

Understanding the Future

From a Biblical Perspective



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Preface

Greetings!

I am writing this in August of 2021. In the last few months, the world has drastically changed. We have been battling the coronavirus pandemic for the past year, millions are out of work, the experts are saying that we are in a depression. We have riots happening across the United States and Europe and people are wondering if we will have a civil war. I keep hearing the expressions "these are challenging times", "these are unprecedented times", "this is the new normal". Sorry, there is **NOTHING NORMAL** about people hiding in their houses and wearing masks that make it hard to breathe when they go out in public.

But what does the Bible have to say about all this? We have all heard the terms:

Apocalypse	Armageddon	Mark of the beast
666	Antichrist	False prophet
Rapture	Second coming	Tribulation

What do these terms mean? Are we really living in the "last days"?

The short answer is yes, from all the signs we are seeing in the world around us we can be sure of it.

The Bible gives us detailed signs of what to expect right before the end of the world as we know it and the return of Jesus to the earth. In the following pages, I will go into great detail explaining it to you. For example, Israel becoming a nation again, world wars, an increase in earthquakes, pestilences (i.e. coronavirus), a one-world government, a cashless society, an increase in knowledge and increase in travel, are just some of the signs that the end as we know it is near.

If you think the last year, has been hard, I have news for you...**this is the Sunday school picnic before the proverbial crap hits the fan!** You haven't seen anything yet. You don't want to be around for it. This is why I wrote this study. I want my friends and relatives to understand what will soon be happening. More importantly, I want to make sure you don't go through it. I want to tell you how you can safely avoid it. I have put together my notes from years of researching and studying the

Bible and summarizing what the Biblical scholars have to say in an easy-to-read format.

Please read the following pages carefully and feel free to share them with your friends and relatives.

After reading this little book, if you remain unconvinced and think I am some sort of religious nut that's fine. Please do just one thing for yourself: **hang on to your copy of this book**. Then when millions of people disappear from the earth, perhaps someone right before your very eyes, you will notice one thing that they all have in common; they are all Bible- Believing Christians. Young children who do not know right from wrong yet may be missing too. Then you will realize that I was right and you can refer back to this book and the Bible for the next **seven years** to know what will happen next. At that time, don't try to contact me, I won't be here. I will be with all the other Christians in heaven with Jesus. No need to worry about us, we could not be better. It will be yourself and your loved ones who are left behind that you need to worry about. Also, don't expect any help from any religious teachers, if they are still here on earth with you, that means they were false teachers and they should not be listened to.

In the service of the Most High God,

Elaine Ransom

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Introduction to Eschatology

Eschatology means the doctrine of 'last things'.

In this study, we will be looking at what the **Bible**, the **word of God**, says about the future.

In [Matthew](#) chapters 24 and 25, we will see what Jesus has to say about the future.

We will be covering three chapters in the book of [Ezekiel](#) chapters 37-39.

We will be covering much of the book of [Daniel](#) in the old testament. **Note:** much of what was future prophecy during Daniel's day, has already been fulfilled (happened) in great detail. **By seeing how accurate the Bible has been in predicting those events, gives us confidence that what is still in the future will happen just as the Bible says.**

Once we have this background, we will study the entire book of [Revelation](#).

I know it is tempting, but please don't jump right to Revelation, you need the background of the other books to understand it properly.

The final section will discuss [how you can be sure you will go to heaven](#).

While there are other passages in the Bible about the future, reading and studying the selections above will give you the bulk of the most important information.

I am adding the biblical texts into the study so that you have it all in one place.

Pray and ask the Creator to help you to understand what you are learning.

Studying the word of God is different than studying another subject, say history, having the help of the creator will allow you to more easily understand it.

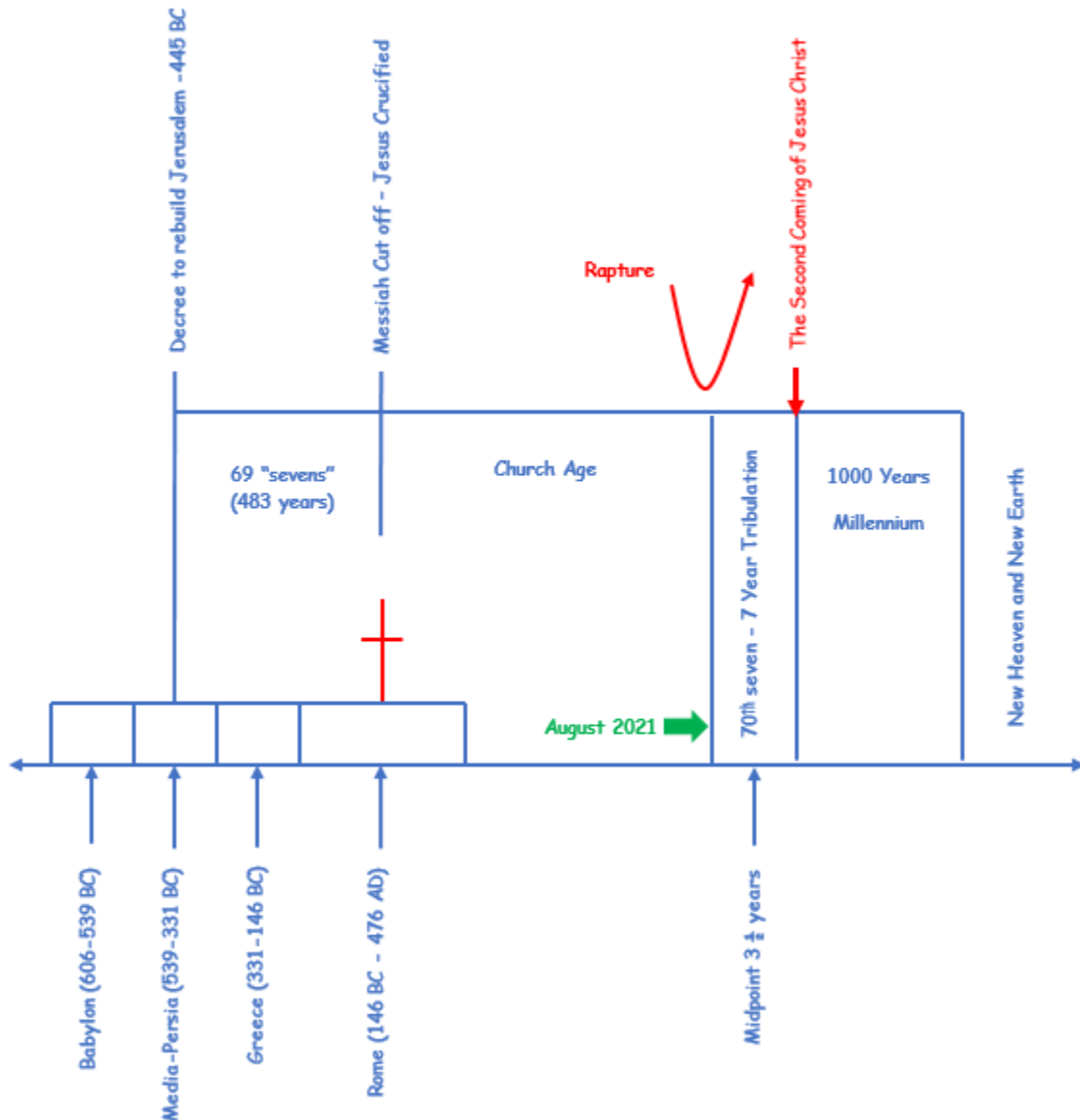
Don't worry if you don't understand everything at once, as you continue reading things will be reviewed over and over again.

Let's start with what the word **Apocalypse** means:

Apocalypse (ἀποκάλυψις) is the Greek word for **Revelation**. It means an unveiling or unfolding of things not previously known and which could not be known apart from

the unveiling". We are about to unveil future events so that you know exactly what to expect.

Timeline of World History: Past, Present, and Future.



This timeline will help you to have, the bird 's-eye view, the big picture of world history before we take the deep dive. It represents the time frame from the Israelite's captivity in Babylon up to the Millennial Kingdom. It begins when the prophet Daniel wrote down his prophecies around 606 BC, and highlights Christ's death and resurrection, skipping past 2000 years of the Church age, to the present time and coming Tribulation, Millennial Reign and New Heaven and New Earth.

Terminology

First, we need to define a few terms. These terms will help you to understand future Biblical prophecy.

They will be **briefly described** here and discussed in **more detail later**.

The abomination of Desolation - When the Antichrist walks into the Holy of Holies in the temple in Jerusalem and declares himself to be god.

Antichrist - He will be the **political ruler** of the one-world government during the Tribulation. He pretends to be a good guy, but he is a bad guy. He imitates Jesus and wants the world to worship him.

Bride, or Bride of Christ- This is the church. Also referred to as the "body of Christ". It is specifically, the Christians that live between Pentecost and the Rapture.

False Prophet - He is another bad guy, who heads up a **one-world religious system** during the tribulation. He will point the people away from worshipping the one true God and point them to worshipping the **Antichrist**.

Mark of the Beast - A mark in the right hand or forehead swearing your allegiance to the **Antichrist**. This will be mandated and you will not be able to buy or sell without it. It will be somehow associated with the number **666**. **If you take it you will not be able to go to heaven.**

Peace Treaty with Israel - This will start the Tribulation. This will be a treaty with Israel and the **Antichrist**.

Rapture - When Jesus meets his bride, the **Bible Christians, in the clouds**. This happens **before** all the bad stuff happens. The word rapture is not in the Bible, but the concept is.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up

(raptured) in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 "Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep (die), but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Twinkling of an eye - a twinkle is around 1/6 billionth of a second, this is faster than a blink.

Second Coming - This is when Jesus comes back to earth and **stands on** the Mt of Olives in Jerusalem. This happens **at the end** of the 7-year Tribulation.

Tribulation - A 7-year period following the **rapture** and the signing of the **peace treaty**. This will be the **worse 7 years in the history of the world**.

Unholy Trinity - Made up of **Satan**, the **Antichrist**, and the **False Prophet**.

Matthew

What Jesus had to say about His return and the last days

Chapters 24 and 25

Matthew Chapter 24



Courtesy of Denver ICC

Matthew 24:1-2 Jesus left the temple and was walking away when His disciples came up to Him to call His attention to its buildings. "Do you see all these things?" He asked. "I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; everyone will be thrown down."

That was a **short-term prophecy** it was fulfilled in 70 A.D when the Romans destroyed the Temple.

Note: A short-term prophecy happens within a few years, a long-term prophecy happens after a very long time, some even taking over 1,000 years to fulfill.

Matthew 24:3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

Mark tells us that only 4 came to question Him.

Mark 13:3 And as He sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked Him privately,

This is known as the Olivet Discourse.

This section of Matthew corresponds to Deuteronomy in that we have prophecies concerning the "end of the age." It states the sign of His coming and the end of the age. Its message is similar to

Deuteronomy 18:18 I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.

Israel as a nation rejected what the prophet Moses predicted. We have the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 AD and two thousand years of Jewish exile to know that the Lord Jesus fulfilled the words Moses spoke.

He also promised to forgive Israel and keep His promises to Israel.

Deuteronomy 30:5 And the LORD your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you will possess it; and he will do you good, and multiply you above your fathers.

This is a message of hope that corresponds to these closing chapters of Matthew. We have the blessed hope and the blessings to those that are watching. We will eventually have a millennium (1,000 years) of peace.

The disciples asked Jesus 3 questions:

When will this happen? (This is referring to Jesus's prediction of the destruction of the Temple.)

They probably thought that the Temple would be destroyed at the end of the age and the time of Jesus's return prompted them to ask the next two questions.

What will be the sign of your coming?

What will be the sign of the end of the age?

Jesus begins to answer their questions...He now gives them a Long-term prophecy. (This happens with prophecy; we have a short-term followed by long term. Example: Isaiah 61:1-2 tells of His first and second coming.)

Isaiah 61:1-2 "The Spirit of the Lord God *is* upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,

To proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *those who are bound*; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord,
and the day of vengeance of our God;

(The **green text** refers to His first coming and the **red text** refers to His second coming.)

Keep in mind that the following signs are signs of Jesus's **second coming**. These are **NOT** signs of the **Rapture**. Remember, the rapture happens seven years before Jesus' second coming. Many of these signs are beginning to occur today. Most of them are events that occur during the **Tribulation Period** (Also known as **Daniel's 70th week**, and the **time of Jacob's Trouble**). If you look at this passage closely you will find that Jesus is giving the highlights (**a brief overview**) of what is to happen before he returns.

Matthew 24:4-5 And Jesus answered and said to them, watch out that no man deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, I am the Christ (Messiah); and will deceive many.

This happens today. You will come across someone who claims they are the Messiah (Christ). Falling away from sound doctrine and knowing truth from error is prevalent these days.

Matthew 24:6 And you will hear of **wars** and **rumors of wars**: see that you be not troubled: for all these things **must come to pass**, but the end is not yet.

What we hear today is only a little taste of what will come during this time.

Matthew 24:7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there will be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers' places.

Nation against Nation - We have that in the news today (i.e. Israel vs. Iran). The word Nation in Greek is ἔθνος (**ethnos**), this is where we get our word ethnic. We are sadly witnessing this today in the USA where we have many divided over the color of their skin.

The expression “**nation against nation and kingdom against kingdom**” is an idiom for world war. We have had two of them in the past century, not to mention smaller wars and the wars that are still predicted to come soon.

Let's see **Coronavirus**, Swine flu, SARS, Ebola, Aids, West Nile, Hepatitis, etc. Earthquakes are happening more and more frequently like **birth** pains and are getting stronger. What we have now is just a taste (shadow) of what is to come.

Matthew 24:8 All these are the BEGINNING OF SORROWS.

There are three distinct parts, the beginning of sorrows, the tribulation, and the great tribulation.

Beginning of Sorrows - in Greek, it is “**The beginning of birth pains**”.

Just as birth pains get closer and closer together and more intense before the baby is born; the signs of His coming will get closer and closer together and **more and more intense**.

Matthew 24:9 Then will they deliver you up to be afflicted, and will kill you: and you will be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

Heaven forbid you are a messenger of “so-called” hate and intolerance.

Matthew 24:10 And then will many be offended, and will betray one another, and will hate one another.

What offends people today? Just about everything. It seems you cannot say anything about anything without holding your breath and hoping and praying you have not offended someone accidentally.

Here I believe Jesus is talking about himself, notice the phrase 'for my name's sake'. Don't use His name at the end of a prayer. That is too intolerant of other religions that don't believe in Jesus. A believer may even be turned in by his brother, sister, relatives, friends, etc. This will continue to get worse and worse.

Matthew 24:11-13 And many false prophets will rise, and will deceive many. And because iniquity will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he that will endure to the end, the same will be saved.

There are many false religious teachers today, even within Christianity, and they lead many away from the true God.

The phrase **Iniquity will abound**, refers to all the wickedness in the world around us. Right now, in America we have watched the willful destruction of major sections of US cities, similar things are happening in European cities. There are so many other things that are on the rise too, and according to the Bible, things will get much worse.

Matthew 24:14 And this GOSPEL (Good news) of the kingdom will be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations; and then will the end come.

Today the good news is taught to the whole world via the Internet, TV, and Radio. During the Tribulation period, 144,000 Jewish evangelists will spread the good news of Jesus throughout the world.

Matthew 24:15 When you, therefore, will see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, whosoever reads, let him understand:

In the book of Daniel, he predicted the abomination of desolation.

Daniel 9:27 Then he will confirm a covenant with many for one week, But in the middle of the week he will bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations will be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate."

This was a **double prophecy** it was fulfilled in the past and will be fulfilled in the future by the Antichrist. The following is taken from my book on Daniel.

"The first man came out of the Seleucid kingdom about 175 B.C. His name was **Antiochus Epiphanes**, which means 'Antiochus, god manifest.' He had 80,000 Jewish people killed. He sold another 40,000 into slavery. He substituted Greek worship and culture for the Jewish religion. Instead of celebrating the feast of Tabernacles, he introduced the feast of Bacchus, the god of pleasure and wine. He forbade the observance of the Sabbath and the reading of the Holy Scriptures. He burned every copy of the Torah (Bible) he could find and forbade the Jewish people to practice anything Jewish under the penalty of death. He did many, many,

horrible things, and the Jewish people called him Antiochus Epimanes, which means 'Antiochus the Madman.'" He stopped the daily sacrifice at the temple and he set up an image of Zeus in the temple. Then he sacrificed a pig on the altar and took the blood and sprayed it all over the inside of the temple. It was 2,300 days from that time until he died and the temple was cleansed and back in use again.

Matthew 24:16-20 Then let them which are in Judea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! But pray that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day:

Judea - the area around Jerusalem, Israel

Jesus is telling them **DO NOT STOP TO PACK A BAG! RUN! Run, for your life!!!!**

They will probably run to **Petra** located in **southern Jordan**. It is a natural mountain fortress, with only one very narrow passageway through the mountains. The passageway is so narrow, it is necessary to walk or ride in on horseback. Once through the narrow passage, there are over ten square miles of fortified land waiting to house a multitude of people. Thousands of years ago, the Nabateans had a city there. They carved buildings into the beautiful red sandstone mountains. It is quite beautiful to see and would make an excellent place for the Jewish people to hide out from the antichrist.

The rest of the people in the world who do not want to take the mark of the beast will be in hiding or killed.

The False Prophet will set up an image of **the Antichrist** in the temple, this will occur at the mid-point of the 7-year tribulation period. This is "**the abomination of desolation**" that Jesus is speaking about here. This is described in Revelation chapters 13-14. They will **require the Antichrist to be worshipped** and it is at this point that all the people of the earth will be required to take the **mark of the beast** as a sign of alliance to the Antichrist. **ANYONE WHO TAKES THIS MARK WILL BE DAMNED TO SPEND ETERNITY IN THE LAKE OF FIRE.**

When we get to Daniel and Revelation, we will discuss in great detail what the Antichrist and the False Prophet will do. **Stay tuned.**



Courtesy of Pat Marvenko Smith

Matthew 24:21-22 For then will be GREAT TRIBULATION, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever will be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

Great tribulation refers to the second half of the tribulation period, this will be 3 and $\frac{1}{2}$ years.

There will be people who become Christians during this time. It will not be an easy place to be as a true believer. "The elect" in this passage is referring to them.

Matthew 24:23 Then if any man will say to you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

If anyone comes saying they are the Christ don't believe it. Why??? Because when He comes again EVERY EYE will see Him. It will **not be a surprise.**

Matthew 24:24-27 For there will arise false Christs, and false prophets, and will show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they will deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they will say to you, Behold, He is in the desert; go not forth: behold, He is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning comes out of the east, and shines even to the west; so, will also the coming of the Son of man be.

Jesus will come back at the end of the tribulation; this will be his second coming. We will talk in great detail about this later.

If you are a new believer during this time His return will be fast and bright and you will have no trouble knowing when He returns.

Matthew 24:28-29 For wherever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together. Immediately after the tribulation of those days will the sun be darkened,

and the moon will not give her light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken:

This has not happened and will be a sign to Israel to take notice.

Matthew 24:30-31 And then will appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then will all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they will see the "Son of Man" coming in the CLOUDS of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Son of Man - this is one of the names Jesus refers to himself.

Coming in the clouds - This is the second coming.

The elect that Jesus is speaking about here is those who have accepted Jesus as their Savior during the tribulation period. This ends Jesus's summary of the tribulation events. Now He gives **3 signs** that these events will take place.

The first sign - Fig tree - Israel Reborn:

Matthew 24:32-34 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is here: So likewise, you, when you will see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say to you, this generation will not pass until all these things are fulfilled.



Courtesy of LaSandra Grimsley

The **fig tree** always symbolizes **Israel**. Jesus is saying that when the fig tree (Israel) comes to bloom (becomes a nation again) this generation will not pass (die-off) before Christ returns. You will **see all these things in your lifetime**.

On **May 14th, 1948**, Israel became a nation once again. That is now 73 years ago. We must be getting **very close** to Jesus' return!

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

The earth will be destroyed again just as it was in the times of Noah, but this time **with fire**.

Matthew 24:36 But of that day and hour knows no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

We can see the signs and make a logical **guess** that we are close, but no one knows exactly when Jesus will return. Just get ready, do not get caught up estimating the exact day.

Second Sign - Like the Days of Noah:

Matthew 24:37-39 But as the days of Noah were, so will also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so will also the coming of the Son of man be.

Noah took 100 years to build the ark and during that time he preached to the people of that day to repent. Had any of them repented they would have been able to board the ark too. The story of Noah is a picture of the Rapture and the Tribulation that follows. The Lord provided for Noah and his family and made sure that they were all safe in the ark **before** He sent the rain. Noah's family didn't have to "swim for it". However, the rest of the people of that day were too busy living for the moment and were destroyed by the flood. Today, many do not care about Jesus Christ's return and they will be left behind to face the **7-year judgment of God**.

Matthew 24:40-41 Then will two be in the field; the one will be taken, and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; the one will be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for you know not what hour your Lord does come.

This is describing the **rapture**.



© Darryl Skytta

I believe the **rapture** happens before the **Tribulation** begins. The **tribulation** begins with the **signing of the peace treaty**.
(See **Daniel 9:27**)

There are **no events that must take place before the rapture**. Though the **rapture** is a sign of the **second coming** too.

If God raptured us during the middle of the tribulation we could figure out when He was coming by a simple matter of adding it up. It could not be a surprise then could it?

This is the rapture or "catching away" and will be a sign that His second coming is getting near. On a round planet, there will be those that are awake and working and on the other side, you will have those that are sleeping.

Note: Some teach that this is not describing the rapture, but the second coming. They say that the ones taken are the unbelievers and that they are taken to judgment. I feel that Jesus's second coming will be exactly seven years after the signing of the peace treaty at the end of the Tribulation Period. So not knowing when He will rapture us seems more likely. Also, this passage indicates life is going along very naturally and it is business as usual when the one is taken and the other one is left. That seems to describe the rapture. At the end of the Tribulation Period, it will be anything but business as usual. I doubt that the believers will be working alongside the unbelievers; after all, the believers will have refused to take the mark of the beast and will probably be dead, in hiding, or on the run.

One of the signs of the "End of the Age" is the "Catching Away" or the Rapture.

Third Sign - Like Sodom and Gomorrah:

Luke chapter 17 records the same teaching of Jesus and adds this passage about the days of Lot.

Luke 17:28-30 Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built, but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

Lot and his family were taken out of harm's way before God brought destruction upon the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. The inhabitants of those cities were all involved in sexual perversion. God said that it would be true again right before he returned and we can see this perversion worldwide.

Matthew 24:43-44 But know this, that if the owner of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore, you be also ready: for in such an hour as you think not the Son of man comes.

We are to be waiting for the blessed hope. Those that are will receive a crown. There will be a trumpet sound and a shout.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 -5:4 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ will rise first: Then we which are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall will we be with the Lord forever. Wherefore comfort one another with these words. But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you, yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they will not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

Here we see the RAPTURE or 'catching away' is described and it is referred to as coming like a THIEF IN THE NIGHT. The same as the description given in Matt 24:43-44.

When you have the blowing of the trumpet (Shofar) you have either a call to worship or a call to battle. In this case, it will be both. There will be a call for all true believers to go to heaven to worship the Lord. (Revelation 5:11-14) It will also be a call to battle for the angels to pour out the wrath of God on earth.

Matthew Chapter 25



Courtesy of Reading Acts

This chapter is a continuation of the discussion of chapter 24 in which Jesus is answering questions about the end of the age and His return.

Matthew 25:1-6 Then will the kingdom of heaven be like ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. The foolish ones took their lamps, but took no oil with them: But

the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

The ten virgins are not marrying the bridegroom but are "bridesmaids". They represent Israel.

The Peshitta translation of the verse above states that the virgins went out to meet the bridegroom **"and the bride"**.

Matthew 23:39 For I say to you, you will not see me again, until you will say, blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.

Matthew 25:7-13 Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, give us some of your oil; for our lamps are going out. But

the wise answered, saying, "No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!' "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man comes.

They are told to watch

Some declare this to be believers of today. It is not.

The bridegroom is coming from the wedding above to the marriage supper of the lamb on earth. We, the believers who make up the bride, return to earth with Him. The event in the above passage then takes place on earth after the Great Tribulation.

Five wise virgins with oil had finally become genuine believers and were finally ready.

Five foolish - false sheep and hypocrites. **Oil is symbolic of the anointed or following the Spirit.** The lamps have no oil. They do not have the Holy Spirit.

There are still many false believers or **wolves in sheep's clothing** that the Lord does not know and he will say to them. I never knew you. Imagine what a shock this will be. You think you knew the Lord and even though you did many things for Him and to find that you were mistaken. This is why it is important to make sure you truly know Him now and to tell others the truth. Some may not want to listen, but it is better for them to learn it now than to find out later and when it is too late. It is sad but true that even **many church leaders and professed teachers of Jesus** and different so-called **Messiah's will find themselves outside the door and shut out.**

Matthew 25:14-21 For the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN is as a man traveling into a far country, which called his own servants and delivered to them his goods. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the

five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise, he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and dug in the earth, and hid his lord's money. After a long time, the lord of those servants comes and reckons with them. And so, he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou delivered to me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: You have been FAITHFUL over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: you enter into the joy of your lord.

A talent - about 75 pounds (34 kilograms) for a common talent, and about 150 pounds for a royal talent.

This man was giving his servants "talents of money" this is not a 5-pound bag of \$50.00-dollar bills but rather some sort of precious metal such as gold or silver.

FAITHFULNESS is what is commended.

This is talking about serving the KINGDOM ABOVE. It may be by expanding that Kingdom by declaring "HIS MERCY" and "LOVING KINDNESS" or by serving others with whatever talents or gifts you have. Do not hide the good news or hide from being the salt of the earth.

Matthew 25:22-23 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, you deliver to me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things: Enter into the joy of your lord.

Matthew 25:24-29 Then he that had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew you that you are a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed: And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the earth: look, there you have what is yours. His lord answered and said to him, You wicked and slothful servant, You knew that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not scattered seed: You ought, therefore, to have put

my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming, I should have received mine own with interest. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it to him, which has ten talents. For to everyone that has will be given, and he will have abundance: but from him, that has not will be taken away even that which he has.

To Him that much is given, much is required. To have talents and to use them for serving God or to use them to expand the kingdom of God will mean you will be given greater responsibilities in the other world. If you are slothful and did not use what you had to give, what you had will be taken away.

If you have lots of money and you squander it on unnecessary things (even things that are for the place of worship and it is unnecessary), you are held responsible. You may end up with less responsibility and trusted with less from the Lord. It amazes me how some can spend huge amounts of money on extravagant buildings or the most expensive things in the buildings. This can be a waste of money and could be used for other more important things, such as sending more Bibles or teachers of the Bible to other countries to learn and grow and expand the Kingdom. Many are in unnecessary debt for these buildings. God wants us to be good Stewards of our money.

Matthew 25:30 And cast you the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth

Those that despise goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering and cling to things of the world will lose it all. (Matt. 6:19)

Romans 2:2-6 And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things. And do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment upon those who practice such things and do the same yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will render to every man according to his deeds:

Matthew 25:31-33 When the Son of man will come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then will He sit upon the throne of His glory: And before Him will be gathered all NATIONS: and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides His sheep from the goats: And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

This judgment is known as "the Judgment of the Nations". They are judged by how they treated Israel. The word "Nations" should be translated as gentiles (goyim). The individual gentiles will be judged according to their loving-kindness toward Israel. Particularly the 144,000 Messianic Jewish believers who will go throughout the world during the tribulation period to teach the gentiles the good news of Jesus.

Genesis 12:3 And I will bless them that bless you, and curse him that curses you: and in you shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Matthew 25:34-40 "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Those that treated Israel correctly are commended. If you treat them incorrectly it is the same as if you are treating Jesus incorrectly.

Matthew 25:41 Then He will say also to them on the left hand, Depart from Me, you cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Hell was created as a place of punishment for the devil (Satan) and his unholy angels (demons). Sadly, many people will also spend eternity there because they refused to follow Jesus.

Matthew 25:42-46 For I was hungry and you gave Me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite Me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe Me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after Me.' "They also will answer, `Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' "He will reply, `I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for Me.' "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Ezekiel

Israel becoming a nation again - Chapter 37, War - Chapters 38 & 39

The prophecy in chapter 37 was fulfilled when Israel became a nation on **May 14, 1948**.

The war described in chapters 38 and 39 is soon to be fulfilled.

Ezekiel Chapter 37 - Israel Reborn



Courtesy of Daniel Prust

Ezekiel 37:1-2 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley, and it was full of bones. And He caused me to pass among them round about, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley; and lo, they were very dry.

Here we see the prophet Ezekiel being shown a vision by the Lord. It is a valley of dry bones.

Ezekiel 37: 3-6 And He said to me, "Son of man (Adam), can these bones live?" And I answered, "O LORD GOD, Thou knowest." Again, He said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.' "Thus, says the LORD GOD to these bones, 'Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life. 'And I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin, and put breath in you that you may come alive, and you will know that I am the LORD.' "

Ezekiel was 100% submissive to the Lord. First, he admitted his shortcoming in not knowing the answer to the Lord's question. Then he followed the Lord's instructions without question to prophesy to a valley of skeletons.

Ezekiel 37:7-10 So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, sinews were on them, and flesh grew, and skin covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the LORD GOD,' Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they come to life. "" So, I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they came to life, and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

I think you will agree that this is quite a vision that Ezekiel had. The bones came together and grew flesh. After Ezekiel prophesied again the breath of life came into them and they came to life.

If we stop here and do not read any further it would be difficult to guess at the meaning of the vision. I am sure Ezekiel was scratching his head trying to understand what it symbolized. Then the Lord explained the vision to him.

Ezekiel 37:11-14 Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.' "Therefore prophesy, and say to them, 'Thus says the LORD GOD," Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, my people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel. "Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people. "And I will put My Spirit within you, and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken and done it," declares the LORD.' "

The Lord told Ezekiel that this was the whole house of Israel. Israel would be dispersed throughout the whole world and God would restore them to their homeland. They were cut off like Messiah and suffered like Him because they are a

type of Messiah. They were waiting for a national resurrection. Only God could restore them after 1,900 years. And that is just what He did. Israel, the valley of dry bones, lives again! Praise the Lord!

Are you Jewish? The very fact that you can answer yes to that question is a miracle and is proof that this passage in Ezekiel was divinely inspired. What other nation lost their homeland 2,000 years ago and then had it restored in a day? (May 14th, 1948 AD)

Who else without a homeland can trace their genealogy back 2,000+ years? Most gentiles, especially in America, are lucky if they can trace their ancestors back 200 years. So, if you look in the mirror and see a Jewish face looking back at you, know that you are seeing a fulfillment of Ezekiel 37 before your very eyes.

Israel has been restored to the land and someday soon they will, as a nation, turn to Jesus.

Now the vision is over and the Lord gave Ezekiel an illustration to give to the people.

Ezekiel 37:15-17 The word of the LORD came again to me saying, "And you, son of man, take for yourself one stick and write on it, 'For Judah and for the sons of Israel, his companions'; then take another stick and write on it, 'For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and all the house of Israel, his companions.' "Then join them for yourself one to another into one stick, that they may become one in your hand.

Here the Lord continued along the same train of thought. Not only will He restore the "whole house of Israel" to the land. He will unite the northern and southern kingdoms, divided after Solomon's' reign, into one nation again: the northern kingdom, the house of Ephraim, and the southern kingdom, the house of Judah.

Ezekiel 37:18-23 "And when the sons of your people speak to you saying, 'Will you not declare to us what you mean by these?' say to them,' Thus says the LORD GOD, "Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will put them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand.'" "And the sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes. "And say to them, 'Thus says

the LORD GOD," Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations, and they will no longer be divided into two kingdoms. "And they will no longer defile themselves with their idols, or with their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. And they will be My people, and I will be their God.

He elaborated for another 5 verses on the meaning of the illustration so that it would be crystal clear.

"Sons of your people" - refer to Israel. Again, the Lord spells out that this will be a uniting of the northern and southern kingdoms. They will be ONE nation again. They will be brought back into the land of Israel from being scattered throughout the world. We see this prophecy being fulfilled today. Many Jewish people have already returned to the land.

Eventually, they will give up their idolatrous ways and worship the Lord only.

Ezekiel 38 - War

Before reading chapters 38 and 39 one must know the modern names of ancient lands, otherwise, it won't make any sense.

Ancient Name (Modern Name)

- Gog = (The ruler - this is a person)
- Meshech = (Moscow)
- Magog=Grandson of Noah who founded a kingdom north of the Caspian and Black Seas. (Russia?)
- Tubal = (Tobolsk)
- Gomer = (Armenia (or Cappadocia) - Some claim this is eastern Germany or Eastern Europe.)
- Togarmah = (Eastern Turkey)
- Persia = (Iran/Iraq)
- Cush (Sheba+Dedan) = (Ethiopia)

- Put = (Libya)
- Tarshish = (Western Nations)
- Hamonah = (Multitude)
- Hamon Gog= The multitude of Gog (Multitude of the ruler)

Bashan - A region east of the Jordan River and north of the Arnon River

I will insert the modern names in the text below in ()'s.

Ezekiel 38:1 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Ezekiel receives another prophecy from the Lord.

Ezekiel 38:2 Son of man, set thy face against (the ruler) Gog, the land of (Russia) Magog, the chief prince of (Moscow) Meshech and (Tobolsk) Tubal, and prophesy against him,

This prophecy is against the ruler of Russia.

Ezekiel 38:3-4 And say, Thus saith the LORD; Behold I am against thee, O (The ruler) Gog, the chief prince of (Moscow) Meshech and (Tobolsk) Tubal: And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords:

The Lord will bring Russia from the north; He will draw him and his army out to judgment. The Bible says "horses and horsemen", the Russian Calvary.

Ezekiel 38:5-6 (Iran/Iraq) Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet: (Armenia) Gomer, and all his bands; the house of (Eastern Turkey) Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee.

Russia will not be alone! Just look at who joins the battle! Notice these countries today are all allies.

Ezekiel 38:7-8 Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them. After many days

thou shalt be visited: in the latter years, thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.

"After many days" and "the latter years" refer to the future. We also refer to this as "the End Times". Here we see again that Israel will be brought back to the land from many nations. "The mountains of Israel" had been lying in waste for centuries. Now that it is blooming again Israel's enemies want to control it.

They shall dwell safely refers to a time of peace in Israel.

Ezekiel 38:9 Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee.

Now, this is an invasion! It looks like Israel will be attacked from at least 3 sides. Notice that Egypt is not listed. Perhaps they will already be out of the picture.

- From the west - Northern Africa (Ethiopia and Libya).
- From the North - Russia, Turkey, and Armenia.
- From the east - Iran

Ezekiel 38:10 Thus saith the LORD GOD; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought:

Remember this is a prophecy against a man.

Ezekiel 38:11 And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates,

Here again, Israel is not on guard. They are at rest, dwelling in safety.

Ezekiel 38:12-14 To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land. (Ethiopia) Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of (the Western Nations)

Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil? Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto (The ruler) Gog, thus saith the LORD GOD; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it?

Again, it is repeated that Israel is enjoying safety.

Ezekiel 38:15 And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army:

Here we see reference to this ruler coming down from the north.

Ezekiel 38:16 And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O (The ruler) Gog, before their eyes.

Again, we see that this will be a massive invasion. It is again spelled out that it will be in the "latter days", so this battle has **NOT already occurred.**

Ezekiel 38:17-18 Thus saith the LORD GOD; Art thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days many years that I would bring thee against them? And it shall come to pass at the same time when (The ruler) Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the LORD GOD, that my fury shall come up in my face.

Oh ...Oh ...the Lord God is about to pour out His wrath on this ruler.

Ezekiel 38:19-20 For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the

earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.

Sounds like a major earthquake.

Ezekiel 38:21 And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the LORD GOD: every man's sword shall be against his brother.

This sounds like God will confuse the enemy so that they turn against each other and don't attack Israel.

Ezekiel 38:22 And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood, and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

God will send pestilence and reign down fire and brimstone on them.

Now some say this is nuclear war. That idea is refuted by the next verse.

Ezekiel 38:23 Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD.

God will magnify himself. Everyone will know that there is a God in Israel after this takes place. A nuclear war would not magnify God it would magnify man.

Ezekiel 39 War Continued

Ezekiel 39:1 Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against (The ruler) Gog, and say, thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O (The ruler) Gog, the chief prince of (Moscow) Meshech and (Tobolsk) Tubal:

Here again, we see the prophecy is against the ruler of Russia.

Ezekiel 39:2 And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel:

God will draw them from the north. He will wipe out 5/6ths of the invading army.

Ezekiel 39:3 And I will smite your bow out of thy left hand, and will cause your arrows to fall out of thy right hand.

God will cause their weapons to malfunction.

Ezekiel 39:4 You will fall upon the mountains of Israel, You, and all your bands, and the people that is with you: I will give you to the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.

Here we see they will all die on the mountains of Israel and the carnivorous birds and animals will eat their bodies.

There is a war prophesied in Rev 20 it is known as the battle of Gog and Magog. It takes place at the end of the 1,000-year reign of Jesus. It is NOT the same battle as the battle described in Ezekiel 38 and 39. One of the ways this is known is the following verses in Isaiah.

Isaiah 11:6-7 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

During the 1,000-year reign of Jesus, the animals will not be ferocious. The ones in Ezekiel are still flesh-eating.

Ezekiel 39:5-6 You shalt fall upon the open field: for I have spoken it, says the Lord GOD. And I will send fire on (Russia) Magog and on those who live in security in the coastlands. Then they shall know that I am the LORD.

Now, this would be something to see: fire coming down out of Heaven.

Ezekiel 39:7 So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.

It will be PRETTY hard to deny that this was anything other than the work of the Lord.

Ezekiel 39:8-10 Behold, it is come, and it is done, saith the Lord GOD; this is the day whereof I have spoken. And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the hand staves, and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire seven years: So that they shall take no wood out of the field, neither cut down any out of the forests; for they shall burn the weapons with fire: and they shall spoil those that spoiled them, and rob those that robbed them, saith the Lord GOD.

After the battle, the Israelis will gather up the weapons and use them as firewood for 7 YEARS! There are many speculations about how modern weapons would be able to be burned. Some believe that they will revert to using old-fashioned weapons others think that the weapons will be made of some material able to be burned. I don't know. All I know is what Ezekiel said. They will burn them for 7 years. We will have to wait and see just what it will be.

Ezekiel 39:11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will give to (The ruler) Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea: and it will stop the noses of the passengers: and there shall they bury (The ruler) Gog and all his multitude: and they shall call it the valley of (Multitude of The ruler) Hamon-Gog.

This ruler's army will be buried in Israel.

East of the sea is probably a reference to the Dead Sea.

Ezekiel 39:12 And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that they may cleanse the land.

Seven months is a long time to be burying the dead. It gives us an idea of the size of the invading army and the death toll.

Ezekiel 39:13 Indeed all the people of the land will be burying them, and they will gain renown for it on the day that I am glorified," says the Lord GOD. And they shall sever out men of continual employment, passing through the land to bury

with the passengers those that remain upon the face of the earth, to cleanse it: after the end of seven months shall they search.

I believe that there are people that are employed in Israel today whose job it is to gather all the body parts, etc. whenever there is a bombing to ensure that everyone has a proper burial. Looks like they will be busy in the future.

Ezekiel 39:15 And the passengers that pass through the land, when any see a man's bone, then shall he set up a sign by it, until the buriers have buried it in the valley of (Multitude of the ruler) Hamon-Gog.

Everyone participates in the process of cleansing the land of bodies, flagging any remains they find.

Ezekiel 39:16 And also the name of the city shall be (Multitude) Hamonah. Thus, shall they cleanse the land.

So, there will be a city named Hamonah in the area. It is not clear if a city will be renamed or will grow up in this area.

Ezekiel 39:17-21 And, thou son of man, thus says the Lord GOD; Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, even a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood. Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan. And you shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till you be drunken, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you. Thus, you shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, says the Lord GOD. This is a command God gives to the animals to assemble and eat the flesh of the dead at this battle. And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed and my hand that I have laid upon them.

God vanquishes Israel's foes to show them that HE is Lord.

Ezekiel 39:22 So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward.

After this, all Israel will 'know the Lord'.

Ezekiel 39:23-24 And the heathen will know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against me, therefore I hid my face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemies: so they all fell by the sword. According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions have I done unto them, and hid my face from them.

Because of Israel's sin God allowed them to go into captivity.

Deuteronomy 8:5 Therefore you are to know in your heart that the LORD your God was disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son.

Hebrews 12:6 For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And He scourges every son whom He receives. "

Ezekiel 39:25-26 Therefore says the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name; After that they have born their shame, and all their trespasses where they have trespassed against me, when they dwell safely in their land, and none made them afraid.

Again, we have the promise that God will bring the Jewish people back to Israel. They will dwell in Peace and Safety.

Ezekiel 39:27-28 When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations; then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which cause them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them anymore there.

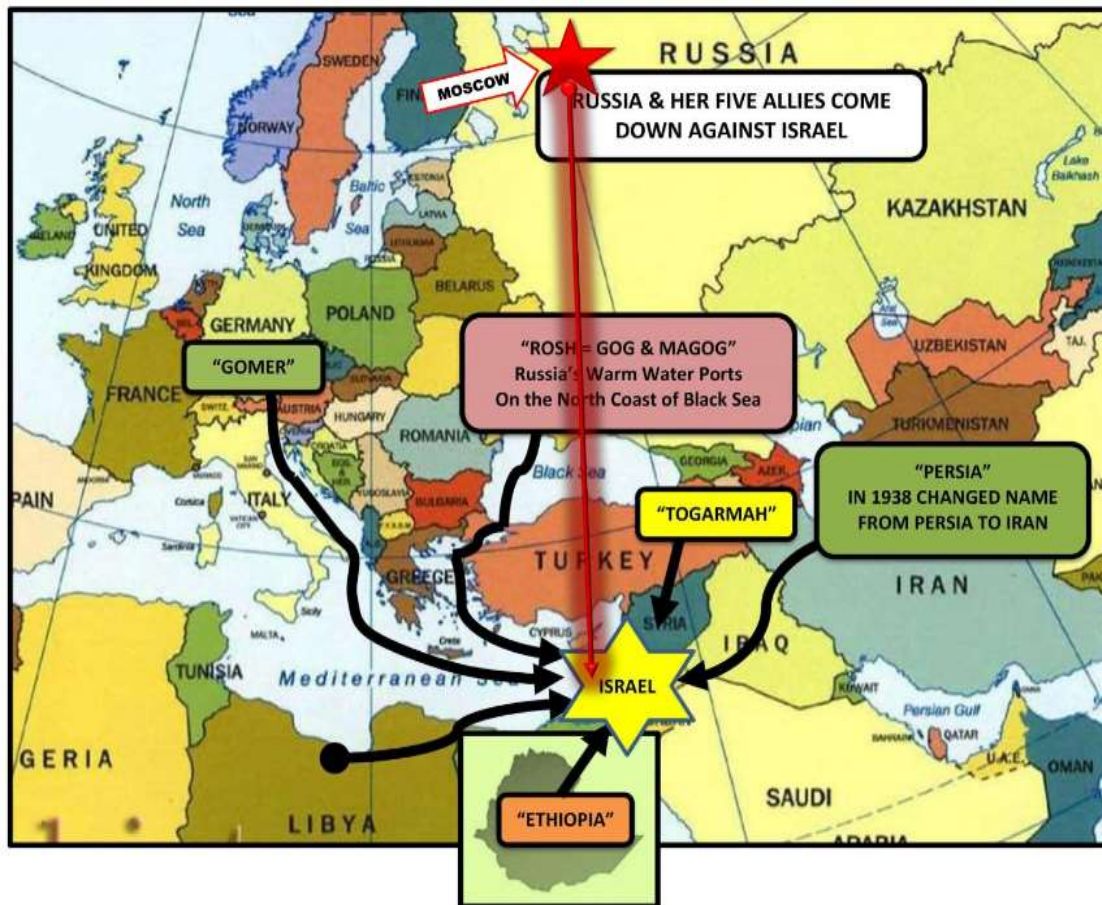
All Jewish people will return to Israel.

Ezekiel 39:29 Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, says the Lord GOD.

Israel's relationship with God will be restored. :~)

Now the question is this: when does this battle occur?

Some believe it will happen before the 7-year period known as the tribulation (aka. The time of Jacob's trouble or the 70th week of Daniel). Others believe it is at the mid-point of the tribulation. Still, others believe this battle occurs at the end of the tribulation, at the second coming of Jesus. In brief, we don't know for sure when we just know it will happen in the future.



Courtesy of Heritage Baptist Bible Church

Daniel

The key to understanding future prophecy begins with a study of Daniel.

Daniel Chapter 2

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2:1-3 Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him. Then the king gave the command to call the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So, they came and stood before the king. And the king said to them, "I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream."

The magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, and Chaldeans - They may have been the ancestors of the Magi (wise men) who visited Jesus in Bethlehem. Daniel would have taught them to look for the Messiah. He would have shown them this prophecy about the star (some think it was the shekinah glory cloud).

Numbers 24:17 "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; A star shall come forth from Jacob, and a scepter shall rise from Israel,

Daniel 2:4 Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic, "O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will give the interpretation."

At this point the Biblical text switches to Aramaic.

Daniel 2:5-13 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, "My decision is firm: if you do not make known the dream to me, and its interpretation, you shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made an ash heap. However, if you tell the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts, rewards, and great honor. Therefore, tell me the dream and its interpretation." They answered again and said, "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will give its interpretation." The king answered and said, "I know for certain that you would gain time, because you see that my decision is firm: if you do not make known the dream to me, there is

only one decree for you! For you have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the time has changed. Therefore, tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can give me its interpretation."

The Chaldeans answered the king, and said, "There is not a man on earth who can tell the king's matter; therefore, no king, lord, or ruler has ever asked such things of any magician, astrologer, or Chaldean. It is a difficult thing that the king requests, and there is no other who can tell it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh."

For this reason, the king was angry and very furious, and gave the command to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. So, the decree went out, and they began killing the wise men; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.

This seems to be an impossible task yet all things are possible with God.

At this time there was placed a high value on a person's dreams. God would use dreams to bring an important message.

God Reveals Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2:14-16 Then with counsel and wisdom Daniel answered Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon; he answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, "Why is the decree from the king so urgent?" Then Arioch made the decision known to Daniel.

So, Daniel went in and asked the king to give him time, that he might tell the king the interpretation.

This was a bold move on Daniels's part. He knew that God had given him the ability to interpret dreams and his life and the lives of his friends were hanging in the balance.

Daniel 2:17-19 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might

not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So, Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with Him. "I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers; You have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of You, for You have made known to us the king's demand."

Daniel went to God when he had a problem. Who do you go to when you have problems? Any problem? Maybe to a counselor? You can go to the most wonderful counselor and mighty God -Immanuel (God with us.) Jesus the Messiah.

Daniel Explains the Dream

Daniel 2:24-35 Therefore Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; take me before the king, and I will tell the king the interpretation."

Then Arioch quickly brought Daniel before the king, and said thus to him, "I have found a man of the captives of Judah, who will make known to the king the interpretation."

The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?" Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, "The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these: As for you, O king,

thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be. But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for our sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart.

“You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. This head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

I want to remind you that this was taking place approximately six hundred years before Jesus was born. Daniel is about to reveal to the king what will happen in the future. Much of what God revealed to him has since taken place. When we look back over the past 2,600 years since Daniel's time, we find his predictions amazingly accurate. Notice Daniel gives all the credit to God.

Daniel 2:35-45 “This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold. But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.

Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."

This dream took place about 2,600 years ago.

There have only been four world empires since the time of the Babylonians. Historians agree the four empires were: the Babylonian Empire, the Medo-Persian Empire, the Grecian Empire, and the Roman Empire.

Four Past World Empires

- 1) The Babylonian Empire was represented by the head of Gold
- 2) The Medo-Persia Empire is represented by the silver arms: one arm for the Medes, the other arm for the Persians.
- 3) The Grecian Empire was represented by the bronze waist area.
- 4) The Roman Empire was represented by the iron legs. It had a divided capital one in Rome and the later one in Constantinople.

Future World Empires

- 5) The Iron & Clay Feet represents a future Revived Roman Empire a one-world government.
- 6) The Rock represents a kingdom set up by God with Jesus on the throne.

The Bible specifically said the head of gold represented Nebuchadnezzar. Nebuchadnezzar was the greatest king, and God honored him with power over all humans, animals, and birds.



Therefore, we can conclude that silver represents the Medo-Persian Empire. The bronze would have to represent the Grecian Empire. Leaving the iron to represent the Roman Empire.

There is even special significance in the types of metal.

The mightiest empire was the Babylonian Empire, so it is fitting that it is represented by gold. Silver is a slightly inferior metal indicating the second kingdom would be inferior to the first. The Medo-Persian Empire, though great, was indeed inferior to the Babylonian Empire. The Grecian

Empire was inferior to the Medo-Persian Empire just as bronze is inferior to silver. Iron, though inferior in value to the other metals, is the strongest and this perfectly describes the Roman Empire. **The decline in the metals represents the moral decline of the world."**

The one arm represents the Medes and the other arm the Persians.

The Roman Empire was divided; one group had its headquarters in Rome and the other in Constantinople," they would be represented by the two legs. The legs would be longer than other parts of the body and would therefore represent that the Roman Empire would also rule for a longer period.

The clay mixed in with the iron represents the part of the dream that is beginning to be fulfilled in our lifetime. It is important when studying the Bible, to look at other passages of Scripture. We will be looking at these four empires repeatedly in the book of Daniel, as God reveals more and more details about them. The iron

mixed with the clay reveals a revived Roman Empire. The fact that they are feet could also represent the uncleanness of this kingdom. The feet do not take up much space in the statue as a whole, just as this empire will only last for a few years.

Daniel and His Friends Promoted

Daniel 2:46-49 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him. The king answered Daniel, and said, "Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret." Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon. Also, Daniel petitioned the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon; but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.

It is quite impressive to think this king bowed before Daniel or was he bowing before Daniel's God?

We see this title also given to Jesus in the book of Revelation.

Revelation 19:11-16 And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war. And His eyes are a flame of fire, and upon His head are many diadems; and He has a name written upon Him which no one knows except Himself. And He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood; and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh, He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

Finally, the rock that crushed the statue represents the kingdom that God will set up, and it will never end!" "We don't know the exact day or hour when this will take

place, but God has given us many clues in the Bible to let us know when the time is near. We will talk more about this after we have studied a few more chapters. We do know that Jesus will be head of the kingdom and will be the one to crush these other kingdoms. The Father will use the Son who is also called "The Rock" and will crush this statue, the kingdoms, and the leaders just like David slew Goliath.

Languages of the Bible

The Old Testament was written in **Hebrew** except for Daniel Chapter 2:4 through the end of chapter 7. It is written in **Aramaic**.

The New Testament was written in **Greek**.

Daniel Chapter 3

The Image of Gold

Daniel 3:1-7 Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. And King Nebuchadnezzar sent word to gather together the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. So the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered together for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Then a herald cried aloud: "To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up; and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace." So, at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, and lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people,

nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.



Courtesy of the Christian Truth Center

WHERE IS DANIEL?

We don't know for sure. Perhaps he is out of town because if he were in town, he would not have gone along with worshipping an idol.

This may be a statue of Nebuchadnezzar or it could be of a Babylonian god (Nabu)

This is about 15 years after Nebuchadnezzar's dream in chapter 2.

The statue was probably gold plated and not solid gold, it was 90 ft high and 9 ft wide.

Archeologists have uncovered the pedestal in the Plain of Dura, in modern-day Iraq.

If they bowed before the statue, they would break 2 commandments:

Exodus 20:3 -4 You shall have no other gods before me

You shall not make for yourself an idol

Daniel's Friends Disobey the King

Daniel 3:8-18 Therefore, at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews. They spoke and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! You, O king, have made a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the gold image; and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. There are certain Jews whom you have set

over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up." Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So, they brought these men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up? Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?" Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

Saved in Fiery Trial

Daniel 3:19-25 Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Then King Nebuchadnezzar was

astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

The furnace was probably a brick kiln, which was popular in that area.

Nebuchadnezzar Praises God



THE FIERY FURNACE

© Darryl Skytta

Daniel 3:26-30 Then

Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here." Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire. And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's

counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them. Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God! Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and

Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this." Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.

They are delivered by Jesus. This is a **Christophany** (a pre-Bethlehem appearance of Jesus)

They did not even smell of smoke when they came out of the fire.

This is a picture (a foreshadowing) of the tribulation period.

The fire being heated 7 times hotter than usual symbolizes the 7-year tribulation period.

The normal temperature for the brick kiln was 900-1000c (1652-1832f).

This means 7 times hotter was (11,569 - 12,824 f). Wow!

The fire represents the judgments that occur during the tribulation period.

The Antichrist is a false Christ who will rule the world during the Tribulation period.

At the mid-point, 3 ½ years into the tribulation, the antichrist will be killed and resurrected!

He will go into the Temple in Jerusalem and declare that he is god.

The Antichrist will set up a statue in the temple in Jerusalem, and the people will be ordered to bow down and worship the statue and anyone refusing to do so will be killed by having their **head chopped off**.

He will also require them to take a mark of loyalty referred to as the "**mark of the beast**".

The three young men represent those people who will not bow before the idol.

The number three represents God's righteousness. They represent the righteous people who live through the Tribulation.

Daniel Chapter 7

Chapters 7-12 are all prophetic.

They **do not** follow chapter 6 chronologically.

They record all the prophecies that God gave to Daniel in his lifetime.

In chapter 7, Daniel receives more detail about the kingdoms in the statue of chapter 2.

The vision of the Four Beasts

Daniel 7:1-3 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts. Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four



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winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.

The **four winds** represent the **power of God**.

The **sea** represents the **nations of the earth**.

Babylon

Daniel 7:4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

The lion with eagle's wings represents Babylon. The **national symbol of Babylon** was a **winged lion**.



Courtesy of the British Museum

The lion is the king of the beasts and the eagle is the king of the birds, a fitting description of the most powerful kingdom on earth.

The dream is specifically referring to Nebuchadnezzar's **period of insanity** in chapter 4.

when it talks about the **wings being plucked off and given the heart of a man**.

Of course, at the time Daniel received the vision, Babylon was the current world empire and

Nebuchadnezzar would have already had his period of insanity.

The rest of the dream was all in Daniel's future.

Babylonian Empire



Courtesy of Wikipedia

Medes and Persians



Courtesy of Bible is Truth

Daniel 7:5 "And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!'"

The next beast was a bear.

It represented the Medo-Persian empire, just as the silver was used in the statue to represent the Medo-Persian empire.

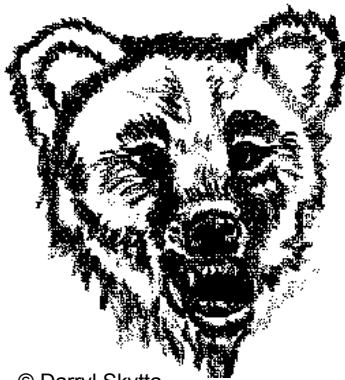
The fact that the bear was **raised on one side** symbolizes that **the Persians** would be **stronger than the Medes**.

The **three ribs** in the bear's mouth are the three kingdoms that they conquered: **Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt**.

The command was given to devour much flesh and the Medo-Persian Empire certainly managed to conquer and subdue a great many people.

Lydia is now known as **Turkey**.

The Medo-Persian empire was **powerful** like a bear and as **ferocious**.



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As the bear is not as majestic and glorious an animal as the lion, so the Medo-Persian empire was **not as majestic and glorious** as the Babylonian Empire.

Finally, the bear is **not as swift** an animal as the lion; this was true of the Medo-Persian empire.

The Medo-Persian army did not move and conquer other lands as swiftly as the Babylonians did.

Medo-Persian Empire



Courtesy of Christian Publishing House

Greece



© Darryl Skytta

Daniel 7:6 "After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

Alexander the Great was emperor of the Greek Empire. His army moved with **great speed and agility**, like a **winged leopard**, as they conquered the then known world.

Alexander the Great died in 323 B.C., the empire was divided between his four generals. The generals are represented by the four heads.



Courtesy of Dwelling in the Word

General Ptolemy, took control of **Egypt and the surrounding territories**.

General Seleucus, controlled **Syria, Babylon, and lands to the East**.

General Lysimachus was given **Thrace and the surrounding territories**

General Cassander was given **Macedonia and Greece itself**.

Greek Empire



Rome

Daniel 7:7-8 "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.

The **iron teeth** correspond to the **iron legs** in Nebuchadnezzar's statue.

The beast is described as having **bronze claws**. I believe the claws tell us that this government will have some of the same characteristics as the former Greek Empire.

Daniel doesn't tell us what kind of animal it was only that it was **terrifying and frightening**. When the Romans came to power they crushed or wiped out, all other governments in their way.

The **ten horns** are the same as the **ten toes** in the statue.

The Bible tells us that the **ten horns** represent **ten kings**.

They will most likely be the leaders of nations, or perhaps territories of the world.

The little horn represents the antichrist! He will be a great world leader. He will probably come from a country that was part of the original Roman Empire. Some believe he will come from the area of the Seleucid Empire.

He will come to power shortly after the rapture. The antichrist will need to have some sort of story to tell the world about what happened to the people who are missing.



Courtesy of kindpng

He might say the missing people were **abducted by aliens** from another planet and the people of the world need to set aside their differences and join together to fight a common enemy.

He may use one of the latest teachings of the new age movement, that man is about to take another step in the

evolutionary process. This time a spiritual step. They believe that the earth will spit out anyone who is not able to take this evolutionary step.

God will bring a **strong delusion** to the people of the earth so that they will believe a lie.

Roman Empire



Courtesy of Roman Culture



Courtesy of Answers from scripture

Many prophecy experts believe the European Community is the revived Roman Empire, represented by the ten horns.

I believe it will be something much bigger than the European Community. Something that includes the EC. It could be the **new world order**, under the direction of the United Nations, which is gaining more power and influence every day.

The antichrist, represented by the little horn, will **overpower three of the ten men** who head the revived Roman Empire.

We have no idea who these men will be or how they will be over-powered.

The **eyes on the little horn** tell us that he will be **very intelligent**.

The **mouth** indicates that he will be a **great speaker** and he will be able to persuade the people to follow him.

He will **speak blasphemies against God**, and he will **persecute** the people who become **Christians** during the tribulation period.

He will try to change the times and the laws - means he will try to change the Jewish religious holidays and traditions.

He will persecute the Christians for **a time, times, and half a time**.

A time is a biblical way of saying a year, times is two years, and half a time is half a year. For a total of **3 ½ years!** It will be during the **second half of the tribulation**.

The antichrist is going to come on the world scene **pretending to be a good guy**. In Revelation 6:2, he is symbolized as the rider on a white horse.

'I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.'

Notice he **counterfeits Jesus** by riding a white horse. He comes to conquer in **PEACE** because he has no arrows for his bow.

I don't think the Jewish people will believe he is the Messiah promised in the Bible because this guy will probably not be Jewish. However, one of the things he will do is **sign a peace treaty with Israel for seven years**. This will make him very popular with the Jewish people. They will come to their senses half-way through the seven-year tribulation.

The vision of the Ancient of Days

Daniel 7:9-14 "I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; A fiery stream issued

and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened. "I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. "I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.

The thrones of all earthly kingdoms are destroyed when God sets up his kingdom here on earth. That was represented by the rock crushing the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

The '**Ancient of Days**' is another name for **God the Father**.

His **white clothing** and **white hair** represent **His holiness, His righteousness, and His purity**.

The **glory of God**, pictured as a **fiery flame**, is common in the Bible. The **fire** is also a **symbol of judgment**. God is about to judge the world. The **wheels on the throne** symbolize His ability to **bring judgment anywhere in the universe**. God has thousands of angels in heaven to carry out His sovereign will.

There wasn't a way to say large numbers in Biblical Hebrew. Instead, they would say **ten thousand times ten thousand to mean an uncountable amount**.

The **Son of Man** is another way of saying the Messiah or **Jesus**.

The Bible tells us the other beasts will be stripped of their authority but will be allowed to live a little while. This tells us that the Babylonians, Media-Persian, and Greek Empires would be stripped of their great power but they won't be completely wiped out until the end times. God will judge the antichrist and he will

be thrown into the lake of fire. The Bible tells us Daniel was pale and deeply troubled by the vision but didn't tell anyone about it.



Courtesy of Life Hope and Truth

Daniel's Visions Interpreted

Daniel 7:15-28 "I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. I came near to one of those who stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So, he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things: 'Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth. But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.' "Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, which devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet; and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows. "I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, until the Ancient of Days came, and

a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.

Daniel 7: 23-29 "Thus he said: 'The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces. The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom. and another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings. He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time. 'But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever.

Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.'

"This is the end of the account. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly troubled me, and my countenance changed; but I kept the matter in my heart."

Daniel Chapter 7 Summary

Kingdom	Symbol	Representative
BABYLON 7:4 (Dan 2:37-38)	A LION	Nebuchadnezzar
PERSIA 7:5 (Dan 2:39)	A BEAR	Cyrus
GREECE 7:6 (Dan 2:39)	A LEOPARD	Alexander the Great
ROME 7:7-8 (Dan 2:40-43)	A ONE-HORNED MONSTER WITH TERRIBLE TEETH	Historical-Roman Caesars Prophetical antichrist
EVERLASTING KINGDOM 7:9-14 (Dan 2:44-45)	THE SON OF MAN	THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Daniel Chapter 8

The vision of a Ram and a Goat

Daniel 8: 1-7 In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me—to me, Daniel—after the one that appeared to me the first time. I saw in the vision, and it so happened while I was looking, that I was in Shushan, the citadel, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in the vision that I was by the River Ulai. Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and there, standing beside the river, was a ram which had two horns, and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last. I saw the ram pushing westward, northward, and southward, so that no animal could withstand him; nor was there any that could deliver from his hand, but he did according to his will and became great. And as I was considering, suddenly a male goat came from the west, across the surface of the whole earth, without touching the ground; and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes. Then he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing beside the river, and ran at him with furious power. And I saw him confronting the ram; he was moved with rage against him, attacked the ram, and broke his two horns. There was no power in the ram to withstand him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled him; and there was no one that could deliver the ram from his hand.



THE GREAT GOAT

© Darryl Skytta

This is the third 3rd year of Belshazzar.

Susa - would become the capital of the Media Persian Empire.

The Ram symbolizes the Medes and Persians.

It had 2 horns - 1 for Medes, 1 for Persians

One horn was longer symbolizing that the Persians were stronger than Medes.

The ram was charging - North, South, and West. **NOT** East - The Persians did not conquer to the east.

The Persians believed the guardian spirit of the Persian kingdom appeared as a ram with clean feet and sharp-pointed horns. Whenever the Persians went into battle, the Persian king stood at the head of his army **wearing the head of a ram** on his head instead of a crown.

Daniel 8:8-14 Therefore, the male goat grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven. And out of one of them came a little horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious Land. And it grew up to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and some of the stars to the ground, and trampled them. He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host; and by him the daily sacrifices were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down. Because of transgression, an army was given over to the horn to oppose the daily sacrifices; and he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered. Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who was speaking, "How long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot?" And he said to me, "For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed."

The Goat symbolized Greece. It came from the west, where Greece is in relationship to Persia. It did not touch the ground; this shows the great speed of

the Greek army. It broke the horns of the Ram means it wiped out the Medes and Persians. The Goat had one horn that was broken. It represented Alexander the Great, who died early at age 32. The 4 smaller horns that came up symbolize his 4 generals. They are the same as the 4 heads on the leopard. Greece was represented by a goat in those days. The word Aegean means "goat" so the Aegean Sea means the 'Goat Sea. This is the sea between Greece and Turkey.

Years ago, different lands were assigned to the signs of the zodiac according to astronomical geography. Aries the ram represents Persia. Capricorn the goat represents Greece. The word 'Caper' means goat and 'cornu' means horn. So, you have Greece represented in the heavens as a horned-goat. "

Two important things came into being as a result of the Greek Empire. The first was a **road system** built to link the conquered countries together. The second was the **Greek language**, which became the common language throughout the empire. Having a common language and a good road system was a major help to the missionaries in spreading the gospel.

Gabriel Interprets the Vision

Daniel 8:15-27 Then it happened, when I, Daniel, had seen the vision and was seeking the meaning, that suddenly there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision." So, he came near where I stood, and when he came, I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, "Understand, son of man, that the vision refers to the time of the end." Now, as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me, and stood me upright. And he said, "Look, I am making known to you what shall happen in the latter time of the indignation; for at the appointed time the end shall be. The ram which you saw, having the two horns—they are the kings of Media and Persia. And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king. As for the broken horn and the four that stood up in its place, four kingdoms shall arise out of that nation, but not with its power.

"And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king shall arise, having fierce features, who understands sinister schemes. His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; He shall destroy fearfully, and shall prosper and thrive; He shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people. "Through his cunning he shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; and he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; But he shall be broken without human means. "And the vision of the evenings and mornings which was told is true; therefore, seal up the vision, for it refers to many days in the future." And I, Daniel, fainted and was sick for days; afterward I arose and went about the king's business. I was astonished by the vision, but no one understood it.

A little horn came from one of these, and its power reached to the **south, the east, and even to the holy land.**

This passage has a **dual fulfillment**. The little horn that came up after represents **two evil men** who were to come in the future. The first man has already come. The second man is soon to come.

The first man came out of the Seleucid kingdom about 175 B.C. His name was



Courtesy of Carole R Reisman

Antiochus Epiphanes, which means '**Antiochus, god manifest.**' He had 80,000 Jewish people killed. He sold another 40,000 into slavery. He substituted Greek worship and culture for the Jewish religion. Instead of celebrating the feast of Tabernacles, he introduced the feast of Bacchus, the god of pleasure and wine. He forbade the observance of the Sabbath and the reading of the Holy Scriptures. He burned every copy of the Torah he could find and forbade the Jewish people to

practice anything Jewish under the penalty of death. He did many, many, horrible things, and the Jewish people called him **Antiochus Epimanes, which means 'Antiochus the Madman.**

He is a type of antichrist. He stopped the daily sacrifice at the temple and **he set up an image of Zeus in the temple.** Then he **sacrificed a pig on the altar** and

took the blood and sprayed it all over the inside of the temple. It was 2,300 days from that time until he died and the temple was cleansed and back in use again.

The second evil man, **the antichrist**, will do many of the same things as Antiochus Epiphanes. He will stop the daily sacrifice at **the temple in Jerusalem**. The false prophet will have a statue of the antichrist set up in the temple. This will happen at the **mid-point of the Tribulation**. The **false prophet will perform great miracles** by the power of Satan. He will cause **the image** of the antichrist in the temple **to speak**. The false prophet will have everyone who will not worship the image put to death. He will also force all the people to receive a **mark on their right hand or forehead**. This mark is commonly called the '**mark of the beast**.' Without this mark on the right hand or forehead, **no one will be able to buy or sell**.

This is the first mention of the angel Gabriel in the Bible.



Courtesy of How stuff works

Notice, Gabriel told Daniel the vision was about the end of time. He also told him it wouldn't happen for a long time and not to tell others about it.

It bothered Daniel so much he was sick in bed for several days.

The reference to the little horn becoming so strong that it attacked the **stars of heaven** tells us there will be some sort of spiritual warfare that will take place between the angels of God and the demons of Satan. The antichrist will be very successful in all his plans and **he will cause truth to be wiped out**.

Daniel Chapter 8 Summary

SYMBOL	KINGDOM	REPRESENTATIVE	EVENT
A TWO-HORNED RAM 8:1-4,20	MEDES AND PERSIANS	DARIUS III	Some 250 YRS. In advance, Daniel predicts the resounding defeat of Darius III by Alexander 332 Kingdom divided 4 generals
A ONE-HORNED GOAT 8:5-8,21,22	GREECE	ALEXANDER	Lysimachus-Asia Minor Cassander- Greece Ptolemy- Egypt Seleucus- Syria

TWO LITTLE HORNED KINGS 8:9-20,23-27	PAST-SYRIA FUTURE- REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE	ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES ANTICHRIST	Both to conquer much. Both to magnify self Both deceitful Both offer a false peace Both hate Israel Both profane temple Both energized by Satan Both active in the Middle East for seven years Both to speak against God Both to be destroyed by God
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Daniel Chapter 9

Daniel's Prayer for the People

Daniel 9:1-2 In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans— in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the Lord through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

The 70 years of captivity in Babylon were prophesied by Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 29:10-14 For thus says the Lord: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.

Now Daniel prays and confesses his sins and the sins of the nation.

Daniel 9:3-Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. And I prayed to the Lord my God,

and made confession, and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land. O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame of face, as it is this day—to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those near and those far off in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You. "O Lord, to us belongs shame of face, to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him. We have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by His servants the prophets. Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore, the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him. And He has confirmed His words, which He spoke against us and against our judges who judged us, by bringing upon us a great disaster; for under the whole heaven such has never been done as what has been done to Jerusalem. "As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us; yet we have not made our prayer before the Lord our God, that we might turn from our iniquities and understand Your truth. Therefore, the Lord has kept the disaster in mind, and brought it upon us; for the Lord our God is righteous in all the works which He does, though we have not obeyed His voice. And now, O Lord our God, who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and made Yourself a name, as it is this day—we have sinned, we have done wickedly!

"O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people are a reproach to all

those around us. Now therefore, our God, hear the prayer of Your servant, and his supplications, and for the Lord's sake cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate. O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations, and the city which is called by Your name; for we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies. O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name."

The Seventy-Weeks Prophecy

Daniel 9:20- Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God, yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore, consider the matter, and understand the vision:

"Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.

"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until **Messiah the Prince**, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times. "And after the sixty-two weeks **Messiah shall be cut off**, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. the end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one

week; but **in the middle of the week** he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.”

Sackcloth is a very **coarse cloth**, made from goat or camel's hair. When someone wore sackcloth and sat in ashes it was a **sign of mourning or penitence**. Daniel was depriving himself of any comforts: food, fine clothes, or a comfortable chair to sit in.

Daniel identifies with the sin of the people.

Daniel's prayer was 3 minutes. God dispatched Gabriel at the start of Daniel's prayer with the answer and was there when Daniel finished praying.

Gabriel said there would be 70 weeks. That would be 70 times 7, or 490. During Daniel's prayer, he talked about 70 years of captivity. So, we can safely assume we are still using years as our unit of measure.

One week = 7 years

$70 * 7 = 490$ years against the Jewish people and Jerusalem.

There were several reasons for this:

- the transgressions of Israel will not be finished until they, as a nation, repent and turn to God. This will happen at the end of the great tribulation.
- when Jesus returns to earth to deliver Israel at the battle of Armageddon, He will bring sin to an end.
- Jesus will reconcile himself to Israel.
- Messiah Jesus will sit on the throne of David in Jerusalem, and everlasting righteousness will be established.
- visions and prophecies will be a thing of the past as Messiah Jesus sets up his throne here on earth.

Ezekiel chapters 41 and 42 describe the millennial temple that will be built.

The Shekinah glory of God will return and anoint the Most Holy Place.

Gabriel told Daniel the city and the temple would be destroyed again after the death of the Messiah. Jesus also confirmed this as He cried for Jerusalem.

Matthew 23:37-39 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Gabriel told Daniel that when the command was issued for the rebuilding of Jerusalem **until the Messiah** there would be 7 weeks and 62 weeks (69 * 7 years). That would be a total of **483 years**. Nehemiah was the cupbearer for King Artaxerxes. One day when he was serving the king, the king noticed that Nehemiah was sad. He asked Nehemiah why he was sad. Nehemiah told the king he desired to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the wall of the city. The king granted his request and allowed Nehemiah to return to the city of Jerusalem. This is recorded in Nehemiah chapter 2. The first verse of that chapter tells us this took place in the Jewish month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign. This would have been **March 14, 445 B.C.** on our calendar.

A biblical year is **360 days**. To correctly calculate when 483 years would be finished, you will need to multiply 483 by 360.

Total weeks in prophecy 70.

1 week equals	7 years.
Total years:	7 x 70 = 490 years
First 69 weeks	7 x 69 = 483 years

483 years
 x 360 days (Number of days in a biblical year.)

173,880 Total number of days.

Convert to years of 365 days.
 173,880 / 365 = 476 years plus 140 days

The number of leap days during this time 116 days.

Total time between the command to rebuild Jerusalem until the Messiah is killed.
 476 years and 24 days.

Note: There is no year 0. The year 1A.D. follows 1 B.C.

Command Issued to rebuild the temple:
 March 14, 445 B.C.

Jesus rides into Jerusalem:
 April 6, 32 A.D.
 The crowd proclaims Him King and Messiah. A plot hatched to kill Him.

The 70th week still in the future.
7 years = Tribulation Period.

Adjust for leap days.
140 days
- 116 leap days.

24 extra days

A few days before Jesus was nailed to the cross He rode into Jerusalem on a young donkey. The crowd placed palm branches and their coats on the ground. They shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the Highest!' As usual, the Pharisees in the crowd who didn't recognize Jesus as the Messiah wanted Jesus to rebuke his followers. Jesus told them if they kept silent the very rocks would cry out.

Luke 19: 41-44 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace -- but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you.

As you can see, Jesus said that the people didn't recognize the time of God's coming. This I believe is a reference to Gabriel's message to Daniel in chapter nine. The rabbis, scribes, and Pharisees should have **immediately recognized** Jesus as the true Messiah if they had studied the prophecy in Daniel chapter nine. Gabriel told Daniel that the Messiah would not die for himself. We know that this is true because Jesus died for the sins of the world!!

They didn't recognize Jesus that day as their Messiah because God blinded their eyes for a time so that the Gentile world would have the chance to hear the gospel message. As we approach the return of Messiah Jesus, many Jewish people are accepting Jesus as their Lord and Messiah.

Gabriel told Daniel the city and the temple would be destroyed again after the death of the Messiah. Jesus also confirmed this as he cried for Jerusalem. In 70

A.D., Titus the Roman conquered the city and had five million Jews killed. The city was left in ruins and not one stone of the temple was left upon another. We are living in a period referred to by Jesus as the '**times of the Gentiles**.' Jesus told His followers that Jerusalem would be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled."

The seventieth week is another term for the tribulation period, it starts with the signing of the peace treaty.

When the rapture occurs, the times of the Gentiles, also referred to as 'the church age', will be over. In verse 27, Gabriel explained that 'he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week.' This describes the antichrist making a peace treaty with many nations and Israel for seven years. Gabriel referred to the antichrist causing the daily sacrifice to stop in the middle of the seven years. Jesus referred to this very thing happening in the future.

Matthew 24:15-21: 'When you see standing in the holy place "the abomination that causes desolation," spoken of through the prophet Daniel--let the reader understand--then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house. Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak. How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now--and never to be equaled again.'

This would be a good time to go back and look at the timeline in the introduction.

We talked before about the image standing in the temple. This is what Jesus called 'the abomination of desolation. That will be half-way through the tribulation period. Then all the people of the world will have to take the mark of the beast or die! **Anyone who takes the mark of the beast, or worships the anti-antichrist or his image, will spend eternity burning in the lake of fire!** Jesus said the people in Judea will run to the mountains to escape the antichrist. Bible scholars believe the Jewish people will go to Petra."

Daniel Chapter 9 Summary

TIME OF PRAYER	FIRST YR. OF PERSIAN RULE 538 BC (9.2)	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
OCCASION FOR PRAYER	Daniel's Understanding of Jeremiah's prophecy (9.2)	To whom does this prophecy refer?	Israel (9:24)
BASIS FOR THE PRAYER	THE PROMISE OF GOD THE MERCY OF GOD	What are the Seventy Weeks	They refer to 7 sevens of years, or, 490 yrs.
CONFESSIONS IN THE PRAYER	WE HAVE SINNED (9:5,8,9,11,15,16)	When would this period begin?	At the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls, March 14,445 B.C.
REQUESTS IN PRAYER	That God would bring them out of Babylon as he once did out of Egypt. That he would forgive (9:19) That God would allow the temple to be rebuilt (9:16,17)	What are the three-time periods within the Seventy weeks? What happened during each period?	7 weeks or 49 years From 445-396 B.C. Walls to be rebuilt in troublous times. 62 "weeks" for 434 years. (from 396b.c. to 32 A.D.- Messiah to be crucified.)
ANSWER TO PRAYER	"Yea, while in prayer... Gabriel...touched me." (9:21)		Church Age 1 "week" or 7 years From rapture- Armageddon Ministry of antichrist and the return of Christ

Daniel Chapter 10

Chapters 10, 11, and 12 are all one vision.

- Chapter 10 is the introduction.
- Chapter 11 and part of 12 is the vision.
- The remaining part of chapter 12 is the closing of the book of Daniel.

King Cyrus allowed the Jewish captives to return to Israel. Many of the captives did not return to Israel but chose to stay in Babylon.

The vision of the Glorious Man

Daniel 10:1-9 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar. The message was true, but the appointed time was long; and he understood the message, and had understanding of the vision. In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled. Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris, I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude. And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; but a great terror fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. Therefore, I was left alone when I saw this great vision, and no strength remained in me; for my vigor was turned to frailty in me, and I retained no strength. Yet I heard the sound of his words; and while I heard the sound of his words I was in a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.

Daniel fasts and prays for 3 weeks.

anoint myself - This would be olive oil. It was normally used to add moisture to the skin and hair in the desert.

In the third year of Cyrus the king of Persia, a message came to Daniel from God.

This is a Christophany - A pre-Bethlehem appearance of Jesus.



In Daniel, He is clothed in linen, like the high priests, representing His office as our high priest. His face is described as being like lightning. Lightning is often used in the Bible about the Messiah. His burning eyes symbolize His **omniscience** (means all-knowing). His arms and feet being like **polished bronze** indicate the strength with which he can **vanquish His enemies**. He is pictured as having a **voice of a multitude**. This **points to the judgment** He will carry out when He appears. Daniel fainted when he saw the Messiah and when he came to, an angel was standing before him.

© Lisa Ransom



Courtesy of Revelation Scriptures

Revelation 1:13-16 and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword His face was like the

sun shining in all its brilliance.

Prophecies Concerning Persia and Greece

Daniel 10:10-21 Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly

beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling.

Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come." When he had spoken such words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless. And suddenly, one having the likeness of the sons of men touched my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke, saying to him who stood before me, "My lord, because of the vision my sorrows have overwhelmed me, and I have retained no strength. For how can this servant of my lord talk with you, my lord? As for me, no strength remains in me now, nor is any breath left in me."

Then again, the one having the likeness of a man touched me and strengthened me. And he said, "O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you; be strong, yes, be strong!" So, when he spoke to me, I was strengthened, and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me." Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come. But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince.

The Prince of Persia opposed me for 21 days - This refers to the demon over Persia. In the following verses, we will see that there is a hierarchy of Demons.

Satan has organized his fallen angels in much the same way a general would organize his army. From reading these verses, we see Satan placed a demon over the affairs of Persia. The angel God sent to Daniel had been engaged in spiritual warfare with this demon for **three weeks.**

Michael, one of the chief princes - Michael is the angel who defends Israel and he had to come to the aid of the other angel who had been battling the demon over Persia.

Daniel fainted when he saw the Messiah and when he came to, an angel was standing before him.

Ephesians 6:11-17: 'Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

Daniel Chapter 11

In verses 1-35 of chapter eleven there are approximately 135 prophecies about the remaining years of the Medo-Persian Empire and the future Greek Empire. They were, of course, all fulfilled just as Daniel wrote them down in 540 BC. It also includes some more information about the antichrist.

Daniel 11:1-2 "Also in the first year of Darius the Mede, I, even I, stood up to confirm and strengthen him.) And now I will tell you the truth: Behold, three more kings will arise in Persia, and the fourth shall be far richer than them all; by his strength, through his riches, he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece.

Four Persian Kings would rule after Cyrus and the fourth would be the richest of all.

- Cambyses (529-522)
- Smerdis (522-521)

- Darius Hystaspes (521-486)
- Xerxes (486-465) (by far the richest) Esther was married to him. He attacked the Greeks.

Daniel 11:3-4 Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will. And when he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken up and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not among his posterity nor according to his dominion with which he ruled; for his kingdom shall be uprooted, even for others besides these.

A mighty King would rule. - This was Alexander the Great (336-323)

This king would suddenly die in his prime. His kingdom would not be given to his **posterity** but would be **divided up by outsiders into four sections**. This is what happened. Shortly after his death, Philip, his half-brother; Alexander II, his legitimate son; and Hercules, his illegitimate son, were all murdered and Alexander's four generals took over.

Warring Kings of North and South

Daniel 11:5 "Also the king of the South shall become strong, as well as one of his princes; and he shall gain power over him and have dominion. His dominion shall be a great dominion.

One of the generals, Ptolemy, would begin a southern dynasty in Egypt, and another general, Seleucus, would do the same through a northern dynasty in Syria. Ptolemy ruled from 323-283 BC and Seleucus from 304-281 BC.

Daniel 11:6-9 And at the end of some years they shall join forces, for the daughter of the king of the South shall go to the king of the North to make an agreement; but she shall not retain the power of her authority, and neither he nor his authority shall stand; but she shall be given up, with those who brought her, and with him who begot her, and with him who strengthened her in those times. But from a branch of her roots one shall arise in his place, who shall come with an army, enter the fortress of the king of the North, and deal with them and prevail. And he shall

also carry their gods captive to Egypt, with their princes and their precious articles of silver and gold; and he shall continue more years than the king of the North.

“Also, the king of the North shall come to the kingdom of the king of the South, but shall return to his own land.

These two kings would fight, but later their countries would ally. Egypt and Syria did ally in 250 BC. It happened after both generals had died when Ptolemy II Philadelphus (283-246), the son of Ptolemy I, gave his daughter **Bernice** in marriage to Antiochus II Theos (262-246), the grandson of Seleucus.

Two years later her father, Ptolemy II died, and her husband Antiochus divorced her and remarried his former wife, whose name was Laodice.

Laodice, still bearing a grudge, poisoned Antiochus and had Bernice murdered. She then appointed her son, Seleucus II to become King of Syria.

Meanwhile, in Egypt, Bernice's brother, Ptolemy III, succeeded his father on the throne. He ruled from 246-221 BC.

Ptolemy III invaded Syria and revenged his sister's death by executing Laodice. Seleucus II hid out in Asia Minor during this Egyptian invasion.

Ptolemy III then carried away much Syrian loot, including 40,000 talents of silver, and 2500 precious vessels.

Daniel 11:10-20 However his sons shall stir up strife, and assemble a multitude of great forces; and one shall certainly come and overwhelm and pass through; then he shall return to his fortress and stir up strife. “And the king of the South shall be moved with rage, and go out and fight with him, with the king of the North, who shall muster a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into the hand of his enemy. When he has taken away the multitude, his heart will be lifted up; and he will cast down tens of thousands, but he will not prevail. For the king of the North will return and muster a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come at the end of some years with a great army and much equipment. “Now in those times many shall rise up against the king of the South. Also, violent men of your

people shall exalt themselves in fulfillment of the vision, but they shall fall. So, the king of the North shall come and build a siege mound, and take a fortified city; and the forces of the South shall not withstand him. Even his choice troops shall have no strength to resist. But he who comes against him shall do according to his own will, and no one shall stand against him. He shall stand in the Glorious Land (Israel) with destruction in his power.

“He shall also set his face to enter with the strength of his whole kingdom, and upright ones with him; thus, shall he do. And he shall give him the daughter of women to destroy it; but she shall not stand with him, or be for him. After this he shall turn his face to the coastlands, and shall take many. But a ruler shall bring the reproach against them to an end; and with the reproach removed, he shall turn back on him. Then he shall turn his face toward the fortress of his own land; but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found.

“There shall arise in his place one who imposes taxes on the glorious kingdom; but within a few days he shall be destroyed, but not in anger or in battle.

In 240 BC Seleucus II attempted unsuccessfully to counterattack Ptolemy III in Egypt. Seleucus died and was succeeded by his son Antiochus III (also known as the Great). Antiochus ruled Syria from 223-187 BC.

Ptolemy III died and was succeeded by his son, Ptolemy IV Philopaton (221-204).

These two kings (Antiochus III and Ptolemy IV) met head-on in a crucial battle at Raphia in 217 BC. This battle, where both sides used massive elephants, was won by Ptolemy IV.

In 203 BC Ptolemy IV died and was succeeded by Ptolemy V Epiphanes (203-181).

In 198 BC Antiochus the Great wrestled control of Israel from Ptolemy V at a battle outside Sidon.

In 193 Antiochus the Great gave his daughter Cleopatra to marry Ptolemy V. (not the famous Cleopatra, for she would not come along until 69 BC) The reason for this marriage was to keep Egypt off his flank when he pursued warfare against

Rome. Antiochus the Great also hoped Cleopatra would foster Syrian interests in Egypt. But Cleopatra turned out to be a loyal wife.

Antiochus the Great was at this point joined by the renowned self-exiled Hannibal from Carthage. Together they invaded Greece, but in 188 BC were completely driven out of that part of the world by Rome.

Antiochus' grandiose plans failed utterly. He died in 187 BC

His older son, Seleucus IV Philopator (187-176), then ruled but was later murdered by his prime minister (11:20).

Daniel 11:21-28 And in his place shall arise a vile person, to whom they will not give the honor of royalty; but he shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue. With the force of a flood they shall be swept away from before him and be broken, and also the prince of the covenant. And after the league is made with him he shall act deceitfully, for he shall come up and become strong with a small number of people. He shall enter peaceably, even into the richest places of the province; and he shall do what his fathers have not done, nor his forefathers: he shall disperse among them the plunder, spoil, and riches; and he shall devise his plans against the strongholds, but only for a time. "He shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the South with a great army. And the king of the South shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand, for they shall devise plans against him. Yes, those who eat of the portion of his delicacies shall destroy him; his army shall be swept away, and many shall fall down slain. Both these kings' hearts shall be bent on evil, and they shall speak lies at the same table; but it shall not prosper, for the end will still be at the appointed time. While returning to his land with great riches, his heart shall be moved against the holy covenant; so, he shall do damage and return to his own land.

The Northern King's Blasphemies

Daniel 11:29-35 "At the appointed time he shall return and go toward the south; but it shall not be like the former or the latter. For ships from Cyprus shall come against

him; therefore, he shall be grieved, and return in rage against the holy covenant, and do damage. "So, he shall return and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant. And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation. Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet for many days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering. Now when they fall, they shall be aided with a little help; but many shall join with them by intrigue. And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time.

Daniel 11:21-35 talks about **Antiochus Epiphanes** - Some of this could apply to the **antichrist** too.

He was the youngest son of Antiochus the Great and is immediately classified as a vile person by the **WORD OF GOD** (Dan 11:21)

He was nicknamed named "**Epimanes**" which means **madman** by those who knew him best.

He practiced deceit and pretended to be a second century Robin Hood

In 170 BC he defeated the Egyptian King Ptolemy Philometor (181-145) at a battle just east of the Nile delta. This young king was his nephew, for his mother Cleopatra, was his father's (Antiochus) sister!

Ptolemy lost this battle because he was betrayed by some of his friends who sat at his table (11:26)

Antiochus then took his young nephew to Syria and pretended to befriend him. But they did not trust each other. (11:27)

Antiochus had hoped to capture Egypt but was stopped coldly by the mighty Romans (11:30)

He took out his insane rage on the city of Jerusalem (11:28-35)

Antichrist

Daniel 11:36-39 "Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done. He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all. But in their place, he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things. Thus, he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain.

The antichrist shall do everything according to his own selfish will. He shall magnify himself and malign God. The antichrist will scream out unbelievable blasphemies against God, insults no one else could ever think of, or would dare say if they could. He will be allowed by God to prosper during the tribulation (11:36)

The phrase "that which is determined shall be done" reminds us that **God is in absolute control**, even during the terrible reign of this monster.

He will not regard "the gods of his fathers". "Gods" is plural here; it appears that he will attack all organized religions.

He will not have the desire for (or of) women.

- This could mean that he will not have a desire for love and marriage with a woman.
- It could also mean he will not desire things that are normally associated with women (mercy, gentleness, and kindness)
- The desire of Jewish women to be the mother of the messiah.

His god will be the "god of fortresses" (11:38) He will spend his resources on military programs.

The Northern King's Conquests

Daniel 11:40-45 "At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through. He shall also enter the Glorious Land (Israel), and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon. He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also, the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels. But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore, he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many. And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.

In the latter days, he will be attacked by the king of the south (Egypt) and the king of the north (Russia?) (11:40) This could be a reference to the battle in Ezekiel 38-39.

He will occupy Israel (11:41)

Edom, Moab will not be occupied by him. Both of these areas are across the Jordan River in Jordan. Petra is in Edom and I believe the Jews will hide there after the antichrist declares himself to be god in the temple in Jerusalem. Ammon is a city in Jordan today.

Once he gains control of Israel he will march to Egypt and control that land. (11:42-43)

While he is in Egypt, he hears alarming rumors from the east and north (11:44)

What does he hear:

Possibilities

- Jewish uprising
- Invasion of 200 million warriors (Rev 9:16)

- Report that the Jews are escaping to Petra.

He quickly returns to Israel and destroys many

He establishes his headquarters on Mt. Zion (Jerusalem). 11:45

Daniel Chapter 12

Prophecy of the End Time

Daniel 12:1-13 "At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.

"But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase." Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two others, one on this riverbank and the other on that riverbank. And one said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, "How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?" Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished. Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, "My lord, what shall be the end of these things?" And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand. "And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.

Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days. "But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days."

Daniel was told to shut up the words, and **seal the book until the time of the end**; Our ability to understand the book of Daniel is a sign that we are getting close to the tribulation starting.

The expression **many shall run to and fro** is talking about an increase in travel. In the past 100 years travel has greatly increased. We take vacations on the other side of the world and think it is a rough trip to be on a plane for 13 hours. We have put men on the moon. This is certainly an increase in travel.

Daniel is told **knowledge shall increase**.

- ❖ From the year 4000 B.C. until the year 1 B.C. knowledge doubled once.
- ❖ It took another 1,780 years for it to double again.
- ❖ In 1997 knowledge was doubling every 22 months.
- ❖ In 2013 knowledge was doubling every 13 months.
- ❖ Now in 2020 knowledge is doubling every 12 hours!!!!

The next prophetic event is the **great catching away** of the believers in Jesus. **It could come at any day now. Are you ready?**

Revelation

Apocalypse (unveiling)



Courtesy of Bellator Christi

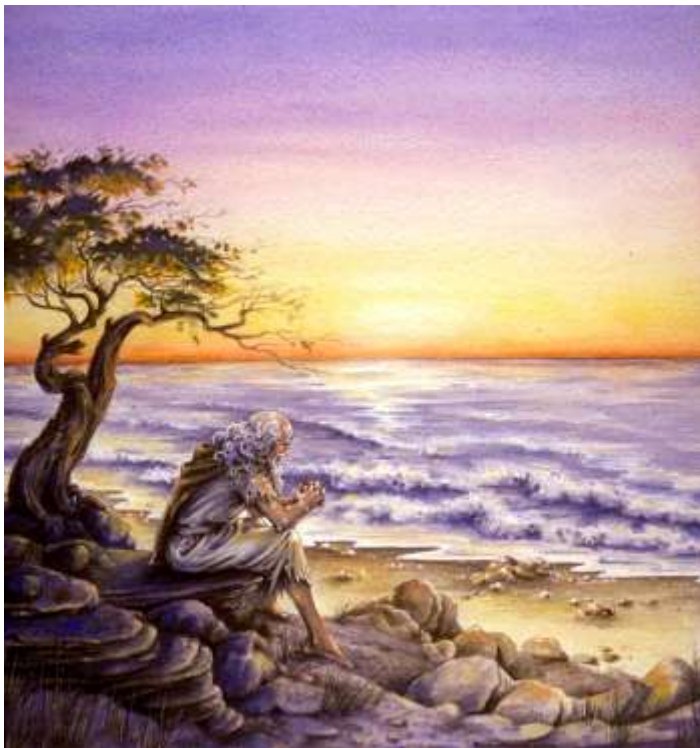
The book of Revelation was written about 95 or 96 A.D.

It was given to John by an angel of God.

John was on the "Island of Patmos" at this time.

John was banished to Patmos because he was preaching and teaching about Jesus.

Revelation Chapter 1



Courtesy of Pat Marvenko Smith

Introduction and Benediction

Revelation 1:1-3 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants— things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

This is the **ONLY** book of the Bible with a blessing to those who read it and believe its message.

The book comes with a **warning** to the reader not to add to or take away from the book. I think this warning extends to the entire Bible and not just to the book of Revelation.

Revelation 22:18-19 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

The first three chapters of Revelation covers prophecy about the church age, the time from the day of Pentecost until the Rapture. 7 churches are addressed which were 7 actual churches at the time that John was writing, but they also are prophetic in their descriptions of **7 periods of church history**.



Courtesy of Bible Scripture

Greeting the Seven Churches

Revelation 1:4-8 John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

The 7 spirits represent the omnipresent "Spirit of God "

In Isaiah 11:1-2, the 7 spirits are listed.

- 1) Spirit of the Lord,
- 2) Spirit of Wisdom,
- 3) Spirit of Understanding
- 4) Spirit of Counsel
- 5) Spirit of Strength
- 6) Spirit of Knowledge
- 7) Spirit of "Fear of the Lord"

In vs. 5-7 Jesus is spoken of His trustworthiness, His power over death, His Lordship over earthly Kings, and His salvation in washing away our sins by dying on the cross.

In vs. 5 Jesus is described as the "first begotten of the dead". This is not saying that Jesus was born. It is saying that He is the first to be resurrected from the dead never to die again.

Jesus declares himself as the **Alpha** and **Omega**. In other words, He has always been and always will be. He also declares Himself to be Almighty God. John also confirms this in vs. 4.

Even so, Amen Means: This is true. It will happen exactly as stated. To paraphrase this, John is saying, "I was transported by the Holy Spirit into the future to the "Day of the Lord".

He hears a voice like a trumpet. In the Old Testament, the trumpet was used as a **call to worship** and also as a **call to war**. The trumpet is also associated with the "Day of the Lord".

The vision of the Son of Man

Revelation 1:9-20 I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea." Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me.



Courtesy of Revelation Scriptures

And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun

shining in its strength. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am

He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

This is Jesus and He instructs John to write to the 7 churches (groups of

believers) in western Turkey. They represent all believers.

The number 7 signifies "Moral completeness".

Gold signifies divine righteousness.

The 7 candlesticks symbolize 7 churches (groups of believers).

So, the 7 golden menorahs symbolize the church in its **completeness and perfection** here upon the earth.

The true church, made up of Jewish and Gentile believers, is perfect, and without spot or wrinkle.

The candlesticks give light, which is the principal function of the church (believers).

Olive oil is implied which is symbolic of Holy Spirit issuing a witness.



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The title "**Son of Man**" emphasizes His **humanity and Messianic character**.

The **robe** reaching to His feet is best explained by the clothing of the **High priest and judge**.

The **Golden girdle** across His breast symbolizes His **righteousness and Faithfulness**.

His **White hair** symbolizes His **purity and perfection**.

His **Flaming eyes** are burning, penetrating, searching **exposing sin**.

His **shining face** shows the **glory of God**

His **brass feet** symbolize **judgment** (The Brazen Altar and other items of Brass in connection with sacrifice for sin.)

His **voice** like the sound of "many waters" speaks of **His authority**.

The **two-edged sword** coming out of his mouth tells us God will **judge by the force of His word**.

He never uses his hands or any other body part **only His word**. **He speaks**.

Jesus comes to receive power and authority over the entire world. John fell at His feet as a dead man. John realized his sinful state before Almighty God and collapses in fear and awe. The description of our Lord is humbling to me. How awesome and Holy is Our Lord. I would not want to be on the receiving end of His wrath. It is comforting to know that Christians do not have to fear His wrath. We will however be judged concerning what rewards we will receive.

Jesus told him not to be afraid. A touch by the Messiah calms John's fears and he is then able to receive the revelation.

Jesus reminds John that he was dead and is alive forevermore. He tells John that He has the keys to death and hell. This tells us He is **sovereign over physical death as well as over Hell, spiritual death**. In his death and resurrection, Jesus gained from Satan any authority the devil may have over death.

John is instructed to write about:

- ❖ Things seen (chapter 1),
- ❖ things, which are (chapters 2 and 3),
- ❖ things, which shall be hereafter (chapters 4-22)

Revelation Chapter 2

The messages to the 7 churches are covered in chapters 2 and 3.

This is a three-fold message to the churches "groups of believers".

- 1) The contemporary purpose: That Jesus had a direct message to seven literal churches existing at that time.
- 2) The composite purpose: These messages are to be applied by all churches existing of all ages.
- 3) The chronological purpose: That the characteristics of these churches serve as a prophetic view of seven periods in history from Pentecost (the start of the Church Age) to the rapture (the end of the Church Age).

There is a pattern to the messages to each church:

- 1) Jesus is described differently to each church to fit their situation.
- 2) Each church's good qualities and strengths are recognized.
- 3) Their faults are noted.
- 4) Then Jesus demanded they correct the problem.
- 5) After the message to each church Jesus says: "**He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.**" Here those with spiritual sense are urged to act. Some do not have this spiritual ear and will not heed the warning.
- 6) Finally, each church is given a promise to encourage them to heed Jesus's warning.

Ephesus - The Loveless Church

Revelation 2:1-7 "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.

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

The name Ephesus means "**desirable**" The Apostolic church age. (A.D. 30-300) - First love lost.

Ephesus was a large city in western Turkey. The temple of Diana (Artemis) was located in Ephesus. If you are interested in learning more about the church at Ephesus (see Acts 18:19-21; 19; and 20:17-38)

The Nicolaitans From the Greek Niko - to conquer and laos - "people". Meaning to conquer the laity (the average believer). **This is referring to Jesus's hatred of a church hierarchy.**

The Apostolic Church period saw the writing of the New Testament and an attempt to evangelize the known Roman world.



Courtesy of Wikipedia

The Library of Celsus in Ephesus

Smyrna - The Persecuted Church

Revelation 2:8-11 "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."

The name Smyrna means "**myrrh**" The Martyr (Persecuted) church age (A.D. 100 313).



Courtesy of John Marks Hicks

Smyrna is modern-day Izmir, Turkey.

The temple of Zeus (the supreme Greek God) and the temple of Cybele (Goddess of nature) were located in Smyrna.

Myrrh was used to embalm dead bodies.

The believers in Smyrna

were severely persecuted. Both Jewish and non-Jewish believers in Jesus were persecuted during the corresponding church age. (A.D. 100 313).

Note verse 10 "the devil shall cast you into prison" The devil (Satan) is behind the wicked schemes of evil men.

The "Crown of Life" is also known as the Martyrs crown. (See also James 1:12) It is one of the crowns believers can earn. This is not one I hope to earn. (of course, this is not talking about salvation) The different crowns will be discussed later in Chapter four.

Pergamos - The Compromising Church

Revelation 2:12-17 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. Thus, you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."

The name Pergamos means "**marriage**" - the Compromising church age. (A.D. 314 590) They tolerate false teachers.

On the acropolis, the temple of Athena, an altar to Zeus, and the temple of Escuapius stood.

The altar to Zeus had a base of over 100 ft sq. and 40 ft high.

Escuapius was a pagan God whose idol was in the form of a **serpent**.

Acropolis (Greek) Akron - top; polis city - hence an acropolis is a high fortified hill-city.

The "Doctrine of Balaam" was the teaching that the people of God should intermarry with the heathen and compromise in the matter of idolatrous worship. (See Num 31:15-16)

Pergamos means Pergo "tower" gamos "marriage". This makes us think of its "tower" to Athena and Zeus and its "marriage" of Christianity with paganism.

Known as "**Satan's seat**".



Courtesy of Turkish Class

Amphitheater in Pergamon, Turkey

It has been said that since Satan could not drive the Church out of the world by persecution during the Smyrna period, he attempted to drive the world into the church in the Pergamos era.



Courtesy of Reformation

Satan's Seat taken to Berlin by the Nazi's.

Thyatira - The Corrupt Church



Courtesy of Den Vincent

Revelation 2:18-29 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. Nevertheless, I have a few things against you, because you

allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. Indeed, I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works. "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. But hold fast what you have till I come. And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'— as I also have received from My Father; and I will give him the morning star. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

The name Thyatira means "**continual sacrifice**" The Roman Catholic Church age. (A.D. 590 1517) - Dominated by a powerful false prophet.

Lydia was from Thyatira (see Acts 16:14-15)

The church of Thyatira was allowing pagan worship to enter their church. The false prophetess "Jezebel" was teaching immorality and idolatry and she was unrepentant.

During the period represented by this church, the church became corrupt. It sought to **combine Christianity with pagan philosophy and heathen religious rites** so that much of the ritual of the church at that period is directly traceable to comparable ceremonies in heathen religions. During the middle ages, the false teaching of the continual sacrifice of Jesus was advocated transforming the observance of the elements of the Lord's Supper into another sacrifice of Jesus.

Revelation Chapter 3

Sardis - The Dead Church

Revelation 3:1-6 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore, if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

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



Courtesy of Ancient History Encyclopedia

The name Sardis means "remnant" The Revival church age. (A.D. 1517 1700) - Spiritually dying church.

The temple of Artemis was here. Pagan worship was practiced by most of the city. There were many mystery cults and secret religious societies.

The church here had a reputation among the churches in the area and was considered a spiritual church. However, in God's eyes, they were "spiritually dead"

This is symbolic of the Reformation Period. A compromising church had surrendered the great truths, which were recovered in the reformation period.

Martin Luther was shocked when he visited Rome.



Courtesy of Wikipedia

Martin Luther

He said "If there is a Hell, then Rome is built over it!", he says, calling it a "cesspit of sin".

The stairs in the picture to the right are said to have been taken from Jerusalem, where Jesus walked up the stairs to stand before Pontius Pilate.

Today, countless Catholics crawl up the stairs and recite the Rosary on each step, in hopes of having their time in purgatory shortened.

So very sad!

To learn how to get your sins forgiven, go to the last section "[How to go to Heaven](#)"



Courtesy of An American in Rome

Holy Stairs in Rome

Philadelphia - The Faithful Church



Courtesy of dbray46

Revelation 3:7-13 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens": "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My

word, and have not denied My name. Indeed, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Philadelphia -the name means "**brotherly love**" The Revival church age. (A.D. 1700 - 1900) Faithful witnessing church.

Jesus has nothing bad to say about this church. He commended them for two things.

They confessed to the inspiration of the Word of God and the incarnation of the Son of God.

The corresponding period in church history saw **great missionary work**.



Courtesy of a Jesus Mission

Hudson Taylor
China

Famous Missionaries from the 1800's



Courtesy of Boston University

Amy Carmichael
India



Courtesy of Wikipedia

David Livingstone
Africa

Laodiceans - The Lukewarm Church

Revelation 3:14-22 "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, these things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

The name Laodicea means, "**people's rights**". The Worldly Church age. (A.D. 1900 - Rapture). Lukewarm church.

Jesus had nothing good to say about them!

2 Timothy 3:5 - Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. (KJV)

This city was a banking center and possessed immense wealth. Eye ointment was made here. It was also known for its wool distribution and manufacturing. Yet Jesus said they were miserable, (spiritually) poor, (spiritually) blind, and (spiritually) naked.

Jesus said they were **lukewarm**. Every time I read this verse I think of TEA. I like ice tea and I like hot tea. But don't give me lukewarm tea. YUCK!!! I would that it was hot or cold. Jesus has more respect for fiery hot fanaticism or icy cold formalism than for lifeless and lame lukewarmness.

This is the state of many churches today. Jesus told us nearly 2000 years ago that the last period in church history before he returns would be lukewarm.

Friends let us not be lukewarm in our faith and spiritual walk.



Courtesy of Trip Advisor

Revelation Chapter 4

The Throne Room of Heaven

Revelation 4:1-11 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."



© Darryl Skytta

Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones, I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. And from the throne proceeded

lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.

The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying:

"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns

before the throne, saying: "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."

John is transported into heaven. This is symbolic of the "**Rapture**".

The Rapture is not to be confused with the Second Coming of Jesus. The **Second Coming** happens at the end of the Tribulation period.

The "church" has been mentioned over and over again in chapters 1 thru 3. **After John is transported into heaven the church is not mentioned again until Rev 22:16.**

People who become followers of Jesus during the "tribulation" period are not referred to as "the church" they are "saved Israelites" or "saved Gentiles".

There are those people who believe that "the church will go through all or part of the "tribulation" period. I, however, do not believe the scriptures support that position.

So "the church" is spared the coming wrath of God.

What is the Rapture?

There is coming a day when God will take all the true Christians, the Bride of Christ, out of the world, this event is known as the rapture.

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I come again, and will receive you unto myself; that where I am, [there] ye may be also.

Mark 13:32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

1 Corinthians 15:52-53 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so, we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore comfort one another with these words.



Courtesy of Truth Watchers

Luke 17:34-35 I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left."

1 Thessalonians 5:2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in

the night.

Titus 2:13 Waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Think about these scenarios.

1: Your mother is cooking dinner. Your father is in the yard mowing the lawn. Your brothers and sisters are playing in the living room. The rapture happens. You are not a Christian, but the rest of your family are Christians. You arrive home shortly after the rapture takes place. Describe what you find. {Dinner burning, lawnmower still running, TV on, nobody there}

2: You are in the car with your family riding down the highway. The rapture happens. You are not a Christian, but the rest of your family are Christians. Describe what happens. {Accidents all over}

3: You are on an airplane with your family. You are flying to Hong Kong. The rapture happens. You are not a Christian, but the rest of your family are

Christians. Describe the scene. {People missing with their clothes, glasses, false teeth, etc., left behind}

4: It is night and you are sleeping in your bed. The rapture happens while you are asleep. You are not a Christian, but the rest of your family are Christians. Describe what you discover in the morning when you wake up. {Empty beds, PJs under the covers}

People will be missing from all over the world...**all Bible Believing Christians**. Probably young children are all gone too. The world will search for an answer, they may say aliens took them. **Don't you believe it!**

The rainbow around the throne tells us that there shall be mercy amid judgment. The **complete circle** of the rainbow symbolizes **the sovereignty of God**. There will be many people who turn to Jesus during this time. The **total green** rainbow is to remember **God's grace**.

The jasper and sardine stones: **Jasper is a white stone** and **sardine is a red stone**. On the breastplate of the High Priest, there were 12 stones, one for each of the tribes of Israel. The first stone was a jasper stone to represent "Reuben" whose name meant, "Behold a son". The last stone was a sardine stone to represent "Benjamin" whose name meant "son of my right hand".



Courtesy of Revelation Scriptures

This may be God's way of reminding us of:

Behold a son Jesus's incarnation.

Son of my right-hand Jesus's deity.

The 24 seats with 24 elders: These elders represent "**the church**". The white garments symbolize that they have been

justified from sin by the garment of His righteousness. They are wearing crowns of gold, which are the rewards they have received at the **Bema Judgement** for their earthly service.

In 1 Chron. 24:3-19 The priests were divided into 24 "courses" or groups. The High Priest who symbolized "Jesus, made the total number 25. This is probably why the number 24 is used.

They are pictured as seated showing they are resting from their earthly labors.

They will rule and reign with Jesus for 1000 years.

Note: The church is the true believers, from Pentecost until the Rapture.



Courtesy of Lion and Lamb Ministries

The lighting, thunder, and voices indicate that judgment is ahead.

The **7 lamps of fire** burning before the throne represent **the Holy Spirit**.

Before the throne of God is a "sea of glass like crystal" In the temple the Brazen Laver was used for cleansing before entering the temple. **The**

crystal sea symbolizes the day when we will never need to confess our sins again. Why? Because we will be sinless!

The 4 living creatures are a type of angel. They have similar characteristics of the cherubim and seraphim but appear to be different. They symbolize 4 characteristics of God. They also represent that His government is over the 4 corners of the earth.

1) Like a **lion** compared with **Matthew's** portrayal of Jesus. He showed Jesus as the "**Lion of the tribe of Judah**".

2) Like a **calf** (bull) compared with **Mark's** portrayal of Jesus. He showed Jesus as the lowly ox. **A servant**.

3) Like a **man** compared with **Luke's** portrayal of Jesus. He showed Jesus as **the perfect man**.

4) Like an **eagle** compared with **John's** portrayal of Jesus. He showed Jesus as **the mighty God**.

They sing "Holy, Holy, Holy" - One for each member of the Tri-Unity (Trinity) of God.

The church (the 24 elders) will fall at His feet and worship Him. We will cast our crowns before Him telling Him:

Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will, they existed and were created.

The Bema Judgment

The Greek word "**Bema**" means "**Judgment Seat**".



Courtesy of ABC News

During the ancient Greek Olympics, the judge of the contest sat on an elevated seat. After the contest was over the competitors came before him to receive their rewards. This was not a judicial bench to determine if someone was condemned; it was a **reward seat**.

No unbelievers will take part in this judgment. This is for believers only.

2 Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (KJV)

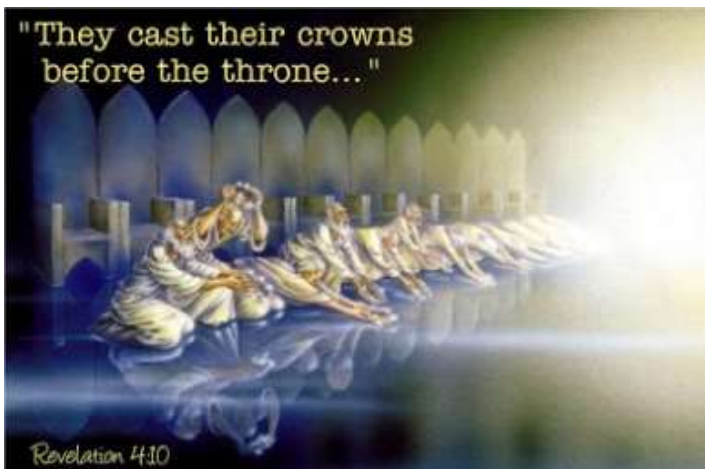
We, believers in Jesus, will have to stand before Jesus to give an account of ourselves. This has nothing to do with our entrance into heaven. We receive rewards based on how we have lived our lives for Him after we became believers. (See 1 Corinthians 3)



Courtesy of Are we living in the last

The Bible tells us of the 5 Crowns believers can earn with God's help:

- 1) **The incorruptible crown** - Given to those who master the old nature. (1 Corinthians 9:25-27)
- 2) **The crown of rejoicing** - given to soul winners. (Proverbs. 11:30; Daniel 12:3; 1 Thessalonians 2:19,20)
- 3) **The crown of life** - given to those who successfully endure temptation. Also known as the Martyrs Crown. (James. 1:2, Rev. 2:10)
- 4) **The crown of righteousness** - given to those who especially love the doctrine of the rapture and Jesus's return. Of course, this righteousness is not our own, but God's credited to us. (2 Tim 4:8)
- 5) **The crown of glory** - given to faithful preachers and teachers. (Acts 20:26-28; 2 Tim. 4:1,2; 1 Peter 5:2-4) (Wilmington Guide to the Bible, pg. 829)



Courtesy of Throne Room Ministries

Sadly, not everyone will receive a crown and some will suffer loss.

"If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss. (1 Corinthians 3:15)

Jesus tells us in:

Revelation 22:12 - And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give

every man according as his work shall be. (KJV)

What will we do with these crowns? The crowns of the church are laid at God's feet as an act of submission and worship. (Rev. 4:10)

The only one worthy of wearing a crown is God or Jesus.

Revelation Chapter 5

The Lamb Takes the Scroll

Revelation 5: 1- 7 And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals. "And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:8-14 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."

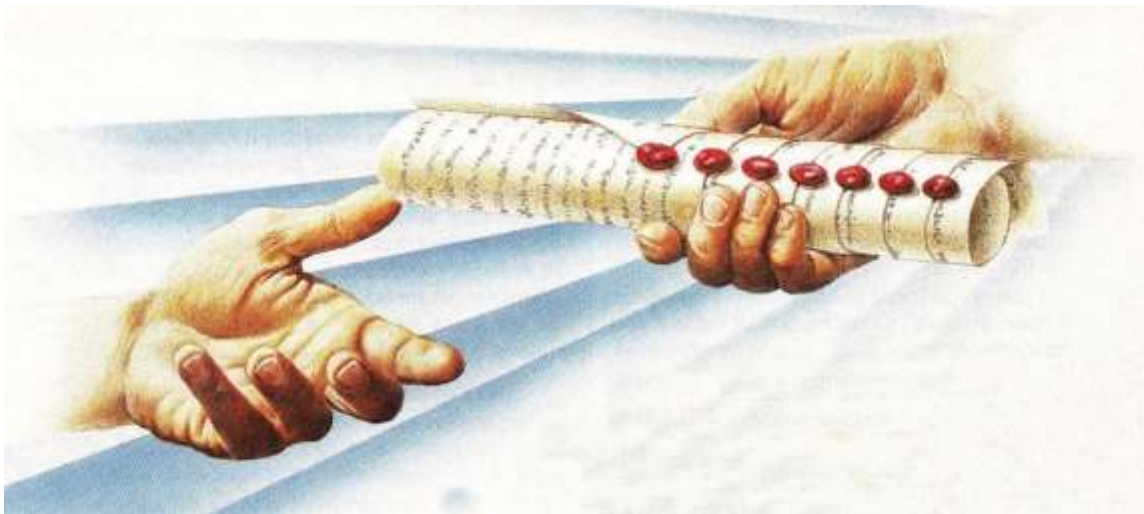
Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!" And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I

heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!" Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

Here we see God the Father seated on the throne. In his right hand, he has a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with 7 seals. This is the "**Title deed of the earth**".

Note: Roman law required a will to be sealed 7 times.

The strong angel who is selected to make the pronouncement is probably *Gabriel* although we cannot be sure of that.



Courtesy of Revelation Scriptures

Remember what Daniel was told:

Daniel 12:4 But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge."

Now we are about to unseal the book and learn about the future. (Prophecy)

John cried because no one was worthy "morally fit".

He is told that "the Lion of the tribe of Judah" is worthy. This is the only time Jesus is referred to this way in this book. He is referred to as a lamb 28 times.

Genesis 49:10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

The word "**Shiloh** means **"the one to whom it belongs"**. The scepter belongs to Jesus.

Among the 24 elders "**stood a Lamb as it had been slain**". This is Jesus and it is referring to his death for our sins.

The **7 horns** represent His complete **omnipotent power**. The horns also represent a King.

The **7 eyes** represent His complete **omniscience power**. This is also compared to "the 7 spirits of God" Holy Spirit.

Jesus receives the deed to the earth and prepares to open it up. **Only He is "worthy"**. Chapters 4 and 5 give the basis for Divine Judgment on earth by Jesus that begins in detail in Ch. 6.

Two Reasons why He is worthy and able to Judge

One reason He is the slain lamb. He has redemptive authority

(Sovereign ownership of creation: He purchased it!) (All creation Col 1:20, Rom 8:19-22) Blood Bought Creation

The second reason - His lineage is in the root of David. (5:5) (Lion of Judah)

Kingly Authority (Sovereign right to Rule the Earth)- Davidic Covenant

When Jesus started his ministry, He quoted

Isaiah 61:1,2 "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

He stopped reading there because the rest of the verse was a future prophecy for when he returns. This states: "to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn" (Isaiah 61:2)

The lamb will become a lion. That is why he is called the lion from the tribe of Judah. (Rev 5:5)

If someone has not accepted him as their savior then He will judge them at the White Throne Judgment. This will be explained further in Ch. 19.

In taking the scroll from the Father, it is evident that Jesus alone will execute the judgments. Everyone bows in worship of Jesus.

The 24 elders have golden bowls with the prayers of the saints. The importance of the prayers of those on earth is inferred.

The only two instruments mentioned in heavenly worship are the trumpet and the harp.

The 24 elders sing and praise God.

John uses the expression "I beheld" (saw) 44 times in the book of Revelation.

He uses the express "I heard" 27 times in the book of Revelation.

The Hebrew language did not have a way of saying huge numbers so they would say 10,000 x 10,000 to represent an uncountable number.

We see Jesus receives the same worship, honor, and Glory as the Father because he is equal with the Father.

The scene around the throne and the book (4:1 5:14)

Revelation Chapter 6

Chapter 6 covers the first 6 seals. There is a total of 7 seals.

Jesus opens each of the seals.'



Courtesy of Pat Marvenko Smith

The Four Horseman of the Apocalypse

First Seal: The Conqueror (Antichrist)

Revelation 6:1-2 Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." And I looked, and

behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

The 1st Living Creature invites John to "Come and See". The rider on the white horse is the "antichrist". He has a **bow but no arrows** symbolizing a **bloodless victory**. He wears a victor's crown. He will be some sort of **political ruler**. In Biblical times a conqueror would ride a white horse. The antichrist is a counterfeit. As we study him, we will see that he imitates Jesus. Jesus will ride a white horse when He returns to earth in Rev 19:11. The antichrist will show up at the beginning of the seven-year tribulation period and appear to be a man of peace. He will get the nations to sign a peace treaty with Israel. After 3 1/2 years, he will break the treaty. (Dan 9:24-27)

Second Seal: Conflict on Earth

Revelation 6:3-4 When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.



Courtesy of Gis Resources

The 2nd Living Creature invites John to "Come and See". This rider is granted the ability to take peace from the earth. This is war. Red speaks of the bloodshed. There is no indication of how large a war this will be or where it will be located.

This is quite possibly a world war. It could be a nuclear war. It might be the war in Ezekiel 38 and 39. **We just don't know.**

Third Seal: Scarcity on Earth

Revelation 6:5-6 When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So, I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."



Courtesy of IG Biology

The 3rd Living Creature invites John to "Come and See". This rider has a pair of scales in his hand.

A denarius was a day's wage. A quart of wheat is approximately one meal and 3 quarts of barley are approximately 3 meals. (Barley is not as expensive as wheat) We are being told that the people will work all day to earn enough money to just

eat. They will have no extra money to buy other things.

This is famine. Famine often follows after a war. Life will be reduced to the barest necessities.

It could also be hyperinflation where the money is worthless and it takes a wheelbarrow full of money to buy the food for the day.

Fourth Seal: Widespread Death on Earth

Revelation 6:7-8 When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." So, I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.



Courtesy of Genetic Literacy Project

The 4th living creature invites John to "Come and See". The rider is named "death" and his partner is "hell".

They are given the authority to kill **1/4 of the world's population**. This is mind-boggling. This is from just one of the seals. We have no idea how many will die from the war in

the 2nd seal, or the famine in the 3rd seal.

They will die by war, famine, pestilence, and the wild beasts of the earth. There are so many pestilences (diseases) out there it is not hard to imagine one or more of these becoming a more serious pandemic than the current coronavirus.

The "wild beasts of the earth" are interesting too. Do you think wild animals will find their way into the big cities to attack mankind or do you think this would be limited to rural areas? Perhaps they will only prey on those sick and dying from the war, famine, and pestilences.

Hell follows death. This is very sad, but true because after the rapture all the people left will be unbelievers. Some people will become believers during this time. The next seal will show us some of them.

Current World Population 7,794,380,150 on 15AUG21.

One fourth would be 1,948,595,037 billion people, dead from this **one seal**.

Fifth Seal: The Cry of the Martyrs

Revelation 6:9-11 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

John sees the souls of those slain during the tribulation because of the "word of God" and their testimony. These are people, Jewish and Gentile, who become believers during the tribulation.

They are under the alter, in keeping with the fact that the blood of the sacrifices of the Old testament was poured under the altar (Ex 29:12; Lev 4:7)

There have been martyrs through the centuries but those martyrs are not included here. They cry out to God to avenge their blood "on them that dwell on the earth". This indicates that their executioners are still alive.



Courtesy of Revelation Scriptures

There will be many people who put their faith in Jesus during the tribulation period. It appears that the majority of them will be put to death. (See Rev Ch. 7 and ch.13)

They receive white robes, symbolizing righteousness. It appears that they receive a temporary body, probably like the believers from the old

testament period would have received upon arrival in heaven. They do not receive their glorified bodies until after the tribulation (Rev 20:4-6 more on this in chapter 20)

Sixth Seal: Cosmic Disturbances

Revelation 6:12-17 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the

face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

The sun becomes black as a sackcloth. **The moon becomes like blood.** The stars of the sky fell to the earth. The sky is split like a scroll. Every mountain and island was moved out of their places.

This is an earthquake like no other earthquake!! It sounds like there will be volcano's erupting too and also tidal waves.



© Darryl Skytta

The people of the earth seem to realize that the day of divine wrath has come and they don't want to face God. They **cry out for the rocks to fall on them.**

The "day of wrath" is not a 24-hour day. It is the same as the "Day of the Lord."

There will be a great loss of life from this judgment although the

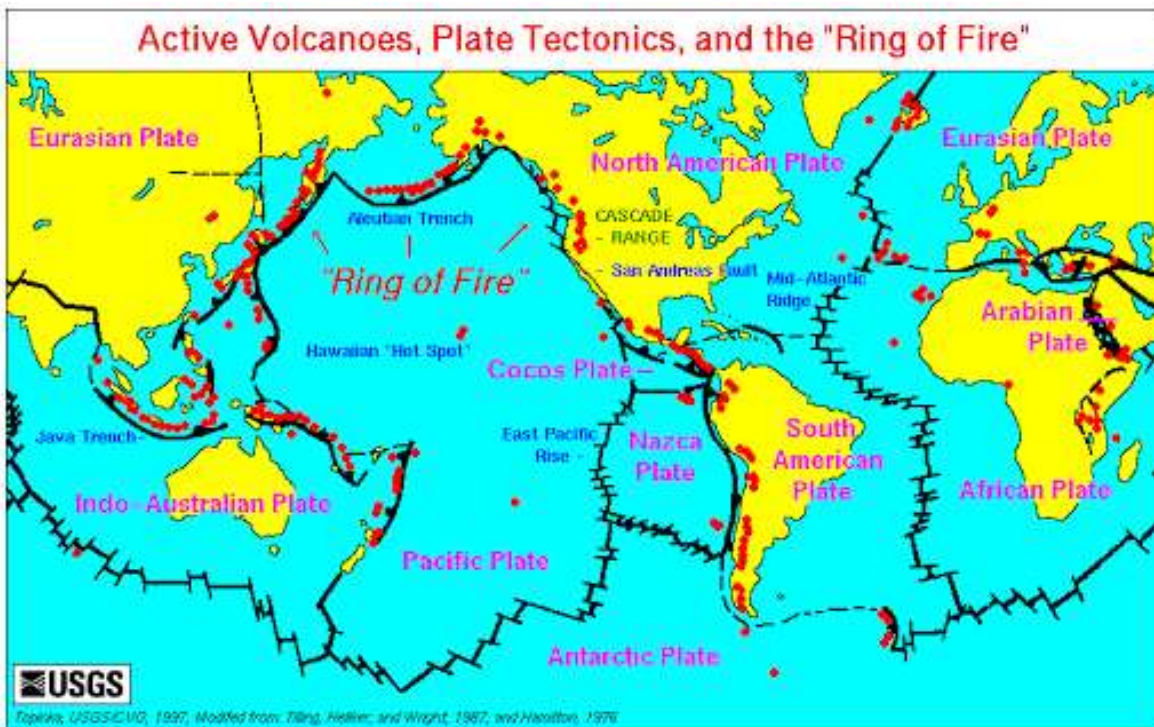
Bible doesn't tell us how many will perish.

Today when there is an earthquake or some other disaster, flood, war, famine, etc. other people come to help out or send relief. During the tribulation, I think that everyone will be concentrating on their survival and unable to help anyone else.

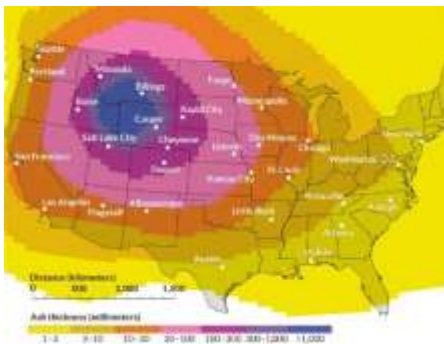
The infrastructure will be greatly disrupted.



Courtesy of Market Business News



What if Yellowstone erupts?



Courtesy of Science News

Several earthquakes will occur during the **tribulation period**. It would be no surprise if this set off a series of earthquakes worldwide.

10 mm = 1/3 inch

100 mm = 3.9 inches

1000 mm = 39 inches

The most dangerous aspect of the eruption, however, is the ash fallout, both locally and globally.

Breathe this in and it'll **lacerate your lungs** and form a **glassy cement**. It's also about six times denser than water, which means **plenty of architecture would collapse** under its weight as it accumulates on rooftops. Poland points out that "even a few tens of centimeters of wet ash could cause weak buildings to buckle."

Roads and sewer systems would clog and break down, water supplies would be contaminated, and electrical grids would short out. Millions of homes could become uninhabitable.

Assuming there are no strongly prevailing winds, Denver would get about 30 centimeters (about a foot), whereas Calgary would get about 10 centimeters (3.9 inches). The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) would help with the cleanup/relocation for many months or even years.

Elsewhere - say San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Minneapolis, and Chicago - would receive about 3 centimeters (1.2 inches). **A fine layer would make it as far as Miami, New York, and Toronto within a few days, still enough to cause vehicles to break down and water to become unpotable.**

Flights would be grounded or diverted away from the United States - at least for a few weeks.

The ash's injection into the stratosphere would **cause it to darken the sky and cool regional, if not planetwide temperatures.** If the eruption is particularly sulfur-rich - an efficient blocker of sunlight - then temperatures would plummet several degrees, to the point where the next few years will **lack a summer.**

There would likely be significant cooling for many years

The paths and timings of monsoons would change. Tropical cycle formation would become far more unpredictable for a while and the spread of waterborne-diseases could take highly erratic paths.

Agriculture would also suffer, which could severely disrupt food supplies.

Revelation Chapter 7

The Sealed of Israel

Revelation 7:1-8 After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. Then 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 granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their

foreheads." And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:
of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed;
of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed;
of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed;
of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed;
of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed;
of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed;
of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed;
of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed;
of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand were sealed;
of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed;
of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed;
of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed.

A Multitude from the Great Tribulation

Revelation 7:9-17 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen. "Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" And I said to him, "Sir, you know. "So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne

will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”



Courtesy of the Truth and the Truth Alone

We see 4 angels at the 4 corners of the earth holding back the 4 winds so that **no wind would blow on the earth, sea, or trees**. Here we see our God is sovereign over the elements.

Another angel from the east comes with the seal of God. He cries to the other angels to wait until he has sealed the servants of God.

No wind = no rain.

The two witnesses cause it to **not rain for 3 ½ years**. More details on them later.

There will be 12,000 sealed from each of the 12 tribes of Israel. The total of this group is **144,000**.

When the 12 tribes are listed in various Bible passages the lists will vary. Jacob whose name was later changed to Israel by God had 12 sons to 4 women.

Sons of Israel

1. Reuben	2 Simeon	3. Levi	4. Judah
5. Zebulun	6. Issachar	7. Dan	8. Gad
9. Asher	10. Naphtali	11. Joseph	12. Benjamin

Sealed

From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben 12,000, from the tribe of Gad 12,000, from the tribe of Asher 12,000, from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000, from the tribe of **Manasseh** 12,000, from the tribe of Simeon 12,000, from the tribe of Levi 12,000, from the tribe of Issachar 12,000, from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000,

from the tribe of Joseph 12,000, from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000.

Joseph had 2 sons Ephraim and Manasseh. Israel said that they would inherit with His sons. So, in some lists, you will not see Joseph but Ephraim and Manasseh listed. Also, Levi is often not listed because they do not inherit the land, as they are the priestly tribe. Their inheritance is the Lord. (Deut 9:10)

In the list given in Chapter 7, Joseph is listed with his son Manasseh. The tribe of Dan is missing as well as the tribe of Ephraim.

Why? Some believe that Dan is missing because they think the Antichrist will come from the tribe of Dan, they use *Genesis 49:17* as their proof text.

Others believe Dan was one of the first to go into idolatry; it was a small tribe and was possibly classified with Naphtali because they share the same mother.

I think it may have something to do with this passage:

Deuteronomy 29:18-21 Make sure there is no man or woman, clan or tribe among you today whose heart turns away from the Lord our God to go and worship the gods of those nations; make sure there is no root among you that produces such bitter poison. When such a person hears the words of this oath and they invoke a blessing on themselves, thinking, "I will be safe, even though I persist in going my own way," they will bring disaster on the watered land as well as the dry. The Lord will never be willing to forgive them; his wrath and zeal will burn against them. All the curses written in this book will fall on them, and the Lord will blot out their names from under heaven. The Lord will single them out from all the tribes of Israel for disaster, according to all the curses of the covenant written in this Book of the Law.

Both the tribes of Dan and Ephraim participated in introducing idolatry into Israel.

It is believed that the 144,000 are sealed so that no harm will come to them and they will go out preaching the gospel to the entire world. It appears their ministry may be limited to the first 3 1/2 years of the tribulation period. (More on them in chapter 14).

John looked and saw a great multitude of people. From every nation, all tribes, and peoples, and tongues.

They are standing before the throne (God the Father) and before the Lamb (Jesus) They are clothed in white robes and have palm branches in their hands. Not only will many Jewish people be saved, but many gentile people will also be saved during the tribulation period.

Rev 7:9 describes them as "a great multitude, which no one could count" (NAS)

The white robes symbolize their righteousness; the palms indicate their triumph.

Their praise is 7-fold. 1) Blessing, 2) Glory, 3) Wisdom, 4) Thanksgiving, 5) Honor, 6) Power, and 7) Might.

Notice verse 11. The angels and the 24 elders (representing the church) are mentioned separately from this multitude. This shows this multitude (the martyrs) is not a part of the church. Remember the church is made up of all believers from Pentecost to the Rapture. This multitude is saved during the tribulation and is not considered part of the church.

Notice we are told they will not hunger or thirst anymore. Also, the sun will not scorch them anymore. Sounds like they have been through a very rough time, "The tribulation". Notice to **God will wipe away their tears**. Isn't that just like the loving God we have? How great is His compassion toward us!

Revelation Chapter 8

Seventh Seal: Prelude to the Seven Trumpets

Revelation 8:1-8 When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an

earthquake. So, the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

Jesus breaks the 7th seal. There is silence in Heaven for **30 minutes**. The contents of this seal are so terrible that everyone in heaven is speechless. The silence shows the gravity of the situation. It may be compared to the silence before the foreman of the jury reports a verdict, for a moment of perfect silence and everyone awaits that which will follow. The number 30 in the Bible is often associated with mourning. Israel mourned for 30 days over the death of both Aaron (Num 20:29) and Moses (Deut. 34:8).

The 7th seal contains seven trumpet judgments. Seven angels with trumpets prepare to sound.



Courtesy of Pat Marvenko Smith

Another angel with a golden censer offers the prayers of the saints on the altar before God. In the Old Testament, the priests would burn incense upon the altar of incense, and the smoke would fill the Temple and would ascend to heaven. The incense was symbolic of worship and prayer. This angel is fulfilling the role of the High Priest. Some people believe him to be Jesus.



Courtesy of The Brick Bible

Trumpets were used to summon the people to worship. This will be the function of the trumpet at the rapture. The church will be summoned to worship Almighty God. Trumpets were also used as a battle call. These trumpets are calling the angels to battle.

"The clear implication is that the censer is here used as a symbol of judgment, apparently in response to

the intercession and prayers of the saints in the midst of the great tribulation."
"The Revelation of Jesus Christ" by Walvoord p. 153.



Courtesy of The Brick Bible

First Trumpet: Vegetation Struck

Revelation 8:7 The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

Hail and fire cast upon the earth. **1/3 part of the trees are burnt up and ALL green grass.** (Compare with Ex 9:18-26)

How could they possibly fight 1/3 of the trees on fire?

Imagine the air pollution from the smoke, soil erosion from the lack of grass. I suspect that crops may be burnt up along with the grass. There would be a lack of oxygen from the sudden lack of plants.



Courtesy of The Brick Bible

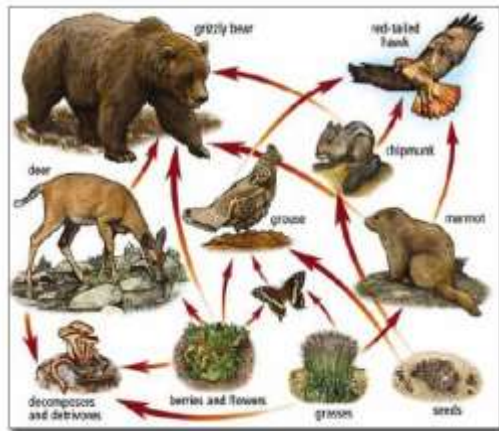
Plantlife was the first to be created and it will be the first to be destroyed.

This is pretty scary. Imagine hail, fire, and blood falling from heaven.



Courtesy of Revelation Scriptures

Would the food chain be disrupted?



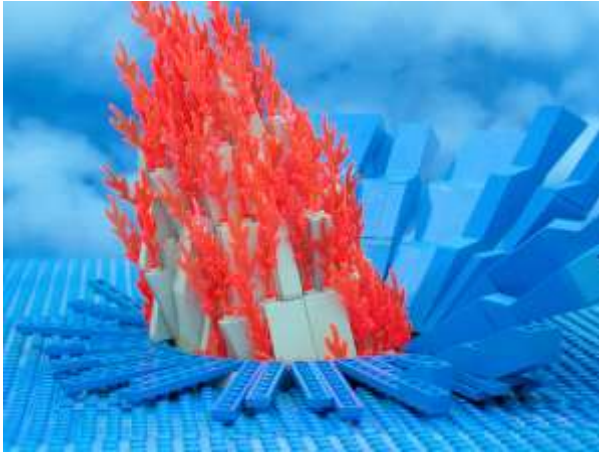
Courtesy of Clarence Schools



Courtesy of 123rf

Second Trumpet: The Seas Struck

Revelation 8:8-9 Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.



Courtesy of The Brick Bible

A great mountain burning with fire. This was probably John's way of describing an asteroid or a meteor.

Here we have **1/3 of the saltwater turned to blood, 1/3 of the sea creature's dead, and 1/3 of the ships destroyed.**

The probability is that all life and ships are destroyed in the area of the earth nearest to the impact of

the great burning mountain. It seems reasonable that there would be title waves too.



Courtesy of Revelation Scriptures



Courtesy of The Brick Bible

This sounds like the plague against Egypt where the Nile and other bodies of water became blood.

Third Trumpet: The Waters Struck

Revelation 8:10-11 Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water.

The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.



Courtesy of Revelation Scriptures

1/3 of all freshwater, rivers, and fountains of water turned bitter caused by a falling star.

This is another heavenly body perhaps a comet or another asteroid.

"Wormwood" is a perennial herb, extremely bitter, it is

used in France as a beverage, and is much more intoxicating and destructive to the human body than ordinary liquors.



Courtesy of The Brick Bible

In Exodus 15:23-25, a tree was cast into bitter waters to make them sweet. Here "wormwood" turns sweet water bitter.

Fourth Trumpet: The Heavens Struck

Revelation 8:12-13 Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night. And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice,

"Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

1/3 of sun, moon, and stars turned black.

This means **8 hours of total darkness out of a 24 day**. There is no indication of how long this judgment lasts. It may be a short period or it may be for the rest of the tribulation period.

Sure, we have electric lights now, but this will have a serious impact on life on earth.

How will this impact the human race? Colder weather? Crop failure?

The first 4 trumpets are inflicted on nature. The 5th and 6th trumpets are inflicted on man.



Courtesy of The Brick Bible

Why do you think each of these judgments involved 1/3? Why not 1/4, 1/5, 1/2, etc.?

So far in just these 4 judgments, food is destroyed, distribution is crippled, water supply is limited, and production is hampered.

Three "woes" are announced in this verse. Showing us that things are getting worse and worse with each judgment. They are associated with

the next trumpets.

The word "Woe" refers in scripture to some great calamity, usually a judgment from God.

I checked 10 different English translations of the Bible and there is one word that deserves some attention. In 8 of the Bibles, an "**eagle**" is flying through the air and in 2 translations it is an "angel". The KJV and NKJV are the only ones to use "**angel**".

The Biblesoft Greek software gives this definition of the word.

NT:105 - aetos (ah-et-os'); from the same as NT:109; an eagle (from its wind-like flight):

Later in the verse, three angels are mentioned and the word for "angels" in Greek is:

NT:32 - aggelos (ang'-el-os); from aggello [probably derived from NT:71; compare NT:34] (to bring tidings); a messenger; especially an "angel"; by implication, a pastor: - KJV - angel, messenger.

The commentaries we are using all say it is an eagle that is crying out "Woe, Woe, Woe".

(Compare with Numbers 22)

Revelation Chapter 9

Fifth Trumpet: The Locusts from the Bottomless Pit

Revelation 9:1-12 Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So, the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. They were the commanded not to harm grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. In those days' men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them. The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months. And they had as king over them the angel of

the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon. One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.

In verse 1 John saw "a star fall from heaven". Sometimes angels are referred to as "stars". This "fallen star" appears to be Satan. (See Isaiah 14:12-17; Luke 10:18; Rev 12:7-9)

The "bottomless pit" is "abyssos" in Greek. "The Abyss". This is another name for hell.

Smoke escapes from the pit and when there's smoke there's fire. This is an excellent verse showing us that Hell is a literal place with Fire and Smoke. (See also Luke 16:19 31)



Starting in verse 3 we have a description of the "locusts" that come out of the pit. They are no ordinary locusts. It appears that they have some locust-type instincts because they are specifically told **not to "hurt the grass"** which are normally what locusts do.

They are not to hurt the 144,000 sealed Jewish men, but they are to torture the rest of mankind for 5 months. They are not to kill them.

Five months is the ordinary time in the year during which locusts commit their ravages.



Courtesy of The Brick Bible

They have:

- 1) crowns like gold,
- 2) faces like men,
- 3) hair like a woman,
- 4) jagged sharp teeth like a lion,
- 5) breastplates of iron,
- 6) wings were as the sound of chariots, and
- 7) tails like scorpions.

The sting of a scorpion is very painful and will leave the area black and blue; the person will have convulsions of agony. Scorpion stings can kill the very young, the sickly, and the elderly. In this case, people will try to die but not be able to.

It seems these locusts may be **normal locust size** but it could be that they are horse size! Imagine how HORRIBLE this will be! Swarms of locusts, stinging like scorpions. Just to look at these little guys would scare you half to death. It's bad enough when you sit outside on a summer evening and are attacked by mosquitoes; imagine trying to get away from these locusts. Open the door to go inside and you have a house full of them! They are described as having "breastplates of iron"

which symbolizes that they could not be destroyed. The "wings sounding like chariots" implies speed and the impossibility of evading their attack.

There is a king over the locusts. His name in Hebrew is "**Abaddon**" meaning "**a destroying angel**". In Greek, his name is **Apollyon** meaning "a destroyer" (i.e. Satan). These locusts appear to be demon-possessed.

Sixth Trumpet: The Angels from the Euphrates

Revelation 9:13-21 Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." So, the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. And thus, I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm. But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

A voice is heard from **the horns of the altar**. The altar was a place of sacrifice for sin and to the horns of the altar, victims were sometimes tied (Ps 118:27). Fugitives would clasp a horn of the altar and ask for mercy (1 Kg 1:50-51). The voices from the horns would seem to signify a cry for the judgment of sin; the time of mercy has elapsed.

They refer to the sovereignty and judicial government of God. Four expresses universality the world over.

Four angels (fallen angels) are released from the **Euphrates River**.



Courtesy of The Brick Bible

The scripture tells us that they have been reserved for "a day, and a month, and a year". This does not mean that this plague will last for 1 year + 1 month + 1 day, it means that they have **been reserved for a specific time appointed by God**.

Earlier in the 4th seal, we saw 1/4 of the earth's population wiped out.

Now we see **1/3 of the earth's population destroyed**.

In just these two judgments 1/2 of the population of the world will die!!!!!!

People will die as a result of the other judgments but no headcount is given for the other judgments.

Let's look at the size of this attack force.

Revelation 9:16 "And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them." (KJV)

In other words, **200,000,000!** all of the English translations say the same thing.

The *Greek* says "myriad of myriads" A myriad is defined as 10,000 or an incalculable number. This is not exactly 200,000,000 but just a way of saying an uncountable number.

The riders (description from the *Greek*) "I saw the horses in the vision, and those sitting on them having breastplates fire-colored and dusky red and brimstone-like;

The horses (description from the Greek) "and the heads of the horses as heads of lions, and out of the mouths of them comes out the fire and smoke and brimstone.

By three these were killed the third of men from the fire and the smoke and the brimstone.

For their authority is in their mouth, and their tails; for their tails are like snakes, having heads, and they do harm with them.

Even after this, mankind's hearts will be hard and they will not repent.

Notice in verse 21. The word "sorceries", "witchcraft", or "magic arts" is used.

In the Greek the word is "pharmakeus (far-mak-yoos)"; from pharmakon (a drug, i.e. spell-giving potion); a druggist ("pharmacist") or poisoner, i.e. (by extension) a magician: (KJV) - sorcerer.

(Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright (c) 1994, Biblesoft and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

This may also mean that they did not repent from their "drug use".

Revelation Chapter 10

The Mighty Angel with the Little Book



Courtesy of Cardinal Kennedy

Revelation 10:1-7 I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices. Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up

the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them."

The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer, but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

There is a little break from the trumpet blowing and John tells us he sees an angel coming down from heaven. This angel pictures Christ's dealings with men at this time. He has a rainbow upon his head, which symbolizes "mercy". Yet with power, and with feet as pillars of fire, ready to judge those who are still ignoring His previous judgments.

Some believe that this is Jesus. There are two reasons why this is not true.

First, in verse 6, he swears "by Him who lives forever and ever" Jesus would not speak in this way.

Secondly, Jesus will not be back on earth until the end of the tribulation period.

He has a little book in his hand. This does not appear to be the scroll that Jesus is opening because it is a different word in Greek.

"Little scroll" is *bibliaridion* (bib-lee-ar-id'-ee-on) meaning a booklet: In chapter 5 the word scroll is "*biblion* (bib-lee'-on)" meaning book.

John Eats the Little Book

Revelation 10: 8-11 Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth." So, I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth."

Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. And he

said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

In verse 3 he cries out, and the 7 thunders uttered their voices. **These are 7 additional judgments from God upon those on earth that stand fast in their rebellion against Him.** John is about to write down what the 7 thunders will be, but God does not allow him to reveal their contents. They must be pretty scary for God to keep their contents from us. It is hard to imagine what these plagues would be after all the things we have already seen. There are some groups of people who believe they know what the seven thunders will be. They are **WRONG!** They can guess until the big day arrives but they cannot **KNOW** for sure because God has hidden it from us.



Courtesy of On the Road to Find Out

J Vernon McGee writes: "John is commanded to eat the little book. He says it tastes at sweet as honey but it makes his belly bitter.

It is sweet to know what God is going to do, but when you find out that judgment is coming, it is bitter. John eagerly received the word of God, but when he

saw that more judgment was to follow, it brought travail of soul and sorrow of heart.



Courtesy of Beginning and End

It is sweet to know the Book of Revelation and what God intends to do, but when we find out that judgment is coming, we cannot rejoice in that. The prophecy becomes bitter."



Courtesy of Die Evangelischen Theologen

So far, the events we have been reading about in the book of Revelation have been pretty sequential, one seal following another, and one trumpet following another. John has been telling us what he has been seeing in his vision. But he needs to stop and say, "**Meanwhile back at the ranch**" other things are going on at the same time as the seals are being opened and the trumpets are being blown that he needs to report. This is one of the **BIG** stumbling blocks in the study of Revelation.

Revelation Chapter 11

The Two Witnesses



Courtesy of Den Vincent

Revelation 11:1-6 Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months. And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

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

John is told to measure

- 1) The Temple,
- 2) the altar and
- 3) the people

He is explicitly told **not to measure the outer courtyard**. Why? Because the outer court and all Jerusalem (The Holy City) will be given to the gentiles for **42 months (3 and 1/2 years)**.

The measuring rod used to measure the people reminds us that **no one measures up** to God's standards.

The Muslim Dome of the Rock sits where the Jewish Temple once sat.



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© Lisa Skytta

The Dome of the Spirits is located on the north of the temple mount. Notice the picture below showing the stone inside the gazebo, is different than the rest of the stone in the area. This is one possible location of the Holy of Holies



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View of the Temple Mount from the Mount of Olives

The Witnesses Killed

Revelation 11:7-14 When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. And



Courtesy of Carmen Puscas Ministries

their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. And those who dwell on the earth will

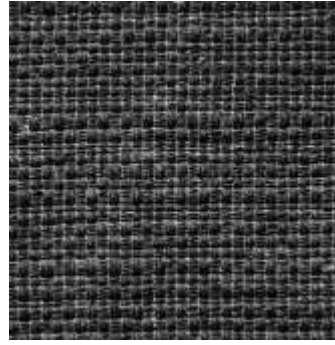
rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. Now after the three-and-a-half days, the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.

The two witnesses prophesy for 1260 days. This is 3 and 1/2 Biblical years. A Biblical year is 360 days. (This is the first half of the tribulation.)

They are clothed in **Sackcloth**. It is a very coarse cloth, made from goat or camel's hair. When someone wore a sackcloth, it was a sign of mourning or penitence.



Courtesy of For His Glory Texas



Courtesy of Shutterstock

sackcloth

They are referred to as the "2 olive trees" and the "2 lampstands". Olive trees give oil, which was fuel for the temple lights. They symbolize those who are filled abundantly with God's spirit.

During this period God will protect them so that they cannot be killed. Anyone who attempts to kill them will be consumed by **fire coming from the mouths of the witnesses!**

They have the power to perform great miracles. Perhaps they will pronounce the judgments being released in heaven, the seals, trumpets, and thunders, to the people on earth.

When they have finished their testimony the "Beast", Antichrist **will kill them in Jerusalem.**

In an old commentary entitled, "Commentary on Revelation" by E.W. Bullinger, who lived from 1837 to 1913, it is humorous to read what he writes on page 365 about Rev 11:9.

God will resurrect them and **call them up to heaven.**

"The older commentators might have felt a difficulty in understanding how the whole earth could rejoice at the event happening at Jerusalem. But in these days of electric inventions, telephones, and wireless telegraphy, we all know how the next day the whole world sympathizes and rejoices together."

Mr. Bullinger did not know about the Radio (not popular until the 1920s), the TV, Satellites, the Internet, and who knows what else will come along. Today we don't have to think twice about how this will be possible.



Courtesy of Pat Marvenko Smith



Courtesy of the Huffington Post



Courtesy of Best Life Online



Courtesy of From the Grapevine

So, the people of the earth will celebrate and send gifts to each other because of the torment the two witnesses caused.

A great earthquake destroys **1/10 of Jerusalem** and **7,000 people will die**. The rest of the people acknowledge that God is responsible for these events. This attitude change seems to be temporary.



Damage to a house on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem following the 1927 earthquake

Who are the two witnesses?



Courtesy of Elijah's Outcast Eagles

Elijah seems to be a certainty.

Malachi 4:5 "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: (KJV)

Some believe they will be **Elijah and Enoch** because neither of them ever died.

Others believe they will be **Elijah and Moses** because the miracles they perform are similar to the ones performed during the old testament ministries of Elijah and Moses.

Rev 11:14 The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly. (KJV)

Notice the Bible says that the **second woe is past**. When did the second woe begin? It began back in Ch 9:13 with the sixth trumpet. I think the reason that the second woe is not passed until now is that God wants us to know that the

7 seals,

6 trumpets,

and the 7 thunders

all occur during the first 3 1/2-year period.

They occur along with the control of the temple mount in Rev 11:1-2 and the ministry of the two witnesses in Rev 11:3-14.

The midpoint of the Tribulation

Seventh Trumpet: The Kingdom Proclaimed

Revelation 11:15-19 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God,

saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned. The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth." Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

The 7th trumpet consists of 7 bowls (vial) judgments. It is also referred to as the 3rd woe. It takes place during the second half of the tribulation period.

The 7th trumpet is announced here in chapter 11 but the 7 bowl judgments are not poured out until chapter 16. We have a couple of **difficult chapters coming up in 12-15.**

So, the 7th trumpet is blown and we find the 24 elders, who represent the church, worshipping God. Notice they say in:

Revelation 11:15 "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ and he shall reign forever and ever. (KJV)

Jesus has not taken the throne of David yet. But here the saints (the church) are speaking as if He already has. This is known as **prophetic proleptic** speech. That which regards future events as so certain to speak of them as already having been accomplished. This happens often in Jewish prophecy. In other words, it is so certain that Jesus will win the victory, (Praise God!) that it is written in the past tense as if it has already happened!

In verse 19 we get a glimpse of the Temple in Heaven. The lightning, thunder, earthquake, and hail symbolize the wrath of God about to be poured out on the earth. **The second half of the Tribulation period is known as the Great Tribulation.**

We see the "ark" in the heavenly temple. Some believe that this is the same ark that resided in the earthly temple and was miraculously transported to Heaven. It

seems to be a copy of the earthly one. Perhaps the earthly ark is a copy of the one in heaven.



Courtesy of Watch Jerusalem

Revelation Chapter 12

The Woman, the Child, and the Dragon

Revelation 12:1-6 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

The word translated as "**wonder**" in the KJV is translated "**sign**" in other versions. In Greek, the word is "semeion" (say-mi'-on) and means sign.

E.W. Bullinger writes in "Commentary on Revelation" page 387: "**Here for the first time in this book we have a "Sign".** We are warned not to take this literally but to see it as a sign of something else. The Holy Spirit guides us as to what is literal and what is not. We may gather that, when we are not so cautioned, we are not to treat the things in this book as symbols, but as literal facts and events. "

It is a great sign: A woman with the sun, moon, and 12 stars.



Courtesy of AskGramps

Joseph was given a dream in

Genesis 37:9-10 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, what is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? (KJV)

This woman symbolizes "Israel". The 12 stars symbolize the 12 tribes, the "sun" symbolizes "Jacob" and the "moon" symbolizes "Rachael". The baby she gives birth to is "Jesus".

God cursed the serpent in

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. (KJV)

The seed of the woman, Jesus, will crush the head of the serpent.

The 2nd sign - A red dragon with 7 heads and 10 horns and 7 crowns on his heads. This is Satan.



Courtesy of amredeemed

Here is what the various parts of his description represent:

Red He is dripping with the blood of the martyrs slain by his human workers.
Dragon Voracious, powerful, and vicious

7 heads and crowns 7 is the number of completeness and they represent **complete world dominion** just as the 4

headed leopard in Dan 7:6 represented 4 geographical sections of the Greek empire.

10 horns These horns represent the same thing as the 10 toes in the statue in Daniel 2 and the 10 horns on the 4th beast in Daniel 7. They represent the 10 kingdoms of the revived Roman Empire.

His original fall from heaven is alluded to here. 1/3 of the angels (stars) followed him became demons. (See Isaiah 14:12-15)

Revelation 12:4 "the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born."

This refers to Satan's attempt to kill Jesus at His birth. (See Matt 2:1-20)

Revelation 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. 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." (KJV)
The reference to the child being caught up to heaven speaks of Jesus's return to heaven after his resurrection.



Mark 16:19 "So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God." (KJV)

Here the man-child is Jesus.

Psalms 2:7-9 "I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." (KJV)

This passage tells us Jesus will rule all nations during the Millennium with a rod of iron.

Revelation 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." (KJV)

Israel flees into the desert. Israel will be taken care of for 1260 days (3 1/2 Biblical years). This will be the second half of the tribulation.

This will probably be to Petra in southern Jordan.



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Satan Thrown Out of Heaven

Revelation 12:7-12 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So, the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast

to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."



Painting War in Heaven

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

Michael is the angel that defends Israel.

War in heaven. Michael will lead God's Holy angels against Satan and his demons. The devil and his demons are not as strong as God's angels and they will lose the battle.

Here Satan is referred to as:

The great dragon a term that also applies to the empire which he dominates in the end time.

The old serpent a term that refers to his possession of the snake in the Garden of Eden.

The Devil (Greek) means slandering He is the master accuser of the brethren.

Satan (Hebrew) meaning adversary.

The Woman Persecuted

Revelation 12:13-17 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. So, the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Up until this point in time, Satan is permitted to come before the throne of God in Heaven. See Job chapter 1 for an example of this. After this war, he and his demons will be limited to the earth for the rest of the tribulation period.

Revelation 12:10-12 "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death. 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 knows that he has but a short time."

This is the victory cheer after the war is over.

The word salvation is used here more in the sense of deliverance from the persecution and not in the sense of saving your soul.

Notice it says Satan accuses the brethren "Believers" constantly "day and night. "

How did they (the brethren) defeat him?



Courtesy of the battle is real

By the Blood of the Lamb (Jesus). There is nothing more powerful in the universe than the shed blood of Jesus.

By their testimony. They had a personal relationship with Jesus. They lived not their lives to the death. They were willing to die for their beliefs.

Verse 12 tells us that the devil has "**great wrath**" and knows his days are numbered.

Revelation 12:13-14 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. 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.

After his defeat, Satan attacks Israel; he pours his anger out on them.

Zechariah 2:8 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that touches you touches the apple of his eye.

Remember this is the midpoint of the Tribulation.

Daniel 9:27 And he (The Antichrist) shall confirm the covenant with many for one week (7 years): and in the midst of the week (midpoint 3 1/2 years) he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate. (KJV)



Courtesy of Apologia Way

At the midpoint of the Tribulation, the Antichrist will enter the temple in Jerusalem where the Jewish people have been having their daily sacrifices and he will cause them to stop. He will declare that he is god and demand worship! This is when the Jewish people will wake up and realize that the Antichrist is not a

good guy they will flee for their lives.

Jesus spoke of this event in

Matthew 24:15-24 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:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. (KJV)



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Here Jesus tells us the Jewish people will flee to the mountains.

You might be scratching your head and saying, there is no temple in Jerusalem. That is true today, 18JUL2020, but it will not be true much longer. You see, the Jewish people have been diligently preparing for the temple to be rebuilt **for over 50 years**. In the Jewish quarter of the old city of Jerusalem, you can visit the **Temple Institute** and see the furnishing that will be used in the new temple.

Nearby, in front of the Synagogue stands **the menorah** that will be used in the temple. They have not only been working on the furnishings, they have been making **the garments** for the priests and training the priests for temple

service.

Soon they hope to be able to sacrifice the **red heifer** for the cleansing of the temple.



Courtesy of the Temple Institute



© Lisa Ransom

The Antichrist in the Holy of Holies claiming to be God and demanding worship.



Courtesy of Amazing Facts

The prophet Zechariah tells us that 1/3 of the Jewish people will survive.

Zechariah 13:9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.

Zechariah and Isaiah tell us where these mountains in the desert are:

Zechariah 14:5 And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.



Courtesy of Google Maps

Isaiah 63:1 Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, traveling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.

Azal is thought to be connected with Petra. Edom is the region of southern Jordan, which at one time belonged to the descendants of Esau, the Edomites. This is the location of Petra.

Daniel tells us that the Antichrist will not have control over Edom and Moab. Moab is also in Jordan and it is the region north of Edom.

Daniel 11:41 He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. (KJV)

Many Bible Scholars believe that Petra in southern Jordan is where the Jewish people will hide. After visiting it I am completely convinced that this is the place created by God for his people to hide for 3 1/2 Biblical years. Petra is a natural fortress. It is 10 square miles inside a circular mountain range. The only way in is through a narrow passageway called the Siq. It is 1 mile long and must be traversed by horseback, foot, or a small jeep. If you have seen the movie "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade", they show Petra at the end of the movie. Harrison Ford rides through the Siq on horseback and enters Petra.

Petra has many caves in which the Jewish people could take refuge. Many believers have visited Petra and have hidden Bibles in the remote caves there. They hope that someday the Jewish people will find them and come to believe in Jesus.



Note: The yellow arrow is pointing to the very narrow passage called, al Siq, this is the only way into Petra.

The woman given wings of an eagle tells us God will help her journey to be swift.

It appears that God will have to feed them while they are there just as he fed the Israelites for 40 years in the wilderness.

Revelation 12:15-17 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood

which the dragon cast out of his mouth. And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (KJV)

The flood of water from the serpent's mouth is not to be taken literally but represents a flood of persecution. Psalm 32:6; 69:2,15 paint overwhelming troubles as a flood.

How does the earth help the woman? Well, the commentaries are all pretty weak on this one. One thinks that the earth will swallow up any armies pursuing Israel. Another one believes it means Israel will be able to hide in the various caves and canyons as they flee from the antichrist. Most commentaries are silent. If you have any ideas let us know.

The devil then turns his attention to the Jewish people who have accepted Jesus as their savior.

Revelation Chapter 13

The Beast from the Sea - The Antichrist

Revelation 13:1-10 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. So, they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose

names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If anyone has an ear, let him hear. He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.



Courtesy of Christian Truth Center

The Beast - Antichrist

John sees a beast rising out of the sea.

The Greek word **therion** (thay-ree'-on) indicates it is a **vicious wild beast**.

The sea refers to the **sea of nations**, which is troubled like an ocean with roaring and crashing waves as empires rise, and fall.

In Rev 17:15 the "waters" of the sea are explicitly declared to be nations and peoples.

In chapter 12 Satan is symbolized as a dragon with 7 heads and 10 horns. The heads of the dragon are crowned. The dragon's crowns on its heads told us Satan has global domination. Satan comes as the ruler of all of the geographical regions of the earth.

Here this beast has 7 heads and 10 horns but the horns have the crowns, not the heads. This is very important; I will explain in a minute. The beast is described as having the **body of a leopard**, the **feet of a bear**, and the **mouth of a lion**.

This should sound familiar to you if you have read chapter 7 of Daniel.

This beast represents the world government from the Tribulation period and also the Antichrist who will be over it.

The "**mouth of a lion**" symbolizes the lust to consume victims with great power.

The "**feet of a bear**" symbolizes its great size with armies able to crush rebellions.

The "body of a leopard" symbolizes its agility, swiftness; capacity for military mobility, and speed of strike.

In Daniel's vision in Chapter 7, he sees a lion that symbolized the Babylon Empire, a bear that symbolized the Medo-Persian Empire, and a leopard that symbolized the Greek empire.

The fourth beast had 10 horns and symbolized the Roman Empire.



Here in Revelation 13, the beast is a combination of all of the previous kingdoms. It represents the revived Roman Empire. The horns represent the same thing as they did in Daniel's vision of the 10 Kingdoms of the revived Roman Empire. This beast also represents the Antichrist. The crowns on the horns tell us the Antichrist is the ruler of the Revived Roman Empire.

Many prophecy experts believe the European Community is the revived Roman Empire, represented by the ten horns. I believe it will be something much bigger than the European Community. Something that includes the EC, I believe it will be **the new world**

order, under the direction of the United Nations, which is gaining more power and influence every day.

Each head has a name of blasphemy written on it. **Blasphemy is anti-God speech.** This tells us the empire will be based on wicked principles. Its leader the Antichrist shall blaspheme God.



Courtesy of Revelation Scriptures

Satan gives the Antichrist his power, position, and authority.

Verse 3 is one of the verses in the book of Revelation that gets people talking and speculating on what it means and what is going to happen.

The word "wound" in verse 3 is "plege" in the Greek (play-gay -' a stroke; by implication,

a wound; figuratively, a calamity:

It has been translated in the KJV as plague, stripe, wound (-ed).

This verse tells us that **the Antichrist will be wounded**. Some believe he will die and be resurrected.

However, others believe that he will be wounded and as good as dead and then recover.

Whatever happens, it will cause the people of the earth to "**marvel**". In this day and age, people are pretty sophisticated, they are used to movies with special effects, etc. If Antichrist does attempt to deceive the masses it would have to be something exceptional.

ALL the people of the earth that are not "**Believers in Jesus**" will worship the dragon (**Satan**) and the **Antichrist!**

This is not just pagan idol worship this is "**Satan worship**"! And the whole earth will participate.

The following passage tells us that once the Holy Spirit is out of the way, then the Antichrist will be revealed and Satan will control him. The unsaved world will believe a lie.

2 Thessalonians 2:7-12 For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason, God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

Some believe that after his near-death experience Satan himself will possess the Antichrist. The only person in the Bible Satan is said to possess is Judas, however, there are many good reasons to believe that he will also possess the Antichrist and not leave the job up to a demon. (See John 13:27, Luke 22:3)

Only Judas and the Antichrist are referred to as the "**Son of Perdition**" Judas in John 17:12 and the Antichrist in 2 Thess 2:3.

Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

Revelation 13:5-6 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months. It opened its mouth

to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.

Here again, we see the Antichrist blaspheming:

- God
- His name,
- His tabernacle,
- Those dwelling in Heaven (This is the believers)

He is given power 42 months (3 1/2 years the second half of the tribulation period)

Revelation 13:7-8 It was given power to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.

He increases the persecution of the Saints "Tribulation Believers". He is given the power to overcome them. Also, he is given power over all peoples of the earth. God allows this to happen, **Satan can do nothing without God's allowing it.**

Again, we see that all the people in the world will worship the Antichrist except for the true believers in Jesus.

Only true believers, those who have accepted Jesus' death on the cross as atonement for their sins and have placed their faith and trust in Him, will have their names written in the "Book of Life". This is the book you want to have your name written in. If you are not sure if your name is written there please go to the end of the book and read the section [How to go to Heaven](#).

Revelation 13:9-10 Whoever has ears, let them hear. "If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed." This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God's people.

This is telling us to pay attention and heed the message before it is too late.

The Second Beast from the Earth - The False Prophet

Revelation 13:11-18 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a **mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.** Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.



Courtesy of SCCC Inc Ministries

The word "another" means in Greek "**one like in kind**". Here is another beast similar to the first one.

This beast comes from the earth. This tells us that he does not come from Heaven.

He is described as a lamb. This indicates that he is a religious figure. We will learn in Rev 16:13 and Rev 19:20 that he is **the False Prophet.**

Satan is the great counterfeiter. He wants to copy God in everything. He has his **UNHOLY** trinity. Satan is the Father figure in this trinity. The Antichrist is the Son figure. That leaves us with someone to imitate Holy Spirit. This is the job of the second beast, the False Prophet.

The Dragon gives orders and empowers the Antichrist.

The 2nd Beast has signs and causes men to turn to and worship the Antichrist just like the purpose of the Holy Spirit is to cause people to worship Jesus.

The False Prophet is false because it looks Christ-like a lamb, but in reality, it is satanic: it speaks like a dragon. It is a wolf in sheep's clothing. This can be seen coming in the churches today.



Courtesy of Jay Free

In 2 Thessalonians 2:3 "that day shall not come except there come the falling away first. And the expression '**falling away**' means to stand away from, **to betray a former loyalty, to turn back to an earlier commitment.**

The word "**opistimi**" is the word we translate "**apostasy**" Scripture predicts apostasy as one of the signs of the day of the emergence of Antichrist.

There are today many churches that deny the truth of Scripture, the deity of Jesus, the rapture, and other Christian doctrines.

The church will become so depraved by apostasy as we move to the last days that it will be easy for the False Prophet to appear.

He will make organized religion a tool in his hand and give His authority to the first beast. Thank God that by that time the Church will be taken from the world in the

Apostasy of the Church in the Last Days



blessed event of the Rapture.

Satan always likes to copy God. John gave his authority over to Jesus.

The False Prophet turns his authority over to the Antichrist.

Who will be the False Prophet?

Some believe he might be the Pope. Some believe he will be the top member of the "World Church". Some also believe the "two horns of the 2nd Beast also represent two kingdoms, Two "Christian" nations. He "speaks like a dragon" which tells us underneath the "Christian veneer" resides the devil. Part of the apostasy is the ecumenical movement, which desires a union between all religions and influences evangelicals as well.

What is the difference between the truth and false religion?

All false religions teach that one can earn one's way to heaven. That man can somehow achieve salvation through his actions. This is called "humanism".

The truth says, "the true way is what Jesus did, and by faith in what He did is how one gets to the true "promised land". To learn [how to get to heaven](#) see the last section in this book.

Revelation 13:12 It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.

Just as John the Baptist pointed the people of his time to Jesus. The False Prophet points the people to the Antichrist. Instructing them to worship the Antichrist. He is a supporting character to the first beast; he is active on behalf of the first beast and exercises his authority. (Walvoord p. 205)

Today we have a great push to unite all of the religions of the world. We have the **world council of churches** as one example of an ecumenical group. There is also a group formed by the United Nations called "**United Religions Initiative**". These groups want us to set aside our differences and join together as one.

They say that there is no ONE WAY to heaven. The Hindus have their way, the Buddhists have their way, the Muslims have their way, etc., etc., etc.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6.

The formation of these religious groups is a sign that we are living in the last days. One day the world will have one religion and it will be under the direction of the False Prophet.

Revelation 13:13-17 And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. It also **forced all people**, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, **to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.**

The False Prophet will be able to perform great signs and wonders.

Examples from the Bible where Satan gave power to men to perform signs and imitate the miracles of God.

The rod became a serpent

Exodus 7:11 Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. (KJV)

The river became blood

Exodus 7:22 And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them; as the LORD had said. (KJV)

The frogs

Exodus 8:7 And the magicians did so with their enchantments and brought up frogs upon the land of Egypt. (KJV)

When the plague of Lice was upon the Egyptians the magicians were not able to reproduce it.

Exodus 8:18-19 And the magicians did so with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not: so, there were lice upon man, and upon beast. Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, this is the finger of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said. (KJV)

From the above examples, we see that **Satan's servants do have a great deal of power, but their power is limited.** The Egyptian magicians were able to counterfeit a certain number of God's miracles but they could not reproduce all of them. The same thing will happen during the Tribulation.

The False Prophet then instructs the people to build an image of the Antichrist. This may be some sort of robot, hologram, virtual reality, etc.

The image of the Antichrist will have the ability to speak. This is not hard for us to imagine in the year 2020 A.D. However, it would have been quite a statement for John. At that time idols didn't do much but stand there. Makes you wonder why anyone would want to worship them!

"And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast". The word "life" in verse 15 is "pneuma" it is better translated as "Spirit" or "Breath" which is quite different

from the Greek word "Zoe" which means "life". The intent of the passage seems to be that **the image has the appearance of life manifested in breathing, but actually may be no more than a robot.** (Walvoord p. 208)



Anyone who will not worship the beast will be killed.

The False Prophet causes all people "both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond," All classes of people are included in three contrasting pairs: the small and great, referring to status; the rich and poor, alluding to possessions; and free and bond, referring to

their state in society. (Walvoord p. 209)

He causes them to receive a "**Mark**" in their right hand or forehead. **THIS IS KNOWN AS THE MARK OF THE BEAST.** This is yet another counterfeit of Satan. All believers in Jesus, those who have accepted Him as their Lord and Savior, are sealed by the Holy Spirit. (See 2 Cor. 1:22; Eph 1:13; Eph 4:13) So Satan has his seal too. We will see in the next chapter the consequences of taking this mark.

The mark is simply a token that they are beast (Antichrist) worshippers, and it serves as an identification necessary to conduct business and to purchase the necessities of life. It is another device to force all people to worship the beast (Antichrist). (Walvoord p. 209)

Revelation 13:18 This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666.

We read that the **Antichrist's number is 666.**

I want to look at some words in the original Greek **Mark, In, forehead**

The Greek word for **MARK** (as in the **Mark of the Beast** Rev 13 and Rev 14.

Is in the Strong's Concordance as G5480

χάραγμα *cháragma*, khar'-ag-mah; from the same as [G5482](#); **a scratch or etching**, i.e. stamp (as a badge of servitude), or sculptured figure (statue):—graven, mark.

And that definition points to [G5482](#)

χάραξ *chárax*, khar'-ax; from *χαράσσω* *charássō* (**to sharpen to a point**; akin to [G1125](#) through the idea of scratching); **a stake**, i.e. (by implication) a palisade or rampart (military mound for circumvallation in a siege):—trench.

The Greek word "in" is *ἐπί* - pronounced **EPI**

This reminds me of an **EpiPen** which some people need to carry with them for severe allergic reactions.

The Greek word for **forehead**

μέτωπον, *metópon*, τό (μετά, ὄψ 'eye'), from Homer down; the Sept. for) *מֵצֶלֶת* literally, the space **between the eyes) the forehead**:

This makes me think of the Hindu Bindi, which symbolizes the spiritual third eye.



Courtesy of Priest

I want to make it clear that this is **MY OPINION**. I could be 100% wrong. No one knows for sure what the "**Mark of the Beast**" will be; we can **ONLY** make educated guesses. So, I will now offer my professional opinion for your consideration. Professionally I am a Software Engineer. Using my knowledge of the Bible and Computers my

thoughts on what the **Mark of the Beast** might be:



Courtesy of Family Defense League

A tattoo - they use a needle to do the tattooing. In ancient times the slave master would tattoo/brand his slaves. With tattoos being so popular today, one can easily see many people having no problem with one more.

A chip implant - RFID chips are injected into animals with a hypodermic needle.



Courtesy of Big Think



Courtesy of How stuff works

An embedded chip could be scanned to determine your unique ID and then reference you in some global database that would contain all sorts of information about you. They are not much bigger than a grain of rice, see picture above.

A vaccination - with a nanochip in it for id/tracking purposes. This has just come out and been patented last year 2020 with the ID **060606**.

The Mark of the Beast may also be combined with a vaccination. This is also an educated guess. As I write this the Coronavirus pandemic is plaguing the earth. There are some discussions about adding a **digital id to the vaccination to track people**. Various nations are rolling out vaccine passports that are being required to

buy and sell, and in some cases to have a job, or travel. This could be a stepping stone to the mark of the beast.



Courtesy of Second Bay Studios.

M.I.T. engineers have developed a way to store medical information under

the skin, using a quantum dot dye that is delivered, along with a vaccine, by a microneedle patch. The dye, which is invisible to the naked eye, can be read later using a specially adapted smartphone.

Compare this with the scripture. This is starting to sound like what the Bible said nearly 2,000 years ago.

Why 666? - Probably the simplest explanation here is the best, that the triple six is the number of man, each digit falling short of the perfect number of seven. Six in the scripture is man's number. (Walvoord p. 210)

Perhaps there is one six for each of the members of the unholy trinity. The



Courtesy of Prophecy in the News.

unholy trinity comes close to perfection in its counterfeiting, but it is so far short of it. Thus, it is called God's contradiction.

Whatever the Mark of the Beast turns out to be, do not take it! As you will see in the next chapter you will have no chance to go to heaven if you do!



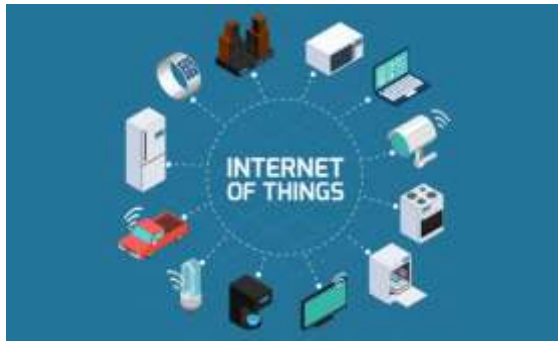
Courtesy of Forbes

5G is sure to play a big part in tracking people who have the mark. Because of the nature of 5G, it is necessary for there to be a lot more cell phone towers and many more satellites.

The network should be running worldwide by the end of 2022. At that time, they will be able to find anyone anywhere in the world in 2

seconds. That is if you are carrying a cell phone or other tracking device. If the mark of the beast is some sort of an implanted chip tracking device, you would not be able to hide. This is not too difficult to imagine with all the contact tracing that is being proposed and in some cases apps that are being downloaded onto cell phones. This is not some crazy theory; the technology is here now; this mark of the beast system could be rolled out very soon.

If you don't take the mark you will not be able to buy or sell.



Courtesy of Bank Info Security

There are a lot of interesting things they are planning for 5G, driverless cars, remote surgery, etc. Also, 6G known as Genesis 6 is in the planning stages now.

The new term "the internet of things (IOT)" refers to **all things**, cars, houses, **people**, etc. all connected via the internet.

Do you want to be tracked, like a migratory animal?

This is what is going to happen when the mark of the beast is forced on the world.

Revelation Chapter 14



Courtesy of Revelation Scriptures

The Lamb and the 144,000

Revelation 14:1-5 Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.

And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps.

And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.

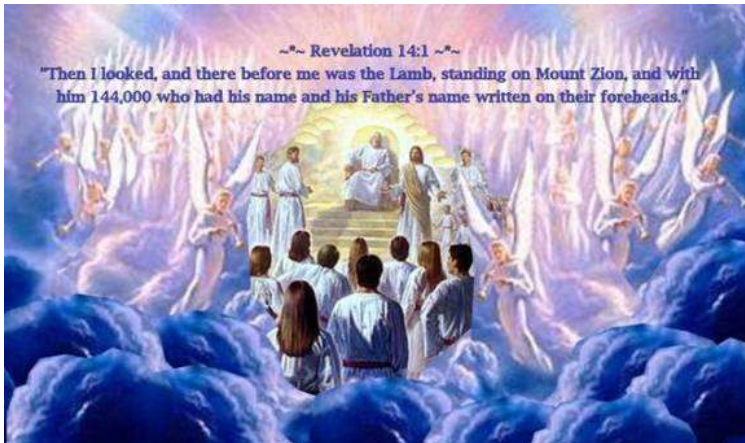
These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they remained virgins. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among mankind and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb. No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.

In chapter 7 we met the 144,000.

Here we see the 144,000 Jewish believers with Jesus on **Mt. Zion**. They have the name of God the Father written on their foreheads. They contrast those who take the "mark of the beast" in the previous chapter.

The voice 'like thunder' we have seen before and refers to coming judgment. Now the burning question is "**Where is THIS Mt. Zion?**" Of course, there is Mt. Zion in Jerusalem. However, this Mt. Zion appears to be in heaven.

Notice the following:



Courtesy of Born in California

They are before the throne.

They are before the 4 beasts, which are always before the throne of God in heaven.

They are before the (24) elders, which we have already determined are the

believers from the "church" age and they are also in heaven. They sing with the church before the throne of their redemption in heaven after being taken out of the tribulation.

The 144,000 have been redeemed from the earth. It appears that their earthly ministry is finished and they are now in heaven. Perhaps God allows them to be killed after they have finished their ministry of preaching the gospel to the world during the first 3 1/2 years of the tribulation period. They also have a special song of praise that they alone sing. (a new song) We learn that they are virgin men. The tribulation period is not a time to be settling down and raising a family. It will be a time to focus on surviving from day-to-day.

Luke 23:29 For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!'

This may also refer to the fact that they have kept themselves spiritually pure in a time when the whole world is following after the ways of the devil.

This is alluded to in the phrase:

Revelation 14:4 "These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes."

They follow Jesus and not the Antichrist. They were true to God and were "blameless" before him.

The Three Angels



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First Angel

Revelation 14:6-7 Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

In this passage, we have 3 angels. The **first angel** flies through the air proclaiming the gospel. God in his infinite mercy always has a witness. At this point, the 2 witnesses have been taken out of the picture as well as the 144,000.

So, God uses an angel to preach the gospel message. He proclaims the gospel message to the **entire earth**. He warns the earthlings of the impending judgment of Almighty God and calls on them to repent.

We are told the angel is flying in heaven. **This is the earth's atmosphere**. Also known as the first heaven. It is where the birds fly. The second heaven is home to the sun, moon, and stars. The third heaven is where God lives.

Second Angel

Revelation 14:8 A second angel followed and said, "'Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great,' which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries."

The second angel flies through the air proclaiming that "Babylon has fallen". This is the first time in the book of Revelation that Babylon is mentioned.

There are 2 Babylon's referred to in Revelation. One is a **political system** and the other is a **false religious system**.

We will be discussing them in greater detail in chapters 17 and 18. **This angel is pronouncing judgment on each of them.**



Courtesy of Blow the Trumpet in Zion

Third Angel

Revelation 14:9-13 A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone **worships the beast** and **its image** and **receives its mark** in their forehead or in their hand, they, too, will drink the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment will rise forever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name." This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus. Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."

The third angel flies through the air proclaiming the fate of anyone who takes the "Mark of the Beast", and worships the Antichrist and his idol **will be damned to spend eternity in the "Lake of Fire"**.

This seems to imply if someone takes the mark he is involved in a form of worship of the Antichrist and his idol. It seems if one does, he is guilty of all three. (This mark is again Satan copying God. Here Satan copies the seal of the promise of salvation given to all believers by the Holy Spirit when one trusts that Jesus paid for their redemption.)

The passage ends with a special blessing to those who die for their belief in Jesus. Remember in the last chapter Rev 13:15 anyone who does not take the mark or worship the Antichrist or his image will be put to death. **It would be far better to die for your faith refusing to take the "Mark of the Beast" and go to heaven to be with God than to take the "Mark" and spend eternity in the "Lake of Fire".**



Courtesy of Maryjane Garcia

Harvesting the Earth and Trampling the Winepress

Revelation 14:14 I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.

The Son of Man is a reference to Jesus. Notice He is wearing a crown. This is another clue that He is the one referred to here. He is holding a sickle symbolizing that **the earth is about to be judged.**

Revelation 14:15-16 Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

In verse 15 an angel cries out to Jesus to reap the earth. This angel is not commanding Jesus, he is entreating Jesus to carry out the judgment.

The expression "**the harvest of the earth is ripe**" seems to imply that **judgment is overdue**. The verb form "is ripe" (Gr. Exeranthe), meaning "to become dry or withered." Has a bad connotation. The picture here is of a fruit or vegetable that has become so ripe that it has begun to dry up and wither. **The rotten moral condition of the world is dealt with now with a sharp sickle.** (Walvoord p. 221)

Revelation 14:17-20 Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the

altar and called in a loud voice to him

who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe." The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath. They were

trampled in the winepress outside the city,

and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.

Left, the Valley of Jezreel where the Battle of Armageddon will be partially fought.

The arrow is pointing to the hill of Megiddo. This is where we get the word Armageddon from the Hill (Har) of Megiddo.

The battle will extend from the Jezreel valley south through the Jordan river valley.



Courtesy of Spiritual Minefield



Courtesy of Google Maps

Revelation Chapter 15

Revelation 15:1-4 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God. 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. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

Here we see seven angels preparing to deliver the final 7 plagues.

The "sea of glass" reflects the glory of God.

"mingled with fire" speaks of divine judgment proceeding from God's holiness.



Courtesy of Revelation Scriptures

Notice the group of people standing here before God are **the believers from the tribulation period**. They are described as having "**VICTORY**" over the beast. These people have just been killed because they believe in Jesus and their refusal to follow the Antichrist or to worship his image or to take his mark. By the world's standards, these people are **LOSERS!** They have refused to go along with the rest of the **WORLD** and have paid with their very lives. But **God says that they are the "VICTORS"!!**

They sing two songs the "Song of Moses" and the "Song of the Lamb". The "**Song of Moses**" recounts the faithfulness of God to Israel as a nation in recognition that a large number of Israelites are among these martyred dead. The "Song of Moses" is recorded in Deuteronomy 32. The "**Song of the Lamb**" is recorded in verses 3 and 4 of this chapter. The "Song of the Lamb" speaks of redemption from sin made possible by the sacrifice of the Lamb of God and would include all saints.

Revelation 15:5-8 And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened: And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth forever and ever. 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.

We see the 7 angels coming out of the temple of God in Heaven. The "temple" (Gr. Naos) refers to the inner holy place of the Tabernacle. These angels are coming out of the heavenly "**Holy of Holies**" indicating that the judgments to be poured out stem from the holiness of God and are properly required of God who must do all things right. (Walvoord p.229)



Courtesy of Strengthened by Grace

The garments that are worn by these angels' sound **very similar to the clothing worn by the High Priest.** (See Ex 28:2) The **white linen symbolizes purity** and perfection and the **Golden girdle across their breasts symbolizes God's righteousness and Faithfulness.**

They are given 7 bowls filled with the wrath of God, which we will see poured out upon the earth in the next chapter.

The word "**wrath**" is thymos in Greek, it means "**anger**".

The temple is filled with smoke proceeding from the glory of God and His power. This account is similar to the Shekinah Glory Cloud in the temple. (See Ex 40:34-35).

Quick review.

First Jesus will open the scroll with **7 seals**. Each seal is a judgment on the earth. The 7th seal is made up of **7 trumpet** judgments.

The 7th trumpet is made up of **7 bowl** (vial) judgments.

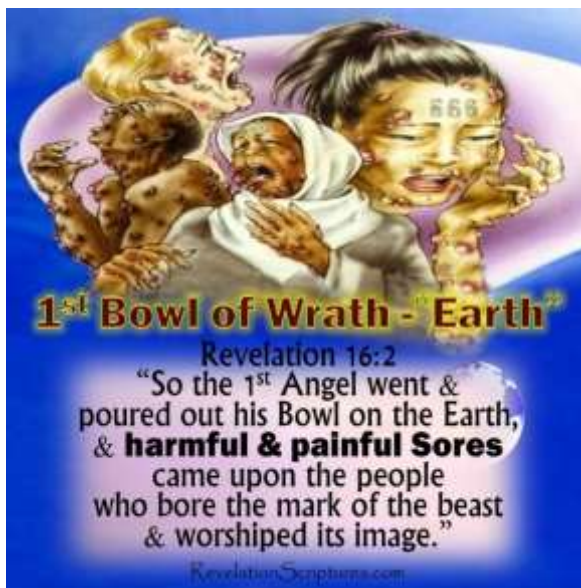


Courtesy of Revelation Scriptures

Revelation Chapter 16

Bowl #1

Revelation 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. 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. (KJV)



Sores appear upon the people who receive the "Mark of the Beast" and upon those people who worship the image of the Antichrist.

The Greek says "Elkos kakon kai poneron" An ulcerated sore bad and evil.

Could this be some sort of infection to a chip implant, or to a vaccination that includes a chip?

Bowl #2

Revelation 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. (KJV)



Courtesy of Revelation Scriptures

All saltwater turned to blood. All fish and sea creatures died. The earlier plague affecting the saltwater, the second trumpet, only affected 1/3 of the saltwater. This is all of the saltwater. Imagine the smell as all the dead fish; whales, etc. wash up on the shores.

Bowl #3

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

All freshwater turned to blood. Earlier only 1/3 was turned to blood in the plague of the 3rd trumpet. The angel explains that the people of the earth, have shed the blood of the believers and now they will have "blood" to drink. **This must be literal "Blood"**. God's judgments are true and righteous. Now there is no water to drink. No fish to eat, Livestock, if there is any left, is not going to last very long. They aren't going to switch to Coke or Pepsi. I believe that most other drinks have a large percentage of water in them as well. So, the beverage supply will be severely limited.



Courtesy of Revelation Scriptures

Gary Cohen states in *Revelation Visualized*. Pp.243 "one must remember that the vast oceans and rivers constitute a system which acts as God's great air conditioner sweeping away the impurities of the air balancing nature. Also, the oxygen-giving phytoplankton (the organisms in the tiny green plankton plants), which are found in water, supply a majority of the earth's oxygen to man. With

suddenly the oceans and rivers and springs turning to blood what will happen? Waters become poisonous and putrid, and foul-smelling air sweeps across the world as decay takes place. Fish, an important source of food, becomes unobtainable. Starvation of people accelerates. Man's oxygen supply will diminish."

Bowl #4

Revelation 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. 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. (KJV)



Courtesy of Revelation Scriptures

The sun's heat intensifies and people are scorched with heat. They blaspheme the name of God, who has power over the plagues. They do not repent. They do not give God the Glory. This comes after there is no water to drink. This will affect any surviving plant and animal life as well.

Bowl #5



Courtesy of Revelation Scriptures

Revelation 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, and blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds." (KJV)

Darkness falls on the kingdom of the Antichrist. The people gnaw their tongues from pain. It must be severe pain they experience. This is probably from the ulcers of the first bowl and the scorching pain of the fourth bowl not to mention the lack of something to drink. The food supply must be about gone too, so this could be

from hunger as well. Not to mention the obvious lack of heat due to no sunshine. The world will be thrown into a deep freeze.

Bowl #6

Revelation 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.

The Euphrates River dries up to allow the armies of the east to invade Israel.

Revelation 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. 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. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."



Courtesy of Revelation Scriptures

The vision of 3 frogs: These are unclean spirits coming from the infernal trinity. These spirits are used to gather the armies of the earth together at the battle of that "Great day of God Almighty" (See Joel 3 and Zechariah 12-14)

Armageddon in Hebrew is Harmageddon (har-mag-ed-dohn) means the Hill of Megiddo. The

armies of the earth gather together in the Valley of Jezreel below the Hill of Megiddo in northern Israel. This valley has hosted countless battles throughout the Bible. It is also known as the Valley of Jehoshaphat.

Bowl #7

Revelation 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. 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. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nation's fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great."

A voice from the temple in heaven says, "It is done" The last plague is poured out on mankind.

The voices, thunders, and lightning indicate judgment.

A great earthquake occurs so intensely that the mountains are not found Could it be that this is because of volcanic eruptions?

Islands fled away Could this be from Tsunami's caused by the earthquakes?



Courtesy of Revelation Scriptures

The "great city", Jerusalem, is split in three. The cities of the nations will fall. The city of Babylon (the Antichrist's capital) will be destroyed too. (We will be discussing Babylon in great detail in the next 2 chapters.)

Hail falls from heaven weighing about 75 to 100 pounds. The people blaspheme God because of the plague of hail.

This is mind-boggling! There will be no place to hide. It will not be safe to be inside any buildings because of the earthquakes. That is if there are any buildings left. It will not be safe to be outside because of the 100-pound hailstones. Caves won't be safe because of the earthquakes. The air would be hard to breathe because of the volcanic ash, etc. from any earthquakes that started. **This is going to be HELL on earth!** There will be many people killed at this time.

Matthew 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." (KJV)

Friends you don't want to go through the tribulation. If you are not ready for the Lord's return and would like to be, please see read the final section in this book ["How to get to Heaven"](#).

Review: During the tribulation period there will be a one-world government headed up by the Antichrist. There will also be a one-world religious system headed up by the false prophet. They are both referred to as "Babylon".

Chapter 17 describes the destruction of "**Religious Babylon**".

Chapter 18 describes the destruction of "**Political Babylon**".

Revelation Chapter 17

Revelation 17:1-6 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits by many waters. With her the kings of the earth committed adultery, and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries." Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. The name written on her forehead was a mystery:

Babylon the great the mother of prostitutes and of the abominations of the earth. I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of God's holy people, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished.

A virgin symbolizes the "Church", believers from the day of Pentecost until the rapture. (Eph. 5:27; Rev. 19:7,8)

Here the corrupt and polluted religious system is described as a prostitute.

Revelation 17:2 With her the kings of the earth committed adultery, and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries."

We are told she has corrupted ALL of the nations of the earth. She is pictured as riding "a scarlet beast, with blasphemous names, and 7 heads and 10 horns". Sound familiar? This scarlet beast is the **one-world political system**. Her description is opposite that of the "Bride of Christ", who is dressed in white.



Courtesy of Bible Only

**MYSTERY - BABYLON THE GREAT - THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES -
AND THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.**

Although the city of Babylon was destroyed by the time John was inspired to write Revelation, the religion of Babylon continued and spread throughout the world. But just what was the religion of ancient Babylon?

Nimrod was the Great Grand-son of Noah. In Gen 10 we are told his kingdom-included Babel.

Genesis 10:8-9 Cush was the father of Nimrod, who became a mighty warrior on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; that is why it is said, "Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the LORD."



© Lisa Ransom

The name Nimrod means, "let us rebel". He is described as "a mighty one" which comes from the Hebrew "gibor" which means tyrant. The Jewish Encyclopedia says Nimrod was **"he who made the people rebellious against God"**. In the expression "before the LORD", **"before"** also carries a hostile meaning, it would be

better translated as **"against"**.



Courtesy of Biblepaedia

When Nimrod, the priest-king of Babylon, died his body was cut into pieces and burnt, and the pieces were sent to various areas. He was greatly mourned by the people of Babylon. After Nimrod's death, his wife, Queen Semiramis, claimed that he was now the Sun-god. Later when she gave birth to an illegitimate son named Tammuz, she claimed that he was Nimrod reborn. Semiramis must have been familiar with the prophecy that Christ would be born

of a woman (See Gen 3:15) An instrument in Satan's hands, she claimed that her son was supernaturally conceived and that he was the promised seed, the "Christ" However, not only was the child worshipped but **the mother was also worshipped as much or more than the son!**

Much of the Babylonian worship was carried on through mysterious symbols thus it was a "Mystery" religion. As an example, since Nimrod was considered to be the

Sun-god or **Baal** - Fire was considered as his earthly representation. Thus, **candles and ritual fires were lighted in his honor**. Nimrod was also symbolized by sun-symbols, fish, trees, pillars, and animals.

Romans 1:21-26 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

Think back to the story of the "Tower of Babel" (Gen 11).

"Archaeological evidence suggests that the Tower of Babel was, in reality, a building given over to astrology, or the **heathen worship of the heavens**. Among the ruins of ancient Babylon is a **building 153 feet high with a 400-foot base**. It was constructed of dried bricks in **7 stages**, to correspond with the known planets to which they were dedicated. The lowermost was black, the color of Saturn, and the next orange for Jupiter, the third red for Mars, and so on. These stages were surmounted by a lofty tower, on the summit of which were the **signs of the Zodiac**." *Willmington's Guide to the Bible*, p 35.



Courtesy of Amazing Discoveries

As the people dispersed from the Tower of Babel and spread throughout the earth (Gen 11:9) **they took their worship of the Babylonian family and its mysterious symbols with them**. To this day we find evidence of the religion of Babylon in one form or another **in all false religions of the earth!** Truly Babylon was the "Mother", the originator, of all false religions of the earth.

In Rev 17:6, **the woman is drunk with the blood of the saints**. These are not just the believers from the tribulation period. It includes the countless number of believers who have been killed for their belief in Jesus down through the ages.

Revelation 17:7-11 Then the angel said to me: "Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns. The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction (perdition). The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because it once was, now is not, and yet will come. "This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for only a little while. The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction (perdition).

The angel tells John that he will explain the vision to him. The beast in verse 8 is the Roman Empire. It was in existence at the time of Jesus, then it was not around for many years and it will be revived again. The phrase "shall ascend out of the bottomless pit" appears to refer to the fact that **Satan will control the Revived Roman Empire.**

The phrase "go into perdition" or (go to its destruction) refers to the Antichrist. There are only two people in the Bible referred to as the "son of perdition" Judas in John 17:12 and the Antichrist in this verse. Both are controlled by Satan himself.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

In verses 9 and 10 we are told that the 7 heads symbolize 7 mountains **and also 7 kings.** Some believe that these are not literal mountains but great world powers. The 5 kingdoms which were passed at John's time were 1) Assyrian 2) Egyptian 3) Babylonian 4) Medo-Persian 5) Greek. The current world power at John's time was Rome. The one to come is the Antichrist's kingdom. Others believe that these are **literal mountains** and look for the city that has seven hills. **Roman has seven hills and is the capital of the Roman Catholic Church.** This is one of the reasons that people believe that the pope will be the false prophet.

The prostitute is seen riding on all of them, indicating that **she is an influence during all of these world governments.**

Out of the 7th kingdom, the revived Roman Empire, the Antichrist arises. He is the 8th king. Again, we are told he will go into perdition, in other words, he will be damned.

Definition of "perdition" from Biblesoft: NT:684 apoleia (ap-o'-li-a); from a presumed derivative of NT:622; ruin or loss (physical, spiritual or eternal): KJV - damnable (-nation), destruction, die, perdition, X perish, pernicious ways, waste.

Revelation 17:12-13 "The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast.

These are the 10 rulers who are joined in a confederacy represented by the 10 horns. They are like-minded and support the Antichrist and his one-world government.

Revelation 17:14-15 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful. Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

Here we learn this world government will make war with Jesus. This is at the Battle of Armageddon. But Jesus will win the victory. The waters, which she, the prostitute, sits on, refers to people, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

Revelation 17:16-18 " And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."

There will come a day during the tribulation period that the Antichrist's government will decide it has no more use for the false religion and turns on it and destroy it. Verse 17 tells us that God puts the idea into their hearts to destroy it.

The destruction of the Babylonian religious system appears to happen during the tribulation period. Perhaps after the Antichrist sets himself up as god. He will have no more use for the False Prophet and this religious system and will then destroy it.

Revelation Chapter 18

Revelation 18:1-8 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury." And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.' Therefore, her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.

The destruction of the Babylonian political system appears to happen just before Jesus returns to earth at the end of the tribulation period.

During the 7th vial judgment, God remembers Babylon.

Revelation 16:19 "and the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nation's fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath."

In chapter 18 the angel said, "Babylon is fallen" However, this event is still in our future. This pronouncement is prophetic, that is, it speaks of a yet future event as already having taken place. This is how certain we can be of God's word coming true. There are a couple of different views concerning political Babylon. Some believe that the ancient city of Babylon will be rebuilt and become the political and economic capital of the world. Others believe it will be a particular city like Rome or New York. Still, others see it as a general reference to the corrupt political system headed up by the Antichrist and spanning the earth.

Verse 2 tells us that Babylon will be in ruins and only inhabited by demons. The unclean birds symbolize demons.



Courtesy of Dwelling in the Word

All the nations of the earth have been corrupted by this political system. We learned in chapters 13 and 14 that all the people will take the "mark of the beast" aligning themselves with the Antichrist and this false political system.

Many people have become rich from their involvement in this system. Jesus, himself, warns His people to have no part of the Babylonian system.

These are the people who become believers during the tribulation period. In verse 5 we are told that God remembers her iniquities. In verse 6 we learn that this false political system will be repaid double what she inflicted against God's people.

Galatians 6:7 "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap ".

God keeps a record of our sins, which can only be wiped clean by the blood of Jesus. Have your sins been washed away by Jesus's shed blood? If you are not sure please read the final section of this book [How to go to Heaven](#).



Courtesy of New York YIMBY

In verse 8 we learn this false system will be destroyed by God in one day. Some believe this is a stock market crash. I don't think so, because the verse goes on to say that she will be burned with fire. Will God rain fire down out of heaven as he did on Sodom and Gomorrah? I don't see why not.

The kings of the earth stand far away and mourn the destruction. This indicates

there is intense heat from the fire. It is destroyed in an hour! They have profited greatly from this corrupt system. The merchants who sold their goods and those who transported the goods all mourn because they are out of business. Some believe this is a nuclear explosion. Perhaps, but I think God is quite capable of destroying a city or cities without man's help.



Courtesy of the Book of Revelations

The reaction to her destruction by those in heaven is quite different. In heaven, we find those who have been persecuted by this system to be rejoicing!

The angel throws a large stone into the sea to illustrate that destruction of Babylon will be sudden, violent, and final. This political system is finished and will never be seen again.

Again, we learn that she has been responsible for the blood of the prophets and saints.

Revelation Chapter 19

Revelation 19:1-6 After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and

power belong to our God, for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants." And again, they shouted: "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever." The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: "Amen, Hallelujah!" Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both great and small!" Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty (omnipotent) reigns.



Courtesy of Glory to God

The believers in heaven are still celebrating the defeat of the "Whore of Babylon". Finally, the blood of the martyrs is avenged.

This is the first time the word "Hallelujah!" is used in the New Covenant. It comes from the Hebrew "Haleluya" as in Psalm 146:1, is composed of "Halel" Praise, "u" ye, and "ya" the Lord.

This tells us that they will spend eternity burning in the Lake of Fire.

The church "24-elders" and the 4 living creatures are before the throne of God in heaven.

The word "omnipotent " means all-powerful.

"the voice of many waters" we have seen before in Rev 1:15, describes the omnipotent sound of Jesus's voice.

Revelation 19:7-9 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine

linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, these are the true sayings of God.

Marriage Supper of The Lamb

The "church", all believers both Jewish and Gentile from the day of Pentecost until the rapture, are referred to as the "Bride of Jesus". Paul tells us in

Ephesians 5:26-27 "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 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. (KJV)

The present work of sanctification of the church must be distinguished from justification. Justification by its nature is an act of God by which a believer is declared righteous, in contrast to sanctification, as in Ephesians 5:26, which is the work of God in the believer to bring his spiritual state up to the level of his position in Jesus.

The Marriage of Jesus to the "church" will follow the Jewish wedding pattern. The Jewish wedding consists of 3 separate stages.

The betrothal stage

The groom's father often initiated the marriage contract when the couple was very young. (Sometimes even before birth) He would sign a legal enactment before the proper judge, pledging his son to a chosen girl. The father would offer the proper dowry payment. Thus, even though the bride had never seen the groom, she was nevertheless betrothed or espoused to him.

This stage consisted of two steps: The selection of the bride and the payment of the dowry.

With this in mind, we can state that the marriage of the Lamb is still in its betrothal stage

- a) The bride has been selected. (Eph 1:3,4)
- b) The dowry had been paid. (1 Cor. 6:19,20 and 1 Pet. 1:18,19)

The presentation stage

At the proper time, the father would send to the house of the bride servants carrying the proper legal contract. The bride would then be led to the home of the groom's father. When all was ready, the father of the bride would then place her hand in the hand of the groom's father. He would then place her hand in that of the son.

Applying this background to the marriage of the Lamb, the church still awaits this second phase, the presentation stage, which is known as the rapture! (Eph 5:25,27, Jude 24, Rev 19:7,8)

- a. The father will send for the bride. (Rev 4:1)
- b. The proper legal papers of the marriage will be shown. (2 Tim. 2:19)
- c. The bride will be taken to the Father's home. (Jn. 14:2,3)

The actual marriage takes place in heaven after the rapture. Perhaps shortly after the Bema judgment seat of Jesus.

The celebration stage

After the private marriage service was completed, the public marriage supper would begin. Many guests would be invited to this celebration. (Matt 22:2,3; Lk. 12:35-37; 14:16,17)

The marriage supper of the Lamb appears to take place after the tribulation on earth.

Who are the guests of the lamb's marriage to the church? In general: A group, which would include all believing Gentiles who were converted before Pentecost or after the rapture. In particular: A group that would include all saved Israelites everywhere. The ten virgins in Matt 25 are Israelites. The 5 wise represent saved Israelites and the 5 foolish represent unsaved ones. They cannot represent the church because the church is the bride, inside with the bridegroom. The bride is never invited to her wedding. If she refuses to come there is no wedding.

(From *The King is Coming* p.41-49 by H.L. Willmington)

Revelation 19:10 "And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, see thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." (KJV)

John falls at the angel's feet to worship him! The angel immediately corrects John telling him that he is a fellow servant of Jesus. God is the only one who is worthy of our worship no man, angel, or any created thing is to receive worship but God alone.



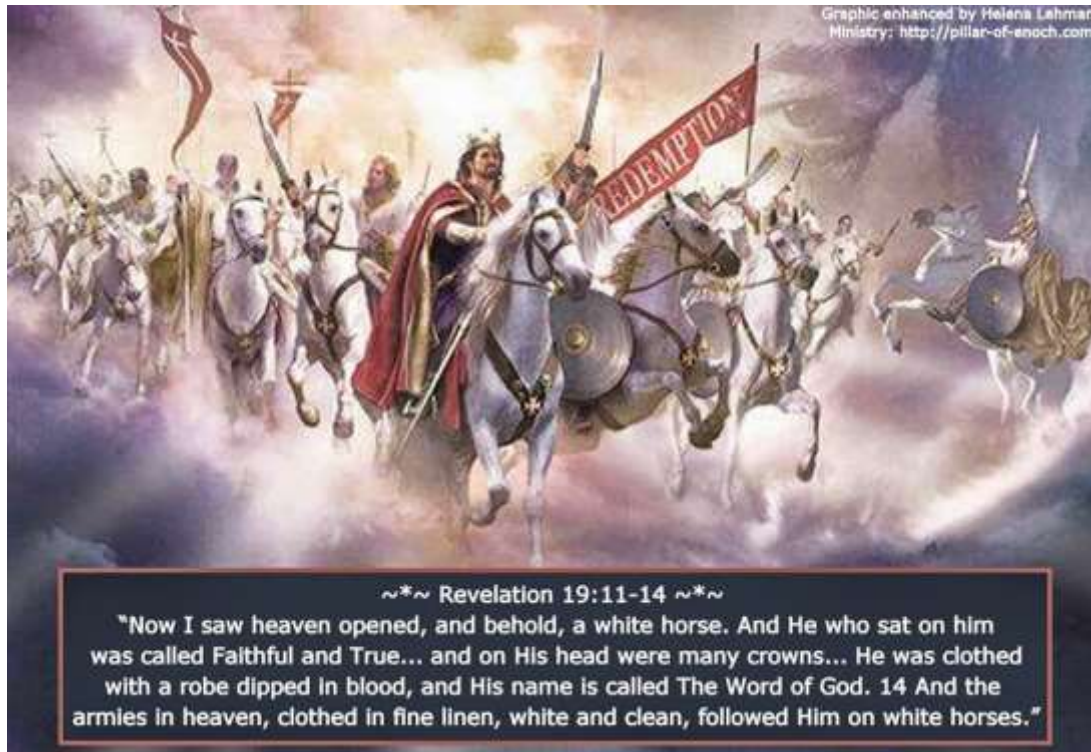
Courtesy of Pat Marvenko Smith

At times men have been worshipped. In the verses below we see that Cornelius fell at Peter's feet and started to worship him. Now if Peter were the first pope, he would have permitted this worship to continue. See below Peter's response.

Acts 10:25-26 "And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. But Peter took him up, saying, stand up; I myself also am a man." (KJV)

Revelation 19:11-16 "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the

winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." (KJV)



Second Coming of Jesus And the Battle of Armageddon.

This is the Second Coming of Jesus and the Battle of Armageddon.

Here we see **Jesus on a white horse**. He is called "Faithful and true. He is about to return to earth and judge the nations. He is righteous in his judgments and all he does.

His flaming eyes are burning, penetrating, searching exposing sin.

He is wearing many crowns. These would be the crowns the believers received at the Bema Judgment and laid at his feet.

His clothes are dipped in blood. This symbolizes the bloodshed about to come.

He is referred to as "The word of God". John used this term to describe him in John 1:1 and 1:14.

The armies of Heaven are with him riding white horses. They are wearing white linen symbolizing their righteousness in Jesus. These are the believers. We are the ones who are accompanying Jesus. We are following Jesus. Can you imagine what it will look like to the people on earth to see Jesus and untold millions on horseback coming out of the sky! There is no reason to believe that this is just the "Church" believers. This may also include the Old Testament believers and the Tribulation believers. The angels may also be a part of this entourage.



© Darryl Skytta

The two-edged sword coming out of his mouth tells us God will judge **by the force of His word**. He never uses his hands or any other body part only His word. He speaks.

Revelation 19:16 "And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." (KJV)

This is exactly who He is! He is the ruler and creator of the Universe. What a mighty God we have! This is the high point of all history!!!

The revelation of Jesus presented in the book of Revelation is in contrast to the Christ of the Gospels where He is revealed in rejection, humiliation, suffering, and death. His return is to be one of triumph, glory, sovereignty, and majesty.

Revelation 19:17-19 "And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond,

both small and great. 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." (KJV)

The angel calls to the carnivorous birds telling them to come to "The supper of the great God". This is another term for the "Battle of Armageddon". The following passages from the Old Testament and the New Testament describe the battle.

Psalms 2:1-5,9; Isaiah 34:1-6; Isaiah 63:3-6; Joel 3:2,9-16;

Zechariah 14:2-3, 12; Revelation 14:14-20; Revelation 16:16

Zechariah 14:2-3 For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city. Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle.

And in that day living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter.

And in that day living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter.

Isaiah 63:3-6 "I have trodden the wine trough alone, and from the peoples, there was no man with Me. I also trod them in My anger and trampled them in My wrath; their lifeblood is sprinkled on My garments, And I stained all My raiment. "For the day of vengeance was in My heart, And My year of redemption has come. "I looked, and there was no one to help, And I was astonished and there was no one to uphold; So, My own arm brought salvation to Me, And My wrath upheld Me. "I trod down the peoples in My anger and made them drunk in My wrath, And I poured out their lifeblood on the earth."

The location of the battle:

The staggering dimensions of this conflict can scarcely be conceived by man. The battlefield will stretch from Megiddo on the north (Zech 12:11; Rev. 1:16) to Edom on the South (Isa. 34:5,6; 63:1), a distance of approximately 200 miles. It will reach from the Mediterranean Sea on the west to the hills of Moab on the east, a distance of almost 100 miles. It will include the **Valley of Jehoshaphat** (Joel 3:2,12) and **Plains of Esdraelon**. At the center of the entire area will be the city of Jerusalem. (Zech 14:1,2)

Into this area the multiplied millions of men, doubtless approaching **400 million**, will be crowded for the final holocaust of humanity. The kings with their armies will come from the north and south, from the east and the west in the most dramatic sense this will be the "Valley of decision" for humanity (Joel 3:14) and the great winepress into which will be poured the fierceness of the wrath of Almighty God (Rev 19:15). (The End Times, p. 163 by Dr. Herman A Hoyt)



Courtesy of Google Maps

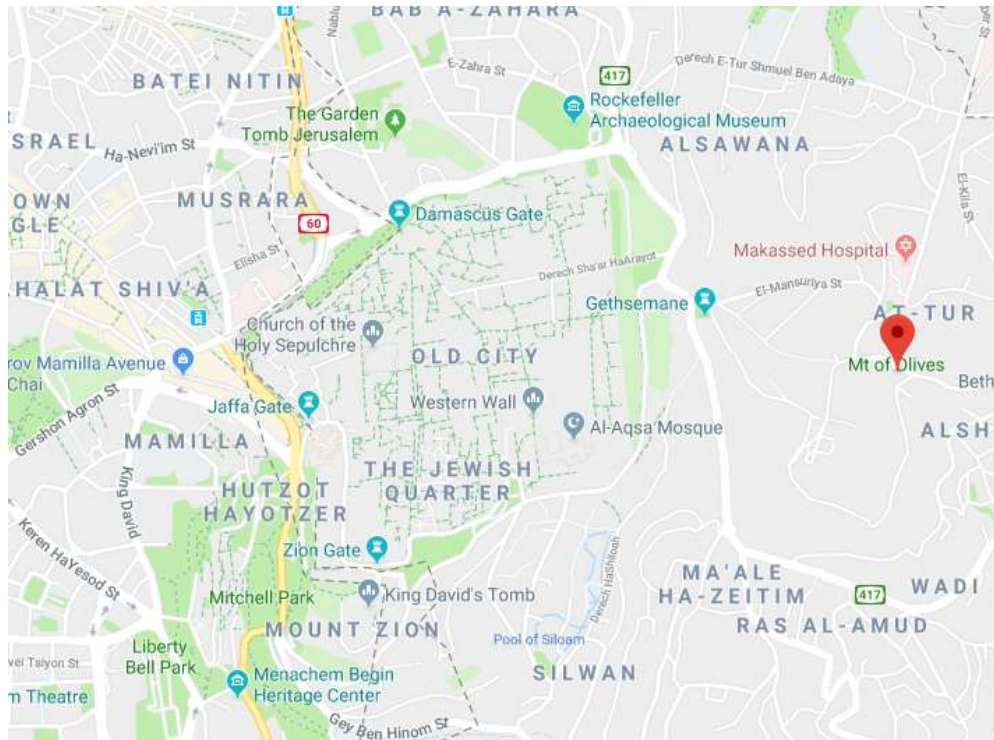
The valley of Jehoshaphat is a valley just east of Jerusalem between the Holy City and the Mount of Olives. Also known as the Kidron Valley.

The valley of Esdraelon is a valley 20 miles long and 14 miles wide, north and west of Jerusalem between the Holy City and the Mediterranean Sea.

Megiddo is a flat plain in the valley of Esdraelon. This is in the north beneath the city of Megiddo.

Bozrah was a city in Edom, east of the Jordan River and near Petra, the capital city of Edom.

The chronology of the battle:



Courtesy of Google Maps

First, the drying up of the Euphrates River (Rev 16:12) Allowing the nations from the east to march toward Israel.

Next, the destruction of Jerusalem. (Zech 12:2; 14:2; Luke 21:20)

The reasons for the battle:

What will draw all nations of the world into the area of Armageddon? They will gather themselves there for various reasons. It would seem that the following are three of the more important reasons.



Courtesy of Mark Hitchcock

- Because of the sovereignty of God. We are told he will gather them here: (Isa. 34:2, Joel 3:2, Zech 14: 2, Zech 3:8, Rev 16:16)
- Because of the deception of Satan. (Rev 16:13, 14)

- Because of the hatred of the nations for Jesus. (Ps 2:1-3; Rev 11:15, 18; 12:12; Zech 14:4; Acts 1:9-12)

The Second Coming

The chronology of the Second Coming of Jesus:



Courtesy of Mysteries of the Scriptures

It begins with fearful manifestations in the skies. (Mt. 24:29; Lk. 21:25,26)

In the midst of this, the heavens open and Jesus comes forth. (Mt. 24:30; 2 Thess. 1:7; Rev 1:7; Rev 19:11)

The returning Christ touches down upon the **Mount of Olives**, causing a great earthquake (Zach 14:4,8)

After touching down on the Mount of Olives, Jesus proceeds to **Petra** and **Bozrah**, two chief cities in Edom. While it is

impossible to be dogmatic here, it would seem that he goes to Edom to gather the **hiding Israelite remnant**. Accompanied by the holy angels, the church, and the remnant, Jesus marches toward Armageddon (Isa 34:6; 63:1)

Zachariah 14:4, 8 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south. ... And in that day, it shall be that living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and half of them toward the western sea; in both summer and winter it shall occur.



Courtesy of Grace Baptist Church Decatur

To judge fallen angels. (1 Cor. 6:3)

Revelation 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.** 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."

The purpose of the second coming of Jesus:

- 1) To defeat the Antichrist and the world's nations assembled at Armageddon.
 - 2) To regather, regenerate, and restore faithful Israel. (Isa 43:5,6; Jer. 24:6, Ezek 11:17; Ezek 36:28; Amos 9:14,15; Micah 7:18,19; Mt. 24:31; Zech 12:10-12, Rev 1:7)
 - 3) To judge and punish faithless Israel (Rom 9:6; Rom 11:26)
 - 4) To separate the sheep from the goats. (Matt 25:31-46)
- This is **not** the "Great White throne judgment of Rev 20:11-15
- This judgment is to judge how the gentiles who have survived the tribulation have treated Israel. (Gen 12:1-3)
- 5) To bind Satan, (Rev 20:1-3). (More on this in chapter 20.)
 - 6) To resurrect Old Testament and tribulation believers. (Job 19:25,26; Ps 49:15; Isa. 25:8; Isa. 26:19, Dan. 12:2; Hosea 13:14; John 5:28, 29; Heb. 11:35; Rev 20:4,5)

The (beast) Antichrist and the False Prophet are thrown into the "Lake of Fire". **They are the first 2 occupants** of this eternal place of punishment.

The difference between "the Lake of Fire" and "Hell" (also known as Hades and Sheol): Hell is a temporary place for the unbelievers to go when they die. In chapter 20 we will see that the occupants of Hell are judged and then thrown into the Lake of Fire. It appears that the Lake of Fire has degrees of punishment. (More on this in chapter 20)



Revelation Chapter 20

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



Courtesy of Pat Marvenko Smith

What a happy day this will be!!! Satan will be bound and thrown into the "**Bottomless pit**". This seems to be another name for hell. Remember Hell is the temporary holding place for the lost. Satan is out of the picture for 1,000 years. He is not able to deceive the nations for this entire time. This period is known as the Millennium. This is when Jesus will reign from Jerusalem.

Another important note: Many believe that Satan is in Hell now. **NOTHING** could be further from

the truth. Until Revelation 20:1-3 is fulfilled Satan has never and will never set foot in Hell. Right now, he is known as the god of this world

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." (KJV)

Note: Revelation 20:3 states that he **MUST** be set free for a short time. See notes on verse 7.

Revelation 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. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 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." (KJV)

Here we see that believers will reign with Jesus. This looks like those who become believers during the Tribulation period, notice they are beheaded for their testimony, they did not worship the beast (Antichrist) or receive the Mark of the Beast. It is possible that the believers from the Old Testament period and the "Church" age are also ruling with him.

This is the 1st resurrection. Here we see the believers who have not already received their bodies at the rapture. These would be the Old Testament believers as well as the Tribulation believers.

The Resurrections

To properly understand the Resurrections

We need to look at a couple of groups of people and what happens to each group.

The church (Believers from Pentecost until the Rapture) - At the Rapture only "the church" receives their glorified bodies. The "dead in Christ" will receive their glorified bodies moments before those of us who are still alive receive our glorified bodies. **NOTE:** the term "in Christ". The rapture is only for "the church". We are the only ones who receive our glorified bodies at the rapture. (1Thess. 4:16-17)

Tribulation believers - After the tribulation, the believers from the tribulation are resurrected.

Rev 20:4-5 "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (KJV)

They are in **the first resurrection**. They are blessed because they do not experience the second death "The Lake of Fire".

Old Testament Believers (Believers from Adam and Eve until Pentecost) In looking through our commentaries the Bible Scholars are at odds when they receive their glorified bodies. Some believe they will receive them after the tribulation and others believe they must wait until after the millennium. I can't think of a good reason why they should have to wait another 1,000 years.

Millennium Believers - (Believer from Jesus's Millennial Reign.) Not sure when these believers receive their glorified bodies. It might happen if they die or at the end of the 1000 years.

The second resurrection (or second death) will be **all of the unbelievers from Adam and Eve until the end of Jesus's reign**. They are described in Rev 20:5-6 "but the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished " (KJV) they will face the "**Great White Throne**" judgment.

Dan 12:2 "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." (KJV)

This is referring to the first and second resurrection in Revelation 20, not the Rapture.



Courtesy of Fellowship Church

Revelation 20:7-10 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. 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 forever and ever. (KJV)



Courtesy of Larry Clements

Satan is freed and he will go out to deceive the nations. This is because each of us must decide to accept Jesus or reject him. During the Millennium there will be many people born. The world will be repopulated during this time. They will not have experienced sin and temptation, as we know it today. They will still have the ability to sin but the tempter will be out of the picture. Just as Adam and Eve lived in a perfect environment and still sinned so too there will be those individuals who will sin during the millennium and reject Jesus.



Satan will gather the nations together to battle. Gog and Magog (Moscow) seem to lead the pack. **Note:** this is not just a few people; their number is like the sand on the seashore. **It is amazing to believe that people can still reject Jesus when he is ruling and reigning over them.**

They march on Jerusalem in an attempt to overthrow Jesus. How arrogant of them to think they can de-throne God!

Jesus doesn't even work up a sweat. **Fire comes down from heaven and consumes them all.**

Satan is now thrown into the "Lake of Fire". During the entire 1,000-year reign of Jesus, there are only 2 occupants in the "Lake of Fire" the Antichrist and the False Prophet. Satan is the 3rd occupant.

The Millennium

The Millennium will be a period of:

- 1) Peace - There will be no war (Isa. 11:6-9; Isa. 2:4)

2) Happiness - (Isa. 11:6-9; 12:3)

3) Long Life and health - Sickness will virtually be removed (Isa. 65:20; Isa. 33:24)

4) Prosperity (Isa. 35:1-2)

5) Joy in Labor (Isa. 65:21-22)

The Great White Throne Judgment



Courtesy of The Brick Bible

Revelation 20:11-15 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of

those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire.

This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. (KJV)

This is Jesus at the White throne Judgment. This description correlates to the description of Jesus's judgment of the wicked in

Revelation 6:12-17 (Great Tribulation) "the kings of the earth, and the rulers, the generals, the rich and the mighty- indeed, everyone, slave and free- hid himself in caves and among the rocks in the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks,

"Fall on us, and hide us from the face of the One sitting on the throne and from the fury of the LAMB.

The Lamb describes Jesus. The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. The phrase "whose face the earth and the heaven fled away" in Rev. 20:11 sounds like the lamb in Rev 6:17.

This is the judgment of the lost. If you have not accepted Jesus as your Savior you will stand before him at this judgment. Those of us who have accepted him will be spectators. The books are opened. This is the record of all your deeds. The "**Book of Life**" is also opened. The dead are judged according to what they have done. There are untold millions of people who are trying to work their way to heaven. They want to be judged on their works and they will be. However, the result they expected will not be theirs.



Courtesy of Andrea K Robson

Paul wrote that someday ALL will bow and confess that Jesus is Lord.

Philippians 2:5-11 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was

made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (KJV)

The question is this: Will you bow your knees willingly now or before you are cast into the "Lake of Fire"?



"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."
Revelation 20:12



OPEN
THE BOOK
OF LIFE!



HIS NAME DOES NOT
APPEAR, LORD!



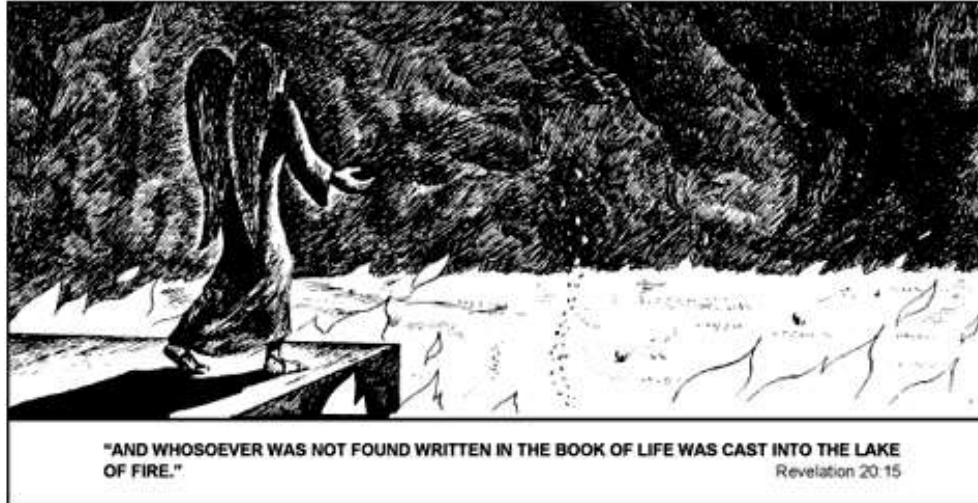
DEPART FROM ME,
YE CURSED INTO
EVERLASTING FIRE,
PREPARED FOR THE
DEVIL AND HIS
ANGELS

Matthew 25:41



"AND THESE SHALL GO AWAY INTO
EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT: BUT THE
RIGHTEOUS INTO LIFE ETERNAL."

Matthew 25:46



Courtesy of Chick Publications

For the Bible tells us in

Isaiah 64:6 "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. (KJV)



Courtesy of Rapture, Tribulation, Heaven and Hell Testimony

All of your good works are not going to measure up to God's Holiness. It is believed that there are degrees of punishment in the "Lake of Fire" just as there are rewards for the believers in heaven.

The "Book of Life" is where the names of believers in Jesus are written. If your name is not written in the "**Book of Life**" you **WILL**

spend eternity in the "**Lake of Fire**"! This is known as the second death.

Revelation Chapter 21

The New Heaven and New Earth



Revelation 21:1-2 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I, John, saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of

heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (KJV)



© Lisa Ransom

The "New" heaven and "New" earth
The Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible
has the following footnote: "Here we
have the description of a new heaven
and new earth. The word "new" in
Greek is rendered by the word *kainos*,
which means "qualitatively new" and
not simply another earth and another
heaven. Since our resurrection bodies
will be changed, so will the

environment in which these new bodies live."

Some people believe that the earth will be renewed, others believe the earth will be replaced. (See also: Isa. 65:17; Isa 66:22; 2 Pet. 3:13)

There is a New Jerusalem, which comes down to earth out of Heaven. It is described starting in verse 9.



Courtesy of The Hope of Israel

Revelation 21:3-8 And I heard a great
voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the
tabernacle of God is with men, and he
will dwell with them, and they shall be
his people, and God himself shall be
with them, and be their God. And God
shall wipe away all tears from their
eyes; and there shall be no more death,

neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, it is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and

murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. (KJV)

Here we see Jesus is described as the tabernacle. He dwells among us! Jesus is plainly described as God here. He will wipe away our tears. There will be no pain, tears, death, or sorrow.

WHAT A HAPPY DAY THAT WILL BE!!!!

He is known as the **Alpha and Omega**. These are the first and last letters in the Greek alphabet. He is telling us that he always was and always will be.

Jesus speaks directly to John and commands him to "write".



Courtesy of How Sweet the Sound

Jesus reminds us of his desire to save us. He refers to the "water of life". He spoke to the woman at the well in John chapter 4 of these same "living waters".

He desires to adopt us and make us his children. The choice however is ours. Jesus is a gentleman and we all have the choice to reject him or accept him. He reminds us of the consequences of rejecting him in verse 8. **Those who reject him will spend eternity in the**

lake of fire.



Courtesy of Trust in God

Revelation 21:9-27 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 you the bride, the Lamb's wife. 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, Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

And he measured the wall thereof, a hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.

And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.

And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysopterus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.

And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

	KJV	NIV
1	jasper	jasper
2	sapphire	sapphire

3	chalcedony	agate
4	emerald	emerald
5	sardonyx	onyx
6	sardius	ruby
7	chrysolite	chrysolite
8	beryl	Beryl (aquamarine)
9	topaz	topaz
10	chrysoprase	turquoise
11	jacinth	jacinth
12	amethyst	amethyst



Jacinth



Chrysolite

Revelation 21:22-27 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had **no need of the sun, neither of the moon**, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. 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 honor into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be **no night there**. And they shall bring the glory and honor of the nations into it. And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth,

neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life. (KJV)



Courtesy of restorationpanshise

In Rev 21:9 Rev 22:5 we have the description of the New Jerusalem.

Bright Crystal clear like a jasper

The city has a rectangular base. It measures 1,500 miles in length and width.

Its height is also 1,500 miles high. Incredible!!! Some believe this is a cube shape while others feel it is a pyramid with the center point of the

pyramid being 1500 miles high.

There is a wall around the city. The wall of the city has 12 layers. Each layer is a different precious gem and each has the name of one of the 12 apostles written on it. The wall is 72 yards high. Think about this for a minute. This sounds high at first but when you think about the rest of the city is 1500 miles high it is just a tiny curb around the outside of the city! I think gives us a glimpse at the intricate detail awesome beauty that awaits us there!



Courtesy of The Brick Bible



This is to give you some idea of the size of the city.



Courtesy of Google Maps

There are 3 gates on each side for a total of 12 gates. Each gate has an angel guarding it. The names of **the 12 sons of Israel** are written on them. Each gate is a single pearl. (Imagine the size of the oyster!!)

The street of the city is pure gold! Imagine walking on the street of Gold! This tells us that God is not impressed with earthly wealth. To our earthly minds, we know of very little more precious than gold. Yet in the New Jerusalem, it will be so commonplace we will be walking on it.



Courtesy of The Brick Bible

There is no temple in the City because God will be its temple and he shall be with us forevermore!!

There will be no need for the sun and the moon because we will be in the presence of God and His brilliance will illuminate the city.

There will never be night and the gates will never close.

There shall be no unclean thing "sin"

there and the only ones who will be permitted entrance are those whose names are written in the book of life.

Revelation Chapter 22

Revelation 22:1-2 "And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations." (KJV)

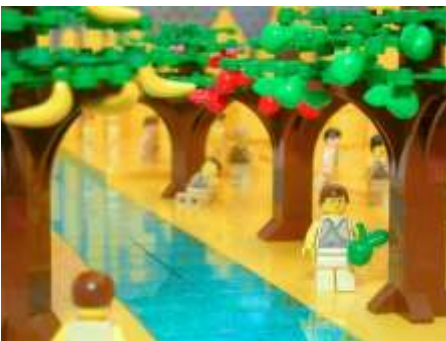


Courtesy of Pat Marvenko Smith

The river of the water of life comes from the throne of God. The Tree of Life is growing on the banks of the river. Well, the last time we saw the tree of life was in the Garden of Eden. God placed an angel at the entrance to the garden to block Adam and Eve's return to the garden and in doing so he prevented them from eating from the Tree of Life and living forever. Now that sin has been removed as well as mankind's sinful nature, we will be allowed to eat from

the tree. Each month the tree bears a different type of fruit.

If we study the verse closely, we see it states, "flowing from the throne of God AND of the Lamb.



Courtesy of The Brick Bible

Revelation 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: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them

light: and they shall reign forever and ever." (KJV)

It states "The throne of God and the lamb again! There is only one throne for them both. Why? It displays the mystery of the Godhead. The Lord God is one!!! However, there are Father and the Son and Holy Spirit. This came up in Rev. 3.

Jesus declares that he sat down with the Father on his throne. John declares he sees someone sitting on the throne and then he sees a lamb. Again in Rev. 5, it declares: Sing praise to him who sits on the throne AND to the Lamb. The mystery of the Trinity may be touched on later. But it is one of the deepest mysteries of God. We cannot put him in a box. We cannot currently understand this completely.

In Rev. 22:3-5 there is no longer any curse. This would refer to the punishment given for disobeying God in Genesis 3:14-19. No more thorns and thistles. Also, before Adam and Eve's sin, Jesus would come down and visit with them in the evening. Because of their sin, the fellowship they enjoyed with him was broken. Now Jesus will dwell with them forevermore. We will see Him face to face in all his glory. No one was able to do this and live. When Jesus came to earth, He took on human flesh and His glorified state was hidden from mankind. Here we shall behold him in all His glory. Again, we read there will be no more night. God's glory will illumine them. They will reign (that's us) forever and ever!!

Revelation 22:6-7 "And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book." (KJV)

John is told once again the Revelation he just saw was "faithful and true"

Jesus tells us "Blessed is he who heeds the words of this prophecy".

Revelation 22:8-9 And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, see thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God. (KJV)

This is the second time John does this. (See Rev 19:10) and again he is reprimanded by the angel. Now if I were John, I would have left these two scenes out of the book. However, John dutifully records his shortcomings.

Revelation 22:10-17 "And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. 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. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. 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." (KJV)

Here John is told NOT to seal up the book because the "Time is at hand". At the end of the book of Daniel, Daniel was instructed to "SEAL UP" the book until the "time of the end." Well, this is interesting. Jesus said 2,000 years ago that it was the end times and not to seal up the book. So, we must be very close to this book being fulfilled! We are again reminded of the consequences of rejecting Jesus and the rewards of accepting Him as our savior.

Revelation 22:18-19 "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: **And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of**

life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written
in this book." (KJV)

We are warned of the seriousness of adding to or removing portions of scripture to meet suit our agenda. I believe this warning extends to the entire Bible and is not limited to the book of Revelation.

Revelation 22:20-21 "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen." (KJV)



Courtesy of Charles Schulz

You do not want to go through the tribulation period.

If you are reading through this study and the rapture has not yet happened, you need to pray and accept Jesus as your savior and then you will miss the tribulation and you will go to heaven someday soon.

If you are reading this study and the rapture has already happened, then you are stuck here to endure the tribulation. You too need to pray and accept Jesus as your savior. ***Whatever you do, do not take the mark of the beast***, or you will be damn to the Lake of Fire for all eternity.

Please read on for the study on [how to get to heaven](#).

How to Go to Heaven

If the rapture has not happened yet when you read this, you will also escape the tribulation period and be safe in heaven if you pray and accept Jesus as your savior.

If the rapture has already happened, you will be stuck here to live through the tribulation period, but you will go to heaven if you die during the tribulation and have not taken the mark of the beast. This will most likely mean you will be killed for your faith in Jesus at some point in time.

Read on to find out how you can go to heaven.

1 John 5:11-12 And this is the testimony: the **one who does not have the Son of God** God has given us eternal life, and this **(Jesus) does not have this eternal life.** life is in his Son. The **one who has the Son (Jesus) has this eternal life;**



Courtesy of Journey to the Celestial City



Courtesy of yahushua-thechiefcornerstone



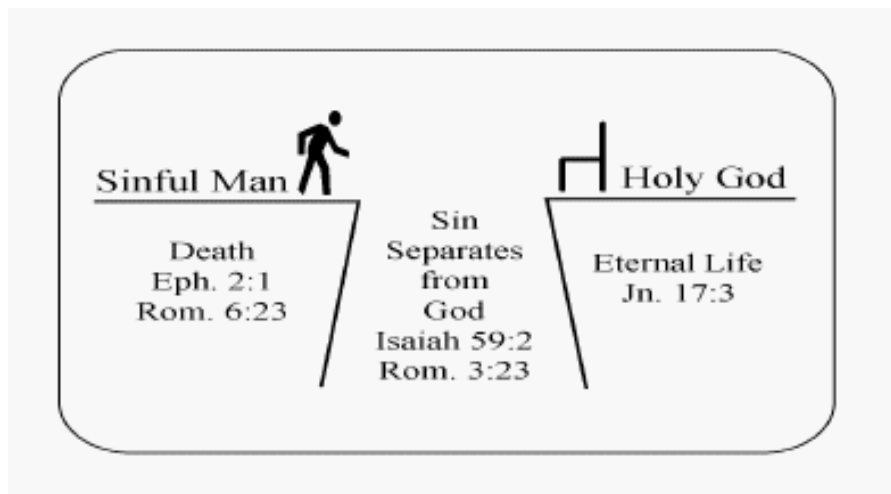
painting by Douglas Ramsey

Isaiah 59:2 But your sinful acts have alienated you from your God; your sins have caused him to reject you and not listen to your prayers.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ (Jesus) died for us.



Courtesy of Painting by Lawrence

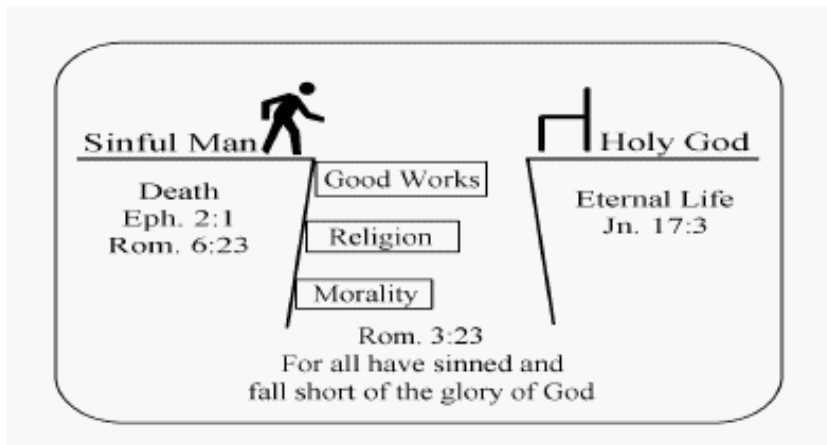


Courtesy of Bible.org

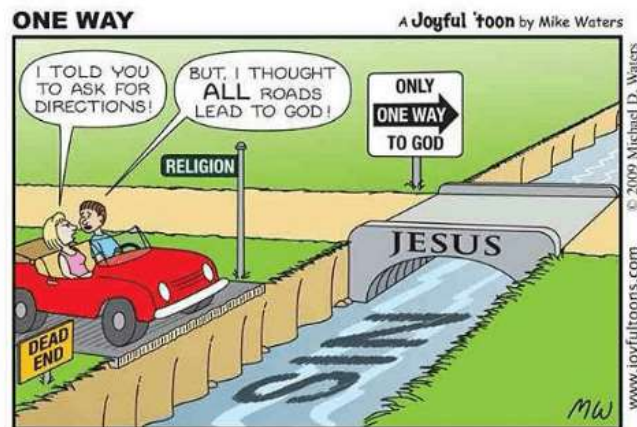


For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

Our goodness will never get us to heaven

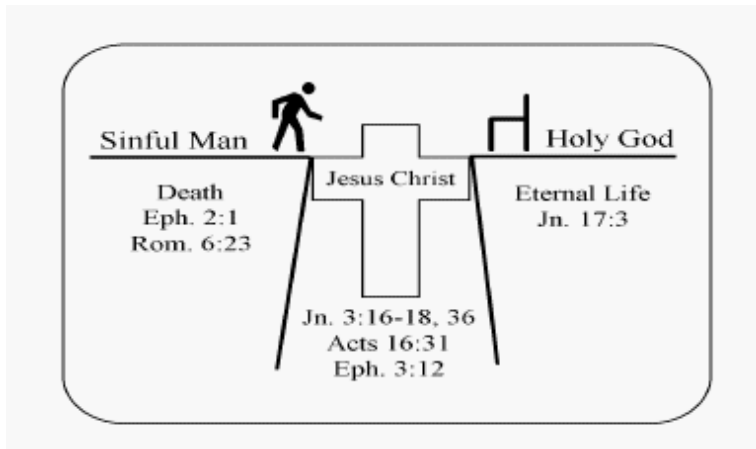


Courtesy of Bible.org



Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. — JOHN 14:6 KJV

Only Jesus bridges the gap!



Courtesy of Bible.org



Painting by William Hole

John 3:16-18 For this is the way God loved the world: he gave his one and only Son that everyone who believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world should be saved through him. **The one who believes in Him is not condemned.**

The **one who does not believe has been condemned already** because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God.

Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and **broad is the road that leads to destruction**, and many enter through it. But **small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life**, and only a few find it.



Courtesy of Deep Waters

HIGHWAY EXIT

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



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www.joyfultoons.com

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: — MATTHEW 7:13 KJV

So, what do you need to do?

It is as easy as **A, B, C.**

Admit you are a sinner.

Sin is breaking God's laws.

The Top Ten Laws of God.



Courtesy of Chrystal Graphics

I. You may worship no other god than me. (Exodus 20:3)

II. You shall not make yourselves any idols: no images of animals, birds, or fish. You must never bow or worship it in any way; for I, the Lord your God, am very possessive. I will not share your affection with any other god! (Exodus 20:4-5)

III. You shall not use the name of Jehovah your God irreverently, nor use it to swear to a falsehood. You will not escape punishment if you do. (Exodus 20:7)

IV. Remember to observe the Sabbath as a holy day. (Exodus 20:8)



© Lisa Ransom

V. Honor your father and mother, that you may have a long, good life in the land the Lord your God will give you. (Exodus 20:12)

VI. You must not murder. (Exodus 20:13)

VII. You must not commit adultery. (Exodus 20:14)

VIII. You must not steal. (Exodus 20:15)

IX. You must not lie. (Exodus 20:16)

X. You must not be envious of your neighbor's house, or want to sleep with his wife, or want to own his slaves, oxen, donkeys, or anything else he has. (Exodus 20:17)

We all sin.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)

Be willing to turn from your sin.

This is called repentance.

Jesus said: I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. (Luke 13:5)



Courtesy of heavens record

Believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins.



© Lisa Ransom

For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that anyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. (Romans 5:8)

Confess your sins

Confess your sins and invite Jesus into your life to become your personal Savior.

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Romans 10:13)

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12)

Sample Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a **sinner**, and I ask for Your forgiveness.

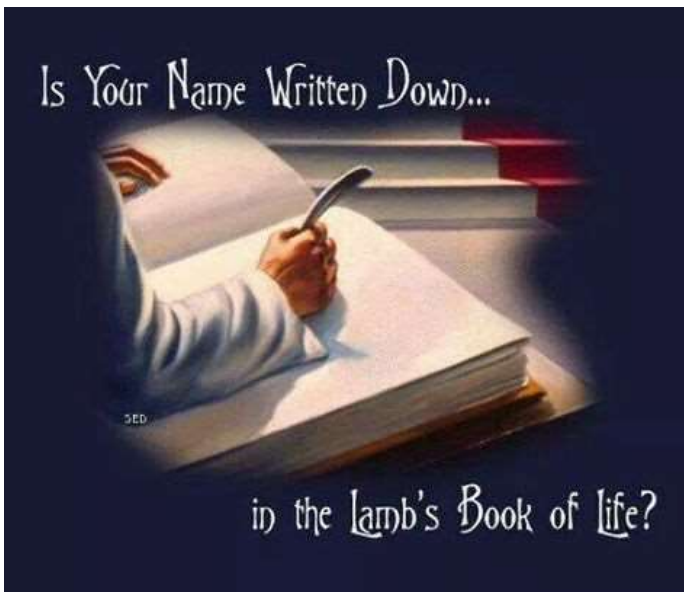
I believe You died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead.

I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior.

In Jesus name, I pray, AMEN



Courtesy of the Cripple Gate



Courtesy of Defavouredking

It is; if you just prayed that prayer and meant it.

Now what?

So, you have prayed and asked God to forgive you. Now what?

Here some important things to do:

1) Spend time in prayer and Bible study each day. Ask God to help you to understand his word.

Ask him for guidance and direction for your life.

2) Find a good Church (like a Bible Church or a Baptist Church) to meet other Christians and grow in your faith.

3) Get baptized - Baptism by immersion is a public profession of your faith and was commanded by Jesus. It is not necessary for salvation; it is an outward picture of an inward change.

4) Take communion, this was also commanded by Jesus. It does not become the body of Jesus,

It is a symbol of Jesus shed blood and broken body. We take it to remember what he did for us.

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