# REVELATION REVISITED!

**A LAYMAN'S LOOK AT THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

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**SCRIPTURE READING ASSIGNMENTS FOR EACH CLASS**

**(For YouTube video of each class, click on titles below!)**

[REVELATION OVERVIEW](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70kZgCuYe3I)**-(THE GOSPEL OF JOHN)**

[REVELATION 1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nq4KDfn-RU8)**-(THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES)** [REVELATION 2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5BgwWrRPpY)**-(ROMANS-COLOSSIANS)**

[REVELATION 3](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qwf_iO5JL28)**-(I THESSALONIANS-REVELATION)** [REVELATION 4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEM8JBrnHbU)**-(GENESIS)**

[REVELATION 5](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25bCI_Z44FQ)**-(EXODUS)** [REVELATION 6](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3cpUsaP8-w)**-(LEVITICUS)**

[REVELATION 7](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3bAm9o3R-E)**-(NUMBERS)** [REVELATION 8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uv19UoD15fs)**-(DEUTERONOMY)**

[REVELATION 9](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eM2kXl3z4bU)**-(JOSHUA-RUTH)** [REVELATION 10](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4efgp6-rLyQ)**-(I & II SAMUEL)**

[REVELATION 11](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBedJwThLFs)**-(I & II KINGS)** [REVELATION 12](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30DN_NWuvEU)**-(I CHRONICLES)**

[REVELATION 13](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oMY5BdVq5VA)**-(II CHRONICLES)** [REVELATION 14](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtSfz4iVAkU)**-(EZRA-JOB)**

[REVELATION 15](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOFw8-pF61I)**-(PSALMS)** [REVELATION 16](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMguHs_Axsg)**-(PROVERBS-SONG OF SOLOMON)**

[REVELATION 17](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hEWUWg6karM)**-(ISAIAH)** [REVELATION 18](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6WBSzFU_rM)**-(JEREMIAH-LAMENTATIONS)**

[REVELATION 19](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7DJH0WmZAHU)**-(EZEKIEL)** [REVELATION 20](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ghYewQ2TWA)**-(DANIEL-MALACHI)**

[REVELATION 21](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ANY5Jr3GjE)**-(MATTHEW)** [REVELATION 22](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hl5RMJFpOec)**-(MARK-LUKE)**

# THE BIBLE SONG

**Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, First and Second Samuel, First and Second Kings, First and Second Chronicles.**

**Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel.**

**Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habbakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.**

**Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts of the Apostles, Romans, First and Second Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians.**

**Philippians, Colossians, First and Second Thessalonians, First and Second Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, First and Second Peter.**

**First, Second, and Third John, Jude, and Revelation.**

**THE 7 SEVENS OF REVELATION**

#### 1. 7 BLESSINGS

1. THE READER-1:3 2. THE DEAD IN THE LORD-14:13 3. HE THAT WATCHETH-16:15 4. THE MARRIAGE SUPPER-19:9 5. THE FIRST RESURRECTION-20:6 6. HE THAT KEEPETH-22:7 7. THE DOERS-22:14

##### 2. 7 VISIONS OF CHRIST

1. THE SON OF MAN-1 2. THE LAMB-5 3. THE MAN CHILD-12 4. THE REAPER-14 5. THE WORD-19 6. THE LIGHT-21 7. THE LORD-22

**3. 7 LETTERS**

1. EPHESUS-APOSTLES CHURCH-2:1-7 2. SMYRNA-SUFFERING CHURCH-2:8-11 3. PERGAMOS-FAITHFUL CHURCH-2:12-17 4. THYATIRA-WORKING CHURCH-2:18-29 5. SARDIS-DEAD CHURCH-3:1-6

6. PHILADELPHIA-OPEN DOOR CHURCH-3:7-21 7. LAODICEA-LUKEWARM CHURCH-3:14-22

**4. 7 SEALS**

1. THE WHITE HORSE-6:1-2 2. THE RED HORSE-6:3-4 3. THE BLACK HORSE-6:5-6 4. THE PALE HORSE-6:7-8 5. THE ALTAR IN HEAVEN-6:9-11 6. THE WRATH OF THE LAMB-6:12-17 7. SILENCE IN HEAVEN-8:1-6

**5. 7 VISIONS**

1. THE THRONE ROOM-4 & 5 2. 144,000-7 & 14 3. THE MIGHTY ANGEL-10 & 11 4. THE WOMAN AND THE BEASTS-12 & 13 5. MYSTERY BABYLON-17 & 18 6. THE MARRIAGE SUPPER-19 & 20

7. NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH-21 & 22

##### 6. 7 TRUMPETS

1. BURNING HAIL-8:7 2. GREAT MOUNTAIN-8:8 3. WORMWOOD-8:9-11 4. SUN DARKENED-8:12-13 5. BOTTOMLESS PIT-9:1-12 6. ANGELS LOOSED-9:13-21 7. TEMPLE OPENED-11:15-19

**7. 7 VIALS**

1. THE NOISOME SORES-16:2 2. THE SEA TURNED TO BLOOD-16:3 3. THE RIVERS TURNED TO BLOOD-16:4-7 4. THE SUN SCORCHES THE EARTH-16:8-9 5. THE SUN TURNS DARK-16:10-11 6. THE EUPHRATES RIVER DRIES UP-16:12-16

7. THE VOICE FROM THE TEMPLE-16:17-21

 **[REVELATION OVERVIEW](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70kZgCuYe3I)**

**The Greatest Adventure In The Universe!!!**

Revelation 1:1

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

Now if you look at this page in your Bible my might see several different things when looking at the title of this book of the Bible. My Bible says "The Revelation of Jesus Christ". Some older Bibles say "The Revelation of Saint John, the Divine". This title is all right, I suppose except for the fact that it’s not the revelation of Saint John, and Saint John was not divine. He was a man like you and I. However, as if He anticipated this confusion, God clears all this up in the very first verse. It is, without a doubt, the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Also notice the progression of this revelation. The revelation begins with God, the Father, who gives it to Jesus the Son. You can see this taking place is Revelation 5:1-7. Then Jesus gives it to an angel, who gives it to John. You see this taking place in Revelation, chapter 10:1-10.

Revelation 1:2

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

Here in verse 2 we see what this revelation is. It is the written word of God. We also call this the Bible, or Holy Scriptures. The Holy Scriptures Are inspired and inerrant. In the English language, I am speaking of the Authorized King James Version of the Bible. Other versions can be pretty good, but they have all been tainted, in one way or the other, by a false line of biblical texts that Satan inspired many years ago, as a substitute for the true word of God. Many of the things you will learn in this class will only work with the Authorized King James Bible, because the other, more modern versions, have changed God’s word!

The book of Revelation is not a deep, dark, mysterious book. It is the last chapter in the Book. For instance, let’s say that you pick up a novel in the bookstore. Then you open it up to the last chapter and it says that John and Mary lived happily ever after. That might be good, but what if Mary was not John’s wife, but the other woman? What if they conspired together to kill John’s wife? I said all that to say this. If you read through any book, where should you start?

Genesis 1:1

**In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.**

In any book, regardless of what subject it might be on, it is generally accepted that you should start in the beginning. Thus it is with the Bible. Many young Christians will immediately go to the back of the book because so many people speak about Revelation. Once they get there, they see dragons, angels, and all manner of strange beasts and are totally lost as to what all this means. The reason this is confusing for them is because all of these images are explained in great detail in the earlier parts of the Bible, the part they failed to read.

Revelation 1:19

**Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;**

There are three divisions to the book of Revelation, which are all clearly given in the verb tenses used in this verse. These verses, as all verses in the Bible, have at least two meanings. The first meaning is literal. The second, and any subsequent meanings, are always spiritual in nature. Every verse in the Bible speaks not only to those involved but also to us who are reading the stories.

The first division of Revelation is "the things thou hast seen". This is the past tense. This refers, for John, to everything he had seen up to that point. This also refers to whoever is reading the book and means everything that he has read up to that point in the Bible. In other words, it refers to all the verses of the Bible that come before that one.

The second division of Revelation is described in "the things which are". This is the present tense. The second and third chapters of Revelation are all set in the present tense. This part of the book describes the seven letters to the seven churches. It refers to seven literal churches that existed in John’s day. It also refers to the seven types of churches which have existed down through the ages. Thirdly, it refers to the different periods of church history, beginning in Jerusalem with Christ and the Apostles, and coming all the way to the end of the church age, when the Day of the Lord will begin.

The third division of Revelation is described in "the things that shall be hereafter". This covers the rest of Revelation. This describes in detail the period of time that Jesus Christ called the Great Tribulation, in chapters 4-19. It also covers the period of time the Old Testament prophets called the Day of the Lord in chapters 20-22. In fact, as if to help us who are slow of hearing, this section even begins with the same catch word "hereafter", as we see in…

Revelation 4:1

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

Numbers are important in the Bible. One of the most important numbers is 7. In fact, the book of Revelation is the book of 7 sevens. The first of these sevens we see in….

Revelation 1:3

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

We see 9 statements similar to this in Matthew 4, at the beginning of the sermon on the mount. We call these the Beatitudes. Most folks don’t realize that there are also 7 beatitudes in Revelation. The are given in Revelation 1:3 (he that readeth), 14:13 (the dead in the Lord), 16:15 (he that watcheth) , 19:9 (they which are called), 20:6 (he that hath part), 22:7 (he that keepeth), and 22:14 (they that do).

The second set of sevens is 7 visions of Christ. They are found in chapters 1 (Son of Man), 5 (The Lamb), 12 (The Man-Child), 14 (The Reaper), 19 (The Word), 21 (The Light), and 22 (The Lord).

Our third set of sevens is the 7 letters to the 7 churches. They are given in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 and are addressed to the churches at Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea..

The fourth set of sevens is the 7 seals of the book. These seals are given in Revelation 5 through 8. They consist of the White Horse (6:1-2), Red Horse (6:3-4), Black Horse (6:5-6), Pale Horse (6:7-8), Altar in Heaven (6:9-11), Wrath of the Lamb (6:12-17), and Silence in Heaven (8:1-6).

Next are the 7 general visions which stretch from chapters 4 through 22. They include the Throne Room (4 & 5), 144,000 (7 & 14), the Mighty Angel (10 & 11), the Woman and the Beasts (12 & 13), Mystery Babylon (17 & 18), the Marriage Supper (19 & 20), and the New Heaven and the New Earth (21 & 22).

The sixth set of sevens is the 7 trumpets. They are described in chapters 8 through 11. They consist of the Burning Hail (8:7), the Great Mountain (8:8), Wormwood (8:9-11), the Sun Darkened (8:12-13), the Bottomless Pit (9:1-12), the Angels Loosed (9:13-21), and the Temple Opened (11:15-19).

Our last set is the 7 vials. These are all contained in Revelation chapter 16. They include the Noisome Sores (16:2), the Sea Turned to Blood (16:3), the Rivers Turned to Blood (16:4-7), the Sun Scorches the Earth (16:8-9), the Sun Turns Dark (16:10-11), the Euphrates River Dries up (16:12-16), and the Voice from the Temple (16:17-21).

Please note that the first of the seven Blessings is just for reading this Book. Revelation is not some deep, dark, mysterious book. It is the last book of the Bible. Therefore people who are confused about this book have not studied the 65 books that come before this one.

For instance, in Revelation 1:1, the Apostle John says that these things must shortly come to pass. This is similar to the message that John the Baptist and Jesus gave when they preached "Repent, the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.". These messages were given out nearly 2,000 years ago, yet they have not yet come to pass. Did God make a mistake when He said these things? The answer to this is found in neither the gospels or Revelation but in…

II Peter 3:8

**But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.**

Here we see that, to God, 1,000 years is the same as a day. Therefore, to God, these words were only written a couple of days ago. This also brings us to another interesting biblical phenomena. This is the fact that the cross divides all of time.

What year is this? Right now it is the year 1997. However, which 1997 is it? You do realize that it was 1997 once before in history. In fact, when it was 1997 before, the Old Testament Abraham was probably a newborn baby? The 1997 that was long ago was 1997 BC. The 1997 that is today is AD 1997.

Let me make the following statement without any sort of apology. I truly believe that the earth is only around 6,000 years old. The physical universe that we are living in today was created around 4000 BC. Jesus was born about 4,000 years later in AD 1.

You can go the London Museum of Natural History and see a beautiful collage that covers a wall. It was painted with the consent of the English scientific community around AD 1900 and shows in great detail how that the entire world began with Adam and Eve around 4,000 BC. In fact most of the world believed that fact until about a century ago, when a man named Charles Darwin started a false teaching called Darwinian evolution. The rest, as they say, is history. More specifically it is as the Apostle Paul told Timothy.

I Timothy 6:20-21

**O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.**

The New Testament period has lasted nearly 2,000 years. The Old Testament period covered exactly 4,000 Years. What does BC mean? BC means before Christ. What Does AD Mean? AD stands Anno Domini, a Latin term that means "the year of the Lord". This phrase first appears in …

Isaiah 61:1-2

**The spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;**

After Jesus is baptized, he is led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness for forty days. After he has been tempted by Satan during this time, he returns to his hometown of Nazareth to preach his first sermon. The text he uses for this first sermon is the one we just read in Isaiah, as Luke, the beloved physician, explains in…

Luke 4:17-21

**And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.**

Please note that Jesus does not finish the verse as it appears in Isaiah. He made it clear that He had come the first time to proclaim the year of the Lord only. The Day of the Lord is a 1,000-year long day that is explained in great detail in Revelation and it occurs when He comes the second time. God has much to do before we get to the Day of the Lord.

Revelation 1-3 covers the entire Church Age of the New Testament Period of time!. As we have already mentioned, this is a period of approximately 2,000 years that we are currently living in. Revelation 4-19 deals with the next period of time in God’s timetable. To do this, we need to follow the biblical injunction concerning testimony of any matter of importance.

Matthew 18:16

**But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.**

To learn more about the matter at hand, we need to go back and visit with a certain Old Testament character. Thus our first witness in this matter will be the prophet Daniel.

Daniel 9:27

**And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.**

If you study the entire book of Daniel closely, you will learn that Daniel is speaking here of a week, not of 7 days, but a period of 7 years, and the event that God calls an abomination that makes it desolate happens in the middle of this week. Some biblical scholars believe that this event actually took place in history around 100 BC, when the Greek conqueror, Antiochus Epiphanes, sacrificed a pig on the altar in Jerusalem.

However our second witness, Jesus Christ in Matthew 24 which was written around AD 33, says that this event was still future over a century after Antiochus’ death, in….

Matthew 24:15

**When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)**

Jesus said that this event was still future in His day. Therefore there are some other Bible scholars who believe that this event might have taken place when the Roman General Titus destroyed Jerusalem around AD 70. At that time, it is believed that one million Jews were slain in and around Jerusalem. While this was a terrible slaughter, Jesus is very specific about what happens during the time of this abomination.

Matthew 24:21

**For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.**

If God is speaking of the AD 70 conquest, then He made a mistake. You see, while one million Jews being killed is a terrible tragedy, in the past century, we saw over six million Jews killed by the Nazis during World War II. Put plainly, whatever Jesus is talking about is not only worse than what Titus did in AD 70, but it will also be worse than what Hitler did during World War II. Put simply, we ain’t see nothing yet!

Our third witness is the Apostle John, in the book of Revelation, written around AD 100, 30 years after Titus’ conquest of Jerusalem. His testimony concerning this period of time comes directly from the book of Revelation. Revelation 11 twice mentions a period of 3 1/2 Years. Revelation 12 twice mentions a second period of 3 1/2 Years. If we put these two statements in a mathematical formula, it would be 3 ½ + 3 ½ = 7 years. As we mentioned earlier, Revelation chapters 4-19 are entirely given to covering this seven year period, that was first described by Daniel, which Jesus called the Great Tribulation.

The closing chapters of Revelation concern the period called the Day Of The Lord. From Isaiah 2 to Malachi 4, the Bible refers to "the day of the Lord" over 600 times. As we have previously observed, II Peter 3:8 explains that this day is actually 1,000 years long. Revelation 20 states that this day is 1,000 years long no less than 6 times. Revelation chapters 20 through 22 are entirely given to covering this 1,000-year long day.

The purposes of this Revelation study are to learn the books of the Bible (See Bible Song above.) and read the Bible through (See Bible reading schedule above). Where should we begin reading the Bible? Jewish Believers usually begin In Genesis 1:1 which starts with "In the beginning".

When I first began to read through the Bible, I really enjoyed the book of Genesis, with its stories of the creation, fall of man, the flood, and the beginning of the nation of Israel. The first part of Exodus was also very interesting, as we saw God free Israel from their Egyptian slavery. However, when I hit Exodus 21, with the building of the tabernacle, I began to get lost. When I got to Leviticus, Deuteronomy, and Numbers, with all those sacrifices and laws, I became totally confused. While I finally made it through to the New Testament, I must admit that my first reading of the Bible was a struggle.

Then I heard a preacher speak of how the Old Testament is a Jewish book, which the New Testament is a Gentile book, and we are Gentiles. Interestingly enough, the New Testament also has a book that starts with the same phrase that Genesis begins with.

John 1:1

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

Gentile Believers, like you and me, can also begin In John 1:1 which also starts with "In the beginning". In this way, we will begin with the story of Jesus, following by the events of Acts and the letters to the churches, finishing the New Testament with Revelation. In this way, many of the New Testament pictures are still fresh in our mind when we begin the Old Testament, as much of the New Testament explains the reason for the Old Testament laws. The best part of reading this way to me is that we end with the first three gospels; Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In this way, when we read the Bible, we begin with Jesus in John and we end with Jesus in the first three gospels!

Finally we need to analyze our reason for doing this study of Revelation. First of all, it is to determine just exactly who we are. What exactly does it mean to be a Christian? What exactly does it mean to be a member of the body Of Christ? What exactly does it mean to be a member of our local church?

Most importantly of all, however, is to study Revelation to determine just exactly who the Bible says Jesus is. He is the Lord of the creation. He is the seed of the woman. He is the master of the flood, and the only-begotten son. He is the I AM of the exodus, and the righteous judge of the earth. He is the glory of the temple, and the king of kings. He will finally bring about the destruction of the wicked and end the captivity of the righteous. He brings the proclamation of salvation to the Gentiles. He is the Messiah. His name is Jesus Christ of Nazareth, and that's what the Bible is all about! Above all else, I want you to learn that Jesus is the hero of this Book!!!

**Overview Next Class-Revelation 1**

**Genesis 1:1**

**Revelation 19:10 1-Read John through Romans.**

**II Peter 3:8**

**Isaiah 61:1-2**

**Luke 4:17-20 2-Study Revelation 1.**

**Daniel 9:27**

**Matthew 24:15**

**Matthew 24:21 3-What Do The Candles And Stars Represent?**

**John 1:1**

**THE PAST THE PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **…….the things which thou hast…….**  | **….seen, the things which are, and.…H** |
| **C |**  | **| Year Of The Lord E**  |
| **R 4,000 Years |** | **| 2,000 Years R** |
| **E -------------------|** | **|------------------- E** |
| **A BC = Before Christ |** | **| AD = Anno Domini A** |
| **T |** | **| F** |
| **I Daniel Malachi |** | **| Jesus John T** |
| **O-4000 BC 500 BC 400 BC |** | **| AD 33 AD 100 Today E** |
| **N Genesis-Malachi |** | **| Matthew-Revelation 3 R**  |

**THE HEREAFTER**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Great Tribulation** | **Day Of The Lord** |
| **7 Years**  | **1,000 Years** |
| **3 ½ years | 3 ½ years** |   |
| **Revelation 4-19**  | **Revelation 20-22** |

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**REVELATION 1**

**THE BLESSED BOOK!**

1-2-**The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.**

Now let’s take a closer look at the progression of this revelation. It originates with God, the Father, who gives it to Jesus, the Son, who then gives it to an angel, who gives it to the Apostle John. In Revelation 5, we also see God, the Father giving something to Jesus, the Son.

Revelation 5:5-7

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

This book makes another appearance in Revelation 10, when an angel also gives it to the Apostle John.

Revelation 10:9-11

**And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.**

I believe that this two episodes are illustrating what John describes in Revelation 1:1-2. The revelation of Jesus Christ is indeed given in its entirety in the word of God. The testimony of Jesus Christ is also given clearly in the pages of the Holy Scriptures. Before we finish this study, we will indeed learn some amazing things about what God did when He inspired the Bible.

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

Here we see the first of the seven blessings of Revelation. Notice here that you are given a blessing just for reading those words. Again let me remind you, this is the Revelation of Jesus Christ. This is not a deep, dark, mysterious book.

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

Wait a moment. I thought there was only one Holy Spirit. Yet here we see no less than seven spirits before the throne. What is going on here?

Once again, keep in mind that these are the last chapters of the Bible. If you had read and studied the Old Testament, you would have run across an Old Testament book of prophecy that would unravel this vision for you.

Isaiah 11:1-2

**And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord;**

Seven is the Bible number for completeness. Here we learn that the Holy Spirit has seven names. He is the Spirit of the Lord, the spirit of wisdom, the spirit of understanding, the spirit of counsel, the spirit of might, the spirit of knowledge, and the spirit of the fear of the Lord. Each of these are a different aspect of the work He does with mankind. In Revelation, God is showing us graphically what he is naming in Isaiah.

5-8-**And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.**

Three is another Bible number. It represents God, who is the three-in-one. Here we see that Jesus is the faithful witness, first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. We also see that He has loved us, washed us, and made us rulers. He cometh with clouds, every eye shall see Him, and the earth shall wail, another set of three. Finally we see that He is the one who is, was, and is to come. As we read on, watch for more threes that God will throw into this story. He has a bunch of them!

Hebrews 12:1

**Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,**

Jesus also says He "cometh with clouds". While, in the literal sense, we will see Him in the sky, there is also a spiritual side to this statement also. Here in the book of Hebrews, we see another possible explanation of this statement. In Hebrews 11, we are given a list of many of the Old Testament saints. Then the next chapter begins with this statement. Therefore clouds can also represent groups of believers. Kinda neat, huh!

9-10-**I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,**

At this point in time, the Apostle John had been exiled to the island of Patmos by the Emperor of Rome. He was nearly 100 years old and had to think that his work was nearly over. Little did he know that his greatest work was about to begin.

Also notice that it mentions that he was "in the Spirit on the Lord’s day". I don’t think this means he was getting happy in the Holy Ghost on Sunday. This term does not appear anywhere else in the Holy Scriptures to describe either Saturday, the Old Testament Sabbath, or Sunday, the New Testament Sabbath.

All the events that the Apostle John is about to view are leading up to the return of Jesus Christ to rule the earth. This is a 1,000-year period called the Day of the Lord. The Lord’s Day is another way to say the Day of the Lord. I believe that this is what he is mentioning here. While he was not literally in the future, in his spirit God revealed to him what the Day of the Lord would be like.

11-12-**Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;**

Here we see Jesus giving the Apostle John his marching orders on this assignment. He is to write these visions down in a book and deliver them to the seven churches spread across northwestern Asia. Interesting orders, since John is a 90-year-old exile on a barren island.

However, God is faithful. Not only would John leave this island to personally deliver these letters when the Roman Emperors changed, but he would go on to pastor the church at Ephesus in his final days. In fact, God has another job for him after this assignment. He heads the group who compiles the 27 books of the New Testament!

13-15-**And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.**

This is the first of seven visions of Jesus Christ that we see in the book of Revelation. Here we see him as the Son of Man. The gold represents deity. White represents holiness, while brass and fire represent judgment. The first time that the term "Son of Man" is used for Jesus is in the book of Daniel. He would use it repeatedly to describe Himself during His first ministry on the earth. You see this especially in the gospel of Luke.

Compare what the Apostle John sees here with what the Prophet Daniel saw in…

Daniel 10:5-6

**Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz: His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude.**

Here we see a messenger from God, Gabriel, who appears very similar to the way that John sees Jesus in our opening chapter here. However, there is where the similarity ends, as we continue with our story.

16-**And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.**

Here again we see the number seven, but why seven stars? Not to worry, all will be explained soon. Meanwhile, let’s take a moment to learn more about this "twoedged sword".

Hebrews 4:12

**For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

Here we see that the word of God is sharper than a sword. Not only that, but in the listing of the Christian’s armor, our sword is also said to be the word of God. Very interesting.

17-19-**And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;**

Here we again see our three major divisions of the book of Revelation. As I have always said, the trouble with the Bible is not in not knowing Hebrew or Greek. It is rather in not understanding the English as we should. For instance, as we go over these again, let’s take particular care to notice the tenses of these English verbs.

"The Things Which Thou Hast Seen" is in the past tense. This refers to all that occurs before this statement was made by Jesus. We have already gone over this, but let’s take a moment to reflect on this.

Revelation 1:12-Revelation 1.

**And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;**

"The Things Which Are" is in the present tense. These things start at this point in time and move forward. This concerns those seven stars we were talking about. Now let’s see just what those stars that he saw actually are!

Revelation 1:20

**The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.**

Revelation, chapters two and three go into great detail about the seven churches. For right now, let’s go over some important spiritual concepts revealed in this last verse.

First, He says that each church has an angel assigned to it. Since the number seven means complete, it is safe to assume that this also means that all churches have at least on angel assigned to them.

Now here is where some Bible footnotes can get you into trouble. They say that this word should not be angels, it should be pastors. However, the Greek word here is "angelos". Now it doesn’t take a rocket scientist to figure out what this word would be in English. In fact, throughout the book of Revelation, the word angel appears dozens of times, and each time this is the Greek word used. Case closed!

"The Things Which Shall Be Hereafter" is in the future tense and it means exactly what it says. In fact, just to be sure we get the point, God uses the same terminology to make sure we know just when this part of Revelation begins.

Revelation 4:1

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

Now let’s go back and take some time to look at "the things which thou hast seen". Remember the Apostle John is being given these visions at the beginning of the AD years of history. Before this point in time, 4,000 years of history had passed from the creation of the universe to the birth of Jesus Christ.

Do you ever have trouble keeping your Old Testament stories in the right time sequence? Which came first; Abraham, Noah, Solomon, or Job? The following segment will hopefully help you to keep your Old Testament chronology in a little better perspective. Please take a moment to look at the chart labeled "Old Testament Chronology-The BC Years".

The Old Testament period covers exactly 4,000 years. By dividing this into 4 1,000-year sections, you can get a better grasp of who lived when. Keep in mind that the creation, 4000 BC, is when Adam and Eve lived. 1,000 years later, 3000 BC, would be about the time that Noah was born. In 2000 BC, Abraham would have been a little boy, and Solomon was king of Israel in 1000 BC. The Old Testament period ends when Jesus Christ of Nazareth is born in AD 1. Thus by remembering the names Adam, Noah, Abraham, Solomon, and Jesus, you can always keep the major divisions of Old Testament time in chronological order.

There are many ways to study Old Testament history. A study I have done on this subject is called "The Two Kingdoms" and is available on our website. One aspect of this study, I call "A Tale of Two Cities".

You see, the history of the Old Testament can be viewed as an ongoing battle between two kingdoms, "The Kingdom of Light Versus The Kingdom of Darkness". The chart you see below with that title will help us with the following section.

God divided the Old Testament time period by seven major events. The first event was the creation of the universe. Satan would try to counter this divine event by causing the fall of man. This first period of time I call "The Seed of The Woman" period and stretches from 4000 BC to 2344 BC. Ultimately this fall would lead to God’s judgment with the flood of Noah, thus ending the first period of Old Testament history.

Directly after the flood, the kingdom of darkness lost no time in establishing a city that would become its first headquarters after the flood.

\*Genesis 10:8-10

**And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the Lord: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.**

We all know the story that follows here. God judges mankind by dividing the nations by their languages. As the Old Testament story continues, slightly after 2000 BC, Abraham is called out by God to move to the land that many years later would become Israel. While there he meets the king of the city that God himself would choose for His people Israel.

\*Genesis 14:18-20

**And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.**

The name Babel means confusion. The name Salem means peace. Thus God in the very first book of the Bible clearly delineates the two forces at war in the Old Testament.

Abraham’s descendants become slaves in Egypt many years later. God frees His people in the third great event of the Old Testament period, the Exodus. Thus ends the second period of Old Testament history, called "The Sons of Noah", which stretches from 2344 BC to 1487 BC.

This is followed by the period called "The Judges Of Israel", which begins in 1487 BC and ends with the building of the temple in 1008 BC. The name of God’s earthly city would be changed slightly during this period, when a shepherd boy named David becomes the king of Israel.

\*II Samuel 5:3-5

**So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the Lord: and they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months: and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years over all Israel and Judah.**

The fourth great event of God’s Old Testament calendar takes place when King David’s son Solomon builds God a temple in Jerusalem. After King Solomon dies, the kingdom is divided and stays this way for nearly 400 years until it is conquered by the Gentile nations around it.

\*Daniel 1:1-2

**In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.**

This event is so tragic that God calls His fifth great event simply the Destruction, and it ends the fourth period of Old Testament history, "The Kings of Israel", which lasted from 1008 BC to 582 BC. Here we see the city of Babel, now called Babylon, take the children of Israel once again in captivity. Thus we see the tale of the two cities once again surfacing when God’s Peace (Salem, Jerusalem) is conquered by Satan’s Confusion (Babel, Babylon). Don’t worry though, I have read the end of the book and this conquest is only temporary, as we will see as this study continues.

This captivity would last 70 years, as God had testified through his prophets. Thus the fifth period of Old Testament history, "The Captivity of Judah" extends from 582 BC to 512 BC. This is the time when the events in the book of Daniel take place. It ends with the Proclamation of Cyrus, which frees the Jews to return to their homeland..

The Proclamation of King Cyrus also begins a period of history that, while beginning in the Old Testament, actually is still taking place today. The Bible calls this period "The Times of the Gentiles" and describes the Old Testament section of this period of time is when Israel is ruled by Babylonia, Medo-Persia, Greece, and finally Rome.

The Hebrew Old Testament is finally completed around 400 BC, when Medo-Persia rules, and ultimately becomes known as the Massoretic Old Testament today. This Bible was commissioned by God Himself and was only to be cared for and copied by the tribe of Levy, the priesthood of ancient Israel. Around 100 BC, during the Greek conquest of Israel, the nation of Greece decided to have all the books in the world translated into their language. Thus they translated the Old Testament into the Greek language, and this is called the Septuagint Old Testament today.

This final Old Testament period ends with the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, in AD 1. Thus by the time of the birth of Jesus Christ, there are two Bibles. One, which God commissioned to be written, copied, and protected by His nation, Israel, which today we call the Received Text. The other is a corrupted copy created by the pagan Gentile nation of Greece. It is the Greek Septuagint that begins the false line of Bibles that today we call the Alexandrian texts.

**Old Testament Chronology-The BC Years**

**Date Event**

**4000 BC-Adam 1-Creation**

**3000 BC-Noah 2-Flood**

**2000 BC-Abraham 3-Exodus**

**1000 BC-Solomon 4-Temple**

**5-Destruction**

**6-Proclamation**

**AD 1-Jesus Christ 7-Messiah**

**Revelation 1 Next Class!**

**Isaiah 11:1-2 Revelation, Chapter 2**

**Hebrews 12:1**

**Daniel 10:5-6 1-Read The Book Of Acts.**

**Hebrews 4:12**

**Revelation 1:12 2-Who Were The Nicolaitans?**

**Revelation 1:20**

### Revelation 4:1 3-Study Revelation 2.

**Genesis 10:8-10**

**Genesis 14:18-20**

**II Samuel 5:3-5**

**Daniel 1:1-2**

***The Kingdom Of Light Versus The Kingdom Of Darkness***

*Part 1-*(Revelation 1)-***A TALE OF TWO CITIES***

***LIGHT DARKNESS***

**The Seed Of The Woman**-4000 BC To 2344 BC

4000 BC-**The Creation**-Adam The Fall Of Man

Abel-Seth Cain

3000 BC

**The Sons Of Noah**-2344 BC To 1487 BC

2344 BC-**The Flood**-Noah The Tower Of ***BABEL***

Shem-Japheth Ham

2000 BC

Abraham-Lot-***SALEM*** Sodom and Gomorrah

Isaac Ishmael

Jacob-Issachar-Job Esau

**The Judges Of Israel**-1487 BC To 1008 BC

1487 BC-**The Exodus** Idol Worship

Moses-Aaron Pharoah

**The Kings Of Judah**-1008 BC To 582 BC

1008 BC-**The Temple-*JERUSALEM*** Kingdom Divided

1000 BC-Solomon Jeroboam

Zedekiah Hoshea

**The Captivity Of Judah**-582 BC To 512 BC

582 BC-**The Destruction** ***BABYLON***

Daniel-Shadrach-Meshach-Abednego Nebuchadnezzar-**Babylonia**

**The Times Of The Gentiles**-512 BC To AD 1

512 BC-**The Proclamation** The BC Holocaust--**Medo-Persia**

Ezra-Nehemiah-Esther Haman

400 BC-Massoretic Old Testament-Hebrew

100 BC Septuagint Old Testament-**Greece**

AD 1-**The Messiah Rome**

**REVELATION 2**

**THE FOUR CHURCHES**

Luke 8:10

**And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.**

The New Testament contains seven mysteries, or things that are revealed to Christians that others cannot understand. Here Jesus explains to the disciples that there are hidden meanings in what He is telling the people. In fact, there are at least two meanings for every verse in the bible. One is literal and the others, however many there may be, are spiritual.

In Revelation chapters 2 and 3 there are at least four meanings to every verse. This includes the literal, and at least three spiritual meanings.

The first meaning is that these were 3 literal messages to 3 literal churches. The second is that these verses show the 3 different types of churches. The third is that these letters refer to 3 different types of Christians. The fourth is that these letters refer to the seven periods of church history from Christ's first coming to His Second Coming.

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

The Church of Ephesus was in a huge city, much like our own city of New York, New York today. The reference to seven golden candlesticks refers us back to the Son of Man vision in Revelation 1.

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

The Church of Ephesus refers to the period of Church history called the Apostles Church, which extended from AD 33 To AD 100. This was the period, which was marked by the beginning of the martyrdom of Christians. For more on this period of Church history you can refer to "Foxe’s Book of Martyrs".

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

This statement sticks out like a sore thumb in the midst of all of this praise. What did Jesus mean when He said that they had left their first love. What is our first love anyway? To better understand this, we will need to leave the last book of the New Testament and visit the first book of the New Testament.

\*Matthew 22:36-40

**Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.**

So here we find the first commandment or as Jesus puts it in Revelation, our first love. It is the love of Him. In fact, without this love you cannot even claim to be a Christian. However, after we are saved, things can compete with and try to steal away this first love. Here we see that the Church's first love has been compromised by Mystery Babylon’s false doctrine of works, etc.

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

Here Jesus says return to the first works. When we first became Christian's, we had to repent of our wrongdoing. That is what the Church of Ephesus is told to do here also. Also a Christian's first works are done out of love for Jesus. The candlestick, as we also saw in Revelation 1, is the Holy Spirit. The warning here is very serious indeed. Either repent and return to your love of God, or the Holy Spirit will be taken from your midst.

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

Here we see our first reference to a group called the Nicolaitanes. We will see them quite a bit more before the leave the letters to the churches. Just who were the Nicolaitanes? Our first reference to this name comes in…

\*Acts 6:5

**And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:**

Just as Judas Escariot is listed last among the Apostles, so Nicolas is listed last among the Deacons of the early Church. The Greek term Nicolaitan means to conquer the laity. In the Old Testament, the priesthood stood between the believer and God. The Bible tells us in the New Testament that we are all now priests before God. Somehow Nicolas, the proselyte of Antioch, set out to once again start an exclusive priesthood that would be used as a means to conquer the laity, or common believers in the New Testament Church. We will learn more of their doctrine as we go along.

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

While we look around us and see many different types of people, God only sees two types. He sees sheep, or true believers, and He sees goats, or unbelievers. To better understand what God is saying here, we need to travel back to the Old Testament, to the first of the books called the Major Prophets. Here we find that the prophet Isaiah gives us some insight into who Jesus is referring to when He says "He that hath an ear".

\*Isaiah 6:9-10

**And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.**

Here we can see that there are those in Israel that were not converting and thus could not hear or see what God is talking about. Therefore "he that hath an ear" must refer to all true Christians. If God says that this refers only to true believers in the Church, then by definition this means that there must also be unbelievers in the Church. As we go along, we will see how these unbelievers are used by the enemy to try to take over the Church from within. Returning to the New Testament, we are given another picture of this in….

\*I John 5:4-5.

**For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?**

An overcomer is not a super saint, who has powers far beyond those of other mortal men. God says that one thing, and one thing only, gives a person the ability to overcome the entire world, This happens when he becomes a Christian, and sincerely believes in Jesus Christ as his personal Savior!

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

Now we move on to our second church. The Church in Smyrna had a terrible task before it. It existed in one of the most evil cities in that day, similar to San Francisco, California today. This church had many who had died for the sake of the gospel, therefore Jesus introduces Himself as the one who also had died and was now alive!

9-11-**I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.**

This church faced terrible persecution as these verses show. Thus this church was the one God used to represent the next period of church history. This was called the Suffering Church period and it stretched from AD 100 to AD 300. We also learn here that there is a special crown of life given to Christians who die for their faith.

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

The church in Pergamos is greeted by Jesus who holds the two-edged sword, which we have already learned represents the word of God, the Bible. Thus this is a group who are holding fast to God’s word. The city of Pergamos was a medium sized city in its day, similar to Nashville, Tennessee today.

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

Antipas was a street preacher in Pergamos. One day he was arrested for preaching and taken to the Roman coliseum that was built in that city. On this particular day, the city was offering sacrifices to the pagan god Baal. They had brought a huge brass image of a bull into the center of the coliseum which was hollowed out inside for the purpose of offering sacrifices to Baal.

The Roman commander was having quite a bit of trouble with the Christians in this city and decided to make an example of Antipas. He put him before the people in the coliseum and demanded that he deny his faith. Antipas refused. The crowd cried out for his death. The commander stated that Antipas must deny his faith or he would be sacrificed to Baal. Antipas still refused. Again the crowd cried out for his death. Finally the commander stated "Antipas, don’t you realize that the whole world is against you." Antipas’ reply was short and to the point, "Then it’s me against the world!" He was then taken, bound, and broiled alive in the brass idol of Baal. This is the only person that God calls by name in Revelation!

Thus God chose this church to represent the next period of church history. This period is called The Faithful Church and extends from AD 300 To AD 500. It is also during this period that the Church would face its greatest challenge!

14-15-**But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.**

Here we see that the Nicolaitanes have become members of this church. Indeed, it is during this period that Satan determined that he could not defeat the Church by persecution, so he decided to destroy it by infiltrating it with his own people. As the old saying goes, "If you can’t beat them, join them!" The doctrine of Balaam is best summed up in…

\*I Timothy 6:10

**For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.**

Just what is the significance of mentioning Balaam? Balaam is a false prophet that is mentioned in Number 22. He accepted money to curse the nation of Israel. He was ultimately killed because of his greed. The Nicolaitanes brought idol worship into the church. This was the same thing that God destroyed Israel for, as we see in….

\*Ezekiel 16:25

**Thou has built thy high place at every head of the way, and hast made thy beauty to be abhorred, and hast opened thy feet to every one that passed by, and multiplied thy whoredoms.**

You see, fornication is not just people sleeping around. It represents much more than that. There is also a spiritual side to fornication. When people worship idols, they are being unfaithful to God, just as a fornicating spouse is being unfaithful to their mate.

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

Here we see God calling those that have an ear, or the saved, "thee" or you. Notice also that he refers to the unbelievers in the Church as "them" or they. Here again we see that God only sees two types of people, the saved and the lost.

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

Manna is what fed the Church in the wilderness. The book of Psalms calls it the food of the angels. A white stone was used in Roman times to prove innocence in a trial. If a jury member believed you guilty, they put a black stone in a bag. If they believed you innocent, they put a white stone in the same bag. When the stones were counted, the verdict was proclaimed. This is also where we get the term black-balled!

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

The Church of Thyatira existed in a small city, similar to my hometown of Lebanon, Tennessee. . It is in Genesis 3:15 that we are first told that Jesus’ feet would be pierced. Here we see Jesus eyes are like fire and His feet shine like brass. Both of these represent judgment in the Holy Scriptures.

19-23-**I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.**

Notice that works is mentioned twice in verse 19. This was definitely a church busy with many good works. In fact, this period of church history is called The Working Church and extends from AD 500 To AD 1000. Here we also see, however, a false prophetess named Jezebel, who is an active member of this church.

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

Here again we see "you" and "they". Thus we still see many lost people in the Church. In fact, there are so many lost in this church that he has to tell the saved to hold on for dear life!

26-29-**And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.**

In Revelation 19:15, we see that Jesus will rule the nations with a rod of iron during the Day of the Lord. Here we see that those who overcometh, or Christians, will be qualified to share in this government. If you go a little further you will see that the morning star is Jesus Himself, in Revelation 22:16!

Mark 13:34-37

**For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.**

With this lesson, we continue our series entitled "The Kingdom of Life Versus the Kingdom of Darkness". Our first segment covered the Old Testament period of world history that stretched from 4000 BC to AD 1. With this segment, we will study the first of a two-part history of New Testament Church history.

Jesus began the Church around AD 30. All true Christian churches in the world today can trace their history back to that original Church at Jerusalem, when He chose the twelve apostles, in Matthew 16. As we have already mentioned, the first period is called The Apostolic Church because this is when the Jesus and the twelve Apostles led the Church from AD 30 to AD 100.

After the last of the Apostles died, intense persecution continued against the Church. Thus this period of Church history is called The Suffering Church and stretched from AD 100 to AD 300, when the Roman Empire ends its persecution of the Christian Church.

The Faithful Church is the name of the next period of Church history and it extends from AD 300 to AD 500, when the Dark Ages began. This period is marked by the fact that Satan decided he could not destroy the Church, so he decided to join it and corrupt it from within. Thus there were many in the Church that were unbelievers. Only the faithful carried on what God commanded during this period, often were outnumbered by the unbelievers around them.

The Working Church is the period going from AD 500 to AD 1500. It is during the Dark Ages that Satan uses his beachhead in the Church to try to wipe out what God is doing through His people. The devil finally uses his Mystery Babylon contingent in the church to subjugate all of western Europe. Things get so bad that in AD 1229, the Bible is outlawed! However, God raised up a godly German by the name of Johann Gutenberg who invented the printing press to print Bibles for the people. God also raised up a godly Italian named Christopher Columbus who defied the Pope in Rome and discovered the New World, where God’s people would continue the Church that Jesus sat up in Jerusalem!

**The Kingdom Of Light Versus The Kingdom Of Darkness**

Part 2-(Revelation 2)-**From Jerusalem To Lebanon**-part 1

400 BC Massoretic Old Testament

100 BC **Septuagint Old Testament**

AD 30 To AD 100-Ephesus-The Apostolic Church

AD 30 John The Beloved, Baptized By John The Baptist, Becomes An Apostle In The Church

Organized By Jesus Christ At Jerusalem In Israel.

AD 95 Polycarp Is Baptized By John The Beloved From The Jerusalem Church.

AD 100 The Antioch New Testament

AD 100 To AD 300-Smyrna-The Suffering Church

AD 150 The Partus Church In Italy Is Organized By Polycarp.

AD 200 The Old Latin Version-Massoretic OT & Antioch NT

AD 237 The Turan Church In Italy Is Organized By Tertullian From The Partus Church.

AD 250 **The Alexandria New Testament**

AD 300 To AD 500-Pergamos-The Faithful Church

AD 313 **The Roman Toleration Acts Begin**.

AD 348 The Pontifossi Church In France Is Organized By Tellestman From The Turan Church.

AD 350 **Latin Vulgate Version-Septuagint OT & Alexandria NT**

AD 500 **The Dark Ages Begin**

AD 500 To AD 1500-Thyatira-The Working Church

AD 671 The Darthea Church In Asia Minor Is Organized By Adromicus From The Pontifossi Church.

AD 738 The Timto Church In Asia Minor Is Organized By Archer Flavin From The Darthea Church.

AD 812 The Lima Piedmont Church In Italy Is Organized By Balcaleo From The Timto Church.

AD 987 The Hill Cliff Church In Wales Is Organized By Aaron Arlington From The Lima Piedmont

Church.

AD 1014 **Intense Persecution, First Initiated By King Henry Ii Of**

**England, Destroys Most Records Of This Period.**

AD 1096 **The Crusades Begin.**

AD 1229 **The Bible Is Outlawed.**

AD 1231 **The Inquisition Begins.**

AD 1450 The Gutenberg Bible Is Printed.

AD 1492 America Is Discovered.

AD 1500 **The Dark Ages End.**

**LITERAL MEANING**

**SUNDOWN SUNRISE**

**6pm—EVEN---9pm---MIDNIGHT---12am—COCKCROWING--3am--MORNING---6am**

**| | | | |**

**AD 33 AD 500 AD 1000 AD 1500 AD 2000+?**

**SON LEAVES |----------------DARK AGES---------------------------| SON RETURNS**

**PROPHETIC MEANING**

**Revelation 2 Next Class!**

**Luke 8:10 Revelation 3**

**Matthew 22:36-40**

**Acts 6:5 1-Read Romans-Colossians.**

**Isaiah 6:9-10**

**I John 5:4-5 2-Who Says They Are Jews,**

**I Timothy 6:10 But They Are Not?**

**Ezekiel 16:25**

**Mark 13:34-37 3-Study Revelation 3.**

**REVELATION 3**

**THE THREE CHURCHES**

1-3- **And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.**

This is the fourth of our seven churches. Sardis is generally called the Dead Church.

This church period begins just as the Dark Ages end. Most of the churches, especially in Europe, have fallen under the influence of Mystery Babylon in the form of the Holy Roman Catholic Church. This period extends from AD 1500 to AD 1700. The vast majority Of churches existing when this time begins are spiritually dead. For such dire circumstances, radical surgery is often needed.

\*Matthew 5:29-30-**And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.**

When you commit sin, is it your eye or hand that is actually committing the sin? If you truly believe this, then the offending body part must go! The truth is that it is man’s wicked heart is the cause of all the sins in our lives, and the surgery to remove this stony heart can only be carried out by Doctor Jesus!

Here is another example of the spiritual side of the Holy Scriptures. Jesus also referred to the church as the body of Christ. The Apostle Paul expanded on this in….

\*I Corinthians 12:25-27-**That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.**

Here we can clearly see that Jesus’ reference to amputating body parts refers to removing sinful members from the body of Christ, not parts from our physical bodies. If we refuse to remove offending members from our church, in time there will be no saved members left in the church and the entire body will indeed die, as Sardis was in danger of dying!

4-6-**Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.**

At the end of the Dark Ages, there were a few souls who were willing to work to revive the dying church. Men like Martin Luther, John Bunyan, and others were willing to put their lives on the line to bring life back into the church.

One most interesting reference is made here to the fact that overcomers, or believers, will never have their names blotted out of the Book of Life. This verse is especially thought provoking when joined to the first Bible verse about the Book of Life, which appears in…

\*Exodus 32:31-33-**And Moses returned unto the Lord, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin-; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. And the Lord said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.**

Here we see that unbelievers names are blotted out of the Book of Life whenever they commit a sin. How can this be? Most teachers I have ever heard teach that your name is not in the Book of Life until you get saved. Here God tells Moses that it is blotted out when we start sinning. How can these things be?

The Holy Scriptures make it clear that no one enters into heaven unless his name is in the Book of Life. However, we also know that, when babies die, they go to heaven. How do the babies’ names get into the Book of Life? Most Bible students believe that our names are placed in the Book of Life when we are saved. I have searched long and hard and have never been able to find a single Bible verse that states this, however.

In fact, a study of the verses of the Bible concerning the Book of Life gives a very different picture. Rather than go into all the details here, just let me proclaim that the Book of Life is a Book that was written before the creation of the world began. It contained the names of every person who would ever live. When a person sins the first time, they come under the penalty of having their name blotted out at the end of their life. However, if they become a Christian then Jesus proclaims, as we just read above, that their names will never be blotted out. Kinda neat, huh?

7-13-**And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.**

The Church at Philadelphia represents the period of church history called the Open Door Church period. This period extends from AD 1700 to AD 2000. This period covers what is probably the greatest evangelism outreach in the history of the world. It begins with the establishment of America as a nation and ends with the re-establishment of Israel as a nation. It is interesting to note that Jesus says that He has set an open door before this church. He will mention this open door again in the next chapter of our study, in fact.

\*Revelation 4:1-**After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.**

The Open Door Church is a church of true believers, all working together to win the world for Jesus Christ. Even as we speak, this church is slowly being replaced with the next and final of the seven churches of Revelation. The end of the Open Door Church began in 1948, the same year that Israel became a nation again. It officially began with the establishment of the World Council of Churches, I am sad to say. This is when the Philadelphia period begins to come to its end and the next period, called the Laodicea period begins to supplant it.

14-19-**And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.**

We are currently living in the Laodicea period, also called the Lukewarm Church, which will extend into the Great Tribulation prophesied about by Jesus Christ Himself. What we are seeing around us today is the final stages of the Open Door Church and the beginning rumblings of the Lukewarm Church that will take the world into the Great Tribulation. God proclaims here that this church is as lost as the world around it will be during this last period of time before Jesus’ return to rule the earth in the Day of the Lord. The counsel He gives this church is the same message that Isaiah gives us in…

\*Isaiah 55:1-**Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.**

The waters of life await any who truly thirsts for them. Those who call upon God, even during the Great Tribulation, can be saved from their sins. This church period will end with the greatest marriage dinner of all time, as we can see in…

\*Revelation 19:7-8-**Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.**

While the lost church, Mystery Babylon, plays the harlot to the end, the true church has taken this last period to prepare for the marriage supper that we will all share with the Lamb of God. It is at this time that the wheat will finally be separated from the tares, as the thousand-year Day of the Lord begins.

20-22-**Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.**

We have all seen the beautiful picture of Jesus standing outside the door and knocking. It is often used as an invitation for the lost to open the door and let Jesus into their hearts. Notice here, however, that this message is not being given to a lost and dying world. He is standing outside of the doors of the church, and trying to get in! Since this church refuses to accept the knocking of Jesus on their hearts’ door, they will face instead the Word of God, and the sword that will come out of His mouth at the end of the Great Tribulation.

\*Hebrews 4:12-**For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

The history of the Church mirrors the history of the word of God! As church men have followed God’s word, the church has grown. As they have rejected God’s word, the church has become more and more corrupted.

God gave the Holy Scriptures to His prophets and apostles in the Received Text. The Received Text consists of the Massoretic Old Testament, completed around 400 BC and the Antioch New Testament, completed around AD 100.

Satan is the great imitator. He made a false copy of the Old Testament around 100 BC called the Septuagint, and a false New Testament around AD 250 called the Origin New Testament. Both of these books were written in Alexandria, Egypt so this Bible became known as the Alexandrian Text.

The Received Text gave birth to the New Testament Church, which turned the world upside down for Christ. The Alexandrian Text gave birth to the Holy Roman Catholic Church, which enslaved all of Europe with false traditions of men. It was not until the people again had access to the Received Text that the Protestant Reformation freed the Church from the grip of this Mystery Babylon church in Europe. The Authorized King James Bible is the most accurate English translation of the Received Text of the Holy Scriptures.

The Alexandrian Text changes the original Received Text of the Holy Bible in over 9,000 places. Some of these changes appear to be minor, but changing God’s word at all is dangerous and as we have already seen, it carries a curse from God. To give you an idea of how some of these minor changes may not be so minor after all.

Isaiah 14:12

**How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!**

NIV

How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!

Professor G.A. Riplinger was teaching a class that was discussing the Bible. One day the discussion turned to what the Bible meant when it said that Jesus had fallen from heaven. Needless to say, the professor was taken aback and asked the source of this claim. The students sighted Isaiah 14:12 in the NIV & NAS versions of the Bible. This so shocked the professor that she spent the next six years researching the different English versions of the Bible. The results of her research are presented in her book "New Age Bible Versions".

The confusion that prompted her study can be simply stated. In the Authorized King James Bible, Isaiah 14:12 says Lucifer from heaven, Luke 10:18 says Satan fell from heaven, and Revelation 12:9 says the devil fell from heaven. Put in it's simplest terms :

LUCIFER = SATAN = DEVIL

In the newer English versions, Lucifer is removed in Isaiah 14:12 and replaced with day star or morning star. The Day Star(II Peter 1:19) and the morning star(Revelation 22:16) both are references to Jesus.

Revelation 22:16

**I Jesus sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.**

Thus our equation becomes:

DAY STAR = SATAN = DEVIL = JESUS

Some years ago I counseled a young man who was a new age witch. He had spent years training under a white witch, and was demon-possessed. With the help of some Christian ministers experienced in deliverance, this young man was delivered, saved and today is a preacher of the gospel. In the two years that we worked with this young man, I did some serious research into the new age movement (NAM). Their view of history is interesting, to say the least.

NAM believes that civilizations have stood for at least 10,000 years. Each 2,000 years a new Christ comes to rule over the new age. There is currently much going on within NAM because we are nearing the year 2000, and they feel the next new age is about to dawn. There is much discussion in NAM as to whom the new Christ will be, and some have already decided that the new Christ will be Lucifer. You see, they believe that Lucifer and Satan are two different gods. In fact some have gone so far as to say that Jesus may well be Satan.

Now let's bring all this evidence together. The KJV says Lucifer is Satan. NAM say Lucifer is not Satan and that Satan may be Jesus. The newer English versions are silent when it comes to exposing Lucifer, and young people, not grounded in KJV theology, could very well come to the conclusion, after running cross references in the newer versions, that Satan is indeed Jesus. This is a recipe for disaster if I have ever heard of one. Without the KJV sighting how do we explain to young people who Lucifer is? Newer versions are not helpful and indeed can be harmful in this case. Now let me make it clear that no one man or group of men were capable of doing this. I find the timing of this error, just before the dawning of the pagan new age, critical also. Now think about it. Who would want the Lucifer reference removed from our Bible to begin with? Interesting, ain't it?

New age believers are interested in the Bible. They naturally gravitate to the "new" versions because of their interest in the "new" age. The situation becomes even more serious when in these same English versions, Jesus will only be with us until the end of the age, not the end of the world(Matthew 28:20).

Now we can discuss Greek and Hebrew all we want. Over 90% of the people in this world will probably never see these texts, will never read them, and would not understand them if they did. What I am concerned about here is not what has been done to the Greek or Hebrew, but what we have done to the English, and how that affects our ministry to a lost and dying world.

**The Kingdom Of Light Versus The Kingdom Of Darkness**

Part 3-(Revelation 3)-**From Jerusalem To Lebanon**-part 2

**AD 1500 TO AD 1700-SARDIS-THE DEAD CHURCH**

1500 The Protestant Reformation begins.

1611 AUTHORIZED KING JAMES VERSION-Massoretic OT & Antioch NT

1663 Earliest record of Olchon church in Wales, a direct descendant of the Hill Cliff church.

1668 The Rhydwilim church in Wales is organized by William Jones from the Olchon church.

**AD 1700 TO AD 2000-PHILADELPHIA-THE OPEN DOOR CHURCH**

1701 The Welsh Tract church in Pennsylvania is organized by Thomas Griffiths from the Rhydwilim church .

1707 The Philadelphia Association is organized by the Welsh Tract, Lower Dublin, Cohansey, Piscataway, and Middletown

churches.

1776 The United States of America is established.

1883 The Turtletown church is organized in Tennessee, a direct descendant of the Philadelphia Association.

1887 REVISED VERSION-Septuagint OT & Alexandria NT

1901 AMERICAN STANDARD VERSION-Sept. OT & Alex. NT

1902 The Holiness church of Camp Creek in North Carolina is organized by R. G. Spurling from the Turtletown church.

1947 DEAD SEA SCROLLS-Massoretic OT

1948 Israel becomes a nation. World Council of Churches established.

1952 The Lebanon Church of God of Prophecy is organized by Virdell Stafford, a direct descendant of the Holiness Church of Camp Creek.

1952 NEW AMERICAN STANDARD VERSION

Massoretic OT & Alexandria NT

1967 Israel re-takes JERUSALEM.

1990 Iraq rebuilds BABYLON.

**AD 2000-GREAT TRIBULATION-LAODICEA-THE LUKEWARM CHURCH**

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**RECEIVED TEXT** **ALEXANDRIAN TEXT**

(TEXTUS RECEPTUS) (LATIN VULGATE)

 400 BC-MASSORETIC OLD TESTAMENT 100 BC SEPTUAGINT OLD TESTAMENT

**AD 100-ANTIOCH NEW TESTAMENT**

AD 200-OLD LATIN BIBLE AD 250 ALEXANDRIA NT

AD 350 LATIN VULGATE

1611-AUTHORIZED KJV

1887 REVISED VERSION

1901 AMERICAN STANDARD

**DEAD SEA SCROLLS 1948**

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NEW AMERICAN STANDARD

NEW INTERNATIONAL

ETC.

***LUKEWARM!***

**REVELATION 3 NEXT CLASS!**

**MATTHEW 5:29-30 REVELATION 4**

**ISAIAH 55:1**

**I CORINTHIANS 12:25-27 1-READ I THESSALONIANS-REVELATION.**

**REVELATION 19:7-8**

**EXODUS 32:31-33 2-MEMORIZE I PETER 2:9.**

**HEBREWS 4:12**

**REVELATION 4:1 3-STUDY REVELATION 4.**

**ISAIAH 14:12**

**REVELATION 4**

**One Second After The Rapture!**

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

In our last class, we saw that Jesus said He had set an open door before the godly Church at Philadelphia. We also saw Jesus standing outside the door of the ungodly Church at Laodicea, trying to get in. Here we see a third door, this one opened in heaven. A commandment rings forth. "Come Up Hither!" This is not the first time that God has used this type of command. Jesus Christ Himself used a similar command in…

\*John 11:41-43-**Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.**

In the original Greek, the term "Come Up Hither." and "Come Forth" are identical terms. I truly believe that if Jesus had not qualified His command by adding Lazarus’ name in this instance, the entire graveyard would have come forth that day. Here in Revelation 4, God does not give a specific name, so all the dead come forth in this case. In other words, what we are seeing here is an event that is described the Apostle Paul in….

\*I Thessalonians 4:16-18-**For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.**

Here, in Revelation 4, John is actually seeing what it will be like to be caught up to heaven, just as all believers will be some day. Have you ever wondered what it will be like when we get there? What will we see one moment after "we shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air."? Let’s take a look!

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

One day we will be just walking around in this world and, the very next moment God’s throne will be before us! Everything shines like precious stones, and around the throne there is a rainbow. Why a rainbow? For the answer to this, we need to leave the last book of the Bible for a moment and go all the way back to the first book.

\*Genesis 9:12-15-**And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow 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; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.**

God gave us the rainbow as a symbol of His covenant with Noah. This is a promise that He will never destroy the world again by water. Next time it will be destroyed by fire!

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

Who are these 24 elders? In the Old Testament God chose the 12 tribes of Israel to lead His Old Testament Church. In the New Testament He also chose 12 Apostles to lead His New Testament Church. 12 + 12 = 24. Also notice that the elders are clothed in white raiment. In Revelation 19:7-8, we are told that this white raiment represents the righteousness of the saints.

5-**And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.**

Wait a minute! All through the Bible, we are told that there is only one Holy Spirit of God. However, here we are told that there are seven Spirits of God. What’s the deal? This is explained to us in….

\*Isaiah 11:2-**And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord;**

Notice here that the Spirit of God has seven names. The number seven means completeness. In fact, in the Old Testament God puts a symbol of the Holy Spirit in the tabernacle. It was called the Menorah, and it was a lamp stand that had seven candle sticks!

6-11-**And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.**

In the Old Testament, God tells us that all the nations of the world are like the waves of the sea. Here before the throne are the believers from all the nations of the world, standing before God. Notice that there are also four strange beasts before God. Who are they? We see these same creatures, singing this same song in….

\*Isaiah 6:1-3-**In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.**

Here we see the Prophet Isaiah in the temple, mourning the death of his king and friend Uzziah. Isaiah is also given a glimpse of God’s throne, with the same four creatures flying around it. Here we learn that they are called seraphims. There are three types of creatures in God’s Heavenly Host. They are called angels, cherubims, and seraphims. The angels are under the command of Chief Prince Michael, the Archangel. The cherubims are God’s warriors and were once commanded by Chief Prince Lucifer, the Anointed Cherub. The seraphims are God’s messengers and are led by Chief Prince Gabriel.

In our first two classes, we learned that God divided time, as we know it, into three sections. These are BC=before Christ, a period of 4,000 years; AD=Anno Domini, a period of 2,000 years; and the Day of the Lord, a period of 1,000 years. Here we see God's master plan for all mankind. God does nothing without revealing it to His servants. God outlined all of Old Testament history in 7 mighty acts;

1-The Creation 2-The Flood 3-The Exodus 4-The Building of the temple

5-The Destruction of the temple 6-Proclamation of Cyrus 7-The Coming of the Messiah

In our last two classes, we have studied the history of the church since the time of Christ up until today. Chapter 2 ended in the dark ages with dead Catholicism, and chapter 3 ended with dead Protestantism. God also outlined all of His New Testament history in 7 mighty acts. They are so important that He commanded the nation Israel to celebrate these events 1500 years before they started to take place. God even celebrates these events in the 7 feasts in Leviticus 23.

Leviticus 23:1-44-**And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feast of the Lord, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts. Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the Lord in all your dwellings. These are the feasts of the Lord, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.** 5-**In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the Lord's passover.** 6-**And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the Lord: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread. In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord seven days: in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them,** 10-**When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: And he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it. And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto the Lord. And the meat offering thereof shall be two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the Lord for a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof shall be of wine, the fourth part of an hin. And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven Sabbaths shall be complete:** 16-**Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the Lord. Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baken with leaven; they are the firstfruits unto the Lord. And ye shall offer with the bread seven lambs without blemish of the first year, and one young bullock, and two rams: they shall be for a burnt offering unto the Lord, with their meat offering, and their drink offerings, even an offering made by fire, of sweet savour unto the Lord. Then ye shall sacrifice one kid of the goats for a sin offering, and two lambs of the first year for a sacrifice of peace offerings. And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits for a wave offering before the Lord, with the two lambs: they shall be holy to the Lord for the priest. And ye shall proclaim on the selfsame day, that it may be an holy convocation unto you: ye shall do no servile work therein: it shall be a statute for ever in all your dwellings throughout your generations. And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleaning of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I am the Lord your God. And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying,** 24-**In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation. Ye shall do no servile work therein: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord. And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,** 27-**Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord. And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the Lord your God. For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people. And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people. Ye shall do no manner of work: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath. And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying,** 34-**The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the Lord. On the first day shall be an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein. These are the feasts of the Lord, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, every thing upon his day: Beside the sabbaths of the Lord, and beside your gifts, and beside all your vows, and beside all your freewill offerings, which ye give unto the Lord. Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the Lord seven days: on the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath. And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the Lord your God seven days. And ye shall keep it a feast unto the Lord seven days in the year. It shall be a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month. Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths: That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God. And Moses declared unto the children of Israel the feasts of the Lord.**

Our first three events take place in the first month, and they are all fulfilled in the first coming of the Messiah. The first of these feasts is the Passover. You see this Old Testament prophecy fulfilled with the death of the Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

\*Matthew 26:1-2-**And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said unto his disciples, Ye know that after two days is the feast of the passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified.**

The second levitical feast is called Unleavened Bread. This prophecy is fulfilled with the burial of Jesus Christ.

\*Matthew 12:39-40-**But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**

The third and final feast that takes place in the first month is called Firstfruits. This prophetic feast represents the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

\*I Corinthians 15:20-23-**But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.**

At this point, we leave the first month and move to the third month. Interestingly enough, the third member of the Godhead is the Holy Spirit. This prophetic feast is fulfilled when the Holy Ghost fell on the day of Pentecost.

\*Acts 2:1-4-**And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.**

At this juncture, the feast suddenly stop and we see no more feast until the seventh month. Just as the first month’s three feasts were fulfilled in the Messiah’s first coming, so the final three feasts fall in the seventh month and are fulfilled at the Messiah’s final coming. The first is called Trumpets and is fulfilled in…

\*I Thessalonians 4:15-18-**For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.**

This is the event that is commonly called the Rapture, and the Bible calls the Gathering. Our present AD period ends with a seven year period that Jesus calls the Great Tribulation. Beginning tonight, our studies will center on this last portion of the year of the Lord period. We first see this term in….

\*Genesis 49:10-**The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.**

"Shiloh" is another name for Jesus Christ. Gathering is a term that was used as part of the Jewish harvest, as we see in Leviticus 23:17, 22. In God’s system, all harvests had three distinct parts; firstfruit, gathering, and gleaning. The firstfruit was given to the priest, the gathering was taken in by the farmer, and the gleaning was left for the poor. We see this term used again by Jesus Himself in….

\*Matthew 23:37-**O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!**

Here we see that Jesus is lamenting the way that Israel has rejected Him as Messiah. He states that he wants to gather them, but they refused. The Apostle Paul would also use this term to describe the event that we read about at the beginning of this chapter.

\*II Thessalonians 2:1-2-**Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.**

Now let’s put all of this together. God gave instructions that all harvests were to have three parts; firstfruit, gathering, and gleaning. In the New Testament we learn that Jesus is the firstfruit of the resurrection. At the end of the Church age, Jesus will gather the saints to Him in the air. In our next class, we will see that there will be multitudes of people saved after the Gathering. The gleanings are what is gathered after the harvest is complete. This then would be the gleaning of the saints who will be saved and live during the Great Tribulation. The next feast is called the Day of Atonement. This feast is fulfilled in….

\*Romans 5:10-11-**For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.**

As we see in this verse, Jesus is Lord. Thus The Old Testament feast called the Day of Atonement is fulfilled in the New Testament event we call the Day of the Lord. This brings us to our last feast called Tabernacles, which is fulfilled in…

\*Revelation 21:1-3-**And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.**

So here, in the seven feasts of Leviticus 23, we see the entire New Testament period of history outlined. We have the Messiah’s death, burial, and resurrection occurring during His first coming. This is followed by the Holy Spirit falling on the day of Pentecost. Finally we have history ending with the Gathering of the saints, the Day of the Lord, and the creation of the new heaven and earth. At this point, time as we know it ends and eternity begins.

**THE PAST-Old Testament History**

**EVENT CHAPTER DATE**

**CREATION GENESIS 1 ABIB 1, 4000 BC**

**FLOOD GENESIS 7 ZIF 17, 2344 BC**

**EXODUS EXODUS 12 ABIB 14, 1487 BC**

**TEMPLE I KINGS 6 ZIF 2, 1008 BC**

**DESTRUCTION II CHRONICLES 36 TAMMUZ 9, 582 BC**

**PROCLAMATION EZRA 1 ETHANIM 1, 512 BC**

**MESSIAH DANIEL 9 ABIB 7, AD 33**

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**THE PRESENT-New Testament History**

**FEAST MONTH FULFILLMENT**

**PASSOVER | 1 | DEATH**

**UNLEAVENED BREAD | 1 | BURIAL**

**FIRSTFRUITS | 1 | RESURRECTION**

**PENTECOST | 3 | HOLY GHOST**

**TRUMPETS | 7 | THE GATHERING**

**DAY OF ATONEMENT | 7 | DAY OF THE LORD**

**TABERNACLES | 7 | NEW HEAVENS**

**THE HEREAFTER**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Great Tribulation** | **Day Of The Lord** |
| **7 Years** | **1,000 Years** |
| **3 ½ years | 3 ½ years** |   |
| **Revelation 4-19** | **Revelation 20-22** |

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**Jewish Harvest**

**1-Firstfruit-**Jesus

**2-Gathering-**The Church

**3-Gleaning-**The Tribulation Saints

**Revelation 4 Next Class!**

**John 11:41-43 Revelation 5**

**I Thessalonians 4:16-18**

**Genesis 9:13 1-Memorize Bible Song.**

**Isaiah 11:2**

**Isaiah 6:1-3 2-Read Genesis.**

**Genesis 49:10**

**Leviticus 23:17, 22 3-Study Revelation 5.**

**Matthew 23:37**

**II Thessalonians 2:1-2**

**REVELATION 5**

**The Lion, The Lamb, And The Book**

1-**And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.**

When we left off last time, we were in the throne room of heaven. The angels were praising God and all was well. Suddenly all activity comes to a halt as all attention becomes centered on a book that appears in God’s hand. What is the book? Why is it so important? To understand this better, let’s return to Revelation, chapter 1.

\*Revelation 1:1-2--**The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.**

This book is what today we call the Bible. If you have an older Bible there with you and you check the spine of the book, you might see seven stripes going across the back. That represents the seven seals. Are the edges of your pages gold? That represents God. Are the edges of your pages red? That represents the blood. In your lap, God has given you a personal copy of the book we see in this verse.

Here we see that the Revelation of Jesus Christ is given from God the Father to Jesus the Son. Then Jesus gave it to an angel who in turn gave it to the Apostle John himself. We are further told that this revelation is also called the word of God. Keep note of the progression we just mentioned. We will be seeing it played out as the story goes on.

2-4--**And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.**

Suddenly all the heavenly celebration turns to a massive search party as it becomes extremely important that the book that God the Father holds be opened. Yet at first no one is found that is able to open this all-important book. However, as we are about to see, all is not lost.

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

The heavenly elder tells John to look for a lion. However, as he looks all of heaven becomes focused not on a living lion, but a slaughtered lamb. Now we are suddenly left with three questions. Who is this lion that the elder mentioned ? Who is this lamb who takes the book from God? When does this occur? To answer these questions we need to jump ahead a little in our study.

\*Revelation 13:8-**And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**

The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world is none other than Jesus Christ, who is also the Lion of the tribe of Judah. According to this verse these events could have taken place before the foundation of the world, or before time began and the earth was created. This event could take place when time ends and the final judgment comes on the earth, as we will see later on in this study. There is one other possibility, as we are about to see.

\*John 20:17

**Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.**

Who is Jesus speaking to here? When Jesus was resurrected, He told Mary Magdalene not to touch Him as He had not yet ascended to the Father. However, a short time later he would allow Thomas to touch him, meaning that he must have ascended to the Father before that occurred. What we are seeing here could well be the scene that takes place when Jesus descended to the Father, which must have occurred between the time he saw Mary and later saw Thomas.

Revelation 5:8-10

**And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.**

Here again we see the 24 elders. Now we know more clearly just whom they are. They are the redeemed. Keep in mind that, in God’s eyes, there is no division between the Old Testament and New Testament believers. Also, in the Old Testament tabernacle, the incense altar represents believers' prayers to God.

We have now seen the book go from God the Father to God the Son. In Revelation 10 we will see the final leg of the journey which the book began in Revelation 1.

\*Revelation 10:1-2--**And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,**

Now, once again, the great events of Revelation come to a screeching halt as an angel appears to John. We also see that this angel now has possession of the book. He will give the book to John who does something most unusual with it, but that is a story for another day. For now, let’s return to the throne room.

11-14--**And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.**

10 thousand times 10 thousand equals 100 million. On top of that there are thousands of thousands, which means many millions more. The point of this is to say that the number of the redeemed in heaven are millions, and is not limited to 144,000 as some would have you believe. Also notice that every creature praises Him. With this we close Revelation chapter 5.

Let’s take a moment now to get a better understanding of this little book that everyone seems to be so excited about. The word "book" appears more in Revelation than any other New Testament book. It appears most in Rev. 5 and Rev. 22. As I have mentioned before, I believe that this falls under the Biblical law of repetition. Put simply this means that, in any passage, the most important word appears the most times. With that in mind, let’s see what else we can learn about this book, which in Revelation 1, the Apostle John calls the word of God.

\*Ephesians 6:16-17--**Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:**

Here we see God describing the weapons of our warfare. Our armor and all of its parts. The only offensive weapon we have against the enemy is the sword of the spirit is the word of God. This weapon is further described in….

\*Hebrews 4:12-**For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

Here we see that the word is sharper than any two-edged sword. Needless to say we need to know as much as possible about this book, if we are to become good warriors in this battle.

For instance, in Ecclesiastes, written around 3,000 years ago, God explains the principles behind such meteorological terms of the jet streams and water cycle. In Leviticus, written about 3,500 years ago, He explains the medical principle of germs and how to protect ourselves against them. In Job, written about 3,800 years ago, He gets into criminology and explains fingerprints, into technology and explains about the telephone, and cosmology and reveals that the earth hangs suspended in space on nothing. In the book of Nahum, written only about 2,500 years ago, He explains that we would know the last days were here when we saw a red army and automobiles.

Moreover in the book of Isaiah, written around 2,800 years ago, God tells us that the earth is round, that we would use fuel when we fought wars in the last days, and that man would fly one day. He further explains that America would be discovered by ships coming from the south of Spain, an event that would not happen until nearly 2,300 years later.

In fact, when it comes to explaining just what the word of God consists of, God does his best job, in my humble opinion, in the book of Isaiah. For instance, there are 66 books in the Authorized King James Bible. Isaiah has 66 chapters. While this in itself could just be called an odd coincidence, it is really only the beginning of a pattern. In the first book of the Bible, God created the heavens and earth. The first chapter of Isaiah speaks of the heavens and the earth. The last book of the Bible speaks of the new heavens and the new earth. The last chapter of Isaiah speaks of the new heavens and the new earth. While all of this is amazing in itself there's something even more miraculous to consider.

The book of Isaiah is divided into two parts. The first 39 chapters are written in a certain style, while the last 27 chapters are written in a totally different style. Among Biblical scholars this phenomena is called deutero-Isaiah. Because of this division, many textual critics believe that the book of Isaiah was actually written by two different men. This belief has always seemed strange to me when you consider the fact that the Old Testament books of Ecclesiastes, Proverbs, and Song of Solomon are probably the three most different writing styles of the Old Testament, and yet no one has any trouble believing that all three of these books were written by the same man, King Solomon of Israel.

Let me assure you. The book of Isaiah has only one writer, but God did have a reason to have Isaiah change his writing style at exactly the place that he did. You see, the first half of Isaiah has 39 chapters and the first half of the Authorized King James Bible, known as the Old Testament, has 39 books. The second half of Isaiah has 27 chapters and the second half of the Bible, known as the New Testament, has 27 books. The most fascinating fact concerning Isaiah though concerns a major prophecy given in the 40th chapter. This is a prophecy concerning John the Baptist. This prophecy is fulfilled in the 40th book of the Bible, Matthew!

Keep in mind that Isaiah wrote his book and died 800 years before the book of Matthew was even written. All of this is not a coincidence! It is the outline of the Holy Scriptures, given nearly 1,000 years before the Bible was completed. This phenomenon will not work with just a Hebrew Old Testament. It will not work with just a Greek New Testament. It will not even work with a Catholic Bible. It will only work with the one complete Bible laid out by God's hand. In the English today we call this the Authorized King James Bible!

Let’s not stop here, however. There is one last nail to put in the coffin of all false copies of the true word of God. With this in mind, let us turn to the book of Psalms. There are 31,101 verses in the Authorized King James Bible. The center verse is....

\*Psalms 118:8-**It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in men.**

The shortest chapter in the Bible is Psalms 117. The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalms 119. The center chapter of the Bible is Psalms 118. There are 594 chapters before Psalms 118. There are 594 chapters after Psalms 118. These numbers add up to 1188, and the center verse of the Bible just happens to be Psalms 118:8.

Right here, in the middle of the Holy Scriptures, is God's advice concerning the men of our day. Is this just an accident? There are 14 words in this verse. If you split this verse in half, you will find the two center words of the Bible, "the LORD". This will only work with an Authorized King James Bible. It will not work with any other English translation currently on the market anywhere. These versions have all removed some verses, destroying the delicate balance needed for this to work!

\*I Thessalonians 2:13-**For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.**

So there you have it. God has given to each of us here tonight a wondrous gift. We each hold in our hands God’s love letter to us. The little book, the word of God, the Holy Scriptures is the greatest weapon in our arsenal against the enemy. By studying this book, we like Jesus can face the attacks of the enemy with the simple but devastating phrase, "It is written."! Knowing this will give you strength to follow God and use the word with power against the devil, as Jesus did when He was tempted by Satan in the wilderness. Praise be His holy name!

**Revelation 5 Next Class!**

**Revelation 1:1-2 Revelation 6**

**Hebrews 4:12**

**Revelation 10:1-2 1-Read the book of Exodus.**

**Psalms 118:8**

**Revelation 13:8 2-Study Revelation 6.**

**John 20:15**

**I Thessalonians 2:13 3-Who is the white horseman?**

**Ephesians 6:16-17**

**THE POWER OF THE WORD OF GOD**

**Isaiah 40:22--The earth is round. Job 26:7-The earth is suspended in space.**

**Ecclesiastes 1:6-The jet streams. Ecclesiastes 1:7-The water cycle.**

**Leviticus 15:13-Protection from germs. Job 37:7-Fingerprints.**

**Nahum 2:3-A red army in the last days. Nahum 2:4-The automobile.**

**Isaiah 9:5-Fuel needed for last war. Job 38:35-Telegraph and telephone.**

**ISAIAH OUTLINE**

### Genesis 1-Isaiah 1-heaven and earth.

**Revelation 21-Isaiah 66-new heaven & earth.**

**Matthew 3-Isaiah 40-John, the Baptist.**

**REVELATION 6**

**The Great Tribulation Outlined!**

**Introduction**

In Daniel 9, a horrible 7-year period at the end of time is described by the Prophet Daniel. In Matthew 24, this period of time is called the Great Tribulation by Jesus Christ. God divides all of time into three periods: the BC years-4,000 years from the creation to the resurrection of Jesus Christ; the Year of Our Lord-2,000 years of the church age that we are currently living in; and the day of the Lord-1,000 years when Jesus will return and physically reign on the earth. Revelation 6 gives us a 5-point outline of the Great Tribulation, the 7-year period that connects the Year of the Lord to the Day of the Lord. This period is described three times in the book of Revelation in the 7 seals, the 7 trumpets, and the 7 vials.

1-**And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.**

In Revelation 4 & 5, we saw the saints being swept away from the earth as they are called upward to the throne room of God Himself. The Throne Room Vision is the first of the seven general visions of the book of Revelation. Suddenly all activity stops in heaven as God calls for someone to come forward and open a book, sealed with seven seals, that he is holding in His hand. All of heaven weeps as no one can be found worthy. Suddenly a voice cries out that the Lion of the tribe of Judah has come forth to open the book. The Apostle John looks for the lion and instead sees…

\*Revelation 5:6-**And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.**

Here we see the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, who takes away the sins of the world, as John the Baptist described in the Gospel of John, chapter 1. Here we see the first of seven Pictures Of Christ that appear in the book of Revelation. Revelation 5 ends with this vision. Revelation 6 begins with Jesus opening the first of the seven seals. We will see six of these seven seals opened in Revelation 6.

2-**And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.**

When the first seal is opened, a white horse suddenly appears. The rider of this white horse carries a bow but no arrows, a universal sign of peace in the Old World. Who is this rider? Could it be the same rider that is on another white horse in…?

\*Revelation 19:11-15—**And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.**

Notice that here we have some very important differences between this rider and the one in Revelation 6. This rider has many crowns, while that rider had only one crown. This rider carries a sword while that rider carries a bow. While the two riders are similar, I think it is safe to say that these are two different riders. Thus we can say that this rider is Christ while the other is a false imitation of Christ. Keep this in mind as this point will become very important as the lesson continues.

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

Here we have another rider with a sword, but he is not on a white horse. While Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace, this rider comes to take peace away from the earth. The absence of peace is war, so it is safe to say that the rider of the red horse represents war. The sword he carries brings to mind a verse found in…

\*Romans 13:3-4—**For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.**

Here we see that God has given rulers, or earthly governments, the power of the sword because, for some, that is the only way to stop them from doing evil things. Just what is the great sword mentioned in Revelation 6? The greatest weapon of governments today is nuclear in nature, so it is a safe bet to say that this is at least one type of great sword that God knew governments would wield one day.

5-6—**And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.**

As the third seal opens, we see a black horse and a rider with balances. Balances were used to measure food in the old days. The voice also mentions wheat, barley, oil, and wine, which were all staple foods of the Old World Middle East, but why do they mention a penny? While a penny is of little value today, we need to see how much it was worth at the time the Apostle John saw this vision. To better understand this, let’s take a look at…

\*Matthew 20:1-2—**For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard.**

Talk about inflation! At the time of the New Testament Church, a penny was a day’s wage. So we see that at the time this prophecy will be fulfilled, it will take a day’s wage just to buy a loaf of bread. This would barely allow the laborer to feed himself. Imagine if he has a wife and children.

There is only one thing I know of in history that can cause this to take place, a major famine. At times of famine, food prices swell until a loaf of bread is worth a bag of gold. Therefore we can safely conclude that our third horseman represents famine. We can also see why this horse would be black in…

\*Lamentations 5:9-10—**We gat our bread with the peril of our lives because of the sword of the wilderness. Our skin was black like an oven because of the terrible famine.**

So, at least for some people, famine causes their skin to darken as their skin begins to press against their bones. Not a pretty picture, to say the least.

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

Our fourth horse has two riders, Death and Hell. They kill everywhere they go, and ¼ of mankind is killed. If this happened today, when the earth has 6 billion people alive, it means that 1.5 billion people would be killed. Keep this number in mind, as it will also become important later on.

Death and Hell use three weapons to kill; war (sword), famine (hunger), and the beasts of the earth. I wonder just what that last part means. It brings to mind something that I heard Dr. Jack Van Impe mention years ago. Today’s greatest plague is, with little doubt, Aids. He says that Aids started out as a disease called the Yellow Monkey Virus. This was a disease that caused very little trouble for the yellow monkeys in Africa. However, when men began a bestiality cult in Africa and began having sex with this particular monkey, the virus jumped the species barrier and spread to men with horrifying results.

It spread first among the gay men of Africa. Then it was brought to San Francisco by a gay businessman. When the American Centers for Disease Control learned of this disease, they first called it GRIDS, for Gay Related Immunity Deficiency Syndrome. They immediately issued an order to close down all gay bath houses in the area until the plague could be quarantined. The gay community responded by hiring the ACLU to block the quarantine. The rest is history.

So we see that our fourth horseman represents Pestilence, the biblical name for plagues and disease. Thus our four horsemen are white horse-False Christ, red horse-War, black horse-Famine, and pale horse-Pestilence. Now comes the fifth seal.

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

I want to start noticing a pattern here that we will see throughout the book of Revelation. In chapters 1-3, we are on the earth. In chapters 4 and 5, we suddenly find ourselves in heaven. In chapter 6, we started out in God’s throne room in heaven. Then we see 4 horsemen going out across the earth. Throughout Revelation we will see the events taking place on earth alternating with the events taking place in heaven. Understanding this constant change of scenery is essential to understanding what is taking place as we continue our study.

Now once again, we are suddenly back in heaven before an altar, seeing the saints who have gone on before. With all this death coming upon the earth they are crying to God about how long this terrible time will last. The seventh seal continues this heavenly interlude in the earthly actions of Revelation 6. If you want to know a little more about the location of this altar, we will need to move forward to…

\*Revelation 8:1-3—**And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.**

Here in Revelation 8, we see the 7th seal opened. We also see that this altar stands before the throne of God . With this in mind, we now return to Revelation 6 for the opening of the 6th seal.

12-14—**And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.**

Here we see that we have returned to earth once again. As the sixth seal opens, we see an earthquake, the sun is black, the moon turns to blood, stars fall, and the heavens depart like "scroll". By the way, that scroll part appears only one other place in Bible in…

\*Isaiah 34:4, 8-**And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree….For it is the day of the Lord's vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion.**

Make no doubt. What we are seeing in Revelation 6 is what all of the Old Testament prophets called the day of the Lord. Even the lost on earth during that time know what is happening, as we see their reaction in…

15-17—**And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?**

What we are seeing here is the great day of God’s wrath. Notice also that the people, when they see this happening, do not cry out to God for forgiveness. They are praying to rocks. We are seeing here firsthand the nature worshippers of the last days. God made it very clear about how he felt about those who prayed to anyone but Him, as we can clearly see in…

\*Leviticus 26:1-**Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the Lord your God.**

The ten commandments also make it very clear that we do not worship stone images. Even in their panic, these lost people refuse to acknowledge the God of heaven and the Bible.

Dr. Floyd Jones tells an interesting story about nature worshippers in World War II. One of the members of the Axis powers during that conflict was Japan. Imperial Japan's flag was the image of the rising sun. In other words, they were sun worshippers. They were finally defeated when we attacked them using the atomic bomb. This bomb unleashed the destructive power of nuclear fission upon two Japanese cities. Dr. Jones says this is a perfect example of God’s judgment on a nation. They worshipped the sun instead of God Himself so God let them get a taste of the power of the sun firsthand. It is indeed true that we reap what we sow.

**Summary**

How can we be sure that the four horsemen are who we have determined they are. The answer to all questions about the Bible are in the Bible. In this case, our question should be whose revelation is this anyway? It is the revelation of Jesus Christ, as we saw in Revelation 1. Therefore we should ask Jesus Himself to find the answer. Jesus reveals the meaning of these verses in…

Matthew 24:3-7

**And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.**

His first warning is do not be deceived! Then He goes on to say that there will be false christs, wars, famines, pestilences, and earthquakes. This is a perfect duplication of our list in Revelation 6. The question now becomes, does this list describe our world today? There is one more point that we need to explore to understand how to watch for this time and for it we go back to the Apostle John in…

\*John 16:20-22—**Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.**

Here we see that God compares His return to birth pains. Ask any lady who has had a child what that means. These pains will not appear until the pregnancy is near its end. The pains will first appear mild and far apart. Then as the birth near, these pains increase both in timing and severity. Finally we get to the point that Bill Cosby’s wife describe as grabbing your lip and pulling it up over your forehead. Put simply, while we see all of these things today, they will continue to get worse than they are today until He returns. As we watch these events come to pass, we should lift up our heads as the gospel of Luke says, as our redemption is drawing nigh.

**Revelation 6 Next Class!**

**Revelation 5:6**

**Revelation 19:11-15 Revelation 7**

**Romans 13:3-4**

**Matthew 20:1-2 1-Read Leviticus.**

**Lamentations 5:9-10**

**Revelation 8:1-3 2-Draw Camp In Numbers 1 & 2.**

**Isaiah 34:4, 8**

**Leviticus 26:1 3-Study Revelation 7.**

**John 16:20-22**

**THE GREAT TRIBULATION**

**THE SEVEN SEALS**

|-----------------------------------------------------7 YEARS------------------------------------------------|

|-----------------3 1/2 YEARS--------------------------|----------------3 1/2 YEARS---------------------|

**|-FALSE CHRIST WAR FAMINE PESTILENCE EARTHQUAKE-|**

**The Great Tribulation Outlined!**

**Revelation 6 Matthew 24**

**White Horse False Christs**

**Red Horse Wars**

**Black Horse Famines**

**Pale Horse Pestilences**

**Earthquake Earthquakes**

**REVELATION 7**

**Who Shall Be Able To Stand?**

In Daniel 9, the Prophet Daniel tells us about a 7-year period coming in the future. In Matthew 24, the Messiah Jesus tells us this period will be call the Great Tribulation. In Revelation 6, the Apostle John tells us that this period will begin when the most evil king in history starts the greatest war in history, followed by the greatest famine and plague in history, ending with the greatest earthquake of in history. God says that men would destroy the entire earth if He did not come back to save the day. These events are so extremely horrible that the meanest, roughest, toughest guys on the planet are crying out in fear of what is happening.

\*Revelation 6:15-17

**And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?**

Who shall indeed be able to stand? Almost as if to answer this question, God suddenly halts the action and, in the middle of this chaos, shows us He has everything in control in Revelation chapter 7.

Revelation 7:1-3

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

What does these mean about four corners of the earth? Everyone knows earth is round, not square. Could this be yet another one of those terrible scribal errors in the Bible? Would you believe that the four corners actually represent the four points on a compass; north, south, east, and west? In fact, we all watch the evening news, but did you ever wonder where the word "news" comes from? It is simply a combination of these same four points arranged differently as North, East, West, and South.

Another interesting fact concerning this verse is that it is connected to one of the most grisly serial killers in history, Charles Manson. It seems that Manson believed that these four angels were actually the four singers in the rock group the Beatles; John, Paul, George, and Ringo. Manson would play their records and tell his followers that they were giving him instructions about how the world would end. His plan was called Helter Skelter.

Manson believed that the world was due its judgment and this judgment would take place when a last great war would occur between the white race and the black race. Demon spirits coming to Manson through the Beatles songs told him to send members of his group out to kill rich white families and leave evidence that would incriminate the black community. The white community would lash out, causing the black community to rise up in rebellion and destroy the white ruling class throughout the world.

While this was happening, the Manson group, which he called his family, would hide out in Death Valley until the slaughter was over. Once the black race was in control, they would realize that they could not run the world, and Manson and his family would return from the desert to rule the world for them. This wicked plan caused the death of several people in California and led to one of the most unusual trials in American history.

Needless to say, these four angels are not rock singers. They have been sent into the world for a distinct purpose. They are here to seal a very important group of players in God’s end times scenario. Just how are they sealed? The same way you and I are, as the Apostle Paul tells us in…

\*Ephesians 4:29-30

**Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.**

The seal God is speaking of here is not a seal like on a jar of homemade canned goods. This seal was a special emblem of a family and its authority. It was often placed on a ring or necklace and was a biblical version of the modern day credit card. When a wealthy landowner went through the market place and saw something he liked, he simply pressed his seal into a clay tablet which was a receipt showing he would send a servant later to pay for and pick up his goods.

You see, Jesus Christ came as a servant to pay for our sins. He has gone away but, being a good servant, not to mention the only begotten Son, He will return one day to pick up His merchandize which He has paid for with His own blood. That merchandize just happens to be you and me!

What we are seeing here in Revelation 7 is the second of the seven general visions of Revelation. This is part one of the vision of the 144,000. We will see the finale to this particular vision in Revelation 14. Our next question needs to be who are these 144,000? This explanation if forthcoming in…

Revelation 7:4-8

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

Please note carefully. God is taking great care here to take the time to say these are literal and physical Jews. These are not Jehovah’s Witnesses, Rosicrucians, or any other Gentile sect or group. Once again let me emphasize these are 144,000 Jews, Jews, Jews! We are given some more, very crucial, information when we jump forward to…

\*Revelation 14:1-4

**And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.**

Not only do we see here that they are Jews, we also learn they are unmarried men. I want you to stop for a moment and think of any other unmarried Jewish men you can think of in the Bible. Right off hand, I think of three New Testament characters. One was Jesus Christ. The second would be John the Baptist, and the third wrote the following.

\*I Corinthians 7:1-9

**Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency. But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment. For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that. I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I. But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.**

Just imagine for a minute, what these three unmarried Jewish men were able to do for God. Now you must admit that Jesus was also God, so let’s take him out of the equation for a moment. Let’s just consider what John the Baptist and Paul were able to do for God in their lifetimes. Now imagine what God could do with 144,000 John the Baptists, and/or Apostle Pauls! This is going to be an interesting time indeed!

Revelation 7:9-12

**After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.**

Notice here that the Bible says this great multitude appears after the 144,000 appears. This is those that will be saved through the ministry of these Jewish evangelists. Not only will this be the most terrible time in history, but it will also give witness to what may well be one of the greatest soul-winning revivals in history!

Revelation 7:13-17

**And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.**

Now let’s go back to the question that began this class. Who shall be able to stand? Here in the middle of all these terrible judgments, God takes a moment to show us that He is still at His business of soul-winning in a mighty way! These are the tribulation saints. We can only imagine the hardships they will have to endure for the gospel of Jesus Christ. However we do get a glimpse of it. Notice it says here that they shall hunger and thirst no more. This brings to mind a more ominous set of verses that we will study later in…

\*Revelation 13:16-17

**And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.**

He, also called the beast or the Anti-Christ, set up a world economic system wherein you cannot buy food without the mark of the beast. In fact, before the Great Tribulation ends, the penalty for refusing to take the mark of the beast will be beheading!

**GOD’S PLAN FOR THE JEWS**

To better understand God's plan for the Jews, let's look at what God revealed to the Jews in the Old Testament. The center of Jewish worship was the tabernacle, so let's stop for a moment and take a walk through the tabernacle.

As we approach we first see the court. This is the yard surrounding the tabernacle itself and is all enclosed with linen curtains. What color is linen? As we pass through these curtains, the next thing we see is the brazen altar where a lamb is sacrificed every day. What does this lamb represent? Behind this is the laver, a large standing basin filled with water for cleansing the priests. What does the laver represent?

\*Titus 3:5-6

**Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;**

Linen is white which stands for purity. The lamb represents Jesus Christ. The laver represents the washing of regeneration. Put simply these three objects show that we are only made pure if we are regenerated, or born again, by Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

We now stand before the tabernacle itself which has only one door. What does the door represent? Jesus tells us He is the only door. Beyond the door we enter the sanctuary.

Once we are inside of the sanctuary, we see on the right a table that has bread and wine on it. What does the wine and bread represent? Jesus says this represents His body and blood, so this table represents Jesus, the Son of God.

On the left is a candlestick which uses olive oil to light the sanctuary. What does this candlestick represent? The oil that is the only source of light in the tabernacle represents the Holy Ghost.

In front of us is the incense altar. According to Revelation 8:3, incense represents the prayers of the saints. We are the saints. Who do we pray to?

\*Matthew 6:8-9

**Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.**

We pray to God, the Father. Here in the sanctuary we see a perfect picture of the Godhead; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Beyond the incense altar we see the veil. God was very specific about the veil's colors.

\*Exodus 26:31

**And thou shalt make a veil of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubims shall it be made:**

In other words, the colors when looking at the veil ran, from left to right; blue, purple, scarlet, linen (white). Blue is the color of the sky. Purple is the color worn by a king. Scarlet is the color of blood, and linen, or white, represents purity. These colors, when put together in this particular sequence, give forth a powerful message.

"From heaven (blue) will come a king (purple) who will shed his blood (scarlet) to make us pure (white)."

Behind the veil is the holiest of all. Here is the ark that contains the tables of the law; a bowl of manna, the bread from heaven; and Aaron's rod, the symbol of God's anointed. Who gave Moses the law? God, the Father. Who is the bread of heaven? Jesus, the Son. What are we to anointed with? The Holy Ghost. These three things are stored in the one ark. This three in one relationship once again represents the Godhead.

Now let's see what God revealed to the nation of Israel about our hero Jesus. He is the sacrifice, and He washes us from our sins. He is the only door. He is the bread of life. He is the king who comes down from heaven to shed His blood to make us pure. He is also one part of the three-in-one, the Godhead. The only place anywhere in the Holy Scriptures where you can get a clearer picture of Jesus is in the gospels. Also keep in mind that God gave this revelation to the Jews 1,500 years before Jesus was born.

We are not done yet however. The tabernacle was the center of the camp of Israel in the wilderness. In the book of Numbers, God gave some very definite instructions on how the camp was to be set up. First the Tribe of the Levites was to camp around the tabernacle. The tribes of Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun; nearly 200,000 men were to camp to the east of the tabernacle. Reuben, Simeon, and Gad; about 150,000 men were to camp to the south. Benjamin, Manasseh, and Ephraim; about 100,000 men were to camp to the west. Naphtali, Asher, and Dan; totaling about 150,000 were to camp to the north.

By taking a moment to draw this out on a piece of paper you will discovers something that is nothing short of amazing. God created a cross in the wilderness that was 10 miles wide and 10 miles long. Imagine it! For over 40 years God had a gigantic cross traveling in the Sinai desert for all to see.

In Numbers chapters 22 through 24 the Prophet Balaam goes upon a mountain to curse Israel. When he looks down upon the camp he sees that huge cross spread out across the desert floor for all to see, he cannot curse God's people. Just think of it! May god help us all to see Jesus in everything around us in this same way!

**Revelation 7 Next Class!**

**Revelation 6:15-17 Revelation: Chapter 8**

**Ephesians 4:29-30 1-Read The Book Of Numbers.**

**Revelation 14:1-4**

**I Corinthians 7:1-9**

**Revelation 13:16-17 2-Study Revelation 8.**

**Titus 3:5-6**

**Matthew 6:8-9**

**Exodus 26:31 3-What Is The Name Of The Star That Falls From Heaven?**

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**REVELATION 8**

**Let The Fire Fall!**

**Introduction**

In the last two chapters of the book of Revelation, we have been given an overview of the Great Tribulation. Chapter 6 shows us the terrible scenario that takes place on earth. Chapter 7 shows us the wondrous gathering that takes place in heaven. In chapter 8 we return to the first of the tribulation once again to begin to see these events take place on the earth from a very different perspective. Many of the Old Testament prophets speak of this time in graphic details, but the prophet who does one of the best jobs is Isaiah. To get a clear picture of this period of judgment from God's point of view, let us all turn to this book and take a look at what Isaiah says in...

\*Isaiah 40:31

**But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.**

Here we see Revelation chapter 7 stripped down to the basics; a great and beautiful picture of God's deliverance. Most folks just stop here and never read the rest of the story. Let's complete the picture that God is drawing us here by reading…

\*Isaiah 41:1-2

**Keep silence before me, O islands; and let the people renew their strength: let them come near; then let them speak: let us come near together to judgment. Who raised up the righteous man from the east, called him to his foot, gave the nations before him, and made him rule over kings? he gave them as the dust to his sword, and as driven stubble to his bow.**

First God draws his children away to safety. Then in heaven we are judged at the judgment seat of Christ for our works, while on earth God begins to judge the nations of the world for their sins. This is the point we find ourselves at as we begin chapter 8 where we see the first 4 of God's trumpets of judgment.

1-2 **And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.**

We began opening the seven seals in Revelation 6. In this chapter, we saw seals 1-6 opened. Then, as we saw last time, God uses chapter 7 to answer the question put forth at the end of chapter 6. In the interlude, we see this period is not only one of judgment, but also one during which 144,000 Messianic Jews will oversee what may well be the greatest revival in world history.

Now suddenly, the action stops as we return to heaven once again as God causes all the activity in heaven to cease as he prepares for the next set of judgments to begin. Why does this silence take place? There has been much conjecture on this but, for me, the best answer to this question is found in…

\*Zechariah 2:13

**Be silent, O all flesh, before the Lord: for he is raised up out of his holy habitation.**

Why silence for only 30 minutes? Because God said so, that’s why. If you need more reason than that, you can take it up with Him.

3-5 **And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.**

Here we are again before the golden altar in heaven. We see the incense offered up, along with the prayers of the saints. In fact, what we are seeing as we study the book of Revelation is an answer to the Lord’s prayer in Matthew 6:9-10 when He taught us to pray, "Thy Kingdom Come."

Then suddenly we see this censer cast to earth. Many people throughout history have worshipped the earth, in one way or another, instead of the God of heaven. God strikes back at these false gods in the judgments that are about to fall on the earth. Why must these judgments continue? John the Baptist can answer that question for us in…

\*Matthew 3:10-12

**And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.**

Jesus comes forth after John to baptize everyone, but not with water. You get to chose whether you wish to be baptized with the Holy Ghost or fire. Not to choose is to decide for the unquenchable fire of Hell. You will see seven references to fire as you study this chapter. The Apostle Paul does a good job of explaining why these events are taking place also in…

\*Hebrews 12:25-29

**See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.**

All believers love God, but woe to anyone who does not fear Him! As we see here, not only Hell but God Himself is a consuming fire.

6-7 **And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.**

If you remember back to when we were studying Revelation 7, one of the first things that happened was that God commanded the angels that the trees not be harmed until the 144,000 Jews should be sealed by the Holy Ghost. Now that this has taken place, the first judgment which attacks the trees begins. Imagine for a moment what size the forest fire would be that destroyed 1/3 of the trees all over the earth. In fact, the word "third" will appear 12 times in Revelation 8.

This is not the first time that God has used fire to pass judgment on sinful men. The first time we see this is in…

\*Genesis 19:24-25

**Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.**

God rained fire upon the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. He did this because of their sin. This is not the only time this happened in the Old Testament either. We just have to go over one book, to see this again in…

\*Exodus 9:23-24

**And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; and the Lord rained hail upon the land of Egypt. So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.**

Egypt refused to let God’s people go. Because of the hardness of their hearts, God rained hail with fire upon Egypt. This was only one of 10 plagues God placed upon Egypt before they would finally let His people go. Egypt's 10 plagues were directed against it's 10 false gods. Thus we could also say that the first trumpet is a judgment directed against the false gods of earth.

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

Now the second trumpet sounds. Imagine what impact 1/3 of all sea life being destroyed and 1/3 of the world’s shipping being destroyed would have on the world economy. If we again return to the Old Testament, we can see a similar story, as God’s places His judgment against the false god called the Nile River.

\*Exodus 7:19-21

**And the Lord spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone. And Moses and Aaron did so, as the Lord commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote 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. And the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.**

If seeing the Nile River turned to blood was a sight, imagine what it would be like to see 1/3 of all the world’s oceans turned to blood. Here in Revelation 8, the second trumpet is directed against the false gods of the oceans and seas.

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

Here we hear the third trumpet and see a poisonous burning Wormwood star that poisons 1/3 of all fresh water. Hal Lindsey, the author of THE LATE GREAT PLANET EARTH, tells an interesting story that came out of Russia a few years ago concerning the Wormwood curse of Revelation.

The Soviet Union built a nuclear plant in the Russian city of Chernoble. This facility turned into a terrible nuclear disaster. Many people were died and many children were born with birth defects. What the news media did not record was a great revival broke out after the Chernoble nuclear disaster. You see, in the Russian Chernoble is the Russian word for Wormwood. Here we see another judgment by fire from God. Peter would describe this same scenario in…

\*II Peter 3:6-7

**Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.**

The world was judged by water the first time when Noah’s flood occurred. After the flood, God set the rainbow in the sky to let people know He would never again destroy the world with a flood. When the final judgment comes on the world, God will use fire next time.

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

Now the fourth trumpet sounds and the sun, moon, and stars are all stricken with darkness. If you go back to Exodus 10, you will see yet another similar plague that God struck against Egypt. God is being very specific in this judgment.

In the Old Testament, the major pagan god is Bel. Bel is the pagan god of the sun. The major goddess is Asthoreth. Asthoreth is the pagan goddess of the moon. Today most pagan religions are joining together to spread their false religious beliefs through the New Age Movement.

These religions divide themselves into two groups called lodges. The white lodge worships the sun god. The black lodge worships the moon goddess. One of the major religions that we hear much in the news today is Islam. Allah, the major god of Islam was originally a moon god. As recently as World War II, we had a nation, Japan, that tried to conquer the world on behalf of the sun god.

That covers the sun and the moon. What about the stars? We don’t have to go overseas to see this type of false worship. In fact, you can find worship of the stars in any local newspaper. The section is called Horoscopes, and this false religion is called Astrology. Thus there can be little doubt. The fourth trumpet of God’s judgment is directed at all the false gods of the heavens.

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

Put simply, this angel makes it clear that, if these judgments are not severe enough, don’t worry. You ain’t seen nothing yet!

I would also like to take a moment to direct you to one particular word in verse 13. In the Authorized King James Bible, based on the Received Texts of the Holy Scriptures, this verse says this last message is given forth by an angel. Some bibles say something different here. In place of angel, some newer bibles say Eagle.

Now in the Greek New Testament of the Received Text, the word that appears in the verse is the Greek word "Angelos" which clearly means angel. However, in the Alexandrian Texts, also known as the Vatican New Testament, which was created nearly 300 years later, this word is replaced with the Greek word "Aetos", which means Eagle. Leave it up to the devil to try every chance he gets to get God and His angels out of God’s word!

Now the question might come to mind, why spend so much time studying these very depressing passages. First of all, we want to study it as it is a part of the word of God, regardless of what some modern bible scholars might say to the contrary. More important than that is the reason given by the Apostle Peter in…

\*II Peter 3:9-13

**The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.**

There is a lost and dying world out there. Just as each day that passes brings us closer to Jesus’ return and our being gathered unto Him, so each day brings the lost closer to God’s judgment and an eternity in Hell. Let’s do our best to spend every waking moment we can to lead everyone we can out of the darkness of this world and into the blessed light of Jesus Christ our Lord!

**Revelation 8 Next Class!**

**Isaiah 40:31 Revelation: Chapter 9**

**Isaiah 41:1-2**

**Zechariah 2:13 1-Read The Book Of Deuteronomy.**

**Matthew 3:10-12**

**Hebrews 12:25-29 2-Study Revelation 9.**

**Genesis 19:24-25**

**Exodus 9:23-24**

**Exodus 7:20-21 3-What Is The Hebrew & Greek Name Of**

**II Peter 3:6-7 The Angel Of The Bottomless Pit?**

**II Peter 3:9-13**

**The Great Tribulation**

**The Seven Seals** & **The Seven Trumpets**

|-----------------------------------------------------------7 Years-------------------------------------------------------|

|---------------------3 1/2 Years------------------------------|---------------------3 1/2 Years-----------------------|

**|-False Christ War Famine Pestilence Earthquake-|**

**|-Hail Mountain Wormwood Dark |**

**REVELATION 9**

**Hell On Earth!**

Revelation 8:13

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

Introduction

Revelation chapters 6 and 7 show us an outline of the Great Tribulation using the first six of the seven seals opened by Jesus Christ, the lion of the tribe of Judah. In chapter 8 the seventh seal is opened and we return to the first of the tribulation once again to begin to see these events take place on the earth from a very different perspective as God begins His judgments by releasing the angels with the seven trumpets.

The first four trumpets were plagues directed against the great gods of the new age; earth, water, fire, and air. It ends at the mid-point of the tribulation with an angel flying through heaven who basically says, "If you think this is bad, you ain't seen nothing yet!". We are now standing at that point in time as we enter chapter 9 to behold the fifth trumpet about to sound.

1 **And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.**

Up until now, we have had two sequences of events. The first is the judgments falling on the earth. Every once in a while, these events stop and suddenly we find ourselves transported to heaven where we see the heavenly response to these events. In this verse, we begin to see an event that finally draws the heavenly and the earthly together.

An angel falls from heaven to earth. This is no ordinary angel as he has the key to the bottomless pit, or hell. The question then becomes, just who is this angel? There are three possible answers that I can find in the Holy Scriptures. We find the first one in…

\*Revelation 1:18

**I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.**

Here we have Jesus Christ speaking and He says that He has the keys to hell. Thus our first possibility is Jesus Himself. However, the original verse says it was an angel and Jesus is not an angel. Thus we proceed to our second possibility.

\*Revelation 12:9

**And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**

Here we see Satan falling from heaven to the earth. This happened when he led an unsuccessful war against God. While we do know that Satan were thrown into hell, there is nothing to indicate that he has the key to hell. This leads us to our third possibility, which is found in…

\*Revelation 20:1-3

**And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.**

Here we have a special angel, very possibly Michael the Archangel who defeated Satan in Revelation 12, who not only has the key but uses it. First he releases Satan at the end of the Day of the Lord. Then, after another short-lived rebellion, he uses this key to bind Satan in hell once again. Thus is our mystery solved

2-4 **And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.**

The term bottomless pit only appears in the book of Revelation and there it appears seven times. Once again, we see our Bible numbers at work in this book of seven sevens. Our angel has now loosed a demonic army that wrecks damage upon mankind. These creatures of hell torment the unsaved only.

In Revelation 7, we saw 144,000 Jews and a great multitude are sealed by the Holy Ghost. These are those that are saved during these terrible years. Thus these creatures spread out across the earth, seeking those who do not have this seal in their forehead. Woe unto the one that they find without this seal!

Here we also see another parallel between the books of Revelation and Exodus. In Exodus, plagues 5-10 affected Egyptians only, not the Jews. Here we also see judgments that begin to affect the unbelievers only.

5-10 **And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.**

Are these truly living creatures or end-time weaponry? I have searched high and low and cannot find any explanation for these creatures, if this is symbolic. Whenever I cannot find a clear explanation for a biblical symbol, I have always learned to take it as literal. Thus, for me, these creatures are as real as the normal scorpions around today.

It is interesting to not that they torment the lost for 5 months but do not kill them. Why does God continue to torture these people? I think the key here is in the fact that they do not die. If God wanted to simply destroy these folks, he could just click His fingers and they would drop dead. Instead He makes an unusual effort to see that they do not die. The only reason I can see for this is so they can repent of their sins. Thus through this torment, God is still providing a way to salvation.

11-12 **And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon. One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.**

The Hebrew word Abaddon, and the Greek word Apollyon means simply "Destroyer". Who is this angel who is the king over the bottomless pit. There is only one angel that I know of who would fit the name Destroyer. That is the devil, also known as Satan, or Lucifer. In fact, Lucifer is one of the main gods of the New Age Movement that has spread across the world over the past few decades.

If you ask New Age believers, however, they will be quick to tell you that Lucifer and Satan are two different beings. They believe that Lucifer is a god of light, while Satan is the god of darkness. Those who know the Bible knows this cannot be true, according to…

\*Isaiah 14:12

**How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!**

The name "Lucifer" is found in the original Hebrew Old Testament. However, it does not appear in the later Greek translation of the Old Testament known as the Septuagint. In its place, the term "Morning Star" appears in the Greek Old Testament. This term does appear more than once in the Bible. The question is, just who is Morning Star? For the answer to this, we need to go to….

\*Revelation 22:16

**I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.**

The Morning Star is Jesus. Think about this a minute. Not only did the Greek Old Testament remove one of Satan’s names from the Bible, but they replaced it with a term that Jesus used to describe Himself. Put mathematically, this appears…

Original Text: Lucifer = Satan

Alexandrian Text: Morning Star = Satan = Jesus

Professor G. A. Riplinger tells of an incident that occurred at Kent State University class some years ago. She was entering her classroom to teach a class, when she heard her students arguing about what the Bible meant when it said that Jesus had fallen from heaven.

Being a student of the Bible herself, she asked what they meant, as she had never seen a verse saying such a thing. They pointed to Isaiah 14:12 and then Revelation 22:16 in their NIV Bibles and asked for an explanation. Imagine the confusion of young believers all over the world when they try to figure if it was Lucifer or Jesus who fell from heaven? Now add to that confusion, what they would see when they read…

\*Luke 10:18

**And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.**

Here the Bible clearly says that Satan fell from heaven. Thus our KJV equation would become Lucifer = Satan, while our NIV equation would be Jesus = Satan. Just think about this. Depending on which English version of the Bible you would use, either you would clearly know that Lucifer is Satan, or you could well come to the conclusion that Jesus is Satan.

Impossible, you say! Keep in mind that the name Lucifer only appears once in the Bible. This is in Isaiah 14:12. All English versions of the Bible that have changed this verse has removed the only reference to Lucifer from the Bible. This is also the only reference that clearly shows that Lucifer and Satan are one and the same! With this in mind, let’s continue to…

\*Revelation 12:9

**And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**

Here, once again, we clearly see the devil, or Satan, falling from heaven and taking one third of the angels with him. However, if Lucifer appears nowhere in the Bible, you not only lose your single reference to show who he is, but you also point the finger at Jesus as also being Satan. Here is a clear example of how bad things can get, when you change only one word in God’s Holy Scriptures!

13-14 **And 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 which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.**

Now the sixth angel sounds his trumpet. If you remember from our earlier studies, the golden altar before the throne of God is where the prayers of the saints are found. Now a voice comes from the prayer altar commanding one of heaven’s angels to release four of the fallen angels that are trapped in hell within the earth, from the area of the Euphrates River. Just who these angels are becomes evident, when we read…

\*II Peter 2:4

**For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;**

Before the earth began, there was a war in heaven. Satan and his angels fought against Michael and his angels. Satan lost in his bid for God’s throne. The angels that followed him in rebellion also followed him into hell’s prison within the earth. Ever since then these fallen angels have been chained in darkness. This is reiterated in…

\*Jude 1:6

**And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.**

Here again we see that the fallen angels are chained in darkness. However, God now commands that four of these angels be release. The reason for this is chilling, to say the least!

15-19 **And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.**

Just as there was once a supernatural war in heaven, now a supernatural army is released on earth. Imagine, for a moment, an army of 200 million. Keep in mind that, at the time that the Apostle John wrote this, there was not yet 200 million people on the earth. In fact, it was not until this past century that such an army could exist. Red china claimed 200,000,000 army in 1970's. This is yet another evidence that these events could not possibly have come to pass before our generation!

These angels loosed an army that slays one third of all the people on the planet! Never has there been warfare on such a scale in all the history of the world. The devastation is actually even more extensive than that, when we take a moment to look back at…

\*Revelation 6:8

**And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.**

Back in Revelation 6, we saw that one fourth of mankind was killed by a war at the beginning of the Great Tribulation. There is currently about 6 billion people on earth. One fourth of that amount would be 1 ½ billion. Thus Revelation 6:8, state mathematically would be…

6 billion-1 ½ billion = 4 ½ billion

Now, here in Revelation 9, we see one third of mankind destroyed. If we continue this equation using the figures we began with, it now becomes…

4 ½ billion-1 ½ billion = 3 billion

Notice that we began with 6 billion, and we end with 3 billion. Regardless of what the total population of the earth may be during this time, the proportion would remain the same. Put simply, these two wars will kill one half of the people on the earth. In spite of this, John goes on to tell us that…

20-21 **And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.**

Men refused to repent even after the judgments unleashed by these 6 trumpets. This is why God favors capital punishment. It is not to be cruel to the criminal but to because he wants to protect the future victims of such godless men.

Take, for example, a murderer on death row. If a man will refuse to repent on his way to electric chair, he will never repent. In such a case, it is better that he be executed than that he continue to destroy other helpless victims.

The earth was like this once before, and God finally had to destroy that world with water. The flood of Noah was probably also the greatest month-long revival in history. Many repented after the Ark closed. Those that would not repent when dying in the flood would never repent. That which was true then is still true today. That is exactly why God must judge the earth in this way.

**Revelation 9 Next Class!**

**Revelation 1:18 Revelation: chapter 10**

**Revelation 12:9**

**Revelation 20:1-3 1-Read Joshua, Judges, & Ruth**

**Isaiah 14:12**

**Revelation 22:16**

**Luke 10:18 2-Study Revelation 10.**

**Revelation 12:9**

**II Peter 2:4**

**Jude 1:6 3-What is the little book?**

**Revelation 6:8**

**THE GREAT TRIBULATION**

**The Seven Seals** & **The Seven Trumpets**

|-----------------------------------------------------------7 Years-------------------------------------------------------|

|---------------------3 1/2 Years------------------------------|---------------------3 1/2 Years-----------------------|

**|-False Christ War Famine Pestilence Earthquake-|**

**|-Hail Mountain Wormwood Dark |**

**REVELATION 10**

**The Mighty Angel And The Little Book!**

**Introduction**

In Revelation 8 we see the first four of the seven trumpets of God's judgments against the four great gods of the new age; earth, fire, water, and air. Revelation 9 begins in the middle of the Great Tribulation as trumpets 5 and 6 sound and hell actually opens up to release terrible monsters and devils upon planet earth. One half of all mankind dies before this satanic onslaught. In spite of all of this horror standing before them, mankind as a whole still refuses to repent and turn to God. It is at this point in time, at the end of the trumpet judgments that God once again breaks off from the action to give us another glimmer of hope as we enter chapter 10.

1-**And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:**

If you refer to your seven sevens chart, you will see that this is the third of the general visions of the book or Revelation. We have already seen the throne room visions in chapters 4 and 5. We have also seen the first half of the 144,000 vision which begins in chapter 7 and will be completed in chapter 14. This vision I call the mighty angel and the little book and it will be covered in chapters 10 and 11.

This vision begins with a mighty angel who is clothed with a cloud, meaning he comes from heaven. He has a rainbow upon his head, which refers us back to the throne room in Revelation 4, and to the promises that God gave to Noah in Genesis. His feet are like fire, however, which refers us back to Jesus in Revelation 1 and refers to judgment. Just as happened in the throne room vision, suddenly the attention shifts to something in the angel’s hand.

2-**And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,**

What is the little book that is open in the angel's hand? To understand this better we need to go back to our first general vision in…

\*Revelation 5:6-7--**And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.**

If you remember, all of heaven wept because no one could open the book. Then the Lamb appears and takes the book from the Father. He then opens the seals to reveal what will happen in the Last Days leading up to His return. We must go back further still to determine exactly what this book is. This is revealed in…

\*Revelation 1:1-2--**The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.**

Notice the progression of the Revelation of Jesus Christ. It first goes from God the Father to Him. Then Jesus sends it by an angel to the Apostle John himself. Here we are also told that this little book is actually the word of God, which includes the testimony of Jesus and all the things that John saw when Jesus gave him this revelation.

3-**And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.**

Here is something very important. This angel roars like a lion. Earlier in our study we saw Jesus described as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. We see another time when an angel raises his voice to announce the end of time, as is explained by the Apostle Paul in…

\*I Thessalonians 4:16-**For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:**

It is the voice of THE Archangel. It is important here to notice the term is the archangel, not an archangel. Some church traditions teach that there are several archangels in heaven. The Bible mentions only one, and we are given his name in…

\*Jude 1:9-**Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.**

Michael, the Archangel, is one of the three Chief Princes of the heavenly host. The heavenly host consists of three classes of beings; the Cherubim in Genesis 3, the angels in Genesis 19, and the Seraphim in Isaiah 6. In Daniel 10, Gabriel reveals to the Prophet Daniel that there are also Chief Princes among the heavenly host, and that Michael is one of them.

Michael the Archangel, is the Chief Prince among the angels. Lucifer, the name of Satan before his fall, was also called the Anointed Cherub, so he was the Chief Prince among the Cherubim. This leaves the Seraphim, who were God’s messengers, and the Chief Messenger of the heavenly host is Gabriel, thus making him the Chief Prince among the Seraphim.

Although Lucifer fell from heaven, you will notice that the Cherubim did not fall with him. Rather, in Revelation 12, we see that Lucifer would deceive 1/3 of Michael’s angels, and they ultimately are cast out of heaven with him. We will get more into this when we study Revelation 12. For now, let’s return to Revelation 10.

4-**And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.**

What do the seven thunders represent, and what was their message. While John knew what it was, he was forbidden by God to reveal this detail to us. I plan to ask him about this when I meet him in heaven.

5-6--**And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:**

Michael, the Archangel, now declares that the end of time has come. Time was intended to be a temporary thing anyway, as we all know. To be exact, God set aside 7,000 years of time so He could settle the sin question before we could go on with the program of populating the universe. Because sin exists today, this current heaven and earth must ultimately be destroyed to be replaced by a new heaven in earth, wherein will dwell righteousness. The Prophet Daniel also referred to this time in…

\*Daniel 12:1-**And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.**

Here we see Michael again, standing up for the people of God. We also see a reference to the time of trouble that Jesus would later call the Great Tribulation. Finally we see here that God will only deliver those whose names are written in His book, later to be called the book of life, at the end of time.

7-**But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.**

Just what is the mystery of God. In other parts of the Bible, this mystery is called the Godhead. There are many descriptions of this in the Bible, but the most concise one I can find is in…

\*I John 5:7-**For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.**

While there are many mysteries in the Kingdom of God, this is one of the most complex. How can the Father, the Word, And the Holy Ghost be three separate persons, but at the same time one God. I am a single person, but I have a body, a soul, and a spirit. All matter exists in three states; solid, liquid, and gas. Beyond that, I must say that we must accept this on faith, until the time comes when we no longer know in part, as the Apostle Paul says we do now.

8-10--**And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.**

Now here thing’s get very interesting. Michael asks John to eat the book. If I had a book that I liked, I might ask you to read it, but if I asked you to eat it, you would think I was crazy. However, John does as the angel says and the book tastes sweet, but then gives him an upset stomach! John is not the only person in the Bible asked to do this. We see a similar situation in…

Ezekiel 2:7-3:4-**And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious. But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee. And when I looked, behold, an hand was sent unto me; and, lo, a roll of a book was therein; And he spread it before me; and it was written within and without: and there was written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe. Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, eat that thou findest; eat this roll, and go speak unto the house of Israel. So I opened my mouth, and he caused me to eat that roll. And he said unto me, Son of man, cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this roll that I give thee. Then did I eat it; and it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness. And he said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the house of Israel, and speak with my words unto them.**

The Prophet Ezekiel is basically given the same command as the Apostle John, and then he is instructed to prophesy to the nation of Israel. What these men are prophetically showing us here is what the word of God does to all of us. When we first took the word into our hearts, it was a joyous message that saved our souls. However, as time went by, something changed about the message as we see in…

\*Matthew 15:17-20--**Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.**

Here Jesus tells us that the belly represents the desires of the flesh. So salvation is sweet to our spirits when we first believe, but becomes a bitter message to our flesh, as we try to deal with the sins of life.

11-**And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.**

Also here, as with Ezekiel, John is told he will prophesy to many people. How can this be? John is an old man stuck on the island of Patmos, who will most likely die there, exiled by the Roman Empire. God had other plans, however. Shortly after John was given this prophecy, the Emperor would change in Rome and, as a show of Imperial Benevolence, prisoners were released all over the Roman Empire, including the Apostle John. He would return to the city of Ephesus as its pastor, and ultimately would head up a council to compile the books of the New Testament. Truly God always have bigger plans than we could ever imagine.

Now, let's review. Revelation 5 and 6 show the first 6 of the 7 seals of this book, and end with the question "Who shall be able to stand?" In revelation 7, God answers that question by showing 144,000 Jews and gentiles without number who are saved during the Great Tribulation. Revelation 8 and 9 show the first 6 of the 7 trumpets of God's judgment and end with an unrepentant mankind defiantly shaking its fist in God's face. God once again stops the action and has an angel deliver Jesus' love note directly from the throne of God to the Apostle John. From his prison island John accepts God's commission. My question to you today is how do you respond to God's commission for your life. It is my prayer that we all respond as John to God's request. As the prophet Isaiah said in Isaiah 6, "Here am I, LORD; send me!"

**Revelation 10 Next Class!**

**Revelation 5:6-7 Revelation: Chapter 11**

**Revelation 1:1-2 1-Read The Books Of I And Ii Samuel**

**I Thessalonians 4:16**

**Jude 1:9**

**Daniel 12:1 2-Study Revelation 11.**

**I John 5:7**

**Matthew 15:17-20 3-Who Are The 2 Witnesses?**

  **The Mystery Of God And The Heavenly Host**

**/----God----\**

**/ | \**

**Is Is Is**

**/ | \**

**Father-(Is Not)-Son-(Is Not)-Holy Ghost**

**| | |**

**| (Chief | Princes) |**

**| | |**

***Lucifer* Michael Gabriel**

**/ | | |**

**/ Cherubim Angels Seraphim**

**/ |**

***Falls 1/3 Fall***

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***Satan And The Devils***

**REVELATION 11**

**The Temple And The Two Witnesses**

**Introduction**

Revelation chapters 8 & 9 bring us through the Great Tribulation and show us God's first 6 trumpet judgments. At the end of the Great Tribulation, a defiant mankind curses a just and righteous God. God suddenly stops the action in chapter 10 and shows us a wondrous vision, the 3rd of the seven general visions of Revelation. As a mighty angel stands up at the end of the Great Tribulation and declares that time is no more.

He gives a little book that represents the word of God to the Apostle John who consumes it and then is given a new commission to prophesy to many people. The angel gives John another task as we enter Revelation 11. Also God gives us yet another outline of the events leading up to God's final judgment of the world in this 3rd general vision which I call the vision of the mighty angel.

1-**And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.**

Now God gives the Apostle John the job of measuring the temple. We have spent quite a bit of time in the temple since we have begun this study. The temple we keep seeing is the temple in the throne room of heaven. However, there is also a temple that existed on the earth in Jerusalem during different times in history. Therefore, the question we should first ask here is, is this the heavenly or earthly temple?

2-**But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.**

Here is our answer. God’s temple is in heaven. It could not be given to the Gentiles, which is another term for the lost throughout the Old and New Testament, as we see happening in this verse. Since the Gentiles exist on the earth, then the temple we are speaking of here must exist on the earth also. Also note the reference to 42 months. 42 months divided by 12 months per year equals 3 1/2 years, which also happens to be exactly ½ of the Great Tribulation period. Therefore, the temple John is being asked to measure must be the one that will be on the earth during the first half of the Great Tribulation.

3-**And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.**

If you take 1,260 days and divide it by 30 days per month, then divide it by 12 months per year, you again get 3 1/2 years. However, this will only work if the year you are using is exactly 360 days long. Years are currently 365 1/4 days long. God must be mistaken here. Right?

Was there ever a time in history when years were only 360 days long? According to Genesis 7 & 8, the years before the great flood of Noah were 360 days long. Not only that, but ancient civilizations all measured the year as only 360 days long. Now ancient cultures may have been wrong, but God’s word is never wrong. Put simply, God shows us in Genesis that the earth's orbit was on 360 days long before the flood.

If the earth’s orbit was slightly shorter than it is today, the earth would be a tropical paradise, exactly as God says it was before the flood. This changed after the flood of Noah, as the earth orbit was lengthened, making the earth cooler, giving us our present seasons, and shortening all life spans in the process.

With that in mind, the verse above reveals a very important fact. It is stating that during the Great Tribulation, the earth returns to the orbit it had before the great flood of Noah. God is doing this in preparation for the Day of the Lord, when the earth will once again be a tropical paradise, as it was in the days of Adam. Like I have always said, real science always catches up to the Bible sooner or later.

4-6--**These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.**

Here we see the two witnesses described, but this only deepens the mystery. Who are these two witnesses of Revelation 11? Are these two witnesses only figurative or are these two literal men who will live during this period?

Some people feel that the two olive trees are the Old Testament and the New Testament, which have witnessed to the world about God down through the centuries. Others feel these witnesses represent the Jewish and Gentile believers based on references found in Romans 11.

However, in the verse above we see that they shall prophesy 1,260 days, so this would seem to indicate that they will actually be men who will be alive during this period. The problem here is that God usually sent prophets out one at a time. There is at least one example of two prophets going out together in the Bible, as we can see in…

\*Ezra 5:1-2--**Then the prophets, Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied unto the Jews that were in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, even unto them. Then rose up Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and began to build the house of God which is at Jerusalem: and with them were the prophets of God helping them.**

The prophets Haggai and Zechariah were sent out together when the second temple was built after the Babylonian captivity. Could God send these two witnesses forth to prophesy as the third temple is built at the end of the Roman captivity?

We also see that there is no rain during the time of the two witnesses. This is the same as during the time of the Prophet Elijah. We further see water turned to blood and plagues smiting the earth, as during the time of Moses, who was also a prophet.

It is also interesting to note that Elijah is one of two characters in the Bible that did not die, as we are told in II Kings 2. In contrast to this, Moses did die. In the New Testament, we are told that it is given to men once to die, and after this the judgment. If we are looking for prophets that did not die, there is one other candidate, as the Apostle Paul tells us in…

\*Hebrews 11:5-**By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.**

Enoch, who was also a prophet according to the book of Jude, did not die. Thus many believe that the two witnesses of Revelation 11 will be Elijah & Enoch. The two witnesses both meet a violent death, as we are told in…

7-8--**And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.**

While the city of Sodom was destroyed long ago, we know the city where the Lord was crucified. This could only mean that the two witnesses will be killed in Jerusalem.

Although Enoch and Elijah are two possible candidates, there is another reference that might infer Moses as one of these witnesses, as we can see in…

\*Luke 9:28-31--**And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray. And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistering. And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias: Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.**

The prophets Elijah and Moses speak with Jesus here, long after Moses death. Furthermore Jude speaks of the Archangel Michael And Lucifer, the anointed cherub arguing over Moses' body. Although it is clear in the Holy Scriptures that Moses died, we realize that God could raise Moses from the dead, as he did Lazarus and many others in the Bible.

\*Malachi 4:4-6

**Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.**

Here we see Moses and Elijah listed in another set of verses together. Any way you look at it, our major character for one of the two witnesses is definitely Elijah. Now here is where things really get interesting. The Bible says that Elijah would return in the last days. Jesus said that Elijah had returned as John the Baptist. However, when the Pharisees asked the Baptist, he said that he was not Elijah. What goes on here? I think our answer can be found in another set of verses found in…

\*Luke 1:13-17

**But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.**

In Gabriel’s proclamation to Zecharias about his yet unborn son, John the Baptist, I feel we have the answer to all our questions. Gabriel, the third of our Chief Princes of the heavenly host, explains that John the Baptist fulfilled Malachi’s prophecy when he was given special powers from the Holy Ghost. Thus Jesus confirms this when he says John the Baptist is the Elijah that was prophesied, but John’s declaration that he is not actually Elijah himself. Based on this, I feel safe in saying that the two witnesses in Revelation 11 will be two men who will be living at that time and endowed with the same power that the Holy Ghost gave to the prophets Elijah and Moses when they were on the earth.

9-10--**And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.**

Here we see that the people of the world celebrate the deaths of these men. Presents are even exchanged during what can be called nothing less that an unholy Christmas celebration. However, the work of these two good men is not quite done yet.

Just how do all these people all over the earth see these bodies anyway? Keep in mind, that the Apostle John is telling this story around AD 100. There would be no way for everyone in the world to see these men at that time.

The technology for this to happen would not be invented until centuries later. Televisions would not come into use until the middle of the 20th century, over 1,900 years after John wrote this. In fact, this would not be possible until the advent of satellite television technology, which would make this impossible before the 1980s, which makes this event impossible before our own generation.

11-14--**And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.**

The two witnesses are resurrected and ascend to heaven for the whole world to see. Here again, we see God using the command "Come up hither." to gather his servants to heaven, just as we first saw in Revelation 4, when the Gathering takes place.

\*Revelation 4:1-2--**After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.**

Here we see the command "Come Up Hither" go forth for the first time in the book of Revelation. Some people believe that the Gathering will not take place until the middle of the Great Tribulation, and this command appearing in Revelation 11 is one of the reasons they believe this. If you remember, we also see a similar event take place in the Gospel, which was also written by John, in…

\*John 11:41-43--**Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.**

Here we see Jesus, God in the flesh, giving a very similar command when He says, "Lazarus, Come Forth." The term used in the original Greek here is the same as the one that is used in Revelation 4 and 11. As I mentioned earlier, I truly believe that if Jesus had not used the name of Lazarus when He gave this command, all of that graveyard, and possibly all of them around the world, would have opened that day. Such is the power of the word of God!

15-17--**And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.**

Now the final of the seven trumpets sound. We hear voices in heaven openly declare, for all the world to hear, that the Kingdom Of God is come. Here we see the fulfillment of the Lord's prayer, which Jesus taught us at His first coming. How often have we all prayed, "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Here we see it finally coming to pass.

\*Revelation 10:6-7--**And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.**

Here we see we see the twenty four elders declare that time will be no longer just as the angel did in Revelation 10,. How can this be? We are only in Revelation 11. We still have 11 more chapters to go. Keep in mind, that to God 1,000 years is just one day. Here his people are declaring, for the whole world to hear, that He is in charge.

18-19--**And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.**

The nations do not repent, but only become angry. Why is God telling them time is up? He makes it clear here that He must destroy them before they destroy the Earth. This is also something that was physically impossible in the Apostle John’s day. In fact, this is something that man could not have accomplished before the nuclear age, which also began in the 20th century.

Immediately following this we see an earthquake, and great hail. As we have already seen, these are events that occur at then end of the Great Tribulation. So here, with the last of the seven trumpets, we find ourselves once again at the end of the Great Tribulation, when the Day of the Lord begins. We see a similar passage in…

\*Isaiah 13:9-10--**Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.**

Here we see God’s meaning when He says that time runs out at the end of the Great Tribulation. When these seven years are finished, He will simply have the sinners destroyed out of the land. On this day for millions of people, their period of grace will be over. Just how this destruction is carried out is described in…

Matthew 25:31-46--**When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.**

This is what is commonly called the sheep and goat judgment. Here God is gathering the nations at the end of the Great Tribulation. He separates His followers, which He calls sheep, from those who have rejected Him, which He calls goats. His followers enter into the Day of the Lord, a one thousand year period when the earth will once again be the paradise it was during the Garden of Eden. The goats will be sentenced to an eternity in hell.

Most of mankind will never see this event. Only those who are still be alive at the end of the Great Tribulation will go through this particular judgment. The vast majority of mankind will have already faced God’s judgment, as most of them will have died long before this day. The Bible says today is the day of salvation. While you are still alive, you have time to make peace with God, and avoid an eternity in a devil’s hell. If you don’t know Jesus Christ as your Savior, if you do not yet know of His saving grace, please do so today!

####

**Revelation 11 Next Class!**

**Ezra 5:1-2 Revelation: Chapter 12**

**Hebrews 11:5 1-Read The Books Of I & II Kings**

**Luke 9:28-31**

**Malachi 4:4-6**

**Luke 1:13-17**

**Revelation 4:1-2 2-Study Revelation 12.**

**John 11:41-43**

**Revelation 10:6-7 3-Who Is The Woman?**

**Isaiah 13:9-10**

**THE GREAT TRIBULATION**

**The Seven Seals** & **The Seven Trumpets**

|-----------------------------------------------------------7 Years-------------------------------------------------------|

|---------------------3 1/2 Years------------------------------|---------------------3 1/2 Years-----------------------|

**|-False Christ War Famine Pestilence Earthquake-|**

**|-Hail Mountain Wormwood Dark |-Abaddon Four Angels Great Hail|**

**|-TEMPLE BUILT TWO WITNESSES KILLED ISRAEL IN HIDING-|**

**REVELATION 12**

**THE WOMAN & THE BEASTS**

**Introduction**

In Revelation 8 and 9, God brought us through the Great Tribulation using the first 6 of the seven trumpets. In chapters 10 and 11, God reveals to us the vision of the mighty angel who appeared to John. In revelation 12 and 13, we come to the 4th of the seven general visions of the book of Revelation. I call this vision "the woman and the beasts".

This is a set of chapters that cover a huge period of time, spanning from 2000 BC to the end of time as we know it. This is also the major dividing point for this time period of Revelation. There are 22 chapters in book of Revelation. 22 divided by 2 equals 11. Chapter 11 covers the 3 1/2 years that span the first half of the great tribulation. Chapter 12 covers the 3 1/2 years that span the final half of this period of time.

The earth existed for 4,000 years before the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. It has been approximately 2,000 years since Christ. What is 4,000 plus 2,000? It is 6,000 years. Christ's return is soon and he will reign for 1,000 years, after which the earth is destroyed. What is 6,000 plus 1,000? The earth will stand 7,000 years.

What is 7,000 divided by 2? 3,500 years after creation, in the very center of God's time frame, around 500 BC, God revealed to the Prophet Daniel many of the details of God's plan for the ages.

1-2--**And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.**

Who is the woman? Discovering her identity is a very important key to understanding this vision. Let’s take a moment now to identify her and the other major character, which we see in...

3-4--**And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.**

Here we see the original dragon, that old devil, Satan. However it is interesting to note the details of this vision. Here we see Satan with 7 heads, 10 horns, and 7 crowns. We see something very similar in Daniel 7.

Daniel 7:1-7--**In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters. Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it. After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.**

Here we see four horrendous beasts in battle. The first is a lion, followed by a bear, a leopard, and finally a terrible fourth beast. With this in mind, let’s take a moment to do some simple math that will give us some very interesting answers. Keep in mind that our dragon in Revelation 12 has 7 heads, 10 horns, and 7 crowns.

Looking at Daniel 7, let’s now run a comparison. Our lion has 1 head and 0 horns. Our bear also has only 1 head and 0 horns. Our leopard has 4 heads, but still 0 horns. While our terrible last beast only has 1 head, it also has10 horns. This totals 7 heads and 10 horns, the same as our dragon in Revelation 12.

Now crowns are always used to represent kings. With this in mind, let’s move ahead to Revelation 17, for the last piece to this particular part of our puzzle.

\*Revelation 17:10-**And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.**

At the time that the Apostle John wrote this verse, the sixth king was on the throne. This king would have been the Emperor of the Roman Empire, who had exiled John to the island of Patmos. While it is easy to see that the Roman Empire was inspired by Satan himself, this also means there were four nations before this which Satan used to try to conquer the world.

These four nations would also be unique in the fact that they all ruled over Israel at some point in time. Exodus tells us the story of the first of these kingdoms. It was Egypt and it ruled over Israel around 1700 BC. For the identity of our second kingdom, we will need to go to…

\*II Kings 18:11-**And the king of Assyria did carry away Israel unto Assyria, and put them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes:**

The nation of Assyria ruled over Israel. They would take the 10 northern tribes into captivity around 700 BC. The Prophet Daniel gives us the identity of our next nation in…

\*Daniel 2:36-38--**This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.**

It is the ancient nation of Babylon that would finally take the southern nation of Judah into captivity around 500 BC. So here we see our third kingdom. For our fourth and fifth kingdoms, we will need to

\*Daniel 8:20-21--**The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.**

Medo-Persia would conquer Babylon around 400 BC. They, in turn, would be conquered by Greece around 200 BC. Ultimately Greece would also be conquered by a mighty empire that the Apostle John describes to us in…

\*Revelation 17:18-**And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.**

The Roman Empire was ruling over Israel in AD 100, about the time that John wrote the book of Revelation. Thus Rome is our sixth kingdom. The last kingdom we are beginning to see form today, and it will finally rule the entire earth during the Great Tribulation.

5-**And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.**

If you remember, there are 7 visions of Jesus in the book of Revelation. In Revelation 1 we saw Jesus, the overcoming Son of God. In Revelation 5, we saw Jesus, the suffering lamb and the lion of the tribe of Judah. Here we have our third vision of Jesus, the man child.

If Jesus is the man child, then who is the woman? There seem to be three major views on this. The literal view is that the woman is Mary. Some Bible scholars believe that the woman is the Church. Finally some feel the woman represents the nation of Israel.

Mary makes sense as she was actually the mother of Jesus. While the view that the woman is the Church is popular, the Church did not give birth to Jesus. Rather Jesus gave birth to the Church. Finally in one sense of the word, the nation Israel gave birth to Jesus as they all came from the seed of Abraham, through which the Messiah was promised.

The answer to this is in the details. The woman is shown with the sun, the moon, and twelve stars. This reference takes us all the way back to the beginning of the Old Testament, and is found in…

\*Genesis 37:9-11--**And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.**

Here we see Joseph having the second of two dreams. In this dream, he sees the sun, the moon, and 11 stars bow down to him. While he does not understand it, his father Israel knows exactly what it means. He knows that the sun and moon, represents Joseph’s father and mother, and the 11 stars represent his 11 brothers. If you include Joseph, you then get 12 stars. Thus the woman represents the nation of Israel. This understanding is crucial to what happens in the rest of Revelation 12, as we begin to see in…

6-**And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.**

Keep in mind that 1,260 days divided by 30 days/month equals 42 months. If 42 months is divided by 12 months/year, you get 3 ½ years. As we mentioned earlier, chapter 11 shows us the first 3 ½ years of the Great Tribulation, when the temple is rebuilt. Now here in chapter 12, we see the last 3 ½ years of this time period, when Israel has to flee into the wilderness to hide from the devil and his forces.

7-9--**And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**

As we have seen many times before, suddenly our scene moves from the earth to heaven as we see a great angelic war being fought. Our first question now becomes, just when does this happen?

Once again, there are three possibilities. Some feel that this could take place at the middle of the Great Tribulation. Others believe that this represents the original rebellion when Satan and his angels were thrown out of heaven before the creation of the world. Finally some view this as having taken place during the time of Jesus' resurrection. The third group relies heavily on the next verses to draw their conclusion by.

10-11--**And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.**

This verse could be referring to the Tribulation saints, but it could just as easily refer to all the believing brethren who have been martyred over the last 6,000 years. This list runs in the Old Testament from Abel, Adam’s righteous son to the Prophet Zachariah. The list continues in the New Testament with John the Baptist and concludes with the Tribulation saints.

12-13--**Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.**

It is interesting to note that these verses say a short time. This would seem to indicate that only 3 ½ years are left. However, as we have discussed before, to God 1,000 years is a day. Thus a period of 2,000 years or even 6,000 years would also be short to God.

14-**And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.**

This is an interesting verse. A time means 1. Times would represent 2 or more. Then we have 1/2 time. Adding them together, we get at least 3 1/2 times. This could be another reference to 3 ½ years, but let’s not take this for granted. The term "times" appears earlier in the Bible. This particular reference appears in a dream that King Nebuchadnezzar had in….

\*Daniel 4:24-25--**This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king: That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.**

In the Old Testament, this term represents the period of time from one Passover to the next. How long is this? It is exactly one year. Thus our 3 ½ times easily translates to 3 ½ years based on this information. As we see time and again, much of the imagery of Revelation is explained by going to the book of Daniel.

15-17--**And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

Here we see that old devil trying to destroy Israel with a flood. Whether this is a literal flood or an army of some sort, I cannot say. What I can say is that God has a plan that spans all of time. His plan includes everyone that has ever lived or ever will live. What we should each be considering today is what our part is in God's plan for the ages?

**Revelation 12 next class!**

**Revelation 17:10 Revelation 13**

**II Kings 18:11 1-Read I Chronicles**

**Daniel 2:36-38**

**Daniel 8:20-21 2-Study Revelation 13.**

**Revelation 17:18**

**Genesis 37:9-11 3-Who are the beasts?**

#### Daniel 4:24-25

**The Seven-Headed Beast**

**Revelation 12 & Daniel 7**

7 heads 10 horns 7 crowns time

Egypt 2000 BC

Assyria 1000 BC

lion Babylon 500 BC

bear Medo-Persia 400 BC

leopard-4 heads Greece 200 BC

beast 10 horns Rome AD 100

Beast Great Tribulation

**REVELATION 13**

**THE MARK OF THE BEAST**

**Introduction**

In Revelation 12 and 13 we see the 4th of the seven general visions of the book of Revelation. I call this vision "the woman and the beasts". The first part showed us the age-old battle between the kingdoms of light and darkness. It also showed us the part that Israel plays in this controversy and the reason that, throughout the ages, those that hate God also hate Israel. In chapter 13 we get a glimpse into some of the details of the end-time plan that Satan has for all of mankind. You see, in the end, the hate that the powers of darkness have for God and Israel applies to all of man as well. In this chapter we are introduced to two of the major players in the last days’ scenario that, without God's intervention, would ultimately end in the destruction of all of mankind. We now pick up the narrative where we last saw the mighty angel in Revelation 10, on the shore of the sea.

1-**And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.**

Here we once again see another beast with seven heads and ten horns. However, this time there is a slight difference. Here we see ten crowns, whereas in…

Revelation 12:3-**And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.**

The dragon of Revelation 12 has seven heads, ten horns, and seven crowns. The beast of Revelation 13 has seven heads and ten horns, but he also has ten crowns. As we saw last time, in the Bible crowns represent kings. Later in our study, we will see that the ten horns represent ten kings also, as we see in…

Revelation 17:12-**And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.**

The beast is the one that many people call the Antichrist. Here we learn that, during the Great Tribulation, ten kings will rule with the Antichrist. Also this beast is not a dragon, but a most unusual creature, as we see in…

2-**And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.**

Where did this incredible creature come from? It’s some kind of crazy quilt mixture of a lion, a leopard, and a bear. Oh my! We see a very similar vision if we go to the Old Testament. The Prophet Daniel saw a very similar sight in…

Daniel 7:4-6--**The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.**

Here we see a series of creatures that look like a lion, a bear, and a leopard. This list is the exact reverse of the names listed in the Apostle John’s vision. As we saw last time, John is looking at some things that happened before his time, while Daniel was seeing the same things before it happened. John is seeing history, while Daniel is seeing the future. Thus John is seeing these things in the reverse from the way that Daniel is seeing them.

3-4--**And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?**

Here we see that the dragon, or Satan, is separate from the beast, or the Antichrist. The Antichrist’s head is wounded. He appears to be miraculously healed and, because of this, the people of earth during the Great Tribulation will worship him. Who could possibly stand against such absolute power during this time? Only the faithful, according to the Apostle Paul in…

II Thessalonians 2:3-4--**Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.**

Here we see how, at the middle of the Great Tribulation, the Antichrist will actually enter the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem and declare himself god. Then will begin the greatest period of God’s judgment ever seen on the earth.

5-**And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.**

The rule of the Antichrist last 42 months, or 3 1/2 years. This is during the last half of Great Tribulation. This rule begins when he appears in the temple in Jerusalem and declares himself to be god.

6-8--**And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**

Satan's plan from the beginning, to receive man's worship. Here, after he possesses the body of the Antichrist, his dream will finally be fulfilled. Mankind will worship him. At least the majority of mankind will, but there is always a faithful remnant, which will remain faithful to the God of heaven. The Apostle John even has a special message for those blessed saints in…

9-10--**If any man have an ear, let him hear. He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.**

When the Bible says something like this, it means it is speaking to believers, who are given understanding of such things through the power of the Holy Ghost. This message is straight and to the point. You reap what you sow. We will see this particular prophecy fulfilled in great detail when we get to Revelation 19.

11-15--**And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.**

Now we see a second beast that is like a lamb. In other words, he is also trying to look like Christ as He appeared to us in Revelation 5:6. However, this beast is a false prophet, who speaks like that old dragon, the devil, and causes the world to worship image of first beast, thus breaking 2nd commandment, as it was given by God in….

Exodus 20:4--**Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:**

God makes this commandment very clear. No one is to worship images. Interesting enough, in the Catholic catechism, they drop this commandment, thus reducing the ten commandments to only nine. This creates a problem, however, as everyone knows there are ten commandments. To clear up this problem, they take the last commandment and divide it into two parts, thus turning the 10th commandment into two separate commandments. Thus they are able to restore the ten commandments to the right number, while totally destroying the right message.

16-18--**And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.**

This is probably one of the best known verses in the world among lost folks. It is very clear, and not open to many different interpretations. It says that the day will come when the world economy will be controlled by the Antichrist, and he will not allow anyone to buy or sell unless they take his mark, the mark of the beast, which includes the number 666. It might be interesting to know that this is not the first time this number appears in the Bible. It is actually the third. The first time this number appears is in…

I Kings 10:14-**Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred threescore and six talents of gold,**

Here we see that Solomon received 666 talents of gold each year in payment of taxes. So the first time we see this number, it is related to money, just as we just saw it was in Revelation 13. Our next time to run across this number is in…

Daniel 3:1,5-6--**Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. . .That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up: And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.**

The king of Babylon built an image, or idol, of gold that was threescore cubits high. Threescore means 60. It was also 6 cubits on each side. Finally, the people are commanded to worship the king when they hear the music from six instruments. Here again we see our 666. This time God is using it in connection with the worship of a man. Again this is just like the story in Revelation 13. Thus the Bible makes it abundantly clear that this particular number is always linked to the worship of man and money.

Just how could the Antichrist cause the whole world to take this ungodly mark? It’s not really that hard to understand. I can almost imagine a meeting between these two at the height of the Great Tribulation. The Antichrist says that the whole world is now under his control except for those pesky Christians. If we could only get rid of them, our new world would be perfect.

The false prophet, being a Bible scholar, would respond with the following idea. The Bible states, in Revelation 13, that those who take the mark of the beast are opposed to their God. All we have to do is fulfill this prophecy! We will require the whole world to take this mark. Those contrary Christians will refuse and we can thus isolate and ultimately destroy all of them.

Just how far is the world away from being able to allow a world ruler to do this? Let’s take a moment to look at a section of a fascinating documentary video entitled The Mark Of The Beast. Not only do we have the technology to do this, but a doctor already has a patent on the device, and at least one family in Florida has already been installed with this computer chip.

**SUMMARY**

To summarize, Satan's many attempts throughout history to rule the world are pictured as beasts in God's opinion. There will be a final beast kingdom that will rule the entire world during the last 3 1/2 years for the Great Tribulation. This king will be allied with 10 other kings who will also rule at that time. With the help of a false prophet this last ruler, called simply the beast, will enter the temple in Jerusalem, and demand all mankind to worship him. To prove your loyalty to the beast, you will have to have a mark placed on your right hand or forehead. Without this mark you will be unable to buy food for your family. Ultimately if you do not take this mark you will be beheaded for your faith in Christ. This is the ultimate end of the devil's program for mankind. Worship me or die! If you were confronted with that decision at this very moment, how would you respond?

**Revelation 13 Next Class!**

**Revelation 12:3 Revelation 14**

**Revelation 17:12 1-Read II Chronicles**

**Daniel 7:4-6**

**II Thessalonians 2:3-4 2-Study Revelation 14.**

**Exodus 20:4-6**

**I Kings 10:14 3-Who has the sharp sickle?**

**Daniel 3:1, 5**

***THE SEVEN-HEADED BEAST***

**DANIEL 7 & REVELATION 12-13**

JOHN------|-7 HEADS 10 HORNS 7 CROWNS TIME

| EGYPT 2000 BC |

|ASSYRIA 1000 BC |

DANIEL--|-LION-BABYLON 500 BC |

| BEAR MEDO-PERSIA 400 BC |

| LEOPARD-4-GREECE 200 BC |

| BEAST-10 HORNS-ROME AD 100 |

| BEAST TRIBULATION-|

**JOHN-----|-7 HEADS 10 HORNS 10 CROWNS = 10 KINGS----|**

**REVELATION 14**

**Who shall be able to stand?-part 2**

**Introduction**

In Revelation 7, we were first introduced to a very special group of people who will exist in the very near future.

Revelation 7:1-4--**And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.**

This chapter explained that this was 144,000 Jewish men who were sealed in salvation by the Holy Ghost. As we learned at that time, this is a group of Jewish men who are sealed in their foreheads by God at the beginning of the Great Tribulation. These men will be like 144,000 evangelize the world at that time, bringing a number that no man can number of people to salvation through Jesus Christ during this godless period of time.

Not only do we see here that they are Jews, we also learn they are virgins. Usually we think of women as being virgins, but until they lay with a woman, men are to. I want you to stop for a moment and think of any other Jewish men who were virgins you can think of in the Bible. Right off hand, I think of three New Testament characters. One was Jesus Christ. The second would be John the Baptist, and the third wrote the following.

I Corinthians 7:34-**There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband.**

Just imagine for a minute, what these three unmarried Jewish men were able to do for God. Now you must admit that Jesus was also God, so let’s take him out of the equation for a moment. Let’s just consider what John the Baptist and Paul were able to do for god in their lifetimes. Now imagine what god could do with 144,000 johns the Baptists, and/or Apostle Pauls! This is going to be an interesting time indeed!

Moving ahead to our last study in Revelation 13, we found ourselves in the middle of the Great Tribulation as another group of people are also sealed in their foreheads. In the entire Bible, the two most well-known passages are most likely John 3:16 and the verses beginning at Revelation 13:16, when men are sealed by the mark of the beast. This seal will guarantee men a place in hell, as surely as God's seal will guarantee men a place in heaven. In this class we will move forward in time to the end of the Great Tribulation as once again we see the 144,000.

Revelation 14:1-**And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.**

Here we are at the end of the Great Tribulation as the 144,000 stand on the Mount of Olives with Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. How do I know this is where and when this occurs? Because I have read the rest of the book! To see what I mean, or as Paul Harvey puts it, for the rest of the story go to…

Zechariah 14:1-4--**Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.**

The day of the Lord begins here. You can see which mount Jesus will stand on when He returns. We also know this same event takes place at the end of the 7 years and the beginning of the 1,000 years.

It is interesting to note that several years ago there was a plan to build a hotel on the Mount of Olives. Seismic studies stopped the project because they discovered a huge earthquake fault under the Mount. Later studies showed that this fault extends from this point all the way into the Pacific Ocean to the Great Barrier Rift, making it the largest fault line on the face of the earth. Of course, this is merely a coincidence, right?

Revelation 14:2-3--**And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.**

Notice that, at the end of the Great Tribulation, they are still singing their new song. All of the 144,000 are still redeemed. Think about this a minute.

144,000 get saved. Then the worse seven years in human history comes to pass. Believers all over the world are openly persecuted, denied food, and even publicly executed. However, at the end of this time, not just 100,000, not just 140,000, and not even 143,000 are still saved.

All 144,000 are still singing their new song when Jesus returns at the end of the Great Tribulation. Even there was ever a strong testimony for the eternal security of the believer, this is it!

Revelation 14:4-5--**These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.**

Not only are these men redeemed, but they are also virgins. With no romantic connections in their life, they are free to follow the Lamb. Once again we see that they are all still redeemed at the end of the Great Tribulation. It also mentions that no guile is found in their mouths. For an example of what this means, we need to go to…

John 1:45-47--**Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see. Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!**

John the Beloved and Philip have been directed by John the Baptist to stop following him and start following Jesus. They immediately go out to spread the news to others. John would look up Peter, while Philip seeks out Nathanial, a Jew with no guile.

When Philip is told the news, he holds nothing back but gives a reply that to some would be considered an insult. However, Jesus sees it as simple, if mistaken, honesty.

Pray that God will raise up more Nathanials today, who will not hold back but speak the whole truth in Jesus, regardless of the consequences. They are needed badly in this Laodicean age of itching ears!

Revelation 14:6-7--**And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.**

Suddenly our vision shifts to an angel flying in heaven, proclaiming the everlasting gospel. Notice that his gospel does not mention the incarnation, the cross, or even Jesus by name. The everlasting gospel proclaims that God is creator. If we would begin our witnessing by proclaiming this simple truth, I truly believe that many more would be won into the kingdom of God. The gospel message that we usually think about is the gospel of the kingdom, as described in…

Matthew 4:23-**And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.**

Jesus’ message was the same as John the Baptist’s before Him. It was "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" Receiving this message is the greatest thing any person can ever do. However, for those that reject this message, God sends another angel with a very different message.

Revelation 14:8-**And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.**

Babylon, that great city, is fallen! This is the first of six times that Babylon is mentioned in the book of Revelation. This description becomes more detailed in…

Revelation 17:1-5--**And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.**

Here we see this evil empire described in detail as Mystery Babylon. A mystery in the Bible is a religious system. It goes on to describe it as the city that ruled over all the kings of the earth. In the day of Apostle John, when this was written this could only be Rome. Notice, however, that it is not called Mystery Rome. This evil system is much older than the Roman Empire ever was

The first mention of Babylon in the Bible takes us all the way back to Genesis, when it was first called Babel. This is where rebellion against God began after the flood of Noah, as men tried to build a tower to heaven. This is the evil system that still holds sway over the earth when Jesus returns in the last days!

Revelation 14:9-12-**And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.**

The message here is very clear. If you reject the message of John 3:16, which was the first book written by the Apostle John, and you accept the message of Revelation 13:16, the last book written by the Apostle John, then your eternal fate is sealed.

Also note that you will not simple go to hell and burn up. The torment of those who reject God will continue for ever and ever. You have rejected the grace of God and thus must face the wrath of God.

Revelation 14:13-**And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.**

There are 7 beatitudes in the book of Revelation and the first one appeared in Revelation 1:3. This is the second one. This verse not only applies to the saints of the Great Tribulation but also all the saints today as well. When you leave this world and stand before God, what works will have followed you to His throne?

Revelation 14:14-16--**14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.**

There are seven pictures of Christ in the book of Revelation. This is the fourth picture of Christ-the reaper. The first time Jesus came, He came as the sower to plant the kingdom of heaven upon the earth. Now He comes back to reap that harvest. Notice what happens right after he reaps the saved from the earth.

Revelation 14:17-20--**17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.**

This harvest has two parts. First Jesus Himself gathers the grapes. Then an angel is assigned to gather up the dead and dying vines that remain. These vines gathered into the winepress. Notice, however, that juice is not what runs out of this winepress. It is blood.

As we just saw, Zechariah 14 is one of the companion chapters to Revelation 14. In this chapter we see Jesus put His foot on the Mount of Olives and a great earthquake splits this mountain in half. If you remember from our other studies, the Great Tribulation ends with the greatest earthquake in human history.

Directly after this it says that Jesus will strike those fighting against Him with a vicious plague. It says that, as they stand before Him, their flesh will literally melt away from their bones. This plague is so massive that it causes blood to run 6 foot deep for 150 miles.

Revelation 19:11-13--**And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.**

No wonder His clothes are dipped in blood. This description is also given in more detail in…

Isaiah 63:1-3--**Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winevat? I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment.**

I have trodden the winepress. Here again we see the winepress. There is only one thing in this world that I know of that could cause men’s flesh to melt from their bones. It is a nuclear explosion. Jesus does not need a bomb to do this, however.

In the Old Testament, God spoke the world into existence. In the New Testament, it explains that all matter holds together by the power of God. This being the case, all Jesus would have to do is pick out someone and tell their atoms to no longer hold together, and not only would they immediately dissolve, but they would also create a fairly sizable nuclear explosion.

All of the world, including you and I, are only allowed to exist at this moment because God says so. This is also true of our family and friends, whether they are saved or lost. With this in mind, should we not be more diligent in testifying to those that are lost around us? Every second that passes, another soul goes to hell, to be tormented for ever and ever. It is our job to bring as many as possible to the light of Christ. What works will follow you to Christ’s throne?

**Revelation 14 Next Class!**

**Revelation 7:1-4 Revelation: Chapter 15**

**I Corinthians 7:34**

**Zechariah 14:1-4 1-Read The Book Of Psalms**

**John 1:45-47**

**Matthew 4:23 2-Study Revelation 15.**

**Revelation 17:1-5**

**Revelation 19:11-13 3-What Are The Seven Main Events That**

**Isaiah 63:1-3 Outline The New Testament Period?**

**THE GREAT TRIBULATION**

**The Seven Seals, The Seven Trumpets & The Visions**

|-----------------------------------------------------------7 Years-------------------------------------------------------|

|---------------------3 1/2 Years------------------------------|---------------------3 1/2 Years-----------------------|

**|-False Christ War Famine Pestilence Earthquake-|**

**|-Hail Mountain Wormwood Dark |-Abaddon Four Angels Great Hail|**

**|-TEMPLE BUILT TWO WITNESSES KILLED ISRAEL IN HIDING-|**

**|-144,000 Sealed Mark Of The Beast 144,000 With Lamb-|**

**REVELATION 15**

**The Seven Angels And The Temple**

**Introduction**

As we have journeyed through the book of Revelation, we have seen many wondrous things. The future has been presented to us at a lightning pace, and many times God has had to stop the flow of the action just so we can catch our breaths, and ponder the big picture.

Revelation chapter 15 is such a resting place. In the last three chapters we have seen the nation of Israel; the dragon; the antichrist; the false prophet; and finally seen the unveiling of Satan's end-times master plan which the Bible calls the mark of the beast. Now, just before God pours out his final judgment on this wicked world system, he takes a moment for us to take one last look at the pageantry of heaven and to be reminded one more time that he has everything in control.

1-**And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.**

We have just finished observing the 144,000 Jewish witnesses who preached during the Great Tribulation and saw them singing at the Mount of Olives with Jesus as He returns at the end of this terrible 7-year period. Now God stops the action one more time. He is about to unleash His final plagues of judgment upon the earth. However, before He does this, He wants us to observe some other events taking place in heaven.

2-**And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.**

Here, once again, we see the Tribulation saints, most of which came to salvation through the preaching of the 144,000. The reason that we know exactly who these saints are is because God specifically reveals that these saints got their victory over the mark of the beast which was instituted during the last half of the Great Tribulation, as we saw in Revelation 13.

3-4--**And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.**

They sing the song Of Moses, which he sang following the destruction of the Egyptian army in the Red Sea when they left slavery in Egypt. You can read about this song in Exodus 15. Have you ever been in a place where only God could rescue you? If so, then you know this song.

5-**And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:**

Now, once again, God is showing us, not only His Temple of the Tabernacle, but opens the door so we can see the Ark of the Testimony. This is the same ark that the children of Israel carried when Moses led them into freedom from slavery. God is making a very clear point here. We can be freed from the slavery of sin, or we can face His judgment if we reject His Son’s sacrifice.

6-7--**And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever.**

Now we see seven angels leave the Temple. God is about to bring this phase of His program to its ultimate end. Satan has ruled the earth for seven years. Now he and his minions will begin to pay for what they have done to God’s children, just as the nation of Egypt paid for the slavery of Israel.

8-**And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.**

God’s anger has been held in check since the book of Revelation began. Now we begin to see His anger unleashed on a rebellious mankind. It is so fierce that the temple fills with smoke and will stay that way until the plagues are finished.

**Summary**

Just as we have seen God reveal Satan's master plan for us, here we see God's master plan for all mankind. God does nothing without revealing it to His servants. God outlined all 4,000 years of Old Testament history in 7 mighty acts; the Creation, the Flood, the Exodus, the Building of the Temple, the Destruction of the Temple, the Proclamation of Cyrus, and the Coming of the Messiah.

What is even more amazing to me is the fact that God also outlined all of his New Testament history in 7 mighty acts. They are so important that he commanded the nation Israel to celebrate these acts 1500 years before they began to take place. God even gives us an outline of these events in the 7 celebrations in Leviticus 23.

Leviticus 23:1-5--**And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feast of the Lord, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts. Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the Lord in all your dwellings. These are the feasts of the Lord, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons. In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the Lord's passover.**

The first feast is call the Passover. This feast occurred in the first month.

\*Matthew 26:1-2--**And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said unto his disciples, Ye know that after two days is the feast of the passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified.**

The Passover was when Jesus was crucified and died for our sins. This event took place during Jesus’ first coming.

Leviticus 23:6-8--**And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the Lord: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread. In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord seven days: in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.**

The second feast is called Unleavened Bread and begins on the day following the Passover. This also occurs in the first month.

\*Matthew 12:39-40--**But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**

Jesus was buried the day following His crucifixion. This also took place during His first coming.

Leviticus 23:9-14--**And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: And he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it. And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto the Lord. And the meat offering thereof shall be two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the Lord for a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof shall be of wine, the fourth part of an hin. And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.**

The third feast is called Firstfruits. This is the third and final feast to occur in the first month.

\*I Corinthians 15:20-23--**But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.**

The third major event in the New Testament timetable occurred when Jesus became the firstfruits of the resurrection. This also occurred during His first coming.

Leviticus 23:15-22--**And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven Sabbaths shall be complete: Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the Lord. Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baken with leaven; they are the firstfruits unto the Lord. And ye shall offer with the bread seven lambs without blemish of the first year, and one young bullock, and two rams: they shall be for a burnt offering unto the Lord, with their meat offering, and their drink offerings, even an offering made by fire, of sweet savour unto the Lord. Then ye shall sacrifice one kid of the goats for a sin offering, and two lambs of the first year for a sacrifice of peace offerings. And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits for a wave offering before the Lord, with the two lambs: they shall be holy to the Lord for the priest. And ye shall proclaim on the selfsame day, that it may be an holy convocation unto you: ye shall do no servile work therein: it shall be a statute for ever in all your dwellings throughout your generations. And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleaning of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I am the Lord your God.**

The fourth Levitical feast is commonly called Pentecost. This feast occurs in the third month of the Jewish calendar.

\*Acts 2:1-4--**And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.**

It was at Pentecost that the Holy Ghost was poured out on all flesh as the Old Testament prophets had prophesied. The Holy Ghost is the third person of the Godhead.

Leviticus 23:23-25--**And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation. Ye shall do no servile work therein: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord.**

The fifth Jewish feast is called Trumpets. This feast occurs in the seventh month.

\*I Thessalonians 4:15-18--**For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.**

The only major New Testament event signified by trumpets is the gathering of the Church commonly called the Rapture. This is also the first major event to mark Jesus’ final coming. It is interesting to note that the biblical number for complete or final is seven, the same as the month this feast occurs in.

Leviticus 23:26-32--**And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord. And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the Lord your God. For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people. And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people. Ye shall do no manner of work: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.**

The Day of Atonement is the second of the final set of Levitical feasts. This feast also occurs in the seventh month.

\*Romans 5:10-11--**For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.**

Here we see that the Lord Jesus Christ is the source of our atonement. Thus the Day of Atonement represents the Day of the Lord. This is the 1,000 year day that follows the Great Tribulation in Revelation. This is also the second major event in Jesus’ final coming.

Leviticus 23: 33-36--**And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the Lord. On the first day shall be an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein.**

The seventh and final of the Levitical feasts is called Tabernacles. This final event also occurs in the seventh month of the Jewish calendar.

\*Revelation 21:1-3--**And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.**

Thus here we see in the seven feasts in the Leviticus 23 a complete outline of the New Testament down to the smallest detail. Over 1,500 years before the coming of the Messiah to set these events in motion, God had the tribes of Israel celebrating the events that would complete His plan of salvation for all mankind. What a mighty God we serve!

**Verse Feast Month Fulfillment**

**1-5 Passover 1 \*Matthew 26:1-2--Crucifixion**

**6-8 Unleavened Bread 1 \*Matthew 12:39-40--Burial**

**9-14 Firstfruits 1 \*I Cor. 15:20-23--Resurrection**

**15-22 Pentecost 3 \*Acts 2:1-4--Holy Ghost Fills**

**23-25 Trumpets 7 \*I Thes. 4:15-18--Gathering**

**26-32 Day Of Atonement 7 \*Romans 5:10-11--Day Of The Lord**

**33-36 Tabernacles 7 \*Revelation 21:1-3--New Heavens**

**Revelation 15 Next Class!**

**Matthew 26:1-2 Revelation: Chapter 16**

**Matthew 12:39-40 1-Read Proverbs And Song Of Solomon.**

**I Corinthians 15:20-23**

**Acts 2:1-4**

**I Thessalonians 4:15-18 2-Study Revelation 16.**

**Romans 5:10-11**

**Revelation 21:1-3 3-Where, According To Revelation 16,**

**Is The Great City Of Babylon Located?**

**The Seven Feasts Of Leviticus**

Feast Month Fulfillment

Passover | 1 | Death

Unleavened Bread | | Burial

Firstfruits | | Resurrection

Pentecost | 3 | Holy Ghost

Trumpets | 7 | Gathering

Day Of Atonement | | Day Of The Lord

Tabernacles | | New Heavens/Earth

**REVELATION 16**

**THE SEVEN VIALS**

**Introduction**

We now stand at the last half of the Great Tribulation. For 6,000 years, man has labored on the earth. As in the story of Noah and the ark, God has taken his believers out of the earth because it has become so evil, but He has not forgotten those left behind. He has sent 144,000 Messianic Jews and 2 supernatural witnesses to call mankind back to repentance before it is too late. God has done many miraculous works, even allowing angels to preach the gospel to a lost mankind. In response to this, the world, for the most part, has grown darker in sin and further from Him for seven long years. God's judgment is long-suffering but it will not slumber forever. Now the gloves are off as God pours out on a sinful world, the judgment that it so richly deserves.

As we have mentioned many times, the book of Revelation is the book of seven sevens. In this chapter we get a chance to see a complete set of seven vials. This is not the only place this divine number appears. The phrase "I heard" appears 28 (7 x 4) times in Revelation. The phrase "I saw" appears 49 (7 x 7) times. 28 + 49 = 77 (11 x 7). The number 7 appears more in Revelation than in all the rest of the New Testament combined.

1-**And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.**

Once again we hear the mighty voice of God coming out of His temple. As we continue the narrative of this particular chapter, please notice the similarities between it and Exodus, chapters 7-12, which recounts the story of the plagues of Egypt.

2-**And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.**

The first vial causes sores upon those who have taken the mark of the beast. Thus we know that these vials begin taking place at the midpoint Of Great Tribulation. It is here when the mark is first forced upon the people of the earth. This first plague parallels one of the Egyptian plagues, as we see in…

\*Exodus 9:10-12---**And they took ashes of the furnace, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses sprinkled it up toward heaven; and it became a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast. And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils; for the boil was upon the magicians, and upon all the Egyptians. And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he hearkened not unto them; as the Lord had spoken unto Moses.**

Notice that with this particular plague, the boils only falls upon the magicians and Egyptians. No Hebrew is harmed here, just as no Christian will be harmed by the first of the 7 vial plagues in Revelation.

3-7---**And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea. And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.**

**With the second and third vials, the oceans and the rivers are turned to blood. We also see this plague occur in Egypt, when we read…**

\*Exodus 7: 20-21---**And Moses and Aaron did so, as the Lord commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote 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. And the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.**

God used Moses and Aaron to turn the waters of Egypt into blood. The Nile River was worshipped as a goddess in Egypt and God shows here that He alone is Lord over the Nile. In fact, each of the twelve plagues of Egypt was directed at one of the major pagan idols worshipped by the Egyptians.

8-9---**And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.**

With the fourth vial, God allows the sun to scorch mankind. One of the major pagan gods throughout history was the sun god, which was first called Baal in the Old Testament. In fact, for those of you that study history, during World War II, the nation of Japan worshipped the sun god. I find it interesting that, it was this particular nation that suffered from the effects of the first nuclear bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. You see, nuclear power is simply the power of the sun, harnessed by man. Thus, just as we see in Revelation, God finally says, if you love the sun so much, I will allow you to get a taste of what its power is really like.

10-11---**And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.**

When the fifth vial is poured out, darkness covers the domain of the beast. Yet another of the pagan gods worshipped by man is the god of darkness. In fact, we also see this is a god worshipped in Egypt, as God passes judgment on them in…

\*Exodus 10: 22-23---**And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days: They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.**

Here we see another of God’s plagues on Egypt as darkness covers all of the land except that of Goshen, where the Hebrews live. What it must have been like for the Egyptians to be in total darkness and look down the road and see all the Hebrew homes lit up like Christmas trees. Also what clearer way for God to show the people of Egypt who served the god of darkness and who really served the God of light!

12-14---**And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.**

With the sixth vial, we see the great Euphrates River dried up. As we see in other prophecies about this time, these three unclean spirits will call forth the three kings of the North, the South, and the East, to gather them to this great last battle. Once again, this is not the first time we have seen a massive body of water dried up, as we learn when we read…

\*Exodus 14: 21-22---**And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.**

The Egyptian army stands poised and ready to destroy the people of God. Instead, they are held back as they see the entire Red Sea dried up before their eyes. This is not the only time such a miracle happened in the Old Testament, however, as we see in…

\*Joshua 3:17-**And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan.**

Just as God used Moses to dry up the Red Sea so God’s people could escape Egypt, so here we see God use Joshua to dry up the Jordan River so God’s people could enter the Promised Land. After Moses had died, what better way would God have to show His people that the power He had given Moses now rested with his servant Joshua.

15-**Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.**

Here we see the third Beatitude of the book of Revelation. This verse also applies to each of us here today. Jesus will soon come like a thief in the night. Blessed are all today that watch for the signs of His coming!

16-**And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.**

Now we have once again come to the beginning of the period of time that God calls the Day of the Lord. If you read the Old Testament prophets, you will always see that this day, which will actually be 1,000 years long, always begins with a battle and a great earthquake. The battle is herein called the Battle of Armageddon. All armies of the world are surrounding the city of Jerusalem to destroy God’s city on earth once and for all, However, God has another plan in mind, as we see in….

17-18---**And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.**

Here is the seventh and final of God’s vials of wrath. From heaven, we hear God’s voice again, saying "It Is Done!" Interestingly enough, this is not the first time God has said these words. He used the same Greek phrase in…

\*John 19:29-30---**Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a spunge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.**

Here, while hanging on the cross, Jesus Christ said, "It is finished!", which is exactly the same Greek phrase as the one we just saw in Revelation. Just how great is this earthquake? Let’s take a look in…

19-21---**And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.**

The great city of Jerusalem is split into three parts. This quake is also worldwide in its effects. Every city is destroyed. Every island is sunk into the ocean. Every mountain is laid low and every valley is filled all around the earth. We have also seen this earthquake in…

\*Zechariah 14:3-4---**Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.**

Here we are again, seeing Jesus return to the earth at the end of the Great Tribulation and the beginning of the Day of the Lord. He sets his feet upon the Mount of Olives, just outside of Jerusalem. At the same moment, all the armies surrounding this city are destroyed once and for all, just as the Egyptian army was when God brought His people out of Egypt.

The world that God had created 6,000 years ago turned away from Him. God sent his only begotten Son to purchase back all those who will just believe on Him. On the cross, Jesus says it as plainly as possible when he states "It is finished!". Now here at the end of the most evil time in history, a voice from heaven echoes these same words when He states once and for all, "It is done!" To the same city where Jesus died for our sins, He will return to set all things right again at the end of the Great Tribulation. God bless His holy name!

**Revelation 16 Next Class!**

**Exodus 9:10-12 Revelation: Chapter 17**

**Exodus 7:20-21 1-Read The Book Of Isaiah.**

**Exodus 10:22-23**

**Exodus 14:21-22 2-Study Revelation 17.**

**Joshua 3:17**

**John 19:29-30 3-At The Time Of The Apostle John,**

**Zechariah 14:3-4 What City Ruled Over The Earth?**

**THE GREAT TRIBULATION**

**The Seals, The Trumpets, The Visions, & The Seven Vials**

|-----------------------------------------------------------7 Years-------------------------------------------------------|

|---------------------3 1/2 Years------------------------------|---------------------3 1/2 Years-----------------------|

**|-False Christ War Famine Pestilence Earthquake-|**

**|-Hail Mountain Wormwood Dark |-Abaddon Four Angels Great Hail|**

**|-TEMPLE BUILT TWO WITNESSES KILLED ISRAEL IN HIDING-|**

**|-144,000 Sealed Mark Of The Beast 144,000 With Lamb-|**

**| Sores-Water To Blood-Sun-Dark -War-Hail|**

**REVELATION 17**

**A Tale Of Two Cities**

**Introduction**

In Revelation 13 we had the unpleasant job of looking into the devil's blueprint for world conquest. In Revelation 14 we see the name of one city, Babylon, out of all of the cities of history, which will be used to fulfill Satan's plan.

\*Revelation 14: 8 **And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.**

Here we see an angel of God proclaiming "Babylon Is Fallen!" Again, in Revelation 16, we are given the name of this same city as God's judgment is poured out upon it, and all the other godless cities of that time.

\*Revelation 16:19-**And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.**

The great and evil city of Babylon is remembered by God. In Revelation 17 we are once again staring into the very face of evil as Jesus reveals to us the final prophetic details that give us the identification of this end-time religious power, and the city from which this last great evil will rise to power.

1-2--**And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.**

Here we see God is pulling no punches as he proclaims the judgment of this city that His holy word calls the great whore. However, Babylon is not the only nation in the Bible that was given that name, as we see in…

\*Hosea 1:2-**The beginning of the word of the Lord by Hosea. And the Lord said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the Lord.**

Israel commits whoredom when it turned away from the God of heaven. This nation was built around the city of Jerusalem, which was originally called Salem in the book of Genesis. The name "Salem" means peace. This city was specifically chosen by God to represent His peace to the world.

Satan also chose a city in the book of Genesis. It was the city where he deceived mankind into trying to build a tower into heaven. This city, which later would be called Babylon, was originally called Babel. The name "Babel" means confusion and it was here that Satan launched his plan to confuse mankind. From here he would launch all the false religions in the world today. In fact, the situation became so bad that, by 300 BC, the Greek historian Herodotus would determine from his studies that "All religions come from Babylon."

Thus it was that from the beginning of time there has been warfare between Jerusalem and Babylon, an unending conflict between God’s peace and the devil’s confusion. Satan’s city is ultimately judged and destroyed. The fate of Jerusalem is very different, as we see in…

\*Revelation 21:1-2--**And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**

While the current earthly city of Jerusalem will fall with all the cities of the nations, a new Jerusalem is currently being built in heaven. This city of New Jerusalem ultimately comes to the new earth at the end of time. Thus, in a very strange way, the story of the Bible, especially the Old Testament, could also be called "A Tale Of Two Cities".

3-**So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.**

Here again we see the first beast from Revelation 12 & 13. We know this beast represents the devil and his agent, the antichrist. Here we see him being ridden by the false religious system of Mystery Babylon. Since the color scarlet, or red, is used in this description, it would first appear to be the devil, as we first saw in…

\*Revelation 12:3-4--**And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.**

Here, in all his satanic glory, is the devil himself. Interestingly enough, the first time he appeared to man, he was using the form of a serpent in Genesis 3. After all this time, you would think he would come up with a new trick or two, wouldn’t you?

4-8--**And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.**

God has given this wicked system quite an impressive name here; Mystery Babylon the great, the mothers of harlots and abominations of the earth. As we have already mentioned, all false religions were started by the devil to cause confusion and keep people away from the one true Church of Jesus Christ. In fact, in its very beginning, God gave a most appropriate judgment to this corrupted system, way back in…

\*Genesis 11:6-7--**And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.**

Here is the story of Satan’s first attempt after the great flood to start his own one world government. Rather than destroying those who built this tower, God saw fit to give them the confusion they were trying to spread as a lesson. It’s kind of hard to have a one world system, if you don’t have a one world language!

9-11--**And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.**

Now we learn even more about Mystery Babylon. First she resides in an area of seven mountains. At the time of John’s writing Israel was being ruled by the sixth of seven Gentile kings. If you look back to our earlier study of this, you will remember that the first five kings were Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece. The king that ruled Israel at this time was Rome. Interestingly enough, Rome is also called the city of seven hills. The last king will be the beast, also called the antichrist, who will rule Israel and the whole world during the Great Tribulation period.

There is a lot of discussion about the "beast that was, and is not". This may mean that the beast mentioned earlier in Revelation 17 may be the antichrist. Many candidates have been considered for this position.

One is Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus. He had lived, but was dead at this time. The Bible also called him the son of perdition. For this reason, some folks feel that Judas will return one day as the eighth king, the beast.

Another possibility is the Emperor Nero. Nero lived before this time, persecuted the Church and even killed the Apostle Paul. He had died, either by his own hand or murdered by his guards, and some believed he would be the eighth king.

I personally feel that both of these are wrong. Whenever the time comes, Satan will already have the one world government well underway, much of which we can already see today. Thus he will simply choose whomever is near at hand to do his dirty work. Even if it’s just a skid row drunk, Satan will be able to make him the ruler of the whole world in short order, as long as he who becomes the beast stays loyal to the devil.

12-14--**And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.**

Not only that, but the devil will also have ten other kings in place to be lieutenants to the beast. They will all be in place at just the right hour to step in and do Satan’s bidding. Then, just as they think they have the whole world in their hands, Jesus Christ Himself will come forth in the clouds and, in one hour, destroy all of them and their one world kingdom from the face of the earth once and for all.

\*John 2:4-**Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.**

When Jesus attended the wedding in Cana, at his mother’s request, she asked a miracle from Him. His response to her was that His hour had not yet come. His hour would not come until He rose from the dead. At that point, He was proclaimed King of Kings and Lord of Lords and ruler of the earth. He will come to fulfill that proclamation at the end of the Great Tribulation when His reign begins with the 1,000 year Day of the Lord.

15-17--**And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.**

The ten kings, who rule with the beast, will hate the false religious system that brings them all to power. It seems that they do not want to share their power with anyone, even the one who brings the "waters", or nations under their control. Thus these kings will begin God’s plan to destroy this wicked system by destroying this false religious system. This is just another example of how, in spite of the devil’s most elaborate evil plans, God still has everything under control. God bless His holy name!

18-**And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.**

If there was any doubt up to this point as to who this woman is, this verse should settle all those doubts. There was only one city ruling over the world that the Apostle John lived in. It was the same city that had consigned John to his exile on the Isle of Patmos. This wicked religious system, who will rule over the world in the last days will be located in the city of Rome!

Put simply, God chose a city from which his eternal purpose would spring. That city is Jerusalem which means peace. Satan also chose a city from which his master plan would come forth. That city is Babylon which means confusion. In the time of the Apostle John the center of this false religious system had moved to the city that ruled over the earth in the Apostle John's day, Rome.

From that day to now a religious system has sprung up from this city that now encompasses the earth with over 1 billion faithful followers. This religious system has killed more Christians than any other single group in history. Today it is the center of the New Age movement and soon may well become the official religion of the New World Order. Today in the third world, many Christian missionaries are already suffering severe persecution at the hands of this group that claims to do all these things "in the name of Christ". From this false religious system, began at Babylon and relocated to Rome, springs forth all the false religions of today. Very soon these religions will again become one for a short while, and pray for the Christians who will face this deadly system when it comes together once again during the Great Tribulation.

**Revelation 17 Next Class!**

**Revelation 14:8 Revelation 18**

**Revelation 16:19 1-Read The Book Of Isaiah**

**Hosea 1:2**

**Revelation 21:1-2 2-Study Revelation 18.**

**Revelation 12:3-4**

**Genesis 11:6-7 3-What Is The Last Item Listed That**

**John 2:4 Merchants Buy From Babylon?**

**Mystery Babylon And The Seven-Headed Beast**

**Revelation 17**

**John------|-7 Heads 10 Horns 7 Crowns Time**

**| Egypt 2000 BC |**

**|Assyria 1000 BC |**

**Daniel-----|-Lion-Babylon 500 BC |**

**| Bear-Medo-Persia 400 BC |**

**| Leopard-4-Greece 200 BC |**

**| Beast-10 Horns-Rome AD 100 |**

**| Beast Tribulation-|**

**John-------| 7 Heads 10 Horns 10 Crowns =10 Kings|**

**REVELATION 18**

**Mystery Babylon's Judgment**

**Introduction**

In the last chapter we were introduced formally to Mystery Babylon, Satan's master plan for the conquest of all mankind. From it's beginning in the Garden of Eden, this plan has grown expansively. The first phase brought about the fall of man. The second phase caused the destruction of nearly all the human race in the flood of Noah. The third phase brought about the many different languages that mankind still struggles with today. Now with the fourth phase comes the final destruction of the world-wide system known as Mystery Babylon. In this chapter we are given a ring-side seat as God goes into his final round against the devil for the spiritual heavyweight championship of the universe.

1-3--**And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.**

As we begin chapter 18, we see yet another angel proclaiming a message to the world during the Great Tribulation. His message is simple and to the point. Babylon is fallen. Nations have sworn allegiance to her. Merchants have become business partners with her. How did this come to be?

To understand how this came about we need to understand the seven doctrines of Mystery Babylon as they were originally given in the Old Testament. All false religious systems in the world today are based on one or more of these seven doctrines. These doctrines are unbelief, reincarnation (no final judgment), personal godhood, salvation by works, idolatry, sorcery, and astrology.

Jesus described the Old Testament as the Law and the Prophets. The first of the books of the Law is Genesis. The first five of these doctrines are given in the book of Genesis.

In Genesis 3, we find the first three; unbelief (Yea, hath God said?), reincarnation (Thou shall not surely die.), and personal godhood (Ye shall be as gods.). The fourth doctrine, salvation by works, appears in Genesis 4 when Cain tries to make peace with God using the works of his hands, as opposed to Abel who brought the blood of the lamb as God had instructed. In Genesis 35, we see the fifth doctrine, idolatry, when Jacob buried his family’s idols beneath a tree before they could truly worship God. The first book of the Prophets is Isaiah. The final two of these doctrines, sorcery and astrology, appear here in…

\*Isaiah 47:12-13--**Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast laboured from thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail. Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee.**

Sorcery is the casting of spells or enchantments, Astrology is observed by those who tell the future using the stars, or monthly prognosticators. Babylon in its youth was originally called Babel, as we have discussed earlier.

4-5--**And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.**

Come out of her, my people! Notice these words carefully. Here God is telling us that His children are involved with these ungodly practices, while thousands of His children around the world are dying because they worship God. No wonder it says that Mystery Babylon’s sins reaches unto heaven. These sins also reached back to the beginning of time, as we see in…

\*Genesis 11:4--**And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.**

Here we have the original story of Babel. Shortly after the flood of Noah, mankind actually decides to build a tower unto heaven. This was the wicked beginning of this corrupt system. However, as the old preachers used to say, there is always a payday someday, however, as we see in…

6-8--**Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.**

God is short and to the point here also. Mystery Babylon has created torment and sorrow all around the world throughout human history. Now He rewards her with a double portion of torment and sorrow. In one day, this massive city is destroyed with fire. This is no ordinary fire. In fact, I think God is speaking here of a similar fire He mentions in…

\*II Peter 3:10-**But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.**

God says very clearly here that elements could melt or be destroyed. You have to understand that at the time this was written, the Greeks and Romans had just determined that the atom was the basic building block for the entire universe. They believed that these basic elements could not be destroyed.

For centuries learned men laughed at the Bible for daring to make such a preposterous statement. They were still laughing as little as 100 years ago. However, all of this laughter stopped when America dropped a special bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. This bomb was the end result of a secret government project that had discovered that elements could indeed melt. Thus the atomic bomb changed the world. As I always say, true science will always catch up with the Bible sooner or later.

9-10--**And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.**

When the kings of the earth see the smoke caused by this fire, they dare not approach the city. You would think they would run to her rescue. Why not? The fact is that they have a very good reason to be afraid because they see a very special smoke. Today we call it a mushroom cloud. Thus they know that, if they approach this city to try to rescue it, they will die of radiation poisoning. This is the reason that they are standing afar off for fear.

Just what causes an atomic explosion, you may ask? The answer to this is also found in God’s word, as we see in…

\*Colossians 1:16-17--**For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.**

Now let’s take a moment to go back to our High School classroom. All things hold together by Jesus. All the atoms in the universe hold together, or consist, simply because at the beginning of the creation Jesus told them to. Put another way, if Jesus simply spoke the word, any one of us would suddenly become a sizeable atomic explosion!

11-13--**And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.**

Here is the judgment against this giant of merchandise. Not only will no one buy her goods, but the souls of men will no longer be sold into her cursed system. The merchants of the world weep, not because they love her nearly as much as because of their love of something else that is described in...

\*I Timothy 6:7-10--**For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.**

The love of money is the root of all evil. God could not have said it any better or you can be assured that He would have. All the wickedness we see in the world today, in one way or another, springs forth from this fountainhead of material lust.

14-16--**And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all. The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, And saying, Alas, alas that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!**

The foul fruits of her ungodly harvest are now rotted to the root! Merchants are wailing because of this torment but no one loves her enough to approach because God’s wrath is finally being poured out in full measure. This is a far cry from our earlier vision of the great harlot we saw in…

\*Revelation 17:4-**And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:**

Here we see Mystery Babylon in all her regal splendor. Even here we can see the corruption of her evil just below the surface of her deceptive beauty. Now we see her final judgment and the full evil that has broken forth upon the world at the end of the Great Tribulation.

17-19--**For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.**

Here we see that this great city is destroyed in one hour. Only the fires of an atomic nature could create such havoc in such a short span of time. Whether this is done by some sort of nuclear strike by the antichrist and his ten kings or simply God speaking it into existence, the evil of the ages in this system is all gone in one hour!

When Jesus had something important to say in the gospels, He would add the term "verily". If it was of extreme importance, He would say "verily, verily". I think we see the same principle at work here when the Bible states, concerning this judgment, "Alas, Alas!"

20-21--**Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her. And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.**

Remember back in Revelation 6 when the fifth seal was opened and we saw the martyrs of the Lord standing before His throne and asking how long before they were avenged for the deaths they had suffered. Well, here’s is the ultimate end of God’s answer. Rejoice, the faithful in heaven. God has kept His word and Mystery Babylon has paid in full for the persecution she has caused the church down through the ages.

I especially like the reference to the millstone. It reminds me of another passage found in …

\*Matthew 18:6-**But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.**

Being drowned would be a terrible end, but you must admit this is mild when compared to the fiery end of Mystery Babylon.

22-24--**And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.**

Voices will be heard there no more. No one will go there anymore. This again seems to indicate an atomic destruction for this city because this is the only thing I know of where people cannot go there afterwards. This is because of the nuclear fallout poisoned the ground and no one can go there, sometimes for years, sometimes for centuries, all depending on how intense the explosion is.

**Summary**

Thus comes the final judgment of the great harlot, Mystery Babylon. When God created the earth, he set up a specific world order. Then along comes the devil with a new world order. Man has been following one of these two paths ever since. Either follows God's heavenly order, or tries to set up his own worldly order. This has been true since the world began and still is true today. However, as always, God will is always done in the end. My question then becomes what is God’s will for your life. Will you join the faithful in heaven and share in the judgment of Mystery Babylon?

**Revelation 18 Next Class!**

**Isaiah 47:12-13 Revelation 19**

**Genesis 11:4 1-Read The Books Of**

**II Peter 3:10 Jeremiah & Lamentations.**

**Colossians 1:12-18 2-Study Revelation 19.**

**I Timothy 6:7-10**

**Revelation 17:4 3-What Two Suppers Are In**

**Matthew 18:6 Revelation 19?**

**Seven Doctrines Of Mystery Babylon**

**1-Unbelief-Genesis 3:1 2-Reincarnation-Genesis 3:4**

**3-Godhood-Genesis 3:5 4-Works Salvation-Genesis 4:3**

**-Idolatry-Genesis 35:4 6-Sorcery-Isaiah 47:12**

**7-Astrology-Isaiah 47:13**

**REVELATION 19**

**The Two Suppers**

**Introduction**

We have now come to the end of this world's present age. We have seen the church age, beginning at the time of Christ and ending with the gathering of the church to Christ. We have endured the worst seven years of human history as the devil has made his last ditch effort to conquer mankind. Now, at mankind's darkest hour, God must come to the rescue as all the nations of the world have come together to destroy the nation of Israel. At the last possible moment, like the cavalry charges of old, Jesus comes forth with the greatest cavalry of all time.

Revelation 19:1-3--**And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.**

Here, at long last, we begin to see the judgment of the great whore Mystery Babylon. In fact, this is not the first time we have seen these people in heaven either. We first got a look at them way back in…

\*Revelation 6:9-10--**And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?**

This is where we saw the beloved martyrs of Jesus Christ for the first time. Throughout the ages, their blood has been shed because of their belief in God. Beginning with righteous Abel, going through John the Baptist, and continuing right up to the end of the Great Tribulation, there has always been that faithful remnant who stood for Jesus Christ against all odds. And just how do the other inhabitants of heaven respond to this announcement?

Revelation 19:4-6--**And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.**

The triumphant cry of heaven must truly be overwhelming. Not only is God finally taking vengeance on this wicked system, but another event is announced at the same time that must also cause another wave of rejoicing, as we are about to see.

Revelation 19:7-9--**Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.**

Here we see the most important wedding announcement in the history of the world. It is to the marriage supper of the Lamb. In fact, as you can see, there is a blessing given just for being invited to this wedding. This is the 4th of the seven Revelation Beatitudes.

Revelation 19:10-**And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**

Here we see a clear warning against angel worship, something that has become very popular with the growth of the New Age movement. We also see the purpose of all biblical prophecy. We are told here that the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. All the Bible points to Jesus Christ, the hero of the book! The angel that is sharing this information with John was first seen in…

\*Revelation 17:1-**And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:**

This particular angel is one of those who poured out the seven vials of judgment that began in Revelation 17. This angel now steps back, as all the rest of heaven does, as we see Jesus Christ Himself leading the greatest cavalry charge in all of history.

Revelation 19:11-13--**And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.**

Anyone who is a fan of old westerns knows that only the good guy rides the white horse. I can’t help but think that this is where that concept first came from. This entrance into Jerusalem is very different from the last one He made on a white donkey in…

\*Matthew 21:6-10--**And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them, And brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon. And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way. And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest. And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this?**

In Matthew 21, we see Jesus making His triumphant entry into Jerusalem. He rode a white donkey with his disciples walking behind. Here He is riding a white battle charger and his disciples are following Him again, but they are not walking this time!

Revelation 19:14-16--**And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.**

Here we see Jesus as the faithful and true Savior of all mankind. Here we see Him as the Word of God in all His glory. Here He leads the armies of heaven as King of kings, Lord of lords. Not only that, but we who are the redeemed of all the ages are following after Him. There has never been an army like this before, as the prophet Joel explains in…

Joel 2:1-11--**Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand; A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them. The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run. Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array. Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness. They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks: Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded. They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief. The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: And the Lord shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?**

An army that can be struck with weapons, but they are never hurt! They can walk through mine fields and not be destroyed. The angels who guarded the Garden of Eden were given swords of flame. Here we see the army of the Lord using the same weapons, burning everything that stands before them. The devastation is utter and complete against the enemies of God. This total victory is not the end of the carnage either.

Revelation 19:17-18—**And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.**

Remember I said this was the story of two suppers. The first was the marriage supper of the Lamb. Now we see the second supper. This is the awesome and terrible supper of the great God of heaven.

Revelation 19:19-21—**And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.**

Note here that the antichrist (beast) and the false prophet are not taken to hell, but directly taken to the lake of fire. This is different from hell itself, and will be explained in more detail later, when we discuss the great white throne judgment. Thus is the fate of all who oppose God.

Jesus came to earth once. He is coming back again. For us to understand why He had to make two trips, we need to learn something about God’s marriage plan. Today, marriages have three stages; engagement, wedding, and honeymoon. God’s plan is slightly different, and vastly superior to the American view of marriage. Instead of engagement, it begins with espousal. Here the groom and father of the bride determined a price to be paid for the bride. After this price was paid, then the groom would leave to build her a house. This was called the espousal period, as we see in…

\*Luke 1:26-27—**And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary.**

Mary was espoused to Joseph. This meant she was promised to him, but had not been through the wedding ceremony yet. The couple would only come together after the house was built. Next comes not the wedding, but the honeymoon which the Bible calls the coming together. However, they are actually married from the time the purchase price is paid and the espousal begins. At this point, it is much more serious than the returning of an engagement ring, if one proves unfaithful to the other, as we see in…

\*Matthew 1:18-19—**Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.**

Joseph was thinking about having to divorce Mary privately. If he did not, then Mary would be put to a public shame, and by Old Testament law, could be stoned to death for adultery.

After the espousal period is a process called the coming together, or what we would call the honeymoon. Then, after the honeymoon, there would be a marriage feast or supper. The duration of the feast was determined by the wealth of the father of the groom. In fact, it was during a marriage feast that Jesus did His first miracle.

\*John 2:1-2--**And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.**

Here, on the third day after He had returned from His temptation in the wilderness, Jesus would turn the water into wine. I feel that this is not a coincidence, but rather a God-incidence. In fact, all this information has spiritual implications or it would not be in the Holy Scriptures. Let us consider the three stages of marriage from a spiritual perspective; espousal, honeymoon, & wedding; as it relates to Christ and the church.

\*II Corinthians 11:2-**For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.**

Here the Apostle Paul explains that the Church is espoused to Jesus Christ. As mentioned above, this period begins when the groom pays the purchase price for the bride, as Jesus did with His own blood at the cross of Calvary. Immediately after this, He returned to His home in heaven to prepare a new home for His bride.

\*John 14:1-3--**Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.**

Two thousand years ago, Jesus went to prepare a home for us. Keep in mind that it only took God six days to create the entire universe. He has been working on our new home for nearly 2,000 years. What a glorious place it must be! Once this new home is complete, He will come to claim His bride. Let’s take a moment to look at those verses again.

Revelation 19:7-9--**Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.**

As we saw earlier, when Jesus comes for His bride, the marriage feast will begin. In this case, the father of the groom is so wealthy that this marriage supper will last 1,000 years, and the marriage will last for all of eternity! Are you ready to attend the marriage supper of the Lamb?

**5**

**Revelation 19 Next Class!**

**Revelation 6:9-10 Revelation 20**

**Revelation 17:1**

**Matthew 21:6-10 1-Read Book Of Ezekiel.**

**Luke 1:26-27**

**Matthew 1:18-19 2-Study Revelation 20.**

**John 2:1-2**

**II Corinthians 11:2 3-How Many Times Is The Term**

**John 14:1-3 1,000 Years Mentioned Here?**

**The Biblical View Of Marriage**

Today Old Testament New Testament Fulfillment

Engagement Espousal Luke 1:26-27 II Corinthians 11:2

Wedding Coming Together Matthew 1:18-19 John 14:1-3

Honeymoon Marriage Supper John 2:1-2 Revelation 19:7-9

**REVELATION 20**

**The Final Judgment**

**Introduction**

With this lesson we begin to study the last three chapters of Revelation and of the entire Bible. To understand what has come to pass up until this moment we need to take a look at the big picture of the Bible. This picture starts in Genesis and continues throughout the Holy Scriptures to end in the book to Revelation. In fact to get a good overview of the eternal theme of the word of God, you can do a simple experiment. Read the first three chapters of Genesis. Follow that immediately by reading Revelation 20-22, the last three chapters of the Bible.

Keep in mind, while reading, that the first three chapters were written by the Prophet Moses around 1500 BC. The last three chapters were written by the Apostle John around AD 100. Considering the fact that these chapters are written by two different men separated in time by 1,600 years, it is truly amazing to see the parallels that exist throughout these chapters.

One part of the major theme of the Bible is Satan's attempts to overthrow mankind and destroy God's plan. I call this the three strikes. The first strike is in Genesis 3, when the devil first causes man to fall. The second strike comes at the cross, when he tries to kill Jesus. The third and final strike we read about in Revelation 19 when he gathers the nations of the world for the last great war to prevent Jesus from returning to claim his throne. Three strikes and you're out, old devil!

In this lesson, we will see the aftermath of that great war. This time has a very special name in the Scriptures which was first given by the Prophet Isaiah in...

\*Isaiah 2:12-**For the day of the Lord of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low:**

The day of the Lord is a term that is mentioned many times throughout the Bible. It is a time of a terrible battle followed by a miraculous period of peace for mankind. The Apostle Peter tells us just how long this period of time will last in...

\*II Peter 3:8-10--**But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,**

Here God clearly tells us that the Day of the Lord is 1,000 years long. King David tells us the same thing in a similar passage in Psalms 90:4. With this in mind, let’s begin our study of Revelation 20, taking careful note of just how many times the phrase 1,000 years appears in the one chapter.

1-3--**And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.**

Here we see a mighty angel with key and chain confining the devil. It also says here that Satan is bound for 1,000 years. It further states that the devil is set loose for a short time when the 1,000 years fulfilled. These are our first two references to the length of the time when Jesus will rule the earth.

4-5--**And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.**

The saints will reign with Christ for 1,000 years. The rest of the dead, or the lost, lived not again for 1,000 years. This makes four references to the day of the Lord. Interestingly enough, the Prophet Isaiah alludes to how long people will live during this period.

\*Isaiah 65:20-**There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.**

A child is a person who is less than 100 years old during the day of the Lord. Also note that the age of accountability is also raised to 100 years at this time. If this is true, then just how long will people live during this period? To get an idea about this, we need to go back a little further in time to.

\*Genesis 5:5,20,27-**And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died…And all the days of Jared were nine hundred sixty and two years: and he died…And all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred sixty and nine years: and he died.**

Between the time of the creation and Noah’s flood, people lived an average age over 700 years. Today we live an average of a little over 70 years. That means that the average person before the flood lived 10 times as long as people today. Now let’s add this fact to our earlier verse in Isaiah, and do a little math. 1/10th of 100 years is 10 years. Today a person is still considered a child at the age of 10, just as they will be considered a child at 100 during the day of the Lord. If children live 10 times as long, then it is likely that all people will live 10 times as long. Thus during the day of the Lord, people will once again average over 700 years of age, as they did before the flood of Noah.

6-**Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.**

Here we have our 5th reference to 1,000 years. Here we also see our 5th Beatitude, or blessing, in the book of Revelation. To take part in this blessing, it is imperative for us to know how to quality to be a part of the first resurrection. This is explained to us many places in the Bible, one of the most well known being…

\*John 3:1-3--**There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**

This reminds me of what an old preacher said to me many years ago. Born once, die twice. Born twice, die once. Here we see the gospel message stated in its simplest terms. You can also see this concept given clearly in…

\*Revelation 2:10-11--**Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.**

Here is a clear reference to the fact that those who are faithful to God will not be hurt by the second death. Born twice, die once!

7-9--**And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.**

Satan is bound throughout the entire time of Christ’s reign on the earth. The devil is not loosed until after these 1,000 years is over with. This makes 6 times that we have seen the reference to 1,000 years in Revelation 20. That means that this phrase is very important to understanding this chapter.

For instance, 6 times in Genesis 1 God makes is totally clear that He literally did His creation in 6 literal days. In other words, if you cannot believe the 1,000 years in Revelation 20, how can you believe the 6 literal days in Genesis 1?

Now we see here an interesting reference to the fact that Gog and Magog take part in yet another rebellion against God. This is not the only reference in the Bible to these two names. They are also mentioned in…

\*Ezekiel 38:1-2--**And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him,**

In Genesis, we find that Magog was a son of Japheth. There is no direct reference to a nation called Gog, or to Meshech and Tubal. However, Ezekiel also mentions that this land is to the uttermost north of Israel. The only major nation in this area is Russia, and it has two capitals, Moscow and Tobolsk. Therefore Gog is most likely the land of Russia.

10-**And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.**

Here we see the devil finally get what he deserves, when he is cast into lake of fire with his buddies, the beast and the false prophet. Satan and all his henchmen are finally done away with for all time. This also leads to the final judgment, as God’s word shows us in…

11-12--**And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.**

Here we see the final Great White Throne judgment, when all the lost people of history stand before God. The records of all of their lives are opened to show them all that their works could not get them into heaven. Only those found written in the Lamb’s book of life can avoid this terrible fate! Born once, die twice!

13-15--**And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**

The sea, death, and hell give up all the dead that ever lives. Death and hell are finally cast into lake of fire. This second and eternal death comes upon all those not found in book of life at the end of time.

This is when everyone will finally get what they deserve. While we all deserve hell, Jesus died that this would never happen for those who believe in Him. However, those that reject Christ will finally get that. The saints will finally get what they deserve, heaven because of Jesus' sacrifice. There will be no more pain, sorrow, or death for us. Satan will finally get what he deserves. He will be cast into the lake of fire.

Most importantly of all, however, Jesus will finally get what He deserves when every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord! Praise His holy name!

**Revelation 20 Next Class!**

**Isaiah 2:12 Revelation 21**

**II Peter 3:8-10 1-Read Daniel To Malachi.**

**Isaiah 65:20**

**Genesis 5, 20, 27 2-Study Revelation 21.**

**John 3:1-3**

**Revelation 2:10-11 3-How Large Is The New Jerusalem?**

**Ezekiel 38:1-2**

**The Three Judgments Of God**

**Tribulation Day Of The Lord New Heaven**

| 7 Years | 1,000 Years | Eternity

| | |

Christ Sheep & Goats Great White Throne

(The Saved) (The Nations) (The Lost)

**REVELATION 21**

**The New Jerusalem**

**Introduction**

Our journey began with an elderly apostle on a desert island. We have passed through 20 centuries of church history. We have felt the rush of excitement as Jesus returns for the Christians in the air. In great detail have we studied the last 7 years of the church period which Jesus called the Great Tribulation. We have seen the physical return of Jesus, king of kings & lord of lords, as He sets up his 1,000 kingdom which the Bible calls the day of the Lord. We have seen the great final judgment of all mankind. Now we stand at the brink of eternity. Heaven and earth have passed away, and behold, now all things are new.

1-**And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.**

Satan rebelled against God before time began. His rebellion corrupted the present heaven and earth with sin. God has sent his Son into history to correct this situation and save from sin all of those who would believe on His name. The heaven and earth that we presently know has been totally destroyed by a purging and purifying fire. To understand God’s reference to the fact that there would be no more sea, we need to go back to the very beginning of the Bible in…

\*Genesis 1:1-2--**In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.**

The Bible says that God began His creation of the universe with water. Science says that the basic building block of the universe is hydrogen. Is this a contradiction?

For centuries supposedly learned men laughed at the God who wrote those words. The basic building block of the universe is not water, but hydrogen, the simplest of all atoms. In 1766 Dr. Henry Cavendish discovered the element, hydrogen. He found it by experimenting with the most common form of hydrogen found in nature, water.

The fact is that, for many years before, men had called it by its earlier name. You see, hydrogen is only found in nature in one form. It was called simply the water element. The chemical equation is H2O and the common name of this chemical compound is water.

It is indeed a wondrous God who can take the most profound truths, and put them in simple terms so that common folk like you and I can understand. God called it water over 4,000 years before men would be able to figure out what it actually was. So here we see the first thing that God created. He created hydrogen, the basic building block of all matter.

Put simply, God used hydrogen to build our current heaven and earth. When the new heaven and new earth is created, God will use some fantastic new material to build this universe from. I can’t wait to find out what He will use next time. Praise His holy name!

2-4--**And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.**

Here we see that wondrous city, New Jerusalem, which becomes the crown jewel of the new earth. God Himself will finally tabernacle with men for all of the coming eternity. When God comes to live with us, sorrow will become a thing of the past and only joy and honor shall preside in His kingdom.

It is interesting to note that God had the nation of Israel celebrating this time over 3,500 years ago. This was the final of the seven feasts of the Lord we find in…

\*Leviticus 23:39-44--**Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the Lord seven days: on the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath. And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the Lord your God seven days. And ye shall keep it a feast unto the Lord seven days in the year. It shall be a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month. Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths: That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God. And Moses declared unto the children of Israel the feasts of the Lord.**

This final feast is called the feast of Tabernacles. It is in the 7th month. Seven represents completeness and perfection in the Bible. First and foremost this feast was to remind them of the time they ended their time of slavery in Egypt and dwelt in tents in the wilderness for 40 years. Egypt was a biblical example of sin, and His people had to leave it before they could enter His promised land.

This feast was kept for 7 days. The Apostle Peter tells us that 1 day represents 1,000 years in prophecy. Thus these 7 days represent the 7,000 years that the present earth will stand. This time began with the creation of the universe in Genesis 1 and ends with the destruction of this earth and the creation of the new heavens and earth we just read about above.

5-8--**And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.**

All things are new. No more old, worn out, bodies. No more death and destruction. No more hunger or thirst. God and His children united forever.

The New Testament was originally written in the Greek language. Alpha is the first letter in the Greek alphabet. Omega is the last letter in the Greek alphabet. Here we see Jesus identifying himself as the first and last of all things.

Here we also see how mankind and the hosts of heaven will be divided throughout all of eternity. The believing to eternal life and the unbelieving to eternal death in the lake of fire.

\*John 19:30-**When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.**

Here we see Jesus Christ hanging on the cross, dying for our sins. Satan had started a war in heaven, and continues it on earth against all mankind. As Jesus says here, Satan started it but I have finished it! He is indeed the first and the last!

9-**And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.**

We have watched over the last few sessions as God directed seven of his angels to pour out the seven vials of His wrath upon the earth, preparing the way for the day of the Lord to begin. Here one of those angels shows us the beautiful bride of Christ, the Church. This is in stark contrast to what another of these angels showed us back in…

\*Revelation 17:7-8--**And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.**

Here we see a wicked woman, a harlot, which God named Mystery Babylon the Great. This woman represents all the false religions which ever existed on the earth. We saw this woman in the wilderness of Sin. Now we see another woman. The Lamb's bride who has made herself ready for an eternity with Jesus Christ!

10-13--**And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.**

Here we see our new home. A city that is like no city that has ever existed on the face of the earth. Notice that the 12 tribes of Israel are given a special recognition on the 12 gates of this city. This not only shows special status for the physical nation of Israel but also for all believers who are of the spiritual seed of Abraham as well!

14-**And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.**

The word we see here for foundation means more than just the base of a building. It also represents the fact that there will be 12 levels to this city, similar to floors in a building. Note here that we see another special recognition for the 12 apostles. Since Judas betrayed Jesus, that left 11 faithful apostles, so who is the 12th?

Matthias was chosen by the 11 apostles to replace Judas in Acts 1, but originally the apostles were chosen from among all the believers by Jesus Himself. Later in Acts we see that Jesus chose one other apostle named Paul. This is the 12th name I feel we will see there.

15-18--**And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.**

12,000 Furlongs equals 1,500 Miles. The city of Lebanon, Tennessee, where I grew up, is about 4 miles across. Our state capital of Nashville is about 20 miles across. If we go to New York city, one of the biggest in the world, it is nearly 100 miles across. So just how big will New Jerusalem be? It would be big enough to cover over ½ of the United States!

It would contain enough space to give over 2 acres to every person that has ever lived on the face of the earth since the beginning of time, and that is just on one level. Keep in mind that there will be 12 foundations, or floors, to this city! This means that over 100 miles in the air, there will be a second floor, than over 100 miles above that, a third floor, and so on.

Also the streets are pure gold. Now today in nature, gold appears as a yellow alloy because it cannot exist in nature in a pure state. It only exists in this world in its pure state in a laboratory, and when it does, it is as clear as crystal! Imagine walking on a clear floor over 100 miles in the air! It will literally appear as if we are walking on the clouds in that wonderful time to come!

19-21--**And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolyte; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.**

Each of these precious stones has a different color, and some of these stones we no longer even know what they look like. Also, if one pearl is large enough to make a gate, can you imagine the size of the oyster!

22-23--**And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.**

There will be no night because, in our new immortal bodies, we will never again need to sleep or rest. The Lamb Himself will be the light of this wonderful new home. This fact is also alluded to in…

\*John 1:1-5--**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.**

From the beginning of time, Jesus has been the true light of the world. From the time we were each first saved it was Jesus that was the light that shined into the darkness of each of our hearts. Praise His holy name!

24-26--**And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.**

In the new earth, there will also be nations and kings, as we have today. However, here there will only be righteous nations and godly leaders. No Hitler will ever raise his ugly head there. No wars will ever break out to devastate the world. No more crooked politicians to deal with and no more ungodly rebellions to put down. What a wonderful, peaceful world that will be.

27-**And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.**

No more people murdered. No more homes robbed. No more children abused. No more adulterers, fornicators, or homosexuals enslaved by their lusts. No more drugs, alcohol, or pornography. No more men deserting their families for a life of selfishness. You will never have to worry about anyone telling you the truth for no lie will ever exist there. All of this began on the earth when people first made the mistake of listening to a snake, as we see in…

\*Genesis 3:1-**Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?**

It was Satan’s rebellion in heaven and Satan’s lie to Adam and Eve on the earth that began all the sin and woe that we see in the earth today. As ridiculous as that lie actually is, Satan believed and still believes today, that somehow he can manipulate things so he can become God.

The new Jerusalem. What else can we say? A city like none ever seen before. A city that is precious to all of us, not for the precious stones or streets of gold, but because Jesus is there. Think on this for a minute though. Just as the church is not a building, so this city is not precious to Jesus for the materials it is made of either. It is precious to Jesus because we are there. He loves us that much, enough to leave heaven for us, enough to die for us, enough to raise from the dead for us, and enough to come back for us. We will tabernacle with God! As Paul says in...

\*Hebrews 11:8-10--**By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.**

Abraham spent his entire life looking for God’s city and finally found it. This brings me to one final question here. What are you spending your life searching for?

**Revelation 21 Next Class!**

**Genesis 1:1-2 Revelation 22**

**Leviticus 23:39-44 1-Read Matthew.**

**John 19:30**

**Revelation 17:7-8 2-Study Revelation 22.**

**John 1:1-5**

**Genesis 3:1 3-Read Genesis 1-2 & Revelation 21-22**

#### Hebrews 11:8-10

**WORLD HISTORY**

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|---------OLD TESTAMENT----------|-------------REVELATION 1-3-----------|

**GREAT TRIBULATION DAY OF THE LORD**

| 7 YEARS | 1,000 YEARS |

|-------REVELATION 4-19-----------|----------REVELATION 20-22-----------|

**REVELATION 22**

**The Final Chapter**

**Introduction**

We have come to the end of a long journey. We have seen God's eternal plan, from the creation of the universe to its end at the edge of eternity. God has shown us, every step of the way, what His standard, His sacrifice, and His judgments are. We now stand at the end of time and the beginning of eternity. We are now being invited to partake of the greatest adventure in the universe. Before us stands an eternity without sin with no devil to tempt us, no sinful flesh to corrupt us, and no sickness, pain nor death. The time will finally come when the world will be as God meant for it to be. Let's now take a glimpse at what this wonderful time will be like.

1-2--**And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.**

When the creation began, the Holy Ghost moved upon the waters. Here when eternity begins, the first thing we see is a river of pure water. When creation began, God showed us a garden with a tree of life in the midst of it. Here we see God’s city New Jerusalem with the tree of life lining the river of life. In fact, this same tree is mentioned in…

\*Genesis 3:22-24--**And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.**

Why were Adam and Even driven from the Garden of Eden? Most folks say this was to punish them for disobeying God. However, these verses show something very different. Adam and Eve have just eaten of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God says here that he had to get them out of the garden before they ate of the tree of life and would thus live eternally in a fallen state, just like Satan and his devils do today. In other words, God drove our ancestors from the Garden of Eden, not because He was angry with them, but rather because He loved them!

The Garden of Eden is also called the paradise of God. Jesus spoke of this when he hung on the cross dying for our sins. We know it was once on earth and it will be on the new heaven and earth, but where it is today? The Apostle Paul reveals this to us in…

\*II Corinthians 12:1-4--**It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.**

Thus, according to the Apostle John, he saw paradise when he was in the third heaven. The first heaven is where the birds are. The second heaven is where the planets are. The third heaven is where God is.

3-6--**And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever. And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.**

Could there be any happier words than "no more curse"? Finally we will be able to see God face to face and his name will be in our foreheads. Today, if you are a Christian, His name is in your heart, but so often the devil is in our minds. That too will end when this eternal day finally comes. God’s glory will be so bright that there will be no other light needed to brighten our eternal home. Praise His holy name!

Here, once again, we see the angel that has brought this wonderful revelation to the Apostle John, and through him, to all of us here today. We first heard of this angel in…

\*Revelation 1:1-2--**The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.**

God, the father, held the revelation in His hand and gave it to Jesus Christ in Revelation 5. An angel, who received the revelation from Jesus, gave it to the Apostle John in Revelation 10. John would record the revelation for the Church and help to determine the canon for the entire New Testament. We are all holding the finished product of that revelation in our hands today. We call it the word of God, the Holy Scriptures, or the Bible!

7-**Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.**

Jesus says here that He is coming quickly, but He said these words nearly 2,000 years ago. While at first glance, you could assume He did not keep this promise, you need to consider the fact that, in God’s eyes 1,000 years is a day. Therefore Jesus said these words only two days ago, according to God’s timetable.

Here we also see the 6th of the 7 beatitudes of Revelation. Keeping these sayings in our hearts will bless all of us. This is especially true as we watch the events transpire all around us in this evil world today.

8-9--**And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.**

Here we see John as he falls down to worship angel, and it shows us something very important about the nature of angels. God’s angels will not accept worship. On the other hand, the fallen angels, Satan’s devils, will accept worship according to the Holy Scriptures. This angel says to worship God. This is one of the ways to see that he is a good guy!

10-13--**And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.**

In the book of Daniel, God tells him to seal up certain things he was about to write. Here we see God tell John not to seal the sayings. Jesus says that he, and all of us, should not keep silent but spread the word. Once we have done this, then our job is done. If they want to continue to turn from God after this, than their fate is on their own heads!

14-**Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.**

Here we have the last of the seven beatitudes of Revelation. Put simply, those that do as God says will eat of the tree of life and enter His holy city, New Jerusalem. We will go more into the details on this at the end of this lesson.

15-16--**For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.**

One day there will be a separation. All that is evil, ugly and harmful will be done away with and we will have to deal with these things no more. Jesus Himself guarantees this. Also note here the final name He uses for Himself. He calls Himself the "morning star". This phrase has caused quite a stir among some. This is because of a verse in the Old Testament found in…

\*Isaiah 14:12-**How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!**

Here is the only verse in the Bible where we are given the original name for Satan, Lucifer. In most newer versions of the Bible, this name has been removed and replaced with the phrase "morning star".

This is very significant when you realize that Lucifer is a major god of the New Age Movement. Among this folks, Lucifer and Satan are two different gods. Lucifer is a god of light and Satan is a god of darkness. This type of confusion would not be in our Bible today if so many textual critics were not always trying to improve on our Bible!

17-19--**And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.**

Following God’s last two blessings in the Bible comes two very serious curses. The first says if you add to the words of the Bible, you will suffer the curses in it. It also says that, if you take from the words of the Bible, your name will be blotted out of the book of life. These are very serious warnings indeed, especially when we consider what is said in…

\*Revelation 21:27-**And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.**

There is only one way to enter into heaven. That is to have your name in the Lamb’s book of life. There has been much discussion and debate over the years about just what this book is. This mystery becomes even deeper when

\*Exodus 32:31-33-**And Moses returned unto the Lord, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin-; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. And the Lord said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.**

Here we see that unbelievers names are blotted out of the Book of Life whenever they commit a sin. How can this be? Most teachers I have ever heard teach that your name is not in the Book of Life until you get saved. Here God tells Moses that it is blotted out when we start sinning. How can these things be?

The Holy Scriptures make it clear that no one enters into heaven unless his name is in the Book of Life. However, we also know that, when babies die, they go to heaven. How do the babies’ names get into the Book of Life? Most Bible students believe that our names are placed in the Book of Life when we are saved. I have searched long and hard and have never been able to find a single Bible verse that states this, however.

In fact, a study of the verses of the Bible concerning the Book of Life gives a very different picture. Rather than go into all the details here, just let me proclaim that the Book of Life is a Book that was written before the creation of the world began. It contained the names of every person who would ever live. When a person sins the first time, they come under the penalty of having their name blotted out at the end of their life.

It’s like those old movies where you see the prisoner on death row taking that final walk to the execution chamber. Every few moments they show the hands of the clock on the wall moving up to midnight, the time of execution. Then it shifts to the phone on the table nearby. The scene continues shifting from the convict, to the clock, to the phone. What are we waiting for? A call from the governor pardoning the convict and setting him free.

We are like that convict. When we committed our first sin, as God told Moses, our name would be blotted out of His book one day because of this. From then on we are that convict on death row. The question becomes, how do we avoid the execution and get set free. Jesus explains this to us in…

\*Revelation 3:5-**He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.**

Here Jesus says that once we become an overcomer, our name will not be blotted out of the book of life. The question now becomes, how do we become an overcomer? Just as this question was first given to the Apostle John by God, so God also gave him the answer in…

\*I John 5:4--**For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.**

We become overcomers by being born of God. As that old saying we mentioned earlier goes, born twice, die once. Once we, by faith, believe in Jesus Christ, He promises to never blot our name out of His book! As the Bible says, it is a free gift, not of works that anyone should boast. So who is an overcomer? Those who are born again, Christians!

20-21--**He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.**

The final chapter of Revelation contains two curses, but it also contains two blessings. In fact there are a total of 7 blessings in the book of Revelation, not unlike the 9 blessings in the sermon on the mount in the book of Matthew. These 7 blessings, or as we call their counterparts in Matthew, beatitudes, are godly principles that can change our lives if we let them.

When we began this study, I promised a blessing to everyone who would take the time to read this book. Here’s the real surprise. There are actually seven blessings that we can all take part in, if we simply take up our cross and follow Him.

Revelation:1:3-**Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.**

Our first blessing is given to those who simply read this book. Although these words were written nearly 2,000 years ago, as we have already seen, in God’s eyes the time is indeed at hand. This is truer today than at any other time in human history.

Revelation:14:13-**And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.**

This blessing comes at one of the darkest moments in human history, when the mark of the Beast of Revelation established in the middle of the Great Tribulation. Many saints will die during this period, just as millions of saints have died throughout the ages. Each and every one of them will earn a special crown of life in heaven for their martyrdom.

Revelation:16:15-**Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.**

Here, just as the last great battle of Armageddon is launched, Jesus promises that He is coming like a thief, to take out of this wicked world that which is most precious, His saints. This is not only true for those alive at this time. It is also true for every believer that has ever, or will ever live.

Revelation:19:9-**And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.**

This blessing comes during my favorite scene in Revelation. Just as the armies of the evil one is launching their final attack against Jerusalem, Jesus comes out of the clouds on a white horse to destroy the enemies of God. What I like most about this picture is that I will get to be one of soldiers in the armies of heaven which ride behind Him. Praise His holy name!

Revelation:20:6-**Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.**

Just after the devil is bound for 1,000 years, and the wonderful Day of the Lord begins, we find this blessing. What a wonderful thought that one day we shall all be kings and priests reigning beside our Lord and Savior. Like an old preacher said years ago: born once, die twice; born twice, die once!

Revelation:22:7-**Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.**

Here, as we have already seen, we stand at the beginning of a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteous. There are times in this old world when things can look awfully dark. However, if we keep the promises of God’s word in our heart, we can endure all of them and more.

Revelation:22:14-**Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right**

**to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.**

In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve are forced out of the Garden of Eden for their own good. If they had stayed there and eaten of the tree of life, they would have become like the devil and his angels and been evil forever. God spared us from that, and once the sin question is finally settled, when we finally reach that heavenly city, we will have access to that wonderful tree of life and live forever.

To sum up our story, let’s go back to Genesis one more time. Why did is take God 7 days to create the universe? He has the power to have done is all in one moment if He had wished to. Instead He paced His creation to cover 7 days, 6 of days of work and 1 sabbath day of rest. This would ultimately become part of His Ten Commandments in Exodus 20.

Later God established the Sabbath year. Here He said that His people should work 6 years and then take 1 whole year to rest. That totally outdoes our current vacation schedules, regardless of who we might work for.

Then God set us his Jubilee year. He takes 7 sets of 7 years and ends it with 2 years of rest and called it a Jubilee. It is during this time that all of our debts are paid off by divine fiat. In this way, every adult who followed Him would be totally debt free at least once in their lives. All these laws are set up around 1500 BC. This is still only a small picture of what is to come later, however.

We see an even grander picture that He gives King David around 1000 BC, 3,000 years after the creation, and the Apostle Peter around AD 80, nearly 4,000 years after the creation. In both of these cases He said that the 7 days of creation represented 7,000 years. These years would end with the 1,000 period God calls the Day of the Lord, when He will reign on the earth, with all believers living with Him.

The Day of the Lord, that 1,000 year period will be a glorious time. However, it still pales besides the ultimate end of God’s plan. What is 1,000 years compared to eternity? This is where God the Father and Jesus the Son have been taking us for nearly 6,000 years now. Heaven has been His plan for us from before the foundations of the world began! One day, when this life is over, we will finally get to see what He has been talking about all along. Praise His holy name!

**Revelation 22 Final Assignment**

**Genesis 3:22-24**

**Revelation 1:1-2 1-Read Mark And Luke.**

**Isaiah 14:12**

**Revelation 21:27**

**Exodus 32:31-33**

**Revelation 3:5**

**I John 5:4-5**

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**The Beatitudes Of Revelation**

**1-1:3 Blessed Is He That Readeth The Word Of God.**

**2-14:13 Blessed Is He That Dies In The Lord.**

**3-16:15 Blessed Is He That Watcheth.**

**4-19:9 Blessed Is He That Goes To The Lamb's Marriage Supper.**

**5-20:6 Blessed Is He That Hath Part In The First Resurrection.**

**6-22:7 Blessed Is He That Keepeth The Sayings Of This Book.**

#### 7-22:14 Blessed Is He That Doeth His Commandments.