

# An Introduction to Revelation

The book of Revelation overwhelms the average reader with its cryptic language. The answer to the code-like message can be found within the text of the entire Bible. This study is just an introduction to the vast discovery that awaits the diligent student.

For many years I wanted to understand the prophetic writing of the book of Revelation, but could not. After three years of intense tutoring, I finally found the techniques that unlock the mystery. For so long I thought that the way to understand Revelation was to contemplate and guess what the strange signs and visions meant. I found out later that it is not through careless guessing that you interpret the book of Revelation; you actually *decode* it. This study is an overview to help get you started decoding Revelation and to see how these techniques are used for unlocking these mysterious passages.

## Don't Freak

The book of Revelation evokes so many emotions from so many different people. I have seen people stop their ears and say, "I don't want to hear about it!" There are some groups who are selling all their possessions, buying bomb shelters and dried food in preparation of the coming tribulation. Some people do not study the book of Revelation because, "...it is too allegorical for anyone to understand."

Is that true? Six years ago I would have agreed. Today, I would ask these three questions:

1. If the Bible is truth and meant to be read and followed, why would God expect us to exclude Revelation?
2. If we are not to read Revelation, why does the third verse of the book say that the person who reads and keeps the things written in this book is blessed? (Notice that the passage does not say, "blessed is everyone who understands this book." Rather, it says "...blessed is everyone who reads and keeps it.")
3. If the book is so difficult to understand, why is it called Revelation? The word "Revelation" means the unveiling. Within the very title is the assumption that the text to follow is for the revealing of mysteries, not the creation of them.

If we were to discount Revelation as a book too difficult to understand, then you must also do the same with approximately 65% of the Old Testament and even more of the New Testament. If the book is too frightening to read, you might as well tear it out, along with Isaiah 13:9–13, 24:17–23, 63:1–4, and many other passages that parallel its text.

## **The Approach**

The theme of a movie or story is always the most basic point of the plot. To best deal with the book of Revelation, you must first get a firm grasp of its main theme, and that theme is "*Jesus won*". If all you get out of the book of Revelation is this one point, you need not worry about the rest. Your only exhortation would be to keep it as you would fine gold.

In each of the following sections of Revelation, I will take the most curious statement, description or phrase and use one or several techniques to unlock its meaning (Remember: do not trust what I say or state in this study without double checking it in your own personal study).

In this analysis I will also include some *poison warnings* that will alert you to false teachings based on poor evidence or assumption. I call them *poison warnings* because they not only make you spiritually ill and bedridden, but they may lead to spiritual death if not quickly pumped out. I have seen the result of ingested false teaching and it is no different than feeding arsenic to your eternal soul.

## **Free Time**

Before we begin, let me give you a brief run-down on how this vision was received. The apostle John, who walked with Jesus as one of the twelve disciples, is the author of the Gospel of John and 3 letters in the New Testament. Under the persecution of Rome, John was to be martyred like so many of his other brothers. By miraculous intervention, they were not able to kill him. To keep him from spreading the Gospel, they stuck John on a desolate island called Patmos. It was on this island that God used John's free, uninterrupted time to give the final prophecy of the church period called *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*.

## **The Author**

Open your Bible to the book of Revelation and we will begin our overview at verse 1.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants; things which must shortly take place.

Verse one begins with the identification of the author of the book as Jesus Christ. The purpose of the book is to show those who are within His Church what will happen very soon.

The "stenographer" taking down all of the Author's notes and information would be John; as noted in verse 2.

And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, and to all things that he saw.

## The Seven Spirits

The first question that might hit you is "Who or what are the seven Spirits mentioned in verse 4?"

John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne.

One of the best techniques you could ever employ is the comparison of scripture with scripture. For example, the above scripture can be compared with similar text in Isaiah 11:2.

The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

In this passage we find seven Spirits of God listed; the Spirit of the *Lord*, *wisdom*, *understanding*, *council*, *might*, *knowledge* and *fear of the Lord*. It is interesting to note that each one of these titles is, in one form or another, alluded to in the book of Revelation. I will leave that discovery to your own study.

## The God-Man

Verses 5 to 8 identify, in no uncertain terms, the Jesus being described as the one detailed in the Gospels. Let us look specifically at verse 8.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

We see the repetition of a phrase, "...who was, and is and is to come" and "Alpha and Omega." This is a poetic way of saying, "I existed in eternity past, I am alive today and I will be alive in the eternal future." This statement by Jesus is saying that He is as eternal as the living God.

Is Jesus really saying that He is God? Look to the word *Almighty* at the end of the quotation above and look it up in a Strong's concordance. Here we find that any other use of this word deals directly with the Almighty God.<sup>1</sup> Did Jesus actually say He is God? The answer is yes.

"Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and His Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God.'" Isaiah 44:6

---

<sup>1</sup> Ref. II Corinth. 6:18, Rev. 4:8, 11:17, 15:3, 16:7, 16:14, 19:15 and 21:22

  **DANGER! POISON!**  

There are many "Christian" imposters or religions that deny the deity of Jesus Christ. Do not be fooled by their label. If they insist that Jesus was a good man, great teacher or prophet, but not God incarnate, then they are poison. If swallowed, induce vomiting.

### **John's Commission**

Verses 9–11 are a commission given to John to pen seven letters to the churches listed. Verses 12–18 describe the risen and glorified Jesus.

### **The Timing**

Verse 19 gives us the timing of the following events and when they are to transpire.

"Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this."

Jesus bade John to write down three specific categories. The first would be to write down the things that he has seen [Write the things which you have seen]. This would be verses 1–18. The second would be to write the things that were happening at that time [the things which are]. What was happening at that time? The Gospel was being spread over the known world and a severe persecution had been waged upon the followers of Jesus of Nazareth.

### **Seven Church Periods**

One of my biggest missteps in reading the Bible is assuming the obvious and leaving it at that. God has written His Word to appeal to various IQs from the simple child to the physicist; providing answers to both. Sometimes I would read a scripture, conclude the obvious literal view and go on to the next, not realizing there is something more to be found underneath if only I would dig. So it is with the words of Jesus. He speaks, and it is obvious what He means. But stop and analyze it, and all of a sudden patterns are seen, Old Testament types are confirmed, parallels are drawn and the depth of all scripture is but touched.

So it is with the seven letters to the seven churches found in Revelation two and three. Upon first reading we would say, "Oh, these are just seven letters written to seven churches in Asia". Then we read, "He that has an ear, let him hear." and we realize that it is deeper than that, it is a parallel to our lives as Christians and that we can take on the traits of these churches. Upon the next reading, you see a pattern from one to seven, and how your own church, fellowship or Christian band has gradually been moving through these seven patterns of ministerial decomposition. We dig down further and we strike a well of parables culminating from Matthew 13.

Each of these "kingdom" parables parallels perfectly with the seven letters and amplify their meaning. Upon learning that the phrase, "the kingdom of heaven" is a direct terminology regarding life in Christ on this earth, you then get the clue that the seven letters to seven churches may actually represent seven periods of church history—pay dirt!

### **The Outline**

Before I begin any large writing assignment, I usually start with an outline. My bold heading like the one above usually reflects what my outline consisted of. Jesus did the same (albeit brief) regarding His book, Revelation. In chapter 1 verse 19 He dictates to John,

"Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this."

John did as he was told, he wrote of the things that he had seen, that is Revelation 1:10 to 18; the things that are, i.e. the church ages seen in Rev. 1 and 2; and the things that will take place after that period as seen in Rev. 3 to 22. In this study, I wish only to focus on the things that are, that is, the church from the day of Pentecost to the church of today. How does Jesus feel toward them that use His name? Is there hope in their future, or disaster?

### **Ephesus (33 — 63 A.D.)**

Jesus writes His first letter to a city called Ephesus, which is the Greek of *Ephesos* or "desirable", it is an affectionate word of longing like "maiden of love" or "darling".

"To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

"I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.

Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent. But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.'" - Rev. 1:1-7

We begin by recognizing in what capacity Jesus is speaking to this church. He identifies Himself to an earlier verse as one who not only is in the midst of the church, but holds it in his right hand as well. Nothing escapes His notice nor does anything touch it beyond His permission.

Jesus recognizes the works of the early apostolic church and commends them for their work within the body as chronicled in the book of Acts. But later, the apostolic members began to bicker and posture one another within the church. Agendas were brought forth and sin was tolerated in the name of compassionate liberalism. These were some of the reasons for the writings of Paul within the New Testament. Jesus encapsulated the entire attitude as "leaving their first love", that is, Jesus. Rather, they turned to love of position, of doctrine or of the Law. Each of which could cause the light of their witness and testimony to be removed; and for some, it did.

But even through all this, there was one thing they did right; they did not tolerate "the deeds of the Nicolaitans". The Nicolaitans were extremist who believed that because the body was inherently evil, they could indulge in any form of deviant behavior without any consequence to their spirit. These are the "deeds of the Nicolaitans and were violently rejected by the early apostles."<sup>2</sup>

Jesus then points the finger at the reader and admonishes them to learn from the church of Ephesus. What pleased Jesus? What displeased Him? Then examine yourself and those with whom you spend your time. I will only mention this exhortation once because it is not the focus on this study. But when we get to the final letter, you will realize just how close to the end of this age we really are. Your main concern at that point is to make sure that your soul is prepared for that day.

These seven letters also parallel the seven kingdom parables found in Matthew 13. The first of these parables speak of a sower.

"Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

It is clear that this kingdom parable is a picture of the early apostolic church as seen in the book of acts and documented in the epistles. The emphasis is on evangelism with fruit of all types.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> Romans 8:13, 1 Corinthians 6:13-18, 1 Thessalonians 4:3

<sup>3</sup> An interesting note, there are seven churches addressed in the New Testament (Ephesians, Philippians, Corinthians, Galatians, Romans, Thessalonians and Colossians) and seven individuals (Titus, Peter, Jude, Timothy, James, John and Philemon). Each of these epistles parallels both the "angel" the letter is addressed to and the "church" to which it refers. In the case of this letter to Ephesus, the book of Titus is the "angel" and, of course, the epistle to the Ephesians would parallel the "church" is addressed.

## Smyrna (64 — 311 A.D.)

The next letter to be dictated by Jesus is addressed to a city called *Smyrna*. The name Smyrna is derived from the perfume "Myrrh". Myrrh is harvested from a plant that is called the "Rock Rose" because of its ability to appear out of the cracks of boulders. The plant is stripped, beaten and pierced until the liquid gum comes forth as fragrant oil. This oil is then used as perfume, medicine and as a burial preparation. Myrrh becomes a picture of persecution and how God receives it as a sweet smelling perfume.

"And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, `These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."

Jesus immediately relates Himself as one who was persecuted to the death, but that it does not end there. He is also the Resurrection and the Life<sup>4</sup>, thereby comforting the persecuted regarding their plight.

Jesus recognizes the pain they had to endure, but though they were in poverty because of their persecutors, they were rich in what mattered most- faith! To God faith is much more precious than gold because it is an eternal commodity.<sup>5</sup> Who are some of these persecutors? Jesus says they are a people "who call themselves Jews but are not". As a lover of the Jewish people, I need to make a point of clarification. The title *Jew* is a contraction of the word *Judah* meaning "praise". These people, to whom Jesus is referring, may have a Jewish mother, but because they spend their time trying to destroy what Messiah has nurtured, they reveal themselves as the congregation of Satan<sup>6</sup> and not Jewish in heart. Many of these Jews were high in the priesthood hierarchy including one of notable infamy, Saul of Tarsus.

Jesus continues to reveal what is to happen in this period of history and notes that it will last a period of "ten days". The phrase *ten days* in Greek is *deca-hemera* or "ten periods of time". The Roman persecution was divided into 10 periods based on the ruler in power<sup>7</sup> over a span of 247 years.

Jesus ends His letter with words of hope, that death has no dominion over the Christian<sup>8</sup> and that in the end they shall receive a crown of reward<sup>9</sup> and will not be touched by the second death seen in Revelation 21:8.<sup>10</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> John 11:25

<sup>5</sup> 1 Peter 1:7

<sup>6</sup> John 8:42-45

<sup>7</sup> The ten rulers from 64 - 311 AD were Nero, Domitian, Trajan, Hadrian, Marcus Aurelius, Septimus Severus, Maximus the Thracian, Decius, Valerian and Diocletian Galerius.

<sup>8</sup> John 11:25-26, I Corinthians 15:55

<sup>9</sup> 2 Timothy 4:8

<sup>10</sup> As noted in footnote#2, for Smyrna the book of Peter is the "angel" and the epistle to the Philippians would parallel the "church" is is addressed. Read these two for more insight regarding this foreseen era of church history.

The second of the kingdom parables re-enforces the idea of this persecuted church.

"The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'

He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.'

The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?'

But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."'"

If you read the epistles during the days of the persecution, you will notice the mention of those who put on the appearance of being Christian, but are really nothing more than fruitless weeds.<sup>11</sup> Jesus exhorts us to be patient in persecution and to beware of those who appear to be Christian but do not show it in their fruit.

### **Pergamos (312 — 1054 A.D.)**

The third letter is to the city of Pergamos. The name Pergamos means "of much marriage", or more precisely, "second marriage". Which ever is closest, it is understood that the name was to denote its all-encompassing diversity of idol worship, but paints the beginning of a historic religion that would mix both pagan ritual and Christianity.

"...to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:

I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."

---

<sup>11</sup> Romans 16:17, Galatians 1:8-9, 1 John 2:19, 2 Peter 2:1, Galatians 2:4

The first object that Jesus points to is the two-edged sword which is an object representing the Word of God.<sup>12</sup> The Bible is going to be center of attention at this point in history. The canon of scripture is complete, while at the same time it was being hidden from view from the ordinary man.

In 312 AD, the emperor Constantine ended the mass persecution of Christians. But instead of opening the Bible for all to study and absorb, he called for the first ecumenical council at Nicene and created the Nicene Creed. Those who departed from its dictates were regarded as heretics. In the west, Rome was being established as the throne of the Christian church. The ensuing power struggle with the Byzantine Empire in the east required more converts in order to receive more influence, power and income. To win scores of converts amongst the idol-worshipping Roman world, the Greek deities were replaced by images of saints and apostles, and the sprinkling of water over crowds of people became the accepted mode of mass baptism.

The infusion of idol worship within a monotheistic society is how Balaam taught Balak to cause the children of Israel to stumble; by placing the people of God in the middle of the Acacia groves where idols were carved and worshipped.<sup>13</sup> Balaam also was a "prophet for hire"<sup>14</sup> which seems to point to the use of "indulgences" or "paying for the remission of sins" used to increase the coffers of the Holy Roman Empire.

Again we see the Nicolaitans rear their head. But this time it is not the deeds of the Nicolaitans, but their doctrine. A good insight into their belief system is found within their name. The word *nicos* is Greek for "victory" or "conquer" and *laos* meaning "tribe of people", so the name Nicolaitans means "conquering power over the people". This insight illustrates the hold that the Holy Roman Empire held over its converts. Defy it, and you were excommunicated and thus prevented in the partaking of the Eucharist, and thereby losing ones salvation.

This power was also exercised by translating the Bible into Latin and keeping it locked behind cathedral gates, thus inaccessible to the average man. Thus the word of the Popes became the word of God with no way of arguing against it via the scripture. This Jesus hates as seen regarding His attitude toward the Scribes and Pharisees who made use of the same practices.<sup>15</sup>

---

<sup>12</sup> Ephesians 6:17, Hebrews 4:12

<sup>13</sup> Micah 6:5

<sup>14</sup> Numbers 22:16-17, 2 Peter 2:15

<sup>15</sup> Matthew 23:13-41

Unfortunately, the powerless people, in want of this relative salvation, became the vanquished masses of this new monstrosity. The third kingdom parable makes this clear with the illustration of a mustard seed.

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."

Upon first reading this parable, it seems as if it speaks of good things. On the contrary, a mustard plant does indeed grow from a small seed, but only into a thin foxtail-like stalk. The true Christian church has been illustrated as individual strands of fruit-bearing wheat<sup>16</sup>, but this thing has become something against nature. The birds that nest in its branches are not necessarily good as well. Jesus exhorted the disciples to listen closely to the first parable because it contained the key codes to interpret the rest of the parables.<sup>17</sup> We see that "birds" is he that swoops down and steals the "Word of God" away from those desiring salvation;<sup>18</sup> a clear picture of the Holy Roman hierarchy.

To those who chose not bow to these self-appointed masters, Jesus made the promise, "To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat." Manna was the bread that came down from heaven in the wilderness, Jesus pointed to Himself as being the Bread of Life.<sup>19</sup> So the reward for those who overcame the "only true church" attitude, He gives His body, which flies in the face of Eucharist.

He is also given a white stone with a new name. Stones with names written on them is what is seen on the breastplate of the high priest<sup>20</sup> and seem to say that we are not to answer to "priests", but that we are to become priests as in Revelation 1:6 "...and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father."

---

<sup>16</sup> Matthew 3:12, Matthew 13:25

<sup>17</sup> Mark 4:13

<sup>18</sup> Matthew 13:4 & 19

<sup>19</sup> John 6:31-58

<sup>20</sup> Exodus 39:14

### Thyatira (1200 A.D. — present)

The word *Thyatira* means "odor of affliction" in Greek. This name is a contrast to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which to God is a sweet smelling savor.<sup>21</sup> Of all the doctrines we could get wrong, the sacrifice that Jesus made for our sins is one you do not want to mess with. As we will see, Jesus comes in burning judgment in regard to this error.

"And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, `These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:

"I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. But hold fast what you have till I come.

And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations *`He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'* as I also have received from My Father; and I will give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Jesus immediately identifies Himself as one coming in hot judgment. Brass and fire are both idioms for judgment; they are also the two main elements for the altar of sacrifice in the tabernacle. Again we see the sacrifice of Christ being the center of focus. This may be because of the doctrine that grew out of the Holy Roman Empire; that of transubstantiation of the Eucharist.<sup>22</sup> This twisting of Christ's communion table would not be a sweet-smelling savor, but rather an odor of affliction as Thyatira's name denotes.

However, Jesus is not in want of recognizing the good this church age has accomplished in His name. The Catholic Church, born out of the Holy Roman Empire, has had good deeds follow her in the form of hospitals, missions, soup kitchens, schools, monasteries and orphanages.

---

<sup>21</sup> Ephesians 5:2

<sup>22</sup> Transubstantiation - The doctrine that the bread and wine of the Eucharist are mystically transformed into the actual body and blood of Jesus Christ. Through this act, Christ is crucified anew for the remission of sins. This violates Hebrews 7:27 and Romans 6:10

But, unfortunately, the letter turns toward a woman of infamous background in order to address a doctrine of inordinate affection. Jesus uses the most evil woman in all of scripture to point out corruption within the Catholic Church. We will start with the entirely man-made doctrine regarding the worship of the Virgin Mary. Whatever the rationale given by those in the Catholic Church, there is no scripture that remotely upholds it. On the contrary, when a disciple even suggested the adoration of Mary, Jesus refocused emphasis on the Word of God.<sup>23</sup> For Mary, blessed and highly favored as she was, was still just a mortal creation, but the Word is eternal.<sup>24</sup>

There have been 410 visions and apparitions of Mary this past century, 7 of which have been approved by the Vatican. Several of these visitations have confirmed the need for the "faithful" to pray to her directly. Paul warns,

But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

Galatians 1:7-9

The Catholic church' veneration of Mary to the position of the "Queen of Heaven"<sup>25</sup> is a by-product of mixing the doctrines of Christ with the pagan mysticism of Mithraism with their goddess Magna Mater (mother of god) as center of their adoration.

The fourth kingdom parable re-enforces the corrupt nature of this doctrine.

"The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."

Leaven is a type of hypocritical sin,<sup>26</sup> and this woman is covertly kneading it into three measures of meal. Three measures of meal symbolize a fellowship offering toward the trinity. We see this take place in Genesis 18 when Abraham speaks with an epiphany of Jesus. Sarah prepares three measures of meal for this time of fellowship.



---

<sup>23</sup> Luke 11:27-28

<sup>24</sup> 1 Peter 1:25

<sup>25</sup> Prayer of Consecration of Mary begins, "O Mary, Virgin most powerful and Mother of mercy, *Queen of Heaven* and Refuge of sinners..." The intercessor also recites, "Thou art the *Queen of heaven*, the mistress of the universe; in short, thou art the Mother of God.

<sup>26</sup> Luke 12:1

The worship of the "Queen of Heaven" is condemned in Jeremiah, and the parallel with the fourth kingdom parable is overwhelming.

"Do you not see what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and *the women knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven*; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger..." - Jeremiah 7:17-18<sup>27</sup>

But let us examine the life of Jezebel more closely. She was a Canaanite who brought idol worship back into Israel. Could this be in pointing to the idolatry found within the Catholic Church even today?

She falsely accused Naboth and condemned him to death in order to steal his vineyard for her husband. Could this be pointing to the inquisitions that falsely accused and murdered hundreds then seizing their land?

She murdered the prophets who spoke against her rule in Judea. Could this point to those the Catholic Church burned at the stake those who tried to appose her rule?

In His letter, Jesus recognized that not all who are in the Catholic Church would hold to its corrupted doctrine. To them he said, "I will put on you no other burden." which, in a way is sad, for the burden of Jesus is learning of Him and finding rest. For Jesus said,

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."  
-Matthew 11:28-30

There are those within the Catholic religion who have not been corrupted by the dictates of the Popes or the priests. To these Jesus says to hold your ground till He comes. Almost as if to needle the Papal hierarch, Jesus promises to reward the "undefiled" Catholic with power and authority to rule over the nations in the latter days.

### **End Times Churches**

I'm stopping at midpoint to bring up an important observation. The letter to the church at Thyatira is different from the first three letters in that it contains language that speaks of the latter days. The phrases "I will cast her...into *great tribulation*", "...hold fast what you have *till I come*." and "...he who overcomes, and keeps My works *until the end*" all have "last days" connotations. It is apparent by the language that the Catholic Church will be around during the end times, which is very evident today. As we delve into the last three letters, we will see that they too will be around in the days of Jesus' return.

---

<sup>27</sup> See also Jeremiah 44:17-25

### **Sardis (1290 A.D.— present)**

The name *Sardis* means "red stone" and its gem namesake was used in the creation of signet rings. These rings were very valuable, more by what they represented than by what material they were manufactured, that is, a signet representing authority, reputation and property. We also see within the church of Sardis the use of names. In kind, these names could be Baptists, Methodists, Lutherans, Anglican, Reformed, Presbyterian and Anabaptist. Here is what Jesus proclaims

And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, `These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars:

"I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

"You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Jesus mentions the word "name" four times. Now replace the word *name* with its synonym *denomination*. We can now clearly see the age of the Protestant church and its myriad of factions— "I know your works, that you have a *denomination* that you are alive, but you are dead; You have a few *denominations* even in Sardis; I will not blot out his *denomination* from the Book of Life; I will confess his *denomination* before My Father."

How well have these denominations performed as representatives of Jesus' name? I believe Jesus takes exception to churches using His name on the outside, but inside there is no spirit of repentance, joy in worship or conviction toward salvation. Anti-Semitism via Martin Luther tainted the roots of the Reformation; German liberal theologians that denigrated the Word of God to mere philosophy fodder; Later, political correctness and the need to increase its dwindling number led to watering down of the scriptures to ease conviction of the conscience.

But Jesus reminds the Protestant church, that He has the signet of the churches on His hand in the form of the seven stars. Nothing escapes his eyes, not even those denominations that do things for love of the gospel and not for the offering plate tallies. These church congregations shall be clothed in the righteousness of Christ and not the righteousness of their doctrinal hypothesis or textual criticisms.

Note the warning of Jesus: "Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you." This is an allusion to the rapture of the church. (A teaching of the Bible rejected by many Protestant denominations.) This shows that the Protestant church will be around when the tribulation begins, just as the Catholic Church will as well. The Protestants are urged to "Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent" They received, via the Reformation, access to the newly printed common language King James and Gutenberg Bible. They received by revelation of the Word of God freedom from the bondage of man's tradition and regulations.

If we, as a church body, return to the Word of God, we become a treasure in the midst of the world. The same world that Jesus gave all that He had including His life and blood to purchase. Just as the fifth kingdom parable illustrates.

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

Which brings to remembrance of the words of Paul to the church elders in Asia saying, "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."<sup>28</sup> Be watchful and ready church of Sardis, for your Lord comes quickly.

### **Philadelphia (1940 A.D.— present)**

Now comes the church that enters like a breath of fresh air. The name *Philadelphia* means "brotherly love" and as one who has experienced the Catholic church for five years and the Protestant church for six, I can tell you in truth that there is a vast difference when you find a body of believers who love each other unconditionally. I was born again in the height of the "Jesus People" movement; and though we had our squabbles and disagreements, I would never trade those days.

It is hard to put a label on the church of Philadelphia, because this church age is not a denomination, but rather a movement of people peppered throughout the nations. You will recognize them when they are seen praying for each other, singing praise songs on a guitar, leading Bible studies in drug rehabs and prisons, or just sitting on the beach leaning against his surfboard and reading the Gospel of John. To these, Jesus writes the following letter.

"To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

"These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens. I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie--indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

"He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Jesus identifies Himself as "He who has the key of David". The key of David is the key to the royal front door, so to speak. There is great authority connected to it, for both here and in Isaiah 22:22, the key of David and open a door or close a door permanently. But in the case of the church of Philadelphia, this door is open. Many have speculated what this door represents; some say it is an open door for evangelism. If this is so, why is no door mentioned in the first two letters where the greatest evangelism took place?

The key is in the keys. The door to evangelism is open via the "keys of the kingdom" such as those given to Peter<sup>29</sup> and utilized in Acts. The "kingdom" speaks of the church age, just as the seven kingdom parables in Matthew 13 represent the seven dispensations of the church body.

The key of David is different in that it is connected to the name of a king, so it has royal implications. It is very clear that this key is mated with the door mentioned later, "See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it". The question is, where does it lead? If we jump ahead to Revelation 4:1 we will find our answer; it is the heavenly realm. Now it is clear that the key of David is the front door key to the very throne room of God. This open door is what is called the rapture<sup>30</sup> of the church.

Again we see the term "synagogue of Satan" used to describe a group of people who "say they are Jews" but are not Jews. It could be referring to secular Jews who do not believe in God or the Torah. However, the timing of this rebuke corresponds with a twisted doctrine that states that because the Jews rejected Messiah Yeshua, they have been disqualified to receive God's promises; and that the church is now "Spiritual Israel". One need only read Romans 11 to see this anti-Semitic doctrine for what it is, a blatant twisting of the truth. The church has been given a dispensation of time to repent and receive the good news. But God has not cast aside the Jews, Israel or Jerusalem. There is a master plan, and we are almost to the climax of history.

Again we see an emphasis on the "latter days" when Jesus states that He will "keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world" If the trial is upon the whole world, how will we be kept from it? This is a confirmation regarding the translation through the "door" of the rapture. We are admonished to hold on so we will not lose the crown given to us in Revelation 4:4. It will be a glorious homecoming, and we shall become an integral part of the new Jerusalem and the new temple.

---

<sup>29</sup> Matthew 16:19

<sup>30</sup> Gr. *Harpazo* or "caught up" see 1 Thess. 4-5, 2 Thess. 2, Isaiah 26:19-21, 1 Cor. 15:53

Our translation from one realm into another is seen in the sixth kingdom parable.

"The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it."

We, like the pearl, will be snatched away from our realm below, taken high and into the outer world only to have our being sold to the One who paid the highest price of all. It is interesting to note, that pearls start out as a worthless grain of sand that becomes an irritant in its new domicile. Is not the Philadelphia church that way today with its peaceful protests against abortion clinics, its lobbying against pornographic exploitation, its radical views on prayer and the Bible in schools and its painful call for accountability in the media? The response of the irritated is to gloss-over all that we say and do until the pain of our actions is felt no more. So is the case today. It is not that we are ineffective; we are now a pearl ready for harvesting. Get ready Philadelphia; the diver is on His way!

### **Laodicea (1970 - end)**

Now we come to the last church, the church of Laodicea, whose name arrogantly translates, "the rights of the people".

"To the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write,  
`These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' --and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked-- "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me.

"To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.""

Jesus pulls out the stops in regard to His person; He is the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness and the Beginning of the creation of God.<sup>31</sup> These titles are anything but lukewarm and stand in sharp contrast to Laodicea.

---

<sup>31</sup> Don't let this throw you, Jesus is not a "creation of God", the word for "creation" in Greek is *ktisis* or "foundation". So the literal meaning of the above is, the beginning of the building of God, or the foundation. This clarification corresponds perfectly with passages in Isaiah 28:16, 1 Corinthians 3:11 and Eph 2:20.

There are many churches today that are lukewarm, and perhaps they fall into this category. However, we have been talking church ages, and this final one is more detailed in its description than you may assume on first glance. To reveal this church assemblage, look closely at the repeated imagery regarding the mouth and speaking words, "I will vomit you out of My mouth", "Because you say", "I counsel you", "I rebuke and chasten", "If anyone hears My voice", "eat with him, and he with Me".

In Sardis we saw the repeated imagery of "names and denominations" and Philadelphia we saw repeated imagery of "keys and doors", in Laodicea it is uses of the mouth. Today's church has also found uses for the mouth in way of "positive confession" or "taking dominion" or "name it and claim it". This breed of churches that are so prevalent today, make boast that you have the right to be healthy, the right to be wealthy and the right to take dominion over calamity. Because you have these rights, to be in poverty or sick or affirmed is a lack of faith. Jesus made this attitude clear "you say, `I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'" But notice that they *say* they are rich and wealthy. But in reality, they are not, for Jesus replies, "you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked"

So what is true wealth? Jesus says that it is gold refined by the fire. Paul confirms this,

For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.-1 Corinthians 3:11-13

Here we see Jesus confirmed as the first creation of God, or literally, the laid foundation. We are saved, but our works are judged in the last days. That which is precious is refined by fire, but that which is worthless is burned up.

In contrast to the Laodiceans "worthless riches" is Smyrna's "precious poverty". Jesus said to Smyrna, "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich". The faith of Smyrna was proven to be gold through affliction and was thus purified by its crucible of persecution. Laodicea seeks to *speak* it's faith and gold into existence. One pastor locked himself in a tower and said God would kill him if a pledge of a million dollars did not come into his "ministry" by the end of an appointed time. Another affluent pastor, when asked what is needed for salvation, replied, "Speak positive and do good". Television has provided them a forum, but Jesus says their eyes are infected and they are in need of healing. The only way the healing will come is if Jesus is invited in and allow to fellowship their midst.

Look closely at what Jesus says to Laodicea,

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me.

Could this be the door of the rapture that is now closed to Laodicea? Is Jesus giving Laodicea the ability to open the door that is shut? If this is true, Laodicea cannot enter, however, Jesus will come to them. Yet Jesus, with the keys of Death, Hell and David, will not force this one open. Nor will he force His way into the unwilling heart.

The final kingdom parable of Matthew 13 tells us that this church age will go into the final judgment

The kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away.

"So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

So it will be at the close of the church age, those who are clothed in their own righteousness and those who are clothed with the righteousness given by Jesus Christ, as he admonished, "I counsel you to buy from Me...white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed".

In the rapture, Jesus comes and gathers His own<sup>32</sup>, in the parable above, the angels come down and gather both good and evil all at once, just as was detailed by Jesus regarding the parable of the tares and the wheat,

"He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"-Matthew 13:37-42

So Jesus confirms that this church will not make the rapture, but those who choose not to follow its teaching of "dominion theology" or "word of faith", will be saved in the end.

  **DANGER! POISON!**  

There are true Christians peppered within the denominations I have discussed and those mentioned in the prophetic letters. If you see that you have swallowed the false or perverted doctrines of any of these misguided churches, induce vomiting and flee their influence immediately.

## **The Throne**

In Revelation 4:1 we find John "caught up" to the throne of God. Now remember that this is the partition that takes place after the church period. It could be that John being "caught up" could be a figurative representation of the Rapture. Since figurative interpretation tends to muddy clear waters, let's just consider this as a *possible* interpretation.

The following chapters of Revelation will seem very strange if you look at it from a "New Testament" point of view. God's method of dealing with Israel and the Gentile nations now turns to an "Old Testament" tone with the use of plagues and miracles. The focus is again turned back to Israel and the jealous, protecting God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

## **The Rainbow**

Around the throne is a rainbow that has an important meaning in scripture. The rainbow is God's signature on a covenant that states that He will never again destroy the earth with a flood of water. We find this promise in Genesis 9:13–15.

"I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth." It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh."

Through a scripture cross reference, we find that the rainbow around the throne is a reminder to the reader that God is never going to destroy the earth by a flood again; however, there is some fine print that the apostle Peter alerts us to.

For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which now exist are kept in store by the same word, reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

The catch in the contract is this: The promise of God was never to destroy the earth with a flood again. The catch being that He did not mention anything about destroying the earth by fire. This is what we are about to see described later in our text.

## **Twenty-four Elders**

Next we see what is labeled as the twenty-four elders. For many years I was puzzled over the identity of the twenty-four elders. Later I found that there are a few items that leave no doubt to their identification. First we see a couple of "flags" given in the form of crowns and clothing. The elders are wearing white robes, which is a cue to open our Strong's concordance and perform a word study on "white".

If we then turn our concordance to the word "crown" we find that the true believers within the Church will receive what is called a *stephanos* or a *laurel wreath*. In the movie *Ben Hur*, the character of Judah won a laurel victory crown for his winning of the chariot race. This is the *stephanos* that will be presented to us when we meet the Lord. Paul describes this crown that the church is to receive in II Timothy 4:8.

Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

It is becoming clear that the twenty-four elders are a representation of the Raptured Church. This is again clarified by the song they sing later in verse 9; the song of the redeemed.

And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation."

The first part of this statement signifies that this group came about after the Messiah's crucifixion in 32 A.D. [You were slain, and have redeemed us]. The second part tells us that these elders are not Jews, but rather, Gentiles [every tribe and tongue and people and nation.] This can only point to one group of people, the redeemed Gentile Church of Jesus Christ.

## **The Four Living Creatures**

With the twenty-four elders we see four strange living creatures with four faces. God created these beings with such a strange facade to point to the coming messiah. Jesus, in the gospel of Matthew, was described as a Hebrew, or the *Lion* of the Tribe of Judah. In Mark, Jesus is seen as a suffering servant or an *ox* if you will. In Luke He is portrayed as a *man* among men. And in John Jesus is revealed as the heavenly Son of the living God, as depicted by the *eagle*.

Here we see the written word of the Gospels symbolized by the four living creatures worshipping before the throne of God along with the twenty-four elders and the seven Spirits mentioned earlier.

## Cleansing the Earth

In the number code, seven is the number of completion. We will see 3 major sets of seven plagues used in the cleansing of the earth, or 777. The end of these plagues will bring a "complete" cleansing of the earth from the leprosy of sin.

## The Seven Seals

In Revelation 5:1 we are introduced to the first of these "sevens". It is in the form of a scroll; a scroll with 7 seals.

And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

What is this scroll, and what does it contain? Here is where we can use our technique of comparing scripture with scripture. Our clue is found in the description of the scroll; it is written on both sides [written inside and on the back]. Another scroll written on both sides can be found in Ezekiel 2:9–10.

Now when I looked, there was a hand stretched out to me; and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. Then He spread it before me; and there was writing on the inside and on the outside, and written on it were lamentations and mourning and woe.

In this scripture we see that the content of our scroll is woe and lamentation. Note that this was *the scroll of a book*. Could this book have been Revelation not yet written? Within the scroll are written three descriptions of wailing; lamentations, mourning and woe. Could these three descriptions represent the three sets of disaster, plague and wrath to be unleashed starting with the scroll?

Notice that I am not stating these thoughts as conclusive, but rather as possibilities. The exciting part of prophetic study is discovering the complex infrastructure of the text. The more you study, the more you discover this incredible foundation and framework. But do not be compelled to create a rigid doctrine. Rather, be an observer and ponder the unclear or speculative as possibilities. This will make it easier to adjust your interpretive position as new facts emerge from daily current events.

Let us return to our study and consider the purpose of this scroll with a scriptural comparison found in Zechariah 5:1–4.

Then I turned and raised my eyes, and saw there a flying scroll. And he said to me, "What do you see?" So I answered, "I see a flying scroll... Then he said to me, "This is the curse that goes out over the face of the whole earth: 'Every thief shall be expelled,' according to what is on this side of the scroll; and, 'Every perjurer shall be expelled,' according to what is on that side of it." I will send out the curse," says the Lord of hosts; "It shall enter the house of the thief and the house of the one who swears falsely by My name. It shall remain in the midst of his house and consume it, with its timber and stones."

The purpose of this scroll is not only an authorization for wrath, but a specific order to cleanse God's world of the usurpers.

☠ ☠ **DANGER! POISON!** ☠ ☠

There are those who say that if God is a loving God and He is all-powerful; then why does He allow evil to continue. He must either be a sadist, impudent or non-existent. The scroll tells us that God's world is polluted by evil and sin. One day, soon, He will remove the evil and sin violently. The philosophy of an apathetic God is a slow poison. If swallowed, induce vomiting.

### **The Lamb the Lion**

John wept at the thought that no man was found worthy to open the scroll seen in verse 4. Why did he weep? The reason could be that if the scroll was not opened, the earth would never be cleansed of lies, greed, unrighteousness, disease, deformity, poverty, lust and pollution. The very thought of such hopelessness would break me as well. An unusual sight comforted John,

"Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

Names and animals are part of the "secret code" of the Bible. The Lion of the tribe of Judah and the Root of David are both titles that honor the Messiah of the Hebrew Bible.

A mistake of the Jews in Jesus' day is that they were expecting the Lion of the tribe of Judah to come and save them from the tyranny of Rome. Instead, He came as a man, as the *Lamb* to be slain. It is later that this slain Lamb comes forward to take on the role as the Lion of Judah. He took the scroll from Him who sat on the throne and began the cleansing process at the breaking of the first seal.

## The Broken Seals

The breaking of the first seal releases what looks like a Messiah. He wears a crown and rides a white horse, yet the true Messiah is at the throne breaking the seals of the scroll. The man who makes this covenant will be embraced by Israel as the messiah who is to come. This false messiah is described in-depth in the book of Daniel. Part of this description is given in Daniel 11:21–24.

"And in his place shall arise a vile person, to whom they will not give the honor of royalty; but he shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue. With the force of a flood they shall be swept away from before him and be broken, and also the prince of the covenant. And after the league is made with him he shall act deceitfully, for he shall come up and become strong with a small number of people. He shall enter peaceably, even into the richest places of the province; and he shall do what his fathers have not done, nor his forefathers: he shall disperse among them the plunder, spoil, and riches; and he shall devise his plans against the strongholds, but only for a time.

The second seal will bring forth war; the third brings extreme inflation; the fourth brings mass death caused by the war, starvation from the inflation and other forms of plague.

The fifth seal broken in verses 9 and 11 give us an insight as to what is happening on the earth at this time.

When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" And a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

It is clear from this passage that there is a great revival happening upon the earth after the Rapture. These people, unfortunately, have to die under the hands of the antichrist as was prophesied in Daniel 7:25,

He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for [31/2 years].

This breaking of the covenant officially releases the wrath of God that begins after the breaking of the sixth seal. The sixth seal announces the wrath to come in the form of a great earthquake and cosmic upheaval. The *Day of the Lord* has begun as stated in verse 17.

"For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

## **The 144,000**

During the plagues of Egypt, there was a shield of protection set around the children of Israel living in Goshen. While all the surrounding land suffered from the pestilence of frogs, lice and flies; Goshen remained untouched.

"And in that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there, in order that you may know that I am the Lord in the midst of the land." Exodus 8:22

These plagues are going to come upon the earth again and, like the land of Goshen; Israel will be protected from the coming judgment. Listed in Revelation 7:4–8 are one hundred and forty-four thousand of these protected Jews. Like the apostles before them, they will be the most incredible evangelistic team ever assembled.

  **DANGER! POISON!**  

There are several non-Jewish cults that claim to be the 144,000 listed in Revelation 7:4–8. The very fact that they are not Jewish shows how ludicrous this claim is.

Within this doctrine is found another even more deceptive false teaching. That is the notion that the church is "Spiritual Israel" and—because of their rejection of the Messiah—the real Jews have forfeited all the promises given to them in the Hebrew Scriptures. This is the most deadly of all poisons. If swallowed, immediately induce vomiting.

## **The Multitude of Gentiles**

This group of 144,000 Jews will probably be responsible for evangelizing the great number of saved Gentiles found in verse 9.

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.

Remember the statement made to the martyrs seen during the breaking of the fifth seal?

... it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

The number of fellow servants and their brethren are completed here in Rev. 7:9. It would be safe to assume this for two reasons; first, they were killed as they had been killed (persecution) and second, they were to be brought in before the judgment and vengeance petitioned in Rev. 6:9.

"How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

This wrath will officially begin after the breaking of the seventh seal. It will be then that the Lord will judge and avenge the blood of these post-Rapture martyrs.

### **The Wrath Begins...**

At the opening of the seventh seal, there is silence before the blowing of the next seven trumpets of wrath. This should flag you to see a type illustrated in the book of Joshua. A tribe of usurpers called the Canaanites inhabited the land promised to Abraham. Joshua came to the edge of the land at Jericho and was instructed by God to carry out a strange military tactic.

"You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. Then it shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him."  
Joshua 6:3-5

God's instruction to Joshua is to have seven trumpets ready to be blown to cleanse the land of the usurpers. Joshua makes a very curious comment that adds an interesting addition to our type.

Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, "You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, 'Shout!' Then you shall shout."

It was imperative to keep quiet at this point. The reason may be for the parallel to Revelation 8:1.

When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

## The Seven Trumpets

The trumpets are blown and a third of the vegetation is burned up, a third of the waters turn to blood, a third of the waters become poisoned and a third of the day is darkened. Joel 2:30 makes note of this day by prophesying,

"And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood and fire and pillars of smoke."

The fifth trumpet sounds, summoning a strange and sinister form of scorpion out of the belly of the earth. To find out what these creatures are, let us perform a scripture comparison with Proverbs 30:27.

*The locusts have no king, yet they all advance in ranks.*

Compare this passage with our verse in Revelation 9:11 and see if we can obtain more detail.

*And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.*

Our scripture comparison shows that actual locusts have no king. It is probable that these creatures are a representation of a hideous strain of demonic force that has been allowed to take on a physical form. Their purpose is to torment those who still dwell on the earth at this time.

Two names are given for their king; Abaddon and Apollyon. The definition of these two names will provide a hint to look elsewhere in scripture. If we look up these two names in their original language, we would discover that their definitions mean Destruction and Destroyer. Jesus said of this fallen angel,

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." John 10:10

The Hebrew use in the concordance can be found in Proverbs 27:20.

Hell and Destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.

The identification of the king over the locusts can now be identified as hell and Satan and that these demonic hosts will come to steal life with a zeal.

The first five trumpets were against the sky and earth. The sixth trumpet is against mankind himself; killing a third by a plague of fire, brimstone and smoke. This list can also be found prophesied in Psalm 11:5–6.

The Lord tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates. Upon the wicked He will rain coals, Fire and brimstone and a burning wind; This shall be the portion of their cup.

Revelation 10:1–7 is a warning of the last trumpet that will summon the last seven plagues that are to come.

## **The Little Book**

In verses 9 and 10, an odd request is made of John to partake of a scroll.

Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth." And I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth." And I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.

John is being set up as a visual picture. The ingested scroll is another flag to go back into the Hebrew Scriptures to learn its prophetic meaning. The prophet Jeremiah said that the Word of God is to be eaten.

Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; for I am called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.  
Jeremiah 15:16

The prophet Ezekiel notes that the Word of God is sweet as honey when ingested.

Moreover He said to me, "Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll. And He said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you." So I ate it, and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness. And He said to me: "Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them. Ezekiel 3:1-4

This picture of John eating the scroll identifies the content as being the Word of God. This may be another hint that the scroll could possibly be the book of Revelation seen in prophetic advance. You will notice, however, that the result was bitter to his stomach. This may be yet another flag that points to a strange procedure in Numbers 5:24–27.

And he shall make the woman drink the bitter water that brings a curse, and the water that brings the curse shall enter her to become bitter... When [the priest] has made her drink the water, then it shall be, if she has defiled herself and behaved unfaithfully toward her husband, that the water that brings a curse will enter her and become bitter, and her belly will swell, her thigh will rot, and the woman will become a curse among her people.

When a woman was thought to have committed adultery, mild poisoned water was given her to drink. If she was guilty of the crime, she would die; if not, she would live. The sounding of the third trumpet caused the drinking water to be poisoned. The text notes that many died because the waters were made bitter. [...many men died from the water, because it was made bitter]

God is not indiscriminately killing people in these plagues, but is allowing their own conscience to pass sentence upon their lives. When the woman who was thought to have committed adultery was given the bitter water, guilt would lower the resistance of her immune system and she would have no defense from the bacterial content.<sup>33</sup>

### **The Coming Temple**

In Revelation 11:1 and 2, John is told to measure the temple that is in Jerusalem.

And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. "But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles.

In Jerusalem today, there are tremendous efforts being made toward the rebuilding of the temple and reestablishment of temple sacrifice. This endeavor has enraged the Moslem community. This hostility stems from the presumption of the original temple foundation being located under the Mosque of Omar. If the Jews press the desire to rebuild the temple, it is assumed that the Mosque then would have to be torn down or destroyed.

Current studies have found that the actual temple location may be located slightly to the north. When the covenant of peace is made to Israel, with the rebuilding the temple as a sign of good faith, a stipulation can be made to keep the Moslem shrine intact in the outer court area; thus fulfilling this passage [leave out the court which is outside the temple... it has been given to the Gentiles].<sup>34</sup>

### **The Two Witnesses**

Next we are introduced to two unknown witnesses in Rev. 11:3.

"And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

What kind of power is God going to give to these two witnesses? Let us look at their descriptions in verse 4.

These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.

---

<sup>33</sup> The water was made bitter by mixing it with dirt from the floor of the tabernacle. This dirt had traces of dried lambs blood infecting the dirt and thus riddled with bacteria.

<sup>34</sup> Ref. "The Coming Temple" Don Stewart & Chuck Missler, Dart Press

This strange depiction is a flag for us to look up a passage in Zechariah. In this passage, Zechariah is shown a prophetic type that describes these two witnesses who are to come and their source of power.

Then I answered and said to him, "What are these two olive trees, one at the right of the lampstand and the other at its left?" And I further answered and said to him, "What are these two olive branches that drip into the receptacles of the two gold pipes from which the golden oil drains?"  
So he said, "These are the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth." Zechariah 4:11,12 & 14

The picture given was that of an oil lamp connected straight to the olive tree; signifying a never-ending source of fuel. Revelation 11:4 places a flag in the text that tells us the identification of the two witnesses as the two anointed ones in Zechariah's picture. It specifies that these two witnesses have a never-ending source of God's power fueling their light [the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth].

The next question that may be asked is what is the identity of the two witnesses? Our answer can be found by examining the miracles they perform in verses 5–6.

And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

## **Elijah**

At one of the witness' command, fire comes forth and destroys his enemies [fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies]. We see this similar power performed at the hands of Elijah in II Kings 1:12.

So Elijah answered and said to them, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men." And the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.

This witness also shuts up the heavens so that no rain would fall while the two are prophesying [shut heaven, so that no rain falls]. Again, we see Elijah performing this unusual control in I Kings 17:1.

And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word."

It was prophesied in Malachi 4:5 and 6 that God would someday send Elijah the prophet back to the earth,

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful Day of the Lord. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

To this day, Jews set an extra Seder table setting for the prophet Elijah. They do this just in case he is to return at the time of their celebration. It is now during the tribulation period that Elijah will return to fulfill what was written in Malachi.

### **Moses**

The second set of miracles, the waters turning to blood and plagues, are attributed to Moses [power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues]. This power is documented in Exodus 7:20 and 9:14.

So [Moses] lifted up the rod and struck the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants. And all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood.

" ... for at this time I will send all My plagues to your very heart, and on your servants and on your people, that you may know that there is none like Me in all the earth."

According to verses 7–13, the evil ruler of the world will kill these witnesses. The two bodies will be displayed for everyone to rejoice over and in three and a half days they will be resurrected. This resurrection triggers a mighty earthquake that will kill 7000 people.

Many interesting prophecies are attached to this great earthquake. It would be to your advantage to undertake your own personal study. Start by examining Zechariah 14, Ezekiel 47 and perform a word study on "earthquake".

### **The Woman in Radiance**

The first verse in Revelation 12 introduces us to another prophetic type.

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

The question is, of whom does this type represent? It cannot be a type of the Church because the Church is identified as the virgin Bride of Christ;<sup>35</sup> this woman is pregnant. Our answer can be seen flagged in the verse above [a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars]. In Genesis 37:9–10 we see that Joseph has a dream that relates to his father Jacob, his mother Rachel and his eleven brothers.

---

<sup>35</sup> This label is explained by Paul in II Corinthians 11:2

"Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me." So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?"

Jacob recognized that the sun represented himself, the moon his wife and the eleven stars his sons (twelve minus Joseph). Our visual type is now simplified to represent the nation of Israel. Her pregnancy is a fulfillment of the very first prophecy recorded in scripture; that is the coming of the Messiah was to be conceived through the seed of the woman.<sup>36</sup>

"And I will put enmity between you [the serpent] and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."  
Genesis 3:15

This prophecy depicts the hatred of the offspring of the serpent, Satan, toward the Jewish nation. Since the days of the Garden he has sought to destroy the Jews by war or holocaust. Revelation 12 illustrates this as happening once more at the command of the Devil.

  **DANGER! POISON!**  

There are many imposter "Christians" who claim that hatred of Jews is acceptable due to the perverted idea that they crucified their savior. This philosophy is not a new one, but could be seen devoutly practiced by the Third Reich of Nazi Germany. This demonic doctrine is a poison that will give you a feeling of righteous elation, followed by painful death. If swallowed, induce vomiting immediately.

Revelation 12 has shown us that persecution and anti-Semitism stems from hatred via the Devil, or Satan. Seeing that his violent method will not work because of God's protecting hand; he will try another approach. The Devil, at this point, will attempt a strategy that he has not been allowed to use since the betrayal of Jesus. This tactic is for Satan to physically possess the body of a "friend of the victim".

This "friend" was seen earlier on a white horse conquering and gaining political power. Now we see him coming to the Middle East to bring a long awaited peace. Israel will, unfortunately, accept this man as messiah.

---

<sup>36</sup> It is important to note that a woman does not have a "seed" but an egg. The male provides the seed (or sperm). Within this text is a literal prophecy of the virgin birth.

### **Three Demoniacs**

The world, as we know it today, has been waiting for someone who can not only provide peace throughout the earth, but unite all peoples into one. This is a noble idea that could backfire if the chosen "savior" dupes a naive world into an evil calamity. We have seen this happen with Adolf Hitler and the fascist regime of Nazi Germany.

There is a man who will rise to power that will be as brilliant a commander as Norman Schwarzkopf; a man of uncompromising peace as Anwar Sadat and as good an orator as Winston Churchill. Perhaps these comparisons are limited in their description; however, they will provide an idea of how this charismatic man and his two coworkers will appear during these frightening times of global chaos.

### **The False Messiah**

Revelation 13:1–5 describes this coming "savior" in an animal code.

I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.

This strange sight is a detailed code description of the coming false messiah. The lion may represent Great Britain; the bear may represent Russian militarism; the leopard could represent a revived Nazi Germany or perhaps an Islamic force. It is still not clear what these animals truly represent; however, my intent is for you to become familiar with their speculative uses. Only time and observation will clarify these given future events.

There is one more beast described in Daniel 7:7.

"After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns."

Examine the difference between this beast in Daniel and the beast described in Revelation. In Daniel, the animals are viewed as being separate. In Revelation they are combined into one ghastly mutation. This is probably why Daniel described the beast as being different from the rest.

We could probably be safe in decoding this description as there is coming a coalition of seven kingdoms [seven heads] which will be ruled by ten monarchs [ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns]. This unified group will have a history of swift "Desert Storm" style victories [like a leopard]; it will bide its time to maul international enemies [feet of a bear]; yet its leaders will speak with the oration of king or a Hebrew messiah [mouth of a lion].

Let us try another approach. Indeed we are looking at a global coalition comprised of seven kingdoms [seven heads]. These kingdoms will be ruled by ten monarchs [ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns]. Members of this world government will include Islamic or Germanic states [like a leopard]; Slavic Commonwealth [feet of a bear] and will have Great Britain as its international mouthpiece [mouth of a lion]. It will be interesting to see how coming world events will clarify this strange prophecy.

Verses 3–10 detail how one of these monarchs will be assassinated like president John F. Kennedy; only to be supernaturally healed.

I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.

Those who do not align themselves with his New Age<sup>37</sup> ideals, will be persecuted and murdered. Like Adolf Hitler before him, all those who cleave to him and his self-theistic doctrine will praise him.

Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those [the Church?] who dwell in heaven. And it was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

### **The False Prophet**

If Israel will be duped into making a covenant with a false messiah, it would not be surprising to see a "false Elijah" prepare the way as was prophesied in Malachi. This counterfeit of Elijah is described in the remaining half of Revelation 13.

Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

We see two horns that may suggest that there are two counterfeit witnesses involved here [two horns like a lamb] including an imposter Moses and an imposter Elijah. The question of the Jews will be whether this man (or one of the two) is truly the prophet Elijah. To answer this question for the people, the false prophet will perform an "Elijah style" miracle in verse 13.

He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.

---

<sup>37</sup> I say "New Age" because the New Age movement fits perfectly with every aspect of what the false messiah represents and how he governs.

The false prophet will amaze the people The man will speak with the "Christ Consciousness"<sup>38</sup> of Jesus [like a lamb] but will lead them into a very spiritually oriented deception [spoke like a dragon].

☠☠ **DANGER! POISON!** ☠☠

There are many deceived "Christians" who believe that the power of miracles is at the command of the individual believer. By visualizing or focusing God's power on a situation, you can produce miracles like Jesus. This is a preparatory lie for a coming deception. We have been given the authority to do the work of God for His Glory; not the power to perform miracles for our own. If swallowed, induce vomiting immediately.

### **The Mark of the Beast**

It will be difficult to identify who or what the third beast is described in verses 14–18.

[The False Prophet] was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

This third beast seems to be a man-made image that is designed to counterfeit the power of creation known only to the One true Creator. The triune God made man in His own image and breathed the breath of life into him.<sup>39</sup> So also the antichrist, wishing to promote his self-theism, creates a beast after his own image and breathes life into it.

This possible organic computer would be designed to control the entire world economy and exercise complete global control.

And he causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

This economy will most likely be based on the "smart card" idea of a cashless transaction. The only difference would be the surgical insertion of a memory chip under the skin or a laser produced bar-code instead of a card that can be lost or stolen.

Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666. Revelation 13:16-18

---

<sup>38</sup> New Age disciples are looking for the worlds coming Christ.  
Ref. Full page ad in New York Times; April 25, 1982

<sup>39</sup> Ref. Genesis 1:26 & 2:7

Many scholars have tried to determine the meaning behind the number 666. If you read the above scripture carefully, you will see that this number is identifying the beast as an actual man.

Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

Now let us use our numeric code to see if we can see what this number is trying to say. We have 3 repetitions of 6; six being the number of man and three as the number of the triune God. The number 666, therefore, is man making himself the trinity of God.

Using the decoded 666 as our guide, let us see how it works with what we have just seen in Revelation 13. We have a false messiah with a counterfeit resurrection (vss. 1–5); the false spiritual witness (vss. 11–14) who commissions the construction of an image, based on the likeness of the false messiah (vss. 14–16) and is mysteriously brought to life. With these events grouped, we see a perverted counterfeit of the gospel and trinity of God. The number 666 is then a coded flag that points to the coming of three beasts who, like the New Age expounds, proclaim their deity to the world.

### **The Final Wrath...**

Many are seen gathered in Revelation 14 to witness the final seven plagues to come upon the earth. On Mount Zion in Jerusalem is Jesus with the 144,000 evangelists.

### **Three Angels**

Verses 6–13 describe three angels with three announcements. The first is the commission of the 144,000 to evangelize the entire world. The second is the fall of the rebuilt city of Babylon.<sup>40</sup> The third announces the eternal curse that will be heaped upon anyone who receives the mark of the beast mentioned earlier.

Verses 14–20 describe the bloodshed that will take place outside the city of Jerusalem. At this point I wish to bring in scriptures from Hebrews 10 that will put Revelation 14 in perspective.

Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay, says the Lord." And again, "The Lord will judge His people."

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Revelation 15 gives us a prelude to the seven last plagues contained in four bowls or censers.

---

<sup>40</sup> Saddam Hussein has begun the extensive project of rebuilding Babylon.

With the destruction of Baghdad in "Operation Desert Storm" and "Operation Iraqi Freedom", Babylon may well become Iraq's new capitol.

## **The Shekinah**

In Ezekiel 10:8 the glory of God, in the form of the "shekinah" (or the pillar of fire and smoke) left the temple and has never returned.

Then the glory of the Lord departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim.

In verse 8 of Revelation we see the glory of God return and fill the rebuilt temple. This will be the most wonderful moment for the Hebrew nation; the return of God's presence to the temple of Jerusalem!

The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

## **The Seven Bowls**

Unlike the seven trumpets that only affected a third of the world, the seven bowls strike in totality. Revelation 16 begins with the first bowl that causes sores to come upon those who have received the mark of the beast. The second and third turn all the waters into blood; killing all the fish and infecting the drinking water. The fourth causes the sun to intensify and burn with a great heat. The fifth bowl brings darkness at the location of the beasts' kingdom.

The sixth bowl is interesting in the light of a construction project that has been completed by Turkey.

Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.

The Keban and Ataturk Dams have raised controversy because of their ability to cut off the flow of the Euphrates River that runs through Turkey, Syria and Iraq. Will this be what dries up the Euphrates? I will not venture to speculate. Although, it may be one more sign post that the time of fulfillment is close.

Notice also the kings of the East, or the Orient. In Revelation 9:14 we see a parallel between the sixth trumpet and the sixth bowl.

The sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.

During the time of the trumpets, the kings of the East were only allowed to kill a third of mankind. Now, under the sixth bowl, they and the rest of the world governments will attempt to destroy the heart of their troubles –God– who is presently occupying the temple in Jerusalem. Their armies gather in a large flat agricultural area of Israel called Megiddo. In Hebrew it is pronounced "Armageddon".

Before they could fire a shot, something happens that they do not expect; an incredible earthquake. This earthquake (the largest in human history) will destroy every city except Jerusalem and Babylon. The stage is now set for a showdown between the city of God and the city of Satan known as Babylon.

### **Global Surgery**

The purpose of this overview is to provide a base for understanding the book of Revelation. As you read these prophetic images, you will find a certain perspective begin to emerge. For example, no one would blame a father for shooting his old dog, now rabid, as it advances toward his only daughter. Could you hate a doctor who amputates your leg because it is gangrenous? Love is not always kisses and hugs; sometimes there is pain or even severe action.

Consider this as we see the "cancer" of the earth described in chapter 17 and its surgical removal in chapter 18.

### **The Harlot**

The city of Babylon has never been destroyed. In actuality, the city was disassembled brick by brick. Under the orders of Saddam Hussein, Babylon has been partially rebuilt. This young rebuilt city is seen prophesied in Zechariah 5:5–11 as a woman placed in a basket covered by a heavy lead disk.

"Here is a lead disc lifted up, and this is a woman sitting inside the basket"; then he said, "This is Wickedness!" And he thrust her down into the basket, and threw the lead cover over its mouth. Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there were two women, coming with the wind in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between earth and heaven.

So I said to the angel who talked with me, "Where are they carrying the basket?"

And he said to me, "To build a house for it in the land of Shinar; when it is ready, the basket will be set there on its base."

The land of Shinar is the province of Babylon and the basket may be the early stages of reconstruction held in check. When the time comes, the lead disk will be removed and wickedness will be allowed to escape. We find this woman described in verses 3, 4 and 18.

And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication...

And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.

## The Beast Returns

The beast the harlot is riding should not be difficult to recognize. It was described in great detail in Revelation 13. Fortunately for us, the meaning of this scenario is given by a trust worthier source. The angel next to John gives us a brief commentary on this beast.

"The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. And the beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition. And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast."

Let us now examine the points of the type one by one. First, the seven heads represent seven mountains which may hint to the "city of the seven hills", or Rome [The seven heads are seven mountains]. Because of hints in this text and other prophecies; there is a good chance that this beast may be the emergence of a revived Roman Empire.

I must note at this time that there is good evidence to believe that the core of this new religion could have its roots in the Roman Catholic religion. I am not saying that the Catholic Church, as we see it today, is the church of the antichrist, however, I am saying that the Roman Catholic Church may be the door by which the new ecumenical religions enters.

Mountains, in prophetic code, represent governments that have control over the entire known world.<sup>41</sup> There has been a total of six powers that have been in control of the entire earth; Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome.

When the book of Revelation was written, the first five, Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece had been vanquished [Five have fallen] and Rome was still in power [one is]. This leaves us with the seventh world kingdom [the other has not yet come], which is allowed to rule for three and a half years<sup>42</sup> until the breaking of the covenant with Israel [he must continue a short time].

---

<sup>41</sup> This can be seen illustrated in Daniel 2:31-45

<sup>42</sup> ref. Revelation 13:5

The beast with the multitude of heads will rise up out of the ashes like a phoenix. It will become the eighth government of world rule [the beast... is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven]. This eighth government may well be a global version of the coalition of nations described earlier.<sup>43</sup> This "World Community" will be overseen by ten kings who will not be assigned any particular territory [ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority... with the beast]. They work together as one as they plot their strategy of war [These are of one mind].

The riddle of this passage is: *How could a world government, that is one in thought and authority, be at war? Who could they be at war with?* The answer to the riddle is the One who is *not* of the world.

"These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings."

### **Nuclear Exchange**

When Jesus was walking the countryside of Jerusalem with His disciples, He became close friends with each of them. Sadly, prophecy notes that one of these friends would eventually betray Him for money. I find it ironic that the prophesied destruction of Babylon<sup>44</sup> would be triggered by the betrayal of an ally.

And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.

This passage seems to imply that our, so called, "World Community" will see the great city "MYSTERY BABYLON" as weak or an obstacle to absolute world domination. The description of its destruction in Revelation 18 seems to point to a surprise nuclear attack by this World Community.

And the kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, "Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come."

### **The Second Coming**

In Revelation 19:1–10, there is a moment of great rejoicing over the destruction of Babylon. After this jubilation, the Messiah is seen riding through the clouds on a white horse. To limit any confusion concerning this event, note this as what is termed the Second Coming of Christ. Jesus affirmed this by saying in Mark 13:26,

"Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory."

---

<sup>43</sup> A good candidate for this coalition may be previewed in the newly formed European Economic Community.

<sup>44</sup> ref. Isaiah 13

We have seen Jesus described in various chapters of Revelation. In each instance He is clothed in pure white except for our present verse in Revelation 19:13. Here we see the true Messiah stained with blood. This is yet another flag to cross reference this description with one given in Isaiah 63:1–4. Through this scripture we will identify where He is riding from and whose blood has stained His white apparel.

Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, this One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength?

"I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save."

Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?

"I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come."

Isaiah reveals to us that the blood upon His garments is the blood of His enemies and the enemies of redeemed Israel. Other prophecies in scripture seem to suggest that when the antichrist breaks the covenant with Israel, he will command a second holocaust to begin. A remnant will then flee to the deserted, stone city of Petra (in Bozrah). It will be here that Jesus, Himself, will defend His beloved people.

### **The Lake of Fire**

Verse 19 shows a pitiful attempt by the beast and the armies of the World Community to thwart the inevitable.

And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

The beast (false messiah) and the false Prophet were thrown alive into the lake of fire. The armies of the world (the enemies of Israel) will be destroyed personally by Jesus. Jesus would not be bothered with the chaining up of Satan. Instead, He sends an angel to perform this task.

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.

## The Millennium

Revelation 20:1–2 records how the Devil will be thrown into the center of the earth so that the world can experience a thousand years of genuine peace. This thousand-year period, or Millennium, has been prophesied in many places. The most notable can be found in Isaiah 11:1–9.

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots... He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears; but with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist.

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

The Millennium period, documented in verses 4–6, will be a time of rest and equitable justice under the reign of the King of kings. It is difficult to imagine such a time. Many people have asked me, "If God is a God of love, why does He allow so much suffering?" One need only look to the Millennium to see what life would be like when sin is finally swallowed up in victory and His Son rules in righteousness.

  **DANGER! POISON!**  

There are twisted cults who claim that we are presently living in the Millennium. If someone feeds you this false teaching, pick up a newspaper and read the front page. All the crime, greed and injustice will convince you that Satan is not chained and locked in the center of the earth; but is alive and kicking at the true believers. This poison will cause severe dizziness. If swallowed, induce vomiting.

Verses 7–10 warn that at the end of the thousand-year period, Satan will be loosed from his chains to deceive the nations of the world one last time. The Devil gathers a vast army and tries again to destroy Jerusalem and those loathsome Jews! God wastes no more time on this sullen fallen cherub and destroys his entire army with fire from out of heaven. Without hesitation, Satan is thrown into the lake of fire to join his two generals.

## The Books

In the early chapters of Revelation we were introduced to those who had found their salvation in the Lamb of God; the twenty four elders, the 144,000 redeemed of Israel and the great multitude.

We also have seen the punishment dealt out to those who tried to find their own salvation on the earth. Jesus made this distinction in John 3:17-19,

"God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

Seeing the distinction of these two camps, let us look closely at the end of Revelation 20.

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it... And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Upon close examination we see that there are two sets of books. The first set of books are volumes containing all the works—both good and bad—that "the dead" had performed while alive on the earth [And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books]. These dead people include not only the criminals and liars, but benefactors and humanitarians as well. These are those who have rejected the redemptive work of Jesus Christ under the false notion that God would not send a good man to Hell. These will seek to enter the kingdom of God based on their works. Jesus addressed this issue in John 10:1,

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber."

  **DANGER! POISON!**  

There is a false teaching that is gaining popularity among certain "churches" that declares that there is no Hell or eternal damnation. This "Russian Roulette" doctrine is gambling ones eternal soul on the premise that the Bible is wrong or misinterpreted. Based on the evidence presented, it would not be wise to place such a bet. Not only are the odds stacked against you, but the stakes are too high as well.

If swallowed, induce vomiting.

All those who had tried to buy their way into heaven by being a good person or giving to the poor or the church, will be cast into the lake of fire to join the Devil and his angels. The only escape is to enter by "The Door". Jesus identified this door in John 10:9 as Himself.

"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved."

When you enter by way of the door, your name will be written in a registry which is the second book mentioned; the Book of Life. [And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.]

### **Back to Eden**

It has taken thousands of years to complete the plan of God's redemption. It is impossible for man to reach up to God by religion, philosophy or good works in attempt to save his eternal soul. It is the intervention of His hand reaching down in Love that saves us from death and hell. People who do not know God, ignorantly accuse Him of not caring. Those who do know Him are convinced of just the opposite.

Revelation 21 and 22 reveal the result of the Lord's work on the cross; the healing of nations, the wiping away of every mournful thought or memory and the restoration of all that has been crippled or diseased. Our overview will end with an invitation found in Revelation 22:16–17 and is offered to anyone who desires it.

"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."  
And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"  
And let him who hears say, "Come!"  
And let him who thirsts come.  
And whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

If you have never accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and it is your desire to partake in the above invitation; you can pray the following:

Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and am under the penalty of death. I also understand that you took the penalty of death on the cross. Please forgive me and wash my sins away through your blood. Not just the sins I have committed up until today; but all of my sins. Come into my heart and be Lord of my life.  
Fill me with the Holy Spirit and your light so I can understand the Bible and gain a walking talking relationship with God the Father.  
Thank you Lord Jesus, for coming into my heart and life. Thank you for dying on the cross, washing away all my sins and bringing me into a relationship with my Creator. In your name I pray— Amen.