

THE BOOK OF THE REVELATION

Revelation 5-12 NEW 2-19.doc

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“**The Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church**” by Rev. Marvin Rosenthal with Thomas Nelson, Inc. as publisher.

Additional comments by (RevC).

BEGIN LESSON 1

I. It is the revelation of Jesus Christ

A. Authorship:

1. While the apostle John is the writer of the book, he is not the author or composer. The author is the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. This the only portion of the New Testament to which Jesus gives his endorsement and affixes his signature, saying at it's close "**I Jesus, have sent mine angel, to testify unto you these things in the churches.**" **Rev. 22:16.**
3. Twice John declares that the contents of the book where revealed to him by an angel. **Rev. 1:1; 22:8.** Who this angel is or was, we are not told (angel means messenger). But, when John fell down to worship him, he said, "**see thou do it not, for I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book.**" **Rev. 22:8-9.** He must, therefore, have been one of the old prophets who was sent for this purpose.

B. This is a book of Revelation

The word revelation in the Greek is Apocalupsis. It comes from the verb Apocalupto, meaning to unveil. Apocalupsis means a taking away of a veil, as when a statue is unveiled, so that what is behind the veil then may be seen. It is the unveiling of those events that precede and accompany the return of Jesus Christ to the earth that this book deals with.

C. This is prophetic book

This book is not history as it is not a record of the past, but reveals the future. **Rev. 1:3** tells us "**blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy.**" Furthermore, this is confirmed by scriptures in **Revelation 22:7,10, 18, and 19**. There has been no "new revelation" since this book was written. And all those who claim to have received new or latter revelations are impostors and false prophets. It opens with a blessing promised to the reader and ends with a curse upon those who add unto or take from it, **Rev. 1:3; 22:18&19**.

D. The book is a symbolic book

1. Within the title it is stated, "**he sent and signified it by his angel, unto his servant John**" **Rev. 1:1**. The word signified means given in "**signs**" and "**symbols.**"
2. The prophet Daniel was told to seal up the words of his prophecy until "**the time of the end,**" not the "end of time," but the end of "times of the Gentiles." **Dan. 12:4, 9**. But the writer of the book or Revelation was told to "**seal not**" the sayings of the book, for the time is at hand. **Rev. 22:10**
3. "**The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong unto us and our children forever.**" **Duet. 29:29**. By this statement

we see that the book was written to those who are acquainted with the word of God and who have spiritual discernment. It is not understood by the carnal mind.

4. As this is the last prophecy we would expect it to sum up all previous prophecy concerning the church, Israel, and the nations. We find the church in the beginning, Israel in the middle, and the saved nations at the end. These three are also seen in the construction of the holy city, new Jerusalem; where we have the church in the foundation, represented by the names of the 12 apostles, and Israel in the gates, with the names of the 12 tribes of Israel written over them, and the saved nations in the streets, where they walk in the light of the city's glory.
5. Then the book begins with a description of the church ages. The book is mostly devoted to the nation of Israel, as we see in chapter 6-19 inclusive, the revelation reveals what shall take place during the last or **"70th week" of Daniel's "70 weeks."**

E. It is a book of consummation

It describes the culmination of the evil foreseen and described in **I Tim. 4:1; II Tim 3:1-5; II Peter 2:1-2; Jude 14-19**, and declares the consummation of that which the prophets foretold the creation of a new heaven and a new earth, which in righteousness will dwell, **Isaiah 65:17**. Thus the Bible begins with paradise lost, and closes with paradise regained.

F. It is a book, which concerns the Jewish Nation:

1. Israel failed God in spite of His blessings, and has been held captive and dispersed among all the nations.

2. God has always had to preserve the nation of Israel. That protective blanket is still about them today. God promised to bless those that bless Israel and curse those that curse Israel.
3. God has kept Israel because some day they shall be a blessing to the whole world. Yet today Israel is not in its rightful place and exists as a curse to the world. Example of Jonah in belly of fish. He was not where he should be and was so uncomfortable to the fish that Jonah was vomited up.
4. The Gentile nations have swallowed the nation of Israel, and Israel is now a source of discomfort to the Gentiles.
5. The promise of **Genesis 12:2-3** has not yet been fulfilled.

Gen 12:2-3 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

6. God made an unconditional promise to Abraham. (**Gen. 15:18**). The land extend from the Nile River up the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea to the Euphrates. Down the Euphrates to Persian Gulf and back across to the Nile. Up till today Israel has never occupied this area completely.
7. David wanted to build a temple for God, yet God wanted to make a temple of David that an eternal Kingdom would be established (**II Sam. 7:14**). Christ has never occupied the throne.
8. **Ezekiel 48** says the land shall be occupied in (by Israel) twelve horizontal stripes. This had not yet been done.

9. **Jeremiah 23:5-6** speak of the reigning king. **Ezekiel 37:24-25** says David shall be king forever. Ezekiel lived after David. Christ of David's line shall be the fulfillment.

END LESSON 1

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 1

1. T or F The apostle John, the author of the book of Revelation wrote this last book of the Bible from the isle of Patmos.
2. T or F John received this revelation from one of the Old Testament prophets acting as a messenger from God.
3. T or F There have been several additional authenticated revelations since the writing of John's letter.
4. T or F It is a book of prophecy, it is symbolic, it concerns both the Gentile and Jewish nations, and ends with paradise regained.
5. T or F It is an unveiling (Gr. "Apocalupsis") of those events that precede and accompany the return of Jesus Christ and the establishment of the eternal kingdom of God.

BEGIN LESSON 2

II. The Revelation of Jesus Christ - What time is it now?

- A. **With the coming of the Holy Spirit we find the establishment of the Apostolic Church (33 AD - 100 AD).**
- B. **The second period of the Church was the martyred Church during which Rome murdered 1000's of Christians. (100 AD - 316 AD).**
- C. **The third period was the State Church set up by Constantine. Almost everyone belonged, which brought all kinds of outside thinking into the Church. (316 AD - 500 AD).**
- D. **The fourth period was the Papal Church during which the Roman Bishop declared himself Pope (500 AD - 1500 AD).**

- E. The fifth period was the Reformation Church led by Martin Luther (1500 AD).**
- F. The sixth period was the Missionary Church which began in 1793 AD.**
- G. The seventh period is the Apostate Church which is the present condition of the church as it is falling away.**
- H. When Israel failed God the Church was brought into existence. When the Church fails God, Israel shall be brought back on the scene.**
- I. The stage is set for a world dictator who will straighten out the world's problems (Anti-Christ).**
- J. What time is it? We are living in the last 6/7 of time.**

III. The day of the Lord & The day of Jesus Christ

A. The day of the Lord.

- 1. Several passages in the OT speak of "the day of the Lord" and describe events, which occur at that time. Perhaps to best understand what is meant we should examine several passages, and see what they have in common.**
 - a. Joel 2:31 (quoted in Acts 2:20) 1:15; 2:1-2; 3:11-16**
 - b. Isaiah 13:4-22**
 - c. Amos 5:18-20**
 - d. Zephaniah 1:14-18**
 - e. Zechariah 14:1-5**
- 2. Some things in common from these OT scriptures are:**
 - a. Darkness - sun, moon, stars give no light (Zeph. 1:15; Amos 5:18-20; Joel 3:15; Joel 2:2; Isa. 13:10; Joel 2:31)**

- b. Kingdoms of nations are gathered to Battle
(**Zech.14:1-3; Isa.13:4**)
 - c. A day of wrath and destruction (**Zeph. 1:15; Joel 1:15; Isa. 13:6, 9**)
 - d. Earthquakes (**Joel 3:16; Isa. 13:13**)
 - e. Trumpet sound (**Zeph.1:16; Joel 2:1**)
3. In comparison these events are also described in the NT with some additional information added.
- a. **2 Thess. 2:2-3** Paul writes to the believers who were troubled evidently by a letter which was forged as if it had come from Paul which indicated that "**the day of the Lord**" was at hand (note some Bibles have "**day of Christ**" but virtually every ancient manuscript reads "**day of the Lord**"). This they no doubt thought possible because of the horrible persecution they were under from Rome. Paul exhorts them in verse 3 that the day of the Lord would not come until there was a falling away and the man of sin is revealed. This obviously had not happened as yet. Therefore, Paul believed the day of the Lord was still future.

2 Th 2:2-3 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

- b. **Matt. 24:3-31** gives us more about the many events that will take place between the beginning of the tribulation and the day of the Lord. **Verses 29-31** deal closely with same elements we saw described in the OT passages. Namely:

(I) Tribulation

(II) Sun, moon, and stars, give no light.

(III) Sound of the trumpet

Mat 24:3-31 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? 24:4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. 24:5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. 24:6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 24:7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. 24:8 All these are the beginning of sorrows. 24:9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. 24:10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. 24:11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 24:12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. 24:13 **But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.** 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. 24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) 24:16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: 24:17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: 24:18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. 24:19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! 24:20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. 24:23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. 24:25 Behold, I have told you before. 24:26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. 24:27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 24:28 For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together. 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: 24:30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of

man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 24:31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Some new information is also added:

- (I) Powers of heaven shaken - could refer to Spiritual authorities being at war
- (II) We shall see His coming in great glory
- (III) The elect shall be gathered

- c. **Revelation 16:13-16** speaks again of the gathering together to battle at Armageddon. We are reminded that he comes as a thief (to those not watching) therefore we are to be watching.

Rev 16:13-16 **And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 16:14** **For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. 16:15** **Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. 16:16** **And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.**

- d. **I Thess. 5:2-6** tells us that the day of the Lord comes as a thief to those in darkness, but those "**brethren**" (believers) are not in darkness but are children of light. Therefore, we are admonished to watch and be ready. One would not expect to be admonished to be watching if they were not going to be around when the day of the Lord took place.

1 Th 5:2-6 **For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. 5:3** **For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. 5:4** **But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. 5:5** **Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. 5:6** **Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.**

- e. It may well be that the day of the Lord begins at the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and continues through until the renovation of the earth by fire. This can be seen in **2 Peter 3:10-13** and **Zechariah 14:5-11**.

2 Pet 3:10-13 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 3:12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

END OF LESSON 2

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 2

1. T or F The stage is set for a world dictator (Anti-Christ) who will supposedly solve the world's problems. We are living in the last 6/7 of time.
2. T or F According to those who hold to the theory of the 7 periods of Church history we are living in the period of the Missionary Church.
3. T or F The fourth period of Church history was the Reformation Church led by the Pope.
4. T or F The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night to believers and non-believers alike.
5. Which of the following was not part of "the day of the Lord":
 - A. Darkness
 - B. Nations gather to war
 - C. **Anti-Christ desecrates the Temple**
 - D. Earthquakes
 - E. The Trump of God
 - F. Gathering of the elect

BEGIN LESSON 3

B. The day of Christ

1. **Phil. 1:10** we are encouraged to be without offence until the day of Christ. There is no indication that this day differs from "the day of the Lord" as a separate event, and could just as easily be a reference to it.

Phil 1:10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

2. **Phil. 2:16** Paul putting his faith in the word of God that he would be able to rejoice in the day of Christ, and be shown not to have run the race in vain. There is nothing here to separate this day from being the same as the day of the Lord.

Phil 2:16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

IV. The Revelation of Jesus Christ - Introduction

- A. Divided into three parts, which can be divided into seven parts, which can further be divided into seven parts.

B. The three parts (Rev. 1:19)

Rev 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

1. Past - what you see

Vision 1 (1:9-20) is the first vision of the risen glorified Son of God sitting in the midst of the 7 lampstands.

2. Present - What is

Vision 2 (2:1-3:22) Christ and His relationship to the Church. His message to the 7 churches.

3. Future - What is to take place here after

Vision 3 (4:1-22:21). From this point we see those things that take place after the church age is completed.

C. The seven subdivisions of the three parts and their subdivisions

1. Seven Churches (**Rev. 2-3:22**)
2. Seven Seals (**Rev. 6-8:5**)
3. Seven Trumpets (**Rev. 8:7-11:19**)
4. Seven Heavenly Beings (**Rev. 12-13:18**)
5. Seven bowls of the wrath of God (**Rev. 15-16:21**)
6. Seven dooms (**Rev. 17:1-20:15**)
7. Seven new things (**Rev. 21-22:21**)

D. The Past - What you see

The vision that John had of the risen glorified Christ as Lord over His church (**Rev. 1:9-20**)

E. The Present - What is

The divisions of Christ's Church (**Rev. 2-3:22**). This is the period we are in now.

The Present - Seven Churches and their types (**Rev.2-3:22**)

1. Ephesus = Backsliding
2. Smyrna = Persecuted

3. Pergamun = Licentious
4. Thyatira = Lax or Lazy
5. Sardis = Dead
6. Philadelphia = Favored
7. Laodicea = Lukewarm

F. The Future - What is yet to be

The vision of the heavenly home (**Rev. 4-22**). This is the part John saw when taken to heaven in the vision.

1. Scene of the Heavenly throne (Chapter 4)
2. The praise of God in Heaven
3. The POSSIBLE rapture of the Church
(**4:4; I Thess. 4:13-17**) This would only be true providing the pre-tribulation rapture of the church is correct.
4. Judgment begins (**Chapter 5:9**)
5. Seven seals
 - a. White horse - False Christ
 - b. Red horse - War
 - c. Black horse - Famine
 - d. Pale horse - Death
 - e. Souls under altar (**6:9**)
 - f. Changes in earth (**6:12-14**)
 - g. Silence (**8:1-5**)
6. After sixth seal an interlude: (**Chapter 7**)
 - a. Sealing of 144,000 Jews 12,000 of each tribe
 - b. Blood washed multitude enter into Heaven

7. **With the opening of the** seventh seal the seven trumpets began:

- a. Hail, fire, blood (8:7)
- b. Burning mountain (8:8)
- c. Star fallen from heaven (8:10)
- d. Darkening of the sun (8:12)
- e. Locusts (9:3)
- f. 1/3 mankind wiped out (9:15)
- g. Hallelujah Chorus (11:15-19)

8. After sixth trumpet another interlude then the seventh trumpet.

- a. John eats little scroll (Rev. 10:10-11)
- b. Two heavenly Beings (Rev. 11:1-14)

9. Then the seven Heavenly Beings

- a. Woman clothed in sun (12:1)
- b. Great Red dragon (12:3)
- c. Manchild (male) (12:5)
- d. Michael the Archangel (12:7)
- e. God the Father and His Christ (12:10)
- f. A beast rising out of the sea (13:1-10)
- g. A beast rising out of earth (13:11-18)

10. After seventh Heavenly Being another interlude

- a. Lamb and 144,000 on Mt. Zion (14:1-5)
- b. Admonition to worship God (14:6-7)
- c. An angel proclaims fall of Babylon (14:8)
- d. Condemnation for worshipping beast (14:9-12)
- e. The blessing of the dead in Christ (14:13)
- f. The Son of Man as the reaper (14:14)
- g. The Harvest (14:15-20)

END OF LESSON 3

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 3

1. T or F The “day of Christ” and the “day of the Lord” appear to be a reference to two different days with separate events.

2. T or F Beginning with Chapter 4 we see the heavenly throne and God being praised. John saw this as he was taken there in the vision.

3. T or F The sealing of the 144,000 involved 12,000 being chosen from each of the twelve tribes.

4. T or F Between the sixth and seventh seal we see a “blood washed multitude” enter into Heaven. This multitude may well be the rapture of the church and all the saints of God throughout history up to that day.

5. T or F With the opening of the 7th seal we see the 7 trumpets and the pouring out of the wrath of God begins.

BEGIN LESSON 4

11. Then we have seven bowls of wrath (15-16:21)

- a. Foul and evil sores (16:2)
- b. Sea becomes blood (16:3)
- c. Rivers and all water become blood (16:4)
- d. Men are scorched by heat (16:8)
- e. Kingdom of beasts is darkened (16:10)
- f. River Euphrates is dried up and all kings of earth assemble at Armageddon (16:12-16)
- g. Impending destruction of the great religious & political system (16:17-21)

12. The seven dooms

- a. Mystery Babylon the harlot (17:1-18)
- b. Babylon the Great City (18:1-24)
- c. The beast into lake of fire (19:20)
- d. The false prophet in lake of fire (19:20)
- e. Armageddon for unbelievers (19:21)
- f. The dragon Devil and Satan (20:2)
- g. Death and Hades into lake of fire (20:14)

13. The seven new things (21:1 to 22:21)

- a. The new heaven (21:1)
- b. The new earth (21:1)
- c. The new Jerusalem (21:2)
- d. The fountain of life (21:6)
- e. The new born bride (21:9)
- f. The new wall (21:12)
- g. The new foundation (21:14)

14. The seven things Christ speaks of

- a. Water of life (22:1)
- b. Tree of life (22:2)
- c. The light (22:5)
- d. The blessing for keeping the Word (22:7)
- e. Against sealing up the Book (22:10)
- f. Against adding to His words (22:18)
- g. Against subtracting from His Word (22:19)

G. Where have we put Christ?

1. When the Church began Christ was on the inside.
2. But in the Laodicea Church we find Christ on the outside knocking.
3. I am afraid we have reduced Christianity to a social Gospel.

V. Chapter 1

A. 1:1-3

Rev 1:1-3 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: 1:2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this

prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

1. The revelation is presented to John by a messenger (angel) sent by Christ to reveal to John what the father had given unto Christ to share with God's people concerning the end time.
2. The Disciples in **Mark 13:1-31** inquired concerning His prophecies against Jerusalem as to when they would come to pass. In **verse 32** He stated that only the Father knew. But now after his ascension He shares new information with John concerning their inquiry.
3. Note: there is a blessing on all who read, hear, and keep the prophecy written there in. **"For the time is at hand!"**

B. 1:4-6 Salutation

Rev 1:4-6 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

1. The salutation is addressed to the seven churches, which are in Asia. By Asia, it is not meant the great continent of Asia, or even the whole of Asia Minor, but only the western end of Asia Minor bordering on the Aegean and Mediterranean seas.
2. We know that there were at least 3 other churches in this district, that of Colossi (**Col. 1:2**), Hierapolis (**Col. 4:13**), Troas (**Acts 20:6-7**).
3. These seven churches, then must be representative or typical churches, chosen for certain characteristics typical

of the character of the church of Christ, not only in that day, but on down the centuries until the church shall be removed from the earth.

Though some believe the 7 churches represent 7 church periods of church history, perhaps more likely they are a warning to those who find themselves as participants in Daniel's 70th week commonly referred to as the "tribulation period".

4. It is interesting to point out the 3-fold office of Jesus as prophet, priest and king here in the Salutation. As prophet, Jesus is God's Word, as priest, He is God's lamb, and as King, He is God's Lion.
5. Note also that John emphasizes the fact that Jesus loved us before he washed (loosed) us from our sins by His own blood. Furthermore, he made us kings and priests unto God, and that we need no human priest to stand between us, and God, because of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.
6. This letter is written to the 7 churches. Throughout the Bible, we see the number 7 used many times. In fact, there are some **400** references to "**seven**" not counting the use of the word "**seven fold.**" Some examples of how 7 is used in the Bible are as follows.
 - a. **Gen. 7:4** - Seven days of Grace
 - b. **Ex. 31** - The seventh day was the Sabbath
 - c. **Gen. 41:29** - Seven years of plenty
 - d. **Gen. 41:30** - Seven years of famine
 - e. **Josh. 6** - There were 7 priests
seven trumpets and they walked
seven times around Jericho
 - f. **Exodus** - The seven branch candlestick
 - g. **Job 2** - Seven sons
Friends stayed seven nights

- h. Revelation** -The seven Spirits of God before the throne of God. These seven spirits combine to make the personality of the Holy Spirit.
- i. Isaiah 11:2** - Also the seven Spirits of God are found here

END OF LESSON 4

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 4

- 1. T or F** The number 7 is used over 400 times in scripture and thus has significance as it relates to God’s work on earth.
- 2. T or F** When the Church began Christ was on the inside but today He is on the outside.
- 3. T or F** There is a blessing for all who read, hear, and keep the prophecy written in this letter. The reason for this is the obedience of the saints.
- 4. T or F** Though many believe the 7 churches represent 7 church periods of church history, perhaps more likely they are a warning to those who find themselves as participants in Daniel’s 70th week.

Match the following:

5. Prophet __C__	A. God’s Lion
6. Priest __B__	B. God’s lamb
7. King __A__	C. God’s Word

BEGIN LESSON 5

C. 1:7 The announcement

Rev 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Every eye shall see Him. We can now see where this is possible in our own human ability, therefore we know God can make it happen.

Isaiah 25:9; Daniel 7:13; Matthew 25:32; Zech. 12:10. This fulfills **Zech. 12:10.**

D. 1:8 God is Alpha and Omega

Rev 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

E. 1:9-20 The things which thou has seen. This is the beginning of the Revelation proper.

1. 1:9-10

Rev 1:9-10 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

In **verse 9** we find John on the Isle of Patmos, which was a barren, volcanic, treeless, rocky island about 6 miles by 10 miles, located 30 miles south west of Samos. It was made a place of Exile by the Romans for the lowest of criminals. John was banished to this rock because of his testimony by an evil ruler named Domitian. From this island, John writes a letter, the first of the letters to the churches, being to the church at Ephesus, which at that time he was pastor of. Ephesus was located opposite the isle of Patmos. We see in **verse 10** that John was in the Spirit under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and that it was the Lord's Day, which was the first day of the week, set aside by the early Christians as the Lord's Day. He hears a great voice, like a trumpet. It is interesting to note, that God prepared Moses to receive the law by the blowing of a trumpet, **Ex. 19:16-19**. And here God prepares John for the revelation that He's to give him, by what sounds to him like a great trumpet sound.

2. 1:11

Rev 1:11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

We see that John receives a commission from the Lord Jesus Christ as the Alpha and the Omega, to write the revelation that he is about to receive. Not only is he to write the revelation, but he was to send it to the 7 churches. So we see here that this is God's message to the church, which would have been comprised of Jews and Gentiles alike who had come to know the Lord Jesus.

3. 1:12-16

Rev 1:12-16 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; 1:13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. 1:14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; 1:15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

John saw a stand with seven branches with lamps on each branch. And He sees Christ in the midst. The lamps represent the churches, and Christ has always has always been in the midst of the church. Note as well, that John had his back to the voice and he turned to see the voice that spoke to him. Notice also the 8 fold description of Christ that is given here:

- a. His body
- b. His hair
- c. His eyes
- d. His feet
- e. His voice
- f. His right hand

- g. His mouth
- h. His countenance

4. 1:17-20

Rev 1:17-20 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks, which thou sawest are the seven churches.

Here we see Christ resurrected and glorified. John makes the statement, "**When I saw Him, I fell at his feet as dead.**" This statement is made some **80** times in scripture, usually referring to what happens to an individual when in the presence of God. Here we see in **verse 18** that Christ has the keys, which means that He has control over who lives and dies on earth. He has the keys of hell and death. Notice that Christ identifies himself as "**He who liveth and was dead, and behold, am alive forevermore.**" Finally, in **verse 19** we see John is given instructions as to how to write the book, according to the divisions that God is going to give through this revelation. Jesus states that these are words of mystery, that the seven stars represent 7 angels of the 7 churches. Some take the meaning of those 7 angels to be representative of the 7 pastors, who would be messengers to the churches. The seven lamp stands are the 7 churches, which these 7 letters are written to.

F. The Seven Churches: "The things which are"

The true meaning of the word Church is: A gathering that has been convened by authority, and has been set up as a special class which has withdrawn from the general mass of the population.

1. Ephesus

- a. Ephesus was a very important seaport and it became the center of cult worship located at the mouth of the river Cayster on the shore of the Aegean sea about 50 miles south of Smyrna.
- b. It was center of Antolian fertility goddess. The worship of this goddess was held in the Temple of Artemis if it was in a Greek, city. If it was in a Roman city it was in the Temple of Diana. This goddess was the deity for both the Greek and Roman civilization. In these temples the worship was a big sex display.
- c. The people in charge of the temples made statues for worship. People came to buy miniature idols to worship.
- d. Ephesus began to decline as a seaport due to a decline in navigable sea passages, therefore, they relied more and more on its worship of the fertility goddess to support commerce. (It is now covered in ruins the sight of a miserable Turkish village without a Christian - Dake note (c) pg. 208).

2. Smyrna

- a. When Alexander took over Sardis, Smyrna became a big city.
- b. In 26 AD the city asked Tiberius if they could be allowed the right to build a temple of Tiberius to worship him as deity.
- c. So here it was a Government official who became the worshipped god.

END OF LESSON 5

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 5

Match the item on the left with the best choice on the right:

1. the Isle of Patmos _F_	A. Christ in the midst
2. the Lord's day _C_	B. seaport center of cult worship
3. seven branches with lamps _A_	C. the first day of the week
4. 80 times in scripture _D_	D. I fell at his feet as a dead man
5. Ephesus _B_	E. built temple of Tiberius
6. Smyrna _E_	F. lowest of criminals

BEGIN LESSON 6

3. Pergamos

- a. Was capitol of Asia until the capitol was moved to Ephesus.
- b. Known for its great library.
- c. Origin of the "Caesar Cult" of which the symbol was the serpent.
- d. Home of temple of Athena and altar of the god, Zeus. It was one of Seven Wonders of the World. Altar = Base 100' square; height 800'. Was called the "**seat of Satan**" (Rev. 2:13).

4. Thyatira

- a. Located 40 miles south of Pergamos.

- b. It developed trade guilds or unions which were so strong you couldn't trade goods unless a member of the guild. You could not belong to the guild and remain a Christian.
- c. Many people as a result left their testimony.

5. Sardis (Chapter 3)

- a. Living on past splendor but inwardly dead.
- b. First city to mint coins.
- c. Was captured and re-captured many times.
- d. Was destroyed by earthquake then rebuilt by Tiberias.
- e. No vision - today there is no Sardis.

6. Philadelphia (Chapter 3)

- a. Philadelphia = City of brotherly love.
- b. A city that had many earthquakes.
- c. In AD 17 it was completely destroyed by an earthquake.
- d. The church there was a stronghold of the Christian faith.
- e. The city exists yet today and so does the church today, the only one of the seven.

7. Laodicea (Chapter 3)

- a. A very wealthy city with great commerce.
- b. Destroyed by an earthquake 60 AD and rebuilt by the great banks located there.
- c. 3:17 says "I have need of nothing".

- d. City had a place that produced a salve for the eyes.
- 8. Many teach that the seven churches gives us an outline of the history of the church as seen in point # 9 below, however, I think a better view is that this is a warning to those within Daniel's 70th week as explained in VII. Chapter 3 point D.**

9. The seven churches as types:

- a. Ephesus Apostolic Church 1-100 AD
- b. Smyrna Persecuted Church 100-313 AD
- c. Pergamos State Church 313-590 AD
- d. Thyatira Papal Church of Dark Ages 590-1517 AD
- e. Sardis Reformed Church 1517-1790 AD
- f. Philadelphia Missionary Church 1790-1900 AD
- g. Laodicea Apostate Church 1900 - today

VI. Chapter 2

A. The letter to the church at Ephesus 2:1-7 (A back-slidden church)

1. 2:1-3

Rev 2:1-3 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; 2:2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: 2:3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

The meaning of the word Ephesus is "let go, to relax", thus we see Ephesus as the back-slidden church. Ephesus had left its first love. We see that the church of Ephesus had works of which Christ was aware. These works included standing against those who were preaching false doctrine, and also standing in patience and yet not being able to bear those

which were involved in wickedness and evil, which would most likely be a reference to their false worship being offered to the goddess Diana.

2. 2:4-5

Rev 2:4-5 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Nevertheless the church has been found wanting in that they have allowed works to take the place of their love for Christ. Realize that you have fallen and repent lest Christ come and remove the church. Notice works are not enough. Ephesus did not repent and the church there is no longer.

3. 2:6-7

Rev 2:6-7 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate. 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

According to Dake's Bible, pg. 304, the Nicolaitanes were followers of Nicolaus, a heretic. They are supposed to have been a sect of Gnostics, who practiced and taught impure and immoral doctrines, such as the community of wives, the committing of adultery and fornication was not sinful, and that eating meats offered to idols was lawful. This was similar to the doctrines of Balaam and Jezebel, found in Thyatira. They are also known to have denied the divine creation of the earth. More information is given on them in Unger's Bible Dictionary, pg. 792. We need to keep in mind here that these Nicolaitanes were a people who were professing to be Christians, but living in sin, **Acts 20:29-30**. Note the strong warning in verse 7, where it says "**to him that overcometh, will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.**" It is interesting to notice that in each of the 7 letters we find a stern statement to

this effect, in chapter **2:11, 17,26**, and **3:5,12,21**. So for all 7 churches the same warning is given, that God's blessing will be given to he who overcomes.

B. The letter to the church at Smyrna, 2:8-11 (A persecuted church)

1. 2:8

Rev 2:8 And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

Ismir is now the ancient city of Smyrna. It was a beautiful city. Today it is a very dirty city.

2. 2:9

Rev 2:9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

Here we see the state of the second and third century church where there was great persecution on the part of Christians. The church was crushed and beaten yet waxed strong in the Lord.

3. 2:10

Rev 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Christ knew what they were going through and told them what was to happen. Yet Christ asked them to be strong even unto death. Here it says they shall be in tribulation ten years. It is interesting to note that the church was persecuted under ten Roman rulers and for ten years under Diocletian the last emperor. Christ promised them the crown of life. There are no less than nine crowns:

- a. The crown of rejoicing (I Thess. 2:19)
- b. The crown of righteousness (II Tim. 4:8)
- c. The crown of life (James 1:12)
- d. The crown of glory (I Peter 5:4)

- e. The crown of incorruption (I Cor. 9:25-27)
- f. The crown of twelve stars (Rev. 12:1)
- g. The crown of aged (Prov. 17:6)
- h. The crown of husband (Prov. 12:4)
- i. The crown of thorns (John 19:5)

4. 2:11

Rev 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Again the promise is given to all those who endure unto the end, to the overcomer!

END OF LESSON 6

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 6

Match the item on the left with the best choice on the right:

1. Pergamos	<u> A </u>	A. have of temple Athena & Zeus altar
2. Thyatira	<u> C </u>	B. no vision, does not exist today
3. Sardis	<u> B </u>	C. strong trade guild could not be a Christian
4. Philadelphia	<u> D </u>	D. city & church still exist

Match the item on the left with the best choice on the right:

5. Laodicea	<u> B </u>	A. left its first love
6. Ephesus	<u> A </u>	B. I have need of nothing
7. Nicolaitanes	<u> D </u>	C. Church in Smyrna
8. Promised crown of life	<u> C </u>	D. confessed Christians living in sin

BEGIN LESSON 7

C. The letter to the church at Pergamos, 2:12-17

1. 2:12 Pergamos come from two words:

Rev 2:12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

- a. **Pergos** = fortified, tower, castle
- b. **Gamos** = union or marriage
Dake Bible - Pergamos was town in Mysia, on the river Caicus, about 50 miles north of Smyrna.

2. 2:13

Rev 2:13 I know thy works and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

- a. We know that the head of the Church was also ruling from the throne in Rome. It was at this time that the Church stopped looking for the coming of the Christ as King. They decided it must be Constantine's kingdom that was to be set up so the Church grew here in royalty and power but also remember lost its vision. We have Constantine sitting on the throne as emperor of the land and Church. (Book - Post Nicene Christianity, by Schaff).
- b. Arias had begun to teach false doctrine. He believed God had given us the Word but the Word was not Christ and not God. This was called the Arian Controversy. It was a split over two words:
 - (I). **Homoosian** = The same substance - (One substance with God).

(II). **Homoiosian** = The like substance - (A substance like God's).

- c. A bishop named Athanasia said the correct use was "the same substance". Constantine called a council at Nicaea (325 AD), which debated who and what Jesus was. Over 300 bishops met together, along with some 1200 laymen. As you can imagine there were very heated arguments. It appeared that Arias was going to win and prove that Jesus was not God but a creation of God sent to earth. But a hermit walked into the meeting and took off his robe and showed his back where he had been tortured and said: "These are the marks of the Lord Jesus I cannot bear to hear this blasphemy". As a result the Holy Spirit moved upon their hearts and they adopted the Athanasia's belief that Christ is very God. Thus they established Christ as God man.
- d. Antipas is not recorded in history and is only mentioned here in **verse 13**. But Athanasia is like a type of Antipas and was put to death as a result of his belief. A later emperor demanded Athanasia to serve communion to the Arians. He refused. The emperor said the whole world was against him and Athanasia replied "I am then against the whole world." There was also established a creed known as the Athanasian Creed.
- e. "Satan's Seat"
From Larkin's book we see that Pergamos is spoken of as being "Satan's seat." When Attalus III, the priest king of the Chaldean hierarchy, fled before the conquering Persians to Pergamun, and settled there, Satan shifted his capitol from Babylon to Pergamos. At first he persecuted the followers of Christ, and Antipas was one of the martyrs. But soon he changed his tactics and began to exalt the church and, through Constantine, united the Church and state. Constantine's motive was more political than religious, as he wished to weld his Christian and Pagan subjects into one people.

3. 2:14

Rev 2:14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

Taken from Larkin's book, the "Doctrine of Balaam" is disclosed in the story of Balaam, found in the book of **Numbers, chapter 22-25** inclusive. When the children of Israel on their way to Canaan, had reached the land of Moab, Balak the King of Moab sent for Balaam the son Beor, who lived at Pethor on the river Euphrates, to come and curse them. When the Lord would not permit Balaam to curse Israel, he suggested to Balak that he invite them to the Licentious feast of "Baal Peor," and thus caused Israel to fall into a snare that would so anger the Lord that He would himself destroy them. This Balak did, and the result was that when the men of Israel went to those sensual feast and saw "**the daughters of Moab**" they committed whoredoms with them, which so kindled God's anger, that he sent a plague that destroyed 42,000 of them. Now the word "Pergamos" means "marriage", and when the church entered into a union with the State, it was guilty of "Spiritual fornication" or "Balaamism."

The "Balaam method" that Constantine employed was to give to the Bishops of the church a number of imposing buildings called Basilicas for conversion into churches, for whose declaration he was lavished in the gift of money. In other words, he gave money to help them make the conversion and decorate the Basilicas. He also supplied superb vestments for the clergy to wear, and soon the Bishop found himself clad in costly garments, seated on a lofty throne in the Apse of the Basilica, with a marble altar, adorned with gold and gems, on a lower level in front of him. A sensuous form of worship was introduced, the character of the preaching was changed, and the great "Pagan festivals" were adopted, with but little alteration to please the pagan members of the church, and attract Pagans to the church. For illustration, as the Winter Solstice falls on the 21st day of December, which is the shortest day of

the year, and it is not until the 25th that the day begins to lengthen, which day was regarded throughout the heathen world as the "Birthday of the Sun God" and was a high festival, which was celebrated at Rome by the "Great Games" of the circus, it was found advisable to change the birthday of the Son of God, from April, at which time He was probably born, to December 25th, because as He was the "Sun of Righteousness," what more appropriate birthday could He have than the birthday of the pagan "Sun - God?"

4. 2:15

Rev 2:15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.

The doctrine of the Nicolaitanes promoted separation between the church leaders and the laity. When the church connected with the State it became guilty of spiritual adultery. God does not mean for there to be separation among believers, but there should be separation from the world.

5. 2:16-17

Rev 2:16-17 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. 2:17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

During this time the church had become very rich and powerful as a result of its union with the state. This also was a time period, which ushered in the post-millennial view concerning the Jews. In fact this viewpoint took the stand that the Jews had been cast off forever, and that all the prophecies concerning Israel's future glory were actually intended for the church. It was believed because the church was doing so well as a result of support from the state that the church was entering into or that this situation would usher in the Millennium without the return of Christ.

Notice also here in verse 16 the admonishment to those who were back-slidden to repent or else the Lord would come against them, which makes us have questions as to the fate of those who backslide and do not repent.

In **verse 17** we see the same warning or promise **"to him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna."** So we see again that the reward was for **"he that overcomes."** In **verse 17** we see the word "white stone" (that the Lord will give him a white stone). These were known to the ancients as victory stones, according to Dake's note i. pg. 287. Also in ancient times they meant pardon and the evidence of it. Judges had white and black stones. And if a black one was given to the criminal he was condemned. If a white one was given, then he would be pardoned. Conquerors in the public games were also given white stones with their names in them, which entitled them to be supported the rest of their lives at public expense.

END OF LESSON 7

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 7

Match the item on the left with the best choice on the right:

1. Homoosian _D_	A. Spiritual fornication or Balaamism
2. Homoiosian _E_	B. shifted from Babylon to Pergamos
3. Arian Controversy _F_	C. debated who and what Jesus was
4. Council at Nicaea _C_	D. the same substance
5. Satan's Seat _B_	E. A like substance
6. Union of state & church _A_	F. the Word was not Christ and not God

BEGIN LESSON 8

D. The letter to the Church at Thyatira (A lax church) 2:18-29

1. 2:18-22

Rev 2:18-22 And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass; **2:19** I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. **2:20** Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. **2:21** And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. **2:22** Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

Thyatira was a city in west Turkey between Pergamos and Sardis. It was a lax church in that it was found lacking. God was well aware of their works, and that there were more works than faith. Their main problem was that they allowed false teaching to enter their midst, and did nothing about it. This is not the Jezebel of **I Kings 18 and 19**, but this woman, whether her name was Jezebel or not, was acting in the same manner and accord as the Jezebel of **I Kings 18 and 19**. The Jezebel of **I Kings 18 and 19**, as you will remember, married the king of Israel, Ahab. As a result she introduced false worship, the worship of Baal, into Israel. This resulted in the death of many of the prophets of the Lord and the leading away of Israel into false worship. Evidently, this woman had a strong tendency to do the same thing and brought about, or was at least a part of the Papal system. It may be that the name Jezebel is only used figuratively here to refer to the Papal system. It was during this time that the Papal church introduced images and pictures into the church for the people to bow down to and to worship, which is a form of idolatry. It was also during this time that the Papal church made itself superior to the Word of God in its teaching.

2. 2:23-29

Rev 2:23-29 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. 2:24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. 2:25 But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. 2:26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: 2:27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. 2:28 And I will give him the morning star. 2:29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Notice the stern rebuke in **verse 23**, that the Lord would put to death those that follow after her deception, except that they repent and that he is the one who tries the reins and the hearts and will give to everyone according to their work. Then he closes the letter by encouraging those who have not accepted the doctrine of Jezebel to hold fast till He comes, and to them that overcome will he give power over nations. If we look at the blessing given to each overcomer through these 7 letters, we can get a much clearer picture of the blessing that God has in store for the overcomers as a whole.

VII. Chapter 3

A. The letter to the Church at Sardis (a dead church) 3:1-6

1. 3:1-2

Rev 3:1-2 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. 3:2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

Sardis was a city located about 40 miles east of Smyrna, the ancient capitol of Lydia. Sardis was a church with a form of God but lacking godliness. It was a ritualistic or formal church. It had a form of godliness, but denied the power or lacked the power of God. The meaning of the word Sardis is "escaping one" or those who "come out." So it is an excellent example of the church as it was

beginning to go through the reformation period, when Martin Luther and a number of other reformers began to protest against the false teachings and claims of the Roman church. The Roman church became more intolerable until things came to a crisis when Martin Luther, on October 31, 1517 AD, nailed his 95 point thesis on the church door at Whittenburg, Germany. It was from that date that the reformation set in. During this time period many changes did take place within the church, but all these changes also brought bitter controversy and contention among the different sects.

2. 3:3-6

Rev 3:3-6 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. 3:4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. 3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. 3:6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

God challenges them to hold on to things they have received, and repent lest God comes as a thief in the night. Note also in verse 5 the promise again to him that over cometh, that he will be clothed in white raiment and that he will not blot out their names from the book of life.

According to Dake, note (j) pg. 288, he says "here Christ promises not to blot out the names, from the book of life, of any man who will obey the commands already stated." This naturally raises the question, "What if someone should refuse to obey these commands? Would their names be blotted out from the book of life?" If we answer "no," are we not accusing God of making vain threats to his people? We can go back in to the Old Testament and read in **Exodus 32:32-33**, where God spoke to Moses, and definitely promised Moses concerning any man who would sin, "**him will I blot out of my book.**" Also the Psalmist under the anointing of the Holy Spirit prayed that God would blot out the names of Judas and all like him, **Ps. 69:25-28**. We see in **Rev. 22:18-19** where Christ states that He will take the names of the men out of the book of life

if they take anything away from the words of the book of this prophecy.

B. The letter to the Church at Philadelphia (A Favored Church) 3:7-13

1. 3:7-10

Rev 3:7-10 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. 3:9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Philadelphia is a city about 30 miles southeast of Sardis. It was the city whose name means "**brotherly love.**" We see three things that characterize it here in these first few verses:

- a. It had little strength.** It was like a person coming back to life who was still very weak, as we see the dead church of Sardis now beginning to go through the steps of revival. Though it was weak, it was going through revival. These revivals began with George Whitefield in 1739 AD and was followed by John Wesley, Charles Finney, D.L. Moody, and others.
- b. It had set before it an open door that no man could shut.** And we see this again true, in that William Carry in 1793, sailed for India, where he found an open door, and since that time the Lord has open doors in almost every country and nation of the world.
- c. It was to be kept from "the hour of temptation."** Which tends to indicate that it would not be a church that would go through the tribulation period. This would mean that the tribulation was still future. Some believe this could be taken as additional proof that the church would not be going through the tribulation. Or at least not the church of this period.

2. 3:11-13

Rev 3:11-13 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. 3:13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

We see here again the warning that we needed to hold fast to those things that we know that no man would take our crown. The question is, what would be the purpose of making such a statement to a believer if the crown of the believer could not be taken away. That statement is followed very quickly by, "**to him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God.**" Again, the admonishment and the promise is to the overcomer.

END OF LESSON 8

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 8

1. T or F The church of Thyatira was guilty because there was more works than faith.
2. T or F The Papal church during the time of the church of Philadelphia introduced images and pictures into the church for the people to bow down to.
3. T or F Sardis meaning "escaping one" represents the church as it begins to go through the reformation period.
4. T or F Philadelphia means "needing strength".
5. T or F This church had an open door that no man could shut. It was the church of Sardis.

BEGIN LESSON 9

C. The letter to the church at Laodicea (A Lukewarm church) 3:14-22

1. 3:14-16

Rev 3:14-16 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Laodicea was located in Phrygia, which was a few miles west of Colossi. Laodicea is the church period that we are living in now. It is characterized as a lukewarm church. When the church was cold, such as was the case in the church of England, it drove John Wesley to start those outside meetings, which became so noted for their religious vigor and it was that same chilly atmosphere of the Methodist church that drove William Booth in turn to become the red hot salvationist. But we see the church of today lukewarm. A lot going on in the church, but largely mechanical and of social character. The church is characterized by outward wealth, but inward poverty of heart. One of the main problems with the church today is that we have the feeling that nothing can be done without money and that money will help us to do everything that we need to do. We need to be reminded that the world is not converted by money, but by the spirit of God. We need to be more willing to wait on the power of the Lord, instead of hiring evangelist and paid singers to do the business of soul winning. Note also that this is the only time in scripture, where God was sick to his stomach.

2. 3:17-22

Rev 3:17-22 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. 3:22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

In verses 17 - 22 we see that God counsels the church.

- a. God counsels the church to buy of me gold tried in the fire. Which would seem to represent our faith in that as faith is tested, we become as gold tried in the fire.
- b. To buy white raiment, which would represent our righteousness, instead of being in the naked situation that we appear.
- c. That we might anoint our eyes with eye salve, that we might have the illumination of the Holy Spirit, to see ourselves as we truly are.

Note in **verse 20** that the door is now closed and Christ is standing outside of the door of the church. It is interesting that in the year 1976, there were more evangelical missionaries coming home to the USA than going out. And I dare to say that that probably is the same situation today. This again would be characteristic of the door being closed, a door that we closed and put Christ on the outside. It may well be that Christ is outside of the church, simply because we have allowed the world to take his place in our life. Finally note that concerning the church of Laodicea, God had absolutely nothing good to say about it.

D. The following material expresses the view of Marvin Rosenthal from his book entitled, “The Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church” copyright 1990 and published by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Rev. Rosenthal views the seven letters to the seven churches much differently than most Bible teachers. He views the seven letters as a warning to those participants in Daniel’s 70th week and not representative of the various periods of church history. (The page numbers in parenthesis indicate the location of the material in Marvin’s book.)

1. Only the book of Revelation is direct communication from the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul wrote letters; Peter wrote letters; John wrote letters. They are part of the Bible—inspired by God. But ONLY the book of Revelation (Greek, *apokolipse* meaning unveiling) is direct communication from God.

2. The 7 letters do not represent the church in seven different periods of church history. Marvin states, “The problem with this position, while held by many competent scholars, is threefold.

a. First,...there is nothing in the biblical text to even hint that the seven churches represent seven different periods of church history. This is simply an assumption.

b. Second, the view is subjective. Who is to determine when an age represented by one of the churches ends and another begins? Church history is not nearly that clear-cut....

c. Third, the designations Apostolic church, Persecuted church, State church, papal church, Reformed church, Missionary church, and Apostate church are stilted and incomplete designations that do not conform to the total content of the letters to the seven churches.

3. The seven churches were chosen to receive letters for two reasons:

a. First, seven is the number of completion and perfection, and, whereas in Genesis God’s program is beginning and widening, in Revelation it is narrowing and moving toward consummation.

b. Second, those seven churches perfectly illustrated the strengths and weaknesses of Christendom during Daniel’s 70th week. This allows the seven churches to give warning to Christendom at the end of the age.

4. In considering the meaning of the seven letters to the seven churches of Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey), a number of important facts should be realized:

a. **First**, there is a promise given in common to all seven churches. IF they are *overcomers*, they will be rewarded....Of those who are truly triumphant, John wrote, “**And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death: (Rev. 12:11). (pg. 289-290)**

b. **Second**, there is the clear statement to the churches that Christ's return is *at the door*....The clear,...understanding of the statements to these churches indicates that they are living at the very threshold of Christ's coming. (pg. 290)

c. **Third**, to the church at Ephesus it is written, "**I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience** (endurance under affliction) Rev. 2:2. [Similar statements are made to the churches at Thyatira and Philadelphia. RevC paraphrase]Later, in describing events irrefutably occurring within the 70th week, it is written, "**Here is the patience** (endurance under affliction) **and the faith of the saints**" Rev. 13:10. (pg. 290-291)

d. **Fourth**, to the church of Pergamum the omniscient Lord declares, "**I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's throne is**" (Rev. 2:13)....The phrase "**where Satan's throne is**" would, therefore, be most appropriate to indicate the worship of Antichrist during the 70th week, who's human image will be erected in the temple and who will be empowered by Satan. (pg. 291)

e. **Fifth**, to the church of Thyatira it was said, "**Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation**" (Rev. 2:22)....In the five previous times "Great Tribulation" is used in the New Testament it is always used as a description of events that begin in the middle of the 70th week. It would be logical, therefore, to conclude that the sixth use of the very same designation, the Great Tribulation, is describing events that the church of Thyatira will face would also occur during that same period of time—in the middle of Daniel's 70th week. (pg. 291)

f. **Sixth**, to the church at Sardis it was said:

Revelation 3:1-3 ¹ **And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.** ² **Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.** ³ **Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.**

The church at Sardis is a dead church, and if it does not wake up, the Day of the Lord will overcome those in it as a thief in the night. This is a parallel to 1Thess. 5:2. (pg. 291)

1 Thessalonians 5:2 ²For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

To paraphrase Marvin's summation concerning the 7 letters to the seven churches. To see these letters as anything other than a warning to those who find themselves as participants in Daniel's 70th week one would have to sever chapters 2 & 3 from the 70th week, overlook the urgent atmosphere that is so prevalent in the letters, and ignore the clear and distinct warnings that are given. (pg. 292)

END OF LESSON 9

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 9

1. T or F If the letters to the churches are an indication of different periods of church history than the Laodicea church would be the period in which we are not living.

2. T or F The church of Laodicea was a fiery church with lots of zeal and great efforts to win souls to God's Kingdom.

3. T or F Marvin Rosenthal believes that there is no basis for the 7 letters to the 7 churches to represent the church in different periods of church history; to do so is only an assumption.

4. T or F Marvin Rosenthal believes the 7 churches illustrate the strengths and weaknesses of Christians during Daniel's 70th week providing a warning to Christians at the end of this age as they enter Daniel's 70th week.

5. T or F One thing is clear from the 7 letters in that if they over-come there will be reward and blessings.

BEGIN LESSON 10

VIII. Chapter 4

A. Introduction

Chapters 4 and 5 are introductory. They prepare us for "the seals," "trumpets," and "vials."

It is interesting to note that in **Matt. 16:13-28**, after the confession of Peter at Caesarea Philippi, when he said that Jesus was the Christ the Son of the Living God, and Jesus said that upon the Rock of that confession He would build His church. He said to his disciples in **verse 28**, "**verily I say unto you, there be some standing here which shall not taste death, till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.**" That may have been fulfilled partially by the transfiguration before them in **Matt. 17:1-9** where we had the transfiguration scene showing a type of the second coming of Christ, with Moses being a type of the resurrected saints and Elijah a type of the translated saints. That promise may also find partial fulfillment here in the experience of John in the Book of the Revelation, as we know that John sees all of tribulation period and the coming of the Lord with the saints at the battle of Armageddon.

Those who believe in the pre-tribulation rapture of the church use this chapter as part of their scriptural basis. They believe that as John looks and behold the door is open and he sees the 24 elders perhaps representing the 12 tribes and 12 apostles; that this is an indication of the church now being in heaven. Plus he sees seven spirits of God about the throne in verse 5, which could indicate the fullness of the Holy Spirit being present with the Father and Christ in Heaven. If so, this may indicate that the Church had been removed from the face of earth, for as we know the Holy Spirit's ministry was to abide within the church. The main scripture reference on the rapture is **I Thess. 4:13-18**. If this view of the rapture of the church is correct, it would mean that the church does not pass through the tribulation period. However, before coming to any determination of belief as to the timing of "a rapture of the saints" I would suggest a more detailed examination of all the scriptures. Special attention is given to this issue in the class entitled "The Resurrection."

(My personal belief is that the rapture takes place just prior to the opening of the 7th seal which begins the outpouring of God's wrath and "The Day of the Lord". It is my belief that the first 3.5 years of Daniel's 70th week is what Jesus called "the beginning of sorrows" and is not God's wrath but rather man's wrath against man inclusive of the first 4

seals. This period is followed by the desecration of the temple by the anti-Christ, and the “Great Tribulation” which is shortened and includes seals 5 & 6. The Great Tribulation is followed by the rapture of church just before the opening of the 7th seal and the beginning of the “Day of the Lord” which is the outpouring of God’s wrath on an unbelieving world. Daniel’s 70th week concludes with the glorious return of Christ with his angels and saints to end the battle of Armageddon and provide for the salvation of Israel in one day. RevC)

B. The things which are hereafter

1. 4:1-3

Rev 4:1-3 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will show thee things which must be hereafter. 4:2 And immediately I was in the spirit; and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. 4:3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

John is in the Spirit (not the flesh) and he sees the throne set in heaven and it occupied.

(POSB) The countenance of God shone like a jasper stone. The stone referred to was different from the jasper stone of today. The idea is that the stone was some sort of translucent crystal through which light was shining. It was shining so brightly that it was apparently like the concentrated light of a laser. This represents the penetrating perfection and purity of God.

The sardine stone was a fiery red stone and it represents the justice of God. The rainbow that surrounded the throne looked like emerald green. This represents the mercy of God and the new covenant of grace given to man by God. (POSB)



Emerald green



Jasper as clear as crystal



Sardine red

Also note that:

- a. John was summoned by a voice.
- b. Lazarus was summoned by a voice
- c. **I Thess. 4:16** says that the saints will be summoned by a voice.

Some important questions: If the Church is taken out, is the Holy Spirit also taken out of its indwelling earthly ministry? Is the Holy Spirit the power that restraineth in **II Thess. 2:6-12**? Or could “**the power which restraineth**” be an angel such as Michael who fought with the powers of darkness in the OT as he did for Daniel in **Dan. 10:13**.

2. 4:4-5

Rev 4:4-5 **And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. 4:5** **And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.**

The 24 elders are possibly made up of the twelve Apostles and the twelve tribes of Israel. See **Revelation 21:10-15**.

A throne of judgment (lightning and thunder) with the fullness of the Holy Spirit present in heaven. A different tone than the throne of Grace.

3. 4:6-9

Rev 4:6-9 **And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts**

full of eyes before and behind. 4:7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. 4:8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. 4:9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

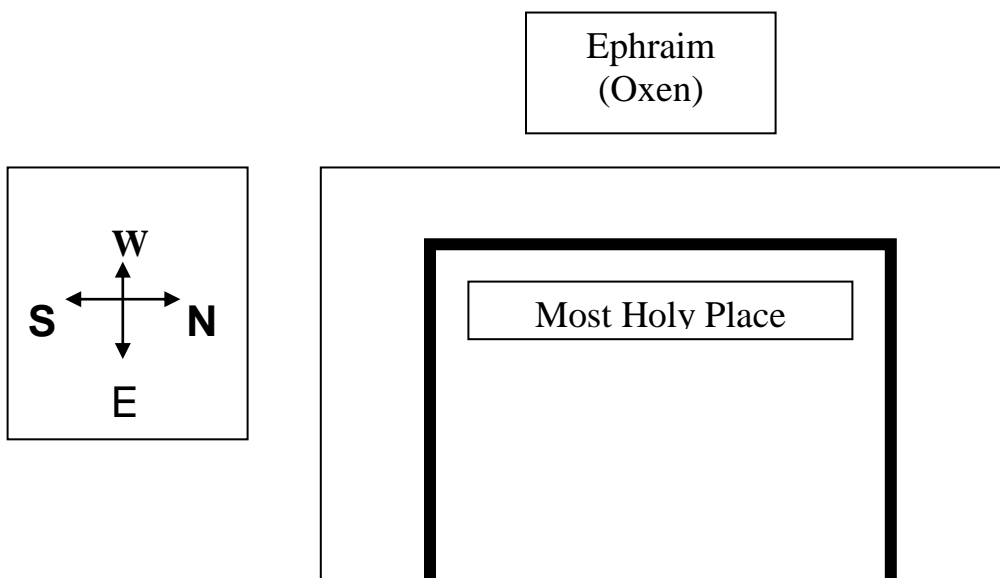
The living creatures that are before the throne represent the penetrating look of God as they are full of eyes. They never rest and are protecting the throne.

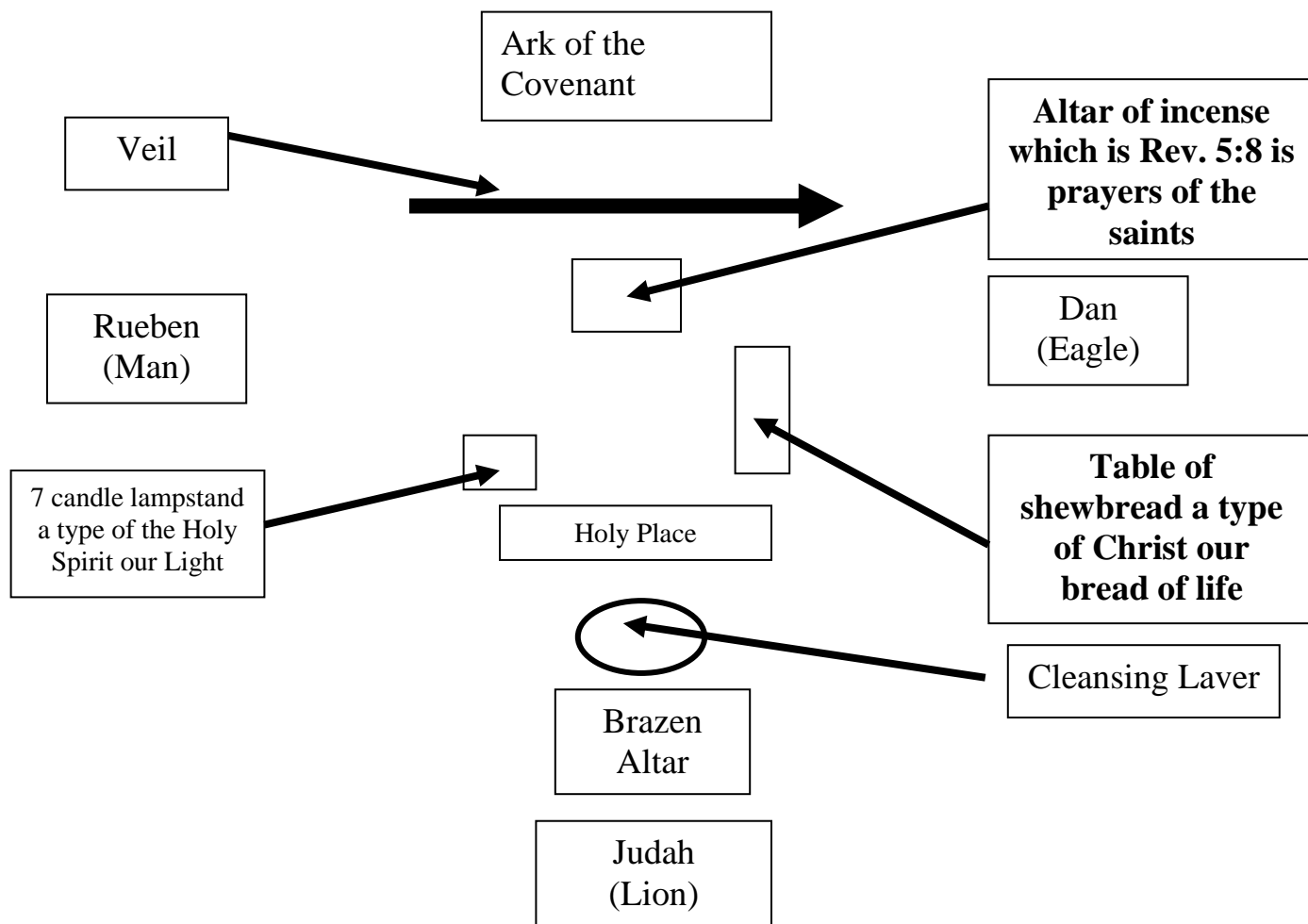
(RevC) According to the Encyclopedia Britannica the Roman Emperor Domitian who was Emperor from AD 81-96 “insisted on being addressed as *dominus et deus* (master and god)”. This title is nearly the same as that of “Lord God Almighty” used here in 4:8. Domitian is most likely responsible for the persecutions that resulted in the exile of the Apostle John to the isle of Patmos. (RevC)

In **Matthew** we see Christ like a lion as a King. In **Mark** like a Calf or Oxen doing the service. In **Luke** Christ is represented as the Perfect Man. In **John** Christ is represented as an Eagle showing Christ's Deity and free Spirit.

In the Old Testament the tribes that camped about the tabernacle were representative of the heavenly tabernacle, John is describing.

The banners of the tribes represented about the tabernacle bore the same images of the living creatures here in **Rev. 4:6-9**.





4. 4:10-11

Rev 4:10-11 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

They cast their crowns before the throne as only Christ is worthy to wear them. Note that other than verse 4 where they are seated, the 24 Elders are seen falling before the throne in worship, vs. **4:10, 5:8, 14.**

END OF LESSON 10

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 10

1. T or F RevC's personal belief concerning the rapture of the church is that it will take place just prior to the opening of the 7th seal which begins the outpouring of God's wrath.

2. T or F Many believe that it is the Holy Spirit who is the "power that restraineth". Another very likely possibility is that of the angel Michael who fought the powers of darkness in the Old Testament.

3. T or F The 24 elders about the throne of God could represent the 12 Apostles and the 12 tribes of Israel.

Match the following:

4. Matthew	<u> B </u>	A. Christ the perfect man
5. Mark	<u> D </u>	B. Christ like a lion as a King
6. Luke	<u> A </u>	C. Christ as an eagle showing Deity
7. John	<u> C </u>	D. Christ like an oxen doing service

BEGIN LESSON 11

IX. Chapter 5

A. The Title deed presented

1. 5:1

Rev 5:1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

- a. **(POSB)** John sees God holding the book in the palm of His right hand. The picture is this: God is extending the book outward, poised to hand it to someone if a person can be found worthy enough to open it. The fact that God Himself is holding the book in His right hand shows us several things:

⇒ God is the supreme Authority over the end of the world. He governs all the events of history both upon the earth and throughout the universe. God holds the future in His hands, the destiny of the world. (**1Tim. 1:17; Rev. 19:6; Ex. 15:18**)

⇒ God is ready to carry out and execute the events. He is ready for the end time to begin, ready for the end of the world to be launched. It is simply a matter of finding someone worthy to carry out and oversee the events for God.

- b.** The book is written on both the front and back of the pages. The book was actually a roll or a scroll. Remember: there were no printing presses or books as we know them back then. They wrote on small sheets of paper (papyrus) about ten inches by eight inches, close to the size of our eleven by eight-and one-half inch sheets. If a large amount of writing was to be done, they joined or taped sheets together. When the writing was completed, they rolled the sheets up and tied some thread or ribbon around the roll. This is what is meant by the book being sealed. They seldom wrote on the back side, for whatever was written on the back side would be exposed when the last sheet was rolled up and tied.
- c.** Again, note that the book or scroll held by God *was written* on both the front and back. This shows us...
- that the events of the end time are many and that it will take some time, a great deal of time, for all of them to take place.
 - that God is going to reveal a great deal about the end time to man. When? As soon as He can find someone worthy enough to open the book.
- d.** The book is sealed with seven seals. This shows us three things.
- The seven seals show us that the book is the last will and testament of God. In the Roman world a man's will had to be witnessed by seven persons, and each attached his own personal seal to one of the threads of the document. The will could be opened only when the recipient came to claim the will. This book in God's right hand may mean that it is His last will for the earth; the book contains what He wills for those who have rejected and cursed Him and what He wills for those who have accepted and worshipped Him. The book

is His last will and testament for the consummation of the world.

- The seven seals show us that the book is large; it has a great deal of material in it. It has so much that seven seals are required to bind and hold it together. Again, this means...
 - that there are a lot of events that are included in the end time; that many events are to take place.
 - that God is going to reveal much to man as soon as someone is found worthy enough to open this book.
- The seven seals also show us the secrecy of the book. God has sealed the book with seven seals in order to keep the events of the end time from being known. They are not to be known by man until God Himself is ready to reveal them. Man can never figure out the events, not by his own intellect. (See **Romans 11:33**) (POSB)

The book (scroll) contains the title deed to the earth and eternal life that were lost by Adam. This title deed is now in God's hand awaiting redemption. This redemption is a legal repossession of all that Adam lost in the fall, **Eph. 1:13-14; Rom. 8:22-23**.

2. 5:2-4

Rev 5:2-4 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? 5:3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. 5:4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

In **verse 2** we see the angel make the proclamation concerning the scroll with a loud voice. This is the announcing or the advertisement for a proper redeemer to appear. We see John weeping here as God holds the deed to the earth, which no man is able to redeem. Could it be that John is weeping as he realizes that the salvation of the world rest in the redemption of this deed.

B. The title deed claimed by the "Kinsman Redeemer"

1. 5:5-7

Rev 5:5-7 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to

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

The law provides in **Lev. 25:23-24** that a kinsman may redeem a lost possession. Here we see that kinsman to be is Jesus Christ. As we read in **verse 5** that the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the root of David, which would mean a kinsman of David, steps forward. To be a kinsman redeemer, he had to be born into the human race, thus the virgin birth was accomplished. Jesus paid the redemptive price, which was his own blood on the cross, **I Peter 1:18-20**, but he had not yet claimed that which he had purchased. In the Old Testament days when a kinsman desired to redeem a property, he took his position, with 10 men (elders) as witnesses, in the gate of the city and advertised his purpose. This is illustrated in the story of Boaz and Ruth, **Ruth 4:1-12**. The kinsman who redeemed the property was called the "Goel" or "redeemer." When the "strong angel" proclaimed with a loud voice, "**who is worthy to open the book, and to lose the seals thereof?**" That was the advertisement for the kinsman redeemer to appear, but there was no man. John wept because he knew what the book was, and that if there was no one to open the book of redemption then all hope for the redemption of the earth and man was gone. Note in **verse 6**, the "**Lamb appears as it had been slain.**" This refers to the possibility that Jesus Christ will always bear the scars of his crucifixion, as we see him portrayed as having been slain.

(POSB) Jesus Christ is the sacrificial Lamb of God who has been slain. The picture of Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God is seen throughout Scripture.

Scripture declares that Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God who died for our sins.

⇒ The Lamb of God was symbolized in the Passover. The lamb was sacrificed so that the judgment of God could pass over the people. **(See Ex. 12:3)**

⇒ Isaiah had said that the Messiah was to bear our sins by being brought as a lamb to the slaughter. **(See Isa. 53:6-7)**

⇒ John the Baptist declared Jesus to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. **(See John 1:29, 36)**

⇒ Peter had said that persons are redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without spot and without blemish. (See **1Peter 1:18-19**)

Note this: A.T. Robertson, the Greek scholar, points out that the word for *lamb* throughout the New Testament is *ho amnos*. But throughout Revelation John uses another word *arnion*, and he uses the word twenty-nine times for the crucified Christ. The difference is this: the word chosen by John stresses the slaughter, suffering, pain, agony, and humiliation of Christ. And *all the suffering* is still seen in heaven. As Robertson says: "The Lamb is now alive, but...with the marks of the sacrifice" (*Word Pictures In The New Testament*, [Vol.6, p.334](#)). (POSB)

2. 5:8-10

Rev 5:8-10 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. 5:9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

When the kinsman redeemer is handed the book, the title deed to the purchase possession, he has the right to break its seals, and to claim the inheritance. In doing so He will dispossess the present claimant, Satan. If the church is raptured prior to the tribulation then you and I if the blood of the Lamb redeems us, will witness this scene and take part in the "**song of redemption**" that follows in **Rev. 5:8-10**.

3. 5:11-14

Rev 5:11-14 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; 5:12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. 5:13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. 5:14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

In **verses 11-14** we behold a great number praising God. Praising the Lamb who was slain for us. Every creature hears the Lamb being praised as King. In the gospels, four titles are given to Jesus. He is the **Matt. 1:1 "Son of David,"** and the **"Son of Abraham;"** in **Matt. 8:20** the **"Son of Man;"** and **Matt. 14:33** the **"Son of God."**

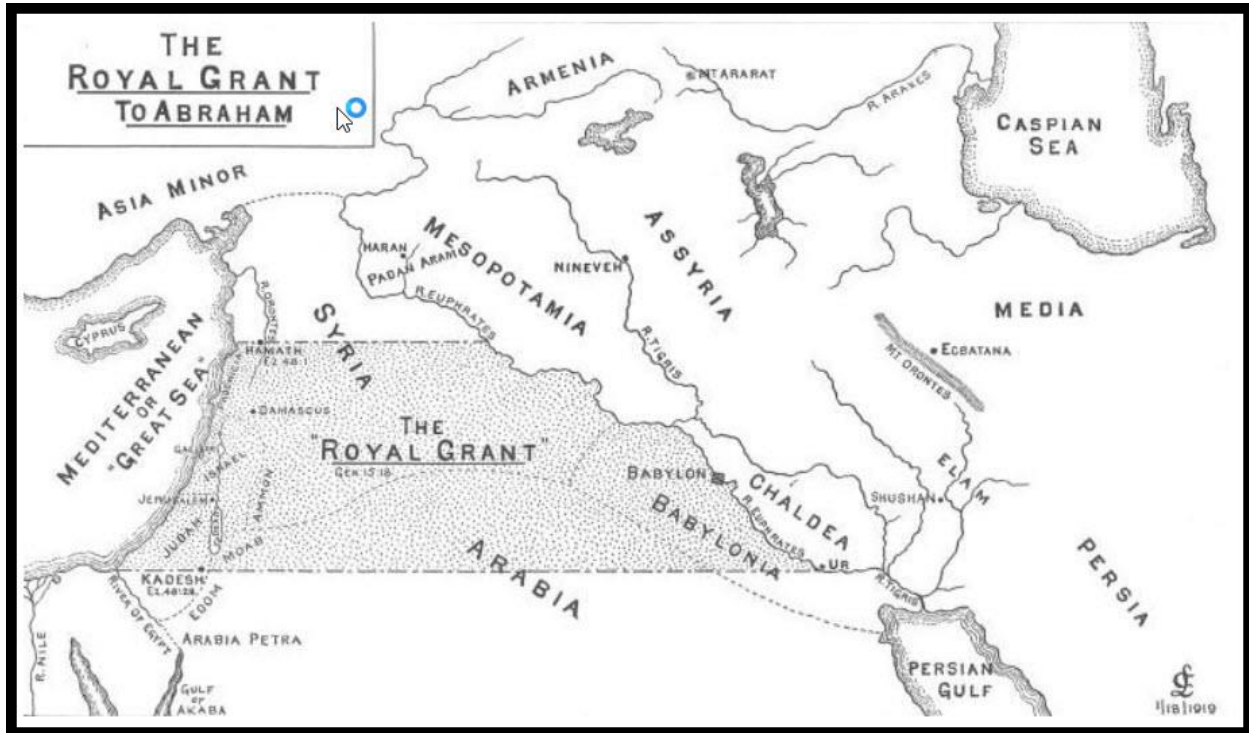
- a. As the **"Son of David,"** He has title to the throne of David.
- b. As the **"Son of Abraham,"** He has title to the land of Palestine, and all included in the royal grant to Abraham.
- c. As the **"Son of Man,"** He has title to the earth and the world.
- d. As the **"Son of God,"** He is the heir of all things.

(RevC) You may often hear at Christmas time how the angels did sing, but the truth of the Word of God does not support that thinking. In fact, a careful examination of the scriptures makes it very clear that angels do speak, they say things, they shout, but there is no place where we find angels singing. See Luke 2:13-14; Job 38:7; Rev. 5:11-12. We also know that the "saints" are able to sing praise unto the Lord, a special act that angels can speak to but not join in by singing. **(RevC)**

The seals were not in a row along the edge of the book or scroll, but a seal was broken as the parchment unrolled until the next seal was reached, and so on until all the seals had been broken. It is not until chapter **10:1-6** that Christ, as the "Mighty Angel," puts his right foot upon the sea and his left foot on the earth, and cries, **"there shall be time no longer,"** that is "no more delay," as he takes the final steps that are necessary to secure the possession of the title deed.

(RevC) This passage speaks of some tremendous events that are taking place in heaven as God prepares to pour out His punishment of the nations for the multitude of their sins and to prepare in Israel the promised remnant that will in one day receive Christ as their messiah. All this while on earth people continue to go about their day totally unaware that they are about to experience the judgment and wrath of God. **(RevC)**

4. See map - "The Royal Grant to Abraham" (Larkin pg. 47) showing the land that is due to Christ as he claims the possession



END OF LESSON 11

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 11

1. **T** or **F** The book (scroll) contains the title deed to the earth and eternal life that was lost by Adam.

2. **T** or **F** Christ is the Kinsman Redeemer, the root of David, who steps forward to redeem that which was lost for which He has paid the price of redemption.

Match the following:

3. Son of David _C_	A. He is heir of all things
4. Son of Abraham _D_	B. He has title to the earth

5. Son of Man _B_	C. He has title to the throne of David
6. Son of God _A_	D. He has title to the land of Palestine

BEGIN LESSON 12

X. Chapter 6

A. The first seal - 6:1-2

Rev 6:1-2 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. 6:2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

In **verse 1** we hear thunder, which represent judgment. The rider upon the white horse is not Christ as some have claimed, for Christ is the Lamb holding the 7-sealed book. The rider has a bow, but no arrow is mentioned. That would give us an indication that though he is a conqueror according to the verse, he will conquer with a different strategy than that of open warfare. Most likely he is an individual who will be very persuasive, and will accomplish things that no one else has accomplished in bring nations together in peace. But he will eventually rise to a position of power and authority over a 10 nation federated kingdom of a revived Roman Empire. He will rise from the ranks until a crown will be given him. His triumphs will be due to his skillful diplomacy. He will be very similar to Antiochus Epiphanies, his prototype, spoken of in **Daniel 11:21**, where we see Antiochus receive his leadership role by peaceful means.

As he will be a tool of Satan, he will be endowed with wonder working power by the hand of Satan. God will allow the inhabitants of the earth to receive a strong delusion that they will believe his lies, for that is what he will be,

II Thess. 2:9-11.

So we see the white horse rider is the anti-Christ. He is the "**prince who is to come**" of Daniel's vision of the 70 weeks. He will confirm the covenant for 1 week, and then break the covenant in the middle of the week, **Dan. 9:27**. This covenant may include the privilege for the Jews to return to Palestine and rebuild their Jewish temple and re-establish their sacrificial form of worship. This he may do in exchange for financial assistance from the Jewish bankers of the world in his desire to form a gigantic commercial corporation, centered in the rebuilt city of Babylon. This will create a setting where the Scriptures concerning the mark of the beast in **Rev. 13:16-17** can take place.

Keep in mind, he will reach this position of power through covenant making with the Jews at the beginning of the week of tribulation, but he does not become "**the beast**," as described in chapter **13:1-8** until the middle of the week. Daniel spoke of him as the "willful king," and he will have no respect for sacred things or places. He will cause a throne to be erected in the Holy Place of the temple that the Jews will build in Jerusalem, and then will seat himself upon it and proclaim himself to be God. Furthermore, men will be commanded to worship him, and Satan will give unto him power and great authority. But these things are yet to come.

B. The second seal - 6:3-4

Rev 6:3-4 **And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. 6:4** **And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.**

This second seal rider is riding a red horse, which is symbolic of blood, and the sword in his hand is symbolic of war. This is the time that was clearly prophesied by Christ in **Matt. 24:6-7**, where he said, "**and ye shall hear of wars and rumor of wars,**" saying also, "**for nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom.**" This also is the fulfillment of **I Thess. 5:3**, "**when they say peace and safety; then sudden destruction shall cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.**" From this seal we see that wars are likely to break out on the earth at any time and that there really will be no peace on earth until the return of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. As to the

identity of this rider, we do not know, but evidently, anti-Christ will not have everything his way. There are likely to be some nations who rebel against his programs and authority, and as result, war breaks out.

C. The third seal - 6:5-6

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

The black horse signifies famine, and the rider would be the conservator of food. When all able bodied men are drafted for war, no one is left to sow, and reap the harvest of crops, then famine is sure to break out. The famine will be so great that, according to the scripture here, it will take a "**Denarius**," which was a day's wages, to buy a measure of wheat, known as a "choenix" (two pints) of wheat, the daily ration of a slave. What exactly is meant by not hurting the oil and wine may be that as the olive tree and grape vine do not bear their fruit until some months after the wheat and barley harvest, their crops would not likely be so much effected by war.

D. The fourth seal - 6:7-8

Rev 6:7-8 And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. 6:8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

Here we see about a fourth part of the people of the earth being killed, more than a billion people. Note the corpse like color of the horse. The rider upon the pale horse is called death and Hades, the grave, follows after death. It is worthy of note that the rider's of the first 3 horses were not named, but here it is very clear that the rider on the pale horse is called death. Evidently some great pestilence will come upon the earth as a result of the wars and famines. When the dead are not buried quickly their rotting bodies can bring on pestilence.

So great will be the destruction of human life in the days of the fourth seal, that Hades will have to enlarge herself and open her mouth without measure, as foretold in **Isaiah 5:13-16**. The means of destruction are: the sword, hunger, death, and the beast of the earth, are the "four sore judgments" of **Ezekiel 14:21** that are to fall upon Jerusalem. "For thus sayeth the Lord God: how much more when I send my **four sore judgments** upon Jerusalem, the sword and the famine, and the noisome beast and the pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast."

E. The fifth seal - 6:9-11

Rev 6:9-11 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: 6:10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? 6:11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow-servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

The souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony that they held, are seen beneath the sacrificial altar. The fact that their souls are under the sacrificial altar may indicate that they were martyrs. These are those who would be killed for the Word of God and for their testimony. According to Christ in **Matt. 24:9-14** a persecution brought about by the preaching the Gospel of the kingdom. **When** the Church is caught up (raptured), the preaching of the gospel of the grace of God (**Acts 20:24**) will likely end as the preaching of the gospel of the kingdom will be revived. This the same gospel that John the Baptist preached, "**repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand,**" **Matt. 3:1-2**. It is to be preached in all the world for a witness, and then shall the end of that dispensation come. It will most likely be preached by the Jews, and will be the announcement that Messiah is coming to set up his earthly kingdom and rule over the affairs of men.

(POSB) the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, breaks the fifth seal. When He does, the souls of all the martyrs of the world are seen under the altar of God. This could be a picture of all the martyrs who have died for the Lord Jesus Christ down through the ages. It tells us where their souls

are. But note: this particular reference is probably to the martyrs of the end time. The fact that they cry out for justice against those who killed them, and that judgment falls in the sixth seal points to the reference being to the end time martyrs. But what John and the heavenly host see is probably the souls of all martyrs, for the souls of all are no doubt living together before God. This is a most precious thought: the martyrs of God are very special to God, and because of their strong testimony and sacrifice for Him, they hold a very special place before Him.

The slain martyrs are under the altar. Remember what Scripture teaches about the tabernacle: the furnishings of the tabernacle were only patterns of the worship center in heaven (cp. [Exodus 25:8-9, 40](#); [Numbers 8:4](#); [Hebrews 8:5](#); [Hebrews 9:23](#)). This means that there is a perfected altar of sacrifice in the throne room of heaven. What is the altar of sacrifice or what is called in the Bible the brazen altar?... It was the altar where the animals were sacrificed. The blood was poured out at the foot of the altar, symbolizing that the animal was being sacrificed for the person offering it.

This is the picture here: the lives of the martyrs, their blood, has been sacrificed and poured out for God. The martyrs have offered their lives up for God, paid the supreme price and literally sacrificed all they were for God. They offered up their lives upon the altar of sacrifice for God. Therefore, in heaven the martyrs have a very special place before God: they stand at the foot of the altar. (POSB)

These martyred souls are comforted, and told that they should rest for a little season, about 3 1/2 years, until their fellow servants and their brethren that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled. This promised is fulfilled in **Rev. 20:4-6**.

END OF LESSON 12

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 12

1. T or F The rider on the white horse is none other than Jesus Christ coming in judgment.

2. T or F The anti-Christ does not become the “beast” until the middle of Daniel’s 70th week.

3. T or F The second seal indicates that there will be wars and no peace even though the anti-Christ will likely be in power—little will be going as he planned.

4. T or F The black horse signifies famine as there is simply not enough food with so many men away fighting war.

5. T or F Like the riders of the first three horses this rider is not named but he represents death as one fourth of the earth's people are killed.

BEGIN LESSON 13

F. The sixth seal - 6:12-17

Rev 6:12-17 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; 6:13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. 6:14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. 6:15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; 6:16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: 6:17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Note that the 6th seal announces that “the great day of the wrath of God is come”. These signs immediately precede and announce that the day is at hand.

We see that a literal darkness shall come and that the earth will go through great physical convulsions that will shake the earth. This was foretold by the prophets, and by Christ. There have been examples of such physical trauma on the earth before. For example, there was great darkness for 3 days that overspread Egypt in the days before the exodus, in **Exodus 10:21-23**. Also, there was the darkness that over spread Jerusalem and Calvary on the day of the crucifixion of Christ, **Matt. 27:45**.

Another example, the earth going through great physical phenomenon, was that on May 19, 1780, when there was in New England what is called in History the "dark day." It was not an eclipse of the Sun, and yet it was dark enough to make the stars visible and the chickens went to roost. The cause of that darkness has never been explained.

In the prophecies of Joel we read, **"I will show wonders in heaven and in the earth, blood and fire and pillar so smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come."** Joel 2:30-31. These signs are to precede the "Day of the Lord" speaking of the outpouring of God's wrath which begins with the trumpet judgments and the opening of the 7th seal. We also see here in this passage in **verse 13** that the stars of heaven will fall to the earth, even as fig tree casteth her untimely figs. There have been many examples of shooting stars and meteors, but none like what took place on Nov. 13, 1833, when they fell for 3 hours during the evening, and so terrified the people that they thought the end of the world had come.

Christ refers to this period in **Matt. 24:29**, where he says, **"In those days shall the sun be darkened (that would mean its light obscured) and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken."** (That latter part concerning the powers of heaven would most likely refer to the principalities and powers of the heavenly places, as explained in **Eph. 6:12**) Then in the close of this chapter we see that with all this great judgment, and everything that has come upon man, that instead of turning to Christ and repenting and crying out for salvation, they call on the mountains and rocks to bury them from the sight of the Almighty.

(RevC) This is one of three earthquakes found in Revelation. They are located in (**6:12; 11:13; 16:18-19**). Most all Bible teachers agree that these are actual earthquakes of such magnitude that people will find no place of safety and that these events on earth are tied to events taking place in the heavens. Whether this is descriptive of atomic warfare or not is a matter of speculation but the critical fact is that this is a judgment of God and a part of the outpouring of His wrath and yet people continue to persist in their sinful behavior. **(RevC)**

XI. Chapter 7

A. The sealing of the 144,000 - 7:1-8

Rev 7:1-8 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. 7:2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, 7:3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. 7:4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. 7:5 Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. 7:6 Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand. 7:7 Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand. 7:8 Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.

Chapter 7 begins with a parenthetic statement that takes place before the opening of the 7th seal. It is here that we see the sealing of the **144,000** out of the 12 tribes of Israel. Just as God preserved 7000 in the days of Ahab, who did not bow the knee to Baal (**I Kings 19:18**), so there will be a "remnant," according to the election of "grace" (**Rom 11:2-5**) "**God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? How he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, ³Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. ⁴But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to *the image of* Baal. ⁵Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace**", and God will preserve 144,000 of Israel, who during the period of tribulation will not bow their knee to the anti-Christ. This 144,000 are sealed, but this is not the same sealing that

we have with the Holy Spirit as believers in Christ, **Eph. 1:13-14** “**In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.**” This sealing that we see with the 144,000 is different in character. According to **Rev. 14:1**, these that are sealed have “**the Father's Name**” written on their foreheads. They are “sealed” on their foreheads where others could see it. In the same public manner the followers of Anti-Christ will be “sealed” on their foreheads or on their right hand with the mark of the beast, which is the number of his name, or 666, **Rev. 13:16-18** “**¹⁶And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: ¹⁷And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. ¹⁸Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.**”

Note the 12 listed here omits the tribe of Dan and Ephraim. And we see the names of Joseph and Levi substituted in their place. The reason for this is found in **Duet. 29:18-21** where we read that the man, or woman, or family, or tribe, that should introduce idolatry into Israel, should have its name “blotted out” from under heaven and be separated out of the tribes of Israel. This is what the tribe of Dan and Ephraim were guilty of when they permitted Jeroboam to set up “golden calves” to be worshiped, one at Dan in the tribe of Dan, and the other at Bethel in the tribe of Ephraim, according to **I Kings 12:25-30**. The tribes of Dan and Ephraim are in the list of the 12 tribes who shall occupy the Holy Land during the Millennium, **Ezek. 48:1-7, 23-29**. They are later seen with the Lamb on the heavenly Mount Zion, **Rev. 14:1-5**. The omission of their names in this list of the sealed ones is to show that the tribes of Dan and Ephraim must pass through the great tribulation unprotected by the sealing.

B. The Blood washed multitude - 7:9-17

Rev 7:9-17 **After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; 7:10** **And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which**

sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. 7:11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, 7:12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. 7:13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 7:15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. 7:16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. 7:17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Some believe that this blood washed multitude is an elect body of believers (mainly Gentiles) gathered from all nations, kindred's, people, and tongues during the tribulation period. This is an indication that there will be millions saved during the tribulation as many turn to Christ while others continue in their rebellion.

Another and perhaps more likely view is that this group is the raptured church as it is caught up to meet the Lord in the air once the 7th seal is opened and the trumpet judgments begin to unfold. This view is discussed in more detail in our class on "The Resurrections". This has been referred to as the "Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church" by Marvin Rosenthal in his book by the same name.

We should not confuse them with the 144,000 Jewish men (sealed in **Rev. 7:4-8**) who are seen in heaven at the beginning of **Rev. 14** having passed through the 7 trumpets. These are a vast multitude of Gentiles who are evidently saved and possibly martyred during the tribulation since we find them in heaven and not on the earth. Note they will serve God day and night in His temple. They shall hunger and thirst no more, or suffer not even from the heat of the sun as Christ will feed and lead them as God wipes away all tears. Some use this scripture to dispute whether the church is raptured before the tribulation begins. Some believe this group may include the church because of the descriptive terms used to describe the group. Having robes being made white by the blood of the Lamb.

Whether or not the church passes through the tribulation, it seems likely that this group was **raptured** during the tribulation.

END OF LESSON 13

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 13

1. **T or F** The 6th seal announces that “the great day of the wrath of God is come.” The wrath of God is poured out in the 7th seal.
2. **T or F** The signs in the heavens are to precede the “Day of the Lord”.
3. **T or F** Before the actual opening of the 7th seal there is a parenthetical statement where we see the 144,000 witnesses of every nation, kindred, and tongue before the throne of God.
4. **T or F** The blood washed multitude seen in heaven as the 7th seal is opened is most likely to be one of two possible groups: an elect body of mainly Gentiles saved during Daniel’s 70th week or more likely all the saints of both Old and New Testaments who are part of the first resurrection.
5. **T or F** The tribes of Levi and Joseph were omitted from the 144,000 because of their sin in introducing idolatry into Israel.

BEGIN LESSON 14

XII. Chapter 8

A. The seventh seal - Silence - 8:1

Rev 8:1 And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

We see that the seventh seal includes the seven trumpets and the seventh trumpet includes the seven vials. This shows us that the seventh seal actually extends, then throughout the rest of the tribulation period to the ushering in of the millennium. We also notice that silence takes place in heaven for about half an hour. Imagine what this silence would be like

when the 24 elders all stop playing their harps and the angels hushed their voices and all of heaven became silent for a space of about 30 minutes. 30 minutes is a long time to stand in complete silence when there is no activity. This silent preparation was to draw attention to the awesome terribleness of the judgments to come.

B. The Golden Censer - 8:2-6

Rev 8:2-6 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. 8:3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. 8:4 And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. 8:5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake. 8:6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

John sees seven angels with seven trumpets as a part of the seventh seal. These angels take their place and prepare to sound their trumpets. In the scripture trumpets were used to signify an attack, draw people to worship, or to gather together. They are also used to proclaim festivals such as "The year of Jubilee," "The feast of Tabernacles," and as an indication of judgment. In this situation they are used to proclaim the judgment that is about to come.

In **verse 3** one priestly angel who serves about the altar, carried a golden censer with much incense that was offered with the prayers of the saints (Most believe these to be the prayers of the tribulation saints). He cast the incense and censer toward the earth as the seventh seal including the 7 trumpets and the 7 vials come to an end.

Some have speculated this priestly angel to be Christ as our great high priest, but we do not know for certain.

C. The first trumpet (Hail, fire and blood) - 8:7

Rev 8:7 The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

We see this trumpet as a fulfillment of **Joel 2:30-31**, where the scripture says "in the later days He will show forth wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and the pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come." There is no reason not to take this judgment literally as we know that similar judgment of this nature was faced by Egypt in **Exodus 9:22-26**. In fact, no less than 5 of the 9 plagues that Egypt faced are repeated during the tribulation period. This particular plague in the first trumpet is similar in nature to the seventh plague that Egypt faced. One big difference that is likely to take place here is that in the days of Egypt, only Egypt received the plague, and in the land of Goshen, where Israel dwelt, there was no plague. However during the tribulation period it is quite possible that many of the judgments will affect Israel, but not the rest of the Gentile world. At least this is a possibility.

D. The Second trumpet (the burning mountain) 8:8-9

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

Most likely the sea indicated here is the Mediterranean Sea. Note that what John sees here, he does not say that it was a mountain, but that "**as if it were**" a mountain on fire that is cast into the sea. The result being one third of the sea becomes blood, one third of the creatures in the sea die, and one third of the ships are destroyed. Perhaps this mass that is thrown into the sea is a meteor that is ablaze with fire. This plague is very similar to that of the Egyptian plague where Moses turned the water into blood, but here only one third of the sea shall become blood, and only one third of the creatures in the sea shall die as a result of the meteor falling into the sea.

E. The third trumpet (the star wormwood) 8:10-11

Rev 8:10-11 And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; 8:11 And the name of the star is called Wormwood; and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

Quoting from Larkin: This will doubtless be another meteor, that will assume the form of a "torch" in its blazing path through the heavens, and when its gaseous vapors are scattered as it explodes, they will be absorbed by the third part of the rivers and fountains of waters, and the waters will be poisoned by the noxious gases, and made bitter, and many men shall die from drinking the water. "**Wormwood**" is a perennial herb, very bitter, and is used in the manufacture of "Absinthe." It is much used in France as a beverage, and is more intoxicating and destructive than ordinary liquor. We also see this time is foretold by the prophet Jeremiah, **Jer. 9:13-15**, where it says, "therefore, thus saith the Lord of Hosts, because they have forsaken my law, behold, I will feed them, even this people (Israel), with Wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink."

F. The fourth trumpet (sun, moon and stars smitten) 8:12

Rev 8:12 And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

We see here that the sounding of the fourth trumpet is very similar in nature to what happened under the sixth seal, therefore, we will not expound upon it other than to say that we should cross reference this with **Luke 21:25-28**.

Luke 21:25-28 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; 21:26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. 21:27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 21:28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

G. The three woes announced - 8:13

Rev 8:13 And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

Here the indication is that the last three trumpets are so awesomely terrible in nature that they are distinguished as being three woes.

(POSB) The trumpet blast of the fifth judgment will be far more severe than the other judgments. The other four trumpet judgments were directed against the earth itself and involved natural catastrophes. Now the judgments will be directed against the ungodly and evil of this earth. It will not affect those who refuse to give their allegiance to the antichrist, who refuse the mark of the beast ([Rev. 9:4](#)). Remember: God will seal His followers; he will protect believers so that His judgments do not fall upon them. His judgments will be for the ungodly and the evil, not for those who have trusted His Son. Of course, as in every generation, believers will be martyred at the hands of ungodly men. But believers will not suffer the judgments of God. They will be protected even as Israel was protected during the Egyptian plagues under Moses. (POSB)

END OF LESSON 14

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 14

1. T or F The seventh seal includes the 7 trumpets and the seventh trumpet includes the seven vials (bowls).
2. T or F There is silence in heaven for 30 minutes. This is the time when all of heaven prepares to sing the “song of the redeemed”.
3. T or F No less than 5 of the 9 plagues that Egypt faced are repeated during Daniel’s 70th week.
4. T or F The final 3 trumpets are so terrible that they are distinguished as being three woes.

5. T or F In Revelation 8:13 the “inhabiters of the earth” is a reference to those living “on” the earth.

BEGIN LESSON 15

XIII. Chapter 9

A. The fifth trumpet (the first woe) 9:1-12

Rev 9:1-12 **And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. 9:2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. 9:3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 9:4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. 9:5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. 9:6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. 9:7 And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. 9:8 And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. 9:9 And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. 9:10 And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months. 9:11 And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon. 9:12 One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.**

Here John sees a star fall, but we know that it is not a literal star, as he refers to it as a person. He calls it "He." We are reminded, in the Old Testament that angels were also called stars. It would be **false** to assume that this angel would be a fallen angel, or Satan himself, as God would certainly not entrust this responsibility of unlocking the bottomless pit to a fallen angel. This particular angel seems to have power or control over

the bottomless pit, which is a prison house for demonic creatures.

The bottomless pit is not hell, Hades, Tartarus, Paradise, or the Lake of Fire, but is a separate compartment within the underworld, where these demonic creatures are imprisoned. These creatures are wicked, unclean, and have power to inhabit people, and inflict tremendous agony upon them.

When Christ cast out the legion of devils from the man who was possessed in **Luke 8:26-36**, their desire was that he not cast them into the "**deep.**" "**Deep**" in that statement was a reference to the "abyss," which is another name for the bottomless pit.

These locust were not ordinary, for we read "**that there were not such locust as them, neither after them shall be such.**" In fact, the locust that John sees here are a combination of horse, man, woman, lion, and scorpion, and that they have wings that sound like chariots or many horses running to battle. Note also that these locust were forbidden to hurt the grass or the trees, or any green thing, which would be natural for them, but they were only allowed to afflict men. We see also that they must have had some form of intelligence for they were able to discern which men to trouble, being those that did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. We note also that they were limited to a period of five months within which they were going to be able to torment mankind. This would have been the normal time period for a locust, which is from May to September. They had the ability to torment with the sting of a scorpion, which often causes a man to die or at least to have a desire to die because of the excruciating pain resulting from the sting. We see here that men will desire to die, but death will escape from them.

These scorpion locusts have a king over them, and the king's name in the Hebrew is ABADDON, but in the Greek is APOLLYON. Many have believed this to be a reference to Satan, but no where in Scripture do we find Satan called by either of these names, therefore, Satan most likely is not the king over these demons. It would appear that there is a king who is sealed with these demonic creatures in the bottomless pit, who has authority to lead them and direct them concerning their bidding. These creatures may be invisible to the natural eye, as they are spirit beings, but their presence will be felt in the torment that they bring to those they inhabit through their demonic possession.

B. The sixth trumpet (the second woe) 9:13-21

Rev 9:13-21 **And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, 9:14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. 9:15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. 9:16 And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. 9:17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. 9:18 By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. 9:19 For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt. 9:20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: 9:21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.**

As the sixth trumpet and second woe begin John sees four angels who are bound in the river Euphrates that originally flowed from the Garden of Eden. It would seem that these are bad angels, by the fact that they were bound and not loosed. The river Euphrates is near where Satan's seat was in ancient time, and where it is to again be in the city of Babylon, once it is restored.

The whole idea of supernatural armies is not uncommon to scripture. We can remember from **II Kings 6:13-17**, when Dothan was besieged by the army of Syria, God opened the eyes of Elisha's servant so that he could see the mountains around the city where filled with a heavenly army. We also know when the Lord Jesus returns, that he will return with an army of heaven riding on a white horse. Thus as there is war in heaven between Michael and his angels, and Satan and his angels, it would only seem natural that there would be an army of horsemen that would be a part of this heavenly war.

These angels were bound for a certain purpose, and that purpose being twofold: First to punish the idolatry of men by killing 1/3rd of the remaining population, which after 1/4th were killed in 6:8 means that now 1/2 of the earth's population is wiped out in judgment, and secondly to provide those that remain the opportunity to repent. Sadly enough, we see in **verse 21** that men still fail to repent.

These horses were not ordinary horses, by the description given here. Another remarkable thing concerning the four angels is that they were prepared for a certain hour, month, day and year, which were known only to God. If this judgment is worldwide in nature, then there would be a tremendous loss of life as one third of men would be slain as a result of these spirit beings being loosed upon the earth.

(RevC) It is hard to imagine an army of 200 million horsemen, especially described as we see in this passage. Yet we must keep in mind that John is describing what he is seeing in terms that he is familiar with. Imagine trying to describe some of modern war equipment of today in terms only known a couple thousand years ago. This huge army seems likely to appear near the middle of Daniel's 70th week. The Beast has already seized great power and influence and most likely is working with Russia to invade Israel. Ezekiel 38-39 describe a time near this same period where Russia and possibly a confederation of nations with Russia as the head that will come against Palestine. We know from Ezekiel that God judges the nations for this attempt sending their army home in defeat without them ever entering Israel. We also know that the Beast will have signed a "treaty" with Israel for a period of 7 years, which I believe will most likely take place to signify the beginning of Daniel's 70th week (what we commonly call the Tribulation period). He will honor that treaty and help defend Israel until near the middle of the period (3.5 years) when he will turn on Israel break the treaty and occupy the rebuilt Holy Temple declaring himself to be god. (RevC)

END OF LESSON 15

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 15

- 1. T or F With the 5th trumpet John sees a literal star fall from heaven.**

2. **T or F** The bottomless pit is not hell, Hades, Tartarus, Paradise, or the Lake of Fire, but is a separate compartment of the underworld where demonic creatures are imprisoned.

3. **T or F** The scorpion locusts that are released from the bottomless pit have a King over them who is most likely Satan.

4. **T or F** The four angels seen in the second woe are bound in the river Euphrates yet today awaiting the day of their release.

5. **T or F** After the 4 angels are released from the river Euphrates they destroy one-third of the remaining population meaning that more than half of the world's population has been destroyed. This leads to a great revival and worldwide move of repentance bringing many to Christ.

BEGIN LESSON 16

XIV. Chapter 10

A. The Interval between the sixth and seventh trumpets.

The interval between the sixth and seventh trumpets contains information that explains events, which are not a part of the seals, trumpets or vials that happen during this time period.

1. 10:1-2

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

The mighty angel that is pictured here is most commonly agreed to be Christ. We know in the Old Testament, **Ex. 3:2-18**, that Christ was referred to as the "Angel of the Lord." We can tell from the description of the angel that there is great similarity between the description here, and that of Christ standing amidst the lampstands in **Rev. 1:12-16**. It is important to note that no other angel is described in such a manner. We also see in the description that he has a loud voice as a lion that roareth, and we know that

Christ is spoken of in **Rev. 5:5** as the "**Lion of the Tribe of Judah.**" In **11:3** this angel speaks of the two witnesses as "**my witnesses,**" which is further evidence that the angel is none other than Christ. Note that He has a "**little book**" in his hand. There is disagreement as to whether this "little book" is the same or different from the "seven sealed book" that Christ is in possession of as he breaks the seals.

2. 10:3-4

Rev 10:3-4 And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. 10:4 And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.

The angel here utters seven "**thunders,**" "**thunders**" being judgments that were not to be revealed, as John is told to seal up those things, which the seven thunders uttered and write them not. These seven thunders remain unknown and shall remain unknown until the time of their release.

The fact that the angel tells John to seal these up and not make them known reminds us of **Daniel 12:4-9** where Daniel was told to seal up the prophecy that he was given; that it was not yet time for it to be revealed.

3. 10:5-7

Rev 10:5-7 And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, 10:6 And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

Here the mighty angel places his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot upon the earth, and declares that there shall be no longer any further delay. In other words, Christ is declaring that time shall not be

delayed any longer in the removal of Satan as the false claimant to the title deed to the earth.

The time is at hand when the “**mystery of God**” should be finished, as he had declared to his servants, the prophets. God had revealed to the Old Testament prophets that there would come a time when he would reveal, or make known, the "mystery of God." "**The Mystery of God**" has to do with why God permitted Satan to cause the fall of man, and bring sin and death into the world. In other words, as we approach the end of the tribulation period, we will understand God's purpose in all of his dealings with mankind and the spirit world.

B. The Little Book

1. 10:8-10

Rev 10:8-10 And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. 10:9 And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. 10:10 And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.

The following is one explanation of the “little book” others have different opinions, the most common of which is that the “little book” and the “7 sealed book” are one in the same. Whether they are or not does not change the scriptural outcome.

Note here that the book in question is described as "**the little book**", which is different than the description of the title deed to the earth that was given in **Rev. 5:1**, where the book is described as "**a book written within and on the back side sealed with seven seals.**" This little book here mentioned in chapter 10 does not have any mention of there being seals within it or upon it, nor is it described as being a normal book, but rather we see it as "**a little book**" that was to be eaten, which would have strange effects upon the individual who ate the book.

Is it possible that this "**little book**" is the same book that Daniel was told to seal up in **Dan. 12:4-9**? Daniel's book and its contents were not to be revealed until the time of the end, which would correspond to this time period as the times of the Gentiles was coming to an end.

If that is the case, it would explain somewhat why the book would taste sweet, and yet be bitter to John's stomach. It would taste sweet because it would be an indication to John of the deliverance that would come to the Jewish nation, the final victory of the Lamb of God, and the establishment of the millennial kingdom. On the other hand, it would also make him acutely aware of the tremendous tribulation and suffering that the Jews would undergo under the rule of Anti-Christ during the last half of the tribulation while the trumpets and vials are poured out, including the thunder judgments we know very little about.

2. 10:11

Rev 10:11 And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

In verse 11 we see that John is again told that he must prophecy before many peoples and nations, and tongues and kings. This scripture John literally fulfills in what takes place in the rest of the book of the Revelation. For certainly he was prophesying as to what would happen to the nations of the world, and to the peoples of the world during the last half of the tribulation prior to the establishment of God's eternal kingdom. Evidently, in the eating of the book, and the digesting of it, it would give him the spirit of prophecy, and the anointing needed to record the words of Christ as the future was revealed to him.

END OF LESSON 16

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 16

1. T or F The interval between the sixth and seventh trumpets contains information that is part of the trumpets.

2. T or F The angel in the opening of chapter 10 is none other than Jesus Christ, and He is holding a “little book”.

3. T or F The angel here (angel can mean messenger) utters the seven “Thunders” which are judgments that cannot be revealed by John.

4. T or F "The Mystery of God" has to do with why God permitted Satan to cause the fall of man, and bring sin and death into the world.

5. T or F The “little book” of chapter 10 may be the same book that Daniel was told to seal up until the time of the end.

BEGIN LESSON 17

XV. Chapter 11

A. The temple - 11:1-2

Rev 11:1-2 And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. 11:2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.

John is instructed to measure the temple at Jerusalem, the worship place of Israel at the beginning of the tribulation period. This must then be a future temple that is yet to be built in Jerusalem. We also know that this temple will exist because Anti-Christ during his reign will eventually break his covenant with Israel and sit in the temple, proclaiming to be God, **II Thess. 2:3-4**. We know this is not the millennial temple as described in **Ezekiel 42:20**. Larkin indicates that Ezekiel’s temple will be built at Shiloh in the midst of the Holy oblation, **Ezek. 48:8, 21**. Shiloh is not to be confused with Jerusalem. Shiloh is located north of Jerusalem as indicated from this description from Unger’s Bible Dictionary: “The site of Israel’s early sanctuary in the time of the Judges, is identified with Seilun, thirty miles north of Jerusalem. It was located east of the main road from Jerusalem to Shechem, about nine miles north of Bethel.

Considering all factors, Shiloh was a good choice of a sanctuary from the point of view of a central location.”

John is admonished not to measure the temple court. It is interesting to note that according to Larkin, that the temple of Herod had four courts:

- The court of the Priest,
- The court of Israel,
- The court of the Women,
- and the court of the Gentiles.

The tabernacle in the wilderness had but one court, while Solomon's temple had two:

- The court of the Priests
- and the Court of the Gentiles.

The court, as far as being measured by John, was to be left out. The purpose of that being that it was to be trodden underfoot according to the scripture by the Gentiles for 42 months, or 3 1/2 years. This would coincide with the last half of Daniel's 70th week, or the last half of the tribulation period, when Anti-Christ breaks his covenant with Israel and desecrates the temple. The temple will be trodden down by the Gentiles until the completion of the time of the Gentiles, which does not end until the battle of Armageddon.

B. The Two witnesses - 11:3-6

Rev 11:3-6 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. 11:4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. 11:5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. 11:6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

The identity of these two witness is somewhat disputed. Almost everyone agrees that one of the two witnesses will be Elijah the prophet. Many of the powers the witnesses display during their time of ministry (the last 3 1/2 years of the tribulation period) are displays of power that Elijah had previously demonstrated. However, the second witness is in

question. Some claim it is Moses, because of the similarity with the plagues of Egypt, and some of the powers that the two witnesses will possess. Others claim the second witness to be Enoch, as Enoch has not died a physical death, as far as we know. Moses has already died a physical death, but Elijah and Enoch have not. The scripture says that it is accorded unto man once to die. Then Enoch and Elijah are the only two men in Scripture, we know of, who have not died a physical death. Therefore, it would seem reasonable that these two would return as the Lord's witnesses during the last 3 1/2 years of the tribulation. They would not only work in miraculous power, but also to proclaim the coming of the King, and then die a physical death, which they have not yet done.

Larkin makes an interesting note concerning the two witnesses, and I quote from him, "the mighty angel, Christ, calls them 'my two witnesses'. This implies that 'witnessing' was their business. And when we recall Moses and Elijah witnessing on the mount of transfiguration, **Matt. 17:3**, and that it was "two men" that witnessed that Jesus had risen to the women at the tomb, **Luke 24:4-7**, and that it was "two men" who stood by and witnessed to the disciples as Jesus ascended into heaven, **Acts 1:10-11**, and that in all three incidences the men were clothed in shining garments."

Larkin holds to the viewpoint that the second person was Moses. First, because of the fact that Moses was present with Elijah at the mount of Transfiguration, and secondly because the powers that are displayed by the two witnesses also parallel more closely that of Moses. A third argument for Moses would also be that Moses certainly was God's witness before the Pharaoh as he went before him proclaiming that Pharaoh should let God's people go. The biggest stumbling block to Moses then, would be the fact that Moses has already tasted of death, which Enoch has not as far as we know.

Please make note of the fact that these men will have been empowered by God not to be killed or taste of death until their 3- 1/2 years of witnessing is fulfilled. In fact, they will have miraculous power to subdue any enemy that will come against them and threaten their existence.

C. Their death and resurrection - 11:7-12

Rev 11:7-12 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. 11:8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. 11:9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. 11:10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. 11:11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. 11:12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

We see as a result of their death that there will be great rejoicing upon the earth. People will even trade presents as if it were a time of Christmas or celebration, rejoicing over the death of these two witnesses who tormented them with the truth, and with power during the time of the last half of the tribulation. Note too that the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them and shall overcome them and kill them as they have fulfilled their time of witnessing before God. We see also the description of the spiritual condition of the people at the time in verse 8, which says "their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city," which spiritually is called "Sodom" in Egypt. Note that the actual place is Jerusalem, but it has taken upon the spiritual connotation of the nature of Sodom. Sodom was given over to homosexuality, and so forth, and Egypt to its lust, moral decay, and insatiable appetite for materialistic gain. These conditions will be very descriptive of Jerusalem at that time period, and the attitude of the people toward the things of God (outside of those who are the true remnant of God).

Imagine the surprise when after their bodies have laid in the streets of Jerusalem for 3 ½ days there is heard the sound of a voice from heaven commanding the men to rise up, and ascend into heaven as their enemies witness their resurrection and ascension.

**D. The great earthquake and the third woe announced -
11:13-14**

Rev 11:13-14 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. 11:14 The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

After the ascension of the two witnesses, a great earthquake takes place where a tenth part of the city of Jerusalem will be destroyed, and over seven thousand men will be killed. But notice also that the remnant, though frightened, do give glory and honor to God.

Verse 14 is an indication of the closing of the second woe, and announcement that the third woe is at hand.

E. The seventh trumpet and the third woe - 11:15-19

Rev 11:15-19 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever. 11:16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, 11:17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. 11:18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. 11:19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

The seventh trumpet and third woe continues through chapter 20:3 as the seventh trumpet includes the seven vials. In verse 15 we have the announcement that Christ is to take the kingdom that the time has

finally come, even though he does not do so until the **final** 3 1/2 years of the great tribulation have been completed.

END OF LESSON 17

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 17

- 1. T or F** The temple John is told to measure presently sits next to the Mosque of Omar, but will someday be moved to where the Mosque presently sits.
- 2. T or F** The temple described here by John is the same temple as described by Ezekiel.
- 3. T or F** All the courts and inner areas of the temple were measured by John, and constructed as John has indicated.
- 4. T or F** Everyone agrees that the two witnesses which are to return to witness for Christ during the last half of Daniel's 70th week are Elijah and Enoch as neither have ever tasted death.
- 5. T or F** The second woe concludes with a great earthquake that destroys more than half of Jerusalem and kills more than 20,000 men, women, and children.

BEGIN LESSON 18

XVI. Chapter 12

A. Seven Personages

There are no less than seven major personages described from **Rev. 12:1 - 13:18**. These seven personages are as follows:

- 1.** The Sun-clothed woman - 12:1-2
- 2.** The Dragon - 12:3-4
- 3.** The Man-child - 12:5-6
- 4.** The Archangel - 12:7-12
- 5.** The Jewish remnant - 12:17
- 6.** The Beast out of the sea - 13:1-10

7. The Beast out of the earth - 13:11-18

B. The Sun-clothed woman 12:1-2

Rev 12:1-2 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: 12:2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

1. Some say she is representative of the Virgin Mary. However, I find no supportive evidence for that conclusion.
2. Some say she is the visible or outward church, while her child is the true church, or those who are to be raptured. If this is the case, then the logical conclusion is that the church would have to go through at least the first 3 1/2 years of the tribulation.
3. It is held by many that the woman represents Israel, travailing in birth to bring forth the Christ child. **Isaiah 9:6-7, "unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given,"** speaking of Israel in its effort to bring forth the Christ.

The church is never referred to as a mother. In fact, the church is a virgin, and an engaged virgin at that, **II Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-27**. Additionally, we find nowhere in Scripture is it suggested that the church is to ever be a mother.

2 Cor 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

Eph 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

C. The Dragon - 12:3-4

Rev 12:3-4 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. **12:4** And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

We see in **verse 9** that this great red dragon is also called none other than the old serpent, the devil, and Satan. We see his color depicted as red, that of blood, as he has been called the murderer, **John 8:44**.

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. **He was a murderer from the beginning**, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

We see his seven heads, ten horns, and upon his head seven crowns. These are emblems of his dominion and power, for he is: "**the prince of the power of the air**" and the "**prince of this world**," **Eph. 2:2; II Cor. 4:4**.

2 Cor 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

His seven heads, 10 horns, and crowns, according to Larkin, show his affiliation with the "beast out of the sea." The only difference between the dragon, and the beast out of the sea, is that the crowns of the beast are on his horns instead of his heads, and are greater in number. The beast does not appear on the earth until after the dragon is cast out of heaven. Though the "anti-Christ" was in existence before the dragon was cast out of heaven, he does not actually assume the role as the beast until the middle of the week.

Larkin believes that Satan is cast out of heaven, and incarnates himself in anti-Christ, thus becoming the beast. I don't hold that particular view. I

believe that Satan controls anti-Christ, but as Satan is an angel, he does not have the ability to incarnate himself inside someone else. Plus the anti-Christ and false prophet are thrown into the lake of fire at least a 1000 years before Satan.

The stars of heaven that are attached to his tail would be angels that rebelled with Satan against God, and are thus thrust out of heaven with him.

The red dragon stands before the sun-clothed woman ready to devour her child as soon as it is born. We can look back through Scripture and see that Satan's plan has been to prevent the birth of Christ, or after failing to do that, to destroy Him before the Cross.

Throughout scripture Satan, as the dragon, has made many attempts to prevent the birth of the Christ. After he realized he was under the curse, as a result of the fall of Adam and Eve, and that through the seed of woman his head should be bruised, he then sought to destroy the promised seed. Some of Satan's most obvious attempts are as follows:

1. No sooner than Abel was born, as the promised seed from which the Christ would come, did Satan scheme to get his brother Cain to kill him.
2. Satan then sought to destroy the seed by having his fallen angels pollute the bloodline through which Christ would come.
3. Noah, being spared to preserve the human race, planted a vineyard and became drunk, resulting in the curse of Canaan, the son of Ham.
4. The tower of Babel was built, and the result was the confusion of tongues and the disunity of the race,
Gen. 11:1-9.
5. God called Abraham and Sarah, who at that point was barren, which Satan must have had a hand in until God worked a miracle on Sarah's behalf.

6. When Isaac was about twelve years of age, God chose to prove Abraham by asking him to offer Isaac as a sacrifice on Mount Moriah.
7. When Isaac had married Rebekah, Rebekah too was barren, which Satan may have had a hand in, until God answered Isaac's prayer and twins were born.
8. Then Satan, as the twins grew, tried to repeat the tragedy of Cain and Abel by stirring up strife between the two brothers in hopes that they would destroy each other.
9. When it came time for Moses, Satan put it in the heart of Pharaoh to kill all the male Hebrew children at birth, which his purpose again was to destroy the male line of descent all together.
10. At the death of King Jehoshaphat, his son Jehoram slew all his brethren with the sword, **II Chron. 21:13**, thus reducing the "seed" down to one life, but Jehoram had children. The Arabians slew all of his children but one, Ahaziah, who was the youngest, **II Chron. 21:17 - 22:1**.
11. But Ahaziah had children, and these in turn were slain by Athaliah, his mother, which Satan most likely instigated. She thought she had slain all, but God had rescued the infant son at the hands of his aunt, who hid him in the temple, and for 6 years all the hopes of God's people, as to the promised seed rested on that infant's life.
12. During the captivity, Satan tried to destroy the whole of the Hebrew nation at the hands of Haman, the story of Esther.
13. Then once Christ was born, Satan, having not prevented his birth, determined to destroy him, and prompted Herod to slay all of the male children under two years of age in Bethlehem.
14. When Christ entered his ministry, Satan met him in the wilderness, and suggested that he throw himself from the pinnacle of the temple.
15. Satan then sought to destroy Christ by getting the towns people to cast him over the precipice, **Luke 4:29**.

16. Most likely the two storms on the Sea of Galilee were both Satan's attempts to destroy Christ.
17. Satan then sought to kill Christ through the priests and the Pharisees, and even through His own disciple, Judas.
18. Then having crucified the Christ at the hand of Pilot, Satan had the burial place sealed and guarded to prevent the resurrection.

END OF LESSON 18

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 18

Match the item on the left with the best choice on the right:

1. The Sun-clothed woman _D_	A. never referred to as a mother
2. The Dragon _E_	B. 7 heads, 10 horns, 7 crowns
3. the Church _A_	C. stars of heaven
4. emblems of dominion & power _B_	D. Israel travailing in birth
5. angels that rebelled with Satan _C_	E. Satan, the Devil

BEGIN LESSON 19

D. The man-child - 12:5-6

**Rev 12:5-6 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.
12:6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.**

The child is brought forth as Christ to rule, and will do so as a rod of iron denoting the type of rule that he will show over the nations during the millennial kingdom. The statement that he will rule with a rod of iron shows that His will, will be supreme.

We see the woman fleeing into the wilderness, and there is a gap here between the fifth and sixth verses. The **fifth verse** describes the birth of Christ and his ascension, then **verse six** describes the flight of the woman, Israel, into the wilderness to escape from Anti-Christ. The gap between the fifth and sixth verse would be the church age, which John jumps over. So we see the birth of Christ, then the gap (the church age between the fifth and sixth verse), and then Israel as the Sun clothed woman fleeing into the wilderness during the last half of the tribulation period.

Here the flight of the woman is mentioned prior to it actually taking place, as she does not flee until the "war in heaven takes place."

According to Larkin, "here is evidence that the sun-clothed woman is not the virgin Mary, for she does not flee into Egypt, as Joseph and the virgin did, **Matt. 2:12-15**, but into the wilderness. Neither does she flee "with her child," for it was taken away from her and caught up to the throne of God. Neither does she flee for her child's protection, but for her own safety.

E. The Archangel & War in Heaven - 12:7-12

Rev 12:7-12 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 12:8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. 12:12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

1. Michael - the archangel

Michael is called, in the book of Daniel "one of the chief princes," **Dan. 10:13**. He is also called "prince," **Dan. 10:21**, and he is called "the great prince which standeth for thy people," **Dan. 12:1**. In **Jude 9** he is called the "Archangel," and there is not any other Archangel spoken of in the Bible, so Michael must be this Archangel. We know too that Michael had something to do with the resurrection of the dead, for we see him mentioned in connection with the resurrection in **Dan. 12:1-2**, and he contested with the devil concerning the resurrection of Moses in **Jude 9**. We would also expect the voice of the Archangel that will be heard when the dead in Christ rise will that of Michael, **I Thess. 4:16**.

2. The prince of the power of the air - the god of this world.

We must not take lightly Satan's power and position, for as Larkin puts it, he is a great "celestial potentate." Satan is the god of this world. He is not the god of the earth, for that belongs to its Maker, for the scripture says, "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." However, Satan is the god of the world's systems, which embrace business, society, politics, and even religious systems upon this earth. He is the ruler over the powers of darkness, as described in **Eph. 6:11-12**. His position is so exalted that even Michael, the Archangel, dare not insult him, **Jude 9**. So mighty is he, that even man cannot successfully resist him without God's divine intervention.

Satan is a king, and possesses a kingdom. If we will remember, Christ made the statement, "if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then shall his kingdom stand?" **Matt. 12:24-30**. Christ acknowledged that Satan was a king of a kingdom of sorts, his kingdom being those principalities and powers, wicked spirits and rulers of the world's systems. These are those powers which control the earth as we see from the example in the days of **Daniel 10:10-14**, when a messenger was sent to Daniel but was hindered three weeks from reaching him by the prince of the kingdom of Persia, one of Satan's ruling powers. It was not until

Michael the Archangel came to defend against the prince of Persia that the messenger, Gabriel was allowed to get through to answer Daniel's prayer.

3. **Satan and his angels are cast out** of their heavenly abode. Their present position is between that of the atmosphere of the earth and the third heaven where God dwells. They are cast out of heaven, and heaven rejoices, but woe is exclaimed to those who are upon the earth where Satan's wrath now will be poured out, as he knows his time is short, lasting only 3 1/2 years.

F. Persecution of Israel by Satan - 12:13-16



Rev 12:13-16 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. 12:14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. 12:15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. 12:16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

1. Satan attempts to destroy the woman, Israel, who gave birth to the man-child. The woman is aided by God, and that he will give her "wings of a great eagle that she may fly into the wilderness," and that there she shall be nourished and protected for 3 1/2 years. This is very similar to the flight of Israel from Egypt when God said, "Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians and how I bear you on eagle's wings, and brought you unto myself," **Ex. 19:4**. The eagle's wings in both passages speak of how God will give them rapid and safe flight into the wilderness, and then keep them safe from the dragon. Isaiah also speaks of this time in **Is. 26:20**.

2. God speaks here of how He is going to send Israel into the wilderness and provide a place of protection for them. That place of protection is symbolic of the city of refuge that was in Old Testament times for those who were guilty of manslaughter. One could escape the avenger of blood by fleeing to a city of refuge, of which there were 6, 3 on each side of the river Jordan. We read in **Daniel 11:41**, speaking of Anti-Christ, that "he shall enter into the glorious land (Palestine) and many countries shall be over throne; but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom and Moab and the chief of the children of Amon." Quoting Larkin, "now Edom takes in the wilderness, where Israel wandered for 40 years. And it is here in Edom that the 'city of refuge' that God had provided for Israel is located, and is known today as Petra. It was a great commercial center in the days of King Solomon. In AD 105 the Romans conquered the country and called the Providence Arabia-Petra. When the power of Rome weakened, Petra gradually fell into the hands of the Arabs, and became completely lost to the civilized world in the 7th century, and remained so until it was rediscovered by Burckhardt in 1812."

"It is located in the mountains like as in a crater of a volcano. It has but one entrance, and that is through a narrow, winding, canyon from 12-40 feet (3.5m to 12m) wide, the size of which are at times so close together as to almost shut out the sky above and make you think you are passing through a subterranean passage way. The height of the sides varies from 200 to 1000 feet (60m to 600m), and the length of the canyon is about 2 miles (3+km). No other city in the world has such has a wonderful gateway. The sides of the canyon are lined with wonderful monuments and temples carved out of the rocky sand stone sides. Once inside the rocky enclosure of the city we find the ruins of magnificent buildings, tombs and monuments. The cliffs that surround the city are carved and honeycombed with excavations to a height of 300 feet (90m) above the floor of the valley, and the excavations cut as they are out of different colored strata of rock, such as red, purple, blue, black, white and yellow, lend a beauty to their appearance that is indescribable and overpowering to the beholder."

"When the time comes for the 'Man-Slayer' (Israel), to escape from the hands of the 'avenger of blood' (Anti-Christ), the rocky fortress

of the ancient city of Petra will be her 'city of refuge.' We further read that Satan will cast a flood of water out of his mouth to destroy her as she flees, but that the earth will open up and swallow the flood. Most likely this is one of the armies under the command or power of Anti-Christ following after the Israelites, which will be destroyed or swallowed up in a sand storm as they cross the dessert."

G. The Jewish Remnant - 12:17

Rev 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Having not succeeded in catching the woman as she fled to Petra, Satan, through Anti-Christ will now turn his attention to the remnant that was left behind in Palestine, and among the other nations of the world. These are those who have kept the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Here are two classifications of the remnant: First, those who keep the commandments of God; that would be the Orthodox Jews who strictly observed the Old Testament laws. The second class are those who accept the testimony of Jesus Christ as their Messiah.

It appears that those who keep the Old Testament commandments would be converted by the preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom through the two witnesses. During this time there will be great persecution among this Jewish remnant, and thousands will die a martyr's death.

END OF LESSON 19

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 19

Match the item on the left with the best choice on the right:

1. The man-child _D_	A. Petra
2. Israel _F_	B. The Prince of the power of the air
3. The Archangel __E_	C. Part of the remnant
4. the god of this world _B_	D. Jesus Christ
5. where Israel flees to _A_	E. Michael
6. they keep the law _C_	F. woman fleeing into the wilderness

BEGIN LESSON 20

XVII. Chapter 13

A. The Beast out of the sea - 13:1-10

Rev 13:1-10 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. 13:2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. 13:4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? 13:5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. 13:6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. 13:7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are

not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. 13:9 If any man have an ear, let him hear. 13:10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

This is the first of John's two visions of the beast, with the second coming in **Rev. 17:3 & 7-17**. It is important for us to remember that the beast has a dual meaning in that it represents both the revised Roman Empire, and its head the Anti-Christ. The revised Roman Empire rises out of the sea of nations, and the Anti-Christ out of the abyss. It is important for us to distinguish between the body of the beast, and its heads and horns. The body is that of a Leopard, with the feet of a bear, and the mouth of a Lion, which shows the revised Roman Empire in its last stage, and will include the characteristics of the first three wild beasts of Daniel: The Lion, symbolic of Babylon, The Bear (Media-Persia), and The Leopard (Greece). The largest part of the beast being the body, is represented by the leopard, which may be an indication that the revised Roman Empire will be largely of Grecian influence.

We see the beast that comes up out of the sea in **chapter 13** has seven heads and ten horns, and the horns are crowned. The beast that comes up out of the Abyss (**Rev. 17**) also has seven heads and ten horns, but they are not crowned, for the ten kings represented by the 10 horns have not as yet received their kingdoms. The beast that we see then in **Rev. 17** would represent the Anti-Christ at the beginning of the week. Confirmation is seen in that the woman is at this stage, riding the beast. **Rev. 17:3-4 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. ⁴And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:** Though we do not see the scarlet clothed woman until **chapter 17**, it is evident that she has been riding the beast from the beginning of the week, for she represents the false religious system that comes to power. Many believe this will be the Roman Catholic Church, however another possible religious system of even greater number is the Muslim faith that is second only to Christianity in numbers. Evidently, during the wars that precede the rise of Anti-Christ, the nations that would geographically be from inside the boundaries of the

old Roman Empire will form an alliance for mutual protection. Those nations would be 10 in number, represented by the 10 horns of the beast. It is very likely that the Scarlet clothed woman will play a part in their restoration and be rewarded through political power. This would then bring about a union of church and state in which the church would have control, as the woman is riding the beast, thus dominating it. But, once the ten kings receive their kingdoms and are crowned, they will turn on the woman and, as the scripture says, "**shall hate the whore and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.**" **Rev. 17:16.**

It is stated that one of the kings, most likely Anti-Christ, will receive a deadly wound, which is healed. This whole incident may be a type of the resurrection of Christ, in that Anti-Christ would be resurrected from death, which would cause the world to wonder after the beast, **Rev. 13:3**. At this time the beast would break his covenant with the Jews and desecrate the temple, setting up the abomination of desolation and proclaiming himself god, and ascribing worship to himself. We also see as the little horn of Daniel's forth, wild beast, that he will destroy three of the ten kings and establish himself formally in a place of power. That would mean that the Anti-Christ does not form the federation, but comes to power as an outgrowth of it.

(RevC) There is a good argument for the possibility that Judas will be raised from the dead to become the Anti-Christ, the Beast. We know from John 17:12; and 2 Thess. 2:3 that both Judas and the Anti-Christ are referred to as being "the son of perdition". We also know that Judas is called "a devil" in John 6:70. However, we also know from Matthew 27:5 that Judas hung himself whereas the Anti-Christ (Rev. 19:20) will be cast alive into the Lake of Fire along with the False Prophet. Thus, for Judas to be the Beast he would have to be resurrected from the dead and then after a few short years be cast alive into the Lake of Fire. To me this seems unlikely as his betrayal of Christ and suicide would also likely have sealed his fate in the fires of hell.

We know that the Beast will gain political power and likely use the "World Church" the "apostate church" (the harlot of Rev. 17) to help him achieve dominance. Then near the middle of Daniel's 70th week he will turn on the church and Israel, break his covenant treaty and desecrate the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and declare himself god. Satan will help him achieve this by

empowering him to do miracles resulting in a great deception that will come upon an unbelieving world who rejected the truth of Christ and yet will believe the deception of the lying Beast. (RevC)

B. The Beast out of the earth - 13:11-18

Rev 13:11-18 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. 13:12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. 13:13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, 13:14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. 13:15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. 13:16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: 13:17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 13:18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

John sees a beast come up out of the earth, and this beast had a lamb-like appearance. We know him as the false prophet. He is called the false prophet no less than 3 times: **Rev. 16:13; 19:20; 20:10.**

The dragon as Satan, the Anti-Christ as the beast, and the false prophet comprise the satanic trinity.

The false prophet is not a king, and he does not exalt himself, rather he exalts the Anti-Christ, the first beast. His relationship to the Anti-Christ is parallel to the relationship the Holy Spirit has with Christ. This is most evident in that the Holy Spirit draws us to worship Christ, just as the false prophet will provoke people to worship the beast. Also, as followers of Christ are sealed by the Holy Spirit until our day of redemption, **Eph. 4:30**, in similar type all the followers of Anti-Christ are sealed by the false

prophet with the mark of the beast until the day of perdition, **Rev. 13:16-17**.

The false prophet will be a miracle worker. Jesus was a miracle worker, but by the Power of the Holy Spirit, according to **Acts 10:38**. Among the miracles that the false prophet will perform, is that of bringing fire down from heaven. The two witnesses will possess this same power from **11:1-14**, setting up a probable fire test between the two witnesses and the false prophet. This test would be very similar to that of Elijah and the false prophets at Mount Carmel. There is evidence in scripture that Satan was capable of calling down fire, if you'll look in **Job 1:16**, where Satan, after receiving permission from God to touch all that Job had, brought fire down from heaven and burned up Job's sheep and servants.

Finally, concerning the false prophet, we see that he will cause men to receive a mark on the back of their hand or forehead, without which they would not be able to purchase or sell goods. This will be a time of great testing for those who have given their lives to God, as they will either be beheaded for their testimony or starved to death or be forced to beg for handouts less God supplies for them miraculously as He did for Israel in the wilderness. Europe is now heading for a single monetary system, which sets the stage for the global economy.

XVIII. Chapter 14

A. The 144,000 on Heavenly Mount Zion - 14:1-5

Rev 14:1-5 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. 14:2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: 14:3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. 14:4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. 14:5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Here we see the Lamb of God positioned on the Heavenly Mount Zion. Along with him are the 144,000 who were sealed in **chapter 7**. We know this to be the Heavenly Mount Zion from reference that Paul speaks of in **Heb. 12:22-23**. John hears a voice from heaven, as it were the voice of many waters, which identifies this voice with that of the Lamb himself, who stood in the midst of the Lamp stands in **chapter 1:1-15**. Exactly what the voice tells John is not recorded, but his words are followed with that of harper's singing a new song before the throne, and before the four living creatures, and the elders. Believing that the elders most likely represent the church, these harpers could not be the church, for they sing before the elders. We are also told that no man could learn the song that they sang, but the 144,000 who were redeemed from the earth. This then points to these as being those who were sealed on their foreheads with the name of the Father, as we saw in **7:3-8**. Evidently this 144,000 were either translated or died a martyr's death and have become now the first fruits of Israel. Also note that the 144,000 are called virgins in that they were not defiled with women they are all men who did not marry.

END OF LESSON 20

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 20

1. **T or F** The “beast” has a dual meaning in that it represents both the revised Roman Empire, and its head the Anti-Christ.
2. **T or F** The Anti-Christ rises up out of the sea of nations.
3. **T or F** The beast we see in Revelation 17 would represent the Anti-Christ at the beginning of Daniel's 70th week.
4. **T or F** Near the middle of Daniel's 70th week the beast will break his covenant with the Jews and desecrate the temple, setting up the abomination of desolation and proclaiming himself god, and ascribing worship to himself.
5. **T or F** The “beast out of the earth” is likely to be the “false prophet” that together with Satan and the Anti-Christ form the unholy trinity.

6. T or F The 144,000 from chapter 7 that were sealed on their foreheads now in chapter 14 are in heaven. These were all virgin Jewish women who were witnesses for God and are now the first fruits of Israel.

BEGIN LESSON 21

B. The Angel Preaching the Everlasting Gospel - 14:6-7

Rev 14:6-7 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, 14:7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

John sees an angel flying through the atmosphere surrounding the earth. The angel is commissioned to preach the Gospel, the Everlasting Gospel, which is the only time throughout Bible history that we see an angel given permission to preach the gospel. In fact, in **Acts 10:3-6**, we find that the angel that spoke with Cornelius could only tell him to send for Peter when Cornelius sought how he should be saved. But here in the end time we see that the angel was given a special commission to preach the Everlasting Gospel (or the Eternal Gospel, as the revised version puts it), so that all mankind might know. In fact, the scripture says that it is to be preached to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, and to be done so with a loud voice.

C. Five Gospels

There are no less than five Gospels that are shared in the scripture, four of which line up with the true meaning of the word Gospel, which is "good news." They are as follows:

1. **The Gospel of the Kingdom, Matt. 24:14.** This Gospel is a witness or announcement of the time when Messiah will set up His earthly kingdom. This is largely what is preached during the tribulation period.
2. **The Gospel of the Grace of God, Acts 20:24.** This is the good news that Jesus Christ died on the cross for our salvation.

3. **My Gospel, Rom. 2:16; Acts 26:16-18.** This is the Gospel that Paul shared, which included the Gospel of the grace of God, but in addition, added those revelations that were made known to Paul concerning the church, **Eph. 3:1-7.**
4. **The Everlasting Gospel, Rev. 14:6.** This what the angel preached to every nation, kindred, tongue and people. His message is one not of salvation, but that of judgment. It has the character of the Gospel in that "the word Gospel means good news."

(POSB) The gospel must be proclaimed to the whole earth. Not a single place must be missed. It must be proclaimed to every nation, tribe, language, and people... The point is this: there will be witnessing in the last days. The glorious gospel will be proclaimed by God's people. And if they for some unknown reason hush, God will proclaim the gospel of His Son through angels. As Jesus Himself said to the religionists of His day: if the people keep silent, then the very stones themselves will cry out ([Luke 19:40](#)). **(POSB)**

5. **"Another Gospel"** (which is not truly another gospel, but a perverted gospel), **Gal. 1:6-12; II Cor. 11:4.**

D. Angel's Proclaim doom - 14:8-11

Rev 14:8-11 **And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. 14:9** **And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, 14:10** **The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: 14:11** **And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.**

In **verse 8** we see a second angel claiming the fall and doom of Babylon, the great city, because of her fornication. This is a warning to God's

people that they should not involve themselves in her sins, nor be partakers of her plagues. Therefore, the message is that they should flee from her or come out of her and not be a part of her destruction, which is finalized in **Rev. 18** where these same words are repeated at the final fall of the city.

In **14:9-11** we hear the voice of a third angel. This third angel proclaims the terrible warning to those who have received the mark of the beast on their forehead or hand, that they are doomed forever to the lake of fire and brimstone where they will receive eternal torment. Note here how clear the picture is that there is an eternal torment in that their torment shall ascend forever, and they shall have no rest day or night.

E. The Blessed Dead - 14:12-13

Rev 14:12-13 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Here is a reference to those who die for not worshipping the beast at the command of the false prophets, **Rev. 13:15**. These shall be delivered from their tribulation, die a martyr's death, and receive a martyr's crown. Those that refuse the mark, and refuse to worship the beast are given rest from their labors, while those who accept the mark of the beast, and worship the beast never rest from their labor day or night as a part of their final judgment.

F. The Reaper - 14:14-20

Rev 14:14-20 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. 14:15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. 14:16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. 14:17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. 14:18 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him

that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. 14:19 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. 14:20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

It is clear that the Reaper is the Son of Man. The same person that did the sowing is now doing the reaping. Going back to **Matt. 13:37-42**, Christ is the true reaper of the good seed that was sown, where as the evil one, the devil, who has sowed bad seed, will reap a harvest of judgment. This harvest is from among the Gentile nations as God gathers His own from among those who are lost forever. Though John sees it now, the final gathering does not take place until just prior to the battle of Armageddon in **Rev. 19** (see also **Joel 3:9-17**).

(The Preacher's Outline Sermon Bible Commentary) This is the picture of the believers of the end time being harvested. Here their taken up from off the earth and taken into the shelter of heaven, taken out of the stormy and violent weather of a godless world. This is the picture of the wheat being separated from the tares, the picture of the Son of Man reaping His harvest, His fruit, His people. This is exactly what Christ and Scripture say.

“Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn” (Matthew 13:30).

“So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just” (Matthew 13:49).

“Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable” (Luke 3:17).

The second gathering **14:17-20** (still to come) is the judgment of sinners, which takes place at the close of the tribulation period with the battle of Armageddon; the winepress of God's wrath **19:15**.

Quoting from Larkin, "the prophet Isaiah (**Is. 63:1-6**) describes Christ's share in it. It will cover the whole land of Palestine, and extend as far south as Edom and Bozrah. So great shall be the slaughter that the blood shall be up to horses bridals in the valleys over the whole of Palestine for 200 miles.

(RevC) Lets outline the events that have led up to this great battle, Armageddon:

1. At the beginning of Daniel's 70th week the Anti-Christ (the Beast) makes a 7-year treaty or covenant with Israel.
2. We know from Ezekiel that Russia & Egypt will come against Israel during the first half of the covenant. The Anti-Christ will likely go to Palestine to keep his covenant with Israel. However, God will defeat Russia & those aligned with Russia before they reach Palestine.
3. The Anti-Christ will defeat Egypt and then turn on Israel, desecrate the Holy Temple, and seek to establish himself as god and world ruler from Jerusalem.
4. After Babylon is destroyed the Anti-Christ with demonic spirits will lure the nations of the earth to come together to utterly destroy Israel and defeat the plan of Christ (**Rev. 16:13-16**).
5. However, (**Rev. 19:17-21**) shows us that the ungodly will be the ones destroyed as the Anti-Christ (the Beast) and the False Prophet are thrown alive into the Lake of Fire by Christ while the fowls of the air come to feast on the flesh of the ungodly who died in this great battle.
6. In **Joel chapter 3** you can find another description of this great gathering to battle.
7. Notice **Rev. 14:20** the blood shall cover an area of 200 miles and be as deep as the distance from the ground to the horses' bridal. The scripture refers to this as "the great winepress of the wrath of God" **14:19**. (RevC)

END OF LESSON 21

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 21

Match the item on the left with the best choice on the right:

1. the angel preaches _E_	A. Jesus died for our
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	salvation
2. Gospel of the Kingdom _D_	B. the gospel Paul preached
3. Gospel of Grace _A_	C. message of judgment
4. My Gospel _B_	D. announces the Kingdom
5. Everlasting Gospel _C_	E. the Everlasting Gospel

Match the item on the left with the best choice on the right:

6. Another Gospel _C_	A. Gathers among the Gentiles
7. Mark of the beast _D_	B. receive a martyr's crown
8. the Blessed Dead _B_	C. a perverted gospel
9. The Reaper _A_	D. doomed to the lake of fire

BEGIN LESSON 22

XIX. Chapter 15

A. The sea of Glass - 15:1-4

Rev 15:1-4 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God. 15:2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. 15:3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. 15:4 Who shall not

fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

The sea of glass is the same sea of Glass that we saw in **chapter 4:6**. At that point it was unoccupied, and now is occupied. The occupants of the sea of Glass have come out of the tribulation and have gotten the victory over the beast, over his image, over his mark, and over the number of his name. They sing the song of Moses, and the song of the Lamb. The song of Moses, may be that which was sung by the children of Israel when they were encamped at the shore of the Red Sea after their deliverance from the Pharaoh in Egypt. We see them singing the song of the Lamb, which would be a result of their deliverance through the blood of the Lamb. As both the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb are sung we can conclude that there were Jews among this group. All nations will be represented in worshipping God as there will be believers from every nation about the throne of God. What a day that will be!

B. The Temple filled with smoke - 15:5-8

Rev 15:5-8 And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened: 15:6 And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. 15:7 And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. 15:8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.

Once again we see the heavenly temple, only now it is filled with smoke. When the tabernacle was finished by Moses and the temple that was built by Solomon both were filled with the cloud, the Shekinah glory, but no smoke. The cloud that rested over the tabernacle and the temple of Solomon was a testimony of God's presence and grace, where as smoke is a sign of God's judgment. Here great wrath is being poured out, and as a result, the judgment of God fills the heavenly temple in the form of smoke.

XX. Chapter 16

A. The first Vial - 16:1-2

Rev 16:1-2 And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. **16:2** And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.

This first vial is a repeat of the sixth Egyptian plague that took place in the days of Moses in **Exodus 9:8-12**. Grievous sores shall break out upon those who have received the mark of the beast and who have worshiped his image. These “noisome” sores (noisome=to annoy or trouble), boils, festering cancerous sores are caused by corruption in the blood of man, which will reveal not only the depth to which man has corrupted himself physically, but also will be a true reflection of his corrupted spiritual condition as well. It is fairly evident that the boils will be only upon men, and only upon those who have received the mark of the beast or worshipped his image. According to **verse 9**, even the suffering that these men experience does not bring them to repentance. Therefore, we see clearly that suffering alone does not lead to repentance.

B. The second Vial - 16:3

Rev 16:3 And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man; and every living soul died in the sea.

Here the sea becomes as blood. This time the whole sea is effected, not just a third part of it, as we saw in **Rev. 8:8-9**. It is likely that the sea mentioned here is either that of the Sea of Galilee or the Mediterranean Sea, and not the oceans of the earth. We see that the sea will become as the blood of a dead man, and that every living soul in the sea died. The word "**soul**" here has been translated in the Revised Version as "the soul of life," which would be common to all animal life. The picture here is that the animals in the sea all die because the water has become as the blood of a dead man.

A small conjecture on my part in reference to what this means: Would not “**the blood of a dead man**” dry up and in a sense blow away? Therefore, could this be a reference to the fact that the sea itself dries up and therefore the fish die, and every other living creature that is in the sea.

C. The third Vial - 16:4-7

Rev 16:4-7 And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. 16:5 **And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.** 16:6 **For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.** 16:7 **And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.**

Here again is a repetition of one of the plagues from the Exodus. The waters here are turned to blood as in the first Egyptian plague, **Ex. 7:19-24**. Imagine the awfulness of only being able to quench your thirst with blood. Note also that here we see that there is "an angel of the waters" who evidently is given authority and power over this division of nature. This brings speculation to the fact that angels, principalities, and powers in the heavenly have authority and power over all forms of God's creation, whether they be world systems or natural systems.

D. The fourth Vial - 16:8-9

Rev 16:8-9 And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. 16:9 **And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.**

If we look back to **Rev. 8:12** in the fourth trumpet, we see that a third part of the sun was smitten, as well as a third part of the moon and the stars, so that there was darkness and that the day shone not for a third part of it. From the fourth trumpet, evidently the amount of light is diminishing, but not the heat given off by the sun itself. In fact, evidence is given here in the fourth vial that the heat of the sun has greatly intensified to the point where men are now scorched by it. This is prophesied by **Malachi in 4:1-2** where it says "**behold, the day cometh that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble; and the day that cometh shall burn them up, sayeth the Lord of Host, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.**" Note also, that this extreme heat does not bring man to repentance, but rather causes him to blaspheme the name of God.

E. The Fifth Vial - 16:10-11

Rev 16:10-11 And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, 16:11 **And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.**

Once again we see a repetition of a plague that took place during the Exodus. The ninth Egyptian plague **Ex. 10:21-23**, brought darkness upon the nation of Egypt. Here darkness is being poured out upon the kingdom of the Beast, or upon the seat or the throne of the Beast, which may give evidence that the extent of the darkness may be limited to the seat of the Beast and his kingdom. This time was prophesied by the prophet **Joel in 2:1-2**, where he said, "a day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness." Christ spoke of it in **Mark 13:24** when he said "the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light." Exactly how long this plague takes we do not know. It may last a short period of time and been quickly followed by the next plague, or it is very likely that these plagues overlapped one another so that man was never without torment and trouble. Still no repentance!

F. The sixth Vial - 16:12

Rev 16:12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

Here the River Euphrates dries up in the same manner that the Red Sea was dried so that the children of Israel might escape from the Pharaoh, and just as the River Jordan was dried that they might pass over into the land of Canaan. So shall the River Euphrates be dried up that the kings of the East might cross over to assemble for the battle of Armageddon (Armageddon means "mountain of Megiddo" where the battle will be fought). **Isaiah** prophesied in **11:15-16**, "the Lord shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea (the Red Sea), and ... shake his hand over the river (Euphrates) and smote seven streams, so men can go over dry shod."

G. Another Parenthetical Statement - 3 unclean Spirits 16:13-16

Rev 16:13-16 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. **16:14** For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. **16:15** Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. **16:16** And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

Here is an interval between the sixth and seventh vial as three unclean spirits are released like frogs from the dragon the Beast and the false prophet. These are spirits of demons that have miracle working power. They will be seducing spirits that go forth preaching the doctrine of devils in these later times according to the warning of Paul to Timothy in **I Tim. 4:1**, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." It will be the task of these spirits to seduce nations with their doctrines to cause them to march against the holy land to crush the purpose of God.

END OF LESSON 22

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 22

Match the item on the left with the best choice on the right:

1. sea of glass __E__	A. whole sea becomes as blood
2. Temple filled with smoke __C__	B. repeat of 1 st Egyptian plague
3. First Vial (bowl) __D__	C. sign of judgment & wrath
4. Second Vial (bowl) __A__	D. repeat of 6 th Egyptian plague
5. Third Vial (bowl) __B__	E. saints worshipping God

Match the item on the left with the best choice on the right:

6. Fourth Vial (bowl) <u> D </u>	A. repeat of 9 th Egyptian plague
7. Fifth Vial (bowl) <u> A </u>	B. river Euphrates dries up
8. Sixth Vial (bowl) <u> B </u>	C. preach doctrines of devils
9. 3 unclean spirits <u> C </u>	D. extreme heat from the sun

BEGIN LESSON 23

H. The seventh Vial - 16:17-21

Rev 16:17-21 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. 16:18 **And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.** 16:19 **And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.** 16:20 **And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.** 16:21 **And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.**

We see the picture of the temple of heaven and the seventh angel pouring his vial into the air, when a great voice sounds out of the temple from the throne room, proclaiming "it is done." We must remember that Christ on the cross-cried out "it is finished" and it may be his voice that announces, "it is done."

(RevC) It is significant that the angel pours out his vial into the air and not upon the earth. We know from the re-creation account in **Genesis 1:6-8** that on day two when God restored the atmosphere around the earth by separating the waters that were upon the earth from those in the sky that this is the only day of the creation week that God did not say "and it was good". This we believe was due to Satan and his forces choosing to make the atmosphere surrounding the earth their habitation. Thus Satan is also call "the prince of the power of the air" in **Ephesians 2:2**. Up to this

point, the judgements have not dealt with the being behind all the evil being dealt with on earth. That all changes with **Rev. 17** where God deals with the corrupt religious system spawned by Satan. Then in **Rev. 18** we see God deal with Satan's corrupt political system, in **Rev. 19** God deals with the forces of Satan's armies, and finally in **Rev. 20:1-3** we see Satan himself receive his eternal reward. (RevC)

Following the voice is a great earthquake, like that which has never been seen before on the face of the earth. It is foretold in **Zech. 14:4-5**. It will be so great in its scope that mountains will be leveled, Islands will be destroyed, and the whole contour of the land of Palestine will be changed to the point where new maps will need to be made. The Dead Sea will be raised so that its waters shall flow into the Red Sea, **Ezek. 47:1-12**. This great earthquake will bring about the destruction of the great city of Babylon, and the cities of the 10 federated nations as described in later chapters.

This will also be the time when great hail will fall from heaven, each stone weighing about a talent, which would be equal to more than a hundred pounds. This is a repetition of the seventh Egyptian plague found in **Ex. 9:13-35**. It is interesting to note that the law in **Lev. 24:16** required that "**the blasphemer should be stoned to death.**" And here we see that all those who would blaspheme the name of God in the end time will be stoned from heaven. And yet in all of this, men continued to blaspheme the name of God clear to the end.

XXI. Chapter 17 - MYSTERY BABYLON - 17:1-18

Rev 17:1-18 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will show unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: 17:2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. 17:3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. 17:4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: 17:5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. 17:6

And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. 17:7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. 17:8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition; and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. 17:9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. 17:10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. 17:11 **And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.** 17:12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. 17:13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. 17:14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. 17:15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. 17:16 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. 17:17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. 17:18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

A. The Woman compared to the city of Babylon

1. The 17th chapter speaks of a woman called:

- a. Mystery
- b. Babylon the Great
- c. Mother of Harlots
- d. Abominations of the Earth

2. In comparison, in the 18th chapter we see the literal city called Babylon the Great. A close examination of the scripture indicates that the woman and the literal city of Babylon are not one in the

same, as what is said of the city does not apply to the woman and what is said of the woman does not apply to the city. The woman is destroyed by the 10 kings while in **chapter 18** we see that the kings of the earth lament because of the destruction of the city by an earthquake and fire. The woman is destroyed approximately 3 1/2 years before the city of Babylon is destroyed by the earthquake, thus **chapter 18** begins with these words, "**After these things,**" which refers to after the destruction of the woman. Then **chapter 18** concerns itself with what happens to the city.

B. The "Bride" of Anti-Christ

We know from **Eph. 5:23-32** that Paul was made aware that Christ was to have "a bride." Here John is also made to know that Anti-Christ is to have a bride. His bride was called "Babylon the Great," which is, the name of the city Babylon. The question is raised, why name the bride after a city? But, if we examine further into the Book of the Revelation, in chapter **21:9-10**, John is shown the bride or the Lamb's wife, which would be the Bride of Christ. Instead of showing him a woman, we see the great city, the Holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God. Therefore, it would not be out of place for the bride of Anti-Christ to have as its name a literal city. In both cases, the city was only a physical reference to the spiritual inhabitants that comprised the religious system that makes up the bride. The bride of Anti-Christ, therefore, would be all of those who are in false worship to Anti-Christ.

C. The Mystical Brotherhood

- 1. Babel or Babylon was built by Nimrod**, according to **Gen. 10:8-10**. It was here that the first great apostasy got its start (or was invented) in the Babylonian cult. This cult claimed to possess the highest wisdom and to reveal divine secrets. But before someone could be a part of the cult, they had to confess to the priest. Thus the priest then had them under his power. Once admitted into this order, they were no longer known as Babylonians, Assyrians, or Egyptians, etc., but rather as members of this mystical brotherhood over whom the Pontiff or High Priest was placed. His word was Law.

2. **Babylon continued to be the seat of Satan** until the fall of the Babylonian to the Media-Persia Empire, when it was shifted to Pergamos in Asia Minor, where it was in John's day, according to **Rev. 2:12-13**.
3. **According to Larkin**, when Attalus, the Pontiff and king of Pergamos, died in BC 133, he bequeathed the headship of the Babylonian Priesthood to Rome. When the Etruscans came to Italy from Lydia, which was a region of Pergamos, they brought with them the Babylonian religion and rites. They set up a Pontiff who was head of the Priesthood. Later the Romans accepted this Pontiff as their civil ruler. Furthermore, Julius Caesar was made Pontiff of the Etruscan order in BC 74. In BC 63 he was made the supreme Pontiff of the Babylonian order, thus becoming heir to the rights and titles of Attalus, the Pontiff of Pergamos, who had made Rome his heir by will. What all this means is that the first Roman emperor became the head of the Babylonian Priesthood, and Rome thus then the successor of Babylon, which tied the two cities together.
4. **Continuing with Larkin's exposition of the history of the rise of the Roman church**, we find that the Emperors of Rome continued to exercise the office of "supreme Pontiff" until AD 376, when the Emperor Gratian, for Christian reasons, refused it. The Bishop of the church at Rome, Damasus, was elected to the position. This is important because now we have a bishop of the Roman church taking upon the office of Supreme Pontiff of the Babylonian Priesthood. Damasus had been bishop for 12 years, having been made bishop in AD 366 through the influence of the monks at Mount Carmel. So in AD 378 the head of the Babylonian order, which Damasus was, became the ruler of the Roman church. Thus Satan now had united Rome and Babylon in one religious system.
5. **Soon after Damasus was made supreme Pontiff**, the rites of Babylon begin to come to the forefront. Thus the worship of the virgin Mary was set up in AD 381. All of the outstanding festivals of the Roman Catholic Church are of Babylonian origin. Even Easter is not a Christian name. It means "Ishtar," one of the titles of the Babylonian queen of Heaven, whose worship by the children of Israel was an abomination in the sight of God. The decree for the observance of Easter and Lent was given in AD 519. The "Rosary"

is of Pagan origin. There is no warrant in the word of God for the use of the "sign of the cross." It had its origin in the mystic "tau" of the Chaldeans and the Egyptians. Celibacy, and Tonsure, and the order of monks and nuns, have no warrant or authority from Scripture. The nuns are nothing more than an imitation of the "Vestal Virgins" of pagan Rome. All of this, according to Larkin.

6. **Larkin points out that, "all this was a mystery in John's day,** because the Papal church had not as yet developed, though the mystery of iniquity was already at work according to **II Thess. 2:7**. It is no longer a mystery, for it is now easy to identify the "woman" - "mystery Babylon the Great" which John described as none other than the "Papal church or the dominate false world religion at the time (perhaps Islam)."
7. **In Rev. 17:4 we read that the woman was arrayed in Purple and Scarlet color** and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornications. This seems to be very descriptive of the colors of the Papacy. When a Pope is installed into office, five of the colors that he wears are Scarlet. He also wears a vest covered with pearls, and a miter adorned with gold and precious stones was also to be worn. This is very similar to that of the woman's dress as she sits on the scarlet colored beast.
8. **The woman was drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.** This scripture passage may refer to those who were martyred during the tribulation period, but we can also see down through history that the Roman Catholic church has been one of the greatest persecutors of Christianity, and if you would read Fox's Book of Martyrs, you would see that Rome is responsible for much bloodshed within Christendom, and is certainly descriptive of being drunk with the blood of the saints.

END OF LESSON 23

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 23

1. T or F The seventh vial (bowl) was poured out into the air; the realm assigned to Satan and his powers.

2. **T or F** This last vial (bowl) will release the greatest earthquake of all time, and hail stones weighing more than 100 pounds.

3. **T or F** The woman of chapter 17 and the city of Babylon are one in the same as the city of Babylon and its corruption are spiritualized in the woman.

4. **T or F** “Babylon the Great” is the name given to the bride of Anti-Christ.

5. **T or F** Babylon was the “seat of Satan” until it fell to Media-Persia at which time it was switched to Pergamos, as it was in John’s day.

BEGIN LESSON 24

D. The Woman rides the Beast

In **17:3** the woman sits on the Scarlet colored beast, which would reveal that at the time the beast or Anti-Christ will support the intentions of the woman. Very likely the woman or the Papal Church of Rome (or another false world religion such as Islam) will become the state church and eventually realize her dream of a one world religious ecclesiastical supremacy. The false church, the bride of Anti-Christ having a form of godliness but without the power. This will continue for only a short period of time.

Rev 17:3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

E. The Beast turns upon the Woman

We know that in the middle of the tribulation the beast will turn upon the woman, as Anti-Christ will no longer allow anyone other than himself to receive the worship that he desires. Therefore, the federated kingdoms, most likely having their own powers curtailed by the Papal system, will have a change of attitude and now hate the whore and strip her of her apparel and wealth and eat her flesh and burn cathedrals with fire, according to **Rev. 17:16**.

Rev 17:16 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

F. The 7 heads and 10 horns of Revelation 17

In researching the meaning of the 8 mountain kingdoms and the 7 heads and 10 horns, I find the material given by Dake in his Bible pg. 311, to be an excellent explanation of the 8 mountain kingdoms along with his note on pg. 299 (column 1, letter g), at which point we will begin.

Quoting directly from Dake, Pg. 299 (column 1, letter g), “The 7 heads are 7 mountains and the 7 mountains are 7 kings or kingdoms co-existent with Israel from her beginning to the 8th kingdom (v.9-11), and together, with the 8th kingdom, making the 8 kingdoms that will have persecuted Israel in the times of the Gentiles.

Rev. 17:9-11 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. 17:10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. 17:11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

Five of the seven kingdoms "**5 are fallen**" (that would be Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Media-Persia, and Greece), and "**one is**" (the sixth, the old Roman empire that was in power when John wrote this book), and "**the other is not yet come**" (the seventh, made up of the 10 kingdoms that are yet to be formed inside the Roman empire—the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, **Dan. 7:23-24**); and when he (the 7th or revised Roman Empire) cometh, "**he must continue a short space**" (3 1/2 years, **Rev. 12:12-14**). The 10 toes of Nebuchadnezzar's dream are represented by the 10 horns that comprise the 7th kingdom. They will exist without the anti-Christ as their head as the 7th kingdom for a period of time. Then **verse 11** the Beast "**that was**" (had existed on the earth before John's day) "**and is not**" (on the earth in John's day), "**even he is the 8th**" (8th kingdom, that follows the preceding kingdoms), "**and is of the 7**" (rises out of one of the 7, perhaps the 5th being Greece that had fallen before John's day and now becomes the 8th), "**and goeth into perdition**".

If we look back to the vision of the Beast (**Rev. 13:2** ²**And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.**) the beast had the body of a leopard representative of Greece. Thus it is very likely as the body is the largest part of the Beast that Greece will play a major role in the Beast coming to power. We know that the Beast will rise up from among the 10 horns (nations) and subdue 3 of them becoming the head of the federation. This will form the 8th kingdom with the anti-Christ, the Beast, at the head. It will be the 8th and last kingdom to persecute Israel during the “times of the Gentiles”.

(QUOTING FROM pg. 311 DAKE'S BIBLE)

- 1. Egypt** was the first kingdom to oppress Israel in the times of the gentiles.
- 2. Assyria** was the second great empire to oppress Israel in the times of the gentiles. It was founded by Nimrod, **Gen. 10:8-12**. It was a kingdom inferior to Egypt for 1300 years. Then God allowed her to chasten Israel, **II Kings 15 & 16**. It is interesting to note that Anti-Christ will be the last Assyrian to oppress Israel in the times of the gentiles, **Is. 10:20-27**. Another interesting note concerning Assyria is that Assyria will be blessed in the eternal kingdom along with Israel, according to **Is. 11:16; 19:23-25**.
- 3. Babylon** was the third empire to oppress Israel in the time of the Gentiles, although it is the first one mentioned by Daniel, and thus many Bible scholars begin the time of the Gentiles with Babylon. However, both Egypt and Assyria were definitely Gentile nations who persecuted Israel and thus the time of the Gentiles truly began with Egypt and Assyria. Daniel only prophesied from his day forward as would be natural for him to do.
- 4. Media-Persia** is the fourth empire to oppress Israel in the times of the Gentiles. Media-Persia persecuted Israel off and on for over 100 years.
- 5. Greece** was the fifth empire to oppress Israel during the time of the Gentiles. It is symbolized in Daniel by the belly and thighs of brass, **2:32 & 39**, as the leopard in **7:6**, and has the he-goat in **8:5-9**

& 20-25. Greece will be revived as the 8th kingdom. The Grecian empire is the fifth head on the beast of **Rev. 17:9-11**, which was before John as is not in John's day and becomes revived as the 8th and last kingdom to oppress Israel. She is the head that was wounded to death and made alive again, **13:3-12**.

6. **Rome** was the sixth empire to oppress Israel in the times of the Gentiles. And is the sixth head on the beast, **Rev. 17:9-17**. It is from this territory of the Roman Empire that the next two kingdoms will arise.
7. **The Revised Roman Empire** will be the next empire mentioned in scripture as oppressing Israel in the times of the Gentiles. This kingdom will be made up of 10 kingdoms inside the Roman Empire territory in the last days. For this reason we call it the **revised** Roman Empire, not the **revived** Roman empire. If it were revived, it would be one kingdom ruled by one man from Rome. But instead there are 10 separate kingdoms ruled by 10 kings and with 10 separate capitals, which will be formed inside the Roman Empire territory. This is symbolized in Daniel by the 10 toes, **2:40-45**, and the 10 horns in **7:7-8 & 19-24**, and by the 10 horns in **Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:9-17**.
8. **The 8th kingdom will be the Revived Grecian kingdom**, which will be the second of future empires to oppress Israel in the times of the Gentiles and the last world power to do so. Anti-Christ will come out of the 10 kingdoms and overthrow three of them. The others will submit to him, thus forming the 8th kingdom, **Dan. 7:23-24** and **Rev. 17:8-17**. It will be defeated by Christ at the second coming, and this will be the end of the times of the Gentiles.

XXII. Chapter 18

A. After these things - 18:1-3

Rev 18:1-3 **And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. 18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul**

spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. 18:3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

This chapter opens with the words, "**and after these things**," an indication that the events in **chapter 18** take place after the destruction of mystery Babylon, and most likely coincide with the end of the tribulation period when there will be the great earthquake and the destruction of the city.

Another angel came down from heaven indicating that an angel separate from the one in the 17th chapter makes this announcement.

In verse 3 all the nations have become a part of this great Babylonian system of commerce, it may be that the actual city will become a center of world trade. If not, then Babylon would have to be representative of the great global economic system, which will come crashing down.

Just a note to those that are interested in a detailed description of what ancient Babylon was like, Larkin has an excellent description of the city of Babylon and areas surrounding it in his book entitled The Book of the Revelation, and I would encourage those that want more information to look there pgs. 155-156.

END OF LESSON 24

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 24

- 1. T or F** The woman riding the beast is the false church, the bride of Anti-Christ.
- 2. T or F** In the middle of the tribulation the beast (Anti-Christ) will turn on the woman seeking to destroy her, because she was unfaithful to him.
- 3. T or F** There are 5 kingdoms who will have persecuted Israel before "the time of the Gentiles" has ended.
- 4. T or F** The words "and after these things" in Rev. 18:1 are an indication that the events in chapter 18 take place after the destruction of mystery Babylon.

5. **T or F** In this chapter we see that all the nations have become a part of the Babylonian system of commerce. This may be a reference to the actual city of Babylon in the future or representative of the global economic system.

BEGIN LESSON 25

B. The Verdict Proclaimed - 18:4-8

Rev 18:4-8 **And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. 18:5** For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. **18:6** Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. **18:7** How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. **18:8** Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

In **verse 4** we see another voice from heaven saying, "**come out of her my people, that you be not partakers of her sins and that you receive non of her plagues.**" Evidently this is a warning to believers who may be in Babylon near the time of her destruction. The warning is to depart so that they do not become involved in her sins, much like Sodom and Gomorrah, where the righteous were sought for that the city might be saved, that they might be delivered out of her destruction.

We see in **verse 7** that the city of Babylon is personified and mentioned as a queen an indication of her as the chief of all cities at that time.

Then in **verse 8** her plagues shall come in one day and that those plagues shall be four fold. There will be death, mourning, famine, and utterly burned with fire.

C. Lamentation over Her Destruction - 18:9-20

Rev 18:9-20 **And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, 18:10** Standing afar off for the fear of her

torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. 18:11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: 18:12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, 18:13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men. 18:14 And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all. 18:15 The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, 18:16 And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! 18:17 For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, 18:18 And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! 18:19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate. 18:20 Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

The kings of the earth who have been so commercially involved with her will lament over her destruction as their livelihood, wealth, and success in the commercial realm come to an end. This is in stark contrast to the kings who devour mystery Babylon in the 17th chapter. We see that the destruction of the city in chapter 18 here will come in one hour, according to **verse 10**, and that in one hour she shall be made desolate according to **verse 19**. This would be very similar to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. She is to be destroyed with fire, and we need to realize that this city will be under-laid with Bitumen, which is asphalt, and that when the great earthquake comes and breaks up this asphalt and sets it on fire, it will burn like a lake of fire and we will see the whole city consumed and disappear below the surface of the earth, as into a sea of fire, just as Sodom and Gomorrah were swallowed up. And the place shall become a wilderness where no man shall ever dwell.

This could not be descriptive of the Babylon in king Nebuchadnezzar's day, because there are several scriptures that have not utterly been fulfilled, such as **Isa. 13:20**, where it says "**Neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there, neither shall the shepherds make their fold there.**" Nor would the prophecy in **Jer. 51:43** be fulfilled yet, which states, "**her cities are a desolation, a dry land, and a wilderness, a land where in no man dwelleth, neither doth any son of Man pass there by.**" Also, the prophecy of **Jer. 51:26** has not yet been fulfilled, where it says, "**and they came not to take of thee a stone for a corner, nor a stone for foundations, but thou shalt be desolate forever, saith the Lord.**" It is a known fact that many towns and cities have been built from the ruins of the ancient Babylon in Nebuchadnezzar's day. Among them were four capital cities and also it has been found that the debris from the city of Babylon were in houses in Baghdad as cornerstones and so forth. So these prophecies have not been fulfilled since the destruction of Babylon in Nebuchadnezzar's day, and therefore must pertain to the destruction of Babylon during the tribulation period, where after no man will pass by or dwell there in any way, nor will the ruins of the city be used in the building of other buildings.

D. The great Millstone - 18:21-24

Rev 18:21-24 And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. 18:22 And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; 18:23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. 18:24 And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

In these last few verses we see the final declaration of the total destruction of the city of Babylon, where there will be no more of the sound of rejoicing and merry making, nor will there be any more craftsmen or merchants, nor will there be any more bridegrooms and brides. The city will utterly be destroyed, which had deceived the nations and been responsible for many of the souls that were martyred during the end of the tribulation.

It is interesting to note that according to Larkin, in the department of war in France, at Paris, there is a set of records of surveys and maps that were made by order of Napoleon I of Babylon, and among them is a plan for a new city of Babylon. This was done because Napoleon I comprehended that the rebuilding of this ancient city of Babylon, and making it his capital would place his capital city in a very strategic position, both governmentally and commercially, in light of his ambition to conquer the whole of Europe and Asia.

E. Zechariah's Ephah

Zec 5:5-11 Then the angel that talked with me went forth, and said unto me, Lift up now thine eyes, and see what is this that goeth forth. 5:6 And I said, What is it? And he said, This is an ephah that goeth forth. He said moreover, This is their resemblance through all the earth. 5:7 And, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead: and this is a woman that sitteth in the midst of the ephah. 5:8 And he said, This is wickedness. And he cast it into the midst of the ephah; and he cast the weight of lead upon the mouth thereof. 5:9 Then lifted I up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came out two women, and the wind was in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork: and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heaven. 5:10 Then said I to the angel that talked with me, Whither do these bear the ephah? 5:11 And he said unto me, To build it an house in the land of Shinar: and it shall be established, and set there upon her own base.

Zechariah had a vision concerning an Ephah, **Zech. 5:5-11**. An Ephah is the largest measure in the Hebrew world. It was known for measuring dry goods, so it is used as a symbol of commerce as the "**Ephah that goeth forth**," symbolizing worldwide trade. In the midst of the Ephah, or world commercial system, sat a woman called wickedness. She attempted to rise, but the angel through her back and covered her mouth. An Ephah was carried to Shinar, which was the place where they built the tower of Babel and where Babylon, the great city, existed. Zechariah's vision was many years after Babylon of Nebuchadnezzar's day had been destroyed. So it must be a vision of what is to take place in some future city of Babylon. Zechariah in this passage eludes to the establishment of another literal Babylon which we see here in Rev.. In **Rev. 18:2-4** it is apparent that the nature and corruption of this second Babylon is likened to the first. Therefore the vision of Zechariah

coincides with the vision that John saw concerning the destruction of the literal city of Babylon during the tribulation.

END OF LESSON 25

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 25

1. **T or F** God warns believers to come out of Babylon so they don't become involved in her sins and judgment.

2. **T or F** The plagues that come against Babylon will be spread over 4 days and will involve: death, pestilence, demon locust, and fire.

3. **T or F** The kings of the earth will rejoice over the destruction of Babylon.

4. **T or F** An Ephah is the smallest measure in the Hebrew world.

5. **T or F** It seems very likely that Babylon will be reconstructed to fulfill what John saw concerning the city.

BEGIN LESSON 26

XXIII. Chapter 19

A. Four Hallelujah's - 19:1-7

Rev 19:1-7 And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: 19:2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. 19:3 And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. 19:4 And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. 19:5 And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. 19:6 **And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.** 19:7 **Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.**

This chapter begins with the statement "**And after these things,**" which would be a definite reference to the destruction which preceded in chapters 17 and 18. Being that of the mystical Babylon and of the actual city of Babylon. Following this destruction four Hallelujah's are proclaimed out of heaven.

This is the first occurrence in the New Testament of the word "Hallelujah." It is the compound Hebrew word "Hallelu - jah," which is translated "**praise ye the Lord.**" It occurs 24 times in the Old Testament, and 4 times in the New Testament. Depending on which version you have, it is either written as "Hallelujah" or "Alleluia."

1. **The 1st Hallelujah** - is found in verse 1 and represents the destruction of the great whore.
2. **The 2nd Hallelujah** - found in verse 3 is for the judgment that has come upon Babylon whose smoke rose up forever and ever.
3. **The 3rd Hallelujah** - is found in verse 4 and is for the realization of the greatness of our God. Note also here is the last mentioning of the 24 elders.
4. **The 4th Hallelujah** - is found in verse 6 and is for God's reign. The whole host of the redeemed proclaims it. It also implicates the time for the marriage of the Lamb of God has come, and His Bride hath made herself ready.

B. The Marriage of the Lamb - 19:8-10

Rev 19:8-10 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. 19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

1. Where and When:

The marriage of the Lamb will take place in heaven before the appearing of Christ with his saints at Armageddon. We also see from **Eph. 5:25-27** that there is no one to give the Bride away, for Christ presents here to Himself "a glorious church not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing."

2. Who is the Bride Groom?

We know from the scriptures that John the Baptist spoke of Christ as the Bride Groom, and of himself as a friend of the Bride Groom, **John 3:29**. Jesus also spoke of Himself as "the Bride Groom" in **Matt. 9:15**. And in the parable of the 10 virgins, Jesus refers to Himself as the Bride Groom, **Matt. 25:1-10**.

3. Who is the Bride?

There is a differing of opinion here, as some people claim that the Bride, because she is called "Wife" in **Rev. 19:7**, is Israel. In the Old Testament God called Himself the Husband of Israel, **Isa. 54:5**. These same people hold that because Isaac's bride was taken from His own kin, which therefore, the Bride of Christ must come from His own kinship, namely Israel.

As Larkin points out, there are two Brides mentioned in Scripture with one in the Old Testament, and the other in the New Testament. The one in the OT is definitely Israel, the bride of Jehovah; and the one in the NT is the church, the Bride of Christ. In **Isa. 54:5-8**, it is said of Israel, "**thy Maker is thine Husband.**" But because of Israel fornication and adulterous affairs with idolatry, she is a cast off wife, but God, her husband has promised to take her back when she ceases from her adultery, **Jer. 3:1-18; Ezek. 16:1-63; Hosea. 2:1-23; 3:1-5**. She will not, however, be taken as a virgin, but as a wife. But it is a virgin that the Lamb, Christ is to marry.

We see in **Rev. 21:9** that John speaks of the Bride as the Lamb's wife, where he says, "**I will show thee the Bride, the Lamb's wife.**" This statement would have been made after the marriage to the church was consummated. The church itself did not exist until the day of Pentecost, and only those who live and die in Christ between

Pentecost and the taking out of the church, will belong to the church. Therefore, the OT saints could not be a part of the church.

4. How does she make herself ready?

We see that the Bride in **verse 7** is told to make herself ready, and in **verse 8** she was permitted to be arrayed in fine linen, which is the righteousness of the saints. Later in **21:2**, we see that she is "**prepared as a Bride, adorned for her husband.**" The fine linen in which the Bride is clothed is called "**the righteousness of the saints.**" Some believe this righteousness is not the righteous imputed to us by Christ, but the righteousness that we have after our works are tried in the fire. However, I find this hard to accept as the testing of our works has nothing to do with righteousness rather it has to do with reward and perhaps position in heaven. The righteousness of the saints is only that which Christ has provided Himself. Outside of Him we have no righteousness!

Think of the contrast that there is between the purple and scarlet colored dress and jewels that bedecked the harlot, the wife of Anti-Christ, and the spotless white robes of fine linen that the Bride of the Lamb of God is clothed in.

5. The marriage Supper:

The marriage feast is the supper that follows after the marriage. It will be an honor to receive an invitation to the marriage feast, so much so that it is exclaimed here in **verse 9**. Notice also the contrast between this marriage feast, and the supper that is mentioned in the **17th verse**, called **the supper of the Great God**. It is further described in **verse 18** as the supper to which the fowls of the air are invited as they eat the flesh of men and horses, both small and great.

6. The Guests:

It appears that the guests at the marriage of the Lamb will be the OT saints, all the saints of God who are not included in the Bride, the Church. Angels most likely will be spectators of the scene, but not guest, as the Blood of the Lamb does not redeem them.

END OF LESSON 26

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 26

Match the item on the left with the best choice on the right:

1. 1 st Hallelujah _B_	A. realization of the greatness of God
2. 2 nd Hallelujah _E_	B. destruction of the great whore
3. 3 rd Hallelujah _A_	C. the Bride Groom
4. 4 th Hallelujah _F_	D. different from the Supper of the Great God
5. Jesus _C_	E. judgment upon Babylon
6. Marriage supper _D_	F. God's reign

BEGIN LESSON 27

C. Armageddon - 19:11-19

Rev 19:11-19 **And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.** 19:12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. 19:13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. 19:14 **And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.** 19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 19:16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. 19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly

in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; 19:18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. 19:19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

In chapter **6:2** we saw a "**white horse rider**" who had a bow in his hand and a crown was given him, and he went forth the conquer. That rider was Anti-Christ. Here we see another rider who "**has eyes like a flame of fire and on his head were many crowns, and out of his mouth went a sharp sword.**" This would be none other than the Lord Jesus Christ who comes on a white charger to redeem Israel from the hand of Anti-Christ. Christ riding on a white horse is much different than the prophecy of **Zech. 9:9**, where Zechariah prophesied concerning his first coming that "**behold thy King cometh unto thee ... lowly riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass,**" which was literally fulfilled in **Matt. 21:4-11**, when Jesus rode into the city upon a donkey. Here we see him coming in His glory as King of Kings. And this time He will be riding a white charger with a heavenly host clothed in fine white clean linen riding white horses with him. This group that accompanies him will be none other the Bride of Christ, for it was Enoch who prophesied as recorded in **Jude 14**, "**behold the Lord cometh with ten thousand of His saints.**" We also notice that he comes armed, and that he has a sharp sword that "**goeth out of his mouth with which he would smite the nations and rule them with a rod of Iron.**"

One of the most remarkable things here is that this white horse rider has his vesture dipped in blood. This Blood was prophesied in **Isaiah 63:1-6**. As we read in Isaiah, we see that this blood does not refer to Christ's atonement on the cross, but rather to the wine press that John had vision of in **14:14-20**. This is the time that Isaiah spoke of when the land shall be soaked with blood, **Is. 34:1-8**. Christ is wearing a garment that has been dipped in blood perhaps representing his victory over the cross and judgment against His enemies.

The tribulation period closes with this great battle of Armageddon, as the armies of the east and west will be assembled against Israel by the demon spirits that were sent forth from the mouths of the satanic trinity to seduce the nations. The field of battle will most likely be "the valley of Megiddo," which is located in the heart of Palestine. It is a battlefield that

will feature all the allied armies of Anti-Christ arrayed against Israel. And it shall appear that Israel is lost until Christ comes to redeem her. This was prophesied in **Zechariah 14:1-3**, where it says "**behold the day of the Lord cometh when I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle. Then shall the Lord go forth and fight against those nations.**"

D. The Doom of the beast - False Prophet - Non-believing Nations - 19:20-21

Rev 19:20-21 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. 19:21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

Here we see the third and fourth doom of the seven major dooms that began in **chapter 17**. The seven dooms are as follows:

- 1. Mystery Babylon - 17:1-18**
- 2. Commercial Babylon - 18:1-24**
- 3. The Beast and False Prophet - 19:20**
- 4. The Non-believing nations - 19:21**
- 5. Gog and Magog - 20:7-8**
- 6. Satan - 20:10**
- 7. The Wicked Dead and the Great White Throne Judgment - 20:11-15**

Concerning Anti-Christ and the false prophet, we see that before the final destruction of the army of Anti-Christ, that he and the false prophet will be cast "alive" into the Lake of Fire. Just as Enoch and Elijah were taken to heaven without dying, so will Anti-Christ and the false prophet be cast into the Lake of Fire without dying and will still be there alive when Satan is cast in a thousand years later.

We know that after this battle is over Satan will be bound and cast into the bottomless pit, where he will be sealed up for a thousand years.

Then in **verse 21**, we see the doom of the non-believing nations, and that the destruction here will be so great at the battle of Armageddon that God will prepare for it in advance by calling the fowls of the air, buzzards, vultures and eagles to come and gather themselves to the supper of the Great God, **Rev. 19:17-18**. This same event is also prophesied in **Ezek. 39:1-22**. It goes on in Ezekiel to share how the house of Israel, which would be the occupants of Palestine, shall be seven months burying the bones of the dead. Flesh having been eaten by the birds of prey, we also are told that the wood of the weapons of the warfare will be used for fuel for seven years, so that they will not have to take wood out of the field or cut down any of their forests. Most likely the destruction of this army will be by great hailstones.

XXIV. Chapter 20

A. Satan Bound - 20:1-3

Rev 20:1-3 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 20:3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Here we see four names ascribed to Satan: Dragon, Serpent, Devil, and Satan. We see here that Satan is not omnipotent in that one angel is able to seize him and bind him. This angel is the same one who has the key to the bottomless pit and is the same angel that was seen by John when the fifth trumpet sounded in **9:1-2**. One of the most interesting things about this binding of Satan is the fact that he can be bound, and confined in a place where he cannot get out for a period of a thousand years when he is released. Though nothing is said concerning his other members of his

army, such as the fallen angels and demons, it is evident that there is no power that they have to exert during the first thousand-year reign of Christ. Although we don't know if they are bound, it seems they are rendered powerless during this period.

B. The 1st Resurrection - 20:4-6

Rev 20:4-6 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 20:5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

1. To Life or Death

This passage clearly speaks of two separate companies of believers who are to be raised each in their own order at the first resurrection.

- a. The first company is described as by the words in **verse 4: "I saw thrones and they that sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them."** This could be a reference to the 24 elders of **4:4-5**, who were the only ones we know of sitting on thrones. They would be representative of both OT and NT believers. We also know the saints are to be a kingdom of priests, and shall sit in judgment of the angels. It would seem reasonable then that this first company would include all believers who died in Christ up to the tribulation.
- b. The second company is described by the words **"And I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus and the Word of God, in which had not worshiped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their forehead, or in their hands."** These would be those saints who had come out of the tribulation period, representing the tribulation saints, as those who were martyred.

- c. We see that these two companies lived, that is they were dead, but were now living again, having been raised from the dead, for John saw the tribulation saints in their disembodied or soulish state, between death and the resurrection of the body. Thus both of these companies were resurrected and living and were to reign with Christ for the thousand years. These companies make up the first resurrection of the saints.

In **verse 5** we see another company of individuals that is called "**the rest of the dead,**" who were not to live again or to be raised from the dead, until the thousand years were finished. So it is clear that there are to be two resurrections of the dead, the first - of the righteous, and the second - of the wicked. And these two resurrections are to be separated by a thousand year period. The scripture admonishes "**blest is He that hath a part in the first resurrection on which the second death hath no power.**"

This is also what Daniel described in **Dan. 12:2** where some are resurrected to everlasting life while the other group are to be resurrected to everlasting damnation.

- d. This second death is the final doom that comes to the non-believer when he is cast into the Lake of Fire. Death is the separation of the soul and spirit from the body. That is the first death. At the resurrection, we see the soul reunited to the body. At least the soul would be reunited to the body because we know in **Ecclesiastes 12:7** that the scripture says that the spirit returns to God who gave it (that may be a reference to the fact that the spirit of man returns to God perhaps permanently). But in either case, the wicked, after they have been raised, are to be judged at the great white throne judgment. This takes place after the thousand years has ended, and the last rebellion of Satan is put down. They are condemned because their names are not found written in the book of Life, they are sentenced to die a second time, "the second death," which is permanent separation from God. They are cast alive into the Lake of Fire where they shall suffer torment eternally. This is the doom of the wicked dead.

END OF LESSON 27

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 27

1. **T or F** The “white horse rider” in chapter 6 returns in chapter 19.
2. **T or F** When Christ comes to deliver Israel at the battle of Armageddon the saints will accompany Him.
3. **T or F** The field of battle for Armageddon will most likely be "the valley of Megiddo," which is located in the heart of Palestine.
4. **T or F** The Anti-Christ and the false prophet will be cast alive into the lake of fire.
5. **T or F** An army of God’s angels capture Satan and bind him in the bottomless pit for a thousand years.
6. **T or F** The first resurrection involves two groups of “believers”: those Old and New Testament saints who died in Christ up to the time of Daniel’s 70th week.
7. **T or F** The second death involves all non-believers who are resurrected to face their final judgment and be cast into the lake of fire.

BEGIN LESSON 28

2. The 1000 year reign

In this section of scripture we see reference to the 1000-year reign of Christ during which Satan will be bound. During the 1000-year reign of Christ, there are several things that we can distinguish as Larkin points out:

- a. **The form of government:** The government will be a Theocracy, and God will rule in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, as it says in **Luke 1:30-33**. We also see Daniel, the prophet, describe this event in **Dan. 7:13-14**.

- b. The seat of government:** We know that the seat of government will be at Jerusalem, and that Jerusalem itself though being trodden down by the Gentiles, will be rebuilt. Ezekiel gives a description of the restored land and city in **Ezek. 48:1-35**. We see that the royal grant, the land that God gave to Abraham and his descendants, will extend from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the River Euphrates, **Gen. 15:18**. Ezekiel fixes the northern boundaries at Hamoth, about 100 miles north of Damascus, **Ezek. 48:1**, and the southern boundary at Kadish, about 100 miles south of Jerusalem, **Ezek. 48:28**. This land grant is 8 times larger than what has formerly been occupied by the 12 tribes. This royal grant is then to be divided among the restored 12 tribes in parallel, horizontal sections beginning at Hamoth on the north side and then going to the south, with the Holy oblation being in the middle. The Holy oblation is a square track on the west side of Jordan that is to be twenty five thousand reeds or 50 miles on a side. A reed, according to **Ezek. 40:5**, is 6 cubits long, the cubit being the ordinary cubit of 18 inches long plus a handbreadth of 3 inches, making the reed cubit 21 inches in length. Six of such cubits make the reed, which would make the reed 10 1/2 feet long. South of the Holy oblation will be the tribes of Benjamin, Simeon, Issachar, Zebulun and Gad. North of the Holy oblation would be the tribes of Dan, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Ephraim, Reuben, and Judah, with the Holy oblation in the middle.
- c. The Holy oblation** will be divided itself into three horizontal sections. The north section, being 25 thousand reeds long from east to west, and 10 thousand reeds wide. It is called the Levites portion. South of it is the Priest's portion of equal size. South of the Priest's portion is the section for the city, with its suburbs and farming sections. This section is 25 thousand reeds long from east to west, and 5 thousand reeds wide, according to **Ezek. 48:15-19**.
- d. In the center of this third section the city Jerusalem is located.** The new city Jerusalem will be located on the site of the old city, however the new city will be much larger than

the old. The new city is to be 9 miles square with a half mile on each side for suburbs, making a total of 10 miles square. It will have a wall around it with three gates on each side, like the New Jerusalem, and these gates being name after the 12 sons of Jacob.

- e. **The temple or sanctuary** will not be rebuilt in the new Jerusalem or the new city, but in the midst or middle of the Holy oblation, **Ezek. 48:10,20-21**. This will locate it at or near Shiloh, where the tabernacle rested after the children of Israel conquered the land, and where it remained until the temple of Solomon was finished. We also know that there will be highway which shall lead from the sanctuary to the new city, according to **Isaiah 35:8**. It will be a 12 mile long boulevard lined with beautiful shade trees.
- f. **The new temple or sanctuary** will occupy a space of 500 reeds on a side or nearly a mile square (a mile on each side), **Ezek. 42:15-20**. It is interesting to note that the old temple was not a mile around. This one will be a mile square.
- g. **Living waters will flow out of Jerusalem** according to **Zech.14:8**, and that the source of these waters will be life giving spring that will flow from under the sanctuary, **Ezek. 47:8-12**.
- h. **When Christ returns**, he will land on the Mount of Olives from where He left. The prophet Zechariah described this event in **Zech. 14:4, 10 & 11**. We know as a result, there will be many physical changes in the area, also supported my **Micah 1:3-4**. These physical changes will so change the level of the land surface of Palestine that it will make possible the room needed for the new city of Jerusalem and will raise the Dead Sea so that its waters can flow both into the Red and Mediterranean Seas. Ezekiel tells us that the name of Jerusalem in that day shall be "Jehovah Shammah," meaning "the Lord is there," **Ezek. 48:35**.
- i. **The temple and its worship:** A full description of the temple and its courts is given in **Ezek. 40:1 - 44:31**.

- j. The Aaronic priesthood will be re-established**, and the sons of Zadok shall officiate and offer sacrifices according to **Ezek. 44:15-31**. There will be no Ark of the Covenant, Pot of Manna, Aaron's rod, Tables of the Law, Cherubim, Mercy seat, Golden Candlestick, Shew bread, Altar of Incense, Veil, Holy of Holies, nor will there be any High Priest to offer atonement for sin or to make intercession for the people.
- k. We know that the Levites, as a class of people, shall perform temple service**, but they shall be barred from priestly duties for their past sins, **Ezek. 44:10-14**. There shall be a daily morning sacrifice, but no evening sacrifices, according to **Ezek. 46:13-15**. The offerings will be burnt, and meat, and drink, and sin, and peace offerings, **Ezek. 45:17**; and the trespass offering, **Ezek. 42:13**. Two feast are to be observed - the Passover, but no Passover lamb will be offered (**Ezek. 45:21-24**); and the feast of Tabernacles (**Zech. 14:16-19**). These feast are to be observed by all nations under penalty of drought or plague.
- l. Change in the lands of Palestine:** During the millennial the land of Palestine will be restored to its former fertility. Rain, rivers, and streams that shall flow from the new river that shall have its source in the sanctuary will aid this. There are many scriptures that point to this restoration of the land of Palestine, some of which are **Joel 3:18; Amos 9:13; Isa. 35:1; 55:13; Ps. 67:6; Joel 2:24-26**.
- m. Changes in the animal kingdom:** We know from **Isa. 11:6-9** that animals will dwell together and children will not fear animals, nor shall animals fear other animals. The snake still crawls on his belly.
- n. Human life prolonged:** We know according to **Isa. 65:20** that "there shall be no more an infant of days, for a child shall die 100 years old. We see here that life will definitely be prolonged. It says in **Isa. 65:22** that "for as the days of a tree are the days of my people." And **Zech. 8:4**, "thus saith the Lord of Hosts, there

shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for a very age." This speaks of the fact that they will have old age. So we see that even those that are old will live a long time during the millennial kingdom.

- o. Light will increase:** According to **Isa. 30:26**, we know that the light of the sun shall be seven fold. So we see tremendous increase. We see the moon light will be as bright as day. And we know that the Lord our God will be an Everlasting Light, **Isa. 60:19-20**.

C. Satan loosed - 20:7-9

Rev 20:7-9 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 20:8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. 20:9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

We see the angel who had the key to the bottomless pit, now unlocks the prison house and Satan comes forth ready to again vent his anger on the people of God.

We also find that a vast multitude will follow him and gather from the four corners of the earth to battle. Their number will be as the sand of the sea. This revolt, therefore, will be world-wide, which would mean the mobilization of vast armies, as Satan will bring his armies again against the camp of the saints and lay siege to the beloved city of Jerusalem. This is the last war that the world will ever see. It will be bloodless, as the vast armies of Satan will be destroyed by fire. After this great battle, God will purge the earth, but no longer by flood, as He promised not to. This purging will be done with fire according to **II Peter 3:7**.

D. Satan's Doom and the Great White Throne - 20:10-15

Rev 20:10-15 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented

day and night for ever and ever. 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

This is a judgment of the wicked dead, and is somewhat different from the judgment of the Nations recorded in **Matt. 25:31-46**. It seems very possible to me that the judgment of the Nations would be a judgment of those **living** at the end of the 1000 yr. Reign of Christ. The word nations can be somewhat deceiving. Warren Wiersbe's commentary says this:

“This section explains to us how Jesus Christ will judge the Gentile nations. The word **nations** in **Matthew 25:32** means “Gentiles,” and it is in the neuter gender in the Greek. The word “**them**” in the same verse is in the masculine. This means that the nations will be gathered before Jesus Christ, but He will judge them as **individuals**. This will not be a judgment of groups (Germany, Italy, Japan, etc.) but of individuals within these nations.”

It seems possible that this judgment will take place just prior to the Great White Throne judgment. This judgment seems to take place on earth where the Great White Throne judgment seems to take place in heaven while the earth is renovated by fire. Thus in my thinking it is a judgment **of the living** and must take place on earth immediately after Satan's final rebellion. This would be a prelude to the Great White Throne judgment **of the wicked dead**. I struggle placing it anywhere other than during this time period as those who are to be damned appear to be sent immediately to the lake of fire. Other than the Anti-Christ, False Prophet, and Devil I don't find any others being sent there before the final judgment of the wicked.

Other Bible teachers place this separation of nations immediately after the tribulation and battle of Armageddon to determine who enters into the millennial kingdom. This would make sense except for the wicked being sent to the lake of fire before the White Throne Judgment, and because if all the believers are lifted off the earth prior to Armageddon that would only leave the Jews who come to Christ in the day of His return to be the believing nations as all others will be unbelievers who survive Armageddon. I believe that it is the believing Jews and unbelievers who survive Armageddon who enter the millennial kingdom.

In this Great White Throne judgment, death and hell are personified. By death we are to understand the grave, which holds the body until the resurrection. By hell, the compartment of the underworld, or Hades, where the souls of the wicked dead remain until the resurrection of the wicked. Both death and hell are to be cast into the Lake of Fire. This shows that death and sin will no longer be upon the face of the new earth. The Great White throne will not be on the earth, for the Great White throne judgment will take place during the renovation of the earth by fire, according to

II Peter 3:7.

The wicked, or ungodly will not be judged to see whether they are entitled to eternal life, but to determine the degree of their punishment. It is very specifically said that the books will be opened. These books will be that record which has been kept of every person's life. They will be judged according to their works. Some will be sentenced to a more severe punishment than others, but none will escape.

For a more detailed explanation of the events of the end times see our class study entitled, "The Resurrections."

END OF LESSON 28

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 28

- 1. T or F** The form of government during the millennium will be different than that of any other time since Adam.
- 2. T or F** The royal land grant to Israel that they will occupy during the millennial reign of Christ is 8 times larger than Israel has occupied.

3. **T or F** When Christ returns he will land on Mount Moriah.
4. **T or F** The Aaronic Priesthood will be re-established to offer sacrifices, but there will be no High Priest to offer atonement, no arc of the covenant, no Veil or Holy of Holies.
5. **T or F** At the end of the 1000 year reign of Christ, Satan will be set free and will again lead a vast multitude against Jerusalem. This will be the last war the world will ever see as this group is destroyed by fire.
6. **T or F** RevC believes that the Great White Throne judgment is a judgment of the wicked dead, and the Separation of the Sheep from the Goats is a judgment of the living at the end of the millennium.

BEGIN LESSON 29

XXV. Chapter 21

A. 7 New Things:

1. **The new heaven** - Rev. 21:1
2. **The new earth** - Rev. 21:1
3. **The new city** - Rev. 21:9-23
4. **The new nations** - Rev. 21:24-27
5. **The new river** - Rev. 22:1
6. **The new tree of life** - Rev. 22:2
7. **The new throne** - Rev. 22:3-4

B. New heaven and earth - 21:1

Rev 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

The word "**heaven**" here and in **Gen. 1:1** is in the singular. Therefore, we take it to mean that the earth will receive a new atmosphere surrounding it, as the pollution that is in our present atmosphere will have been removed.

There shall be a new earth and no more sea. The oceans will pass away and there will only be rivers, lakes and streams. Thus we see the earth will enter into its third state as explained by Peter in

II Peter 3:6-13. Here we see Peter speak of the original earth as "**the world that then was, that being overflowed with water, perished,**" **II Peter 3:6.** Secondly, Peter goes on to add, "**the heavens and the earth which are now** (that have been in existence since the restoration of the earth describe in Gen. 1), **by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire,**" **II Peter 3:7.** This would be the second stage of the earth's existence that we are presently in. Thirdly, he added "**we look for a new heaven and a new earth,**" **II Peter 3:13.** Therefore, we see Peter reveal that this earth is to pass through 3 separate stages. The first, the original earth that perished by water; the second, the earth that is now that is to be renovated or cleansed by fire; and the third new earth that is to exist forever.

The result of the earth and its atmosphere being renovated by fire will be that the exterior surface will be completely changed, that all the effects that sin has brought to the earth, such as thorns, and thistles and disease germs and insects, will all be destroyed and the atmosphere will be purified and forever free from evil spirits and any other destructive forces. Thus we will return to the same type of atmosphere that was present in the Garden of Eden. We will see the effect of this throughout the millennium as people live to be much older.

The Greek word "Parerchomai" is translated "pass away." But, it does not mean "termination of existence," but rather means to pass from "one condition of existence to another." Therefore, the words of John here in **21:1**, where he says "**for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away,**" meant that they were to go from one condition of existence to another, and not that they were literally annihilated.

C. The New Jerusalem - 21:2-23

Rev 21:2-23 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 21:4 And God shall wipe away

all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 21:5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. 21:6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. 21:9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. 21:10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 21:11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; 21:12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: 21:13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. 21:14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 21:15 And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. 21:16 And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. 21:17 And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. 21:18 And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. 21:19 And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; 21:20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. 21:21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass. 21:22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

Here we see John seeing the Holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven. We see her adorned as a bride. In **verse 9** the angel says to John, "Come hither and I will show thee the Bride, the Lamb's wife." John is shown the New Jerusalem whose inhabitants are the Bride of Christ, or the church. So it would appear that the Bride and the city are one in the same in that the city is the home or the residence of the Bride. So we see that not only was there to be a new heaven and a new earth, but also a New Jerusalem.

There will be many changes that take place as a result of the new heaven and earth. Some of these changes include:

1. There will be no more sin.
2. There will be no more sickness or death.
3. There will be no more pouring out of God's wrath.
4. There will be no more oceans, as a mist will water the earth.
5. There will be no more destructive insects or serpents.
6. There will be no more night.

But, what will take place is that paradise will be restored as mankind gains what Adam lost in the fall.

The new city is to be 1500 miles square, which would reach from Maine to Florida and from the Atlantic ocean to 600 miles west of the Mississippi, on other words it would occupy an area approximately one half the size or the United States. We are told that the length and the breadth and the height are the same, therefore not only is it 1500 mile wide, but it is also 1500 miles high, which most likely would make it not necessarily a cube, but probably a pyramid. In **verse 21:17**, we see that the wall is to be 144 cubits high. This wall will have 12 gates 3 on each side of the city and each gate will be made of one pearl, and these gates never close. The wall itself is of Jasper and the foundations are garnished with all manner of precious stones. Imagine what this will be like as the Glory of God shines through the foundations of precious stones. We are also aware that there will be no night within the city, but most likely there will be day and night outside of the city where the light of the city does not reach. We also are told in **verse 18** that the city is of pure gold, like unto clear glass. Most likely then the homes of the inhabitants will be made of transparent gold. In **verse 22** John says that he saw no temple, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of the city. This

would seem to indicate that there may not be a temple building as man and God will be dwelling together in perfect unity.

D. The Nations - 21:24-27

Rev 21:24-27 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. 21:25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. 21:26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Just as in the days of Noah, when God preserved mankind upon the earth, though he brought a great flood to destroy most of mankind, so will God somehow preserve life from the earth while it is renovated by fire. From these saved people, God will then repopulate the earth just as he told Adam to be fruitful and multiply and replenish it. There is no indication in Scripture that God purposes to create a new race, but rather to fulfill His promise to Israel and the descendants of Abraham that they are to inherit the earth for "a thousand generations." Once this earth is repopulated and becomes too thickly populated, most likely we will colonize other planets. Keep in mind that God's creative act is beyond our comprehension and is not limited to this earth.

XXVI. Chapter 22

A. The new river - 22:1

Rev 22:1 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

We know that the waters of the earth are much polluted at this point, and yet, when the new kingdom is established, we see that somewhere in the middle of the pyramid city will rest the throne of God. From the throne of God the river of life will have its source and will flow down from terrace to terrace in a crystal stream that shall feed the rivers.

B. The new Tree of Life - 22:2

Rev 22:2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

As the river of life flows, there will be trees of life planted along its banks, not for shade, but rather as trees of healing that shall bear a different fruit each month. These trees and their fruit are for the overcomers, according to **Rev. 2:7** where it says, "**to him that overcomes will I give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.**" The leaves of these trees will be for the healing of the nations that shall occupy the new earth. This does not mean that there will be sickness, but rather that health will be preserved, just as it would have been for Adam should he had chosen to eat of the tree of life instead of the knowledge of Good and Evil.

C. The new Throne - 22:3-5

Rev 22:3-5 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: 22:4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. 22:5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

We know that in the New Jerusalem that the scripture says that the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it, therefore we know that the presence of God will be with man and that is also reiterated in **21:3-4**, as the tabernacle of God shall be with men. The whole city itself will become a temple in that it is where the presence of God will dwell.

D. The final warning - 22:6-21

Rev 22:6-21 And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to show unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. 22:7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book. 22:8 And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel, which showed me these things. 22:9 Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow-servant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God. 22:10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the

prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. 22:11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. 22:13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. 22:15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. 22:16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. 22:18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 22:19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. 22:20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. 22:21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

In **verse 6** we see a reference made to the Lord God sending to the Holy prophets, his angel to show unto his servants the things, which must shortly be done. Remember too that the word "angel" means "messenger." The Father had sent a messenger to reveal these things to John. **Verse 7** then give an immediate warning that the Lord will come quickly and that there is a blessing for those who keep the sayings of this prophecy or of this book.

Note in **verse 10** that John is commanded not to seal the book, which is in contrast to Daniel, who was told to seal the book for the time was not at hand. Here we see the messenger say to John that the time is at hand.

Note also the words that are repeated in **verse 7**, "Behold, I come quickly." Again in **verse 12**, "Behold, I come quickly." Again in **verse 20**, "Surely, I come quickly."

Note in **verse 17** the final invitation to all mankind to be saved. And notice the final warning to mankind, in **verse 19** that if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life and out of the Holy city and from the things which are written in this book. Keep in mind that in John's day scrolls were hand written and copied. Perhaps this warning also applied to anyone who might be tempted to change the original script.

END OF LESSON 29

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 29

1. **T or F** Revelation 21 describes a new earth where there will be no more oceans or seas only rivers, lakes, and streams. Thus it would seem likely that the mass of land will increase greatly.

2. **T or F** We also know that the earth will be renovated by fire meaning it will no longer exist.

3. **T or F** The New Jerusalem that comes down out of heaven is the home of the Bride of Christ.

4. **T or F** A river of life will flow from the throne of God and feed the rivers. Along its banks will be trees that bear a different fruit each month. These trees are for healing.

5. **T or F** The presence of God will dwell in the city as God like in the Garden of Eden will live with man.

LESSON 30 IS THE FINAL EXAM