

Bible Thoughts

with
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The Book of Revelation

The thoughts and note material given on these pages are only a possible suggestion of the meaning, they must not be taken as inspired, however they are prayerfully prepared and compared with other similar material. There are many ways in which God's Word can be analyzed and none must be taken in place of the Word of God itself.

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Introduction

Revelation of Jesus Christ.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ as given to John The Apostle *which God gave unto Him to show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass*, [Rev 1:1](#).

Author: John the Apostle while in prison on the Isle of Patmos in the Aegean Sea.

Date: Tradition puts the date about A.D. 96. Persecution of the Christian is soon to burst on the Christians in Asia, and eventually everywhere. It was the official government was determination to destroy the church of Christ.

John is given a commission [Rev 1:19](#). God is not trying to hide things, He is trying to reveal our future and show us what is to come. Only God knows the future, Satan does not know the future [Isaiah 46:9,10](#), though he has access to the scripture like us.

The writings cover three main area's:-

- 1) A brief look at "things which thou hast seen."
- 2) "The things which are."
- 3) "The things which shall be hereafter."

The writings contain information which is often written in a symbolic way, it may have a literal meaning as well. The symbols and information John recorded in Revelation may not have been understood by John himself, but as we approach the end times they are becoming more obvious in meaning and it may now be possible to take them literally.

For example the "Two Witnesses" in [Rev 11:3-12](#) The whole world can see their dead bodies for three and half days, that was impossible in A.D. 96, but today we regularly watch news and sport from around the world as it happens via the satellite linking and broadcasting system.

Prophecy Overview.

1) The Rapture and departure of the saints [Rev 4:1](#); [1 Thess 4:16-18](#).
From this point there is no mention of the church until it comes down to earth with Jesus, [Rev 19:1ff](#).

When will this happen? At any time, it does not depend upon any signs or prophecy being fulfilled.

2) Rise of the Beast and deception of the Devil. [Rev 13:1-3](#).

3) Great Tribulation and Destruction of the Earth - 7 years long.

4) Armageddon and destruction of Beast [Rev 16:13-16](#); [Rev 19:11-16](#).

5) Millennium: Reign of peace under Jesus [Rev 20:1-6](#).

6) Final Judgement and Doom of Lost [Rev 20:11-15](#).

7) Final state and destiny of Man [Rev 21:6-8](#).

[The letter is broken up as follows:](#)

The Triumph of the Lamb

The Events Recorded
In
The Book of Revelation

Things You Have Seen

Jesus Christ
 The Cross and result
 Vision of Christ in Glory

Things Which Are
The present

Church age
 Ephesus [Rev 2:1-7](#)
 Smyrna [Rev 3:8-11](#)
 Pergamos [Rev 2:12-17](#)
 Thyatira [Rev 2:18-29](#)
 Sardis [Rev 3:1-6](#)
 Philadelphia [Rev 3:7-13](#)
 Laodicea [Rev 3:14-19](#)

Things Which Shall Be Here After *To come*

In Heaven

The Rapture To Heaven for Believers

Judgement seat
of Christ for Chris-
tians

Marriage of the Lamb
[Rev 19:7-10](#)

Seven Seals

[Rev 6:1 - 8:1](#)

On Earth

1st Seal - [Rev 6:1-2](#)

White Horse

2nd Seal - [Rev 6:3-4](#)

Red Horse

3rd Seal - [Rev 6:5-6](#)

Black Horse

4th Seal - [Rev 6:7-8](#)

Pale Horse

5th Seal - [Rev 6:9-11](#)

Persecution of Martyrs

6th Seal - [Rev 6:12-17](#)

Disasters on earth and in heaven

God's people sealed

[Rev 7:1-17](#)

7th Seal - [Rev 8:1](#)

Silence

Seven Trumpets

1st Trumpet - [Rev 8:7](#)

Hail, Fire, Blood

2nd Trumpet - [Rev 8:8,9](#)

Burning Mountain

3rd Trumpet - [Rev 8:10,11](#)

Star Wormwood

4th Trumpet - [Rev 8:12,13](#)

Cosmic Darkness

5th Trumpet - [Rev 9:1ff](#)

Locus - demon spirits

6th Trumpet - [Rev 9:13-21](#)

Seven Vials

[Rev 15:1 - 16:21](#)

- 1st Vial - [Rev 16:2](#) Boils
- 2nd Vial - [Rev 16:3](#) Sea turns to blood
- 3rd Vial - [Rev 16:4-7](#) Rivers of Blood
- 4th Vial - [Rev 16:8,9](#) Great Heat
- 5th Vial - [Rev 16:10,11](#) Darkness
- 6th Vial - [Rev 16:12](#)
Euphrates Dries up
- 7th Vial - [Rev 16:17-21](#) Hail

Judgement

Mystery Babylon [Rev 17:1ff](#)

Babylon The Great [Rev 18:1ff](#)

Chapter 1

In the first 3 verses it is revealed the divine nature of Jesus.

v1 A revelation is the uncovering of hidden information or objects. The source of this revelation is God Himself; He has given it through Christ for His servants the church. An angel has acted as mediator, forming a connecting link between events. The events are soon to take place v3 "the time is at hand." 'soon' is a normal prophetic word used throughout the New Testament, it can mean tomorrow, or 2 thousand years ahead, we must remember that 'time' does not exist to an eternal God.

v2 It is also made clear that this revelation is "the Word of God," and is a record of what the writer saw.

v3 A blessing is for anyone who reads or hears the words of this book because "the time is at hand." Today many people are choosing to ignore the Bible, even Christians. The same blessing is given in [Rev 22:7,18,19](#) with some added warnings not to alter the writings.

Some people may feel that God has turned His back on this evil world, but He is working to His perfect timetable, "*the time is at hand - things which must shortly come to pass.*" The second coming of Jesus is near at hand, are you ready?

v4 This verse tells us that the book of Revelation is written mainly for the church not the world, the message from God being addressed to the seven churches in Asia.

Many of the events recorded in this book involve the number seven, the events are usually divided up into two groups of 3 and 4. Three is a symbol of *divine* and four that of *humanity*, seven is a symbolisms of *completeness*.

The word "church" is not referring to the building or the people who attend in the building but those who have been set aside for God's use, those "called out" through the blood of Jesus.

v5 Jesus is the *faithful witness*, not just revealing the truth of God's Word but is also the *first born of the dead*, the first to rise from the dead.

v5b,6 A benediction. Christ has brought His people out of the slavery of sin, and now made them into a kingdom of priests and kings to the glory of God.

v7,8 The second coming of Christ. *He* went to heaven for His church, His departure allowed the Holy Spirit to come, now He is about to come from heaven for His church, [Matt 24:30](#); [Daniel 7:13](#); [Zechariah 12:10](#).

Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, God is the Lord of the beginning and end of history and all points between. The use of the words *the Almighty* shows that this is God speaking, not Jesus.

v9-20 A Vision of Christ in all His glory.

v9 John says that he is a brother and one who shares with those who believe in Christ, their faith and the problems. He was in prison on the Isle of Patmos, suffering for his belief, yet with this suffering he is faithful in the Gospel.

v10 On the first day of the week, Sunday. John was in the Spirit when he is startled by a very loud voice, like a trumpet, behind him.

The speaker commands John to write a book of what he is about to see and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia.

These seven churches were not only in perfect positions to distribute the material but their church life and behaviour reflected the various states of the Church down through the ages.

v12 John now turns to see the source of the voice. He sees seven golden candle sticks, reminding us of the seven branch lamp stand used in the Holy of Holies in the Temple [Exodus 25:31](#). This temple had been destroyed in AD 70, the Jews had failed in their task of showing the world the love of God, now the churches are given the task and show the world the "light of the world."

v13 "One like unto the Son of Man," indicates that this Person is not just a man and represents both Jew and Gentile. He is standing in the middle of the candlesticks which represented the churches.

v13,14 The Person - Christ in all His glory, is clothed in a way which indicates a priest and king. The whiteness of His hairs showed complete purity. See [Daniel 7:9](#). The eyes had the power to examine all they look at and know the truth.

v15 The brass feet represent judgement, these feet are walking amongst the church candlesticks. *The voice of many waters*, like the noise of a very large waterfall perhaps, the voice which will one day call the righteous dead and living, but will be dreaded by those who rejected Him.

v16 Christ hold seven stars, shining ministers for Christ. From the mouth comes a sharp two edged sword, a symbol of punishment, but this is not a sword to be held in an hand as a weapon but the Word which came from the mouth of Christ, He speaks, and it is done.

We see the divine glory in the face, far brighter than the sun at midday.

v17,18 John was very close to Jesus, (the disciple he loved) during His earth ministry, he had even seen him in glory on the mount of transfiguration, yet on seeing Jesus he "fell at His feet as dead." But in all His glory He has compassion on John, He reaches out to calm him, "Fear not."

v19 John receives instruction to make a written record of what he is about to see and hear.

v20 Jesus explains the stars, candlesticks and angels - they represent the seven churches He is about to examine.

Chapter 2

This chapter contains the messages for the first four churches. God chose the seven churches to show the various conditions and stages of the Christian Church starting at the time of John until the end of the Gentile age and the return of Jesus.

What is said about the churches can also apply to individuals, the situations reflect, like a mirror, the persons attitude to the Saviour.

Note that only two of the churches escaped condemnation by Jesus.

At various points we are told "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

v1 **Ephesus.**

v1 Jesus is the speaker as He gives the message to the churches.

v2,3 Ephesus is described as having worked very hard for the Lord, not giving up, having great patience. They did not permit any evil, examining those who had come claiming to be messengers from God and found them liars. They had been persecuted

and opposed as they tried to spread the Gospel. Their attitude and efforts were pleasing to Jesus.

v4 However, Jesus said that they had a serious problem, "they had left their first love." Their love was gone, they were distant and cold, even though they attended all the church activities, they no longer loved God as they did when they first found salvation.

v5-7 If your church or you are like this then "Remember and return to your first love or I will need to remove your candlestick. Repent." The Ephesus church represents the very early church.

v8 **Smyrna.**

This city was one of the most successful and rich in Asia Minor. Many Jews lived in this area and were powerful. They were very much against the Christian.

v9,10 Smyrna was suffering persecution and were financially poor. Jesus tells them that Satan will put you into prison but they were not to be afraid because He was the *First and the Last*, Lord of all situations. He also knows of those who are pretending to be Jews but really are followers of Satan. All these problems will last only a short period.

The "Crown of Life" reminds them of the winner of the race, they will receive life as a prize.

v11 Again the warning to listen to the message, if you do then you will receive salvation and not receive the second death in the lake of fire and brimstone, [Rev 21:8](#).

The Smyrna church represents the second and third century church, severe persecution was introduced by the Roman empire.

v12 **Pergamos.**

v12-17 Pergamos is surrounded by temples of idolatry, behind the town was a large hill covered in heathen temples, it was referred to by Jesus as "Satan's seat" v13. The Devil tries to mix the world and the church.

The church is very mixed, some very spiritual, even being faithful to being a martyr, but others are a problem following false and evil doctrines. The Doctrine of Balaam and Nicolaitanes believed that the body could be used for sin while the soul remains pure.

This doctrine still exists and has led many away from Christ.

v17 The reference to "white stones" might be referring to the habit at the time. Coloured stones were often used by jury's during a trial to indicate, a "white one" was 'not guilty,' a "black one" indicated guilty.

An alternative meaning was that winners were given a marked "white stone" which were then used as an entrance pass to public festivals. This may be the correct meaning as the passage refers to a stone "with a new name written."

Pergamos represents the period in which Emperor Constantine showed favours on the Christian church. individual churches started to form into ecclesiastical systems.

v18 **Thyatira.**

Thyatira symbolizes the church from the 6th to 12th century. A Church which has been corrupted, symbolized by a woman called "Jezebel." She operates her system by fear, force and fraud.

Thyatira was the smallest of the seven cities and did not have temples of worship in the area, they were not therefore exposed to the cults of the previous churches.

Thyatira was an industrial and commercial city, this involved trade guilds or groups which controlled the sale of the goods. To make and sell goods needed membership of these guilds. Unfortunately the guilds had meetings and meals which used material previously offered in the pagan temples. For some Christians this caused problems.

Paul explained that an idol had no power [1 Cor 8:4](#) but these meetings often involved immoral and sexual relations. This was openly encourage by the Nicolaitanes doctrine. v18 The eye's and feet show judgment. [Rev 1:14,15](#).

v20 The woman who was teaching Nicolaitanes doctrine was given the name 'Jezebel' from the queen who tried to turn the Jews away from God [1 Kings 21:25](#); [2 Kings 9:22](#). In some translations the wording suggests it may have been the wife of a church leader.

v21 The woman had been given a previous warning.

v22,23 If she does not repent she and those who followed her will suffer greatly, some suggest, from original text, illness and death in the family and followers. Jesus shows that they will reap what they sowed.

v24 "The deep things of Satan" reflects Nicolaitanes doctrine that you will know the mind of God. No one knows the mind of God.

v26,27 You will win if you do not fall away from Jesus until He returns, then you will be rewarded.

The word "rule" actually means "shepherd" but the text "with a rod of iron" and "broken to shivers" shows the power to destroy.

v28 The "morning star" appears to be Christ Himself.

v29 That final warning to take in what has been written.

Chapter 3

We now move onto the church periods after A.D. 1500, before this time the church leaders had assumed great power. People were losing trust in the leaders realizing their claim of sinless and infallible was wrong.

During this time we had the renaissance period, (a period when learning, art and design developed). When people started to think for themselves, they were discovering the truths found in the Word of God.

We now head for the Reformation, a 16th-Century movement for the changes to the wrong living in the Roman Church, this grew into the appearance of the Protestant Churches with Luther leading the field. Groups of people protested the behaviour and teaching of the original church. As a result the doctrine of 'justification by faith' was resurrected.

v1 **Sardis.**

A Church which appeared alive but was in fact dead. The town of Sardis was once the capital of Lydia but it sank into a city that was forgotten, living on past glory until it was rebuilt by Tiberius after an earthquake. The city was well known for dyeing cloth and a life of evil.

The church appears to have developed in the same way as the city, v4 "who have not defiled their garments," shows evil living by the church members. A few Christians had remained faithful to the Lord but most of the church had become dead to the Lord. Jesus knew all about their behaviour and sends a warning v2,3,5.

v7 Philadelphia.

The name means "brotherly love," this period represents the period of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries when there was a tremendous turning to the Lord.

There were many revivals in the period, Whitefield, Wesley, Finney and Moody stirred up the people to turn to the Lord.

This church period will continue onto the return of the Lord even though we may now be living in the Laodicean church period.

Philadelphia had a small population due to regular earthquakes in the area, the church seems to be in a similar state, v8.

It does not appear that the church was suffering persecution from the general towns people, only the Jewish groups, Jesus does not call them Jews but "of the synagogue of Satan," v9. It appears that sometime in the future these will be made to recognize the Christians, the return of Christ.

Neither is there any indication of wrong doctrine only a "well done" and encouragement.

v8 Jesus says that He has "opened the doors which no one will close,"

v11 "I will return soon make sure you do not lose your crown of life."

v12 A promise of never being separated from God in the coming eternity. The one who succeeds will be given a new name, the Name of God, the name of New Jerusalem.

v14 Laodicea.

Laodicea was on the bank of a river near the junction of three main trade routes. It had become large and very commercial. It was a banking centre and so very rich. Clothing and carpets were manufactured there and it also had a medical school.

The church was not accused of any sort of evil or bad doctrine, it just suffered from pride and self satisfaction. There may have been introduced a pagan element within the church so that fellowship with Christ was very low.

This represents the period that we now live in, according to this church we are only lukewarm(not hot or cold) in our works for the Lord. The Laodicean's were about to be rejected as "not having a good taste" by God. Note also that Jesus referred to the "church of the Laodicean's" not the church at Laodicea, the members had taken over the church and God had no part in it.

v17 These people were rich and had many goods and felt that they could do without God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Yet God considered them "wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked," v17b. Man looks on the outside appearance, God looks on the heart.

v18 The church was encourage to buy the "gold tried in the fire" to really be rich and anoint their eye's (heart) with the purity of God to see their real state.

v19 This terrible state of the church heart does not put off the love of Christ for them, He is still working to produce repentance and redemption. It is worth noting that the invitation is to individuals, not the church. Christ wants to be part of their life.

v20,21 Christ knocks at the door of your heart, but only you can open it. If you open then He will come and join you for ever. He offers to share the throne given to Him by God the Father for those who endures (keeps faith) until the end.

Chapter 4

This chapter begins a new section of the Book of Revelation, it now starts to speak of future events, "after this" starts the section, the book now considers "the things which shall be hereafter."

There are two phases to the return of the Lord.

The first stage:- [1 Thess 4:16,17](#); [1 Cor 15:51,52](#), those who know and love the Lord Jesus as their Saviour, dead or alive will be called up to be with the Lord.

The second stage occurs seven years later at the end of the Tribulation, after the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, Christ comes back to the earth with His saints.

v1 John hears the voice of Jesus calling him up to a door in heaven to see the "things which must be hereafter."

v2 The first thing John sees is a throne, the throne of God, there is no mention of Christ at this point but after this chapter He dominates the scene as the slain Lamb of God.

In this chapter John sees God as the omnipotent creator, with complete and absolute control over the universe.

v3 How do you describe God, a Spirit which is everywhere? John describes the colours he sees coming from the throne as can come from precious stones. Jasper is green, sardine is red while the word describe as 'emerald' is probably a rock crystal which gives a multitude of colour as in a rainbow. The rainbow reminds us of His promise never to destroy man by water, [Genesis 9:13](#).

v4 The twenty four elders sitting on the seats, from later reference to them these appear to be angelic beings, servants of God. Some feel that they represent the people of God, 12 Tribes of Jews and 12 Disciples.

v5 Seven Spirits of God, see [Rev 5:6](#). Perfection and fullness of the Holy Spirit.

v6-8 This is not a sea, but looks like a "sea of glass." The creatures are similar to those of [Ezekiel 1:5-14, 15-22](#). Nature is represented, included Man, before the throne. They reappear in [Rev 6:7](#); [Rev 7:11](#); [Rev 14:3](#); [Rev 15:7](#); [19:4](#).

v8,9 The ceaseless worship of God by these creatures shows the total subjection of nature to God. This is also the first of twenty "hymns" sung by various groups.

v10,11 This second point of worship does not seem to be continual but for special events. The elders recognize that there is only one who is worthy in the universe for the description of being pre-eminence (greater than any other). God created the universe and all that is in it, He has the right to deal with it as He wants. All creation should be subject to Him and give Him the glory, honour and power due to Him.

Chapter 5

John now concentrates his view on the person sitting on the throne. The Person holds a book or scroll which has seven seals to hold it shut. The book has writing "within and on the back" indicating that it is completed, no more writing can be added. This book contains God's plan and instructions. The following chapters show what these are.

Under Jewish laws and customs, when a piece of land or property was sold, it was not permitted to be held beyond a certain period. God had issued an instruction that at the year of the jubilee it must be returned to the original owner. These instructions also allowed a man who had sold his property to buy it back, redeem it, also a 'close kin,' a

near member of the family could also redeem the property.

When the property was sold by the rightful owner two records were made, one was unsealed and open, the other sealed, specifying the redeem price. The previous owner or kinsman could now redeem the property.

[Leviticus 25:25-49](#); Ruth 2 to 4.

We have therefore to conclude that this book was the sealed title deeds to earth which had been lost due to the sin of man back in Eden, Satan had been the purchaser. However the true ownership right is God. The redemption price had been paid at Calvary by God in the form of man, Jesus the Son of God.

v2,3 John now saw an angel, who was obviously very powerful, call for a man who has the right and authority to open the seals and so start the reclamation. The call goes out through the earth, the universe and heaven, and there was no man was found fit (pure without sin) and have the resources to pay the price, so a man was not able to do it. Angels did not have the qualification of 'kinsman,' though they were created beings like Man.

v4 John realized the significance of this and weeps for it means that Man can never claim the earth back as the rightful owner. God's plan for Man has failed.

v5 The elders comforts John and tells him that there is one able, "the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David."

v6 John now saw a Lamb Who had been slain, this is the Lord Jesus Christ. Through incarnation He became a man, pure and sinless, a close kinsman [Heb 2:14](#) and has paid the require price, a sinless sacrifice, a Lamb without blemish, acceptable to the Father and taking the punishment meant for Man.

This Lamb has seven horns, perfect authority, seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God.

v7 God gives the book to Jesus so confirming His right to control and rule the coming events. Jesus who once was jeered and spit at, bowed before in mock worship, scourge and nailed to a cross was now claiming His true throne.

v8,9 The four creatures and twenty four elders now fall down in worship of the Lamb, the twenty four elders have harps and bowls of incense, the prayers of the people of God. They sing a new song because Christ has made the next step in restoration of the earth to Man. The price was paid, redemption made for all mankind.

v10 A better translation is "they reign" not "shall reign," suggesting that it is the Lords people who are really the true owners of the earth even in today's situation.

v11-14 The angelic multitudes now take up the song of praise to the Lamb, followed by all the creatures in heaven and on earth praising not just the Lamb but God and the Lamb together. The universe bows and worships them just as it was originally meant.

Chapter 6

We are brought face to face with the judgements of God as He begins to pour them out on to a world which has rejected Jesus Christ.

No identity is connected to the riders and horses, so they must apply to general situations.

The First Seal.

v1 The seals on the book now begins to be open by the glorified Christ. They are in

two groups, one to four and five to seven.

As the first seal is opened John hears one of the four living beings call him to "Come and see!" this is to be repeated at the first four seals being opened.

v2 The contents of the book are not read but become actions and events. John sees a white horse with a rider, some have said this is Christ but He is in heaven opening the seals, this is one who appears to be Christ, the Anti Christ. The rider of this white horse will be a world leader, but under the control of Satan. He will be able to deceive the world because he will have all the answers to the worlds problems, they may even think he is the 'Christ.'

Another white horse appears in [Rev 19:11](#), this appears at the end of the tribulation seven years after this first white horse.

This first white horse will bring a short period of peace, the bow has no arrows, he wears a crown and will conquer, but famine and death will follow. After he has been accepted by the world as their leader he will demand anything and everything from a follower.

The Second Seal.

v3,4 The second seal releases a red horse and rider, this rider is given the power to take away the peace. We must remember that today some control on wars is made by the presence of the Christian, the salt of the earth, [Matt 5:13](#) but they will have been removed at the rapture. The evil heart of Man will be free to do what it wants.

The Third Seal.

v5,6 A black horse and rider shows power to affect the food, he has a pair of balances. One of the four living beings tells John that "A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny," in those days one persons food will cost a days wage. It will be difficult for the working class to have enough food. The black horse is commanded not to touch the "the oil and the wine!" which represent the luxuries of the rich.

The Fourth Seal.

v7,8 A Pale horse is released, the colour of a dead body. The rider has a name, "Death," with a companion "Hell" This rider has been given power over a quarter of the earth using the familiar weapons of 'sword' (or any weapon of war), famine, pestilence(a fatal epidemic disease) and wild beasts. Death and hell are only concerned with the ungodly and later at the close of the millennium, or the thousand years reign under Jesus, death and hell give up these kept there and then are destroyed in the lake of fire. [Rev 20:11-15](#).

As we move onto the second group of seals we see a different in the opening of the seals, no involvement of the living beings neither do we see horses and riders.

The Fifth Seal.

This seal reveals the persecution of those who have accepted the truth of God. These must be people who had heard the message of salvation before the Rapture but had not accepted Jesus as their Saviour. They were left behind, now they had committed themselves to Christ but have had to go through the terror of the tribulation.

The Holy Spirit is not present on the earth, He was withdrawn with the Church at the rapture. He must be working from heaven somehow responding to those who are seeking God.

These slain souls are under the altar, a place of sacrifice, killed for the Word of God and their witness for Jesus Christ. These souls will obviously be resurrected later at the close of the tribulation. Some may question whether a soul without a body can speak and is conscious. Jesus in [Luke 16:24](#) shows that this is definitely the case, a soul, either in heaven or hell will have a memory and feelings.

v10,11 Why were they crying "How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" Today God is *Grace* but during this period He will have moved onto *Judgement*, He is still seeking lost souls, but this time is rapidly ending. The souls under the altar are told to rest until the *Grace* period is ended.

The Sixth Seal.

v12-17 On opening this seal God is starting to judge the world. God is starting to reveal His power as the earth and surrounding area of space suffer physical changes. We all know the effect of earthquakes on the earth and how small meteors can cause deep holes. Scientist over the last few years have been concerned about a large meteor hitting the earth. What we know of these effects is nothing to what God will do at this point. No wonder all men, of all positions of authority, were so scared that they hid. They are realizing that God is the cause of their problems, yet they still only want to hid and not seek forgiveness.

It is so easy today to find acceptance by the Lamb of God, in this chapter we see what will happen when this time of Grace ends and the Lamb of God rejects Man.

Chapter 7

The previous chapter ended with the structure of the earth being shaken as God starts to pour out His wrath on those who rejected Him. Yet as we enter this chapter we see four angels controlling the winds are instructed to hold for a season until the servants of God are sealed. As in Chapter 6 some people on the earth are realizing and acknowledging their failure and seeking God, they had heard about Jesus before the capture but rejected Him, but are now turning to Him.

To protect these people God now pauses and seals those who have chosen to serve Him. 144,000 on earth are sealed, who are they? John tells us that they are members of the Jewish tribes, they rejected Christ, "crucify Him, let His blood be on us." [Matt 27:22-25](#). Now they are turning to Him, Jesus is the Messiah they have been looking for. [Rom 11:8](#).

Note that the tribes of Dan and Ephraim are not listed, in their place are Joseph and Levi. Dan and Ephraim were involved in idol worship under Jeroboam.

v9,10 After speaking of the 144,000, John now sees the great crowd of people, so big it cannot be counted, of all the nations praising and glorifying God and the Lamb.

v14 tells us that these are they who have also turned to the Lord during the tribulation. This group have white robes and palms but no crowns on their heads. They are those who may have heard the gospel message, may even have attended church but never given their hearts to Jesus. This is highlighted by v16,17. No more famine, thirst, danger from the sun and pain, which must have been the situation on the earth after the opening of the seals. Also consider [1 John 2:15,16](#).

Chapter 8

v1 As the seventh seal is opened we have silence in heaven for half an hour, for a short period nothing appears to happen, was this another period of grace by God, to allow men to turn to Him? Or perhaps those in heaven saw what was about to happen to the earth and were in shock? We are not told why the silence.

v2-4 Seven angels prepare to sound the next events but first John sees another angel come to the altar, his golden censer (a vessel in which incense is burnt, often during a religious procession or ceremony.) Prayers of the saints are mixed with the incense and the smoke rises up before the throne of God. Prayers of the saints for the men of the world are offered up, even possibly those who had been their persecutors, torturers, even killers but their time is up.

v5-6 The angel now takes this censer and fills it from the fire on the altar, now are these who rejected Christ about to see the real fury of a just and perfect God, He had permitted evil and Christ rejecting men go unpunished until now. [Romans 12:19b](#).

The Trumpets.

Again they are arranged into groups of four and three, the first group showing similarities to the plagues of Egypt. Physical effects to the earth, the second group involves the release of various creatures.

v7 The First Trumpet.

Judgement now occurs covering the whole world with Hail and Fire, [Exodus 9:22-25](#) a third of the trees and grass are destroyed. In [Rev 9:4](#) The locust are instructed to not harm the trees and grass so this confirms only part was destroyed.

v8 The Second Trumpet.

Was this a real mountain, like a very large volcano? Volcanoes have been known to cause terrible damage, but a third of the sea creatures and a third part of the ships with crews and passengers are destroyed, [Exodus 7:20,21](#). Some Bible scholars think it refers to some sort of world ruler, ship or business being destroyed, the sea being the humanity of the earth. The text taken literally suggests the first but it is not obvious what is happening.

v10 The Third Trumpet.

A 'star' or possibly a meteor (a rock or body of matter coming down to the earth from space, becoming white hot as a result of friction with the earth's atmosphere.) Scientists have become very concerned recently of the danger to earth of large meteors, though their main concern is of it hitting the earth. Meteors also burn up as they enter and could affect the atmosphere, the dust coming down in the rain. We are told that a third of the water is affected. The star is called *Wormwood*. Wormwood has a bitter taste which makes you want to be sick, in large quantities it can cause convulsions, paralysis and death. With a third of the sea polluted with 'blood,' v8 and now the rivers, there will be a great water shortage.

v12 The Fourth Trumpet.

The fourth trumpet affects the light from the sun, moon and stars. As the stars are also affected it may be that something has happened to the atmosphere of the earth, darkness in the day and night has become longer. This will create a great change in light and temperature affecting the growing plants. Animals who feed on plants will not

have food and die, famine will result. [Exodus 10:21-23](#).

v13 The final trumpets are going to be so bad that God sends this angel to announce three 'Woes' are about to hit the earth and mankind.

(**Woe** means *affliction; bitter grief; distress; calamities; troubles; problems*.)

Chapter 9

We now move into the second group of trumpets. The sounding of these trumpets call into action what appear to be spiritual and demonic powers.

v1-12 The Fifth Trumpet.

On the sounding of the fifth trumpet a 'star' falls to the earth from heaven. John tells us that the key to the bottomless pit was given to the 'star,' this shows that the 'star' is a person. In [Isaiah 14:12](#) and [Ezekiel 28:12-19](#) we have a record of the fall of Satan, once a great angel called Lucifer, the "Son of the morning" has now become the serpent and devil, Satan. It appears that on the sounding of this trumpet Satan is permitted special powers. God is allowing Satan this extra power because of the evil and wickedness of mankind, they preferred the Devil to God so God has removed some of the restraining control on Satan, and mankind is about to feel the full experience of Satan's powers and abilities. Whether this 'star' is Satan Himself or one of His followers we are not told.

Note that the giving of the key indicates that God has full control of all the Satanic followers. [Luke 8:26-33](#).

v7-10 The bottomless pit is opened and smoke pours out as from a furnace. Through the smoke comes thousands of creatures which John describes as like locusts, but look like armoured horses, with crowns of gold, faces like men, hair like a woman, teeth like a lion and wings allowing them to fly. They were wearing armour, breastplates of iron, and a weapon like a scorpions tail.

These creature are told to sting and torment men for five months, but they were not allowed to kill anyone or touch those sealed by God or harm the grass or trees.

v11 Their king Abaddon, refers to the Old Testament depths of "Sheol" (the Hebrew underworld home of the dead.) and means destruction.

v13-20 The Sixth Trumpet.

The effects of this trumpet continue on into the following chapters.

The sixth trumpet sounds and instructions come from the altar to release four angels from the Euphrates river. Four angels are somehow locked up in this river, they must have been wicked angels to be in this situation. These angels had been locked away for this specific time and day. The people are the direct target of them, a third was about to die.

v16-18 With the angels comes an army of what appear to be horses with riders, 200,000,000. This great cavalry army from hell spreads through the world destroying with death dealing fire, smoke and brimstone (an old name for sulphur).

V20,21 With this terrible destruction you would expect mankind to turn away from evil, but John tells us that they will still murder, rob, continue in fornication, worship idols of wood and stone, not repenting of their rejection of God in anyway.

Chapter 10

v1,2 The events John is watching appear to have a break between the sixth and seventh trumpets. John now sees another angel come from heaven in a cloud, this must be a new angel but as John describes him we can see great similarities to Jesus. A rainbow around the head, (there was a rainbow around the throne in heaven. A sign of God's promise [Gen 9:13](#)). A face shining like the sun, [Matt 17:2](#). Feet of fire and an open book in his hand, the scroll? But it does seem strange to refer to Him as an angel.

v3,4 The angel cries and immediately John hears seven thunders speak. John starts to write down what was said by the thunders but a voice from heaven stops him. It is not revealed why John was stopped from making a record of the spoken words. One suggestion is that they may have been an announcement of what will be the final judgement of Men who rejected God and too terrible to announce.

v5-7 The Angel stands on the land and the sea to show that his message is worldwide. The basic message is that at the sounding of the seventh trumpet God's "Mystery" (plan) will be finished, the plan He has been telling His prophets down the years is about to be completed.

v8-11 John is instructed to take the small book and eat it. The angel warns John of what will happen and this proves true as John eats the book. There have been many suggestions of what this action means. One possibility is what a Christian feels as he receives forgiveness, the sweetness, but the suffering afterwards gives pain. An alternative is the fact that John was to take the prophetic messages, this would bring joy and sadness. Seeing that John is told to "prophesy again before many peoples and nations," suggests the second meaning.

Chapter 11

v1-2 This chapter starts with John being instructed to measure the temple. This shows protection and preservation, not destruction. The Gentile ruling of the world is about to be ended. The temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A.D. so this shows that the temple is to be rebuilt. John is to measure the building and the people worshiping. The outer courts of the temple and the Holy city are to be under the control of the Gentiles for 3 1/2 years. [Daniel 9:27](#) The Gentile age is ending and God is now turning to deal with the Jews.

v3-14 The Two Witnesses.

During this period two witnesses will appear. Some feel this is not two individuals but the Christian's left on the earth but the text just does not confirm this idea. Others feel they were Enoch and Elijah or Moses and Elijah but we are not told who they are. God has given these two witnesses the power to destroy those who object to their messages. Men will despise these witnesses but God has given them supernatural powers of protection and punishment until their task is completed.

v7 On completion of their message God allows the Beast from the bottomless pit to fight and kill them.

v8-10 The wicked men of the world was so pleased that they refuse to bury the bodies and make it a time of joy and celebration, sending presents to each other. The bodies

are left on public view to the world for three and half days in the "great city," The text indicates that "the great city," is Jerusalem, "where also our Lord was crucified." Other verses indicate that the "great city" is normally accepted as Rome. [Rev 16:19](#); [Rev 17:18](#); [Rev 18:10ff](#). John has therefore closely linked Jerusalem, Rome, Sodom and Egypt.

v11,12 After this short period the Spirit of life from God enters the bodies and they stand up. The world has great fear at this event. In addition the voice of God calls for them from heaven and in full view the two resurrected witnesses go up into heaven.

v13 In the same hour a great earthquake hits the city, a tenth of the buildings are destroyed and seven thousand people killed. At last man starts to get the message, full of fear they give glory to God.

v14,15 **The Seventh Trumpet sounds.**

The trumpets sounds but we are not told of the results of this judgement until the fifteenth chapter onwards.

The closing verses of this chapter report what is happening in heaven. The kingdoms of earth have now become the kingdoms of Jesus, to reign eternal.

The twenty four elders fall and worship God. Praise God and giving thanks for this final trumpet, the completion of God's plan.

v19 The temple of God in Heaven opens to reveal the ark of His testimony. Is this the ark which was in the Old Testament Temple? The 'Ark of the Covenant' did not seem to exist on earth during the time of Jesus, it certainly was not in the Temple where it should have been.

Solomon placed the Ark in the temple he built but when later the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and took all the valuable objects from the temple, the people believe that the ark was taken away by Nebuchadnezzar and destroyed, as no trace of it has since been found. Though there are stories that the priests hid the ark before the destruction and still exists.

The absence of the ark from the second temple was one of the reasons why it was considered inferior (poor) to the first temple.

The earth suffers earthquakes, 'great' hail, thunder and lightning and voices from heaven.

Chapter 12

This chapter records a battle between good and evil, Christ and Satan. The Devil has realized that his time of judgement is approaching fast, so he fights like a cornered animal. Satan centres his anger against the Church which still does exist upon the earth, made up of people who had known the truth but had not made a decision for Christ before the rapture.

The writing of Revelation contains description which may be pictures, representation or symbols of an object or person. The object or description can often be taken literally. Much of what John sees as described in this passage appears to be symbolic, he even starts with "there appeared a great wonder (sign) in heaven."

v1,2 There has been much discussion by Bible students as to who or what does the "woman" symbolize or represent. It is obvious that the child is Christ as He will rule

all nations v5. Therefore the most obvious meaning is that the woman represents Israel, covering the Old and New Testament period, twelve stars being the twelve tribes. See also [Isaiah 54:1-8](#); [Isaiah 66:7](#); [Jeremiah 3:6-10](#); [Micah 4:9,10](#); [Micah 5:2,3](#). In comparison, the world, which is against God, is called an harlot, [Rev 17:1ff](#), and the church a pure bride, [Rev 19:7ff](#).

v3 The dragon is identified in v9 as Satan. His seven heads and ten horns show that he is to be the antichrist of the spiritual world just as the beast of [Rev 13:1](#) is the earthly antichrist. In Daniel the seven heads were divided between the four beasts which described the world powers of the earth, [Daniel 7:1ff](#); The ten horns [Daniel 7:24](#). [Rev 17:12](#).

v4 The "tail drew a third part of the stars of heaven," suggests that a third of the angels in heaven turned against God to follow Satan.

v6 God will protect the Israelites for a period in some place He has prepared for them. [Matt 24:15-21](#). Some Bible students believe this to be Petra.

v7-9 When Jesus died on the cross Satan was defeated, [John 12:31-33](#), but he still has access to heaven, Job 1 to 2, even though he turned against God and was cast down, [Isaiah 14:12-15](#). Satan perhaps tries one last fight to win but he is defeated by Michael and his angels. We must also consider that this is also the time that the Christians are taken to heaven in the rapture and are before the Judgement seat of Christ, being examined for their works for the Lord, Satan may have been present trying to point out the failures of the saints, [Eph 5:26-27](#); [1 John 1:5-2:2](#). All our failures are covered by the Blood of Christ on Calvary. Satan will be furious with this situation and make his last fight.

Satan and his followers are thrown out of heaven onto the earth. Remember that Satan and his followers are only fallen angels, created beings, they may be powerful but that power is under God's control. Only God is omnipotent (has all power, control), omnipresent (everywhere), omniscient (knows all things).

v10-12 Heaven rejoices when this event happens, but earth will not, this event is part of the final "woe."

v13 Satan now turns all his anger towards the people of earth, especially Israel. If he could destroy Israel before the return of Christ to the earth he would have a victory but God has prepared a special place of protection. For the second half of the tribulation, three and an half years, God will protect them.

v15,16 "water as a flood" is not explained but indicates a terrible outpouring of hatred, whether as propaganda or as an army against the protected Israel. An earthquake sent by God destroying the army.

v17 Satan cannot touch the protected people so turns on the unprotected Jews.

Chapter 13

v1-10 The First Beast.

We return to events on the earth and John saw a beast rise out of the sea, the sea representing the Gentile nations [Rev 17:15](#). From one of these Satan will bring out a super leader, who we call the "Antichrist." This leader has been head of a ten nation European association, now, under Satan's instruction he is to become a world dictator.

The Antichrist began as a "man of peace" [Rev 6:2](#), and had "sorted out" the Arab-Israeli problem by making a seven year protection plan for Israel [Dan 9:27](#). This allows the rebuilding of the temple, restoration of the worship [Rev 11:1](#). However, in the middle of this period he breaks the contract, stops the worship and sets himself up as 'god' in the temple. [Dan 9:27](#); [2 Thess 2:1-12](#).

Though this "beast" is a man v18, God reveals him to John as a terrible vicious animal, controlled by Satan. Originally having come out of the pit [Rev 11:7](#); [Rev 17:8](#).

The seven heads represent seven mountains [Rev 17:9](#) and seven kings or kingdoms [Rev 17:10](#). Since Rome was the 'world power' in the time of John, and was built upon seven hills, the beast will be head of a revived 'Roman empire.' The ten horns represent ten nations or kingdoms [Dan 7:24](#); [Rev 17:12](#), the "United States of Europe."

v3,v12,v14 The antichrist will receive a fatal wound, but will survive. This will cause the world to wonder who he is and the source of his power. [Rev 17:8](#).

v4,5 The people now turn to worship the dragon who gave power to the beast. They think that these two cannot be defeated. Yet Satan can do nothing without the permission of God, (Job 1-2). The power is only given for 42 months, (3 1/2 years) the last half of the tribulation.

v6-8 This person will be able to speak great words, [mesmerizing](#) the people but is now also making blasphemies against God, the temple and those in heaven. He is also fighting and destroying the saints and having great power over those who were not Christians who have turned to give him worship, just as Satan has always wanted. [Matt 4:8-10](#).

The beast came up from the pit and also appears to be one of the seven kings [Rev 17:11](#) who died and went to hell, but also the eighth. Does God allow Satan to bring a person back to life? Satan does seem to have great power as he gives life to an idol.

v15. See also [Daniel 7:19-28](#) where Daniel had a similar vision.

The saints will be attacked but will have great patience and faith.

v11-18 **The Second Beast.**

A second beast comes up from the earth, he has two horns like a lamb. In [Rev 16:13](#); [Rev 19:20](#); [Rev 20:10](#) he is called "the false prophet." We now have the evil version of the Trinity. Satan the counterfeit Father, the first beast the counterfeit Christ and now the false prophet is the counterfeit Holy Spirit.

The false prophet will have the character of a lamb but speak like a dragon. The two horns suggests authority, but the lack of a crown suggests that he is not political.

The false prophet will encourage worship of the first beast, performing "great wonders" v13,14. He encourages the construction of an image of the first 'beast' and gives some sort of life to it, making it able to speak and destroy any who do not worship it. Not satisfied with false religion the false prophet now introduces financial and economic control. Everyone, except believers, will be given a special mark, the name or number of "the beast." The number '666.' Many Bible students have tried to work out the significance of this number. Many languages, old and modern, have numerical numbers used in place of the alphabet. The most obvious modern one is the computer languages which use numbers throughout to represent letters, and today the use of computer systems to control commerce is very common.

The number six represents a "human number" just short of perfection. When the above situation occurs it will be obvious to those present. Do not be part of it.

Chapter 14

v1-5 The Lamb and the 144,000.

This is the special group of Jewish men sealed by God before the opening of the seventh seal, [Rev 7:1-8](#). They now join The Lord Jesus on Mount Zion. Is this the Mount Zion on earth or perhaps in heaven? The rest of the text suggests heaven.

v2,3 The group are standing but also singing, they have a special song because of what they had gone through. They are joined by heavenly harps.

v4,5 John also points out that these men have been redeemed out of the earth. They were unmarried. The words "not defiled with women" does not indicate that sex within marriage is evil, [Heb 13:4](#). Jesus was the most important thing for these men.

v6-20 The Angels.

Six or more angels are now called into action to spread special messages to the earth.

v6-7 "Judgment has come."

Today we are given the task of spreading the message of salvation. The angels are now given that task. This is a cry to the people on the earth to "fear God" and give Him the worship and service He should have.

v8 "Babylon is fallen!" is the message from the second angel. 'Babylon' is the name given by God for the world system, the commercial and political organizations. The Antichrist created his own religious system, [Rev 13:11-15](#), eventually he will destroy this but God is about to destroy the world system, "Babylon" and all who are part of it.

v9-13 "The wrath of God."

This message is meant for those who had chosen to follow the beast. The angel warns that if you received the 'Mark of the Beast' then you are heading for eternal torment.

"Drink of the wine," v10 usually indicates judgement. Also v8.

The initial judgements, "the vials of wrath," come from heaven as shown in Revelation chapter 16. The time of His mercy is ending.

"Fire and brimstone," this may make us question "a loving God." We must remember that God's love is an holy love, it cannot tolerate wrong. He does love but must also punish disobedience. [1 John 3:8,9](#) God regularly sends warnings giving people time to turn away from wrong and come to Him for forgiveness through the Blood of Jesus. [Rom 10:10](#). You only have yourself to blame if you end in "fire and brimstone" for eternity.

v12,13 shows the difference for the people who have turned to God, eternal rest for the saints, eternal punishment for the wicked.

v14-20 "The Harvest is ready."

v14 The person on the cloud is obviously The Lord Jesus [Dan 7:13-14](#); [Rev 1:13-15](#).

"The harvest is about to happen. [John 4:34-37](#); [Matt 13:24-30](#)."

v17-20 An angel with a sharp sickle (sharp curved knife on a handle used for cutting grass and wheat crops) appears from heaven and is told by a second angel to 'start the harvest.' He collects the 'crop' from the "vine of the earth." Like the normal grapes, the 'crop' is placed in a wine press of God's anger and wrath. Out of this press comes

not wine but the blood of men. This could be an image of the coming "Battle of Armageddon" [Rev 16:16ff](#).

Chapter 15

The final battle between God and Satan is drawing close. Throughout the Bible we can see a record of Satan trying to defeat God. With him being beaten by Christ on the cross, Christ now having the keys to death and hell and His blood creating a way back to God.

God had been very patient with Man, loving, kind full of grace and mercy, even though the world had seen the power of God they still chose to follow and serve "the Beast."

v1-4 John tells us that seven angels prepare to pour out the final vial's of God's wrath upon the earth, these may be part of the final trumpet and woe as they seem to be a new set of judgements. But first there is a short period to reassure the faithful saints. These who are standing on the sea of glass are the believers from the Tribulation who had refused to follow the "beast" and his system. They had not received the 'mark of the beast' and so would not have been able to buy food etc. They had been dependent on the Lord. Prison and death would have been a common result of their action, [Rev 13:10](#). Now they are able to sing a song of praise.

v5-8 Seven angels come out of the temple and prepare to release seven plagues. These seven angels are also given seven vials or bowls full of the 'wrath of God.' (the containers are probably a broad shallow vessel, shaped to release the contents quickly). The temple is filled with the glory of God and His power.

Chapter 16

We are now entering the final stages of God's plan.

The angels are now commanded by a "great voice" from the temple in heaven to pour out the contents of their vials of God's wrath onto the earth.

Each angel and their vial contents have specific targets. They affect the earth, the sea, the rivers, the sun, the place of the beast, the air, the river Euphrates and the people.

v2 First vial - Grievous sores.

Those who had rejected the first angels warning, [Rev 14:6-7](#), and received the 'mark of the beast' and worshiped him were affected. The words "grievous sore" basically mean "a bad ulcer." Verse 10,11 suggests that this punishment continues throughout this period. The entire population seems to be affected, constant pain and no cure.

v3-6 Second and third vials - Water turns to blood.

This vial and the third vial are similar to the plagues in Egypt, Exodus 7. The second vial affects the sea while the third vial affects the rivers and fresh water. All water becomes like the watery blood of a dead man, affecting the whole earth, all the creatures in the sea and rivers now died.

v5-7 The people had rejected the blood of Christ, killed God's people and spread out their blood on the earth, so this is a justified punishment, they must "drink this blood."

v8-9 Fourth vial - The sun increases in heat.

Life on earth is totally dependant upon the sun's heat and light. The heat now increas-

es, the water is useless so suffering will be terrible. Yet they still do not turn to God, the exact opposite happens, they curse God.

v10,11 **Fifth vial - darkness.**

This darkness seems to only affects the throne and kingdom of the beast. His image is in the temple of Jerusalem so this may be the place of the throne. The other alternative will be Rome. The beast rules the world but it is possible that some parts of the world has light, the darkness covers and controls the headquarters of the beast.

v12-16 **Sixth vial - Euphrates dries up.**

This river was involved in the earlier trumpets [Rev 9:13ff](#) when an army of demons was released. Now we find the river has dried up and allows an army from the East to have access to the Holy Land.

The Satanic Trinity release demonic powers to call the nations to the "great battle," the Battle of Armageddon. Just as God has planned.

The Bible does not mention "The Battle of Armageddon." The name comes from two Hebrew words *Har Megiddo*, the hill of Megiddo. The word Megiddo means a place of slaughter. Mount Carmel overlooks this plain. The area is about 14 miles wide by 20 miles long forming a perfect battle field.

Look at [Zechariah 12](#) and [Zechariah 14](#) which describes this coming event from the Israel point of view.

v17-21 **Seventh Vial - IT IS DONE.**

The contents of this vial are poured into the air, The result is a voice from Heaven - saying, "IT IS DONE!" followed by a great earthquake, so great there had never been one like it before. The Great City, probably Jerusalem, is split in three. [Zechariah 14:4](#). Cities of the nations collapsed, probably all the capitals or major cities, destroying all the finance, offices and businesses. The City of Babylon - The beasts great economic system collapses, destroyed by God.

v20 John continues to describe the effect of this earthquake, it is world wide.

v21 In addition there is a tremendous hail storm, each hail stone being a "talent" of silver weight, about 125 lbs . Earth dwellers are being stoned to death - just as blasphemers are to be punished, [Leviticus 24:16](#) - yet they still blasphemed and cursed God.

Chapter 17

The Lamb now begins the step by step destruction of "the beast" and his kingdom. Starting with the religious system in this chapter, the "Mystical Babylon."

John uses symbolism to help the church down through the ages understand his record. The true church is the "virgin," the Bride of Christ, while the false religion is described as an "harlot" (behaves like a prostitute, available to 'any man').

v1 John is invited by an angel to watch the destruction of the beasts false worldwide religious system. Four times it is referred to as an "harlot" v1,5,15-16.

v2 This "harlot" is guilty of "fornication," "adultery," "idolatry." She has spread her evil influence to the whole world, reaching into the leadership (kings).

v3-6 John is taken by the angel into the wilderness where he saw this woman, dressed in red. Red and scarlet were very expensive dyes and could only be afforded and used

by the rich. She is decorated with gold, jewels and pearls, holding a golden cup containing evil, and she is drunk with the blood of the saints. She is sitting upon many waters, or people v1,15. When John saw her she was also sitting upon a red coloured beast with seven heads and ten horns.

v7-18 The angel explains what and who these are.

In v18 the woman is shown to be a city that existed in John's time, "reigns" is in the present. This city is obviously powerful and rich but is evil, spreading its evil around the world. Persecuting those who belonged to the Lord. v6. Her name involves a "mystery" or hidden truth v5, The mystery is connected to the city Babylon.

Babylon was first constructed in [Gen 11:1ff](#) by Nimrod and was an attempt by man to defy God.

v9-14 tells us that the seven heads of the beast are seven mountains, suggesting Rome which was built on seven hills. Also v10 the seven heads also indicate seven kingdoms, five have passed, one now exists and a further kingdom is to come for a short period. The five past kingdoms would be, Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece. The present being Rome, the future would be the kingdom of the beast, a revival of the Kingdom of Rome. [Rev 6:1-2](#).

v11 Confirms that "the beast" existed before, "one of the seven" and when 'he' comes will end in hell.

The ten horns symbolize ten kings, they will be given power by "the beast" and being of the same attitude and aims will give him support.

v16 These ten kings hate religion, even the false religion of the "harlot." They will eventually turn against any kind of religion. They do not want any kind of god, anything greater than mankind cannot exist in their world. They eventually will destroy the false religion and then make war with the Lamb. But the Lamb is Lord of all and so will always win, v14.

v17 All these events do not just happen, neither are they under the control of Man. No, these events are all planned and are completely under the control of God.

v18 Confirmation that the "great city" is Rome as it was the controlling power during the time of John.

Chapter 18

The destruction of Babylon.

Babylon has always represented Man's rebellion against God. In this chapter Babylon symbolizes the world of finance, trade and political systems. Though the destroyed city of Babylon was never to be rebuilt, Isaiah 13:19,20 *19 And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. 20 It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there.*

John refers to a "city" many times in Revelation. It is felt that John was probably referring to Rome, deliberately hiding the actual location for safety.

v1-8 It was not an ordinary angel who makes the announcement, he was very powerful as his light shone through the earth. "Babylon is fallen, is fallen," in addition, v6 seems to confirm the city will receive double the punishment.

v2 'Babylon' is the home of Satan and a place for all that is evil. Note [1 John 2:15-17](#). The world appears very attractive and gives some satisfaction, the "world" rejects the Lamb, but, now the end is about to come.

v4-8 A command comes from heaven for the people of God to separate themselves from this evil system, to avoid being polluted by doing wrong, like the world, v4. By separating themselves they would also avoid receiving the plagues (punishments) about to be poured out by God as punishment for all the sins of the world. God had been patient with the evil world, their pride, a 'queen' that was thought could not be destroyed, v7, their worship of pleasure and luxury "lived voluptuously!" v7.

v8 The punishment will come with no warning, quickly sent by a judging God. The people of God must make sure they are separated from this system.

v9-19 The following verses describe the feelings of the people affected by the punishment, the merchants, the financial, the banks, transport, land and sea even the governments (kings), all are in mourning. John seems to indicate that the destruction will be by fire, "see the smoke of her burning," v9.

In John's day the city of Rome was the enter of 'world trade' and government, it was therefore a very wealthy city and many people in the Roman Empire directly or indirectly depended upon this city for their living.

Today, with the many connections between countries, governments and businesses it would not take much to destroy the commercial "Babylon," to make it collapse.

v9,11 The 'cries,' "bewail" & "weep" indicate 'loud crying,' the merchants are not feeling sorry for their city but for themselves, God's actions were destroying their life of luxury and money. John gives a list of what they had lost. See v13, Manufactured objects and material, jewels, animals, spices and perfumes, even slaves and people.

Slaves were very common in John's day. Slaves may not exist to that level today but people are under the control of large companies and systems.

We have already seen the control that "the beast" will have over the buying and selling. [Rev 13:16-17](#) He will take advantage of peoples desires [Rev 18:14](#).

v19 The events happen quickly, - "in one hour is she made desolate!"

v20-24 Heaven Rejoices.

There is rejoicing in heaven because God is judging the evil world system. It is important to look at this judgement from the point of view of God, because every judgement means more people are lost to God's saving grace, sinners condemned to eternal punishment. God is always a righteous God, His judgements are pure and true. God is patient with His enemies; but when He acts it is both sudden and complete.

The wording shows that both luxuries and the needs of life and survival will be affected, candles, food grinding, all craftsmen even marriage will disappear as well as music.

v20 The verses in this message are for the people of God, it confirms that God will punish, when He is ready, He will avenge what they had suffered by the world system. Remember Paul's comment [Rom 12:17-21](#).

Chapter 19

If you have ever had any doubt that God was in control then read this chapter. Satan had been in full control of the earth, now God has acted and destroyed all Satan had produced, "the corrupt harlot" of the world system. She has been destroyed, now the

true Bride, previously hidden in heaven, is about to be revealed.

v1-10 Heaven rejoices.

"Alleluia," now fills heaven. This is the Greek form of the Hebrew "Hallelujah," which means 'praise the Lord.'

v1-4 God has sent His judgement. Now God's people sing His praise.

v2 True and right are His judgements. The people do not directly rejoice for the destruction but that His judgements are perfect. [Rev 15:3](#); [Rev 16:7](#).

v5,6 The [omnipotent](#) God reigns, He has carried out His plans on the earth, He has conquered the thrones of man and of Satan on earth. God's people, a very large number, gives praise and rejoices.

v7-10 The true Bride is ready.

The Bride, of course is the Church. [Eph 5:27](#); [John 3:29](#); [Rev 21:9](#); [Rev 22:17](#). The Bride is prepared and dress in "the righteousness of saints." When the bride arrived at first in heaven she was covered in the spots and blemishes of sin, [Eph 5:27](#), but on this day she is radiant in her glory. However, this wedding is to be different, it is the bridegroom who is the centre of honour.

Jewish weddings take two stages, first there is the engagement, often arranged by the parents while the bride and bridegroom were young. This engagement could not be broken except by any unfaithfulness by one of the couple, and this involved a type of divorce.

On the wedding day the bridegroom would go to the home of the bride and claim her for himself, they then go to a wedding supper, the guests would join the couple in this feast, which can last up to a week. Today, the church is still in the 'engaged' situation, with Jesus Christ the future bridegroom. He will one day return for His bride, [1 Thess 4:13-18](#). At the Judgement Seat of Christ the bride will be examined and 'spots' and 'blemishes' removed. The bride, the church, will then be prepared to return to earth with Christ at the end of the tribulation.

v9 We have an invitation to the wedding supper, this is not an invitation to the bride, it is for the 'guests,' those believers from the Old Testament and from the Tribulation.

v10 John is so overcome with emotion that he starts to worship the angel with him. Worshipping angels is wrong, [Col 2:18](#); [Heb 1:4-6](#), we do not worship servants of God.

v11-21 Christ will return.

v11-16 John describes the Conqueror, we have seen a rider on a white horse before, [Rev 6:2](#), the false Christ, but this rider is the true Christ.

John puts emphasis or stress on the names of Jesus.

v11 "Faithful and True."

v12 "A secret Name."

v13 "The Word of God."

v16 "King of Kings, and Lord of Lords." This title shows His absolute power.

John also highlights the appearance of the rider.

"Eyes were as a flame of fire," searching judgement.

"On His head were many crowns," indicates his position.

"Vesture (clothes) dipped in blood," judgement.

Jesus is not alone in His conquest, the armies of heaven are with Him.

Who are they?

Definitely angels, [Matt 25:31](#); [2 Thess 1:7](#), but also the saints, [1 Thess 3:13](#); [2 Thess 1:10](#).

v15 There is an army with the Lord, but it does not need to fight, Christ Himself will defeat the enemy just by His Words, "out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword."

v16 This is the King of kings and Lord of lords, there is no greater.

v17 The angel, standing very visible in the sun, sends a warning to the earth, calling scavenger birds to prepare for a good meal.

v17-19,21 The armies of the earth are defeated.

This is the Battle of Armageddon, [Rev 14:14-20](#). All that our Lord does is speak the Word.

v20 The Beast and False Prophet are defeated.

v19 The earth army is made up by many nations, "kings of the earth, and their armies," gathered together to fight God's army. Having seen the terrible things that God had sent onto the earth during the tribulation how this army could expect to win a battle against the armies of God seems difficult to explain, Satan's 'Beast' and 'False prophet' must have been very persuading.

John tells us that Satan's earthly representatives are captured and thrown alive into the lake of fire, to start their eternal punishment. They will be later joined by Satan and those whose name is not in the "Book of Life" at the end of the thousand years rule by Jesus, [Rev 20:10-15](#).

v21 All the other people in this army from earth, who were against Jesus as Lord, were killed, their souls passed into a place called 'Hades,' the unseen world, to await the final judgement [Rev 20:11-15](#).

This battle turns out to be a complete slaughter, we are told that the birds of prey and scavenger birds are well filled.

Chapter 20

A reference to "the thousand years" is mentioned six times in this chapter, this we call the "Millennium." Christ and His people will reign over the earth.

What is the reason for this thousand year period, the millennial kingdom? This will be a display of the glory of God through Christ, the world system will operate as God originally intended, [Rom 8:18-22](#), and as promised, [Luke 1:30-33](#), for the Christ child and the disciples, [Luke 22:30-33](#). See also [Rev 5:10](#); [Rev 2:26-28](#); [Rev 3:12,21](#); [1 Thess 4:13-18](#); [2 Tim 2:12](#).

Some Bible students believe that this period will include the resurrection of the Old Testament saints, [Dan 12:1-4](#). The Bible seems to only teach two resurrections, the first is for those who have turned to Jesus as Saviour, the second for all the lost and goes on to the day of judgement. These two resurrections are separated by a thousand years.

v1-3 Satan, "the dragon," is chained and placed in the bottomless pit for a thousand years, during this period he will not be allowed to have power in the world. Satan was originally a powerful angel, either God has taken away that power or this guardian angel has been given even greater power to control Satan. The 'angel' could even be Je-

sus Christ Himself.

We must remember that during this thousand year period the people on the earth will be the glorified saints and any citizens of earth who had not received the 'Mark of the Beast.' Consider [Matt 25:31-40](#). These people will marry and have children, living to a great age. [Isaiah 65:17-25](#). The world will outwardly appear to follow the rule of Christ, but some will not be born again and so will be open to Satan when he is released at the end of the thousand years. [Rev 20:7-9](#).

v7-10 Satan released and turns against God.

Satan's release shows that the heart and mind of man is still wicked even after a time of the "golden age," it is only by the grace of God the heart is made clean. They had been living under the perfect rule of Christ, in a perfect world, yet still they turn away from God to Satan.

v8 The names "Gog and Magog" may be the names of the earthly leaders of this revolt. They attack the city of God but God destroys them with fire.

v10 Satan is now cast into the lake of fire for eternal punishment, joining the 'beast' and 'false prophet' who had already been there for a thousand years.

v11-15 Final Judgement.

The second resurrection, the unsaved are now raised and will stand before God's judgement. This is a different judgement to the *Judgement seat of Christ*, this only applied to those who were believers. This final day of judgement is for those who rejected God, no rewards, just punishment faces them. From John's description it is going to be an event impossible to imagine, heaven and earth have fled away, v11, no where to hide. The millions of people, who rejected God's offer of grace, are now standing before the Judge, no sinner will escape.

The Judge is Jesus Christ, the Father gave all judgement to Him, [John 5:22-30](#); [Matt 19:28](#); [Acts 17:31](#).

Judgement is based upon what is recording "in the books."

What books?

- 1) "The Book of Life" which contains the names of those who had been redeemed by the grace of God. [Phil 4:3](#); [Rev 21:27](#); [Luke 10:20](#).
- 2) The Word of God will be there. [John 12:48](#).
- 3) Books containing the works of each person being judged. This does not mean a person can 'work' their way to heaven, [Eph 2:8-9](#); [Titus 3:5](#).

These records are to be used to decide the degree of punishment in hell, [Matt 11:20-24](#). Each will receive what they deserved. There will be a judge and prosecution but no defence or jury. The people themselves will be the evidence, their thoughts and actions during their life will provide all that is necessary.

On completion of the judgement, all of the lost will be thrown into hell, the lake of fire, the second death, not only physical punishment but total separation from God, not for a period but for eternity.

There are many Bible students who think that 'hell' cannot exist due to a 'loving God,' but He is also a pure God who cannot accept disobedience, so He must eventually punish. In addition, Jesus taught that hell existed, giving warnings about how not to get into it, [Matt 18:8,9](#); [Matt 23:15,33](#); [Matt 25:46](#); [Mark 9:43-48](#).

God does not send people to hell, they do it themselves by rejecting Jesus the Saviour,

[John 3:16](#); [Matt 25:41](#). If we look at Calvary and what happened there we cannot blame God for people going to hell, He made a way to escape.

God has now dealt with the sin of the evil angel's and Man, so He can now bring into being His planned perfect heaven and earth.

Chapter 21

v5-6 "Behold, I make all things new ---- it is done."

v1 God creates a new heaven and earth, with no sea, this does not mean no more water, it indicates that the land mass is one and not separated by a sea.

The old heaven and earth had gone, [Matt 19:28](#) regenerated, [2 Peter 3:10-13](#) burnt up.

v2,10-21 John describes the New Jerusalem. This city must exist in some fashion now in heaven, for Paul calls it "the Jerusalem which is above," [Gal 4:26](#). It is very difficult to imagine what it will be like. John was requested to measure the earthly Jerusalem in [Rev 11:1](#), this time an angel does the measuring and gives measurements which approximately give a size for the New Jerusalem of 1500 miles wide, 1500 miles deep (3/4 the size of the USA) and 1500 miles high, with walls over 200 feet, this wall has three gates on each side. The foundations are visible, made of layers of jewels of many colours. There will be walls of jasper, buildings of pure gold and crystal, a place of glory and beauty.

John also points out that there will be no need for the sun or the moon, day or night, the glory of God will be the light.

v9,10 John also refers to it as the "Bride, the Lamb's wife," the city is also the people.

v3,4 The most important thing is that God will live there, in that city, with His people, so there will be no tabernacle. It will be a city where neither sadness, pain or death exists, v8. Neither will there be anything or anyone which is evil, they have been put into the lake of fire.

v6,7 This city will be for God and His people. The people will be very satisfied with their conditions, inheriting all the promises of God, "overcomers."

[Rev 2:7,11,17,26](#); [Rev 3:5,12,21](#); [1 John 5:4-5](#).

v24,26 John mentions "kings" and "nations," since there will only be glorified people the earth will not have nations as such, he is just indicating that there will be various nations in the people of God.

Chapter 22

In this chapter John moves inside the city, the New Jerusalem.

v1,2 It is like a garden with a single river, this river flows directly from the throne of God, the source of all that is good and pure. In Eden Adam and Eve were forbidden from eating the "Tree of Life," [Gen 2:15-17](#); [Gen 3:22-24](#). But in this New Jerusalem the people will have full access to the *Tree of Life*, not just one tree but trees on either side of the river. These trees have many sorts of fruit, twelve types, and it has these fruits every month. These trees are never empty, there is always fruit.

v3 There will be no more curse, the curse of [Gen 3:14-19](#) will be gone. The people of God will obviously be giving constant praise to Him, but in this verse we are also told that we will serve God, it will be a perfect service because sin will not interfere. There

have been many who have tried to guess what we will do but we are not told what this service will be. Even today we do not know all that God wants us to do, we just faithfully serve Him, letting Him 'open the doors' as He wants Faith.

v4 The saints will see the face of God and show that they belong to Him, His name on their foreheads.

v5 All this will be for eternity.

v6-11, 18,19 **We must keep God's Word.**

God's Word is faithful and the truth, a word which He has been sending down through time through His prophets and servants, this Revelation through, John is all part of God's Word, it must not be hidden because they are soon to happen.

v7 "Keep the sayings of this book," what does this mean? We must be prepared to guard, to watch over and preserve the writings. We are instructed not to add or take away any from the words of this prophecy.

Deuteronomy 4:22 *Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.*

Proverbs 30:5-6 *5) Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. 6) Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar..*

If a person does make alterations then there is a serious warning from God for their future v19. God has promised that a truly saved person will not lose their salvation, so it is possibly indicating that anyone making the changes is not truly saved. Any one who guards the Word and obeys will be blessed.

v8 John has again become so emotional with what he is seeing that he starts to worship the angel with him. The angel responds with four statements:-

1) I am a servant of God like you.

2) Do not worship angels.

3) Only glorify God.

4) Do not stop others knowing of what you have seen.

This statement by the angel is because of v7,12 "Behold I come quickly" and v10 "The time is at hand." There will be no warning of Jesus calling His people to heaven. Jesus is returning, are you ready?

v12-15 God knows what we are suffering, He reminds us that "My reward is with Me" for those who seek to serve Him. At the Judgement Seat of Christ believers will be judged for their works, rewards will be given for faithfulness. We must keep our lives clean for Him. [Luke 12:34ff](#).

v13 A reminder that God is always in control. [Phil 1:6](#); [Phil 2:12-16](#).

v16 The titles of Jesus show His Jewish nationality, "Offspring of David," His hidden "Root" which everything depends upon. "the Bright and Morning Star." all can see His glory, but also the "Morning Star" comes at the beginning of the day. His Deity and humanity are obvious.

v17,20-21 The way is open to Salvation, just come to Jesus. But He will return very soon, are you ready? "Surely I come quickly."