘Come’. And let him who is thirsty (those who recognize their need) come, let him who desires

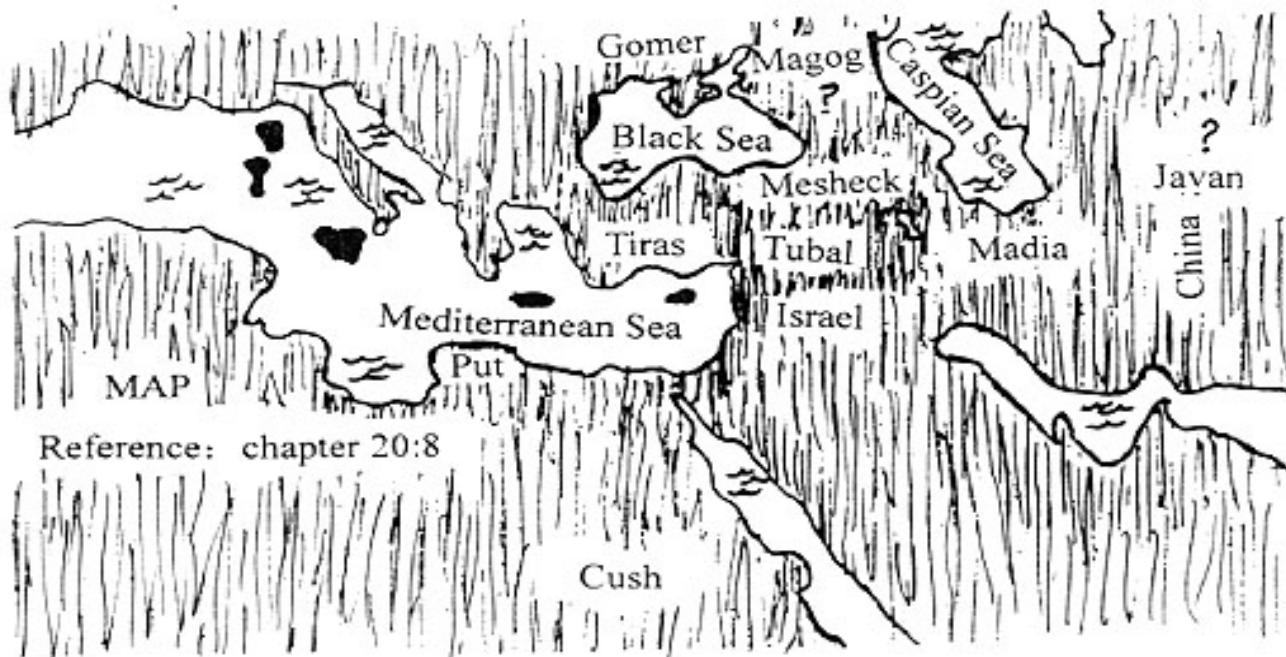
**take the water of life without price.**" This declares the great love God has toward His creation, not wanting any to perish. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." "I (Jesus Christ) give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of My hand." "The Lord is not slow about His promise as some count slowness, but is forbearing toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance" (John 3:16, 10:28, 2 Peter 3:9).

**18 "I warn every one who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if any one adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, 19 and if any one takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book (one can fall from grace). 20 He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon'. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"**

**21 "The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen."**

"And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, to know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life" (1 John 5:20).

This concludes the first aspect of Revelation: Understanding.



## Notes

### Chapter 1

Vs. 4 **Seven churches:** the seven Asian churches represent the whole Church body (Romans 12:5).

**Who is and who was and who is to come:** "Who is" is confirmed by the "I am" of Exodus 3:14, which is further clarified by verse 15. "The word LORD, when spelled with capital letters, stands for the divine name YHWH, which is connected with the verb hayah, to be."<sup>1</sup> "Who was": Jesus Christ; and "who is to come" also Jesus Christ.

1. The Holy Bible Revised Standard Version; A. J. Holman Co., Philadelphia, Pa. © N.T. 1971.

Vs. 6 [kings]: if "kingdom" is used, it is should be changed to "kings" (see Revelation 5:10).

Vs. 7 **Clouds:** Matthew 17:5, Luke 21:27, Acts 1:9, Daniel 7:13, 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

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graph TD
    Alpha[Alpha] --> Isaiah41[Isaiah 41:4]
    Alpha --> Revelation17[Revelation 1:17, 22:13; Isaiah 44:6, 48:12]
    Omega[Omega] --> Isaiah41[Isaiah 41:4]
    Omega --> Revelation17[Revelation 1:17, 22:13; Isaiah 44:6, 48:12]
    Alpha --- Definition1[= First, beginning]
    Omega --- Definition2[= Last, end]
  
```

Vs. 8      **Alpha**      = First, beginning

                |

                Isaiah 41:4

                |

                |

**Omega**      = Last, end

                |

                Revelation 1:17, 22:13; Isaiah 44:6, 48:12.

Vs.10 **In the Spirit**: Revelation 4:2, 17:3.

Vs.11 **Saying:** “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.” These words have been omitted from some Bible translations, but should be included. It is a confirmation of what was said in verse 8, and in 22:13: the three statements numerically represent God’s signature.

Vs. 18 **Keys of Death and Hades:** Revelation 1:18.

## Chapter 4

“...let no one deceive you in any way” (2 Thessalonians 2:3-12).

Vs. 1 **trumpet**: Revelation 1:10, and 18.

Vs. 3 **Who sat:** God is always seated on His throne, exercising control, as confirmed by verse 9 & 5:1.

Vs. 5 **Lightening, voices, and peals of thunder:** confirmed by Revelation 8:5.

Complete Diety: the Father, and the Son, Matthew 3:16-17; the Holy Spirit, John 14:26.

Vs. 6 Sea: Revelation 17:15

**Living creatures**: Genesis 3:24; Ezekiel 1:5a; Revelation 14:3. If the word “beast” is used, it is a mistranslation (“beast” always refers to that which is evil).

Vs. 8 **Day and night:** (Revelation 21:25, 22:5).

Vs. 10 Singing: if “saying” is used it should be changed to “singing”. This change is confirmed by Revelation 14:3, “a new song” following in sequence.

Vs. 11 **Lord and God:** John 20:28.

## Chapter 5

Vs. 6 **Horns**: Daniel 7:24; Zechariah 1:18-19.

Vs. 10 **Reign on earth**: if “kingdom” is used, it should be changed to “kings” the same as in Chapter 1:6 (King James Version), kings reign, not priests. Revelation 20:4c and 6b mean “kings” which is supported by 1 Timothy 6:15.

## Chapter 6

The opening of: Daniel 9:27; Revelation 17:10; Mark 13:8; Zephaniah 1:14.

Vs. 8 **Death and Hades**: confirmed by chapter 20, verses 13 and 14.

**The identity of the white horse**: these horses and events may coincide with the three woes of chapter 8, verse 13.

Vs. 9 **Altar**: Revelation 8:3.

Vs. 11 **To rest**: Revelation 14:13.

**To be killed**: Revelation 13:7, 15. This brings to light Isaiah 21:2a, 22:5; Joel 3:14 and Jeremiah 48:8a. Revelation 14:6-7, as He fulfills Isaiah 45:8; Psalms 85:11; Hosea 6:3; Isaiah 11:9b; Joel 2:23; Numbers 14:21; Isaiah 6:3 and Acts 2:17, 21.

Vs. 12,

13,14 **Sixth seal**: Matthew 24:8; Luke 21:26-27; Isaiah 13:9-13, 34:4; Ezekiel 32:3-8; Joel 2:30 31, and Acts 2:19-20.

## Chapter 7

Vs. 4 **Sons of Israel**: those Jews on earth at the time of the tribulation, they are again referred to in 14:3.

Vs. 14 **The Great Tribulation**: Revelation 12:11, 15, 20:4b.

**The seventieth week of Daniel**: Matthew 24:8, 24:21; Daniel 12:11; Matthew 24:15; Revelation 12:11, 13:7, 15, 20:4b; Matthew 24:9; Daniel 12:11; Matthew 24:22; Revelation 3:10, 2:23, 14:19; Jeremiah 30:7. Revelation 24:31, 11:15, 14:14-16. Revelation 7:13-17. Isaiah 2:12, 13:13; Ezekiel 7:19; Zephaniah 1:15; Matthew 24:30; Revelation 16:1.

## Chapter 8

Vs. 5 **Thunder, voices, flashes of lightning**: confirm chapter 4:5.

**The earth**: Isaiah 24:4-5.

Vs. 7 **Hail and fire, mixed with blood**: introduced in chapter 6:4.

Vs. 8 **Something like a great mountain**: Isaiah 2:2, and Daniel 2:35. Its being thrown into the sea demonstrates the destruction noted in verse 9.

Vs. 10 **A great star fell**: Isaiah 14:12 (some translations omit “Lucifer”); Revelation 12:9.

Vs. 11 **Wormwood**: Jeremiah 9:15; Lamentation 3:15.

Vs. 13 **Woe, woe, woe**: Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:5-7.

### Chapter 9

Vs. 14 **Evil angels**: Jude 6.

**The great river Euphrates**: Genesis 15:18.

### Chapter 10

Vs. 6 **Delay**: refers back to chapter 8:1.

Vs. 7 **Prophets**: refer to scriptures like: Isaiah 11:9b, 45:8; Hosea 6:3; 10:12; Joel 2:23; Psalms 85:11; Isaiah 21:2, and Jeremiah 48:8.

Vs. 8 **Voice**: Revelation 1:10; 4:1; 10:4.

Vs. 9 **Bitter**: Matthew 24:9; Exodus 1:14.

**Sweet**: is confirmed by Ezekiel 3:3.

### Chapter 11

Vs. 1 **Those who**: refers to Revelation 4:6, 21:26.

**Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb**: Revelation 21:22.

**A vast city**: Revelation 21:23-24.

**The new earth**: Revelation 21:24.

Vs. 2 **Leave that out**: similar to John 2:14-16.

Vs. 3 **Water and the blood**: 1 John 5:8; Word: John 3:5; Jesus Christ: Revelation 19:13; from sin: 1 John 1:7.

**God reveals**: Luke 15:21-24; Jonah 3:6-10; Acts 4:11; Acts 2:37-41 and 1 Peter 2:25; Ezekiel 34:11-13, 25-26; Zechariah 13:1, 12:10.

Vs. 4 **The two olive trees**: John 10:16; Deuteronomy 7:6; 2 King 2:11.

**Elijah**: The name “Elias” is the Greek form of Elijah. His first reappearance: Matthew 17:3. John the Baptist represented the spirit of Elijah, and not the man (Matthew 11:14, 17:12). An angel of the Lord (Luke 1:11) spoke specifically about John concerning his “spirit and power” as being Elijah’s, not his physical body (Luke 1:17). Malachi 4:5, qualified by Joel 2:31, clearly states, “Elijah the prophet” will come before the day of the Lord (not at the beginning of Jesus’ ministry).

**Two lamp-stands**: Zechariah 4:14; Ephesians 1:9-10.

Vs. 5 **Fire**: 2 Kings 1:10, 12; 1 Kings 18:37-38; 2 Kings 2:11.

Vs. 6 **No rain**: 1 Kings 17:1; 18:45.

Vs. 8 **Results in spiritual death**: Romans 8:13.

Vs. 11 **Breath of Life**: a confirmation of Genesis 2:7.

Vs. 13 **Remnant**: Ezekiel 6:8a; Micah 2:12a; Romans 9:27; 11:5.

## Chapter 12

Vs. 3, **A great red dragon**: Satan or Devil as identified in 12:9; 2:10, 13; 9:11, and 12:17

Vs. 5 **Male child**: Jesus (Matthew 1:21).

**Caught up to God**: this conflict also identifies verse 10, confirming 11:17.

Vs. 12 **This refers to**: 2 Peter 3:8; Revelation 20:2, 6, 10, 11; Isaiah 65:17; Revelation 21:1; Matthew 24:35; 2 Peter 3:13.

Vs. 14 **Wilderness**: confirms Verse 6.

## Chapter 13

Vs. 2 **Leopard, bear, and lion**: different world powers as confirmed by Daniel 7:3-6.

**Satan**: (Revelation 12:9).

**Gave his power**: Luke 22:3.

**Throne**: Hebrews 1:3b.

**Great authority**: Job 1:12.

Vs. 3 **Mortal wound was healed**: Revelation 13:11; 13:2.

**Reviving strength**: Revelation 13:11.

**American Catholic president**: Revelation 13:11b.

**Roman Catholic Pope**: Revelation 13:2.

Vs. 7 **Global inquisition**: Isaiah 21:2a; Jeremiah 48:8a; Revelation 20:4b.

Vs. 10 **Sword**: Matthew 26:52.

**Endurance and faith**: repeated in 14:12 for the third time, which refers to Hebrews 12:3.

Vs. 11 **Earth**: supported by 12:16, which refers to the same “earth”.

Vs. 15 **Daniel's time**: Daniel 3:3-6, 23.

Lake of fire: Revelation 20:10.

Fiery furnace: Daniel 3:23.

Vs. 18 Marking: Revelation 22:4.

## Chapter 14

Vs. 1 **144,000**: are the same ones referred to in Revelation 7:4, and 14:3.

Vs. 3 **A new song**: fulfills Isaiah 51:11.

Vs. 6 **The earth will be filled**: Habakkuk 2:14; Isaiah 11:9.

Vs. 7 **It will come to them**: Isaiah 6:3; 11:9b; 45:8; Hosea 6:3; Joel 2:23; Psalms 85:11; Numbers 14:21; Acts 2:17, 21; Isaiah 49:9a; and Revelation 14:6-7.

By the Holy Spirit: Zechariah 4:6.

Zealous word: Isaiah 9:7.

Vs. 8 **Babylon**: Isaiah 13:19, and the Babylon of chapters 17 and 18 are one in the same.

Vs. 9 **“Image” and “mark”**: the lamb-beast was introduced in chapter 13:11, and will be more fully described in chapters 19 and 20. The death penalty (Revelation 13:15), and the divine penalty for accepting its mark is everlasting torment (Revelation 14:9-11).

Vs. 12 **Endurance**: Hebrews 12:1.

Vs. 14 **One like a son of man**: Revelation 1:13; Daniel 7:13; John 5:26-27.

Vs. 16 Caught up in the clouds together: 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

Vs. 18 **Grapes are ripe**: confirmed by Joel 3:13.

Vs. 20 **Outside the city**: Revelation 16:16.

## Chapter 15

Vs. 1 **Wrath**: Romans 1:18; Hebrews 3:11.

Vs. 2 **Fire**: persecution (Isaiah 43:2c; Daniel 3:24).

Standing beside the sea of glass: Daniel 3:27.

Vs. 5 **The temple has three identities**: Numbers 9:15a; 2 Chronicles 7:1-3; Hebrews 9:11-12.

Vs. 8 **Smoke**: Isaiah 6:4; Exodus 40:34-35.

## Chapter 16

Vs. 4 **Rivers**: Revelation 17:6; 18:24; 13:15; 16:6.

Vs. 7 **Cry**: Revelation 6:9.

Vs. 12 **Kings**: further clarified by Revelation 20:8-9a.

Vs. 13 **False prophet**: Revelation 13:11.

Vs. 14 **Kings**: expands on “Kings” in verse 12.

Vs. 15 **I am coming**: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12.

Vs. 19 **Revived Papacy Roman Empire**: Revelation 19:20.

## Chapter 17

Vs. 1 **Waters**: Revelation 17:15.

Vs. 3 **Scarlet beast**: Revelation 12:3, 9.

Vs. 11 **Wilderness**: 17:3; 12:6; 17:4.

Vs. 12 **One hour**: a short time period (approximately 15 days by Ezekiel’s year-day formula). The “one hour” is confirmed by Revelation 18:10b.

Vs. 14 **Chosen**: Ephesians 1:4; Deuteronomy 7:6.

Vs. 17 **Sodom and Gomorrah**: Genesis 19:24-28; Revelation 17:16c, 18:21-23.

**Time out America**: Revelation 17:3; 13:11; 19:20; 17:18.

## Chapter 18

Vs. 2 **Fallen, fallen**: a confirming pronouncement of doom (Revelation 14:8; Isaiah 21:9).

Vs. 10 **Babylon**: Revelation 18:21; Isaiah 13:19.

First, Revelation 18:10a; 18:21, 18:9-10; 18:5a; 18:10, 17, and 19.

Second, 17:1; 18:4; 17:3, 1, 15; 18:8a; 17:4; 18:16; 17:5b.

Third, 19:19; 16:16; 19:21; 19:20b.

Vs. 19 **Dust on their heads**: Job 42:6.

Vs. 21-23 No more: Isaiah 14:4.

## Chapter 19

Vs. 11 Heaven: Psalms 11:4a; Isaiah 66:1a.

Vs. 12 Eyes: Revelation 1:14.

Vs. 17 There are three heavens: Genesis 1:8; 2 Corinthians 12:2; Job 25:2; Psalms 11:4; Ecclesiastes 5:2.

Vs. 21 God has identified three enemies: Revelation 12:3, 9; 13:1; 17:5; 18:2a; 19:20; 20:10.

## Chapter 20

Vs. 8 Gog: Ezekiel 38:2-3.

Magog: Ezekiel 39:6.

Vs. 9 Marched: Ezekiel 38:15.

Consumed them: Ezekiel 38:21-22.

Vs. 10 Devil: another name for Satan (fulfills Isaiah 33:1).

## Chapter 21

Vs. 1 New heaven: confirms Isaiah 65:17, and 2 Peter 3:13.

Vs. 8 Faith: 1 John 5:4.

Vs. 18 Babylon, was a city of gold: Jeremiah 51:7.

Vs. 27 God began with: Genesis 2:15; Revelation 21:22-23.

## Chapter 22

Vs. 1 River: God in Genesis 1:10 created “seas” as a major food source to sustain physical life on this earth. They, in addition to the river that flowed from the Garden of Eden, will be replaced with a river that will flow from the throne of God (Psalms 46:4). That heavenly river represents the source of life that will flow directly from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

Vs. 4 His face: 1 Corinthians 13:12.

Vs. 14 As there is a second spiritual death: Revelation 20:14; John 3:16 and 5:24; Genesis 2:17; 4:7; Isaiah 66:3-4; Jeremiah 15:16; Revelation 2:9; 22:14. Genesis 2:7; John 3:3, 7.

## References

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1, 2, 3, 4. Henry Steele Commanger, <i>Page 11.</i>	7
5. Henry Steele Commanger, <i>Page 12.</i>	7
6. Henry H. Halley, <i>Page 770.</i>	10
7. Henry H. Halley, <i>Page 793.</i>	16
8. Gary H. Kah, Spanish edition, <i>Page 52.</i>	18

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## Action

Understanding of course must precede action, but without action, understanding has very little value. In His admonishment to the church of Sardis<sup>1</sup>, the Lord sounds an alarm to awaken His people. James supports this when he suggests that we should "be doers of the Word, and not hearers only".<sup>2</sup> Expanding on this he asks, "Who is wise and understanding among [us]? By his good life let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom",<sup>3</sup> and "He who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer that forgets but a doer that acts, he shall be blessed in his doing"<sup>4</sup>

We all know that "in everything a prudent man acts with knowledge".<sup>5</sup> The Apostle Paul confirms this: "Awake, O sleeper, and rise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light"<sup>6</sup>, and he adds: "Come to your right mind, and sin no more"<sup>7</sup> "We are ambassadors for Christ; God is making his appeal through us."<sup>8</sup> He has work for each of us, and as we come to understand our call we will want to "work heartily, as serving the Lord and not men";<sup>9</sup> and we will want to "train ourselves in godliness".<sup>10</sup> "Besides this you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep".<sup>11</sup> As we wake up spiritually, we will begin to see how "wickedness is multiplied, and most men's love will grow cold".<sup>12</sup>

There are many who are "holding the form of religion while denying the power of it".<sup>13</sup> But Jesus admonishes us that "he who endures to the end will be saved".<sup>14</sup> "For the kingdom of God is not food and drink, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit".<sup>15</sup> So we should "think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith which God has assigned him".<sup>16</sup>

We are continually exhorted to look to God, and to "not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect".<sup>17</sup> As our minds, our understanding, is renewed, we will begin to look at people differently, as we are admonished: "regard no one from a human point of view";<sup>18</sup> "be imitators of God, as beloved children".<sup>19</sup> "Let no one deceive you with empty words".<sup>20</sup> "Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them,"<sup>21</sup> gently, not harshly. We want the offender to mature, not turn away.

"Do nothing for selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his interest, but also to the interest of others."<sup>22</sup> "He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches."<sup>23</sup>

Do we want eternal life? He who "sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life".<sup>24</sup> "Therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship".<sup>25</sup> "It is God's gift to man that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil".<sup>26</sup> "But each has his own special gift from God, one of one kind and one of another".<sup>27</sup> Now, "having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them".<sup>28</sup>

"Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."<sup>29</sup> God constantly encourages us, and we need only to heed His word to be called faithful. "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are of God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world."<sup>30</sup> "For it is not the man who commends himself that is accepted, but the man whom the Lord commends."<sup>31</sup>

And whom does the Lord command? False prophets would have us believe all kinds of claims that appeal to our selfishness and pride, but be careful! We must seek understanding, not gratification, and act in accord with God's word, rather than in accord with our own desires. Let us beware of claims that may be attractive, but when examined closely do not uphold His word. "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption".<sup>32</sup> Looking to the world for guidelines (in music, reading, or conversation) is the quickest way to grieve the Holy Spirit. So, "never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord".<sup>33</sup>

"Do not fear what you are about to suffer."<sup>34</sup> "For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in [Jesus] but also suffer for His sake."<sup>35</sup> "Blessed and holy is he who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ".<sup>36</sup> For "he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away. And He who sat upon the throne said, 'behold, I make all things new'".<sup>37</sup> This is a blessing for believers who have suffered much for their faith.

"But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, as for murderers, fornicators, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their lot shall be in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death."<sup>38</sup> "Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and

steadfast love with those who love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations.”<sup>39</sup> “Love the Lord, all you His saints!

The Lord preserves the faithful, but abundantly requites him who acts haughtily.”<sup>40</sup> Haughtiness is a form of selfishness and is a natural, worldly trait. It is a form of self-deception and is responsible for many of the desires and “needs” that advertising creates. But this indulgence will be punished. God rewards His people; “well done good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master”.<sup>41</sup> But we must not covet His rewards. “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful, and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”<sup>42</sup> As we encourage one another we will be stronger ourselves.

Jesus made us a promise when He said, “behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut,”<sup>43</sup> and, “I am the door; if anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”<sup>44</sup> “We walk by faith, not by sight.”<sup>45</sup> And we need to follow His lead carefully. As we do this, problems will arise because we are not inclined to follow; we want to lead, and to argue, but we must “destroy arguments and every proud obstacle to the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.”<sup>46</sup> “For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”<sup>47</sup>

“Do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”<sup>48</sup> “For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”<sup>49</sup> As we stand up against evil we will have strength to offer praise, and as we use our armor we will become confident, not in our own strength, but in God’s. “Through Him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His name”<sup>50</sup>, and as we acknowledge His name we will have strength to do His will. “Submit yourselves therefore to God.”<sup>51</sup> Submission is the basis for humility. “Humble yourselves before the Lord and He will exalt you.”<sup>52</sup>

Jesus reprimands those who have strayed: “but I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.”<sup>53</sup> With Jesus, we cannot pretend. “Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor.”<sup>54</sup> We should not only be kind to brothers in the faith: “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head”,<sup>55</sup> which may cause him to turn to God in his distress.

Our only legitimate debt is love. “Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.”<sup>56</sup> “Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but kindness to you, provided you continue in His kindness; otherwise you too will be cut off.”<sup>57</sup> God’s love and kindness are great, but they are held in check by our lack of love and kindness to our neighbors.

In conclusion, believe “the end of all things is at hand; therefore be watchful and sober for your prayers. Above all hold unfailing your love for one another, since love covers a multitude of sins”.<sup>58</sup> “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him.”<sup>59</sup> It is our lack of response to His love that limits Him in our lives. He wants to give to us, but will not, until we love Him more than we love ourselves, our families, our things, and our desires. To submit to Him is to become free. “For the love of Christ controls us, because we are convinced that One has died for all; therefore all have died.”<sup>60</sup> “Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another, and if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”<sup>61</sup> “Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”<sup>62</sup> This is our “action”: to give up our desires and seek to fulfill His purpose.

<sup>1</sup> Revelation 3:2, -- <sup>2</sup> James 1:22, -- <sup>3</sup> James 3:13, -- <sup>4</sup> James 1:25, -- <sup>5</sup> Proverbs 13:16a, -- <sup>6</sup> Ephesians 5:14, <sup>7</sup> 1Corinthians 15:34a, -- <sup>8</sup> 2Corinthians 5:20a, -- <sup>9</sup> Colossians 3:23, -- <sup>10</sup> 1Timothy 4:7b, -- <sup>11</sup> Romans 13:11, <sup>12</sup> Matthew 24:12, -- <sup>13</sup> 2Timothy 3:5a, -- <sup>14</sup> Matthew 24:13, -- <sup>15</sup> Romans 14:17, -- <sup>16</sup> Romans 12:3b, <sup>17</sup> Romans 12:2, -- <sup>18</sup> 2Corinthians 5:16a, -- <sup>19</sup> Ephesians 5:1, -- <sup>20</sup> Ephesians 5:6, -- <sup>21</sup> Ephesians 5:11, <sup>22</sup> Philippians 2:3-4, -- <sup>23</sup> Revelation 2:7a, -- <sup>24</sup> Galatians 6:8b, -- <sup>25</sup> Romans 12:1, -- <sup>26</sup> Ecclesiastes 3:13, <sup>27</sup> 1 Corinthians 7:7b, -- <sup>28</sup> Romans 12:6a, -- <sup>29</sup> Romans 12:12, -- <sup>30</sup> 1John 4:1, -- <sup>31</sup> 2Corinthians 10:18, <sup>32</sup> Ephesians 4:30, -- <sup>33</sup> Romans 12:11, -- <sup>34</sup> Revelation 2:10a, -- <sup>35</sup> Philippians 1:29, -- <sup>36</sup> Revelation 20:6, <sup>37</sup> Revelation 21:4-5a, -- <sup>38</sup> Revelation 21:8, -- <sup>39</sup> Deuteronomy 7:9, -- <sup>40</sup> Psalms 31:23, -- <sup>41</sup> Matthew 25:21, <sup>42</sup> Hebrews 10:23-25, -- <sup>43</sup> Revelation 3:8b, -- <sup>44</sup> John 10:9, -- <sup>45</sup> 2Corinthians 5:7, -- <sup>46</sup> 2Corinthians 10:5, <sup>47</sup> Galatians 5:1, -- <sup>48</sup> Ephesians 5:17, -- <sup>49</sup> Ephesians 6:12-13, -- <sup>50</sup> Hebrews 13:15, -- <sup>51</sup> James 4:7a, -- <sup>52</sup> James 4:10, <sup>53</sup> Revelation 2:4, -- <sup>54</sup> Romans 12:9-10, -- <sup>55</sup> Romans 12:20, -- <sup>56</sup> Romans 13:8, -- <sup>57</sup> Romans 11:22, -- <sup>58</sup> 1 Peter 4:7-8, <sup>59</sup> 1 John 2:15, -- <sup>60</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:14, -- <sup>61</sup> Colossians 3:12-14, -- <sup>62</sup> Colossians 3:17.

**Action**, coupled with **faith**, is pleasing to God.

## Faith

Faith is the hallmark of Christianity. It is from faith that life springs into eternal existence with a Holy God. “For by grace, you have been saved through faith, and this is not of your own doing, it is the gift of God”.<sup>1</sup> As faith is what brings us into contact with God, it is faith that maintains the relationship. “So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ.”<sup>2</sup>

As we listen to the Word, believing, our faith grows, and He is pleased with us. “Without faith it is impossible to please Him. For whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.”<sup>3</sup> Believing in Him, trusting Him, strengthens our faith in Him. “Behold, he whose soul is not upright in him shall fail, but the righteous shall live by his faith”,<sup>4</sup> and his faith is what sustains his beliefs. Living by faith will be discussed from three aspects: spiritual development, life, and victory.

The apostles were seeking spiritual development, and asked the Lord to increase their faith, and the Lord said to them: “if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you”.<sup>5</sup> Jesus expected his disciples to be growing in faith, and He expects the same of us today. He also said, “whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith”.<sup>6</sup> As we grow spiritually, as we come closer to God, we will become more discerning in our petitions. God never promised us everything we could imagine or want. We must be alert to Christ’s teachings because the Gospel “is the power of God for salvation to every one who has faith”.<sup>7</sup> “Truly God is good to the upright, to those who are pure in heart.”<sup>8</sup> We must exercise our faith that it may increase, and as it increases, we will be growing, developing, spiritually.

Paul wrote to the Philippians, “I am sure that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion in the day of Jesus Christ;”<sup>9</sup> and he is saying the same to us as we mature in faith. “For God is at work in you, both to will and to work His good pleasure”.<sup>10</sup> As we grow, as we seek His purpose, He works in us to make us shine as lights in the world. We can be confident that we “can do all things in Him who strengthens us”.<sup>11</sup> “If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s,”<sup>12</sup> and as long as we live we want to be growing in Faith.

Living in faith is our spiritual walk, and it will at times bring hardship, but “life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing”<sup>13</sup> for us who are growing in faith. Since “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me”.<sup>14</sup> Since I invited Him into my life, I “walk by faith, not by sight”;<sup>15</sup> knowing that this life is a time of training. Therefore, I look “to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith.”<sup>16</sup>

Victory is the third part of faith. “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world: our faith.”<sup>17</sup> “Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and the faith in Jesus.”<sup>18</sup> We are assured that “we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and keep their souls”.<sup>19</sup> If our life is not all we might wish it to be, we must remember that, “after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, establish, and strengthen you.”<sup>20</sup> Our victory is sure.

“To Him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.”<sup>21</sup> This is our victory. “The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be still”.<sup>22</sup> But perhaps someday as we reach the goal that He has set before us some of us may have to identify with the Apostle Paul: “I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race; I have kept the faith”.<sup>23</sup>

In conclusion, the Church is admonished to renew its vigor and the vitality of its devotion to God through understanding, action, and faith. The basis of renewal is, “through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way”.<sup>24</sup> This is demonstrated by action in awakening to the present and approaching dangers of sin. The Church must be especially alert to identify “false prophets, who come in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves”.<sup>25</sup> Therefore, by faith “we must pay the closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.”<sup>26</sup> “Gird up your minds, be sober, [rest] your hope fully upon the grace that is coming to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”<sup>27</sup>

This concludes the third aspect of The Revelation: Faith.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

<sup>1</sup> Ephesians 2:8, -- <sup>2</sup> Romans 10:17, -- <sup>3</sup> Hebrews 11:6, -- <sup>4</sup> Habakkuk 2:4, -- <sup>5</sup> Matthew 17:20b, -- <sup>6</sup> Matthew 21:22, <sup>7</sup> Romans 1:16b, -- <sup>8</sup> Psalms 73:1, -- <sup>9</sup> Philippians 1:6, -- <sup>10</sup> Philippians 2:13, -- <sup>11</sup> Philippians 4:13, -- <sup>12</sup> Romans 14:8, <sup>13</sup> Luke 12:23, -- <sup>14</sup> Galatians 2:20, -- <sup>15</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:7, -- <sup>16</sup> Hebrews 12:2, -- <sup>17</sup> 1 John 5:4, -- <sup>18</sup> Revelation 14:12, <sup>19</sup> Hebrews 10:39, -- <sup>20</sup> 1 Peter 5:10, -- <sup>21</sup> Daniel 7:14, -- <sup>22</sup> Exodus 14:14, -- <sup>23</sup> 2 Timothy 4:6-7, -- <sup>24</sup> Psalm 119:104, <sup>25</sup> Matthew 7:15, -- <sup>26</sup> Hebrews 2:1, -- <sup>27</sup> 1 Peter 1:13.