

## **REVELATION**

Unlike the four other books of John, this epistle is not anonymous; John names himself as the author multiple times (Revelation 1:1,4,9; 22:8). As with John's other books, this text was treated as a letter/sermon from John to the seven churches (Revelation 2-3) before circulating to other believers. God's message shows that this world will become increasingly chaotic and evil; Christians will be increasingly persecuted. All of mankind would be destroyed if not for the intervention of Jesus at the end of times.

John was in the "inner circle" of the ministry of Jesus along with James and Peter (witnessing many of the miracles that the other disciples of Jesus did not see). John wrote five books in the New Testament (John, 1, 2, 3 John & Revelation) which accounted for 20% of the New Testament.

John was the son of Zebedee whose brother, James, was the first disciple of Jesus to be martyred (Acts 12). John refers to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." (John 21:20-24) John was the cousin of Jesus as his mother (Salome) was the sister of Jesus' mother, Mary. (Matthew 27:56; Mark 15:40). John and his brother were called the "sons of thunder," so they may have had fierce tempers. (Mark 3:17; Luke 9:51-56) John is the only disciple to have remained at the foot of the cross during Christ's crucifixion (John 19:26), and he is the only one of the twelve who was not martyred for his beliefs. During His ministry, Jesus seemed to indicate that John would live a long time. (John 21:19-23)

The Roman Emperor, Domitian (ruling 81AD – 96AD), was the son of Vespasian and brother of Titus, but when they were away on military campaigns (as when they sacked Jerusalem) Domitian would rule as praetor (Roman magistrate). Domitian completed the Roman Coliseum and was known for his reign of terror. Domitian forced people to address him as their lord/god, and he mandated that everyone worship Roman gods and follow the pagan religion. It is tradition that John was sentenced to be executed in a boiling vat of oil for preaching the gospel; however, he continued to preach from the cauldron, so John was exiled to the island of Patmos (meaning "mortal") in the Aegean Sea. John may have been a forced to mine (possibly marble) on Patmos, and it was on Patmos that John recorded Revelation. Upon release, John became the bishop of Ephesus for his final years on earth.

While all of Scripture speaks of Jesus, out of the 404 verses in Revelation, 278 of those verses are referenced in other Scriptures. It is the only book of the Bible that promises that the reader will be blessed by reading, hearing and keeping what is written in it as well as a warning of judgment if anyone tampers with its message. (Revelation 22:18-19)

The Book of Revelation provides an outline: Revelation 1:19

<b>The Inspired "Outline" of the book of Revelation in Three Sections</b> <i>(Revelation 1:19)</i>	
Chapter 1	The things which you have seen
Chapters 2-3	The things which are
Chapters 4-21	The things which will take place after this

## High Level Outline of Revelation

*Chapter 1 Jesus*

*Chapters 2-3 Churches*

*Chapters 4-5 Heavenly Sights by John (representing Raptured Church)*

*Chapters 6-10 First Half of Tribulation*

*Chapters 11-14 Interlude of Key Participants*

*Chapter 11 Two Key Witnesses*

*Chapter 12 Woman; Child; Dragon*

*Chapter 13 Two Beasts*

*Chapter 14 144,000 Jewish Witnesses*

*Chapters 15-17 Last Half of Tribulation*

*Chapter 18-19 Second Coming of Christ*

*Chapter 20 Millennium*

*Chapter 21 New Jerusalem*

*Chapter 22 The Eternal State*

Throughout Scripture, the number “7” is often used to symbolize “complete,” “full,” or “satisfied.”

<b>The “Sevens” of Revelation</b>	
7 Blessings	Revelation 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7,14
7 Lampstands	Revelation 1:12
7 Spirits of God	Revelation 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6
7 Stars	Revelation 1:16,20; 2:1
7 Lamps of Fire	Revelation 4:5
7 Seals on the Scroll	Revelation 5:1
7 Horns of the Lamb	Revelation 5:6
7 Eyes of the Lamb	Revelation 5:6
7 Attributes of Jesus Praised	Revelation 5:12
7 signs of nature	Revelation 6:12-14
7 types of men	Revelation 6:15
7 Attributes of God Praised	Revelation 7:12
7 Angels Before God	Revelation 8:2,6
7 Trumpets Held by Seven Angels	Revelation 8:6; 15:1, 6, 7, 8; 17:1; 21:9
7 Signs	Revelation 12:1, 3; 13:13-14; 15:1; 16:14; 19:20
7 Heads & Diadems of the Dragon	Revelation 12:3
7 Heads of the Sea Beast	Revelation 13:1; 17:3, 7
7 Angels	Revelation 14:6-20
7 Plagues	Revelation 15:1; 21:9
7 Hills	Revelation 17:9
7 Kings	Revelation 17:10

## 10 Revelation 1

### Read Revelation 1:1-3 ... Introduction

1:1 Believers await the revelation (2 Samuel 7:19) is of Jesus Christ (1 Cor 1:7; Gal 1:12; 1 Pet 1:13).

- Revelation is derived from the Greek word “Apocalupsis” (APOKALYPSIS ΑΠΟΚΑΛΥΨΙΣ) which is a compound word derived from “Apo” meaning “away from” and “Kalumma” meaning “a veil.”
  - This book reveals Jesus as the veil that was torn/removed into the holy of holies. (Matthew 27:51; Luke 23:45)
- The first use of the word “apocalypse” is when the infant Jesus was introduced to Simeon (Luke 2:32).
  - Believers wait eagerly for the revelation of the glory of Jesus (1 Cor 1:7), but the unbeliever should fear the revelation of the vengeful Lord Jesus (2 Thessalonians 1:7-8).
- Jesus is fully God, yet this revelation was given to God the Son from God the Father to share with His bond-slaves. (John 3:35; 5:20; 7:16; 8:28; 12:49)
  - God the Father → God the Son → His Angel → John → Believers
  - ““I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you of these things for the churches.” (Revelation 22:16)
- The Greek phrase “*must soon take place*” (En Tachei - ἐν Τάχει) is the root word for tachometer which means that when it happens, it will occur quickly, speedily and with haste. (Revelation 1:3; 4:1; 2:10; 22:7, 12, 20)
  - A tachometer (revolution-counter, tach, rev-counter, RPM gauge) is an instrument measuring the rotation speed of a shaft or disk, as in a motor or other machine

A Revelation ( <i>singular</i> ) of Jesus	
Chapters 1-3	Jesus holding lampstands overseeing the churches
Chapters 4-5	Jesus as lamb/lion
Chapters 6-18	Judge of earth
Chapter 19	Returning as Kings of Kings
Chapter 20	Bridegroom
Chapters 21-22	Illuminating Heaven with His Glory

- The Greek term for “communicated” (esēmanen ἐσήμανεν) means “to signify,” “indicated,” of “signed” as the truths will be revealed through symbolic forms.
- The audience of the Book of John was meant to be His servants.

1:2 John emphasizes that Jesus is the “Word of God” (logon tou theou - λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ). (John 1:1)

- John observed God’s truth of the Lord Jesus Christ first-hand.
- John witnessed three truths:
  - The Word of God
  - The Testimony of Jesus Christ
  - The Things which He Saw

1:3 The only entirely prophetic book of the Bible with the claim that one will be blessed if they: 1.Read 2.Hear 3.Obey (Read & Heed); “understanding” is not mentioned.

- This is the first-of-seven times that the word “blessed” is repeated in this book. (Revelation 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9)
- Early believers followed the Jewish tradition of public Scripture reading, and fellowships often specific individuals to read (educated; good voice; articulate; loud). (Luke 4:16; Acts 13:15)
- The “Shema” means to “hear and do.” (Deuteronomy 5:1; 6:4-6; 9:1; 20:3; 27:9-10; Luke 11:28)

### Read Revelation 1:4-8... The Testimony of God to the Seven Churches in Asia Minor

1:4 Throughout Scripture, the number “7” is often used to symbolize “complete,” “full,” or “satisfied.” The seven may symbolize that these seven churches represent all churches and that this letter was written to all churches.

- Seven means complete/full symbolizing the fullness of the Spirit (Isaiah 11:2) throughout Revelation (3:1; 4:5; 5:6)
  - Jewish Rabbi’s believe that this refers to the seven archangels before the throne of God.
- The geographical structure of the seven churches is in the design of a “7” facing east.
- The phrase "Grace to you and peace" was a traditional form of greeting seen repeatedly in Paul's writings.
  - Christians may have changed the traditional Greek literary greeting (Acts 15:23, 23:26; James 1:1) from "charein" (χαίρειν) to the similar sounding Christian greeting of charis (χάρις), which meant "grace."
  - God’s grace always initiates while the believer’s peace follows the grace of God.



1:5 The giver of grace and peace is the Trinity of God who is the ever-consistent covenant God. (Psalm 102:7; Malachi 3:6; James 1:17) The one true God is Yahweh, the “I Am.” This description is used for God the Father (Revelation 1:4, 8) as well as God the Son (Revelation 1:17-18).

1. “Who is” (Covenant; Ever-Present) – Exodus 3:14

2. “Who was” (Pre-existent) - Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 1:3, 1:8

3. “Who is coming” which is referenced twice in this chapter (Revelation 1:8) as well as being in the “holy” chant by the four creatures (Revelation 4:8)

- The Greek term for “faithful” (pistos πιστός) is repeated 33 times in the New Testament, and is matched with the term “witness” (martyr μάρτυρ) which is the root word for “martyr.”
- Jesus was the firstborn in the sense of importance and pre-eminence. (Romans 8:29, Colossians 1:15, 18, Hebrews 11:28, 12:23, Zechariah 12:10)
- Jesus as “firstborn and ruler” is a reference to Messianic prophecy (Psalm 89:27) where Jesus replaced false emperor worship with Himself as the foremost ruler.

1:6 Israel was initially called to be a “*kingdom of Priests.*” (Exodus 19:6) Believers will assume the role of King/Priest (Revelation 5:10; 1 Peter 2:5, 9). The positions of kingship and priesthood are hereditary passing to those who are sons. Glory will be to God the Son (Jesus) and His Father forever.

- In the Old Testament, the functions of King and Priest were two separate roles.
  - Only Melchizedek held both roles in the Old Testament
    - Melchizedek (“my King is Righteousness”) was possibly the greatest person mentioned in the Old Testament as the King and Priest of Salem (Genesis 14:17-24; Psalm 110:1-4; Zechariah 6:12-13)
    - Believers will be like him as both (1 Peter 2:9; Ezekiel 21:26; Revelation 5:10) priest (Revelation 20:6) and king (1 Corinthians 4:8).
  - Positions of kingship and priesthood are hereditary passing to those who are sons
- The word” *Amen*” is meant to be firm or certain; it means “so be it”, “I affirm” or “I agree.”
  - “*Amen*” is a transliterated word from the Hebrew word “*Amen*” (Hebrew: אָמֵן Greek: ἀμήν). Transliteration means that the same word is in one language as another without being changed to translate.

1:7 This is a fulfillment of Zechariah’s prophecy (Zechariah 12:10) that the crucifiers will see glorified Christ. Jesus will return (1 Thessalonians 4:17) in a similar way to His ascension (Acts 1:9, 11) – surrounded by clouds (Matthew 26:64; Mark 14:62; Hebrews 12:1)

- In the Old Testament, clouds were the divine transportation of God which speaks to the divinity of Christ. (Daniel 7:13; Isaiah 19:1). The “Shekinah Glory” revealed God’s presence with His people (Exodus 13:21; 16:10; Numbers 11:25; Matthew 17:5)
- The world will regretfully understand that God’s Son was crucified and judgment now would occur (Matthew 24:30).
- This verse concludes with the same statement “*so be it*” being repeated – first in Greek, then in Hebrew (“*Amen*”).

1:8 God is eternal as the beginning and the end (Isaiah 41:4, 44:6, 48:12; Zechariah 12:10; Revelation 21:6, 22:13). The titles used for God the Father will also be used for God the Son (Revelation 1:17-18)

<b>Four References to God (Revelation 1:8)</b>	
<i>“I Am”</i>	Covenant Name of Yahweh (Exodus 3:14)
<i>“Alpha &amp; Omega”</i>	God’s eternal nature & control over creation’s history
<i>“Who is, and was, and is to come”</i>	Pre-existence & Return (Revelation 1:4)
<i>“The Almighty”</i>	Sovereignty & Patriarchal Title (“El Shaddai”)

- In the Hebrew alphabet, Aleph (א) represents an ox (symbol of strong submission/service) and Tav (ת) represents a cross (reminder of Christ’s crucifixion)

Name	Pictograph	Meaning	Name	Pictograph	Meaning
Lamed	𐤀	Ox / strength / leader	Lamed	𐤀	Staff / goad / control / "toward"
Bet	𐤁	House / "in"	Mem	𐤄	Water / chaos
Gimmel	𐤂	Foot / camel / guide	Nun	𐤅	Seed / fish / activity / life
Dalet	𐤃	Text door / pathway	Samekh	𐤆	Hand on staff / support / prop
Hey	𐤄	Lo! Behold! "The"	Ayin	𐤇	Eye / to see / experience
Vav	𐤅	Nail / peg / add / "And"	Pey	𐤈	Mouth / word / speak
Zayin	𐤆	Plow / weapon / cut off	Tsade	𐤉	Man on side / desire / need
Chet	𐤇	Text wall / fence / separation	Qof	𐤐	Sun on horizon / behind
Tet	𐤈	Basket / snake / surround	Resh	𐤑	Head / person / first
Yod	𐤉	Arm and hand / work / deed	Shin	𐤒	Eat / consume / destroy
Kaf	𐤊	Palm of hand / to open	Tav	𐤓	Mark / sign / covenant

## Read Revelation 1:9-11... John's Call on the Isle of Patmos

1:9 It is tradition that John was sentenced to be executed in a boiling vat of oil for preaching the gospel; however, he continued to preach from the cauldron, so John was exiled to the island of Patmos (meaning "mortal") which was a crescent shaped island in the Aegean Sea. John may have been a forced to mine (possibly marble) on Patmos.

- Romans would incarcerate their political prisoners on the island of Patmos which is 10 miles long, 6 miles wide and approximately 37 miles from the coast of Miletus (Acts 20:17).



- Eusebius documents that John was banished to Patmos by Domitian in 95AD and released by the Emperor Nerva 18 months later after spending 1½ years on the island.
  - Domitian was the last Emperor of the Flavian dynasty (Vespasian/Titus) and Marcus Cocceius Nerva was an accessory to planning the assassination of Domitian. Nerva was a respected senator who became Emperor in 96AD when he was 66 years old.
  - Nerva (96-98AD) was the first of the five "good emperors" who administered the best (glory days) of the Roman Empire with the next four being Trajan (98–117AD), Hadrian (117–138AD), Antoninus Pius (138–161AD), and Marcus Aurelius(161–180AD).
- There is a threefold partnership among believers: 1.Tribulation 2.Kingdom 3.Perseverence.
  - All believers share in each other's persecution (Heb 13:3), but all believers are personally persecuted as well (2 Tim 3:12) just as aging John had been banished to this island to work in the marble quarries.
  - Believers walk obediently together under Jesus as King - worshipping God, esteeming each other and witnessing to the world.
  - Believers encourage each other in faithful walks over time without growing weary – the perseverance of the saints (Matthew 24:13; Galatians 6:9)

1:10 “*The Lord’s Day*” has a double meaning; it will be the day of Jesus’ return which John will receive visions about (Isaiah 2:12, 13:6, 9, 13; Ezekiel 8:3), but also this is the term for Sunday - the first day of the week (John 20:19; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2) when believers partook of the Lord’s supper in remembrance of His death and anticipation of His coming again.

- Sunday, the first day of the week, was a work day, and did not become a weekend holiday until the Emperor Constantine (306-337AD).
- John was praying in the Spirit, and possibly the state of a trance (Acts 10:10; 22:17; 2 Corinthians 12:1) John may have been focusing on Christ’s death, when the trumpet “behind him” was cause for him to turn and look expectantly to the future.
  - John may have received four different visions as “*in the Spirit*” is used four times in Revelation (1:9; 4:2; 17:3; 21:10)
- The trumpet call (Zephaniah 1:16; Joel 2:15); was always used for the gathering of God’s people for assembly or war. (Exodus 19:16)
- A trumpet will be played at the rapture of believers (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

1:11 John is told to draft a letter to be circulated among 7 churches of Asia Minor.

- Some scholars speculate that this may have been a mail route between the cities.
- John is encouraged repeatedly to write what he witnesses (Revelation 1:11, 19; 14:13; 19:9; 21:5) with one exception (Revelation 10:4).

### **Read Revelation 1:12-16... The Glorified Lord Jesus Christ**

1:12 As Jesus is the Word of God personified... “*the Word became flesh*” (John 1:1), John turned to “see” the voice, but first he sees seven (perfect, complete witness), golden (glory) lampstands (seven representative churches)

- Throughout the seven letters to the churches (Revelation 2-3), a characteristic of Jesus from this passage is emphasized for each church.

1:13 The purpose of the church is not to focus on themselves, but to point to Jesus. He was dressed in a long robe (length representing authority (ruler/judge) and righteousness) – Isaiah 6:1, 61:10; Psalm 104:2 → Mt 17:2; Mk 9:3) draped with a golden (glory) sash (of honor) - Isaiah 11:5.

- When He was born, Jesus was wrapped in swaddling cloths (Luke 2:7), but now He is wrapped with a golden sash.

1:14 The hair (symbol of submission) of Jesus is white (Prov 16:31, 20:29) with wisdom and purity; His eyes (vision/understanding) were that of fire (symbolic of judgment – 1 Corinthians 3:13; Malachi 3:2) – Daniel 7:9; 10:6.

1:15 His (pierced) feet (foundations – Revelation 10:1) are solid/firm (brass – Revelation 19:15) unlike this world’s foundation (Daniel 2:41-42). His voice sounded like rushing waters (Revelation 14:2, 19:6; Ezekiel 1:24, 43:2)

1:16 The seven stars are either angels (over churches as those over nations – Dan 10:20-21) or elders (Acts 20:28; 1 Tim 5:17; Titus 1:5), and as the right hand symbolizes strength, these elders have God-given strength (authority) to govern the body of Christ. From the mouth of the Word (Jesus) comes judgment (Hebrews 4:12; John 12:48; Isaiah 11:4; 49:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:8)

- The glorified Lord shines so brightly that eternity will not have any night or sun. (Revelation 22:5)

**Read Revelation 1:17-20... The Lord Jesus Christ Comforts John**

1:17 Repeatedly, individuals who witnessed the glory of the Lord would collapse on the ground. (Daniel 8:17; 10:9; Ezekiel 1:28; 3:23; Acts 9:4) Gabriel uses standing in the presence of God as substantiation of His authority (Luke 1:19).

- *“Now to Him who is able to protect you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless with great joy.”* (Jude 1:24)
- This same comfort occurred on the Mount of Transfiguration when Jesus touched the disciples on the ground and encouraged them not to be afraid (Matthew 17:6-8).
- The title of *“first and the last”* usually referenced Yahweh (Isaiah 41:4; 44:6; 48:12) as reflected in Revelation 1:8; however, the description also describes the glorified Lord Jesus (Revelation 2:8; 22:13).

1:18 God died on the cross and defeated death.

- The Jewish Rabbi’s would teach of the gates of death/hades/hell (Job 38:17; Psalm 9:13; 107:18; Isaiah 38:10; Matthew 16:18), but Jesus Christ has the keys which speaks to His power and authority over death. (Revelation 5:9-10)

1:19 This verse follows the format of *“what was, what is, and what is to come.”* (Revelation 1:5)

<b>John Encouraged to Write...</b>	
<i>“write the things which you have seen...”</i>	The ministry of Christ
<i>“and the things which are...”</i>	The church age (letters to the seven churches)
<i>“and the things which will take place after these things”</i>	End Times

- John is encouraged repeatedly to write what he witnesses (Revelation 1:11, 19; 14:13; 19:9; 21:5) with one exception (Revelation 10:4).

1:20 The mystery is typically God’s plan of the Jew and Gentile joining into the unified church. (Ephesians). God explains the stars to be angels (messengers may also be pastors), and the churches are to shine the light of the oil (Spirit) to the world.

11 Revelation 2

The letters to the churches have a threefold application:

1. Actual churches in Asia Minor
2. Characteristics of all churches
3. Eras of Church History

<b>Outline of Revelation’s Letters to the Churches</b>	
1 Addressed to the messenger of that specific church	Revelation 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14
2 The Source of the message is characterized by an attribute of Christ defined in Revelation 1:12-20	
3 <i>“I know your works...”</i>	Revelation 2:2, 9, 13, 19; 3:1, 8, 15
4 Judgment whether praise or criticism	Revelation



		2:3-4, 10-15, 14-25, 20; 3:2, 9-10, 16-20
5	Foretelling of “meeting the Maker” (e.g., His coming)	Revelation 2:5, 16, 25; 3:3, 11
6	Churches 1-3 “He who has an ear let him hear”	Churches 4-7 Reward of the overcomer
7	Churches 1-3 Reward of the overcomer	Churches 4-7 ”He who has an ear, let him hear”
		Admonition to Hear Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22
		A Promised Reward Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:4, 11, 21

The Seven Churches in Asia Minor ( <i>Revelation 1:11</i> )				
Church	Characteristic	Associated Period of Church History	Associated Pauline Epistle	Associated Kingdom Parable
Ephesus (“desirable”)	Backslidden ( <i>Rev 2:1-7</i> )	30 AD - 170 AD. Apostolic Church	Ephesians	Matthew 13:3-9 Sower with different ground
Smyrna (“sweet smelling” – myrrh)	Suffering Persecuted ( <i>Rev 2:8-11</i> )	170 AD - 313 AD. Imperial Persecution	Philippians	Mt 13:24-30 Reaping wheat and weeds at harvest
Pergamos (“much marriage”)	Non-committal ( <i>Rev 2:12-17</i> )	313 AD - 606 AD. Constantine Regulation	Corinthians	Mt 13:31-32 Large Tree with birds in branches
Thyatira (“sacrifice of contrition”)	Compromising Licentious ( <i>Rev 2:18-20</i> )	606 AD - 1517 AD. Authority of Catholicism	Galatians	Mt 13: 33 Should not mix
Sardis (“renewal”)	Dead ( <i>Rev 3:1-6</i> )	1517 AD - 1750 AD Reformation & Beginning of Protestantism	Romans	Mt 13:44 Finds Treasure & sells everything for prize in field
Philadelphia (“brotherly love”)	Favored ( <i>Rev 3:7-13</i> )	1750 AD - 1906 AD Mission & Outreach	Thessalonians	Mt 13:45-46 Merchant & Fine Pearls

Laodicea ( <i>"judging the people"</i> )	Lukewarm ( <i>Rev 3:14-22</i> )	1906 AD - ? Balance World & Christ	Colossians	Mt 13:47-50 Throw out the worthless fish
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### Read Revelation 2:1-4

#### 2:1-7 Ephesians – Apostolic Church

- Ephesus was the largest Roman city in Asia Minor with the greatest attraction being the Temple of Artemis (Diana in Latin) with many temple prostitutes.
- Ephesus was a commercial juggernaut because of its natural harbor.
- Paul stayed in Ephesus more than three years (Acts 18:18; 20:13).
- John became Bishop of Ephesus after his release from Patmos; it is tradition asserts John had moved to Ephesus after the death of Mary, the biological mother of Jesus.

2:1 The Greek term for “messenger” (angelō ἀγγέλω) could be interpreted as an actual angel, the preacher/overseer or the spirit of the church (Revelation 1:20).

- The Greek term “church” (ekklēsia ἐκκλησία) is a compound noun consisting of the two Greek terms "out of" (ek ἐκ) and "to call" (kaleó καλέω).
  - The term “ekklēsia” (ἐκκλησία) was used in the Septuagint to translate the Hebrew term, “qahal.” “Qahal” had been used in the Tanakh for the "assembly of Israel" because the early Christians saw themselves as an extension of the people of Israel.
- The Greek term for “walking among/walking in (the) middle” (Peripatōn ἐν μέσῳ - Περιπατῶν ἐν μέσῳ) represents God’s presence. (Genesis 3:8; Leviticus 26:12)
- The lampstands were the light to the world reliant on oil (symbolic of the Spirit).
- Ephesus may have been the “spiritual headquarters” of Asia Minor as both Paul and John spent a good amount of time there, and they would pass along letters for public reading.

2:2 Although churches of the time were challenged with infiltrators of false teaching (Matthew 7:15-16; Acts 20:29-30; 1 John 4:1), Ephesus remained true to the gospel message. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

<b>John’s Three Tests of Genuine Salvation</b>	
Centrality of the Lord Jesus Christ	(1 John 2:18-29)
Obedient Lifestyle	(2 John 1:6; 1 John 2:3-6; 3:1-10; 5:2-3)
Doctrinal Truth/Spiritual Authority	(2 John 1:7; 1 John 1:1; 2:18-25; 4:1-6, 14-16; 5:1, 5, 10)

- Ephesus was commended for their work and faithfulness to the truth.

2:3 The church of Ephesus consisted of hardy workers who were faithful to their calling.

2:4 Although their “church work” was laudable, they were not prioritizing personal devotion, fellowship and relationship with the Lord (Psalm 51:12).

### Read Revelation 2:5-7

2:5 Beyond repenting of wrong (turning from sin); Scripture calls for a turn towards God.

- The lampstand gives light to the world, so the warning is that the testimony will be taken.
- Light symbolizes “enlightenment” and “understanding,” so God would remove understanding and revelation. (Deuteronomy 29:29; Job 32:8; 2 Timothy 2:7)
- There is an ongoing call for these believers to repent. (Revelation 2:5, 16, 21-22; 3:3, 19; 9:20-21; 16:9, 11)

2:6 The term Nicolaitans may have originated from Nicolas – Acts 6:5. “Nicolaitans” is a compound term consisting of “nike” (victor/overcomer) and “laitans” (laity/congregation). Although “Nicolaitans” are rejected by God (overcoming the Laity), each one of the seven churches will be rewarded if the “overcome” (nikōn vikōv) sin. God is saying to overcome and dominate sin instead of each other.

- Unlike Ephesus, Pergamum had accepted the teaching of the Nicolaitans. (Revelation 2:15).
- The term “Nicolaitans” is only used one other time in Revelation as being linked to the sins of Balaam (Revelation 2:14-15). Balaam marketed his religious knowledge for material gain and encouraged the temptations of idolatry and sexual immorality to God’s people Israel. (Numbers 22-25; Deuteronomy 23:4-5; Joshua 13:22)
  - The Nicolaitans may be related to the Gnostics’ false knowledge and the compromise with the licentious secular culture; Eusebius (260AD-340AD) records that the Nicolaitans did not last very long.
- God hates the veneration of clergy over the lay believer (Amos 7:14-15). Hierarchy does not equate to favor or value in God’s economy.
  - Believers must be careful not to “outsource” their spiritual walk to their religious leaders (e.g., Bible study; intercessory prayer; visitation of the sick; helping the needy; etc.) at the cost of submission to poor church leadership (Jeremiah 31:34; Matthew 23:8).

2:7 During His ministry, Jesus encouraged those who listened to His message to respond. (Matthew 11:15; 13:9; 13:43; Mark 4:24)

- The “*Tree of Life*” is a reference to the tree in the garden of Eden (Genesis 2:9), and it is mentioned multiple times in Revelation (22:2, 14, 19). Mankind began with God in a garden, and that is also man’s conclusion with God in a garden. (Genesis 3:8)
- The term “Paradise” (paradeisō παραδείσῳ) originated as a Persian word for a wealthy, nobleman’s garden. (Ezekiel 28:13; 31:8)
- Paradise consists of being in the presence of God; Paul was taken into Paradise via vision (2 Corinthians 12:2-4), and the thief on the cross was promised to be taken into Paradise as well. (Luke 23:43)

### **Read Revelation 2:8-11.... Smyrna – The Suffering Church**

2:8-11 Smyrna – Suffering Church

- Smyrna was located on the Aegean Sea with a harbor for commercial trade (like Ephesus) which brought wealth and a mix of cultures to the city. In John's day, Smyrna was about 200,000 in population.

- It had a variety of religions as it worshipped Roma, Cybele as well as the Roman Emperors (“Concilia”). Its many temples were located on the Acropolis called “Pagos.” Some traditions claimed that Homer was born in Smyrna.
- The Jewish population of Smyrna were fiercely anti-Christian, and Polycarp (a disciple of John the Apostle) was martyred in Smyrna in 155AD.

2:8 The name “Smyrna” was derived from the primary commodity (Myrrh) that was traded/sold in the commerce of the town. Myrrh was typically used to prepare the body for burial as with Jesus after His crucifixion (John 19:39). Myrrh is an odorous spice that becomes progressively aromatic as it is beaten and crushed.

- “The First and the Last” is repeated as a description of Yahweh (Isaiah 41:4; 44:6; 48:12). This is synonymous with the “Alpha and Omega” (Revelation 1:8; 21:6; 27:13) and the “beginning and the end” (Revelation 21:6; 22:13).
- For the persecuted believers of Smyrna, the description of Jesus was that He also had died, but then in victory came to life. (Revelation 1:18)
  - Believers cannot be judged by material possessions; the Smyrna believers were rich in faith. (James 2:5; 2 Corinthians 8:9; 1 Timothy 6:18-19)
- The Greek term for “messenger” (angelō ἀγγέλω) could be interpreted as an actual angel, the preacher/overseer or the spirit of the church (Revelation 1:20).
- The Greek term “church” (ekklēsia ἐκκλησία) is a compound noun consisting of the two Greek terms "out of" (ek ἐκ) and "to call" (kaleó καλέω).
  - The term “ekklēsia” (ἐκκλησία) was used in the Septuagint to translate the Hebrew term, “qahal.”
  - “Qahal” had been used in the Tanakh for the "assembly of Israel" because the early Christians saw themselves as an extension of the people of Israel.

2:9 The Greek term for “slander” (blasphēmian βλασφημίαν) is the root word for “blaspheme.”

- Satan (Satana Σατανᾶ) is referenced repeatedly throughout the book of Revelation (2:9-10, 13; 3:9; 9:11; 12:9, 10, 12; 13:3; 20:2, 7, 10).
- The spiritual descendants of Abraham are not the Jews who deny the Messiah, but the Jew and the Gentile who have received Jesus as Christ (Messiah) by faith. (Galatians 3:29, 6:16; Romans 2:28-29)
- Jesus made a similar statement to Jews who did not believe, “*You are of your father the devil.*” (John 8:44)
- Jews persecuted early Christians harshly. (Acts 13:50; 14:2, 5, 19; 17:5)

2:10 This may represent a period of ten great persecutions (the famous martyr Polycarp had been bishop of the church at Smyrna), and these ten periods of distinct persecution culminated in the persecution by Diocletian which lasted ten years. (Luke 12:4-5)

- Ten also represents government/order which relays that God is in control.
- Believers went through trials as a time of growth and a witness to the world. (Acts 14:27; Romans 5:3-4; 8:17-19; Hebrews 5:8; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 4:12-19; Revelation 2:10)

- The Greek term for “*crown*” (stephanon στέφανον) is the root word for “Stephen” and means much more than the literal crown; similar to an Olympics medal, the object itself is less worthy than the recognition and esteem of the accomplishment.
  - Jesus wore the crown of thorns ((Matthew 27:29; Mark 15:17; John 19:2, 5), so that believers might be able to have imperishable crowns (1 Corinthians 9:25) including the crown of life (James 1:12), the crown of glory (1 Peter 5:4), the crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8) and the crown of rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 2:19).

2:11 During His ministry, Jesus encouraged those who listened to His message to respond. (Matthew 11:15; 13:9; 13:43; Mark 4:24)

- The second death refers to eternal separation from God in hell. (Revelation 20:6, 14; 21:8)

<b>Works of the Churches</b>						
<i>(Revelation 2-3)</i>						
<b>Ephesians</b>	<b>Smyrna</b>	<b>Pergamos</b>	<b>Thyatira</b>	<b>Sardis</b>	<b>Philadelphia</b>	<b>Laodicea</b>
“I know your works”	“I know your works”	<b>“I know where you <u>live</u>”</b>	“I know your works”	“I know your works”	“I know your works”	“I know your works”
Labor, endurance, intolerance of evil	Tribulation, Poverty	Holding onto His name, not denying faith in Him	Love, faithfulness, service, endurance	Dead	Kept His Word, not denied His name	Lukewarm

**Read Revelation 2:12-17.... Pergamum – Means “Much Marriage” to the world**

2:12-17 Pergamum – “Much Marriage” to the world with the same root as the English word bigamy/polygamy (unequally yoked).

- As the capital of Asia Minor, it was a wealthy city with learned bureaucrats. As with Smyrna, Pergamum had a Temple to Roma and the Roman Emperor Augustus (29AD).
- After the library in Alexandria, Egypt, Pergamum had the second largest library with over 200,000 parchment scrolls. The two libraries competed for prominence, and Alexandria controlled the price and supply of papyrus reeds. Pergamum creatively invented “vellum” which was a processed animal skin used for writing.
- There was a medical center in Pergamum that was dedicated to Asclepius (a mythological god of medicine); Asclepius was considered a god of Pergamum whose symbol was a snake.
- Pergamum also had an enormous Temple to Zeus on the acropolis that was shaped like a throne (i.e., Satan's throne) which overlooked the entire city of Pergamum.

- Pergamum built the world’s largest Greek altar (the “Altar of Zeus” - 117’ x 110’) after defeating the invading Celtic Galatians (circa 200BC). In 1959, a replica of the “Altar of Zeus” was reconstructed at Berlin’s Pergamon Museum.

2:12 The Word of God is the authority of truth and life.

- The name “Pergamum” means “Much Marriage” which implies several conflicting allegiances between God and the world. This is the same idea as bigamy and polygamy or where the couple is “unequally yoked.” (2 Corinthians 6:14)
- The description of Jesus (Revelation 1:16) was that His Words were powerful as a sharp, two-edged sword. (Revelation 2:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:8; Hebrews 4:12)
- The Greek term for “messenger” (angelō ἀγγέλω) could be interpreted as an actual angel, the preacher/overseer or the spirit of the church (Revelation 1:20).
- The Greek term “church” (ekklēsia ἐκκλησία) is a compound noun consisting of the two Greek terms "out of" (ek ἐκ) and "to call" (kaleó καλέω).
  - The term “ekklēsia” (ἐκκλησία) was used in the Septuagint to translate the Hebrew term, “qahal.”
  - “Qahal” had been used in the Tanakh for the "assembly of Israel" because the early Christians saw themselves as an extension of the people of Israel.

2:13 For the believers of Pergamum, God states “*I know where you live*” in that He understands their situation in the capital of Asia Minor with the politicians and bureaucrats. In reference to every other church, God says “I know your works.”

- The reference to Satan’s throne could allude to:
  - The immense throne of Zeus.
  - The worship of the Roman Emperors (“Concilia”).
  - The focus on the mythical god of Asclepius (symbolized by a snake).



- The martyr “Antipas” is a compound name consisting of “opposed to” (anti) and “father/pope” (pas). The historian, Tertullian (160AD-220AD), documented that the tradition was that Antipas was martyred by being boiled in a bronze bull.

2:14 Balaam (“the destroyer”) pretends to be open to God, but really it is Balaam’s will (2 Peter 1:21) for profit (Jude 1:11), and although Balaam could not curse Israel, he did teach Balak how to seduce Israel into bringing a curse upon themselves by having the Midianite women use sexuality as a weapon (Numbers 31:15-16). Believers should be separate from the world (1 John 2:15)

2:15 The term Nicolaitans may have originated from Nicolas – Acts 6:5. “Nicolaitans” is a compound term consisting of “nike” (victor/overcomer) and “laitans” (laity/congregation). Although “Nicolaitans” are rejected by God (overcoming the Laity), each one of the seven

churches will be rewarded if the “overcome” (nikōn νικῶν) sin. God is saying to overcome and dominate sin instead of each other.

- Unlike Ephesus (Revelation 2:6), Pergamum had accepted the teaching of the Nicolaitans.
- The term “Nicolaitans” is only used one other time in Revelation as being linked to the sins of Balaam (Revelation 2:14-15). Balaam marketed his religious knowledge for material gain and encouraged the temptations of idolatry and sexual immorality to God’s people Israel. (Numbers 22-25; Deuteronomy 23:4-5; Joshua 13:22)
  - The Nicolaitans may be related to the Gnostics’ false knowledge and the compromise with the licentious secular culture; Eusebius (260AD-340AD) records that the Nicolaitans did not last very long.
- God hates the veneration of clergy over the lay believer (Amos 7:14-15). Hierarchy does not equate to favor or value in God’s economy.
  - Believers must be careful not to “outsource” their spiritual walk to their religious leaders (e.g., Bible study; intercessory prayer; visitation of the sick; helping the needy; etc.) at the cost of submission to poor church leadership (Jeremiah 31:34; Matthew 23:8).
- After Constantine ended the period of persecution and made Christianity the state religion, many played the game and joined the church as they made a “profession of Christianity without possession of Christ.” This was the first time in church history that Christian workers became salaried, and Constantine’s mother is said to be the first to give money for erecting a Christian church building.

2:16 There is an ongoing call for these believers to repent. (Revelation 2:5, 16, 21-22; 3:3, 19; 9:20-21; 16:9, 11)

- The Lord warned that He would “make war” (polemēsō πολεμήσω) on the believers in Pergamum if they didn’t repent.

2:17 Just as the Lord provided for His people (Israel) during the Exodus from Egyptian slavery (Exodus 16:14-15,31; Psalm 78:17-33), God also promised provision to the repentant believers in Pergamum. (John 6:31-35, 50-51)

- A “white stone” (“Tessera”) was given on various occasions:
  - In ancient times, a verdict was proclaimed by selecting a white stone for innocence or a black stone for guilt (origin of “black balling”).
  - Pagan priests would give stones to wealthy patrons that had inscriptions of the secret name of their false god – presumably affecting greater favorable influence on that god through a revealed name (Revelation 3:12; 19:12 – Isaiah 62:2).
    - The Lord also assures His believers that they would be given an intimacy and special status.
  - The emperor would give white stones (“Tessera”) with personal names as tickets/passes to his subjects who had his favor; these tickets/passes could be used for entrance into exclusive events.
  - A “white stone” was given to an athletic victor after he won a race (similar to a medal).
  - A “white stone” was also given to a freed slave after he had been given freedom.

- A “new name” is referenced repeatedly in Revelation (3:12; 14:1; 19:12, 13, 16; 22:4). Throughout Scripture, God would change the name of a follower (e.g., Abraham, Jacob, Sarah, Paul) which is prophesied in Isaiah (56:5; 62:2; 65:15). This may also refer to a name of the Lord that only His followers know.
- During His ministry, Jesus encouraged those who listened to His message to respond. (Matthew 11:15; 13:9; 13:43; Mark 4:24)

### **Read Revelation 2:18-23.... *Thyatira – Licentious; Period of the “Dark Ages”***

#### 2:18-29 Thyatira

- The letter to Thyatira was the longest, and the rebuke against Thyatira was the harshest.
- Thyatira was a smaller city that was trade-oriented and situated on a main thoroughfare between Pergamum to Sardis and then to Philadelphia and Laodicea.
  - This was an “industrial” city with a variety of trade guilds (each with a patron deity); Thyatira contained various temples to local deities. Thyatira was renowned for wool products.
  - Lydia (Acts 16:14), a Macedonian seller of purple cloth, was originally from Thyatira.
- Thyatira represented “the Dark Ages” as tedious ceremonies, customs, traditions and rituals were added to the payment of Christ on the cross. The European church compromised with the Vandals, Huns, and Goths by merging with their false gods just as Jezebel had lured Ahab (1 Kings 16:31-33).

2:18 This is the only use of the name “Son of God” in the book of Revelation. John often uses the designation “Son of God,” but not in this book. (John 1:34, 49; 5:25; 9:35; 10:36; 11:4,27; 19:7; 20:31; 1 John 3:8; 4:15; 5:5, 10, 12, 13, 20)

- The reference to “*eyes like a flame of fire, and feet like burnished bronze*” (Revelation 1:14-15) emphasizes judgment in what He sees and where He goes. This is a reference to the man that Daniel saw by the Tigris. (Daniel 10:6)
- The Greek term for “messenger” (angelō ἀγγέλω) could be interpreted as an actual angel, the preacher/overseer or the spirit of the church (Revelation 1:20).
- The Greek term “church” (ekklēsia ἐκκλησία) is a compound noun consisting of the two Greek terms "out of" (ek ἐκ) and "to call" (kaleó καλέω).
  - The term “ekklēsia” (ἐκκλησία) was used in the Septuagint to translate the Hebrew term, “qahal.”
  - “Qahal” had been used in the Tanakh for the "assembly of Israel" because the early Christians saw themselves as an extension of the people of Israel.

2:19 Opposite to the church of Ephesus, Thyatira was growing closer to God with increasing love, faith, service and perseverance.

2:20 Jezebel claims to be a “lady preacher” (“prophetess”) when in reality she is a seductress into ungodly lifestyles, but their unhealthy practices will lead to disease and destruction. (Revelation 2:22)

- The “Jezebel” of the Old Testament had lured Ahab into sin and murder to satisfy his greed (1 Kings 16:31-33; 2 Kings 9:21-22).



- The teachings of Jezebel may have been similar to those who followed Balaam (Revelation 2:14) and the Nicolaitans (Revelation 2:15).

Prophetesses of the Bible		
Name	Scripture	Association
1. Miriam	Exodus 15:20	Aaron's Sister
2. Deborah	Judges 4:4	Wife of Lappidoth
3. Huldah	2 Kings 22:14; 2 Chronicles 34:22	Wife of Shallum
4. *Noadiah	Nehemiah 6:14	<i>Wickedly wanted to intimidate Nehemiah</i>
5. Isaiah's Wife	Isaiah 8:3	Mother of "Maher-shalal-hash-baz"
6. Anna	Luke 2:36	Daughter of Phanuel
7. **Four Virgin Daughters	Acts 21:9	Daughters of Philip the evangelist who prophesied
8. ***Jezebel	Revelation 2:20	<i>"Calls herself a prophetess" as she deceives</i>
*The Prophetesses Noadiah & Jezebel who were not associated with a male were also wicked		
**The Four Virgin Daughters are not explicitly referenced as prophetesses, but they did prophecy		
***Jezebel calls herself a prophetess, but she was wicked		

2:21 God's call to repentance is not endless; believers should respond to the Lord today. (Hebrews 3:15; 4:7)

2:22 God would transfer Jezebel from a bed of adultery to a bed of sickness.

- There is an ongoing call for these believers to repent. (Revelation 2:5, 16, 21-22; 3:3, 19; 9:20-21; 16:9, 11)

2:23 John uses the term "children" to represent believers (followers) in his writings. (John 12:36; 13:33; 1 John 2:1, 12, 13, 18; 2:28; 3:7, 18; 4:4; 5:21) Those who followed Jezebel would pay the consequences for her wicked and false teaching.

- *"I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds."* Beyond actions, God judges the motives and attitudes. (Proverbs 24:12; Psalm 7:9; 26:22; 139:1; Jeremiah 11:20, 17:20; Luke 16:15; Acts 1:24; Romans 8:27; Hebrews 4:12-13)

2:24 To those who have not believed the message of the false religious teachers will persevere.

- The "deep things of Satan" may have been the seductive practices of Jezebel, the false teaching of the Gnostics or the various black magic of local deities. Paul encourages the believer to enjoy the deep things of God. (Romans 11:33; 1 Corinthians 2:10; Ephesians 3:18)

2:25 Some believers in Thyatira were faithful to God's truth, so the Lord encourages them to endure with what they know to be true.

2:26 Thyatira was the only church in which another persona is added to "the victor" – *"the one who keeps My Words to the end."* Beyond being an "overcomer" on exception, this verse emphasizes faithfulness and endurance to the end.

2:27 John quotes Psalm 2:9 in reference to the "rod of iron" shattering the pottery (Revelation 19:15). The Lord Jesus Christ will reign (Revelation 12:5; 19:15) and believers will reign with Him. (Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:30; 1 Corinthians 4:8; 6:2; 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 3:21; 5:10; 22:5)

- Jesus has been given all authority (Matthew 28:18; Philippians 2: 9-11)

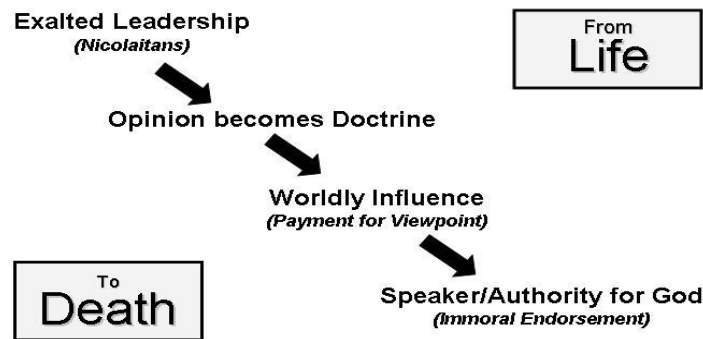
2:28 The Greek term for “morning star” (phōsphoros φωσφόρος) means “light bearer” and is the root word for “phosphorus.” (2 Peter 1:19)

- In the Old Testament (Isaiah 14:12), Lucifer (hêlêl לְלִיָּל) is translated the “morning star” which also referred to the planet Venus.
- The morning star comes at the darkest point during the night.

The Morning Star Symbolism (phōsphoros φωσφόρος)	
Jesus	Numbers 23:17; Malachi 4:2; Revelation 22:16
Resurrected Saints	Daniel 12:3

2:29 During His ministry, Jesus encouraged those who listened to His message to respond. (Matthew 11:15; 13:9; 13:43; Mark 4:24)

## Process of Spiritual Decline



12 Revelation 3

**Read Revelation 3:1-6.... *The church of Sardis represents the culmination of the decline of the church towards spiritual death – all sin leads to eventual death (Ps 34:21; Rom 5:12, 6:23; James 1:15).***

- **Religious decline frequently follows the same process.**

3:1-6 Sardis

- As a trade-oriented city that was situated on a main thoroughfare from the capital city, Pergamum, Sardis was a sizeable, wealthy city.
  - Some traditions claim that coined money was invented at Sardis.
- It was known for its secure military position which was 1500' high on a mountain. Historical Persian records boasted that Cyrus the Great had been able to capture the impregnable city.
- The ancient name of Sardis was Sepharad which is mentioned in Obadiah 1:20, but it had declined from its former glory by the time of John.
- Like Thyatira, Sardis was known for dyed wool products. Sardis claimed that the process of dying wool was invented there.

- Sardis was known for fanatical worship Cybele, the mother goddess (similar to the idea of “mother nature”). Excited male worshipers would castrate themselves to become eunuch-priests of the “Magna mater” (“great mother”).
- Sardis was proclaimed “dead” in spite of their reputation. Sardis and Laodicea are the only churches without praise instead it is solely admonishment.

3:1 The fullness of the Spirit brings life (Job 33:4; John 6:63; 1 Corinthians 15:45)

- The reference to “*the seven spirits of God and the seven stars*” (Revelation 1:4, 16) emphasizes the life of the Spirit indwelling the believer shining God’s light (truth, testimony) to the world.
- Faith without works is dead (James 2:14-26).
- The Greek term for “messenger” (angelō ἀγγέλω) could be interpreted as an actual angel, the preacher/overseer or the spirit of the church (Revelation 1:20).
- The Greek term “church” (ekklēsia ἐκκλησία) is a compound noun consisting of the two Greek terms "out of" (ek ἐκ) and "to call" (kaleó καλέω).
  - The term “ekklēsia” (ἐκκλησία) was used in the Septuagint to translate the Hebrew term, “qahal.”
  - “Qahal” had been used in the Tanakh for the "assembly of Israel" because the early Christians saw themselves as an extension of the people of Israel.

3:2 The church of Sardis is called to be alert (and not just go through the motions). The Sardis believers may talk-the-talk; they may speak of what they have done and what they would give, but they do not do anything. Sardis is “all talk.”

- Unlike the other churches, there are no praises spoken to Sardis as they are proclaimed “dead” in spite of their reputation.
  - Sardis and Laodicea are the only churches without praise instead it is solely admonishment.
  - At that time, Sardis had the largest Jewish synagogue outside of Palestine

3:3 There is an ongoing call for these believers to repent. (Revelation 2:5, 16, 21-22; 3:3, 19; 9:20-21; 16:9, 11). Jesus warns that He will come to judge the church of Sardis when He is not expected.

- In 550 BC, King Croesus had defended city against Cyrus. One night a Persian saw a guard of Sardis drop his helmet over the side wall... watched the guard scale a secret path down the steep walls of the cliff to retrieve his hat. The Persian soldier clandestinely followed the guard back up the crevice of the wall, and opened the gates from within...then Cyrus took Sardis like a thief.

3:4 In the Bible, clothing represents righteousness. (Ephesians 4:22, 24, 25, 31; Colossians 3:8, 10, 12, 14; Heb. 12:1; James 1:21; 1 Peter 2:1)

- In the Old Testament, self-righteousness (Isaiah 64:6) is contrasted with God’s shedding blood (first physical death – Genesis 3:21) to cover them with His righteousness (Isaiah 61:10, Galatians 3:27); also seen in Zechariah 3:3-4 & 2 Chronicles 6:41
- The Greek phrase “they will walk” (peripatēsousin περιπατήσουσιν) represents the ongoing lifestyle of the believer. (1 John 1:6,7; 2:6,11; 3 John 3-4; Revelation 3:5; 21:24)

- John repeatedly uses white to represent purity in this book of the Revelation (3:4-5, 18; 6:11; 7:9, 13-14; 19:14).
  - While white is a combination of all wavelengths of light, black is the absence of light.
  - While white reflects light, black absorbs the wavelengths of light rather than reflecting them.
  - A mix of all colored lights creates white while a mixture of all colored paints/markers creates black. Light could represent the spiritual while pigment could represent the world.
  - A scholar based on physics will say: “Black is not a color; white is a color.” However, an artist or a child with crayons will say: “Black is a color; white is not a color.”

3:5 Just because Scriptures says that a name will not be blotted out does not mean that God will blot out those who do not repent.

- The death of a citizen results in their name being removed from the listing of their city’s population, but God does not remove believers from His rolls.
- This verse may infer that God will either “blot out” a man’s sins or his name (Acts 3:19).

<b>Two End Time Books of God (Daniel 7:10; Revelations 20:12)</b>	
<b>The Book of Life (God’s People)</b>	Exodus 32:32-33 Psalm 69:28 Isaiah 4:3 Daniel 12:1 Luke 10:20 Hebrews 12:23 Philippians 4:3 Revelation 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:15; 21:27
<b>The Book of Remembrances/Works (All People)</b>	Psalm 56:8, 139:16 Isaiah 65:6 Malachi 3:16

- As the believer testifies for Jesus in this world, Jesus will testify to God the Father and the angels. (Matthew 10:32; Luke 12:8).

3:6 During His ministry, Jesus encouraged those who listened to His message to respond. (Matthew 11:15; 13:9; 13:43; Mark 4:24)

**Read Revelation 3:7-13.... Philadelphia**

3:7-13 Philadelphia – This is the only church receiving praise without rebuke (Smyrna does not receive rebuke or praise, but does receive encouragement).

- Philadelphia had been founded relatively recently (circa 150BC), so it was the youngest of the seven cities. As a city on the trade route between Sardis and Laodicea, Philadelphia was flourishing.

- Philadelphia in an active earthquake area and was known for its agriculture (especially grapes). The mythological god of fruit and fertility – (Bacchus/Roman; Dionysus/Greek) - was a chief deity.
- As with Smyrna and Pergamum, Philadelphia was a center for the worship of the Emperors.

3:7 Philadelphia means “brotherly love.”

- Scripture towards the other churches referenced the description of Jesus in chapter 1 of Revelation; however, the only brief reference for Philadelphia is a “key.”
  - Although the key in chapter 1 refers to “*the keys of death and of Hades.*” (Revelation 1:18), this verse references the “*key of David.*”
- The significance of the “*key of David*” is that it gives authority and entrance into David’s household. The Davidic covenant (2 Samuel 7:8-16) established God’s vow to David of an eternal kingdom where his descendant would rule.
  - Both Joseph and Mary were in the biological lines of David. (Matthew 1:6; Luke 3:31)
- The Greek term “holy” (hagios ἅγιος) means “set aside” for God’s good will and is used by John in this book to describe the Lord (Revelation 3:7; 4:8; 15:4; 16:5), the angels (Revelation 14:10), believers (Revelation 20:6; 22:11) and His city (Revelation 11:2; 21:2, 10; 22:19).
  - The believing martyrs refer to God as “holy and true” while awaiting righteous judgment on the world for the blood of the saints. (Revelation 6:10)
- The Greek use of the term “true” meant actual or factual while the Hebrew use of the term “true” had a broader definition of “trustworthy,” “reliable,” and “faithful.” (Revelation 3:14; 19:11; 21:5; 22:6)
- The Greek term for “messenger” (angelō ἀγγέλω) could be interpreted as an actual angel, the preacher/overseer or the spirit of the church (Revelation 1:20).

3:8 The “open door” may refer to fellowship with the Lord (Revelation 3:20) and testimony/service to others (Matthew 16:19; Acts 14:27; 1 Corinthians 16:9; 2 Corinthians 2:12; Colossians 4:3).

- Although Philadelphia had little worldly influence, they were faithful in obedience and testimony. Philadelphia exhibited the characteristics of “holiness and truth.”

3:9 The “*synagogue of Satan*” refers to Jews have rejected Jesus as the Christ; they have denied the long-awaited Messiah. (Revelation 2:9)

- This verse is a reference to Old Testament prophecies elevating Jews over Gentiles (Isaiah 45:14; 49:23; 60:14); however, since some Jews and Gentiles had accepted Jesus as Christ, the scornful Jews would submit to believers.

3:10 “*Because you have kept My word of perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of the testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who live on the earth.*”

- This protection may refer to a rapture prior the Tribulation (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18); the rapture may not include all believers, but only those living as the Philadelphia church.

- The protection may also infer a guard and defense for believers as they live during the Tribulation.
- The debate is focused on the Greek term “ek” (ἐκ). The meaning of “ἐκ” could denote either “out of” or “through.”
  - A parallel (or equivalent) request was prayed by Jesus in the garden before His crucifixion (John 12:27). “Save me from this hour.”
    - Jesus was not praying to be comforted during the hour, but to be kept from it.
  - This promise relates to a unique, future time of trial that believers shall escape due to the rapture.

3:11 John repeatedly mentions the imminent return of the Lord (Revelation 1:1, 3; 2:16; 22:7, 12, 20)

- Believers “hold fast” (kratei κράτει ) to their walk of faith while God holds onto their salvation in Him. (Galatians 6:9)

<b>Five Crowns Mentioned in Scripture</b> ( <i>Revelation 3:11</i> )				
Crown of <u>Life</u> Revelation 2:10 James 1:12	Crown of <u>Glory</u> 1 Peter 5:2-4	Crown of <u>Righteousness</u> 2 Timothy 4:8	Crown of <u>Rejoicing</u> 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20	Crown of <u>Victory</u> 1 Cor 9:25
<b>Reward will be Offering Crowns to the Lord; His glory, not man’s.</b> ( <i>Revelation 4:10</i> )				

3:12 The pillar represents strength and support; much was made of this in the Temple (1 Kings 7:15-22) with the pillars being named Jachin (“He establishes”) and Boaz (“In Him is Strength”).

- Since Philadelphia was in an active earthquake zone, the sense of security with a metaphor of a pillar was even more meaningful.
- Archeologists have discovered that the prominent citizens of Philadelphia would have their names inscribed on the pillars of the local temples.

<b>God Makes All Things New (2 Corinthians 5:17)</b>		
New Things	Isaiah 42:9; 43:19; 48:6	Revelation 21:5
New Song	Isaiah 42:10	Revelation 5:9; 14:3
New Name	Isaiah 62:2; 65:15	Revelation 2:17
New Heaven/Earth	Isaiah 65:17; 66:22	Revelation 3:12; 21:1

3:13 During His ministry, Jesus encouraged those who listened to His message to respond. (Matthew 11:15; 13:9; 13:43; Mark 4:24)

### **Read Revelation 3:14-22.... *Laodicea***

3:14-22 Laodicea

- Laodicea had been situated between two towns known for their waters.
  - On the north side were the hot springs of Hierapolis, and on the east were the fresh, cold waters of Colossae (Colossians 4:16).

- Laodicea constructed two aqueducts, and after water flowed through the aqueducts, the water had become lukewarm.
- Although aqueducts were built to carry water to wealthy town of Laodicea, the water in Laodicea was barely palatable.
- Laodicea was one of three cities (along with Colossae and Hierapolis) along the Lycus River valley where churches were founded by Paul's convert, Epaphras (Colossians 1:17; 4:12-13). There was a large Jewish population.
- Laodicea was founded in 250BC by Antiochus II (a Seleucid ruler) who named it after his wife, Laodice. (The grandparents of Antiochus Epiphanes)
- Laodicea was located at the crossroads of several trade routes and flourished as a banking center.
- As with Thyatira and Sardis, Laodicea was located on a fertile pastoral region that was known for raising black sheep that were renowned worldwide and used to produce a black outer garment (robe).
- Similar to Pergamum, Laodicea worshipped the mythological god Asclepius and had a medical school which was well-known for healing eye and ear salve.

3:14 He is called the “*God of Amen.*” (Isaiah 65:16) The term "Amen" is a form of the Hebrew word for "believe" or "faith" (Genesis 15:16; Habakkuk 2:4).

- The word “Amen” is meant to be firm or certain; it means “truly,” “so be it”, “I affirm” or “I agree.” It is the transliterated word from Hebrew “Amen” (Hebrew: אָמֵן Greek: ἀμήν).
  - Transliteration means that the same word is in one language as another without being changed to translate.
- The reference to “*the Amen, the faithful and true Witness*” (Revelation 1:5-6) emphasizes Jesus as the loyal affirmer and Creator of the world. (John 1:3; 1 Corinthians 8:16; Colossians 1:15, 18; Hebrews 1:2)
- The Greek term for “messenger” (angelō ἀγγέλω) could be interpreted as an actual angel, the preacher/overseer or the spirit of the church (Revelation 1:20).
- The Greek term “church” (ekklēsia ἐκκλησία) is a compound noun consisting of the two Greek terms "out of" (ek ἐκ) and "to call" (kaleó καλέω).
  - The term “ekklēsia” (ἐκκλησία) was used in the Septuagint to translate the Hebrew term, “qahal.”
  - “Qahal” had been used in the Tanakh for the "assembly of Israel" because the early Christians saw themselves as an extension of the people of Israel.

3:15 Although aqueducts were built to Hierapolis and Colossae, by the time the water arrived in Laodicea, it had neither the warmth of the hot springs of Hierapolis nor the coldness of the fresh waters of Colossae.

3:16 God rejected the mediocrity of the Laodicean church.

3:17 Laodicea was a financial center of Asia Minor; they considered themselves wealthy in contrast to the persecuted Smyrna church (Rev 2:9)

- 3:18 Laodicea was encouraged to purchase without money (Isaiah 55:1-3) gold (glory) refined by fiery (without impurities – Psalm 19:10) and His righteous coverings as well as anointing of the Holy Spirit for understanding and spiritual insight.
- Laodicea was known for raising black sheep, and they are told that God can clothe them in the purity of white.
  - Laodicea worshipped the mythological god of medicine (Asclepius), but God could provide an eye salve so that they could have spiritual sight.
- 3:19 The Lord disciplines His children. (Job 5:17; Proverbs 3:12; Psalm 94:12; Hebrews 12:6)
- There is an ongoing call for these believers to repent. (Revelation 2:5, 16, 21-22; 3:3, 19; 9:20-21; 16:9, 11)
- 3:20 *“Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and have dinner with him, and he with Me.”*
- Christianity is a fellowship with God as He desires fellowship with His people.
- 3:21 Just as the Lord Jesus overcame the world (John 16:33; Eph. 1:21-22) to sit on His Father’s throne (Ephesians 1:20; 1 John 2:1 and Revelation 22:1), believers are called to overcome and join the Lord Jesus on His throne.
- 3:22 During His ministry, Jesus encouraged those who listened to His message to respond. (Matthew 11:15; 13:9; 13:43; Mark 4:24)

### 13 Revelation 4

- Chapters 4 & 5 represent what John saw when he was “raptured” to heaven; in the same way, the rapture of the Church will enable the same view.
  - The rapture of the Church is discussed in several parts of the Bible (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; Isaiah 26:20; Psalms 118:19).
  - “The church” (ekklēsiaς ἐκκλησίας) is referenced 19 times in the first three chapters of Revelation, but after chapter 3, “the church” is not referenced until the conclusion of the Book to reaffirm the audience of Revelation (Revelation 22:16).
- The focus should not be to decipher when Jesus is coming again (Matthew 24:36), but to be ready for Him when He does (Matthew 24:42-44, 25:1-13; Luke 21:34-36; 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3).
- From this point on, in Revelation, the references turn uniquely Jewish
- The underpinning of Revelation 4 is chapters 1 & 10 of Ezekiel as well as Daniel 7:13-14.

### **Read Revelation 4:1-3...John Invited to Heaven**

- 4:1 God opens the door to heaven (Ezekiel 1:1) and John’s conveyance through the door is viewed as a type (a foretelling) of the rapture of the church.
- The opening words (Meta Tauta Μετὰ Ταῦτα) meaning “after these things” shows that the narration is entering the third section of the divine outline which uses the same Greek terms. (Revelation 1:19)
  - The “church” (ekklēsiaς ἐκκλησίας) is not mentioned again until the concluding remarks of the book of Revelation (22:16).



- Although the “door” of the gospel is never closed (Revelation 3:8), by this time in the church age, Jesus has been symbolically pushed outside the door of the church (Revelation 3:20).
  - God takes the initiative and opens the door which stays open. (Genesis 7:16; 8:15-16)
- The phrase “after these things” shows the sequence of events through Revelation (7:1,9; 15:5; 18:1; 19:1)
- The reference to the trumpet might be a reference to the rapture described by Paul. ““*For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry to command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.*” (1 Thessalonians 4:16)

4:2 John may have received four different visions as “*in the Spirit*” is used four times in Revelation (1:9; 4:2; 17:3; 21:10)

- The prophet Ezekiel had been bodily taken by the Spirit in the book of Ezekiel (8:3-4; 11:1) whereas Paul did not know whether he had physically been taken (2 Corinthians 12:1-2).
- God the Father is described as sitting on His throne. (Ezekiel 1:26-28; 1 Kings 22:19; Isaiah 6:1; Daniel 7:9-14)

4:3 The rainbow was given by God to symbolize His covenant not to destroy people.

- The rainbow was given as a divinely approving response to Noah’s sacrifice (Gen 8:20-22). Christ is the believer’s sacrifice (Rev 10:1).
- Jasper is clear as crystal (representing the pure glory of God) while Sardius (carnelian) is red (blood colored).
  - These two colors (Jasper & Sardius) show different facets of Jesus: deity/humanity, grace/judgment, Lord/Savior.
- The breastplate of the priest is adorned with twelve stones in a precise sequence that begins with Sardius and ends with Jasper (Ex. 28:17-21).
  - Each of these twelve precious stones is thought to correlate with one of the twelve tribes of Israel (possibly a birth stone).
  - Therefore, the first stone would relate to the firstborn son of Jacob/Israel – Reuben which means “*See, a Son*” and the last stone would relate to the last son, Benjamin which means “*Son of my right hand*”.
    - These stones may represent the first and the last (the alpha and omega).
  - These two precious stones correlate to Jesus, the Son of God, as Scripture gives insight into the One seated on the throne.
    - “*See, a Son...the Son of my Right Hand*”

**Sequence of Priestly Stones on Breast piece**  
(Exodus 28:17-30)



- The Emerald was used to represent the Tribe of Judah which was the tribe of the Kings in the lineage of Jesus Christ.



**Read Revelation 4:4-7...The Throne of God**

4:4 In the Old Testament, the Priests and Singers were divided into groups of 24. (1 Chron 24:7-19).

- The 24 elders are representative of all believers who worship the Lord (Revelation 19:4). Throughout Scripture, the number “twelve” symbolizes “organized witness” while the number “two” symbolizes a “witness” (testimony).
- They represent Israel from the old testament (12 sons of Israel) and the believers of the new testament (12 disciples).



**Old Testament**

**"24-7"**  
(Rom 1:19-21)



**New Testament**

**The 12 tribes of Israel represented God's testifying people in the Old Testament. The 12 testifying disciples represented God's people in the New Testament. Together, the 24 elders represent all of God's people before and after the walk of Jesus. The week consists of 7 days since creation, and the number 7 represents fullness and completeness. (Revelation 4:4, 4:10, 5:8, 11:16, 19:4)**

**Each hour consists of 60 minutes and each minute of 60 seconds. "6" is the number of man (Rev 13:18), and man only has limited time to invest his earthly existence for the glory of the Lord.**

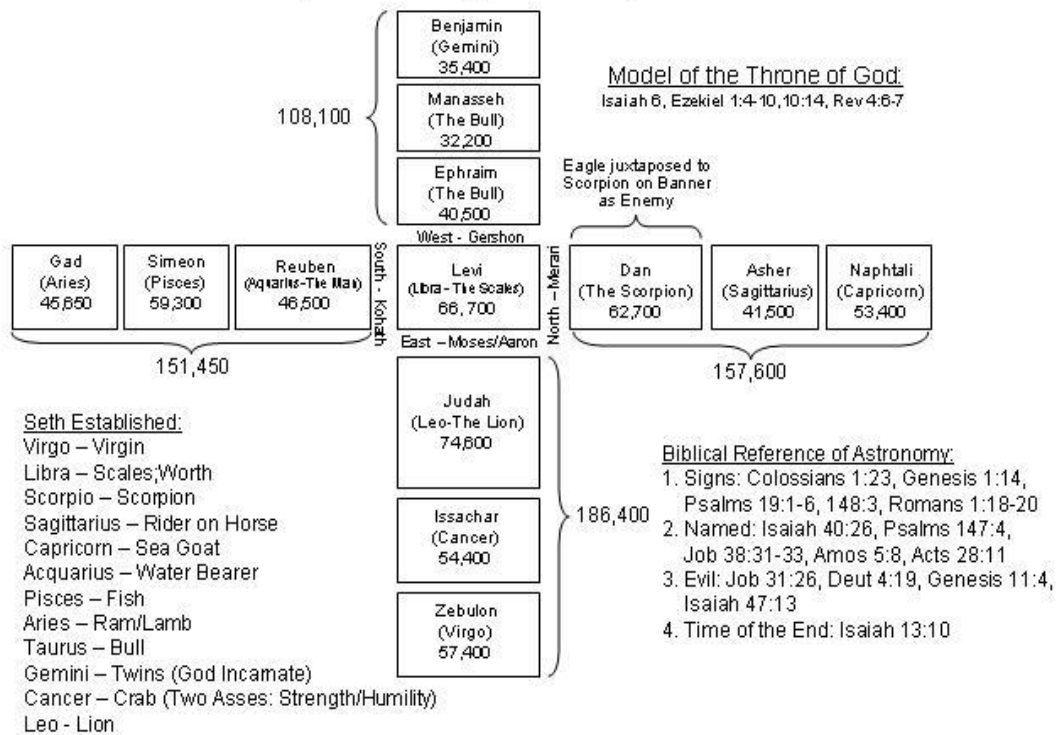
- The Greek term for "crown" (stephanon στέφανον) is the root word for "Stephen" and means much more than the literal crown; similar to an Olympics medal, the object itself is less worthy than the recognition and esteem of the accomplishment.
    - Jesus wore the crown of thorns ((Matthew 27:29; Mark 15:17; John 19:2, 5), so that believers might be able to have imperishable crowns (1 Corinthians 9:25) including the crown of life (James 1:12), the crown of glory (1 Peter 5:4), the crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8) and the crown of rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 2:19).
- 4:5 The return of Jesus will be similar to lightning shooting across the sky (Matthew 24:23-51, Mark 13:21-23, 13:32-37 Luke 17:20-37).
- Electrical storms tend to come from the east (possibly the south), so viewing them in the west could possibly show the storm has passed.
  - God's presence brings natural effects like lightning. (Exodus 19:16-19)
    - The heat of lightning is approximately 54,000 degrees Fahrenheit (nearly five times hotter than the surface of the sun)
    - Lightning travels approximately 136,000 mph
  - The "seven spirits of God" can also be read as the seven-fold spirit of God (Revelation 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6); the fullness of the Holy Spirit.
- 4:6 The "Sea of Glass" (Thalassa hyalinē – θάλασσα ὑαλίνη) is described as an "expanse of crystal." (Ezekiel 1:22; 10:1)
- This is similar to the layout of the Temple's Laver in front of the Holy Place. (1 Kings 7:23; 2 Chronicles 4:2-6)
  - At Mt Sinai, the people of Israel saw this from beneath as a "pavement of sapphire." (Exodus 24:10)
- 4:7 The four living creatures are reminiscent of Old Testament visions of cherubim (Ezekiel 1:5-10; 10:1-17) and seraphim (Isaiah 6:2-3).

- The four living creatures are repeatedly mentioned through Revelation (4:6, 8, 9; 5:6, 8, 11, 14; 6:1, 3, 5, 7; 7:11; 14:3; 15:7; 19:4).

Follows Order of Throne of God in Isaiah 6, Ezekiel 1:4-10, 10:14, Rev 4:6-7 (as well as Layout for Tribes in Numbers 2)				
Gospel	Audience	View of Christ	Symbol	Example
Matthew	Jew Reference of OT	What He Said	<b>Messiah (Lion)</b> <b>Zechariah 9:9</b>	- Genealogy through Royal Line (Descending) - Sin Offering
Mark	Gentile/Roman Haste/Action	What He Did	<b>Servant (Ox)</b> <b>Isaiah 42:1</b>	- No Genealogy - Trespass Offering – affects/deeds
Luke	Gentile/Greek Philosophical	What He Felt	<b>Son of Man (Man)</b> <b>Zechariah 6:12</b>	- Genealogy through Blood Line (Ascending) - Peace Offering
John	Church	Who He Was	<b>Son of God (Eagle)</b> <b>Isaiah 40:9</b>	- Genealogy of Pre-existent One - Burnt Offering - Dedication

### Organization of 12 Tribes of Israel

(Numbers 2 – Sign of the Cross)



## Read Revelation 4:8-11...The Worship of God

4:8 The one attribute of God that is being emphasized is His holiness (hagios ἅγιος). The essence of holiness is to be “set apart,” separate,” or “sacred.”

- In the Greek language, a superlative is stated by repeating the word.
- This was the song of the seraphim in the Old Testament. (Isaiah 6:2-3).
- There are many songs recorded in the book of Revelation (4:8, 11; 5:9-10, 12, 13; 7:12; 11:17-18; 12:10-12; 15:3-4; 16:5-7; 18:2-8; 19:1-3, 6-7).
- God’s title has three components:
  - The LORD (kyrios κύριος) – the Old Testament covenantal name of *Yahweh* (Exodus 3:14; Psalm 103)
  - God (theos θεός) – the Old Testament name of *Elohim* (Psalm 104)
  - Almighty (Pantokratōr Παντοκράτωρ) – *El Shaddai* was the name used by the Patriarchs (Exodus 6:3)
- John repeats the description of “*Who was, Who is, Who is to Come*” for God the Father (Revelation 1:4, 8) as well as God the Son (Revelation 1:17-18).
  - 1.”*Who is*” (Covenant; Ever-Present) – Exodus 3:14
  - 2. “*Who was*” (Pre-existent) - Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 1:3, 1:8
  - 3. “*Who is coming*” which is referenced twice in this chapter (Revelation 1:8) as well as being in the “holy” chant by the four creatures (Revelation 4:8)

4:9 The term “*living creatures*” (zōa ζῶα) is used repeatedly in Revelation (5:6, 8, 14; 6:1; 7:11; 14:3; 15:7; 19:4).

4:10 The worshippers cast their crowns before the throne; they understand that any accomplishment of theirs came through the grace of God.

- Those with greater reward had more to give God, and in turn, gave God more.

4:11 The worshippers understand that God is the Creator (Revelation 5:13) as He made all things through His Word, Jesus. (John 1:3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2)

## 14 Revelation 5

- The underpinning of Revelation 5 is Ezekiel 2:8-9 as well as chapter 4 of Zechariah

## Read Revelation 5:1-4...The Scroll with Seven Seals

5:1 God the Father (on the throne) has in His right hand (authority, power) a scroll (Ezekiel 2:8-3:3; Daniel 12:4) considered to be the title deed (Leviticus 25:23; Ruth 4; Jeremiah 32:6-15) of the world and that which Adam had forfeited.

- In ancient times, the title deed was two documents:
  1. Mortgage/Property lines (sealed and hidden for safekeeping)
  2. Requirements to open seal (available to be read by anyone).
  3. As time went on, documents were consolidated to inside scroll (hidden) and outside of scroll.

4. The scroll from Ezekiel is filled with “*lamentations, mourning and woe*” (Ezekiel 2:8-10); the end-time judgments could not take place until the scroll was opened.
    - Codex books with pages were not invented and widely used until the second century, so John’s vision would have been towards a scroll.
- 5:2 John mentions a “*mighty angel*” several times in the book of Revelation (10:1; 18:21).
- The Greek term “*worthy*” (axios ἄξιος) was a word used in commerce related to the use of scales. “*Worthy*” means “*that which corresponds to;*” both sides of the scale must have corresponding weight.
- 5:3 The phrase “*in heaven and on earth and under the earth*” (Philippians 2:10) refers to angels and mankind (alive and dead).
- 5:4 Nothing in creation is worthy to culminate God’s plan outside of Christ.
- There was a pause when John understood the weight of the need.
  - John experienced grief while in heaven. (Revelation 21:4)

### **Read Revelation 5:5-10...The Worthy Lamb**

- 5:5 An elder commands or comforts John with “stop weeping.”
- The descriptions of Jesus are Jewish titles:
    - the Lion from the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:8-10) speaks of Jesus humanity from Judah
    - the root of David (Isaiah 11:1-9; Jeremiah 23:5, 33:5) speaks of His deity preceding David’s reign (Revelation 22:16).
  - The “lion” overcame with sacrifice instead of power.
    - Jesus was proven worthy because of what He did (the sacrifice made) because of who He is.
- 5:6 This conquering lion is seen as a lamb (John 1:29) – slaughtered (crucified). (Colossians 2:15)
- Every man will meet Jesus as his sacrificial lamb or his powerful lion-like judge.
    - Lamb/Savior...Lion/Judge
  - The lamb is mentioned repeatedly throughout Revelation. (Revelation 5:6, 8, 12, 13; 6:1, 16; 7:9, 10, 14, 17; 12:11; 13:8; 14:1, 4, 10; 15:3; 17:14; 19:7, 9; 21:9, 14, 22, 23, 27; 22:1, 3)
  - Jesus is positioned between the creatures/elders and the throne of God; Jesus is always the intermediary (Romans 8:34).
  - Jesus has seven (complete) horns (authority) and eyes (vision/understanding).
    - The “seven horns” are a reference to His omnipotence (Exodus 27:2; 29:12; Deuteronomy 33:17; 2 Chronicles 18:10; Psalms 112:9; 132:17; Jeremiah 48:25; Ezekiel 29:21; Zechariah 1:18-21)
    - The “seven eyes” are a reference to His omniscience (Ezekiel 1:18; 10:12; Zechariah 3:9, 4:10; Revelation 4:6, 8)
    - This comprehensive knowledge is facilitated by the ubiquitous Spirit presence in this world (Isaiah 11:2; Revelation 1:4)

- In Scripture (Leviticus 25), only three things might be redeemed:
  1. Wife (Israel)
  2. Slave (Gentiles)
  3. Possessions (this world).
- The Kinsman Redeemer must meet three qualifications:
  1. Relative (humanity)
  2. Able to pay (perfection)
  3. Willing to pay (love)

5:7 God the Father held the scroll in His open right hand for the taking.

- While the “hand” of God is anthropomorphic, it symbolizes the spiritual deeds taking place.
- The right hand of God symbolizes strength (Psalm 89:13) and righteousness (Isaiah 41:10).

5:8 The Lamb deserves worship.

- Incense represented prayers to God. (Psalm 141:2; Luke 1:10; Revelation 8:3-4)
- Believers are referred to as “Saints” (*hagiōn áγιων*) throughout Revelation (8:3-4; 11:18; 13:7,10; 14:12; 16:6; 17:6; 18:20, 24; 19:8; 20:9)

5:9 The Lamb is praised to be “worthy” because of two actions of His substitutionary death (1 Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 1:5; 5:6, 9, 12; 7:14; 12:11; 13:8; 14:4; 15:3; 19:7; 21:9, 23; 22:3) and His paying the redemptive price (Mark 10:45; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 7:23; Galatians 3:13, 4:5; 1 Timothy 2:6; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 5:9; 14:3-4).

- Salvation is universally available to anyone – Jew or Gentile (Revelation 7:9; 11:9; 13:7; 14:6).

5:10 Jesus followers will be reigning priests in Jesus’ model of the king/priest.

- Believers will be a kingdom of Priests (Revelation 1:6; 5:10) who will reign with Him (Revelation 3:21; 5:10; 20:4)
- There will be a millennial reign as well as an eternal reign. (Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:30; 1 Corinthians 4:8, 6:2; 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 3:21; 5:10)

<b>Jesus Throughout Time (Revelation 5:9-10)</b>	
Present	Is Worthy
Past	Was Slain
Future	Shall Reign

### **Read Revelation 5:11-14...The Worship of the Lamb**

5:11 The Greek term “myriads” can be interpreted 10,000; so, the phrase “myriad of myriads” (*myriades myriadōn - μυριάδες μυριάδων*) can equate to 10,000 multiplied by 10,000 (equals 100 million – 100,000,000). This would be symbolic of the number worshipping the Lamb. (Daniel 7:10)

<b>Worshippers of the Lamb (Revelation 5:11; 7:11)</b>	
Many Angels	Myriads (over 100 million)

Living Creatures	Four
Elders	Twenty-Four

5:12 Jesus Christ (the divine sacrificial lamb) was worthy (Revelation 4:11; 5:9) to receive the seven-fold gifts/attributes: 1.Power 2.Riches 3.Wisdom 4.Strength 5.Honor 6.Glory 7.Blessing

5:13 Creation represented in four exhaustive locations: 1.heaven 2.earth 3.under the earth 4.the sea. This conveys that angelic beings or mankind (dead and alive) will worship the Lamb.

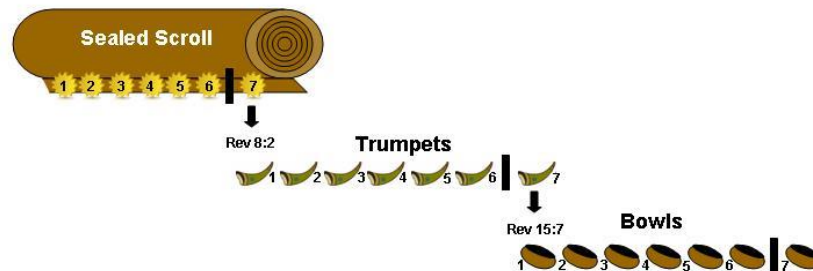
- Creation offered the fourfold submissions (Philippians 2:10): 1.Blessing 2.Honor 3.Glory 4.Dominion

5:14 The four living creatures were in agreement saying, “so be it” – Amen.

- The word “Amen” is meant to be firm or certain; it means “so be it”, “I affirm” or “I agree.”
  - “Amen” is a transliterated word from the Hebrew word “Amen” (Hebrew: אָמֵן Greek: ἀμήν). Transliteration means that the same word is in one language as another without being changed to translate.

## 15 Revelation 6

### The Heptadic (7) Structure



### Read Revelation 6:1-2...The Opening of the First Seal: White Horse

6:1 The Lamb was the only one worthy to break the seals (Revelation 5:2-5).

- The removal of the seals leads to the opening of the scroll.
  - The opening of the scroll leads to the trumpet and bowl judgments.
  - The judgments intensify from the seals to the trumpets to the bowls.
- One of the Living Creatures beckons John to “Come” (Erchou Ἔρχου) which resulted in John “seeing” the “horsemen of the Apocalypse.”



- Some see Revelation as a book of “reckoning;” however, much of Revelation is a book of “beckoning.”
- In this verse, the call is either for John to come see (beckoning) or the call is for the four horsemen to go bring judgment (reckoning).
- The word “Come will be used for each of the four horsemen. (Revelation 6:1, 3, 5, 7)

<b>Revelation is a Book of Beckoning to “Come”</b>	
The Lord	Revelation 1:4, 8; 2:8, 25; 3:3, 20; 4:8; 12:10; 22:20
The Wicked	Revelation 3:9; 11:7; 12:12; 13:14; 17:8, 10
The New Jerusalem	Revelation 3:12
John	Revelation 4:1; 6:1, 3, 5, 7; 11:12; 17:1; 21:9
Time	Revelation 3:10; 6:17; 14:7, 15
God’s people	Revelation 7:13-14; 15:4; 18:4; 20:5; 21:27; 22:17
Judgment	Revelation 13:13; 18:8, 10; 19:15, 17; 20:8
Marriage of the Lamb	Revelation 19:7

- John is referencing Old Testament visions of the “four horses” (Zechariah 1:8) and the four chariots (Zechariah 6:1-8).
- 6:2 This first horse (which is white) is considered the “Antichrist” as Jesus Himself will be mounted on a “white horse” at His second coming. (Revelation 19:11)
- The crown in this verse is the victor’s crown (stephanon στέφανον) while a royal crown (diadéma διάδημα) is mentioned in Revelation 19:2.
  - The word for “bow” is the same word as “rainbow” so this may represent a false covenant.
  - Repeatedly in the Old Testament, God is portrayed as carrying a bow. (Psalm 45:4-5; Isaiah 41:2; 49:2-3; Habakkuk 3:9; Zechariah 9:13); however, the returning Lord will have a sword coming from His mouth, but no bow is mentioned (Revelation 19:15).
  - The words “then I saw” are repeated 33 times in Revelation.
  - This is considered the beginning of the Tribulation and each of the four living creatures would bid them come (Ezekiel 14:21).
  - The first four seals release horsemen on the earth. These horsemen represent the main categories of the enemies and trials of mankind.
    1. white – civil war
    2. red – national war
    3. black – famine
    4. pale green – pestilence.
  - Although white represents purity, so this rider resembles Christ, he is really the anti-Christ (feigning purity) with a bow (without arrows – no true strength).

### **Read Revelation 6:3-4...The Second Seal; the Apocalyptic Horseman of War**

6:3 These horses as a progression of the anti-Christ from feigning purity to beginning bloodshed.

- The second seal brings the second horse which is “red” to reflect the bloodshed of war.

6:4 Peace was something to be removed from the earth; this may be a possible reference to the removal of the Holy Spirit (2 Thessalonians 2:6-7) and the Rapture.

- At Jesus nativity, the earth blessed with Peace on earth (Luke 2:14)

### **Read Revelation 6:5-6...The Third Seal; the Apocalyptic Famine**

6:5 The third seal set loose a black horse of commerce and famine (Lamentations 4:8-9).

The power of commerce and allocation is used by the anti-Christ to further solidify power.

6:6 The Feast of Pentecost celebrated the wheat harvest while the Feast of First fruits celebrated the barley harvest; however, these harvests would be too expensive (Ezekiel 4:16 – balance).

- Some will be spared from famine – either the wealthy who could afford luxury items of olive oil and wine or the new Christian converts would be spared (oil/Spirit and wine/Christ’s blood)
- According to Herodotus (the ancient Greek writer – 484-425BC), a denarius was the typical day’s wage for a soldier or laborer (Matthew 20:2). A man will work all day and only earn enough food to feed himself.
  - Barley was commonly used to feed the poor.
  - The untouched “wine and oil” may mean that the wealthy will remain unaffected as those who are not wealthy will grieve.

### **Read Revelation 6:7-8...The Fourth Seal; the Apocalyptic Horseman of Death**

6:7 The Lamb continues to break the seals as He is the only one who is worthy.

6:8 A picture of pestilence (2 Samuel 24:15) delivering the soul to hades through death to the body.

- A pale horse is released. The Greek term for “pale/ashen” (chlōros χλωρός) is the root word for chlorine.
- The terms “*death and hades*” appear together three times in Revelation (1:18; 6:8; 20:13-14) as a reference to an Old Testament statement (Proverbs 5:5; Hosea 13:14).
  - Jewish Rabbi’s taught that Hades/Sheol/Grave was the holding place for the dead.

### **Read Revelation 6:9-11... The Fifth Seal: The Pleas of the Martyred Believers**

6:9 The focus now shifts away from the earth to heaven where the Christians who have been martyred are shown under the altar of incense (Revelation 8:3; 9:13) as an acceptable communion with the Lord.

- Some scholars believe that this is a reference to the altar of sacrifice because Jewish Rabbis believed that it was particularly holy under the altar of sacrifice.
- Others view this as the altar of incense representing the prayers of the saints.
- The term “altar” (thysiastēriou θυσιαστηρίου) is used repeatedly through Revelation. (8:3,5; 9:13; 11:1; 14:18; 16:7)

- Martyred believers are emphasized in the last days throughout Revelation (13:15; 18:24; 20:4).
- Two reasons that believers die during the Tribulation (Revelation 13:15-18):
  - They do not worship the Beast
  - They do not receive the Mark of the Beast

6:10 Those who have been martyred will seek justice regarding their killers. (Deuteronomy 32:43; Revelation 19:2) Justice will come when the angel reaps the earth with his sickle (Revelation 14:18)

- The manner that an individual addresses the Lord gives insight into the way that they are viewing the Lord at that time. These martyrs refer to God as “Master” in deference to His will. Characteristics of the Lord that are emphasized is that He is “holy and true.”
  - The Greek term “holy” (hagios ἅγιος) means “set aside” for God’s good will and is used by John in this book to describe the Lord (Revelation 3:7; 4:8; 15:4; 16:5), the angels (Revelation 14:10), believers (Revelation 20:6; 22:11) and His city (Revelation 11:2; 21:2, 10; 22:19).
    - The believing martyrs refer to God as “holy and true” while awaiting righteous judgment on the world for the blood of the saints. (Revelation 6:10)
  - The Greek term “true” (alēthinos ἀληθινός) is used seven times in the New Testament and only by John. (John 4:37; 7:28; 1 John 5:20; Revelation 3:7, 14; 6:10; 19:11).
    - The Greek use of the term “true” meant actual or factual while the Hebrew use of the term “true” had a broader definition of “trustworthy,” “reliable,” and “faithful.” (Revelation 3:14; 19:11; 21:5; 22:6)
- This passage may be similar to Abel’s blood crying out for justice (Genesis 4:10).

6:11 God clothes these martyrs in righteousness (Isaiah 61:10)

- At Jesus nativity, the earth blessed with Peace on earth (Luke 2:14)
- God’s wrath is waiting for the number of martyred believers to reach a level.
  - Romans 11:25 ...waiting for the “Full number of the Gentiles”
  - Genesis 15:16...waiting for Israel to return to Canaan after the “*iniquity of the Amorites reaches their full measure*”

### **Read Revelation 6:12-17... The Sixth Seal of Terror**

6:12 The heavens literally experience these natural effects, but beyond the physical, this symbolic of the message of the gospel being lost from the world.

- The message of Jesus (sun) is covered by sinful influence (goat hair) and despair (sackcloth). The corporate church body (the moon which reflects the light of the sun/Jesus) experiences a time of martyrdom (red as blood).
- The symbolism is similar to Old Testament descriptions (Joel 2:30-31; 3:15-16; Isaiah 13:9,10; 34:4; Jeremiah 4:23-28; Haggai 2:6; Matthew 24:29)
- Earthquakes are repeatedly mentioned in Revelation (8:5; 11:13,19; 16:18).

- 6:13 The stars of heaven also represent individual believers, and the fig tree represents Israel during this time; many of the Christian martyrs will be Jewish.
- 6:14 Again beyond the physical, Governments (mountains – Dan 2:35) and smaller powers (islands of government or commerce) will be removed. (Revelation 16:20)
- 6:15 Every strata of people will fear during that time; no social status will be able to defend against the cataclysmic destruction of God’s judgment.
- Guilty and convicted man has always sought to hide from God’s judgment (Genesis 3:8; Isaiah 2:10, 19, 21; Hosea 10:8)
- 6:16 The observation of “*the wrath of the Lamb*” reveals that those under judgment understand that the Messiah was crucified.
- 6:17 This verse seems to reference Joel 2:11 and Malachi 3:2. This question of “who can stand?” may be answered by the interlude of Revelation 7 emphasizing the people of God.
- The triumphant return of the Lord is mentioned at the conclusion of each judgment cycle: Seals (Revelation 6:12-17); Trumpets (Revelation 11:15-18); Bowls (Revelation 19:1-21).

**Read Revelation 7:1-8... 144,000 Witnesses from the Tribes of Israel**

- Chapter 7 is a parenthetical dissertation on what is going on in heaven during this time.
  - The “interludes” between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> seal/trumpet/bowl may be a representation of believer activity during the time of judgment.
- 7:1 There is an interval of stillness on sea and tree (land) all over the earth.
- Throughout Scripture, “trees” represented men and kingdoms. (Mark 8:24)
    - Some men listen to the Word of God (Ps 1:1-3; Is 61:3; Rev 11:4), and some men are evil (Jude 1:12; James 3:12) – even to the point of the anti-Christ (Ezekiel 31:3-9).
    - Some have been grafted into God’s family (Romans 11:17, 24).
    - The tree will be known by its fruit and judged as such (Matthew 7:17, 12:33, 3:10; Joel 1:12; Revelation 7:1-3; 22:14).
  - The four winds (whose purpose is destruction) are mentioned several times in the Bible (Jeremiah 49:36; Daniel 7:2)
  - The number “four” often means “creation” or the “whole earth.” (Isaiah 11:12; Jeremiah 49:36; Daniel 7:2; Zechariah 1:8; 6:1,5; Matthew 24:31 )
  - Jewish Rabbis taught that the four winds were quarterly acts of evil.
- 7:3 God will seal His people to protect them from the judgment. (Ezekiel 9:4, 6)
- A seal shows authenticity and the mark of authority; a seal binds until the owner of the seal wants to open it.

<b>The List of Israeli Tribes Containing the 144,000 Sealed</b>		
<b>(Revelation 7:4-8)</b>		
<b>Tribe</b>	<b>Literal Name</b>	<b>Story Line</b>

Judah	Praise the Lord	<i>Those who praise the Lord see the Son and are blessed and joyful and struggle against Forgetting. The Ones who hear and obey Come together to the reward and long for home to join the Son of the right hand.</i>
Reuben	See, a son	
Gad	Good Fortune	
Asher	Happy	
Naphtali	My Struggle/Wrestling	
Manasseh	Causing Forgetfulness	
Simeon	One Who Hears and Obeys	
Levi	To Join	
Issachar	Reward	
Zebulun	Looking for Home	
Joseph	To Add	
Benjamin	Son of the Right Hand	

7:4-8 Twelve is the scriptural symbol for “organizational witness” (contrasted to the number “ten” for order/human government), but these numbers are to be taken literally from the correlated tribes.

- The two tribes of Dan and Ephraim are not listed; this is probably because these two tribes introduced idolatrous worship to Israel (1 Kings 12:25-32; 2 Kings 10:29).

### Read Revelation 7:9-12... Worship From Those Who Endured the Tribulation

7:9 The Jewish converts have always been numbered in scripture; even in the book of Acts (three thousand converts on the day of Pentecost); however, as Gentiles converted to Christianity, their numbers were not recorded.

- Beyond the 144,000, there seems to be a number of Gentile converts that are worshipping Christ (Matthew 24:14).
- As a palm tree grows straight and narrow, so does the walk of the believer in righteousness (Psalm 92:12). Palm branches can also symbolize joy and praise. (Leviticus 23:40; Nehemiah 8:15)

7:10 The great multitude praise God for salvation. The Greek term for “salvation” (σωτηρία) applies to both spiritual and physical salvation.

- The term “Savior” (σωτήρος σωτήρος) describes God the Father (1 Timothy 1:1; 2:3; 4:10; Titus 1:3; 2:10; 3:4) as well as God the Son. (2 Timothy 1:10; Titus 1:4; 2:13; 3:6)

7:11 The angels, living creatures and elders agreed (“Amen”) and expanded the worship beyond salvation.

<b>Worshippers of the Lamb</b> (Revelation 5:11; 7:11)	
Many Angels	Myriads (over 100 million)
Living Creatures	Four
Elders	Twenty-Four

7:12 The angels, living creatures and elders expanded beyond salvation to seven other attributes of worship: 1. Blessing 2. Glory 3. Wisdom 4. Thanksgiving 5. Honor 6. Power 7. Might

- This is the fourth time in Revelation that creation has worshipped God in this manner (4:11; 5:12, 13).

- The word “Amen” is meant to be firm or certain; it means “so be it”, “I affirm” or “I agree.”
  - The Greek term for “truly” or “I assure you” is the transliterated word from Hebrew “Amen” (Hebrew: אָמֵן Greek: ἀμήν).
  - Transliteration means that the same word is in one language as another without being changed to translate.
  - Jesus is the only one in Scripture that begins a sentence with the word “Amen” which He used to express that He had something significant to say. (Matthew 11:11; 16:28; 25:45)

### **Read Revelation 7:13-17... The Worshippers Identified to John**

7:13 Instead of telling John about the worshippers, one of the 24 elders asked John a question about the worshippers.

- The elder focuses on the “white robes.” (Zechariah 3:3-5) The worshippers are characterized by their white robes (symbolizing purity).
- The elder may have wanted John to understand that he lacked understanding, but the elder could assist him.
- This occurred in the past (John’s vision) and will occur in the future (end times).

7:14 These worshippers are martyrs who had been killed during the great tribulation (Romans 3:25; 5:9; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:20; Hebrews 9:14; 1 Peter 1:19; 1 John 1:7).

7:15 All believers are a new priesthood (1 Peter 2:5,9; Revelation 1:6) beyond the Levitical priests established in the Old Testament (Psalm 134:1; 1 Chronicles 9:33).

- These priests continually worship the Lord symbolized the term “day and night” (Revelation 4:8; 7:15; 12:10; 14:11; 20:10) although there will be no “night” in eternity (Revelation 22:5).
- The Jewish community recognized the beginning of each day at 6:00pm, so night came before day because this was the way that the world was created. (Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31)

7:16 God takes care of the needs of His people as He did in the wilderness (Nehemiah 9:19-21).

- The Shekinah cloud of glory provided shade and direction in the daytime while in the wilderness (Psalm 121:5-7; Exodus 13:21-22; 40:34-38).
- Provisions from God in the physical realm symbolize greater spiritual provisions (Isaiah 49:10-13; Matthew 5:6; John 4:14; 6:35; 7:37).

7:17 The Lamb will be the Shepherd leading His followers to living water (John 4:10).

- *“For the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their Shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.”*
- The “*water of life*” will replace their tears.

- Chapter 8 returns to the judgment on earth with the continuation of opening the seventh seal. After the sixth seal/trumpet/bowl there is an intermission/diversion and then the seventh seal is opened.
- The Lord Jesus Christ breaks the Seven Seals before the Angels carry out the Seven Trumpets and Bowls.

**Read Revelation 8:1-6...Preparation for the Seven Trumpets**

8:1 This silence before the storm must have been deafening (Psalm 76:8); this was not a time for creation to talk, it was time for God to act.

- This “silence before the storm” is similar to:
  - The silent marching of Joshua and Israel around the walls of Jericho before it fell with trumpets and a shout (Joshua 6:10)
  - The silence of the Midianite camp before Gideon’s men woke them with shouts and the breaking of pottery.
- Men often become quiet when coming into the presence of the Lord. (Habakkuk 2:20; Zephaniah 1:7; Zechariah 2:13)

8:2 The breaking of the seventh seal brought seven trumpets (the angels were given the trumpets after the seventh seal was opened).

- Israel used trumpets to call for gathering. For instance, trumpets were used for battles (Numbers 10:9).
  - The use of trumpets is repeated through the Old Testament (Exodus 19:16; Numbers 10:1-10; Isaiah 27:13; Jeremiah 4:5-9; Joel 2:1; Zephaniah 1:16; Zechariah 9:14)
  - The use of trumpets will declare the Lord’s Second Coming (Matthew 24:31; 1 Corinthians 15:52-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:16)
- Gabriel told Mary that he “stood before the Lord” to reflect his spiritual credibility (Luke 1:19)
- Jewish Rabbis teach that the seven angels before the Lord have the names of: Gabriel, Michael, Raphael, Raguel, Remiel, Sariel/Saraqael and Uriel. (Tobit 12:15; Jubilees 1:27,29; 2:1-2,18; I Enoch 20:1-7)

<b>Jewish Tradition for the Names of Angels Before God’s Throne</b>	
Gabriel	“God is My Strength”
Michael	“Who is like God?”
Raphael	“God has Healed”
Raguel	“Friend of God”
Remiel	“Thunder of God”
Sariel	“Prince of God”
Uriel	“God is my Light”

8:3 The Table of Incense was positioned in the Temple in front of the Ark of the Covenant (Hebrews 9:4) just as this incense was positioned before God’s Throne.

- This passage is similar to the earlier event where the elders offered the prayers of believers to the Lord (Revelation 5:8).

- Jewish Rabbis teach that Angels can be intermediaries; examples would include the law. (Acts 7:53; Galatians 3:19; Hebrews 2:2)

8:4 These prayers of the saints (Revelation 6:10) cried out for judgment on the earth; fire represents judgment as it is added to these prayers.

8:5 Fire often symbolizes judgment (Matthew 3:11-12; Luke 12:49), just as when the man in Ezekiel's vision scattered coals of fire over Jerusalem (Ezekiel 10:2).

- Judgment comes at the prayers of God's people.
- These coals would have been taken from the altar of sacrifice (Ezekiel 10:2).

8:6 These mighty angels did not take the blowing of the trumpets lightly. These powerful angels who were able to stand before God prepared themselves for their task/calling.

### **Read Revelation 8:7-11....*First Three Trumpets***

8:7 This judgment would fall as a meteor might (literally devastating nature).

- The judgment of "hail and fire" is similar to the seventh plague on Egypt (Exodus 9:24).
- Old Testament prophecies also foretold the destruction of Gog's invading army by hailstones and fire (Ezekiel 38:22).
- Symbolically, trees may represent rulers while grass represents men.
  - The "green" (living) grass might symbolize believers, so that all Christians would die from this earth – possibly due to the extensive persecution.
  - In the next chapter, the grass is saved from destruction (Revelation 9:4).
- The intensification of judgment is increasing from 1/4 (Revelation 6) to 1/3 with total annihilation with the "bowl judgments."
  - The 1/3 percentage is repeatedly mentioned in chapters 9 and 10 (Revelation 8:7-8, 9, 10, 11, 12; 9:15, 18; 12:4).

8:8 A "mountain" is typically symbolic of governments, so the religious system of the beast (Jeremiah 51:24-25) will be brought down into the sea of rebellious nations (Isaiah 57:20) resulting in much bloodshed.

- Believers can always trust in the Lord even during tribulation. *"Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth shakes, and the mountains slip into the heart of the sea."* (Psalm 46:2)
- Some link this prophecy to the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius (79AD) where over 20,000 inhabitants died in the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum.
  - The Procurator Felix would have a son with Drusilla (the daughter of King Agrippa I). Both Drusilla and her son (named "Agrippa") would die in the eruption of Vesuvius.
  - The Jewish community interpreted Vesuvius as God's judgment on Rome for the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem.
- The sea turned to blood during the first plague against Pharaoh (Exodus 7:20-21).

8:9 The ships might represent local congregations and churches; throughout Scripture, ships often represent the object of one's faith.



- This may coincide with Satan’s expulsion from heaven (Revelation 12:7-12) which begins the final 3 ½ years of the Tribulation.
- The creatures died in the first plague against Pharaoh when the sea turned to blood. (Exodus 7:21).

8:10 Stars often represent those who reflect God’s glory (Daniel 12:3), but not all stars are genuine testimonies to God (Jude 1:13).

- *“The stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind.”* (Revelation 6:13)
- A star will fall from heaven at the blowing of the fifth trumpet. *“I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key to the shaft of the abyss was given to him.”* (Revelation 9:1)

8:11 The fallen star is called “Wormwood” (Apsinthos Ἄψινθος) corresponds to idolatry (Deuteronomy 29:17-18) which is a poison that will kill (Jeremiah 9:25, 23:15; Amos 6:12)

- This fallen star is thought to be the false prophet or Satan himself.
- The fresh water represents God’s Word/message, this demonic influence poisons (wormwood – Jeremiah 9:13-15; 23:14-15) the spiritual life of many (this is opposite of the purification of water in Exodus 15:23-25).

### **Read Revelation 8:12-13....*Fourth Trumpet***

8:12 These natural events will literally occur (Matthew 24:29; Isaiah 50:3; Ezekiel 2).

- Throughout the Old Testament, darkness has represented God’s judgment on sin (Exodus 10:21; Isaiah 13:10; 34:4; 50:3; Ezekiel 32:7-8; Joel 2:2, 10, 31; 3:15; Amos 5:18; Mark 13:24)

8:13 The eagle is symbolic of swift judgment (Deuteronomy 28:49; Jeremiah 4:12-13; Hosea 8:1)

- The eagle was associated with judgment (Job 39:27-30; Ezekiel 39:17; Habakkuk 1:8)
- A similar term for “vultures” in the New Testament is also connected to God’s judgment (Matthew 24:38; Luke 17:37)
- Symbolically, a third of the moon (corporate worship) and of the stars (individual testimony) will also be darkened.
- The sun (represents Jesus) because His believers reflect Him (Matthew 25:40).
- Just as holiness emphasizes God’s nature (Isaiah 6:3), the statement of three “woes” represents the judgments of the remaining three trumpet blasts. (Revelation 9:12; 11:14; 12:12) which destroy the unbelieving inhabitants of the earth. (Revelation 3:10; 6:10; 11:10; 12:2; 13:8)

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### **Read Revelation 9:1-6....*Fifth Trumpet***

9:1 The great star which had fallen (Revelation 8:10) was given the key to the shaft of the abyss; no one has power without being given it by God (Romans 13:1). Jesus has power of the keys of death and of Hades. (Revelation 1:18)

- This abyss is where Satan will be held in the millennium (Revelation 20:3), and another angel with the “key of the abyss” will incarcerate Satan there.
- Satan (Revelation 9:11) fell from heaven (Isaiah 14:12; Ezekiel 28:16; Luke 10:18; Revelation 12:9)
- A “key “ (kleis κλεῖς) represents a right and authority to access. (Revelation 1:18; 20:1)
- The “abyss” (abyssou ἀβύσσου) means “depth” and refers to Tartarus (2 Peter 2:4).
  - The “abyss” is used to describe multiple places:
    - In the Septuagint for “deep waters.” (Genesis 1:2; 7:11)
    - For Hades/Sheol/Grave (Romans 10:7)
    - Confinement for Demons (Luke 8:31; Revelation 11:7; 20:3)

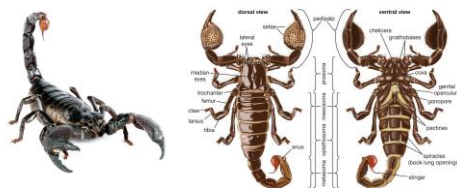
9:2 This smoke is thought to be many evil demons that are currently being held temporarily (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6)

9:3 Locusts are called “the incarnation of hunger” (Joel 1:4) and were used in God’s judgment (Exodus 10:12-15; Joel 2:1).

- The locusts did not power outside of it being given to them.
- These locusts are compared to scorpions and probably had demonic power.

9:4 Just as the demonic locusts were given power (Revelation 9:3), they are limited in the use of their power to torture unbelievers (Revelation 9:5; 7:4). The locusts could not harm agriculture nor believers.

- Believers (sealed by God) will not endure the pain of these evil spirits (Luke 10:19).
  - Scorpions inflict pain on mankind beyond the agricultural devastation of the locusts; “spiritual scorpions” are a part of persecution. (Ezekiel 2:6)
- The plague of locusts on Egypt devastated the crops (Exodus 10:15).
  - In the last chapter, all of the green grass is burned up (Revelation 8:7).
  - The locusts attacked unbelievers instead of plants by inflicting the pains comparable to a scorpion (Deuteronomy 8:15).
  - Rehoboam threatened to torture Israel with scorpions while ascending Solomon’s reign. (1 Kings 12:11; 2 Chronicles 10:11)



9:5 This fifth trumpet torment that lasts five months emphasizes the five which is a Biblical symbol of Grace/Judgment and of Responsibility.

- The number “five” in Scripture is often symbolic of judgment and mercy.
  - The typical lifespan of a typical locust is several months.
  - The five months may be a limit to the judgment; God repeatedly limits the judgment (Revelation 6:6, 8; 8:7-12)

- The reference of a scorpion speaks of pain and an assault on mankind instead of agriculture. (2 Chronicles 10:11, 14)

9:6 The judgment will be so egregious that death is preferred to the torment; this occurs several times (Revelation 6:15-16).

### **Read Revelation 9:7-12....*Spiritual Symbolism of Locusts***

9:7 The physical characteristics of the locusts is a reference to Joel 2:4-9.

9:8 The comparison between locusts and “lion’s teeth” is found in Joel 1:6.

- The reference of the locust to a lady’s hair may come from a famous Arabian proverb that says, "locusts have a head like a horse, a breast like a lion, feet like a camel, a body like a serpent, and antennae like the hair of a maiden."

9:9 These demon locusts are fearless warriors (horses) with glorious authority/power (gold crowns) that represent men (men’s faces) and submissive covering (women’s hair) to Satan.

- Their appetites will be vicious (teeth) with iron defenses that seem unassailable and speed (wings) for attack.

9:10 These scorpion stingers represent false religious leaders who will distort the Word of God (Isaiah 9:15)

9:11 The king of these evil minions is Satan who assaults the entire world – both Hebrew (Israel) and Greek (Gentiles).

- Abaddon (Hebrew meaning “Ruin/Destruction”) is mentioned six times in the Old Testament (Job 26:6, 28:22, 31:12; Psalm 88:11; Proverbs 15:11, 27:20).
- Apollyon is Greek meaning “Destroyer.”
- “*The locusts have no king.*” (Proverbs 30:27) These were not actual locusts, but instead the locust is a symbol of these attacking demons under the King Abaddon/Apollon.

9:12 After the horror of the locusts, it is stated that only one of the three devastations has occurred.

### **Read Revelation 9:13-21....*Sixth Trumpet***

9:13 In the Tabernacle, the altar of incense is described with horns (Exodus 30:2, 3, 10) as did the altar of sacrifice (Revelation 6:9-11). Horns were symbolic of power, and individuals would cling to the horns for protection (believing that they would not be killed in the Temple). (1 Kings 1:50)

9:14 Four angels are even now held waiting in the Euphrates. The Euphrates was the river running through Babylon, and since Babylon represents “false religion,” this water (Euphrates) might symbolize false doctrine.

- The concept of “bound angels” suggests that these are fallen angels. These angels perform wicked, destructive tasks, but they fulfill God’s purpose of judgment (Job 1:8; 2:3; 1 Kings 22:22; Judges 9:23; Matthew 18:7)
- These angels may also be connected to the four horsemen of the apocalypse (Revelation 6:2-8; 7:1)

- The Euphrates River was set as the desired property boundary of Israel in the Old Testament (Genesis 15:18; Deuteronomy 1:7; 11:24; Joshua 1:4)
- In John’s day, this may have alluded to the Parthians who lived on the edge of the Euphrates. The Romans feared the Parthian cavalry with long hair who were known for being superior horseback archers.

9:15 These angels have been prepared for a specific day and hour; God has an explicit time and plan (Isaiah 63:4; Hebrews 4:7; Esther 4:14).

9:16 The military force against God and His people is massive equaling 200 million troops.

9:17 John describes his vision which may be an emphasis that the details are symbolic in nature.

<b>The Riders of Judgment</b>		
<b>Riders</b>	<b>Breastplates</b>	<b>Judgment</b>
Fire	Red	Fire
Hyacinth	Blue	Smoke
Brimstone	Yellow	Sulfur

9:18 A third of mankind will be destroyed by these demonic horses and their riders.

9:19 The wreckage is a result of the words and message being conveyed. Fire and smoke are coming from their mouths on one end while the serpent at the tail (Isaiah 9:15) could be killing through deception as from the beginning in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1-4)

9:20 Although there was judgment, the purpose of the ordeals was redemptive in God’s desire to turn mankind to Him. (Revelation 16:10)

- There is an ongoing call to repent. (Revelation 2:5, 16, 21-22; 3:3, 19; 9:20-21; 16:9, 11)

9:21 The judgment of God simply angered the rebellious sinners who clung to their addictive sinful lifestyles.

<b>Devastated People Continue in Their Sin (Revelation 9:20-21)</b>	
1	Worshipping Demons
2	Worshipping Idols
3	Murder
4	Sorcery
5	Sexual Immorality
6	Theft

19 Revelation 10

The Interlude of the Trumpets begins and will consist of Seven visions by John. Each vision is designated by the opening words, “and I saw.” (Revelation 10:1, 5; 13:1, 2, 3, 11; 14:6)

**Read Revelation 10:1-4.... Jesus as King (the Beginning of the Interlude)**

<b>Jesus Functioning in Each Capacity</b>	
Rev 7:2	Prophet
Rev 8:5	Priest
Rev 10:1	King

10:1 Once again, Jesus is portrayed encircled by the rainbow (Revelation 4:3) as He descends in the clouds (Acts 1:9-11)

- There are several “mighty angels” (Revelation 5:2; 18:21). This verse emphasizes “another” (allon ἄλλον) mighty angel.
  - Those who do not believe that this is Jesus believe that the term “heteros” (ἕτερος) would have been used meaning “another of a different kind.”
  - “Allon” means another of the same kind.
- In Jewish thought and throughout the Old Testament, clouds were associated with the transportation of deity. (Psalm 97:2; 104:3; Daniel 7:13; Acts 1:9)
- The rainbow was given by God to symbolize His covenant not to destroy people, and it encircles the head of Christ. (Revelation 4:3; Ezekiel 1:28) God views sinful mankind through His Son.
  - The rainbow was given as a divinely approving response to Noah’s sacrifice (Genesis 8:20-22). Christ is the believer’s sacrifice (Rev 10:1).
- Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12) and as bright as the sun. (Revelation 1:16; 22:5)
- As described in Revelation 1:15, the (pierced) feet of Jesus (foundations) are solid/firm (brass – Revelation 19:15) unlike this world’s foundation (Daniel 2:41-42).
- This begins John’s lengthiest vision because the next time that the phrase “I saw” occurs is in Revelation 13:1. This is also the longest interlude between judgments.

10:2 Israel is often symbolized as the “Land” while the Gentiles are often symbolized by the Sea → the Lord Jesus has dominion over both.

- This may be the scroll that God the Father handed to the Lamb in the Throne Room. (Revelation 5:1, 7)
- This scroll may be similar to the scroll consumed by Ezekiel (Ezekiel 2:8-3:14).

10:3 There is power in the Lord’s voice with the sound of the seven (complete) thunders (Joel 3:16; Exodus 19:19; 2 Samuel 22:14; Job 37:2-5, 40:9; Psalm 18:13).

- The Lord is described as a lion (Revelation 5:5); repeatedly in the Old Testament, God roars (mykatai μυκᾶται) like a lion (Jeremiah 25:30; Hosea 11:10; Joel 3:16; Amos 3:8)

10:4 Whereas seven seals would be opened (Revelation 6 & 5:1), the message of the seven thunders would be sealed (this is the reverse of Revelation 22:20).

- Except for this verse, John is encouraged repeatedly to write what he witnesses (Revelation 1:11, 19; 14:13; 19:9; 21:5).
- Several times in Scripture, God directed the writer not to document what he saw/heard.
  - Daniel (Daniel 8:26; 12:4,9)
  - Paul (2 Corinthians 12:4)
- The voice from heaven directed John not to write what the peals of thunder said.
  - God is not sharing everything; many events will be a surprise

- God may have believed that He had recorded enough warnings in His Word.
- God may not have wanted man to misconstrue what was said.
- The seven peals of thunder (Psalm 29:3) may equate to the seven trumpets/bowls.

### **Read Revelation 10:5-7.... The Declaration That Judgment Is Imminent**

10:5 Throughout Scripture, an individual would raise his right hand to take an oath (Genesis 14:22; Exodus 6:8; Numbers 14:30; Deuteronomy 32:40; Ezekiel 20:15, 28; Daniel 12:7)

10:6 An absolute is sworn that there will be no more delay (chronos χρόνος).

- The vow is made by the ever living (Yahweh) Creator (Elohim). (Revelation 4:9-11)
- It is vanity to swear by anything other than God because all else changes and is without control (Hebrews 6:13); however, Scripture encourages humans not to swear. (James 5:12)

10:7 The “mystery” (mystērion μυστήριον) generally refers to the plan of God.

- The reader has the opportunity to read God’s “hidden plan” in Scripture even now.
  - The mystery of the Revelation is mentioned repeatedly (Revelation 1:20; 17:5, 7) while Paul uses “mystery” to refer to the unified church between Jews and Gentiles (Ephesians 2:11-3:13).
- The seventh trumpet has not blown as there is an interlude in chapter 10-11.

### **Read Revelation 10:8-11....Digesting God’s Word**

10:8 It seems that this “little book” references back to the title deed of the earth (Revelation 5:1), but it would equate to the Old Testament requirements.

- The “voice” of the Lord speaks multiple times (Revelation 1:10, 12, 15; 3:20; 10:4, 8; 11:1; 14:2, 13)

10:9 John had to be willing to take these words, and on the surface (at first taste), they were pleasing to him.

10:10 When John began to “digest” the realities of the truths that he had ingested, they caused him unsettling (Ezekiel 2:8-3:4; Jeremiah 15:16, Psalm 119:103; Hebrews 6:5).

- God’s Word is easy to read/study....but difficult/convicting to apply

10:11 These prophecies were not the sweet prophecies of a saving Messiah, but judgments on the people of this earth.

- This worldwide scope and scale are used multiple times in Revelation for unbelievers (Revelation 11:9; 13:7-8; 14:6; 17:15).
- This also applies to believers before Judgment Day (Revelation 7:9; 15:4) and after Judgment Day (Revelation. 21:24, 26; 22:2).

## 20 Revelation 11

### **Read Revelation 11:1-6....*The Two Witnesses***

11:1 A reed symbolizes weakness (Mt 11:7, 27:29), but in weakness, God’s power is revealed.

- Just as John was given the scroll to consume (Revelation 10:8-11), he is now given a reed to measure the Temple. (Ezekiel 40:5-20) John has become involved in the happenings instead of a simple bystander.
- The measuring typically relates to God judging man against His standards.
- Scholars characterize the stiff marsh reeds from 8' to 20' long. The reed used in Ezekiel (40:3) was approximately 9' long.
- This Temple may be an allusion to Ezekiel's end-time temple (Ezekiel chapters 40-48) or Zechariah's new Jerusalem (Zechariah 1:16; 2:1-13)
- John is told to measure the worshippers as well as the Temple and altar.
  - God has identified a clear boundary of the people of faith from the unbelievers that will experience His divine wrath.

11:2 The Jewish calendar was lunar (versus solar) with the standard year being 360 days per year (3 ½ years would equal the 1,260 days mentioned here.

- The location of Islam's Dome of the Rock is thought to be currently located on the site of the Jewish Temple; however, some believe that the Temple might actually be 25 meters north of the "Dome of the Rock" which would leave the dome of the rock in the courtyard which is excluded from Temple grounds.
- When considering Herod's Temple, the outer court is the Court of the Gentiles where Jesus describes a period where Jerusalem is trampled by the Gentiles. (Luke 21:24)



- The outer court would not be included in the measurement. (Psalms 79:1-7; Isaiah 63:18; Daniel 8:13; Zechariah 12:3)
  - Daniel used this same prophecy "locally" for Antiochus Epiphanes (Daniel 8:13)
  - Jesus used this same prophecy "locally" for Vespasian and Titus (Luke 21:24)

11:3 The two witnesses are not defined by name, but they are defined as God's witnesses ("my witnesses). What they do is more important than who they are.

- The witnesses seem to be Moses and Elijah; however, instead of Elijah, the witness may be John the Baptist clothed in sackcloth (Matthew 3:4)
  - Sackcloth was the common attire of the prophets (2 Kings 1:8; Isaiah 20:2; Zechariah 13:4) and of mourning (Genesis 37:34; 2 Samuel 3:31).
  - Sackcloth is a coarsely woven and uncomfortable garment usually made of black goat's hair that is worn while mourning.
- A witness (martyr μάρτυρ) is someone who gives a testimony of what they saw/heard.
  - These two men are witnesses (as in the Judicial System – Deuteronomy 17:6) to the world being worthy of judgment. They verbally justify the judgment of tribulations.

- The 1,260 days represent half of the tribulation
  - The Jewish calendar was lunar (versus solar) with the standard year being 360 days per year (3 ½ years would equal the 1,260 days mentioned here.
  - These 42 months represent the last half of the Tribulation period which is called the “Great Tribulation;”
  - the time frame of this period is mentioned six times in the Bible (Daniel 7:25; 12:7, 11; Revelation 11:3; 12:6, 14).
  - The ministry of Jesus on this earth was approximately that same length of time (Luke 13:7).

<b>A Period of Persecution</b>		
Time, Times & Half a Time	Daniel 7:25; 12:7, 14; Revelation 12:14	
1,150 Days	Daniel 8:14	110 Days (3½ months) Less Than 1,260
1,290 Days	Daniel 12:11	30 Days (1 month) More Than 1,260
1,325 Days	Daniel 12:12	65 Days (2 months) More Than 1,260
1,260 Days	Revelation 11:3; 12:6	3½ years of Lunar 360-day year
42 Months	Revelation 11:2; 13:5	3½ years of 12-month year

11:4 These two (witness) trees (men) are channels of the Holy Spirit (Olive Oil) as defined in the Old Testament (Zechariah 4:1-3, 11-14).

- At least two witnesses are required to testify to a truth (Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15; Numbers 35:30)
- Jesus sent out witnesses two by two (Luke 10:1)
- Satan also has two opposing witnesses (the antichrist and false prophet – Revelation 13). The antichrist is the first beast from the sea while the false prophet is the second beast from the Earth.

11:5 In the Old Testament, fire was used by Elijah to punish the aggressors (2 Kings 1:10-14), but God’s very Word is fire that consumes dross (Jeremiah 5:14).

- The message of the prophets will slay false teachers as the double-edged sword. (Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12; Revelation 1:16; 19:15)

11:6 In the Old Testament, Elijah stopped rain (blessing) for 3 ½ years (James 5:17; Luke 4:25) while Moses turned the water to blood (Exodus 7:20) as the Source of living water



(Jesus) paid for our sin with His blood.

## Two Witnesses (Rev 11 – Jer 11:16)

### ELIJAH

"Behold, **I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD**. He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse." (Mal 4:5,6).

"These have **the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall** during the days of their prophesying; and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire." (Rev 3:6)  
*Compare to James 5:17-18*

"And if anyone wants to harm them, **fire flows out of their mouth and devours their enemies**; so if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way." (Rev 3:5)  
*Compare to 2 Kings 1:9-12*

### MOSES

"These have the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall during the days of their prophesying; and they have **power over the waters to turn them into blood**, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire" (Rev 11:6).  
*Compare to Exodus 7:20.*

Elijah and Moses joined Jesus at the **Mount of Transfiguration**. "And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him" (Mt 17:3; Mk 9:4).

**Moses may need his natural body** as a witness in the Tribulation. "So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. And He buried him in the valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor; but no man knows his burial place to this day." (Dt 34:5-6) "But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" (Jude 1:9)

*\* Enoch lived prior to the flood, so he is not a Jew and could not be one of the two olive trees.*

### Read Revelation 11:7-14....*Death of the Two Witnesses*

11:7 Although safe while they were to give testimony, as they conclude their witness, they are killed.

- This is the first mention of the Beast who is then mentioned 36 (6x6) times. (Revelation 13:1-18; 17:8-13)
  - This is a reference to the "Little Horn" (Daniel 7:8)
  - He will be the Antichrist and incarnation of Satan. (2 Thessalonians 2:3)
- The two witnesses will not be spared from persecution and martyrdom.
  - The Greek term for "them" (αὐτοῦς) might mean a broader persecution than just the two witnesses
- The "abyss" (αβύσσου) means "depth" and refers to Tartarus (2 Peter 2:4).
  - The "abyss" is used to describe multiple places:
    - In the Septuagint for "deep waters." (Genesis 1:2; 7:11)
    - For Hades/Sheol/Grave (Romans 10:7)
    - Confinement for Demons (Luke 8:31; Revelation 9:1; 20:3)

11:8 This city is Jerusalem (Isaiah 1:9-10) where Jesus was crucified. The "great city" is spiritually compared to Sodom (immorality) and Egypt (bondage).

- In John's Day, the "great city" was Rome (Revelation 16:19; 17:18; 18:10, 16, 18, 19)
- The actual Greek is singular ("body") with the phrase "the body of them" (τα πτώμα αὐτοῦ) as the two were unified in ministry and death.

- 11:9 The dead corpses were not allowed to be entombed as they were meant to be a symbol to the world (the peoples, tribes, languages, and nations) of the power of the Antichrist; however, the resurrection would declare the power of God.
- 11:10 The message of the Lord's two witnesses tormented the earth (possibly with plagues), so the wicked celebrated the death of the two holy witnesses. (John 16:20)
- The giving of gifts might be a perversion of Purim (Esther 9:12, 22).
- 11:11 Jesus was resurrected after three days (Matthew 27:63), but this time also seems to symbolize these last 3 ½ years of Tribulation – in both instances, it is a representation of God's power over death.
- 11:13 God seems to take a tithe for Himself (Leviticus 27:30), and as 7,000 (seven meaning complete fullness) people were reserved for Him with Elijah (1 Kings 19:18), the same number are killed. It has been stated that while these remaining people praise the God of "heaven," they do not relinquish to Him as the God of "earth."
- 11:14 God continues to describe in detail His plan, and the third woe will come promptly.

### **Read Revelation 11:15-19.... The Seventh Trumpet**

- 11:15 All of the kingdoms of this earth now are concentrated to the one kingdom of the Lord.
- It is custom to stand for verse 15 when it is played during Handel's Messiah.
    - This has been the custom since King George II stood during a performance of George Frederick Handel's "Hallelujah chorus" on March 23, 1743. However, King George II never gave a reason for standing.
  - Through the Book of Revelation (and the Book of Daniel) there has been a wicked world system that is rebelling against the Living Creator God.
  - That one world kingdom that opposed the Living God has come under the Lord's reign (1 Corinthians 15:24-28)
  - Beyond the millennium, the Lord will reign forever in His eternal kingdom. (Isaiah 9:6-7; Daniel 2:44; 7:14, 27; 12:2; Luke 1:33; 2 Peter 1:11; Revelation 22:5).
- 11:16 The 24 elders are esteemed on their thrones because they humble themselves before the Lord Jesus.
- 11:17 The future is now (Revelation 16:5), so the God "who was and is" reigns in great power; the phrase "*and is to come*" is eliminated because the future became the present. (Revelation 1:8)
- 11:18 Mankind destroys/corrupts ourselves as well as the earth through our rebellion. (Psalm 2)
- The Lord will reward the prophets and those saints who worship Him. (Daniel 2:41-45)
  - Unbelievers are characterized as destroying the earth.
    - Individuals destroy the earth more rapidly through sin than any negligent environmental activity. (Romans 8:18-22)
    - Those who destroy God creation - themselves, others and the world – by their sin, will be judged. (Matthew 25:31-46)

- Through Revelation, the intensity of God’s judgment increases over time from the seals which destroy ¼ - to the trumpets which destroy 1/3 – to the bowls which bring total physical destruction of the earth.

<b>Sin Brings Devastation To The Earth</b>	
The Flood	Genesis 6-9
Egypt’s Plagues	Exodus 7-12
Covenant Curses	Deuteronomy 27-28
Destruction of Earth by Fire	2 Peter 3:10

- The triumphant return of the Lord is mentioned at the conclusion of each judgment cycle: Seals (Revelation 6:12-17); Trumpets (Revelation 11:15-18); Bowls (Revelation 19:1-21).
- Beyond being a disciple or even an apostle, John considers himself to be a prophet. (Revelation 10:7; 11:10,18; 16:6; 18:20, 24; 22:6, 9)

11:19 God continues to open the “doors” (Revelation 4:1) to show the innermost workings of the Temple. (Hebrews 9:21-28)

- Any symbols of separation are removed as God’s people enter the presence of God.
- The power of His sanctuary being the ark - with the power of the ark being the covenant - with the power of the covenant being God Himself.
- This ark represents earthly blessing of God on His people followed by heavenly blessings.
- These symbols of judgment (lightning, thunder, earthquakes, hailstorms) are not considered judgment in heaven, but are the natural phenomenon of the power of God.

<b>Opening of Heaven in Revelation</b>	
Revelation 4:1	Rapture of the Church
Revelation 11:19	Persecution of Israel’s Saints
Revelation 19:11	Jesus Return

## 21 Revelation 12

### **Read Revelation 12:1-2.... The Woman Symbolizing Israel**

12:1 This woman represents Israel (Genesis 37:9) while the sun represents being clothed with Jesus and reflected by the Gentile church (moon).

- John repeatedly used the term “sign” (semeion σημεῖον) throughout the gospel of John. (John 2:11,23; 3:2; 4:54; 6:2, 14, 30; 7:31; 9:16; 10:41; 11:47; 12:18, 37; 20:30)
- This verse (Revelation 12:1) begins the “seven signs” of Revelation:
  - Three Signs in Heaven (Revelation 12:1,3; 15:1)
  - Four Signs on Earth (Revelation 13:13, 14; 16:14; 19:20)
- The woman has a crown of “twelve stars” which could reference the 12 Tribes of Israel (Genesis 37:9) or the 12 Apostles of Christ that took the gospel to the world.

12:2 Israel is personified as a woman who would give birth to the Messiah (Matthew 24:8; Isaiah 54:5, 66:7; Jeremiah 30:4-7; Micah 4:8-10, 5:2-3) and who would destroy the serpent (Genesis 3:14-16; Isaiah 26:17-19).

- This woman is in contrast to the wicked woman recorded later (Revelation 17:4).

**Read Revelation 12:3-4...Introduction of the Unholy Trinity: Satan**

<p><b>The “Unholy Trinity”</b>  <b>“6, 6, 6” &amp; the Three “Woes”</b>  <b>(Revelation 8:13)</b></p>
<p>Satan  The Anti-Christ  The False Prophet</p>

12:3 The ten horns represent the worldly confederation of nations (Daniel 7:24) that will share power at the end times

- The dragon is identified as the devil, Satan and the deceiver of the world. (Revelation 12:9).
- The number seven represents complete as this dragon will have complete authority and control.
- The number ten represents “organization and government” while the symbol of “horns” represents power, so the dragon will have complete organizational power and control.
  - The ten horns represent the worldly confederation of nations (Dan 7:24) that will share power at the end times with a six strata organization (kings, consuls/ambassadors, dictators, decemvirs (jury of 10 Roman magistrates), military tribunes, and emperors) culminating with the lead of Satan himself (making fully (seven) evil world domination).
  - In the Bible, Israel had six oppressive nations (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome), so the seventh may also be the government to come at the end times. (Revelation 13:1)
- Historic and spiritual references to “dragons” are repeated throughout Scripture with Rahab (Psalm 89:10; Isaiah 51:9-10) and the Leviathan (Psalm 74:13-14; 104:26; Job 3:8; 7:12; 41:1; Isaiah 27:1; Amos 9:3)
- In Revelation, Satan is compared to a dragon thirteen (“rebellion”) times.

<b>“10 Horns, 7 Heads”</b>	
Great Red Dragon	Revelation 12:3
The Beast out of the Sea	Revelation 13:1
A Scarlet Beast	Revelation 17:3

12:4 An interpretation may be the original expulsion of Satan (the dragon) from heaven with a third of the angels. (Daniel 8:10; 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 1:6)

- Although Satan (at one time) had access to God in heaven (Job 1-2; Zechariah 3; Ezekiel 28:12-18), Scripture is clear that Satan was cast from heaven (Isaiah 14:12; Ezekiel 28:16; Luke 10:18; John 12:31; Revelation 12:9,12)
- The Bible calls false prophets the tail (Isaiah 9:15) and being wielded by Satan could deceive (John 8:44) and cause many to persecute the individual witnesses (Dan 12:3).
  - Another interpretation of “stars” as believers (Genesis 15:5; Jeremiah 33:22; Daniel 12:3) would mean that hurling the stars/witnesses to the earth would equate to killing them (i.e., the persecution of believers).

- As Israel (God’s people; the bride of Christ) prepared for the coming Messiah, Satan attempted to cut off the Messianic line and kill the Messiah.
  - Esau’s hatred for Jacob (Genesis 27:41)
  - Pharaoh’s murder of the male babies (Exodus 1:16)
  - Herod’s murder of the children (Matthew 2:16)

**Read Revelation 12:5-6.... The Woman Gives Birth to Her Son & Flees**

12:5 Although Satan attempted to cut off the Messianic lineage and the Messiah, Jesus would die victorious and ascend to heaven.

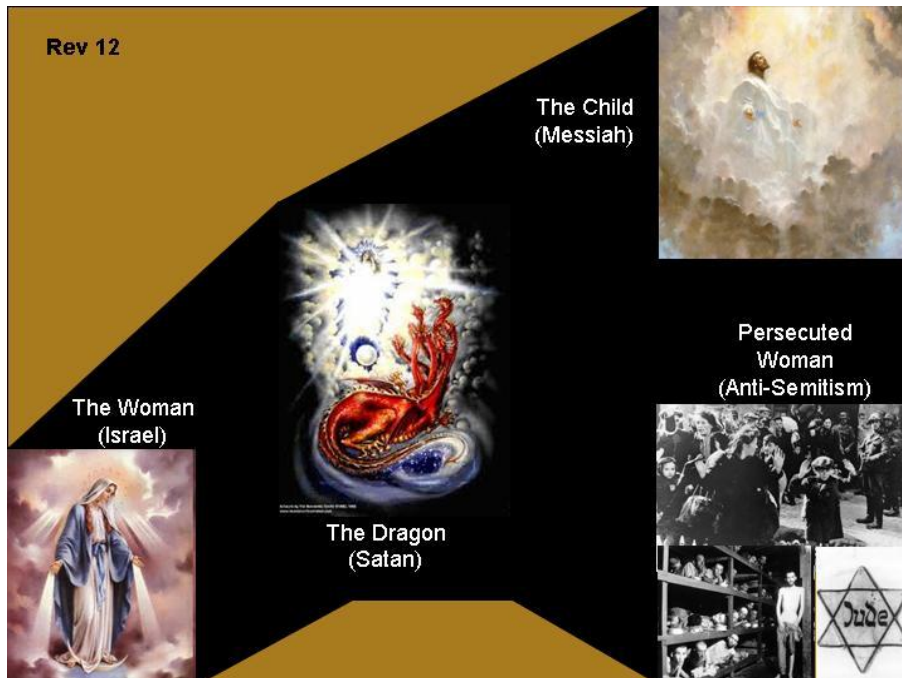
- This follows the story line of Mary’s flight to Egypt after giving birth to the King of the Jews (Jesus). (Matthew 2)
- This provision in the wilderness can also be seen at the exile from Egypt when Israel fled to the desert and God provided protection and met every need. (Deuteronomy 29:5; Psalm 78:24-25; Nehemiah 9:15)

<b>Examples of God’s Provision in the Wilderness</b>	
Elijah by the brook Cherith	1 Kings 17:1-7
Elijah's flight into the Sinai peninsula	1 Kings 19:1-14
The seven thousand faithful	1 Kings 19:18
Those who fled the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70	Matthew 24:15-20; Mark 13:12-18

- The Lord Jesus (King of Kings – Zechariah 14:9; 1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 17:14; 19:16) would rule the world with the strength of a rod of iron (Psalm 2:9).
  - The believers (overcomers) will rule with the Lord with “a rod of iron” as seen in the letter to Thyatira (Revelation 2:26-27).

12:6 The flight of the woman to the wilderness may represent Israel’s diaspora to the nations over the past several millennia, but in that case the 1260 days would also be symbolic.

- The 1,260 days do match the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation, and Israel will be in flight during this time as well.
- When Titus destroyed Jerusalem in 70 A.D, many of the Christians had fled to a place on Mt Seir called Petra (in Hebrew, the name is “Bazra”), and this is thought to be the location of Jewish shelter during the Tribulation.



### Read Revelation 12:7-12....Satan is Defeated in Heaven & Discarded to Earth

12:7 Michael (meaning “who is as God”) and his angels fought Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19) also named Satan (“adversary”) and the Devil (“accuser”).

- Michael had angels under his command who waged “war” (polemos πόλεμος) on “the dragon” who was joined by the angels under his command. (Luke 10:18; John 12:31)
- It seems that Michael and his angels initially attacked Satan; then Satan and his angels (2 Peter 2:4) counter-attacked.
- Believers were told that they would hear rumors of wars concerning the end times (Matthew 24:6; Mark 13:7; Luke 21:9); however, the actual war occurs in the spiritual realm. (Ephesians 6:12)
- As the meaning of Michael’s name implies, Satan did not fight with God who could defeat him easily.
  - Satan fought the archangel (Jude 1:9) Michael (Daniel 10:13) who was the guardian over Israel (Daniel 12:1).
  - There is no dualism in creation as God uniquely exists alone in domination.

12:8 Satan was only allowed in heaven for a time according to God’s purpose. As with all of creation, Satan is limited to the confines of where God allows him to be. (John 14:3)

- Believers should command their bodies and lives in the same way; ungodly things have “no room” in a believer’s mind or schedule. (Philippians 4:8)
- Just as the world did not welcome Jesus at His incarnation (Luke 2:7), there was “no room” for Satan in heaven. (Revelation 20:11)

12:9 The evil one is referenced by four different names: 1. The great dragon 2. The serpent of old 3. The devil 4, Satan (2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 Peter 5:8).

Scriptural References to the Evil One	
Satan	Repeated 33 times

Devil	Repeated 32 times
Tempter	Matthew 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 3:5
The Evil One	Matthew 6:13; 13:19; 1 John 5:18
The Enemy	Matthew 13:39
Prince of Demons	Matthew 9:34; 12:24
Ruler of this world	John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11
Prince of the Power of the Air	Ephesians 2:2
The god of this world	2 Corinthians 4:4
Belial	2 Corinthians 6:15
Beelzebub	Mark 3:22; Luke 11:15,18-19
Dragon	Revelation 12:3,4,7,9; 20:2
Serpent	Revelation 12:9,15; 20:2
Accuser	Revelation 12:10,15
Adversary	1 Peter 5:8
A Roaring Lion	1 Peter 5:8

- The Greek term “hurled down” (eblēthē ἐβλήθη) is used repeatedly in Revelation (8:7-8; 12:9-10, 13) and is the same action used to cast the wicked into hell (Revelation 20:10, 15). Jesus uses this same term to describe the judgment of those who do not remain in Him. (John 15:6).

12:10 The believers in heaven (Revelation 6:9-11) announce that salvation (sōtēria σωτηρία) has culminated through the authority of God’s Messiah (Christ). (Revelation 11:15)

- The Accuser’s charges and accusations against mankind are ongoing (Romans 8:34), and the accusations are true that man is fallen and sinful. (Job 1:9-11; Zechariah 3:1-3; 1 Chronicles 21:1)

12:11 The only way to defeat Satan’s accusations is by Christ’s blood (1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7; Revelation 1:5; 7:14) and believers must testify to this truth (Romans 10:9).

- The two elements of God’s grace and faith are intertwined for believers. (Revelation 12:17; 14:12)
- Jesus is the true Christian’s Lord – even above the Christian’s own life. Protestant: “Pro” (For) and “Testify” (Witnessing)
- As heaven is timeless, it is interesting that Jesus has already seen this event occur (Luke 10:18; Isaiah 14:12)

12:12 Satan, like so many people, understand that existence in this world is short, so instead of humbly submitting to the One who holds eternity, Satan terrorizes.

- God tells those in heaven to rejoice (Psalms 96:11; Isaiah 49:13) because the Devil has been thrown out; however, the Devil will bring great sorrow to the earth.
  - God told Israel to rejoice at the fall of Babylon (Revelation 18:20)
  - The Book of Psalms only records God laughing when judgment occurs. (Psalm 2:4; 37:13; 59:8)
- The Greek term for “short time” (oligon kairon - ὀλίγον καιρὸν) has been from Christ’s first incarnation to the present.

**Read Revelation 12:13-17....The Dragon Attacks the Children of the Woman**

12:13 The Great Tribulation is called the “Time of Jacob’s Trouble.”

- The child is the reference point and the reason that the dragon persecuted the woman.

12:14 It is certain that the flight of Israel from persecution during these last 3 ½ years will be speedy; however, it may be conjecture to think that this might be an airlift from Israel to Petra via a U.S. plane.

- The Bald Eagle is the national bird of the United States of America.
- The Greek term for “time” (kairou καιροῦ) means a “year,” so “times” (kairous καιρῶς) means two years while “half” (hēmisy ἥμισυ) means half a year.

12:15 This torrent of water from Satan could be literal or symbolically Satan could spew propaganda against the Jews. (Psalms 18:4; 124:4-5)

12:16 The earth could be literal (Numbers 16:31-32) or symbolically, the earth may mean believers as the sea references non-believers (Isaiah 57:20)

12:17 Christians (Israel’s offspring) are here defined as those with whom have surrendered the lordship of their lives and accepted the gospel of Jesus Christ the Messiah.

- When Satan is thrown out of heaven, Satan pursued the woman, and then he pursued the woman’s children (Israel – Believers).
- Christians could be considered Israel’s offspring (from Jew to Gentile).
- The woman’s children are defined as those who have surrendered the lordship of their lives and accepted the gospel of Jesus Christ the Messiah.

<b>Satan Hates &amp; Tries to Hurt...</b>		
The Child	Jesus Christ	Revelation 12:4
The Mother	Israel/Jews	Revelation 12:13
The Woman’s Children	The Church	Revelation 12:17



## Israel's State in the Area of Palestine

There was no Arab state or nation called "Palestine" in the Middle East in 1948. The word "Palestine" was derived from "Plesheth", referring to Israel's Biblical enemy "Philistine". Plesheth, (root palash) was a general term meaning rolling or migratory. This term was used to spite Israel after their expulsion by Rome in the first century A.D.

For four hundred years until World War I, the Middle East was ruled by the Turks (Ottoman Empire 1553-1922). European powers created many mid-eastern areas (e.g. Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Iraq) just like Israel. The Jews have lived continuously in Palestine for 3,500 years, so Israel has just as much right to exist in the Middle East as any other country.

The Palestine Mandate was an area of the Turkish Empire that was British controlled. The British pledged to make a home for the Jews in the Palestine Mandate, but in 1922 Winston Churchill gave 80% of the Palestine land to the Arabs. In modern times, this is the state of Jordan which consists mainly of Palestinian Arabs. Jordan should be the Palestinian state that Arabs demand, but they are more focused on eliminating Israel than on developing a Palestinian state. During World War II, the Arabs supported Hitler (Hajj Amin al-Husseini, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem).

In 1948, the United Nations divided the 20% that was remaining (of the original Palestine Mandate) equally between the Arabs and the Jews. The Arabs ended up with 90% of the Mandate lands. Of the land given to Israel, 60% of Israel's land was arid desert, but Israel began development while the billions from the United Nations to the Palestinians for economic development was dishonestly siphoned by leaders into Swiss Bank accounts with the remainder being spent on ethnic propaganda/hatred and terrorism.

The Jews now have 1/6 of 1% (.0016) of Arab land, but the Arabs want Israel eradicated. There were no Arabs in Palestine until the Muslim invasions of the 7th century. On the day that Israel was created in 1948, the armies of the five Arab states (in the first paragraph above) attacked Israel (as they did again in 1967 & 1973). During the 1948 war against Israel, 850,000 Jews were forced to flee Arab countries where they had lived for millennia, but Israel resettled these Jewish refugees, and the media is silent.

**Read Revelation 13:1-7....The (First) Beast from the Sea**

- The second member of the Unholy Trinity: The Beast of the Sea (The Antichrist)

<b>The “Unholy Trinity”</b> <b>“6, 6, 6” &amp; the Three “Woes” (Revelation 8:13)</b>	
<b>The Holy Trinity</b>	<b>The Unholy Trinity</b>
God the Father	Satan
God the Son/Jesus	Beast from Sea / The Antichrist (Revelation 13:6)
God the Spirit/Holy Spirit	Beast from the Land / The False Prophet (Promotes the Antichrist)

**Beast out of the Sea  
(Anti-Christ)**

- Great Orator/Businessman
- 7 Heads, 10 Horns
- Heads with name of Blasphemy
- One head has deadly wound healed
- Strengthened by Dragon for 42 months
- Defeats Saints
- Worshipped by “Earth Dwellers”

**Two Beasts in  
Revelation 13**

**Beast out of the Earth  
(False Prophet)**

- 2 Horns (like a Lamb)
- Speaks as the Dragon
- Causes Earth to worship 1<sup>st</sup> Beast
- Deceives Earth with miracles

13:1 From the sand on the seashore, the dragon (drakōn δράκων) seems to welcome the beast from the sea. (Poor manuscripts have “*I stood on the sand on the seashore*”)

- Symbolic picture of Satan’s worldly powers; the “red dragon having seven heads and ten horns” is mentioned several times. (Revelation 12:3; 17:3, 8)
  - The number seven represents complete as this dragon will have complete authority and control.
  - The number ten represents “organization and government” while the symbol of “horns” represents power, so the dragon will have complete organizational power and control.
  - The Greek term for “crowns” (diadēmata διαδήματα) shows authority. Each of the diadem has a blasphemous name that probably exalts themselves as a deity.

“10 Horns, 7 Heads”	
Great Red Dragon	Revelation 12:3
The Beast out of the Sea	Revelation 13:1
A Scarlet Beast	Revelation 17:3

- The “beast of the sea” (Daniel 7:3) is a composite of the beasts of Daniel 7 which is known as the Antichrist (1 John 2:18,22; 4:3; 2 John 1:7) and defined as a man of lawlessness. (2 Thessalonians 2:3)
  - Jewish scholars consider this beast the leviathan or the behemoth.
  - The tumultuous sea can also symbolize the chaotic world systems of sinful mankind (Isaiah 17:12-13; 57:20; Daniel 7:2-3; Revelation 17:15)
- 13:2 “*The dragon gave him his power and his throne, and great authority.*” (2 Thessalonians 2:9)
- In Daniel’s vision, these animals represented the three kingdoms from the sea (Daniel 7:3-6). The aspects of these three kingdoms now converge into one.
    - The leopard/Greece/swift grace
    - The bear/Persia/power-brute strength
    - The lion/Babylon/dominion-terror.
- 13:3 The “fatal wound” is literally “the wound of death” (hē plēgē tou thanatou - ἡ plēgē τοῦ θανάτου) which means that the beast of the sea was dead.
- This wicked “beast of the sea” is going to imitate the Messiah.
  - This fatal wound is thought to symbolize past glories of Rome – the last beast in Daniel’s prophecy which seemed destined to imminent demise in 476 AD.
  - The Greek word “amazed” (ethaumasthē ἐθαυμάσθη) infers admiration and wonderment from the public for the beast. (Revelation 6, 13; 17:8)
- 13:4 Satan and the worldly government leader (Daniel 8:23-26, 11:36-37; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4) share the worship of the disillusioned masses.
- It seems difficult to support a political leader without supporting their religious belief system whether it be atheistic or Satanic.
  - Satan wants to take God’s place and usurp God’s worship.
  - While the public asks “*Who is like the beast?*” God’s people ask “*Who is like God?*”
    - This same question was asked of God in the Old Testament. (Exodus 15:11; Psalm 35:10; 113:4)
    - God frames a similar sense of the leviathan (Job 41), but God declares that there is no one like Himself. (Isaiah 40:18-22; 43:11; 44:6, 8, 9-20 45:6)
    - Other similar questions include:
      - “*Who is worthy to open the scroll and to break its seals?*” (Revelation 5:2)
      - “*For the great day of Their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?*” (Revelation 6:17)
      - The archangel “Michael” waged war on Satan, and Michael’s name means “*who is like God?*” (Revelation 12:7)
  - Jews believe that the coming Messiah “Ben David” will rule the world in power at the end times.

- Muslims believe that a descendant of Muhammad (the Mahdi) will come to rid the world of evil before the Prophet 'Īsā (Jesus Christ) returns to kill Jew & Christian who worship Him.
  - A Hadith is a collection of traditions containing sayings of Islam's Muhammad. Sahih al-Bukhari was a well-known Muslim scholar from the 9th century.
  - In the hadith of Sahih al-Bukhari, he writes, the Prophet 'Īsā (Jesus) will "*break the cross, kill the pigs.*" The traditional interpretation of this prophecy is that Jesus will stop Christian worship of Himself which is symbolized by the cross.

13:5 The beast of the sea spoke against God and everyone associated with God. (John 15:18-25)

- The phrase "was given" (edothē êdóθη) shows that this beast from the sea had neither power or authority on his own.
- John's vision correlated to Daniel's vision. They both envisioned the beast (Daniel 7:8, 11, 20, 25; 11:36) for a given time period (Daniel 7:25).
- The prophetic warnings against Jerusalem were fulfilled in the Assyrian/Babylonian captivities, the occupation of Seleucid forces under Antiochus IV Epiphanes, the Roman destruction in 70AD (under Titus) and 135AD (under Hadrian) as well as the end times.

13:6 Satan's prideful worldly leader will persecute God's people (even those martyred and raptured). God does not shield His people from the persecution of the beast of the sea.

- The act of "to blaspheme" (blasphēmēsai βλασφημῆσαι) entails discrediting and disrespecting God while at the same time elevating themselves as deity. (Matthew 24)

13:7 Being a Christian implies a Christlike willingness to lay down one's life (and ambitions) to His will - even to the point of death (Rev 11:7; 2 Cor 4:11; Rom 8:36; 2 Tim 3:12).

- This verse is in direct contrast with "prosperity Christianity" where God's Word says that His people will be conquered during this time.

13:8 The followers of Jesus Christ were recorded in His book (Exodus 32:32, Luke 10:20, Revelation 1:27, 20:12) since before the creation of the world (Ephesians 1:4; 2 Timothy 1:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:13, Revelation 17:8).

- God's sovereign plan controlled more than just end times; God's sovereign plan was set before creation (Matthew 25:34; John 17:24; Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 1:19-20; Revelation 13:8). God sovereign control predates creation (Matthew 13:35; Luke 11:50; Hebrews 4:3; 9:26; Revelation 17:8)
- Christ's sacrifice on the cross is a central theme to the book of Revelation. (Revelation 1:5; 5:12; 7:14; 12:11; 13:8; 14:4; 15:3; 19:7; 21:9, 23; 22:3)

**Two End Time Books of God  
(Daniel 7:10; Revelations 20:12)**

<b>The Book of Life</b> (God's People)	Exodus 32:32-33 Psalm 69:28 Daniel 12:1 Luke 10:20 Philippians 4:3 Revelation 3:5; 17:8
<b>The Book of Remembrances/Works</b> (All People)	Psalm 56:8, 139:16 Isaiah 65:6 Malachi 3:16

13:9 This verse encourages those who hear God's Word to consider all that He is conveying (both at end times as well as the present).

- "If anyone has an ear, let him hear" (Isaiah 50:5; Jeremiah 6:10; Matthew 13:15) was a phrase repeatedly used in the letters to the seven churches (Revelation 2:7, 17; 3:6, 13, 22) as well as other New Testament passages. (Mark 4:9, 23)

13:10 Christians should accept God's plan for their lives even during suffering and persecution (Hebrews 13:3). Believers will be persecuted by unbelievers; unbelievers will be judged by God. (Romans 12:19).

- Jesus spoke of the corresponding judgment of sword for a sword (Matthew 26:52).
- The saints (hagiōn ἀγίων) have trusted in Christ's gospel message which has resulted in a lifestyle of obedience to the Lord. (Revelation 12:11,17; 14:12)

<b>The Seduction of World by the Beasts</b>	
Revelation 13:3	The world marveled at the 1 <sup>st</sup> Beast (Antichrist)
Revelation 13:4	The world worshipped the 1 <sup>st</sup> Beast (Antichrist)
Revelation 13:12	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Beast (False Prophet) forces the world to worship the 1 <sup>st</sup> Beast (Antichrist)
Revelation 13:14	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Beast (False Prophet) forces the world to make idols of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Beast (Antichrist)

### **Read Revelation 13:11-18.... *The (Second) Beast from Land***

13:11 Then another beast (false prophet) will rise from the earth (Israel) having two horns (authority in possibly religion and political) who will appear like a lamb (Jesus – Revelation 5:6), but his words will be that of Satan (dragon).

- This second beast is expected to be a Jew (from the land) as the first beast was a Gentile (from the sea). (Revelation 13:1)
- A beast from the land is recorded in Daniel 7:17.
- The two horns symbolize authority in two realms (possibly religious and political)
- This leader will appear like the lamb of Christ; however, his words will carry Satan's (the dragon's) message.
- In John's day, the Roman "Concilia" pushed Emperor worship which will also occur in the last day. The military and media will force individuals to proclaim allegiance to the leader as a god.

13:12 The purpose and goal of the 2<sup>nd</sup> beast (from the land) was to have the world worship the 1st beast (from the sea).

- The second beast will point allegiance to the first beast just as the Holy Spirit directs people to Christ who resurrected from the dead. (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13-14)
- After Revelation 13, this second beast from the sea is called “the false prophet” for the remainder of the book of Revelation (16:13; 19:20; 20:10).
- “*By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God.*” (1 John 4:2-3)
- This 2nd beast might be the media (i.e., news, comedy, academia, etc.)

13:13 As Satan duplicates the civil/religious structure of God’s two witnesses (Rev 11) with his two beasts, he also duplicates the sign which God provided in the Old Testament (1 Kings 18:38)

- The two beasts (one from sea and one from the land) will imitate the two witnesses in Revelation 11.
  - As God’s witness (Elijah) called down fire from heaven (1 Kings 18:38), the second beast mimics.
  - Fire from heaven is often a sign of God’s judgment (Ezekiel 38:22; 39:6).
- God warns His people that in the end times there will be miracles from a dark, Satanic power (Matthew 24:24; Mark 13:22; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11).

13:14 This continues to match/mirror the Old Testament as Nebuchadnezzar had built a statue/idol to be worshipped (Daniel 3:6).

- The second beast directs mankind to construct an idol (an image) with the likeness of the first beast (out of the sea) and to worship that beast.

13:15 The image (idol) of the first beast will be given “breath” (pneuma πνεῦμα) to make the image appear alive and require worship (idolatry).

- This “pneuma” may be a demonic spirit living in the idol.
- The English word “spirit,” Greek word “pneuma” (πνεῦμα), and Hebrew word “ruach” (רוּחַ) are synonymous.
- Several theories:
  - Some believe that the first beast may have been reconstructed using robotics after the mortal blow against him (possibly a human reconstructed as a cyborg).
    - “*Eyes like the eyes of a man...*” (Daniel 7:8)
  - A Hadith is a collection of traditions containing sayings of Islam’s Muhammad. Al-Tirmidhi ibn Isa lived at the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> century AD.
    - In his Hadith, Al-Tirmidhi documented that Muhammad foretold that at the end times, the Black Stone (located at the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia) would have eyes and a tongue, and will testify as to the true and sincere Muslims.



- Islamic tradition is that the Black Stone “fell from the sky” which is similar to the idolatry of Ephesus (Acts 19:35)

13:16 This beast is allowed to give breath (Habakkuk 2:19) to this idol to resemble life; Satan does a similar thing every day in giving empty “life” to those without Christ (Rom 5:21).

- The Greek term for “mark” (charagma χάραγμα) was used for branding animals to designate ownership. In ancient days, soldiers would take on a tattoo of their general.
- Another possibility is that a clone of the Antichrist is produced.
- God puts His own mark on the forehead (thoughts) and hands (deeds) of His people (Deuteronomy 6:8; Is 44:5; Ezekiel 9:4; Revelation 14:1) with Jesus’ hands marked for us (John 20:25)
  - This is similar to the Jewish phylacteries which are two small leather boxes with Old Testament Scriptures that are tied to the forehead and wrist.

13:17 Individuals without the mark of the beast will not be able to participate in social interactions and supply chains (i.e., grocery stores, hospitals, church, etc.)

- Believers will pay the price of faithfulness with seclusion and starvation.

13:18 Mankind chooses between Jesus (“888”) offering new beginnings or the Antichrist which offers threefold insufficiency (“666”).

## The Number of his Name

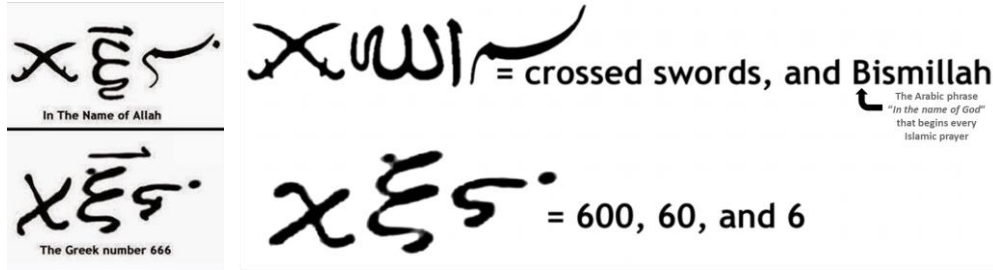
(Rev 13:17-18; 15:2)

Greek Alphabet	Alpha:	1 = α	Unity, Whole, Complete		
	Beta:	2 = β	Witness or Opposition		
	Gamma:	3 = γ	Resurrection, Redemption		
	Delta:	4 = δ	Creation, Testing		
	Epsilon:	5 = ε	Grace or Judgment		
		Stigma:	6 = Ϛ	Incomplete, Man	Number “6” discontinued from Greek usage
	Zeta:	7 = ζ	Complete, Fullness		
	Eta:	8 = η	A New Beginning		
	Theta:	9 = θ	Finality, Judgment		
	Iota:	10 = ι	New Order	After “10”, same meanings as root numbers with emphasis made by zeroes	
	Kappa:	20 = κ			
	Lambda:	30 = λ	The Lamb		
	Mu:	40 = μ			
	Nu:	50 = ν			
	Xi:	60 = ξ			
	Omicron:	70 = ο			
	Pi:	80 = π	There is no finality in eternity – “80” or “900”		
	Rho:	100 = ρ			
	Sigma:	200 = σ			
Tau:	300 = τ	The Cross			
Upsilon:	400 = υ				
Phi:	500 = φ				
Chi:	600 = χ				
Psi:	700 = ψ				
Omega:	800 = ω	Menorah			

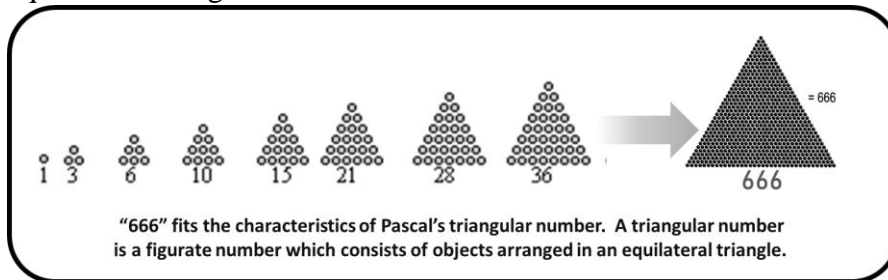
**Greek Alphabet is also the Greek Numbering System**

	<b>LORD</b>	<b>JESUS</b>
<b>The Lord</b>	κ = 20	ι = 10
<b>Jesus offers</b>	υ = 400	η = 8
<b>New</b>	ρ = 100	σ = 200
<b>Beginnings</b>	ι = 10	ο = 70
	ο = 70	υ = 400
	σ = 200	σ = 200
	<b>800</b>	<b>888</b>

- Scripture denotes that the number 666 is the number of the name of the Antichrist. His name can be calculated using Gematria.
- Other scholars believe that the number 666 is a reference to Islam as a whole because of the similarity between the Greek number “666” and the Aramaic phrase “*In the Name of Allah.*” This phrase is known as the Bismillah that begins every Islamic prayer.



- The number 666 is a unique number that is the sum of all whole numbers between 1 and 36. ( $1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9+10+\dots+34+35+36 = 666$ )
- The number 666 is a triangular number which counts the “dots/units” within an equilateral triangle.



- The number 666 is also the sum of the square of the first seven prime numbers: ( $22+32+52+72+112+132+172=666$ )
- 666 can form a “magic square” where the sums of the numbers in each row, each column, and both main diagonals are the same (111) while the Total Sum is 666.
  - “Magic squares” appear on ancient coins.

6	32	3	34	35	1
7	11	27	28	8	30
19	14	16	15	23	24
18	20	22	21	17	13
25	29	10	9	26	12
36	5	33	4	2	31

$6 + 32 + 3 + 34 + 35 + 1 = 111$   
 $7 + 11 + 27 + 28 + 8 + 30 = 111$   
 $19 + 14 + 16 + 15 + 23 + 24 = 111$   
 $18 + 20 + 22 + 21 + 17 + 13 = 111$   
 $25 + 29 + 10 + 9 + 26 + 12 = 111$   
 $36 + 5 + 33 + 4 + 2 + 31 = 111$

666



23 Revelation 14

Three Sections of Revelation 14		
Revelation 14:1	“...then I looked”	Jesus’ Return & 144,000



Revelation 14:6	“...then I saw”	Three Angels Proclaim Gospel & Judge the World
Revelation 14:14	“...then I looked”	Separates Believers from Unbelievers

### Read Revelation 14:1-5....*The Jewish Witnesses*

14:1 The “Lamb” represents Jesus Christ who was sacrificed for the sin of the world.

(Revelation 5:6-8)

- The Jewish witnesses will stand with Jesus Christ on Mt. Zion in Jerusalem (Isaiah 30:19, 33:20). There will be a gathering of believers in the end times. (Psalm 48; Isaiah 24:23; Joel 2:32; Micah 4:1,7; Obadiah 1:17,21)
  - “Jerusalem” (in the physical sense) is often referred to as “Zion” (in the spiritual sense) (Hebrews 12:22).
  - “Zion” could refer to the actual city of Jerusalem (Isaiah 24:23; Joel 2:32)
  - “Zion” could symbolize the “heavenly Jerusalem” (Hebrews 11:10,16; 12:22-23; 13:14; Galatians 4:26)
- Instead of the Jewish phylactery, the Jewish believers will have the name of God the Son and God the Father written on their foreheads (Isaiah 9:6). This is a rare instance where God the Son is mentioned before God the Father.

14:2 There is a consistency of the sound of great rushing water to describe the voice of the Lord (Ezekiel 43:2; Revelation 1:15, 19:6)

- The loud thunder is a natural phenomenon in the presence of the Lord (Revelation 11:19).
- The literal translation is “*I heard like that of harpists harping with the harps.*” (ēkousa hōs kitharōdōn en TAIΣ kitharais - ἤκουσα ὡς κιθαρῳδῶν ἐν ΤΑΙΣ κιθάραις )
- There was another new song (Revelation 5:9).

14:3 These 144,000 followers of Christ are the first fruits (Christians) from the nation of Israel; these were believers of integrity without lies and deceit (Zephaniah 3:13; 1 Jn 2:22).

- These 144,000 are those redeemed (Revelation 5:9), sealed (Revelation 7:4), and washed in the Lamb’s blood (Revelation 7:14-17).
- The Jewish believers made the song understandable for others who otherwise would have been able to understand the song.
- The Greek term “redeemed” (ēgorasmenoi ἡγορασμένοι) means to “*buys back*” or “*buy out of*”; the term is used for Christ redemption of His people through His crucifixion. (Revelation 5:9; 7:14).
  - This concept originated with the kinsman redeemer (Goel) who would pay the debt of a relative that the family member could not pay. (1 Corinthians 6:20; 7:23)

14:4 These 144,000 are wholly dedicated to Christ in purity and submission. (1 Corinthians 7:32-34).

- The reference and regard for “celibacy” has several possible meanings:
  - Complete celibacy of an unmarried man.

- Refusal and rebellion against the “whore of Babylon’s” Spiritual Adultery (Revelation 14:8; 17:2; 18:9)
  - In the Old Testament, the Jews would purify themselves to prepare for war through the abstinence of sexual intercourse. (1 Samuel 21:1-7; Deuteronomy 23:9-14)
  - This might simply be an Old Testament title for Israel as the “*virgin daughter of Zion.*” (2 Kings 19:21; Jeremiah 18:13; Lamentations 2:13; Amos 5:2).
    - This carries into the New Testament church being the pure bride of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:27)
- 14:5 Satan is the “father of lies” (John 8:44) which is an abomination to God (Proverbs 12:22).
- “*Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment.*” (Proverbs 12:19)
    - Lies are situational and convenience-driven while the truth endures as a fact.
  - The reference that the 144,000 will never tell a lie has several possible meanings:
    - Truth is a general characterization of God’s people (Revelation 21:27, 22:15)
    - The lie might be specific to the emperor worship proclaiming Caesar as “lord.” (Revelation 21:8)
    - In the Old Testament, deception revealed defilement (Zephaniah 3:13; Malachi 2:16)
    - In the New Testament, “the lie” correlated to “unbelief.” (Romans 1:25; 1 John 2:22)
  - The Greek term “blameless” (amōmoi ἄμωμοί) is used of sacrificial animals that were without blemish. (Ephesians 5:17; Jude 1:24)

### **Read Revelation 14:6-8.... Angelic Messages**

14:6 “*And I saw another angel flying in midheaven with an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation, tribe, language, and people.*”

- The concept of “*flying in the air*” gives the idea of everyone being able to see/hear what is being done/said.
  - Some wrongfully preach that Jesus cannot return until the gospel is shared to everyone around the world (Matthew 24:14); however, this angel will fulfill that requirement by sharing the gospel worldwide.
  - God’s judgment has the purpose of eternal redemption (Revelation 9:20-21; 16:9, 11)
- 14:7 Two actions (Rev 16:9) that believers should consider: 1. Fear God 2. Give Him Glory.
- John repeatedly refers to “the hour” as the specific and divine timing of the judgment of God. (John 2:4; 4:21,23; 5:25,28; 7:30; 8:20; 12:23,27; 13:1; 16:21,32; 17:1)
  - God’s defining characteristic is being the Creator while the world willfully, ignorantly and irrationally supports the deceit of evolution.

14:8 This is the first of six references of Babylon in the book of Revelation with the exclamation that Babylon has fallen (Isaiah 21:9; Jeremiah 51:8).

- The Greek term “fallen” (epesen ἔπεσεν) is made emphatically at the beginning of the sentence for emphasis and then repeated for emphasis.

- God condemns sexual immorality as it reflects spiritual unfaithfulness. (Isaiah 54:5; Jeremiah 3:20; Ezekiel 16:15-19)
- Often, adultery is likened to idolatry; this is often called “spiritual adultery.” (Jeremiah 3:20; Isaiah 1:21; 57:8; Ezekiel 16:30)
- “Wine” and inebriation make individuals act irrationally and dangerously. (Jeremiah 51:7-8; Revelation 17:2, 4; 18:3)
- The Greek term for "passion" (thymou θυμοῦ) relates to an angry outburst of emotion as in rage.

Angelic Messages to the World		
1.	Revelation 14:6	The Gospel
2.	Revelation 14:8	The Sin of Babylon
3.	Revelation 14:9	Judgment of Idolatry

### Read Revelation 14:9-13.... Believer Martyrdom & Eternal Death for Worshippers of the Beast

14:9 The Antichrist mark on the forehead and hand are related to the worship of the beast of the sea and the idol made by the beast of the land.

14:10 Those who are intoxicated by this world will drink from God’s cup of wrath. (Isaiah 51:17; Jeremiah 25:15-16; Rev. 7:14; 16:19; 19:15).

- God’s eternal judgment on sin will be undiluted with grace, but the full weight of judgment will fall on the sinner.
- Those tormented in hell will be a testimony to the holy angels and the Lamb of the egregious result of rejecting God.
- In the Old Testament, the imagery of a ‘cup’ symbolizes the destiny of an individual (Isaiah 51:17,22; Jeremiah 25:15-17,27-29)
- Jesus Christ has already drunk from the cup of God’s judgment, but these sinners reject Christ’s sacrifice for their sin. (Psalm 75:8 → Mark 14:36)
- “*Fire and brimstone*” (pyri kai theiō - πυρί καὶ θείῳ) are first used in relation to Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:24,28; Luke 17:29) before being expanded to God’s judgment in the rest of the Old Testament. (Psalm 11:6; Isaiah 34:8-11; Ezekiel 38:22)
  - “*Fire and brimstone*” refer to the lake of fire (hell; Gehenna) where the two beasts will be thrown (Revelation 19:20) as well as Satan (Revelation 20:10).
  - Unrepentant mankind will also be judged in the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:15; 21:8)
  - Brimstone means sulfur which melts at 238 degrees and boils at 832 degrees.

14:11 Those who deny Jesus and submit to the beast will suffer eternal punishment under the Messiah who came to save them from this torture.

- The same term that is used for “*forever*” (aiōnion αἰώνιον) in regards to heaven is the same term that is used for “*forever*” in hell. (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:48)

- While believers are offered eternal peace (Isaiah 32:18, 57:2), the rebellious will have no rest. Scripture espouses the temporary suffering of the saints and the permanent suffering of unbelievers.

14:12 *“Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.”*

- The second time (witness) that this is spoken and both times in regards to the persecution of the saints. (Revelation 13:10)
- The *“perseverance of the saints”* is an ongoing theme throughout the book of Revelation. (Revelation 1:9; 2:7, 11, 17, 19, 26; 3:5, 10, 12, 21; 21:7)
- The two defining characteristics of every believer are that they have faith in Jesus Christ resulting in an obedient walk in the believer’s lifestyle. (Revelation 12:11, 17; Luke 6:46)
  - Genuine salvation will result in the denial of one’s sinful nature and submission to the Lord: To love God; To selflessly esteem believers; To witness to unbelievers.

14:13 This insight into the communion of the Trinity as to the well-earned rest of martyrs from the Tribulation. (Psalm 116:15)

- John is encouraged repeatedly to write what he witnesses (Revelation 1:11, 19; 14:13; 19:9; 21:5) with one exception (Revelation 10:4).
- *“That they may rest”* (ἀναπαύσονται ἀναπαύσονται ) is referencing believers; this is contrasted to the torment of unbelievers. (Revelation 14:11)
- The Spirit is quoted several times (Revelation 2:7; 22:17).
- *“Yes,” says the Spirit, “so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them.”*
  - When the believer dies, they take with them their efforts in obedience to God’s call.

The Beatitudes of Revelation		
1.	Revelation 1:3	<i>“Blessed is the one who reads, and those who hear the words of the prophecy and keep the things which are written in it; for the time is near.”</i>
2.	Revelation 14:13	<i>“And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, “Write: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!’” ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them.’”</i>
3.	Revelation 16:15	<i>“Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and people will not see his shame.”</i>
4.	Revelation 19:9	<i>“Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.’” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”</i>
5.	Revelation 20:6	<i>“Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with Him for a thousand years.”</i>
6.	Revelation 22:7	<i>“And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”</i>

7. Revelation 22:14 *“Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life, and may enter the city by the gates.”*

### **Read Revelation 14:14-16....Angelic Reaping & Harvest of Believers**

- This is the “Grain Harvest” of believers (Matthew 9:37-38; 13:30, 38; Mark 4:26-29; Luke 10:2; John 4:35-38)
- 14:14 Jesus prepares to return with His sickle for judgment (Joel 3:13); this is the last mention of Jesus’ head in the Bible, and it is much different from the first mention (Matthew 8:20).
- The term “*son of man*” represented the humanity of Jesus. (Matthew 9:6; 10:23; 11:19)
  - “*Clouds*” were the transport of the divine (Daniel 7:13)
  - The Greek term for “*crown*” (stephanon στέφανον) is the “victor’s crown” and is meant for recognition and esteem of an accomplishment.
    - Jesus wore the crown of thorns ((Matthew 27:29; Mark 15:17; John 19:2, 5), so that believers might be able to have imperishable crowns (1 Corinthians 9:25) including the crown of life (James 1:12), the crown of glory (1 Peter 5:4), the crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8) and the crown of rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 2:19).
- 14:15 This might be similar to a prayer from an angel to Jesus on the cloud. The prayers of believers often have this kind of urgency.
- Some theologians believe that the individual on the cloud in Revelation 14:14 was not Jesus, and this angel was commanding the individual with the sickle.
  - “*Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread the grapes, for the wine press is full; the vats overflow, for their wickedness is great.*” (Joel 3:13)
- 14:16 The earth was quickly reaped through the act of a single sickle stroke.

### **Read Revelation 14:17-20....Angelic Reaping & Harvest of Unbelievers**

- This is the “Grape Harvest” of unbelievers (Isaiah 63:2-3; Jeremiah 51:33; Lamentation 1:15; Joel 3:13; Revelation 19:15)
- 14:17 The “Temple” refers to God’s presence in the spiritual Temple (Hebrews 8:2; 9:11,23-24).
- 14:18 Jewish Rabbis teach of angelic authority over nature: wind (Revelation 7:1), water (Revelation 16:5) and lightning (Job 1:16, 19).
- “*Regarding the angels He says, ‘He makes His angels winds, and His ministers a flame of fire.’*” (Hebrews 1:7, 14)
  - The angel may have come from the altar of incense in response to the prayers of believers. (Revelation 6:10)
- 14:19 The harvests of grapes were always a time of judgment. (Isaiah 63:2-3; Jeremiah 51:33; Lamentations 1:15; Joel 3:13)
- The “wine press” is a reference to an Old Testament symbol of judgment (Isaiah 63:3; Lamentations 1:15). The juice of the red grape may appear similar to blood (Revelation 19:15).

14:20 The Lord Jesus comes in wrath as He tramples out (as if a wine press – Is 63:2) the evil of this world filling the length of Israel (approximately 180 miles) with blood (this is the same distance from Dan (the northernmost point of Israel) to Beersheba (the southernmost point)).

- The allusion to “outside the city” could have various or multiple meanings. This might be a reference to...:
  - The crucifixion of Christ outside of Jerusalem (Hebrews 13:12)
  - The Old Testament purification laws where unclean were put outside of the camp (Lev. 8:17; 9:11).
  - This may also refer to the end-time gathering of the enemies of God around the city of Jerusalem (Psalm 2:2, 6; Daniel 11:45; Joel 3:12-14; Zechariah 14:1-4).

## 24 Revelation 15

- Chapter 15 is the introduction of the “Bowl Judgments” that begin in chapter 16.
- During the first half of the Tribulation, 7 seals were opened and 7 trumpets played; during the last half of the Tribulation, the third and final group of 7 – seven bowls – are poured out.
- The “third woe” which is the “seventh trumpet” equates to the seven bowls.
  - The fifth trumpet of Revelation is the first woe (Revelation 8:12-13); the sixth trumpet is the second woe (Revelation 9:12), and the seventh trumpet is the third woe (Revelation 11:14).
- The intensity has been growing from the seals (1/4 of the world affected) to the trumpets (1/3 of the world affected) to the bowl judgments where all of the world is affected.
- The seventh bowl (Revelation 17-18) is the fall of Babylon.

Statements of Jesus on the Cross	Seals	Trumpets	Bowls
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1.	"My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34	White Horse – Antichrist	Hail & fiery blood fell on the earth destroying one third of vegetation	Ugly, festering sores broke out (Revelation 16:2)
2.	"Father, forgive them. They don't know what they do." Luke 23:34	Red Horse – Bloodshed/War	A fiery mountain into the sea killing a third of sea life and destroying a third of the ships	Water turns into blood and every living thing in the sea died (Revelation 16:3)
3.	"I thirst." John 19:28	Black Horse – Famine	A great star fell & poisoned a third of the rivers and on the springs	Rivers and freshwater springs turn to blood (Revelation 16:4-5)
4.	"Behold this woman. Woman, behold thy son." John 19:26-27	Pale Horse – Plague/Disease	A third of the sun, moon, and stars were darkened	The sun was allowed to scorch people with fire (Revelation 16:8-9)
5.	"Truly, I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." Luke 23:43	Souls crying out from under the Altar	Torment like a scorpion when it stings	The kingdom of the beast to be plunged into great darkness. The pain and suffering (Revelation 16:10-11)
6.	"Father, into your hands, I commit my spirit." Luke 23:46	Great earthquake; the sun became dark, and the moon became like blood	Troops kill a third of humanity in battle	The Euphrates River is dried up & three frog-like figures come forth. (Revelation 16:12-13)
7.	"It is finished." John 19:28	Silence in Heaven	The kingdom of our Lord is announced	A loud voice in heaven says, "It is done!" (Revelation 16:17)

### Read Revelation 15:1-4...The Worship of Believers Before the Crystal Sea

15:1 Just as Jesus cried "*It is Finished*", the wrath of God will be completed with the "bowl judgments" (John 19:30)

- The Greek term for "*wrath*" (thymos θυμός) relates to an angry outburst of emotion as in rage. (Revelation 14:8).
- The description of "great and marvelous" either refers to the magnitude of the bowl judgments or that this was the completion of the judgments. (Psalm 40:5; 92:5; 111:2; 139:14; Hosea 14:9)
  - This description "great and wonderful" (megala kai thaumasta - μεγάλα καὶ θαυμαστά) will be repeated in worship (Revelation 13:3)

15:2 The wording shows that this "*sea of glass*" is symbolic on which these martyrs played harps and sang to God. (Revelation 4:6)

- There are multiple allusions to the "sea of glass":
  - The "*Sea of Glass*" (Thalassa hyalinē – θάλασσα ὑαλίνη) is described as an "*expanse of crystal*" (Ezekiel 1:22; 10:1).
  - This is similar to the layout of the Temple's Laver in front of the Holy Place. (1 Kings 7:23; 2 Chronicles 4:2-6)
  - At Mt Sinai, the people of Israel saw this from beneath as a "*pavement of sapphire*." (Exodus 24:10)
- The new element in this verse is that the "sea of glass" is mixed with fire.
- The "sea of glass" reminds the reader of the laver of the Temple which represented the Word of God; so, these martyrs are now standing symbolically on the Word of God.
- These believers were victorious over the Antichrist's image, name, and the man himself. They remained faithful to the Lord whether in death (martyrdom) or life.

- The “wild beasts” were introduced in Revelation 7 and thoroughly explained in Revelation 13. The believers did not worship the beast or the idol nor were they marked in order to participate socially in commerce and events.
- Prior to this verse, the angels had harps (Revelation 5:8, 14:2), and now believers are also playing harps.

15:3 The reference to the “song of God’s servant Moses” points back to when it was first sung. Israel had escaped persecution, and the wrath of God was upon the oppressors of His people (Exodus 15:1; Deuteronomy 31:22). They also sang the “song of the Lamb” (Rev 5:9, 14:3).

- This is like a “new exodus” and is similar to Israel’s deliverance from Egypt’s Pharaoh as believers were delivered from the Antichrist.
- This reference of “great and marvelous” references to verse prior upon seeing the seven angels with the seven plagues/bowls. (Revelation 15;1)
- God is exalted and worshipped for His works and His ways; what He does and how He does them.
- Regardless of man’s tendency to exalt himself, god is “King of the nations.”
- The three components of God’s title (“the Lord God Almighty” are repeated throughout Revelation (1:8; 4:8; 11:7; 15:3; 16:7, 14; 19:6, 15; 21:22):
  - The LORD (kyrios κύριος) – the Old Testament covenantal name of *Yahweh* (Exodus 3:14; Psalm 103)
  - God (theos θεός) – the Old Testament name of *Elohim* (Psalm 104)
  - Almighty (Pantokratōr Παντοκράτωρ) – *El Shaddai* was the name used by the Patriarchs (Exodus 6:3)
- Although the believers had suffered severe persecution, they understood the God’s ways are “*righteous and true.*”

15:4 The recognition that only God is holy results in fear and worship (loving and imposing).

- It is often the Jewish custom to state truths through questions; everyone will fear the Lord and worship Him. (Revelation 14:7)
- In the worship of believers, they emphasize an Old Testament principle that all nations will worship the Lord in Jerusalem (Psalm 22:27; 66:4; 86:9; Isaiah 2:2-4; 19:19-24; 27:13; 56:7; 66:19-24; Malachi 1:11).
- The righteous acts of God include his grace and mercy revealed in the gospel.

**Read Revelation 15:5-8...The Seven Angels Are Given the Bowls of Wrath**

15:5 The tabernacle of law brings judgment; the earthly Temple is a replica of the heavenly Temple (Hebrews 8:5; 9:23). The original, genuine heavenly Temple is revealed (Exodus 25:9,40; 38:21; Numbers 10:11; 17:7; Acts 7:44).

Heavenly Revelation	
Revelation 4:1	A “door” was opened to heaven
Revelation 11:19	The Ark of the Covenant” appeared
Revelation 15:5	The entire heavenly Tabernacle is shown

15:6 The stately (gold sash) angels were to carry out judgments with pure cause (white linen).



- The linen and gold sash (Daniel 10:5; Revelation 1:13) are symbols of the high priest (Exodus 28:4).
- Some good manuscripts translate the gemstones of the high priests. (Exodus 28:17-30)

15:7 The wrath and judgment originate with God – it is His wrath (not originating with Satan or elsewhere). Just as the angels had been given the trumpets (Revelation 8:2), the angels are now given seven bowls.

- Bowls used in the temple were often very shallow low bowls which early contained the prayers of believers which had now become God’s wrath (Revelation 5:8).
- The term “*who lives forever and ever*” speaks of the genuine existence of the living God that is emphasized by His name Yahweh. (Exodus 3:14)

15:8 When the Shekinah Glory fills a location, no one can stand in His presence (Exodus 40:35; Leviticus 16:2; 2 Chronicles 5:14; Isaiah 6:4; 6:11-13), and that no one could enter may infer that His time of entertaining repentance was over and He would no longer be accessible for penitence (Lamentations 3:44).

### **Read Revelation 15:9-14...The Worshippers in the Throne Room**

15:9 The tabernacle of law brings judgment; the earthly Temple is a replica of the heavenly

15:10 The Jewish community believed that kings descended from the Tribe of Judah while the priests descended from the Tribe of Levi. There was a single priestly king in the Old Testament named Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18-20; Hebrews 7:1-21). However, God’s people will be a royal priesthood. (1 Peter 2:9)

15:11 There were three categories of worshippers testifying to the greatness of Jesus. Many angels that numbered over 100 million, the living creatures and the elders.

15:12 Jesus was the (Passover) Lamb who was bruised and wounded (Isaiah 50:6, 52:13-14; Revelation 5:1-6) sacrificed for the sin of the world (John 1:29, 36; 1 Cor 5:7, 1 Pet 1:19). Jesus became the sacrifice for His people to spare them from the judgment of God.

- The Lord is worthy of seven rewards are proclaimed because of His holiness and sacrifice: 1. power 2. riches 3. wisdom 4. might 5. honor 6. glory 7. blessing

15:13 The same categories who were unworthy to open the seals (Revelation 5:6) praised and worshipped Jesus.

15:14 The Greek term for “truly” or “I assure you” is the transliterated word from Hebrew “Amen” (Hebrew: אָמֵן Greek: ἀμήν). Transliteration means that the same word is in one language as another without being changed to translate.

- The word “Amen” is meant to be firm or certain; it means “so be it”, “I affirm” or “I agree.” The word “amen” is also used for the word “faith” (Habakkuk 2:4)

25 Revelation 16

### **Read Revelation 16:1-7...The Beginning of the Bowl Judgments**

16:1 God was the only one in the Temple, and no one else could enter. (Revelation 15:8)

- Although heaven is often imagined as quiet and tranquil, throughout Revelation a number of loud noises are made including worship, songs and calling.
  - The word “come” has been used throughout Revelation, but in this instance, God tells the angels to “go.”
  - The Greek word for “pour” (ἐκχεετέ ἐκχέετε) is often an Old Testament symbol of judgment on unbelieving nations. (Psalm 79:6; Jeremiah 10:25; Ezekiel 22:31; Zephaniah 3:8) The book of Revelation repeatedly uses this term as a judgment on unbelievers (Revelation 7:14, 16:1-4, 8, 10, 12, 17)
- 16:2 Those of the world wearing the sign of the beast and worshipping him would now have to pay the price in the last half of the Tribulation.
- Similar to the sixth plague of Moses, boils were sent as a plague (Exodus 9:9; Deuteronomy 28:35). It is likely that the two witnesses (Rev 11) will be calling down these bowls during this time frame.
  - As with the plagues of Egypt that did not fall on Israel, these plagues will not fall on God’s people.
- 16:3 The blood of a “dead man” is thick, coagulated blood. This is similar to the plague on the Nile River (Exodus 7:17-21)
- Fish nor any other water life can survive in coagulated blood.
- 16:4 The second and third bowls correspond to the first plague on Pharaoh (Exodus 7:17).
- All sea-life will be destroyed.
  - The Earth consists of 70% water (332 million cubic miles | 300 million trillion gallons), and of that, 97% is salt water. Humanity survives on only 1% of all of the water of the Earth.
- 16:5 This angel is identified by the waters that he is controlling. Rabbis believed that angels were involved with most of nature’s activities throughout the world.
- Angels have controlled the wind (Revelation 7:1) and fire (Revelation 14:8).
  - This angel who has worked with the water of the world understands that God is righteous in His judgment using the water.
  - Since the “future is now,” God is only referenced as the “one who is and who was.” (Revelation 11:17)
- 16:6 Throughout Scripture, the punishment often fits the crime; God’s judgment for your sin fits your sin.
- The angel confirms, “*They deserve it*” which is literally “*worthy they are.*” (axioi eisin - ἄξιοι εἰσίν). Jesus is worthy to break the seals of judgment while these unbelievers are worthy of receiving the judgment.
- 16:7 This is validation of the righteousness of judgments as the blood of the saints has been demanded by this world, this world would now be caused to drink blood.
- It appears that the voice is coming from the altar, but it is actually the souls of martyred believers underneath the altar that might be speaking. (Revelation 6:9-11, 14:8)
  - The three components of God’s title (“the Lord God Almighty” are repeated throughout Revelation (1:8; 4:8; 11:7; 15:3; 16:7, 14; 19:6, 15; 21:22):

- The LORD (kyrios κύριος) – the Old Testament covenantal name of *Yahweh* (Exodus 3:14; Psalm 103)
- God (theos θεός) – the Old Testament name of *Elohim* (Psalm 104)
- Almighty (Pantokratōr Παντοκράτωρ) – *El Shaddai* was the name used by the Patriarchs (Exodus 6:3)

Similarities Between Bowls, Trumpets & Plagues						
Bowls		Trumpets		Plagues		
1	Revelation 16:2	Painful Sores	Revelation 8:7	Hail/Fire/Blood	Exodus 9:9	Boils
2	Revelation 16:3	Sea of Blood	Revelation 8:8	Sea of Blood	Exodus 7:20	Nile of Blood
3	Revelation 16:4	Rivers of Blood	Revelation 8:10	Creatures of Sea Died	Psalm 7:44	Creatures of Sea Died
4	Revelation 18:8	Scorched by Sun	Revelation 8:12	Moon/Stars Darkened	Exodus 10:22	Darkness
The 5 <sup>th</sup> Bowl Judgement is Darkness (Revelation 16:10)						

### Read Revelation 16:8-12...The 4-6 Bowls of Judgment

16:8 This fourth bowl affected the sun exactly opposite of the ninth plague of darkness (Exodus 10:22); the sun scorched the rebellious, but their hearts were more hardened in hatred of the only one who could give them peace.

- Even with this dire judgment, the world fails to do two things: 1. Repent 2. Give Him Glory (Revelation 14:7) Recognize who they are (sinners) and recognize who He is.
- *“Moreover, the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the Lord binds up the bruise of His people and heals the stroke of their wound.”* (Isaiah 30:26)

16:9 There is an ongoing call to repent. (Revelation 2:5, 16, 21-22; 3:3, 19; 9:20-21; 16:9, 11). Twice in the Book of Revelation, it is written that sinners *“did not repent and give God glory”* (Revelation 16:9, 11).

- Near the end of the plagues, people continue angrily against God.
- Three times in the Book of Revelation, sinners not only reject God, but they also blaspheme against God (Revelation 16:9, 11, 21). The worldly sinners are angry and cursing God for the consequences of their sin).

16:10 The fifth bowl then replicated the ninth plague of darkness, and the rebellious suffered in their sores and continued to curse God.

- The 4th and 5th bowls seem to be connected as the sun scorches the rebellious, but also is darkened.
- The letters to the churches identified the “throne of Satan” as being in Pergamum at the time of John. Pergamum built the world’s largest Greek altar (the “Altar of Zeus” - 117’ x 110’) after defeating the invading Celtic Galatians (circa 200BC). In 1959, a replica of the “Altar of Zeus” was reconstructed at Berlin’s Pergamon Museum.
  - The throne of Satan was given to the wild beast (Revelation 13:7); this may be the capital city of the single world government (Revelation 13:2)

16:11 There is an ongoing call to repent. (Revelation 2:5, 16, 21-22; 3:3, 19; 9:20-21; 16:9, 11). This is the final use of the term “repent” (metanoōson μετανόησον) in Scripture.

- Many people in modern times are angry at God and curse Him because of the judgments on sin.

- People often say that the pain in the world would not be allowed if God were good; however, the goodness of God mandates punishment of sin (personal & corporate).
- Sinful man comes to the Lord through His grace and mercy; however, judgment often turns the hard hearts of men away from God.

16:12 The sixth bowl dried up the Euphrates river (Zechariah 10:11) to create a road in which the opposition kings could march. God's judgments are purposeful.

- This is another reference to the Exodus as they passed through the Red Sea. (Exodus 14:21)
- The prophets foresaw the river drying up (Isaiah 11:15-16; 44:27; Jeremiah 51:36; Zechariah 10:11)
- The "kings of the east" might be used by God to fight the "kings of the world."

### **Read Revelation 16:13-16...Armageddon**

16:13 The three unclean spirits were as frogs which points to the second plague of Moses (Ex 8:3).

- These spirits come from the mouth, so demons will be conveyed through discussions and speeches.
- The dragon is Satan (Revelation 12:9); the beast is the first beast from the sea (Revelation 13:1); the "false prophet" is the second beast (from land). (Revelation 13:11)
- Jews considered frogs as unclean in the food laws (Leviticus 11:10, 31)
- In Zoroastrianism, frogs were symbolic of demons.

16:14 Just as the Egyptian sorcerers (possibly Jannes and Jambres) misled Pharaoh, demons will also mislead the leaders of the world (Exodus 7:11).

- Miraculous signs lead unbelievers astray. (Matthew 24:24; Mark 13:22; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11; Revelation 13:13)
- The book of Revelation repeatedly prophesies about an end-time battle. (Revelation 6:2-8; 11:7-10; 12:17; 16:14; 17:14; 19:19; 20:8)
- The one-world government (Babylon) is led by the beast. (Revelation 14:8; 16:12-16). The spiritual defeat of Babylon (Revelation 17) will occur along with the physical fall of Babylon (Revelation 18).

16:15 Believers should be encouraged to continuously walk in his righteousness (clothing – Exodus 12:11), so that nothing should surprise them, and they be seen (nakedness) as hypocrites.

- Jesus encourages believers to persist in challenging in difficult times because the Lord will return when He is not expected – like a thief (kleptēs κλέπτης) which is the root word for "kleptomania." (1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 3:3)
- Jesus directs believers to be alert and ready for His coming (Mark 13:33-37)
- This is the third blessing of the "Revelation beatitudes" (Revelation 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14).

- The clothing represents the righteousness of the individual (Revelation 3:18); whereas nakedness represents the true, sordid self that is witnessed and viewed by everyone around them.

16:16 This assembly at Mt Megiddo (Armageddon – “hill of slaughter”) will have the united purpose to “crucify” the Jewish nation of Israel (thus the mention of Hebrew).

- This is the only mention of Armageddon (“the hill of Megiddo”) in Scripture.
- This hill of Megiddo is the hill that overlooks the staging area of the Valley of Jezreel for the last battle against God’s people that will be fought in the Valley of Jehoshaphat (most likely the Kidron Valley – Joel 3:2, 9-16).
- Megiddo is simply a gathering place for the allied nations against God and Israel; the Armageddon battle will be positioned at Jerusalem. (Zechariah 14:2; Psalm 2:2)

### **Read Revelation 16:17-21...The Seventh Bowl of Wrath**

16:17 Once again, Jesus proclaims His accomplishments with “It is finished!” (Matthew 27:50; John 19:30).

- The term “air” is recorded sixty times in Scripture with the “Prince of the air” being Satan (Ephesians 2:2; John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11)
- Just as the Bible begins with the blessing of seven days of creation, all of nature is judged with the wrath of the bowls.

16:18 The land will shudder with an earthquake at the presence of the Lord (Ezekiel 38:19; Matthew 24:7; Mark 13:8)

16:19 The “great city” of Rome (the modern Babylon – Revelation 17:18) will be broken up into three parts (utter defeat), and receive special consideration of God’s wrath. (Ezekiel 5).

- The “cup” (Revelation 14:10) of God’s wrath was a symbol of God’s judgment throughout the Old Testament (Psalm 60:3; 75:8; Isaiah 51:17,22; Jeremiah 25:15-16, 27-28).
- When the phrase “*God remembers*” is used in the Bible, it is referencing a time of judgment. (Psalm 79:8; Isaiah 64:9; Jeremiah 14:10; 17:1-4; 44:21-23; Hosea 7:2; 8:13; 9:9; Amos 8:7; Revelation 18:5).

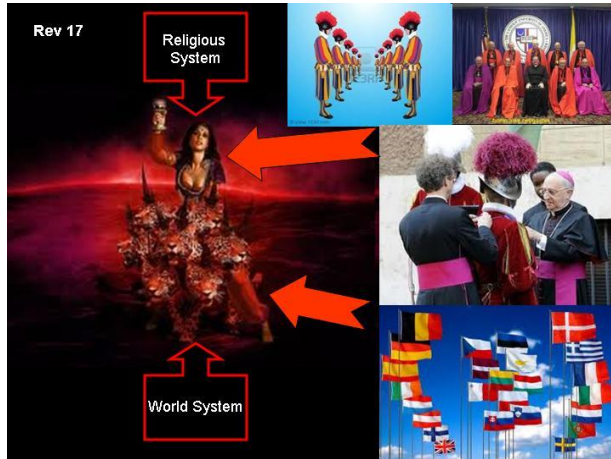
16:20 God’s judgment will fall on all of the earthly kingdoms

- Metaphorically, Governments (mountains – Daniel 2:35; Ps 97:5; Micah 1:4; Nahum 1:5) and smaller powers (islands of government or commerce) will be removed. (Revelation 6:14)

16:21 The seventh plague of Moses (Ex 9:25) is now recounted with hail (greater than 100 lbs.) falling on unrepentant people (Lev 24:16; Is 28:17).

- Stoning was the judgment for blasphemy
- In the Old Testament, “hail” was a sign of God’s judgment.

- The fall of Babylon was introduced in Revelation 14:8 and then described in Revelation 16:18-21.
- After Jerusalem, Babylon is mentioned more than any other city in the Bible with over 300 references.
- The ancient city of Babylon was located approximately 55 miles south of Baghdad on the Euphrates River.
- Chapter 17 reviews the downfall of the “spiritual/religious” Babylon. The downfall of the physical Babylon is documented in chapter 18.



The Fall of Babylon Has Similarities to the Fall of Other Old Testament Cities	
Babylon	Isaiah 13-14; 21; Jeremiah 50-51
Tyre	Isaiah 23; Ezekiel 26-28
Nineveh	Nahum 3:4
Jerusalem	Ezekiel 16

**Read Revelation 17:1-7... This chapter is parenthetical (not sequential) and shows John what will happen to Babylon (representing the center of false religion).**

17:1 Babylon, the prostitute (as Israel’s adultery equals idolatry) sits on many waters (or has authority over many nations – Revelation 17:15).

- “Many waters” (Jeremiah 51:13) is descriptive of the Euphrates which ran through the center of ancient Babylon and had a number of irrigation canals.

Old Testament Cities Called “Whore”	
Tyre (Phoenicia)	Isaiah 23:15-16
Nineveh (Assyria)	Nahum 3:4
Jerusalem (Judah)	Isaiah 1:21; Ezekiel 16:31, 35; 23

17:2 The Kings of the earth form this malevolent alliance against the one true God. The kingdoms of the world are linked to Babylon through idolatry based on materialism and commerce.

- Commerce (and “good business”) requires a tolerance of (and even championing of) false gods and sinful lifestyles.

- The one world government is synonymous with the “whore of Babel.”
  - Although America was founded on Biblical principles, Satan denies the truth of history while proliferating his deceit;
  - Many deny that the holocaust actually killed 6 million Jews; that socialism in Russia killed more than 12 million under Stalin; that communism in China killed more than 40 million under Mao.
  - There is no truth in this world outside of God alone
- Babylon was one of the earliest cities in Scripture that was founded by Nimrod in his rebellion against God. (Genesis 10:9-10)
- Babylon represents all human organizations apart from God.
- The phrase “the inhabitants of the earth” is used for unbelievers.

17:3 John may have received four different visions as “*in the Spirit*” is used four times in Revelation (1:9; 4:2; 17:3; 21:10)

“10 Horns, 7 Heads”	
Great Red Dragon	Revelation 12:3
The Beast out of the Sea	Revelation 13:1
A Scarlet Beast	Revelation 17:3

- The reddish “scarlet” color was used previously in relation to the dragon, Satan. (Revelation 12:3)
- The “wild beast” represents the beast from the sea (Antichrist – Revelation 13:1-10) and the beast from the land (False Prophet – Revelation 13:11-18).
  - The beast has “blasphemous titles” (Revelation 13:1, 5-6) which claim that the beast is deity.
- The number seven represents “completeness” as this dragon will have complete authority and control. (Revelation 12:3; 13:1)
- The number ten represents “organization and government” while the symbol of “horns” represents power, so the dragon will have complete organizational power and control.
- This whore representing Babylon is being taken to a desert which is a stark contrast to past imagery of a woman representing Israel was also taken into a desert (Revelation 12:6, 14).
  - Babylon became a ruins of the desert wilderness (Isaiah 14:23; 21:1)

17:4 This references the false religion sitting (founded; established) on the beast of the Roman government. (Revelation 13:1) In modern times, all of the false idols of ancient Rome have been demolished over time, and the few idols being kept in pristine display are at the Vatican for public viewing.

- The colors represent wealth, luxury and opulence with purple (representing royalty) and scarlet (representing a range from blood to joy to immorality).
- This is a symbol of worldly and spiritual power and position. Rare and sought-after qualities considered great worth. (Ezekiel 28:13)
- The golden cup is an allusion to the city of Babylon (Jeremiah 51:7); this will be a cup filled with the blood of the saints that have been martyred by Babylon because they stand against Babylon’s greed and materialism.

17:5 At that time the prostitute wore her name on her forehead, and this woman is no exception although it is cryptic/a mystery to unbelievers. This false religion from Rome has cared for all false religions – even in the crusades by contaminating God’s name.

- The writers, Seneca (4BC-65AD) and Juvenal (55AD-138AD), documented that prostitutes wore a band around their heads with either their names or their owner’s names.
- Instead of “Mother Nature,” the city prides itself as “*Babylon the Great, the Mother of Prostitutes and of the abominations of the Earth.*”
  - Cybele, the mother goddess (similar to the idea of “mother nature”) required fanatical, frenzied worship in John’s day.

17:6 This false religion was filled with (and controlled by) the persecution of the saints.

- The allusion to intoxication infers irrational acts in order to kill Christians.
- John had two reactions to seeing the great whore as he “marveled” (ethaumasa ἐθαύμασα) “with wonder great” (thauma θαῦμα). John expected to see the demise of the whore, but he witnessed her opulence and success.

17:7 The angel begins with a question; often with spiritual lessons, there is an ask-assertiveness.

- The angel says that he will explain the woman and the wild beast that she sits on; however, in the actual description, the angel focuses on the beast.

### **Read Revelation 17:8-14...The Angel’s Description of the Beast**

17:8 Even unbelievers will be astonished at the form of the final “Babylonian” style government (the one world rule). Nebuchadnezzar had been ruler of civil and religious affairs.

- The phrase “*was, and is not, and is about to come up*” has several inferences:
  - Satan mimics the nature of the Lord “*who was, who is, and is to come.*” (Revelation 1:4, 8; 4:8)
  - The beast would receive a mortal wound and appear to return to life. (Revelation 13:3)
  - Babylon does not exist in modern days (Emperors do not rule world kingdoms), but at the end times, the beast will once again rule the world politically and religiously.

17:9 Rome is called the “*the city of the seven hills*” frequently by ancient writers. (1 Peter 5:13)

- In John’s day, prostitutes were identified by the fact that they wore the male togas with a tunic underneath instead of the feminine sora. Prostitutes and actors were viewed as entertainers, so it was common for actors to also be prostitutes.
- San Francisco also has “seven hills,” and it is the location where the United Nations was created in 1945.

17:10 By beginning with “*They are also...*” this verse shows that a single verse can have multiple accurate meanings (e.g., literal/figurative, multiple figurative applications).

- Five types of governments had ceased (kings, consuls, dictators, decemvirs, military tribunes) and one (the Emperor) was ruling when John penned Revelation.



- Some scholars apply the “local” meaning as a series of Roman Emperors:
    - Augustus (27BC-14AD), Tiberius (14AD-37AD), Caligula (37AD-41AD), Claudius (41AD-54AD), and Nero (54AD-68AD) were "*the five who had fallen.*"
    - Vespasian (69AD-79AD) as "*the one who is current*"
    - Titus (79AD-81AD) as "*the one who will come for a little while*"
      - Domitian (81AD-96AD) as the “*wild beast that once was*” could be considered a regenerate “Nero”
      - The three minor Emperors of Galba, Otho, and Vitellius (who vied for the throne in 68-69AD) are not listed.
  - Some scholars apply this verse to Old Testament empires who fought God's people (Daniel 2:1-8):
    - Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, and Greece were "*the five who had fallen.*"
    - Rome as "*the one who is current*"
    - The end-time anti-God empire as "*the one who will come for a little while*"
  - The “beast emperor” was yet to come at the end times and would only last 7 years.
- 17:11 The beast will rise out of the seven governments to rule on his own before being destroyed by God.
- 17:12 The ten horns are a union of ten kings (Daniel 7:23-24) whose coalition will last for an exceptionally brief period of time (one hour).
- The number “10” often symbolizes “order” and “organizational structure” as in governments or alliances (i.e., United Nations, European Union, etc.)
  - The phrase “*for a single hour*” is repeatedly used by John to emphasize a brevity of time. (Revelation 18:10, 17, 19)
- 17:13 The coalition will have the shared purpose of consolidating authority and power for the beast.
- 17:14 The title of “*Lord of lords and King of kings*” (kyrios kyriōn estin kai basileus basileōn - κύριος κυρίων ἐστὶν καὶ βασιλεὺς βασιλέων) will be emphasized at the second coming of the Lord (Revelation 19:16). In the Old Testament, this title was used for Yahweh (Deuteronomy 10:17; Psalm 136:2-3) as well as the Babylonian title of Nebuchadnezzar. (Daniel 2:37, 47).
- Believers are with the Lamb who defeats the worldly foes waging war against Him (Revelation 11:7; 13:7).
  - Believers are characterized as the “called” (klētoi κλητοί) and the “chosen” (eklektoi ἐκλεκτοί) which emphasize God’s initiation and grace. Believers are also characterized as “faithful” (pistoi πιστοί) as they respond lovingly and submissively to the will of the Lord.

### **Read Revelation 17:15-18...The Whore is Destroyed by the Beast**

- 17:15 This verse translates the symbolism of the “waters” as the “chaos of social systems” with diverse “*peoples, multitudes and nations and languages.*” (Daniel 2:33-34)
- The Roman Empire fell as the vassal kingdoms revolted and attacked the union.

- Evil forces are divided among themselves (Ezekiel 16:39-40; 23:25-27; 28:18) as they attack one another (Revelation 16:12)
- 17:16 The beast (with the support of the ruling coalition) will now discard the false religion (the prostitute) and take advantage of her.
- The beast used the whore (false religion) to consolidate power via a universal religion of Catholicism, Islam, Judaism, etc. After power was consolidated, there was no longer any reason to compete with this false religion for authority.
  - While Jesus died for His Bride, Satan rejects his prostitute for better proposals.
- 17:17 The sovereign God is in control of history and influences the hearts of the wicked.
- In chapter 17 of Revelation, God uses the wicked to fulfill His purpose (Revelation 16:13-14; Job 1:8; 2:3; 1 Kings 22:22; Judges 9:23; Matthew 18:7). In chapter 18 of Revelation, God is judging directly Himself. Chapters 17 and 18 are complimentary as God uses His creation to fulfill His will.
- 17:18 The “great city” refers symbolically to “Babylon” which represents Rome (Catholicism) and Jerusalem (Judaism) where manmade traditions have bolstered the beast in a one world system (Revelation 11:8; 16:9).
- Universal tolerance of “everything is true and right” (“all roads lead to God/Rome”) consolidates power to allow all of humanity to “co-exist.” However, the one world government will destroy the whore (idolatry/religious adultery) to govern in absolute worldly power.

## 27 Revelation 18

- Chapter 18 documents the downfall of the “physical” Babylon while the “religious” Babylon occurred in the prior chapter.

### **Read Revelation 18:1-3...The Verdict of Judgment on Babylon**

- 18:1 The Greek term for “*authority*” (exousian ἐξουσίαν) is only used to describe an angel in this one verse in revelation. This same term was used to define the authority that God the Father had given to God the Son. (John 5:27)
- This “angel” (meaning “messenger”) may be the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - Jesus will illuminate eternity as there will be no need of the sun or stars (nor will there be night). (Revelation 21:23-25)
- 18:2 The announcement of the fall of Babylon is repeated several times (Revelation 11:8; 14:8; 16:19-20) and extends into the Old Testament (Isaiah 21:9; Jeremiah 51:8)
- Unclean spirits are likened to unclean birds who had made their home in Babylon.
  - Destroyed cities often became the “haunts” of wild animals:
    - Babylon (Isaiah 13:21-22; 14:23; Jeremiah 50:39; 51:37)
    - Edom (Isaiah 34:10-15)
    - Nineveh (Zephaniah 2:14)
- 18:3 The sexual immoralities and licentious desires have “intoxicated” the leaders of the world to irrationally partner in Babylon’s immoral dealings (and religious forays into idolatry).

- All of the nations have turned against the Lamb, but unlike the adulterer Israel, these nations were not the “bride of Christ” (no covenant), so their sexual immorality is fornication.
- Merchants have “excessive wealth” because of Babylon.

**Read Revelation 18:4-8...The Intensity and Immediacy of Babylon’s Judgment**

18:4 The reason that believers are called out of Babylon is so that they will not be lured into Babylon’s sin and incur Babylon’s wrath.

- This warning was used repeatedly through the Old Testament (Isaiah 48:20; 52:11; Jeremiah 50:8, 28; 51:6, 9, 45; Zechariah 2:6-7). Enslaved Israelites in Babylonian captivity (605BC-539BC) would be released to return to the Promised Land by Cyrus the Great after his defeat of Babylon.

18:5 The sins of Babylon are witnessed by God. (Genesis 18:20-21; Jeremiah 51:9)

- When the phrase “*God remembers*” is used in the Bible, it is referencing a time of judgment. (Psalm 79:8; Isaiah 64:9; Jeremiah 14:10; 17:1-4; 44:21-23; Hosea 7:2; 8:13; 9:9; Amos 8:7; Revelation 16:19).

18:6 The sinner will “reap what is sown.” The judgment of sin correlates to the sin itself. (Psalm 137:8; Jeremiah 50:15,29; Matthew 7:2; Revelation 13:10).

- To “pay back double” infers full justice or judgment with “interest.” (Jeremiah 16:18; 17:18; Exodus 22:4-9; Psalm 75:7-8; Isaiah 40:2)
- In Scripture, the “cup” (potēriō ποτηρίῳ) often symbolizes judgment. (Psalm 11:6; 60:3; 75:6-8; Isaiah 51:17,22; Jeremiah 25:15-16,27-28)

18:7 Unlike Zion/Jerusalem (Lamentations 1:1), Babylon is not a widow. This alludes to the self-sufficiency and pride of Babylon. (Zephaniah 2:15; Isaiah 47:7-8)

18:8 Judgment and mourning will fall upon Babylon quickly (Isaiah 47:9).

- Fire is used throughout Scripture as judgment (Leviticus 21:9).
- The strength of God as Judge of Babylon is an Old Testament concept (Jeremiah 50:34).

**Read Revelation 18:9-10...The Political Mourning of Governments at the Loss of Babylon**

18:9 Although the kings destroyed the “religious” Babylon in the prior chapter (Revelation 17:12, 16), the kings clearly had hoped that they would be able to continue to exploit the “physical” Babylon for personal gain.

- The kings of the world grieved the loss of their trading partner.

18:10 The “political friends and alliances” of Babylon will watch her destruction from a distance instead of getting hurt by the fray. (Revelation 18:15)

**Read Revelation 18:11-16...The Commercial Mourning of Salesmen at the Loss of Babylon**

18:11 The grief of the business community is self-focused on the negative impact that the loss of Babylon will have on their own trade and the consumption of their products.

These were the sellers and traders of the wares.

The Correlation of the Demise of Babylon & Tyre		
1.	Revelation 18:11	Ezekiel 27:31, 36

2.	Revelation 18:12-13	Ezekiel 27:12, 13, 22
3.	Revelation 18:15	Ezekiel 31, 36
4.	Revelation 18:17	Ezekiel 26-30
5.	Revelation 18:18	Ezekiel 32
6.	Revelation 18:19	Ezekiel 30-34

18:12-13 Thirty different wares of trade are listed in two verses culminating in human trafficking.

- The whore was described as being dressed in the same merchandise that is now lost. (Revelation 17:4; 18:6)

Seven Categories of Traded Merchandise		
<b>Revelation 18:12</b>		
1.	Precious Materials	Gold, silver, precious stones, pearls
2.	Fine Attire	Linen, purple, silk, and scarlet
3.	Valuable Furniture	Durable wood, ivory, bronze, iron, marble
<b>Revelation 18:13</b>		
4.	Spices	Cinnamon, spice, incense, perfume, frankincense
5.	Food	Wine, olive oil, fine flour, wheat
6.	Domestic Work	Cattle, sheep, horses, carriages
7.	Servants	Slaves; human lives

18:14 The Greek phrase “*the ripe fruit of you of the desire of the soul*” reveals that the soul’s desire of the merchants (2 Timothy 3:1-4) was for transient worldly items that would no longer be available.

- Believers are to delight themselves in the spiritual blessings of God. (Psalm 37:4; Luke 12:15; James 4:1-3; 1 John 2:15-17)

18:15 The “commercial friends and alliances” of Babylon will watch her destruction from a distance instead of getting hurt by the fray. (Revelation 18:10)

- It was prophesied that the merchants would not save her (Isaiah 47:15).

18:16 The whore was described as being dressed in the same merchandise that is now lost. (Revelation 17:4; 18:6)

- In Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, the head representing Babylon was golden (Daniel 2:38), and Babylon was referred to as “the golden city” (Isaiah 14:4).

### Read Revelation 18:17-20...The Commercial Mourning of Logistics at the Loss of Babylon

18:17 Those involved in the commercial aspect of Babylon echo the sentiment of the political allies about the speed (“for in one hour”) with which Babylon fell (Revelation 18:10, 19).

18:18 Babylon was repeatedly called the “*great city*” or in Greek the “*city great*” (polei tē megalē - πόλει τῆ μεγάλης).

- As a believer asks “*who is like our God,*” (Exodus 15:11; Psalm 35:10; 71:19; 77:13; 89:6, 8; 113:5; Micah 7:19), these consumers clearly considered Babylon their god and asked “*what city is like our great city?*”
- An ancient custom of despair and grieving was to throw dust on their heads – the cursed ground (Genesis 3:17-19) – burying alive (Ezekiel 27:30-32)

19:19 Whether a politician, a merchant or in the supply chain, they were all surprised at the speed of Babylon's downfall. (Revelation 18:10, 17).

18:20 As the world grieves the loss of Babylon, believers on heaven and earth are called to celebrate the demise of the materialistic world system of Babylon.

- The apostles and prophets had been persecuted because the gospel message hurt the idolatrous business. (1 Corinthians 4:9-13; Acts 19:23-41)
- God's wrath will avenge the persecution of His people. (Deuteronomy 32:35; Psalm 94:1, 99:8; Nahum 1:2-8; Romans 12:19; Hebrews 10:30-31), and it was prophesied that He would be vengeful against Babylon (Jeremiah 51:11, 56).

### **Read Revelation 18:21-24...The Finality of the Loss of Babylon**

18:21 The angel fulfills prophecy from the Old Testament of Babylon being tossed permanently into water like a stone (Jeremiah 51:60-64; Ezekiel 26:27). The millstone sinking into water speaks of finality of the judgment; it would not be reversed.

- The description of a mighty angel has been used several times in Revelation (5:2; 10:1).
- The whore of Babylon had caused many to sin, and the warning of Jesus was fulfilled. (Matthew 18:6; Mark 9:42; Luke 17:2).

18:22 The finality of the destruction would mean that no joyful instruments would be played or materials produced from the destroyed Babylon.

18:23 In the three verses (Revelation 18:21-23) are six "double negatives" to assert that it will never happen again.

- The powerful people of the world system were prideful and elevated themselves over God.
- Babylon deceived the world as to the purpose and meaning of life. The media, news and educational systems are replete with worldly anti-God deceptions and immoralities
  - The Greek term for "sorcery" (pharmakeia φαρμακεία) is the root word for "pharmacy."
- Just as Babylon was called the "great city," the individuals that succeeded in Babylon were literally called the "great ones" (megistanes μεγιστᾶνες). Each one of the worlds "great ones" will fall as individual, personal "Babylons."

18:24 The Babylonian world system persecuted and killed the saints of God who shared God's ways of love. The Babylonian world system is self-seeking and competitive against others which is antithetical to God's loving ways. (Philippians 2:3)

### 28 Revelation 19

- The battle in chapter 19 of Revelation occurs before the millennium as Jesus conquers the beast of the sea (Antichrist) and his false prophet (the beast of the land).
- In chapter 20 of Revelation, the millennium is over and Satan is released from incarceration only to be defeated at the battle of Gog and Magog.

## Read Revelation 19:1-6...The Hallelujah Worship

19:1 This is the first use of the word “Hallelujah” (Ἀλληλουιά) in the New Testament; the word is used four times in the New Testament and all in this chapter. (Revelation 19:1, 3, 4, 6)

- When “*Hallelujah*” was used in the Old Testament, it was always joined with the definition “Praise the Lord.”
  - The Hebrew term “Hallelujah” (הַלְלוּ־יְהוָה) is a compound noun consisting of “praise” (tehillah הַלְלוּ) and Yahweh.
- This praise of Hallelujah is a celebration by believers for the downfall of the one world anti-God system established by Satan, the Antichrist (the beast from the sea), and the False Prophet (the beast from the land).
- The “*loud shout of the multitude*” is a reference to Jeremiah 51:48. John references Jeremiah 50-51 repeatedly in his description of the downfall of Babylon in chapters 17-18.

19:2 In the midst of persecution (Revelation 19:11; 15:3,4; 16:7), it was meaningful to believers that the Lord’s judgments are “*true and righteous.*” (Psalm 19:9; 119:138, 142)

- The “great prostitute” (Revelation 17:18) is synonymous with the “great city.” (Revelation 11:8; 16:19; 18:10, 16, 18, 19, 21) which is also called Babylon.
- God avenged (Deuteronomy 32:43; Romans 12:19) the persecution of believers throughout history. (Revelation 6:10; 18:20)

19:3 The “smoke rising forever” is a reference to Isaiah 34:10 (used of Edom) which alludes to thorough and complete judgment (Revelation 14:11) – eternal punishment (Matthew 3:12; 25:41; Mark 9:43, 48; Luke 3:17).

19:4 The 24 elders may be representative of all Christians who now worship the Lord (1 Chronicles 24:7-19). Another possibility is that they represent Israel from the Old Testament (12 sons of Israel) and the Christians of the New Testament (12 disciples). (Revelation 4:4)

- The word “Amen” is meant to be firm or certain; it means “so be it”, “I affirm” or “I agree.” The Greek term for “truly” or “I assure you” is the transliterated word from Hebrew “Amen” (Hebrew: אָמֵן Greek: ἀμήν). Transliteration means that the same word is in one language as another without being changed to translate.
- The “Amen” confirmation is used repeatedly in Revelation (1:6, 7; 3:14; 5:14; 7:12; 19:4; 22:20; 22:21).

19:5 This voice is likely the same voice in Revelation 19:1; this would not be Jesus who never says “*our God*” or literally, “*the God of us*” (tō theō hēmōn - τῷ θεῷ ἡμῶν).

- Believers are characterized as slaves fearing (phoboumenoi φοβούμενοι) God.
- This praise reflects the Psalms used during the liturgies of the Passover as well as the Feast of Tabernacles (Psalm 104:35; 105:45; 106:48; 111:1; 112:1; 113:1; 116:19; 117:2; 125:1, 21; 146:1, 10; 147:1; 148:1, 14; 149:1, 9; 150:1, 6)
- The term “great and small” refer to all of God’s people (Psalm 115:13; Revelation 11:18).

19:6 “*Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.*” (Revelation 11:15)

- The three components of God’s title (“the Lord God Almighty” are repeated throughout Revelation (1:8; 4:8; 11:7; 15:3; 16:7, 14; 19:6, 15; 21:22):
  - The LORD (kyrios κύριος) – the Old Testament covenantal name of Yahweh (Exodus 3:14; Psalm 103)
  - God (theos θεός) – the Old Testament name of Elohim (Psalm 104)
  - Almighty (Pantokratōr Παντοκράτωρ) – El Shaddai was the name used by the Patriarchs (Exodus 6:3)

### **Read Revelation 19:7-10...The Wedding Feast of the Lamb**

19:7 The believer’s relationship with the Lord follows the customs of Jewish weddings. (Matthew 8:11; 26:29). There is a betrothal period followed by waiting period and concluding in a seven-day celebration of the wedding. Marriage is a love-based covenant. The believer is betrothed to the Savior which will be culminated in the heavenly marriages feast.

- The symbolism of marriage is evident in the Old Testament (Isaiah 54:4-8; 62:5; Jeremiah 31:32; Ezekiel 16; Hosea 2:14-19) as well as the New Testament (2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:21-31; Revelation 19:9; 21:2,9; 22:17).

19:8 Fine linen represents the righteous acts of the saints.

- Even the linen clothing of the high priest were filthy coverings (Zechariah 3).
- God extends His righteousness through grace, and it is received through faith.
- The “righteous acts” are not done to gain God’s favor, but occur as a result of God’s favor.
- The Greek term for “God’s people” (hagious ἁγίους) is the term for “saints” which originated with the term “holy” (to be set apart for God’s service – as in “sanctuary”). The term “saint” is not associated with man’s goodness, but is defined by God’s goodness imputed to man (2 Corinthians 5:21). A saint is a “separated one to an assigned task.”

19:9 This verse emphasizes that the reality of God’s word as truth. (Revelation 21:5; 22:6)

- This is the fourth blessing of the “Revelation beatitudes” (Revelation 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14).
- The invitation to the wedding reflects God’s initiating love that can be accepted or rejected.
- The Word of God is faithful and true (Jeremiah 42:5; Revelation 3:14, 19:13, 21:5; 22:6).
- John is encouraged repeatedly to write what he witnesses (Revelation 1:11, 19; 14:13; 19:9; 21:5) with one exception (Revelation 10:4).

19:10 Some servants of God are so wonderful, but they are not to be worshipped – never confuse the messenger with the Message; be careful who is applauded in worship services (Acts 10:25-26; Matthew 17:4-5). The testimony about Jesus is the spirit of prophecy as all of the Old Testament points to Jesus.

- John is recorded as doing this wrong twice to possibly emphasize the importance of not doing it or the easy tendency to do it. (Revelation 22:9)

- God alone is to be worshipped although Satan enviously strives to be worshipped.
- The servants of God might be wonderful, but they are not to be worshipped – never confuse the messenger with the Message;
- Believers should be careful of applauding the individual instead of God in worship services (Revelation 22:9; Acts 10:25-26; Matthew 17:4-5). It is dangerous to try to usurp the praise and glory due to God:
  - In Acts 12, Herod killed James and imprisoned Peter, but it was his claim of glory that was judged.
  - Nebuchadnezzar committed horrible acts; however, it was his pride on the rooftop that was judged,
- The testimony about Jesus is the spirit of prophecy (1 Corinthians 12:1-3) as all of the Old Testament points to Jesus. (Revelation 1:2; 6:9; 12:17; 14:12)

**Read Revelation 19:11-19...The Second Coming of Christ (The Second Advent or Parousia)**

19:11 Conquering (victorious) Roman Generals commonly rode on white horses. The Word of God is faithful and true (Jeremiah 42:5; Rev 3:14, 19:13, 21:5; 22:6).

- Heaven was opened for John to witness the spiritual truths. (Revelation 4:1; 11:19; 15:5); this may also be a reference to Ezekiel 1:1.
- This view of the Messiah as the conquering victor aligned with the Jewish expectation of the Messiah.
- The title of “*Faithful and True*” identifies the two foundational realities about the Word of God (Revelation 3:14). This emphasizes the trustworthiness of God’s Word.
- The Lord is the Judge and righteousness will pervade His realm. (Isaiah 9:7; 11:3-5; 16:5; 32:1; Psalm 96:13)

19:12 A description of the returning Lord is once again documented by John. (Revelation 1:12-16)

- The first characteristic described (the eyes) was listed later at the beginning of Revelation.
- His eyes (vision/understanding) were that of fire (symbolic of judgment – 1 Corinthians 3:13; Malachi 3:2; Daniel 10:6)
- The Greek term for “crowns” (diadēmata διαδήματα) represents royalty, authority and power. Instead of a number, the Lord is described as having “many” (polla πολλά) crowns.

<b>Diadems Represent Royal Crowns of Authority</b>		
Revelation 12:3	Satan	7 Diadems
Revelation 13:1	The Beast	10 Diadems
Revelation 19:12	The Lord	“Many” Diadems

- The Lord has revealed much about Himself; however, there are realities about the Lord that have not been revealed (Revelation 2:17). In John’s day, the name represented the essence of the individual.

19:13 The blood on the robe of Jesus (Revelation 14:20) might be from the battle with the world’s ungodly armies. (Isaiah 63:2-3; Jeremiah 51:33; Lamentations 1:15; Joel 3:13)



- The blood might also reflect Christ’s own redemptive blood (Revelation 1:5; 5:9; 12:11) that enable the white robes of the following verse. (Revelation 7:14)
  - This is the final use of the word “blood” (haimati αἵματι) in all of Scripture. The first use in Scripture of the word “blood” was the cursed ground crying out to God regarding Abel’s blood shed by Cain. (Genesis 4:10-11).
  - John likens the name of the Lord with the “Word of God.” (John 1:1, 14; 1 John 1:1)
- 19:14 The “*armies of heaven*” consist of the believers (Revelation 19:8; 14:4; 17:14); however, the “*armies of heaven*” also reference the angels. (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 26:27; Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26; 1 Thessalonians 3:13; 2 Thessalonians 1:7)
- The “*armies of heaven*” do not participate with the Lord in the battle or carry any weaponry, they accompany Christ to the battle as witnesses of His power and judgment.
- 19:15 The weapon of the Lord came “from His mouth” (Isaiah 11:4; Revelation 1:16; 2:16).
- In 2 Thessalonians 2:8, Paul writes that the Lord will slay (just as He created) with His mouth (Revelation 1:16; Isaiah 11:4; Job 4:9; Daniel 8:25) The Greek term “to slay” (anelei ἀνελεῖ) can be translated as “make inoperative” or make null and void. (Romans 6:6)
  - “*For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword...*” (Hebrews 4:12).
  - John quotes Psalm 2:9 in reference to the “rod of iron” shattering the pottery (Revelation 2:27). The Lord Jesus Christ will reign (Revelation 12:5; 19:15) and believers will reign with Him. (Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:30; 1 Corinthians 4:8; 6:2; 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 3:21; 5:10; 22:5)
    - Jesus has been given all authority (Matthew 28:18; Philippians 2: 9-11)
  - John references the end-time battle that is prophesied in Ezekiel 38-39 (Psalm 2; Revelation 19:2, 5, 6, 13).
  - The harvests of grapes were always a time of judgment. (Isaiah 63:2-3; Jeremiah 51:33; Lamentations 1:15; Joel 3:13)
    - The "wine press" is a reference to an Old Testament symbol of judgment (Isaiah 63:3; Lamentations 1:15). The juice of the red grape may appear similar to blood (Revelation 14:19).
- 19:16 “*And on His robe and on His thigh, He has a name written: ‘KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.’*”
- The thigh is referenced for several reasons:
    - The prophetic Psalm (45:3) is “*Strap Your sword on Your thigh, Mighty One in Your splendor and majesty!*”
    - The thigh is the strongest muscle of the body and symbolic of power. (Genesis 32:25)
  - The title of “*Lord of lords and King of kings*” (kyrios kyriōn estin kai basileus basileōn - κύριος κυρίων ἐστὶν καὶ βασιλεὺς βασιλέων) will be emphasized at the second coming of the Lord (Revelation 17:14).

- In the Old Testament, this title was used for Yahweh (Deuteronomy 10:17; Psalm 136:2-3) as well as the Babylonian title of Nebuchadnezzar. (Daniel 2:37, 47).
  - In Aramaic, the Gematria sum of the letters used in this title add up to “777”.
- 19:17 The result of Armageddon (Revelation 16:12-16) is a land strewn with corpses for birds to consume. Birds are repeatedly welcomed after the battle (1 Samuel 17:46; Matthew 24:28; Luke 17:37) while Ezekiel 39:17-20 refers to the Battle of Gog and Magog in Revelation chapter 20.
- Earlier in Revelation, unclean spirits were likened to unclean birds (Revelation 18:2).
- 19:18 The contrast is stark between the Lamb’s invitation to join His wedding feast and the angel’s invitation for the birds of prey to come to feast on the corpses of the unbelieving rebels (Jeremiah 12:9; Ezekiel 39:17).
- The sword (word) of God’s wrath is repeatedly pictured as devouring the flesh of His enemies (Isaiah 34:6; Jeremiah 12:12; 46:10; Zephaniah 1:7). The kings of the earth may hide among caves and rocks to conceal themselves from the birds (Revelation 6:15).
    - Rebellion against God often results in hiding (Genesis 3:8)
  - The triumphant return of the Lord is mentioned at the conclusion of each judgment cycle: Seals (Revelation 6:12-17); Trumpets (Revelation 11:15-18); Bowls (Revelation 19:1-21).
- 19:19 The one-world government led by the beast assemble to fight against the Lord Jesus. This battle is referenced through Scripture (Psalms 2; Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21; 2 Thessalonians 2).

### **Read Revelation 19:20-21...The Destruction of the Beast’s Army**

- 19:20 The Antichrist (the beast of the sea – Revelation 13:1-10) and the False Prophet (the beast of the earth – Revelation 13:11-18) had deceived the unbelievers through the miraculous works of the False Prophet (Revelation 13:13).
- Both the Antichrist and False Prophet would be thrown into the Lake of Fire (Hell) for eternal torment. (Isaiah 30:32)
  - The Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:10, 14; 21:8) was referenced many times by Jesus as Gehenna.
- 19:21 The unbelieving masses who had persecuted believers would now be themselves destroyed by the Word of God.
- Just as Christians will reign with Christ, those who follow the Antichrist and False Prophet will suffer their torment.

### 29 Revelation 20

**Chapters 20-21 are focused on the millennial kingdom when Jesus reigns on earth for 1,000 years. The millennial reign is different than the Messianic reign of Christ in the New Heaven and Earth for eternity.**

### **Read Revelation 20:1-3...Satan is Confined in the Abyss During the Millennium**

20:1 Jesus holds the keys (Revelation 3:7, 22:22), but can also distribute them to others (Matthew 16:19).

- Jesus has power of the keys of death and of Hades (Revelation 1:18); whereas, Satan may have also been given a key to the abyss (Revelation 9:1) after falling from heaven (Isaiah 14:12; Ezekiel 28:16; Luke 10:18; Revelation 8:10; 12:9); no one has power without being given it by God (Romans 13:1).
- This abyss is where Satan will be held in the millennium (Revelation 20:3), and another angel with the “key of the abyss” will incarcerate Satan there.
- Satan (Revelation 9:11) fell from heaven (Isaiah 14:12; Ezekiel 28:16; Luke 10:18; Revelation 12:9)
- A “key” (kleis κλεῖς) represents a right and authority to access. (Revelation 1:18; 20:1)
- The “abyss” (abyssou ἀβύσσου) means “depth” and refers to Tartarus (2 Peter 2:4).
  - The “abyss” is used to describe multiple places:
    - In the Septuagint for “deep waters.” (Genesis 1:2; 7:11)
    - For Hades/Sheol/Grave (Romans 10:7)
    - Confinement for Demons (Luke 8:31; Revelation 11:7; 20:3)

20:2 The form of the shrewd serpent (Revelation 12:7-13) were used by the devil from the misleading of Eve in the garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1).

- The word “Devil” comes from the Greek word “diabolos” (διάβολος) which means “slanderer.”
- The Hebrew name “Satan” (Satanas Σατανᾶς) means “adversary.”

20:3 The seal on the grave of Jesus could not hold Him, but the seal on the abyss of Satan will restrain him for 1,000 years. This is the only time in all Scripture that 1,000 years references a specific time period with the other mentions of “1,000 years” being symbolic of a long, complete period of time. (Deuteronomy 7:9; 1 Chronicles 16:15; Job 9:3; Psalm 50:10; 105:8; 2 Peter 3:8)

- This is the second time in Revelation that the keys of the abyss are mentioned; the first time relates to the fifth trumpet (Rev 9:1-3).
- Earlier in Revelation, an angel opened the abyss (Revelation 9:1) to set loose the demons, and now he casts Satan into bondage for a thousand years.
- As in the garden of Eden, Satan is a deceiver, but his deception will be paused during the millennium (Jeremiah 17:9).
- The phrase “shut it and sealed it over him” implies complete suppression and elimination of Satan’s influence. (Isaiah 24:22)
- The force of Satan and his demons has always been to deceive the people of the world. (Revelation 12:9 13:11-14; 16:14; 19:19; 20:8).
  - The people of the world can no longer determine right from wrong. They believe that homosexuality is acceptable in the site of God; they have varying sexual orientations and identifications at will. The spiritually blind individual cannot even determine their own gender. They terrorize and murder millions of babies each year under the guise of morality.

**Read Revelation 20:4-6...The First Resurrection of Believers**

20:4 The term “judge” comes from the Greek word “krima” which is also used in the New Testament for condemnation, damnation and punishment.

- The Tribulation martyrs who denied the Antichrist and died will now rule (Matthew 19:28-29; Luke 19:12-27). This may be expanded to all believers reigning with Christ. (Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:30; 1 Corinthians 4:8; 6:2; 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 3:21; 5:10)
- Some theorize that only believers will enter the Millennium at its conception (John 3:3-5).
- According to Josephus, the Roman Empire punished criminals via beheading with a double-edged axe (Romans 13:4). Some scholars believe that “beheading” simply means to be disembodied or to be spirits. (Revelation 6:9)

20:5 The first resurrection is a resurrection to life (John 5:28, 29) while the second resurrection is a resurrection to death.

<b>Two Resurrections Drastically Different (John 5:25-29)</b>		
<b>Two Resurrections:</b>	<b>Focus of Resurrection</b>	<b>Scripture References</b>
First Resurrection	Christ	1 Cor 15:23; Rev 1:5
	Church	1 Cor 15:23; 1 Thes 4:16
	Old Testament & Tribulation Believers	Is 26:19; Dan 12:2
Second Resurrection	Unbelievers	Rev 20:12-13

20:6 Satan has been locked away while Jesus is present with the believers administering His kingdom from Jerusalem (Ez 40-48); the second resurrection belongs to the unbelievers who are damned to eternal torment (Jn 5:28-29). Believers are described as blessed and holy.

- This is the fifth blessing of the “Revelation beatitudes” (Revelation 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14).

**Read Revelation 20:7-10...Satan’s Release & Demise in the Battle of Gog and Magog**

20:7 During the millennium man must continue to struggle with his innate sinful nature, and Satan’s release shows the depravity of man in returning to the same lies of Satan.

20:8 After the millennium, Satan returns to unite worldly armies against the Lord once again. Gog (“ruler/roof/man on top”) is mentioned nine times in Scripture as the title (e.g., czar, pharaoh) of the leader while Magog (“head”) is his native land, but symbolically they have come to represent all of those who are against God.

- The very first action of Satan upon release from imprisonment during the millennium will be deceit.
- The phrase “sand of the sea” represents a vast earthly number while “stars in the sky” represent a vast spiritual number.
  - This is another mimicking of God’s people and the promise of God to Abraham (Genesis 15:5; 22:17; 32:12; Hebrews 11:12)

20:9 The believers in God do not need to defend themselves because the Lord will destroy those who attack them at Jerusalem (Matthew 25:31-46)

- The anti-God army may stage themselves on the plains of Megiddo as they prepare to assault Jerusalem. (Psalm 2; Ezekiel 38-39; Daniel 9:24- 27; Zechariah 13-14).

- Ezekiel prophesied of fire will fall from heaven and consume the attacking army (Ezekiel 38:22; 39:6; Luke 21:20)

20:10 Satan is thrown into hell (Luke 12:5) which is the same lake of fire where the Antichrist and False Prophet will be tortured (Revelation 19:20)

<b>Thrown into the Lake of Fire (Hell)</b>	
Revelation 19:20	Antichrist & False Prophet
Revelation 20:10	Satan
Revelation 20:14	Death & Hades
Revelation 20:15	Unbelievers

### **Read Revelation 20:11-15...The Great White Throne Judgment of Unbelievers**

20:11 The “white” stands for purity of His horse (Revelation 19:11) and His throne which was established for judgment (Psalm 9:7).

- The old, fallen heaven and earth have fled away from the holiness of the victor (2 Peter 3:10); however, there would be no place for them, they would be completely eliminated (Revelation 21:1) making way for a new heaven and earth. (2 Peter 3:10-13)
- In regards to “*Him who sat upon*” the great white throne, John alludes to Daniel 7:9. Although Jesus did not come in His first incarnation to judge the world (John 3:17-21; 12:47-48), God the Father has now given Jesus the authority to judge in His second coming (John 5:22,27; 9:39; Acts 10:42; 17:31; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 2 Timothy 4:1; 1 Peter 4:5).
- Earth and heaven seem to be fearful of judgment as they flee; this shows the disintegration of the physical order of creation. (2 Peter 3:10, 12; Acts 3:21; Romans 8:21)
- Just as the world did not welcome Jesus at His incarnation (Luke 2:7), there was “no room” for Satan in heaven. (Revelation 12:8)
  - Believers should command their bodies and lives in the same way; ungodly things have “no room” in a believer’s mind or schedule. (Philippians 4:8)

20:12 In the second resurrection (the resurrection of unbelievers), unbelievers will be judged according to their works. A single sin results in the judgment of hell (James 2:10); however, hell will have various levels and intensities of torment. (Matthew 11:20-24; 12:41-42; Luke 10:12, 14; John 19:11; Hebrews 10:29; James 3:1)

- Whether the “Lamb’s book of life” (determining believers under the Lord’s salvation) is different from the “book of life” (examining works/deeds), every unbeliever will fall short of perfection from sins listed in this book of life and not covered by the Lamb (Psalm 69:28; Philippians 4:3; Revelation 3:5, 13:8, 17:8, 20:15, 21:27)
- Everyone will be judged; however, the Bema Seat judgment of believers will result in varying degrees of rewards.

**Two End Time Books of God  
(Daniel 7:10; Revelations 20:12)**

<b>The Book of Life</b> (God's People)	Exodus 32:32-33 Psalm 69:28 Isaiah 4:3 Daniel 12:1 Luke 10:20 Hebrews 12:23 Philippians 4:3 Revelation 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:15; 21:27
<b>The Book of Remembrances/Works</b> (All People)	Psalm 56:8, 139:16 Isaiah 65:6 Malachi 3:16

20:13 Those physically living, but spiritually dead (from the sea – “world’s system) as well as those who were physically and spiritually dead were given up to the Great White Throne Judgment (1 Corinthians 15:26; 1 Peter 1:17).

- Some scholars believe that the sea, death, and hades are not different places, but simply point to the fact that all of the dead will be at judgment.

20:14 In the lake of fire, ongoing death is a way of existence in hell as death (Revelation 1:18) and hades (Revelation 6:8) are committed/restricted to those in hell alone. (Hebrews 1:14)

- There will be no death in heaven because death and hades will be confined to hell.
- This verse gives assurance that the believer will finally be free from death and hades. (1 Corinthians 15:26,54-55; 2 Timothy 1:10; Revelation 1:18; 21:4)

20:15 Those not covered by the lamb are committed to hell (Revelation 19:20; Malachi 3:16; Jeremiah 17:13; Psalm 97:3)

### 30 Revelation 21

- There is a 1,000-year gap (the millennium) between chapters 20 and 21 of Revelation.

### **Read Revelation 21:1-8...The New Heaven and New Earth**

21:1 This earth will pass away (Isaiah 65:17; Matthew 24:35; Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33; 2 Peter 3:10,13) The “sea” symbolizes the chaotic world system which is not only calmed and quieted (Revelation 4:6, 15:2), but completely eliminated. (Psalm 2; Isaiah 17:12-13; 57:20; Revelation 13:1; 17:15)

- This world is the domain of Satan (Eph 2:2; 2 Cor 4:4), but even with Satan’s incarceration during the millennium, people fell away with their own depraved natures – the new earth rids the new society of both plagues (1 Corinthians 15:28).
- The Greek term for “new” (kainon καινὸν) references the quality of heaven and earth. (2 Peter 3:10-13)
- Scripture repeatedly references the concept of a new heaven and earth (Isaiah 11:6-9; 65:17; 66:22; Romans 8:18-25; Hebrews 11:10, 16; 12:22; 13:14; Galatians 4:26; Revelation 3:12)

- The Greek term for “*passed away*” (apēlthan ἀπῆλθαν) was used when the Pharisees and Herodians left Jesus (Matthew 22:22).
- The “second” heaven and earth will no longer be infected by sin. (Acts 3:21; Romans 8:21; Colossians 1:20; 2 Peter 3:10-12; Revelation 20:11)
- In this verse, the term “heaven” refers to the atmosphere/space around the earth (instead of the spiritual heaven that is the dwelling place of God).
- “*For I will create a new heaven and a new earth; the past events will not be remembered or come to mind. Then be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I will create Jerusalem to be a joy and its people to be a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people. The sound of weeping and crying will no longer be heard in her.*” (Isaiah 65:17-19)

21:2 Although mankind strives to “save the world” and bring “world peace”, this can only be achieved through the Lord as all good things come from God (James 1:17). this new city represents all believers (Revelation 21:9-10) coming down from the Lord (Galatians 4:26; Hebrews 11:10; 12:22; 13:14)

- This verse confirms that the writer was a firsthand eyewitness to the ministry of Jesus Christ.
- While Babylon was called the “Great City” (Revelation 16:19; 17:18; 18:10, 16, 18, 19, 21), Jerusalem is called the “holy city” – or literally the “city holy” (polin tēn hagian - πόλιν τὴν ἁγίαν). (Luke 4:9)
  - The concept of “holy” means to set apart from the common or purposed for sacred use according to God’s will.
- The “heaven” referenced in this verse is the spiritual dwelling of God (different from the prior verse - Revelation 21:1)
- The analogy of a “bride” represents a faithful, covenantal relationship (Isaiah 61:10)

21:3 From the throne, a loud voice roars “LOOK!” (Genesis 1:29) The “*tabernacle of God*” (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Ephesians 2:21; 1 Peter 2:5) is a reference to His glorified presence which will reside with men (Matthew 5:8).

- As in the garden of Eden, God desired a relationship with man. (Genesis 2:15; 3:8-9)
- God desired a covenantal relationship with His people after freeing Israel from slavery (Leviticus 26:11-12).
- After the deterioration of Israel through Judges and Kings, God continued to desire the covenant relationship with His people (Ezekiel 37:23, 27).
- Immanuel means “God with us” (Isaiah 7:14).
- The Greek term “Tabernacle” (skēnōsei σκηνώσει) is the same word used in John 1:14, “*The Word became flesh, and did **tabernacle** among us,*”

21:4 In the new Jerusalem, there will be no sadness or death (Isaiah 25:8, 35:10; 65:19; Revelation 7:17), but all will be comforted by the Lord.

<b>Things That Will No Longer Exist in Heaven</b>		
1.	Sea	Revelation 21:1
2.	Death	Revelation 21:4
3.	Mourning	Revelation 21:4
4.	Crying	Revelation 21:4

5.	Pain	Revelation 21:4
6.	Curse	Revelation 22:3
7.	Night	Revelation 22:5

- Death will be destroyed (1 Corinthians 15:26), and the resurrected bodies of believers will not be infected by sin. (1 Corinthians 15:50-57; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16; 1 John 3:2)
- The “former things” (prōta prōta) passed away because they had been polluted by sin and the fall of man. (Hebrews 12:27-28; 2 Corinthians 5:17)
- “But the Day of the Lord will come like a thief; on that day the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, the elements will burn and be dissolved, and the earth and the works on it will be disclosed.” (2 Peter 3:10)

21:5 God’s Word is called “faithful & true” which was the title written on Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:11).

God encourages John to write these things down as if John had been awestruck by the new Jerusalem.

- John is encouraged repeatedly to write what he witnesses (Revelation 1:11, 19; 14:13; 19:9; 21:5) with one exception (Revelation 10:4).
- God speaks in Revelation 21:5-8; as the former creation was the result of God’s spoken word (Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26), the new heaven and earth will be a result of God’s Words.

<b>“Faithful &amp; True” means “Trustworthy”</b>	
God the Father	Revelation 15:3; 16:7; 19:2
God the Son (Jesus)	Revelation 1:5; 3:7,14; 19:11
The Word of God	Revelation 19:9; 21:5; 22:6
The Followers of Jesus	Revelation 17:14

21:6 Jesus is described three times in Revelation as the “beginning and the end” (Revelation 1:8, 22:13). Beyond simply being the first and last in a series, the “beginning” refers to the source of something and the “end” refers to the goal/culmination.

- Jesus said on the cross after receiving the vinegar of this world – “it is finished” (John 19:30), and now “it is finished” again with Jesus offering His fountain of living water.

<b>“It Is Finished”</b>	
<b>Establishment of:</b>	<b>Reference</b>
1. Plan of Salvation	John 19:30
2. Judgment of Sin	Revelation 16:17
3. Reward of Believers	Revelation 21:6

- Water sustains life, and “living water” sustains spiritual life that is completely free to the recipient. Living water alludes to an active moving water (running water). (Psalm 36:9; Isaiah 12:3; 44:3; 49:10; Jeremiah 2:13; 17:13; John 4:10)
- The “water of life” is only referenced in the Book of Revelation (Revelation 21:6; 22:1; 22:17).

21:7 An overcomer is a believer in reliance on the Lord for salvation and through sanctification has had active, habitual or continual victory over sin (1 John 5:4-5).



- The victor will be the son of God and receives full inheritance. (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21)
- Although God speaks of His holy people in general, this verse represents the specific, individual relationship of God with each of His particular sons.
- To be an overcomer requires something to overcome - a challenge or test.
- Jesus Christ became human and overcame the world (John 16:33) which allowed Him to overcome death (2 Timothy 1:10) and open the seven seals. (Revelation 5:5)

21:8 The characteristic of “cowardly” leads the list (2 Timothy 1:7; Joshua 1:7, 23:6; Deuteronomy 1:21) of those destined for hell; the coward has chosen his own safety over the ministry and mission of the Lord.

<b>The Promises in Revelation to the Overcomer (1 John 5:4-5)</b>		
<b>Reference</b>	<b>Promise</b>	
1. Rev 2:7	To eat of the tree of life	
2. Rev 2:11	Not to be hurt of the second death	
3. Rev 2:17	To eat of the hidden manna	
4. Rev 2:17	To receive a white stone with a new name	
5. Rev 2:26	To have authority over the nations	
6. Rev 2:26	To receive the morning star	
7. Rev 3:5	To be arrayed in white garments	
8. Rev 3:5	Not to have his name blotted out of the book of life	
9. Rev 3:5	To have his name confessed before God and the angels	
10. Rev 3:12	To be made a pillar in the temple of God	
11. Rev 3:12	To have a new name written upon him	
12. Rev 3:21	To sit down with God in his throne	
13. Rev 21:7	To drink the water of life freely	
14. Rev 21:7	To be God's son and to have God for his God	

<b>Those Destined for the Second Death in the Lake of Fire (Revelation 21:8)</b>		
<b>Greek</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	<b>Scripture References</b>
1. deilois	Cowardly	Mt 8:26; Mk 4:40; Heb 12:28
2. apistois	Unbelieving	1 Cor 14:22; 2 Cor 6:14; Titus 1:15
3. ebdelygmenois	Vile/abominable	Rev 21:8 is only use in Scripture
4. phoneusin	Murderers	Mt 22:7; Acts 3:14, 7:52, 28:4; 1 Pet 4:15; Rev 22:15
5. pornois	Sexually immoral	1 Cor 5:9-10; 1 Tim 1:10
6. pharmakois	Sorcerers	Rev 9:21; 22:15
7. eidōlōlōtrōis	Idolaters	1 Cor 5:10-11, 6:9, 10:7; Eph 5:5; Rev 22:15
8. pseudesin	Liars	Acts 6:13; Rev 2:2

### **Read Revelation 21:9-14...The New Jerusalem**

21:9 The angel was not only given the solemn duty of judgment (Revelation 15:1), but also the wonderful task of revealing the bride of Christ which is the new Jerusalem.

- The marriage of the Lamb had already taken place (Revelation 19:7). Although outside of time, there will be a sequence of events in eternity.
- The focus of the rest of the chapter is the Lamb.

21:10 This “Revelation” was more than a vision as the spirit carried John to a specific location (Ezekiel 40:2; Isaiah 2:2; 14:13; Micah 4:1). This incredibly lofty view enabled John to see New Jerusalem come down from heaven.

- John may have received four different visions as “*in the Spirit*” is used four times in Revelation (1:9; 4:2; 17:3; 21:10)
- The “holy city” is juxtaposed with the “great city” of Babylon. (Revelation 11:8; 16:19; 18:10, 16, 18, 19, 21)

Focus of Being “taken by the Spirit”		
Man of God	Reference	Focus
1. Elijah	2 Kings 2:16	Rapture
2. Ezekiel	Ezekiel 8:3, 11:1	Exposure of Jerusalem idolatry
3. Ezekiel	Ezekiel 37:1	Resurrection of Israel
4. Philip	Acts 8:39	Ministry
5. Paul	2 Cor 12:2	Paradise Revelation
6. John	Revelation 17:3	Satan in the Desert
7. John	Revelation 21:10	Jerusalem & Bride of the Lamb

- Revelation 21:10-14 is a single sentence.

21:11 Jasper was the birth stone of Benjamin meaning “Son of my right hand” which symbolizes the strength (right hand) of Jesus (God’s son). The other two references to crystal in revelation point to clarity of God’s truth/Word in relation to the laver (Rev 4:6) and the living water (Rev 22:1).

- The bride of Christ did not have her own glory, but emanated the glory of God.

21:12 The walls of a city reflected the safety/security of a city – clearly under God’s supervision, this city was safe and unable to be breached. The gates have the names of the Tribes of Israel symbolizing the representation of Jews within the new Jerusalem.

- The number “twelve” represents organizational testimony/witness; the 12 gates have the names of the Tribes of Israel symbolizing the gateway of Judaism to the gospel and into the new Jerusalem.

21:13 The number three typically corresponds to godly revelation, and this revelation was directed to each of the four directions. Four corresponds to creation, so all of creation would have the revelation of the Lord.

21:14 The walls of the New Jerusalem were identified with the names of Christ’s 12 apostles which laid the foundation of the church with the preaching of the gospel message.

### Read Revelation 21:15-21...The Measurements & Materials of the New Jerusalem

21:15 In Scripture, Jesus utilizes the actual measuring rod with the perfect standard (Revelation 21:15; Isaiah 34:11; Lamentations 2:8; Ezekiel 40:3; Zechariah 2:1) while man’s best attempts to judge equate to a reed symbolizing weakness (Matthew 11:7, 27:29).

- In Scripture when someone is measuring, a judgment is occurring.

21:16 The measurement of the sides of the new Jerusalem was 1500 miles. The length,

width and height are equal which reflects perfection and completeness in symmetry.

- The Holy of Holies was also squared off in perfect symmetry and order in the presence of God (2 Chronicles 3:8).
- 21:17 The height of the wall is 216 feet (cubit=18 inches) high which is much less than the height of the city itself. This is categorized as a “human measurement” as if the spiritual dimensions might have a wholly other meaning and measuring schema.
- 21:18 Again the stone of Benjamin (Jasper - Rev 21:11) is identified as the defining characteristic of the city with Benjamin meaning “Son of my right hand” emphasizing the strength (right hand) of God being with Jesus (God’s Son). Gold symbolizes royalty.
- 21:19 Although the walls had the names of the 12 apostles (Rev 21:14) which reflected the New Testament believers, the walls had the birthstones of the tribes of Israel symbolizing the integration between old and new testaments.

<b>Precious Stones in the New Jerusalem Wall (Revelation 21:19-20; Isaiah 54:11-17)</b>				
<b>Stone</b>	<b>Color</b>	<b>Tribe</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	<b>Story Line</b>
1. Jasper	Diamond	Benjamin	Son of the Right Hand	<i>God’s Powerful Son</i>
2. Sapphire	A brilliant blue stone	Dan	He Vindicates/Judges	<i>Vindicates</i>
3. Chalcedony	Sky blue with colored stripes	Joseph	May God Add	<i>And Brings</i>
4. Emerald	Bright green stone	Levi	Attached / Joined	<i>More</i>
5. Sardonyx	Red and white striped stone	Asher	Happy	<i>Joy</i>
6. Sardius	Various shades of Red	Reuben	See, a son	<i>God’s sons</i>
7. Chrysolite	Transparent gold or yellow	Naphtali	My Struggle / Wrestling	<i>Struggle</i>
8. Beryl	Shades of green, yellow & blue	Zebulun	Honor/Looking for a Home	<i>In seeking their home</i>
9. Topaz	Yellowish green	Simeon	One who Hears & Obeys	<i>As they hear &amp; obey</i>
10. Chrysoprase	Gold tinted green	Judah	Praise the Lord	<i>Resulting in praise</i>
11. Jacinth	Blue or violet colored	Gad	Good Fortune	<i>&amp; good fortune</i>
12. Amethyst	Purple stone	Issachar	Reward	<i>&amp; an eternal reward</i>

21:19-20 When these stones are laid out and separated three-by-three then arranged in the directions of Revelation 21:13 (east-north-south-west), the sequence is the exact reverse order of the stones associated with the signs of the zodiac (almost as if this were contra-zodiac) as if to say that this is more than symbols – this is reality.

21:21 Although the gates had the names of the tribes of Israel (Revelation 21:12), they consisted of pearl which represented the gospel to Gentiles (Matthew 7:6, 13:45-46) symbolizing the integration between old and new testaments.

**Read Revelation 21:21-27...The Impact of the Presence of God the Father & the Lamb**

21:22 In the New Jerusalem, there will not be a need for a temple to provide a means for a man to fellowship with God; no need to go anywhere to worship God because believers will constantly be in His presence.

- The heavenly Temple (Hebrews 9:23) will no longer be needed because there is perfect fellowship between God and His people.

21:23 Jesus is the light of the world (Isaiah 24:23; 60:19-20; Zechariah 14:6-7; Psalm 36:9; John 8:12, 9:5); spiritually, the Lord will give understanding and clarity. No more cycles of the day followed by the night – no more cycles of obedience/blessing followed

by sin/judgment.

21:24 Believers are deemed kings and priests (Revelation 5:10) as all of the nations are represented in the bride of Christ.

- There will be nations in eternity (after the White Throne Judgment) where people will understand (light/enlightenment) God’s will and ways (Psalm 72:10-11; Isaiah 49:23; 60:3, 15-16)
- The term “Nations” (ethne ἔθνη) can also be translated as “Gentiles.”

21:25 There will be no darkness with hidden sin and motives, but all will be exposed and safe in the new Jerusalem. (Matthew 6:23; 8:12; 22:13; 25:30) The eternally open gates were prophesied in the Old Testament (Isaiah 60:11; Zechariah 14:6-7).

21:26 God’s glory will be reflected in the coming and going of His people (Matthew 5:14).

21:27 Those who enter are only those whose names are in the Lamb’s book of life (Malachi 3:16; Jeremiah 17:13)

- There will be an eternal separation between the clean and the unclean. (Isaiah 52:1; Ezekiel 44:9; Zechariah 14:21)

### 31 Revelation 22

Repeated Phrases in Revelation 22	
“Water of Life”	Revelation 21:6, 22:1, 22:17
“Tree of Life”	Revelation 2:7, 22:2, 22:14, 22:19
“I Am Coming Quickly”	Revelation 22:7, 22:12, 22:20

#### Read Revelation 22:1-5...The Ambience of Heaven’s Eternity

22:1 The river of life (Amos 5:24; Ezekiel 47:1-12; Ps 46:4) contained living water which causes the drinker to never thirst again (Jn 4:13-14)

- Old Testament descriptions of paradise included rivers (Genesis 2:10; Psalm 46:4; Ezekiel 47:1-12; Zechariah 14:8). Repeatedly, water was used as a spiritual symbol. (Isaiah 12:3; 44:3; 49:10; Jeremiah 2:13; 17:13; John 4:10-14; 7:37-39)
- There is a single throne of God the Father and the Son.

22:2 The tree of life spans both sides of the river.

- The tree of life may have two trunks on each side of the river of living water (possibly the Old and New Testament) or the two witnesses that surround the lampstand (Zechariah 4:1-14).
- Other scholars believe that the tree has a single trunk, but it is so large that it hangs over both sides of the river.
- The term “each” (hekaston ἕκαστον) tree may also show that there is more than one tree. Both sides of the river might be lined with trees (that are trees of life).
- “And by the river on its bank, on one side and on the other, will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month because their water flows from the sanctuary, and their fruit will be for and their leaves for healing.” (Ezekiel 47:12)
- The tree of life was mentioned in Scripture in Genesis 2-3 as well as Proverbs before being mentioned three times in Revelation (Revelation 2:7; 22:2; 22:14).
  - “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,” (Proverbs 11:30)

- *“Delayed hope makes the heart sick, but fulfilled desire is a tree of life.”* Proverbs 13:12)
  - *“A soothing tongue is a tree of life.”* (Proverbs 15:4)
  - The Greek word translated "healing" is “*therapeia*” meaning “service rendered” (i.e., medical service), and could speak of peace and emotional healing between nations that have always been plagued by war.
  - There is no curse of death anymore (Genesis 3:14-19; Zechariah 4:11).
  - There will be eating in heaven, but the only type of food that is explicitly documented in Scripture is fruit.
  - The concept of “months” (*mēna μῆνα*) continues through eternity. There seem to be a different fruit for each of the twelve months before rotating through the fruits again.
    - The Jewish calendar has always been a twelve month “Lunar” calendar based on the cycles of the moon; however, Revelation 21:23 states that the moon is no longer needed for light (although it is not needed, the moon might still remain).
    - Heaven continues to mark time/sequence although it differs from the world’s time. *“With the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.”* (2 Peter 3:8)
- 22:3 Believers are called to love which means humble service. There will be no greater thrill than to serve the Lord throughout eternity.
- God pronounced a curse on humanity in the garden of Eden (Genesis 3:14-24). However, God redeemed humanity from the curse (Galatians 3:13)
- 22:4 The focus (every thought) of God’s servants will be God Himself which will be evident to all (Deuteronomy 6:8; Revelation 19:13)
- Having God’s name on the forehead symbolizes that there will be godly thoughts and a godly focus.
  - These believers will see God as He truly is;
    - *“For now we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, as I am fully known.”* (1 Corinthians 13:12)
    - *“The pure in heart are blessed, for they will see God.”* (Matthew 5:8)
- 22:5 Darkness, hidden things and shame will no longer exist as the believers live together in the light of knowledge and understanding (Is 60:19).
- This fulfills the promise of Revelation 2:26 for an eternal reign of believers. (Daniel 2:44; 7:14,18; Isaiah 9:7; Luke 1:33; 2 Peter 1:11; Revelation 11:15)

### **Read Revelation 22:6-11...The Concluding Words of the Lord**

- 22:6 The epilogue begins with the validation of the prophecy and the reason that the Lord is sharing this message – that believers (God’s servants) will know what takes place quickly (Revelation 1:1).
- The “*God of the spirits of the prophets*” emphasizes the inspiration of the Old Testament (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21) as well as the inspiration of the New Testament (2 Peter 3:15-16). *“For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”* (Revelation 19:10).
  - God’s word is true (now) and will remain true (eternal → faithful).
    - God has the character to keep His promises. (Numbers 23:19; Romans 3:4; 1 Corinthians 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:24)

- God has the power (capability) to keep His promises. (Hebrews 13:8; Psalm 103:17-18; Isaiah 54:8; Jeremiah 31:3; 2 Timothy 1:12)
  - Jesus Himself has written on His thigh that He is “*faithful and true*” (pistoι kai alēthinoι πιστοὶ καὶ ἀληθινοὶ).
    - “*Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True.*” (Revelation 19:11)
- 22:7 God emphasizes the need for attention with “LOOK!” to express His swift return (Revelation 16:15, 22:12)
- This is the sixth blessing of the seven “Revelation beatitudes” (Revelation 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14).
  - The Greek phrase “*must take place quickly*” (En Tachei - ἐν Τάχει) is the root word for tachometer which means that when it happens, it will occur quickly, speedily and with haste.
- 22:8 John either repeats his earlier failure (Revelation 19:10) or once again automatically worships an angel who brings the message of God.
- It is critical that we do not worship the messenger (e.g., Preacher, Teacher, Leader, Facilitator, Singer, etc.) instead of the Lord.
- 22:9 Instead of John making this same mistake twice, the same event may have simply recorded twice. The wording of Revelation 22:9-10 is very similar to the wording of Revelation 19:10.
- “*For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy*” (Revelation 9:10) gives insight into “*the words of prophecy*” that John is not supposed to seal up. (Revelation 22:10)
  - John is recorded as doing this wrong twice to possibly emphasize the importance of not doing it or the easy tendency to do it. (Revelation 19:10)
  - The angels consider themselves slaves like John, the prophets and all who keep the words of the Bible. Obedience to God’s Word is an absolute outcome of genuinely accepting Jesus as Savior and Lord.
  - Some servants of God are gifted, but they are not to be worshipped – never confuse the messenger with the Message. Believers should be careful about who is applauded in worship services (Acts 10:25-26; Matthew 17:4-5).
  - God alone is to be worshipped although Satan enviously strives to be worshipped.
  - Believers should be careful of applauding the individual instead of God in worship services (Revelation 22:9; Acts 10:25-26; Matthew 17:4-5). It is dangerous to try to usurp the praise and glory due to God:
    - In Acts 12, Herod killed James and imprisoned Peter, but it was his claim of glory that was judged.
    - Nebuchadnezzar committed horrible acts; however, it was his pride on the rooftop that was judged,
- 22:10 Unlike Daniel and Isaiah, John is told not to hide the Revelation (Daniel 8:26, 12:4, 9; Isaiah 8:16)
- “*For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy*” (Revelation 9:10) gives insight into “*the words of prophecy*” that John is not supposed to seal up. (Revelation 22:10)
- 22:11 Man will continue to pursue life/death according to his heart (Hosea 4:17; Ezekiel 20:39; Zechariah 11:9)
- Men will be who they are; their actions will reveal their genuine heart towards God.

(Matthew 12:33)

- A man isn't a "horse thief" because he steals a horse, a man steals a horse because he is a "horse thief."
- At this point, after testifying to the revelation of God's power and judgment, if the person has not repented and humbly turned to God, their hearts are hardened beyond restoration.

### Read Revelation 22:12-16...The Assurance by Jesus of His Return

22:12 Works matter, and everyone (believer and unbeliever) will be judged (1 Corinthians 3:13).

- God will judge (Isaiah 59:18, Jeremiah 21:14, Ezekiel 18:30, Matthew 16:27, Romans 2:6, 1 Peter 1:17; Revelation 20:13) every man (2 Corinthians 5:10).
- "LOOK!" God calls people to be attentive to His coming (Zechariah 12:10).
  - The phrase "coming quickly" speaks of when Christ is returning as well as the way that He is returning (when it happens, it will happen quickly).  
(Revelation 22:6, 7, 10, 12, 20)

22:13 This description of "*Alpha and Omega*" applies to God the Father and God the Son. (Revelation 1:8; 21:6). By applying these three synonymous concepts to Himself, Christ claims eternal equality with God (Revelation 1:8, 17; 2:8; 21: 6).

22:14 The robe represents a man's righteousness which can only be purified by Christ's blood; coming to the Lord takes an act of the will to accept His gift and live obediently to Him. Jesus is the gate (John 10:9)

- This is the final blessing of the seven "Revelation beatitudes" (Revelation 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14).

22:15 By this point in the end times, the wicked will be receiving their punishment in the lake of fire. Instead of describing eternity, this verse may be contrasting the eternity of believers with the wicked people of the present day.

- The phrase "outside of the city" might be an allusion to unbelievers who do not dwell in an intimate relationship with God in the new heaven and earth.

<b>Those Not Allowed into the New Jerusalem (Revelation 22:15)</b>	
<b>Category</b>	<b>Definition</b>
1. Dogs	Rapacious Gentiles who remain in their sin – Deuteronomy 23:18; Matthew 7:6, 27; Luke 16:21; Philippians 3:2; 2 Peter 2:22
2. Sorcerers	Witchcraft, New Age, Hollywood Black Magic
3. Sexually Immoral	Pleasure Seekers
4. Murderers	Haters
5. Idolaters	Worshipping the wrong thing/person
6. Liars	Deceiver

22:16 This is only time in all of Scripture that this affirmation and emphasis of Himself as speaking these words, "*I, Jesus...*" (egō Iēsous ἐγὼ Ἰησοῦς)

- As the root, Jesus established the throne of David, and as the offspring, Jesus came in the flesh via the royal lineage (Matthew 1:6; Luke 2:4, 3:30).
  - Jesus is the "root" (ancestor) and "fruit" (descendant) of David.
- Scripture repeatedly emphasizes that Jesus was in the line of David in the Old

Testament (2 Samuel 7:12-16; Isaiah 11:1,10) and in the New Testament (Matthew 1:1; 9:17; 15:22; 21:9; Romans 1:3; 2 Timothy 2:8 Revelation 5:5).

- Therefore, Jesus fulfills the Davidic covenant and promise made by God. (2 Samuel 7:12-13)
- Jesus references His “angel” (or messenger) to share the truth about the glorified “Lamb” with the churches. (Revelation 1:1)
- The morning star is the one that outshines all of the others; it is brighter than other stars and is used for directions as travelers chart their course and follow it.
  - This term is used for Lucifer/Satan (Isaiah 14:12) as an angel that stood out above the others, but fell from God’s grace.

### **Read Revelation 22:17-21...The Complete Veracity of Scripture as God’s Word**

22:17 The thirsty should come for the free gift (Romans 5:15-18) of living water (Jeremiah 2:13, 17:13; John 4:10-14).

- The conclusion of Scripture is an open invitation to everyone who will come to Christ. (Romans 3:24; 6:23; Ephesians 2:8).

22:18-19 Every word of Scripture should be regarded as God’s holy word; man cannot choose select passages to believe and other passages to discard.

- These verses are a warning against false teachers who intentionally twist the message of God for their own personal gain.
  - Adding to the Word of God is “Legalism” (like the Pharisees).
  - Taking away from the Word of God is “Liberalism.” (Teaching freedom to sin instead of freedom from sin).

22:20 Closing with a prayer to Jesus awaiting His return. The same one who authenticates the Bible confirms that He will be coming quickly. (Matthew 13:34-36; 24:43; 25:1-13; Luke 12:29; 1 Thessalonians 5:2,4; 2 Peter 3:10)

- Scripture concludes with an assurance from the Lord Jesus that He is coming again.
- The phrase “*come Lord*” in Aramaic is “*Maranatha.*” (1 Corinthians 16:22)

22:21 The last remark is agreement with God’s Word (“*Amen*” meaning “*so be it*”). All believers are saints endowed with God’s grace.

- God’s grace initiates and concludes the life of the Christian, and the rewards of the Christian are a testimony to all of creation about God’s grace to the unworthy.
  - Grace represents God’s gift of the Spirit as well as other spiritual gifts.
  - The term “grace” (charitos χάριτος) means unmerited favor. This favor occurred because of who believers are in Jesus, His beloved Son. (Matthew 3:17, 17:5; Ephesians 1:6).
  - The root of “charitos” is chairō which means to rejoice. This is also the root of the English word “charity.”
- The Greek term “Amen” is meant to confirm; it means “so be it”, “I affirm” or “I agree.”
  - The word “Amen” is transliterated from Hebrew (Hebrew: אָמֵן Greek: ἀμήν).
  - Transliteration means that the same word is in one language as another without being changed to translate.
- All of Scripture is the inspired Word of God. Man will either reject God altogether, align himself with manmade beliefs, or accept the truths that God has revealed about



## Himself in Scripture.

Last Verse of Each Book of the Bible		
Genesis	50:26	<i>So, Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.</i>
Exodus	40:38	<i>For the cloud of the LORD was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.</i>
Leviticus	27:34	<i>These are the commandments which the LORD commanded Moses for the children of Israel on Mount Sinai.</i>
Numbers	36:13	<i>These are the commandments and the judgments which the LORD commanded the children of Israel by the hand of Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho.</i>
Deuteronomy	34:10-12	<i>But since then, there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, in all the signs and wonders which the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, before Pharaoh, before all his servants, and in all his land, and by all that mighty power and all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.</i>
Joshua	24:33	<i>Eleazar the son of Aaron died. They buried him in a hill belonging to Phinehas his son, which was given to him in the mountains of Ephraim.</i>
Judges	21:25	<i>In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.</i>
Ruth	4:22	<i>Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David.</i>
1 Samuel	31:12-13	<i>All the valiant men arose and traveled all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth Shan; and they came to Jabesh and burned them there. Then they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.</i>
2 Samuel	24:25	<i>David built there an altar to the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So, the LORD heeded the prayers for the land, and the plague was withdrawn from Israel.</i>
1 Kings	22:52-53	<i>He did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father and in the way of his mother and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin; for he served Baal and worshiped him, and provoked the LORD God of Israel to anger, according<sup>[a]</sup> to all that his father had done.</i>
2 Kings	25:29-30	<i>So Jehoiachin changed from his prison garments, and he ate <sup>[a]</sup>bread regularly before the king all the days of his life. And as for his <sup>[a]</sup>provisions, there was a <sup>[a]</sup>regular ration given him by the king, a portion for each day, all the days of his life.</i>
1 Chronicles	29:29-30	<i>Now the acts of King David, first and last, indeed they are written in the book of Samuel the seer, in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the book of Gad the seer, with all his reign and his might, and the events that happened to him, to Israel, and to all the kingdoms of the lands.</i>
2 Chronicles	36:23	<i>Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up!</i>
Ezra	10:44	<i>All these had taken pagan wives, and some of them had wives by whom they had children.</i>
Nehemiah	13:30-31	<i>Thus, I cleansed them of everything pagan. I also assigned duties to the priests and the Levites, each to his service, and to bringing the wood offering and the first fruits at appointed times.</i>

Esther	10:3	<i>For Mordecai the Jew was second to King Ahasuerus, and was great among the Jews and well received by the multitude of his brethren, seeking the good of his people and speaking peace to all his countrymen.</i>
Job	42:17	<i>So, Job died, old and full of days.</i>
Psalms	150:6	<i>Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!</i>
Proverbs	31:30-31	<i>Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.</i>
Ecclesiastes	12:14	<i>For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.</i>
Song of Solomon	8:14	<i>Make haste, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices.</i>
Isaiah	66:24	<i>So Jehoiachin changed from his prison garments, and he ate bread regularly before the king all the days of his life. And as for his provisions, there was a regular ration given him by the king of Babylon, a portion for each day until the day of his death, all the days of his life.</i>
Jeremiah	52:33-34	<i>So Jehoiachin changed from his prison garments, and he ate bread regularly before the king all the days of his life. and as for his provisions, there was a regular ration given him by the king of Babylon, a portion for each day until the day of his death, all the days of his life.</i>
Lamentations	5:21-22	<i>Turn us back to You, O LORD, and we will be restored; Renew our days as of old, Unless You have utterly rejected us, and are very angry with us!</i>
Ezekiel	48:35	<i>All the way around shall be eighteen thousand cubits; and the name of the city from that day shall be: THE LORD IS THERE.</i>
Daniel	12:13	<i>But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.</i>
Hosea	14:9	<i>Who is wise? Let him understand these things. Who is prudent? Let him know them. for the ways of the LORD are right; The righteous walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.</i>
Joel	3:21	<i>For I will acquit them of the guilt of bloodshed, whom I had not acquitted; for the LORD dwells in Zion.”</i>
Amos	9:15	<i>I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up From the land I have given them,” says the LORD your God.</i>
Obadiah	1:21	<i>Then saviors shall come to Mount Zion to judge the mountains of Esau, and the kingdom shall be the LORD’s.</i>
Jonah	4:11	<i>Should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left—and much livestock?</i>
Micah	7:20	<i>You will give truth to Jacob and mercy to Abraham, which You have sworn to our fathers from days of old.</i>
Nahum	3:19	<i>Your injury has no healing, your wound is severe. All who hear news of you will clap their hands over you, for upon whom has not your wickedness passed continually?</i>
Habakkuk	3:19	<i>The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer’s feet, and He will make me walk on my high hills. To the Chief Musician. With my stringed instruments.</i>
Zephaniah	3:20	<i>At that time, I will bring you back, even at the time I gather you; For I will give you fame and praise among all the peoples of the earth, when I return your captives before your eyes,” says the LORD.</i>
Haggai	2:23	<i>‘In that day,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘I will take you, Zerubbabel My servant, the son of Shealtiel,’ says the LORD, ‘and will make you like a signet ring; for I have chosen you,’ says the LORD of hosts.”</i>

Zechariah	14:21	<i>Yes, every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness to the LORD of hosts. Everyone who sacrifices shall come and take them and cook in them. In that day there shall no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts.</i>
Malachi	4:5-6	<i>Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."</i>
Matthew	28:19-20	<i>Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.</i>
Mark	16:19-20	<i>So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.</i>
Luke	24:52-53	<i>And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.</i>
John	21:25	<i>There are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.</i>
Acts	28:30-31	<i>Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.</i>
Romans	16:27	<i>to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.</i>
1 Corinthians	16:24	<i>My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.</i>
2 Corinthians	13:14	<i>The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.</i>
Galatians	6:18	<i>Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.</i>
Ephesians	6:24	<i>Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.</i>
Philippians	4:23	<i>The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.</i>
Colossians	4:18	<i>This salutation by my own hand-Paul. Remember my chains. Grace be with you. Amen.</i>
1 Thessalonians	5:28	<i>The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.</i>
2 Thessalonians	3:18	<i>The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.</i>
1 Timothy	6:20-21	<i>O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge - by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace be with you. Amen.</i>
2 Timothy	4:22	<i>The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.</i>
Titus	3:15	<i>All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.</i>
Philemon	1:25	<i>The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.</i>
Hebrews	13:25	<i>Grace be with you all. Amen.</i>
James	5:20	<i>Let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.</i>
1 Peter	5:14	<i>Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to you all who are in Christ Jesus. Amen.</i>
2 Peter	3:18	<i>Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.</i>
1 John	5:20-21	<i>We know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus</i>

		<i>Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.</i>
2 John	1:12-13	<i>Having many things to write to you, I did not wish to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that our joy may be full. The children of your elect sister greet you. Amen.</i>
3 John	1:13-14	<i>I had many things to write, but I do not wish to write to you with pen and ink; but I hope to see you shortly, and we shall speak face to face. Peace to you. Our friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.</i>
Jude	1:25	<i>To God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.</i>
Revelation	22:21	<i>The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.</i>