

# **REVELATION**

**by**

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# Revelation

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4-2005

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# Revelation

**the outline for the book is given in Revelation 1:19**

- I. John was told to write the things which he had seen 1:1-20
  - A. the introduction to the book of Revelation 1:1-3
  - B. the greetings to the churches in Revelation 1:4-8
  - C. the vision of the glory of Christ in Revelation 1:9-18
  - D. the outline of the book of Revelation 1:19-20
- II. John was told to write the things which are 2:1-3:22
  - A. the message to the church at Ephesus 2:1-7
  - B. the message to the church at Smyrna 2:8-11
  - C. the message to the church at Pergamum 2:12-17
  - D. the message to the church at Thyatira 2:18-29
  - E. the message to the church at Sardis 3:1-6
  - F. the message to the church at Philadelphia 3:7-13
  - G. the message to the church at Laodicea 3:14-22
- III. John was told to write the things which shall be 4:1-22:21
  - A. the instructions about the seven judgments 4:1-8:1
    - 1. the worship of the church before the seals are opened 4:1-11

2.	the Worthy One who is worshipped before the seals are opened	5:1-14
3.	the wrath poured out when the seals are opened	6:1-17
4.	the worthy ones when the seals are opened	7:1-17
5.	the wonder when the final seal is opened	8:1
B.	the instructions about the seven trumpet judgments	8:2-11:19
1.	the misery at the sounding of the first six trumpets	8:2-9:21
2.	the ministry of the mighty angel	10:1-11
3.	the ministry of the two witnesses	11:1-14
4.	the message at the sounding of the seventh trumpet	11:15-19
C.	the instructions about the real conflict between God and Satan	12:1-14:20
1.	the war by Satan against God and His people	12:1-17
2.	the worship of the unholy trinity	13:1-18
3.	the way Christ will triumph over false worship	14:1-20
D.	the instructions about the seven bowl judgments	15:1-16:21
1.	the bowl judgments are introduced	15:1
2.	the bowl judgments provide a final opportunity for man to repent	15:2-8
3.	the bowl judgments show the total rebellion of man	16:1-21
E.	the instructions about the destruction of spiritual and political Babylon	17:1-18:24

1.	the description of the apostate church	17:1-6
2.	the destruction of the apostate church	17:7-18
3.	the destruction of commercial and political Babylon	18:1-8
4.	the description of the responses on earth to Babylon's judgment	18:8-19
5.	the description of the response in heaven to Babylon's judgment	18:20
6.	the description of the method of Babylon's judgment	18:21-24
F.	the instructions about the coming of Christ to rule	19:1-20:6
1.	the coming of Christ will be preceded by rejoicing	19:1-6
2.	the coming of Christ will be preceded by the marriage supper of the Lamb	19:7-10
3.	the coming of Christ will be in all of His glory	19:11-16
4.	the coming of Christ will bring judgment to the earth	19:17-21
5.	the coming of Christ will bring judgment to Satan	20:1-3
6.	the coming of Christ will be to rule for a thousand years	20:4-6
G.	the instructions about the final judgments	20:7-15
1.	the judgment of the rebellious	20:7-9
2.	the judgment of Satan	20:10
3.	the judgment of all unbelievers	20:11-15
H.	the instructions about the eternal state	21:1-22:21

1. the description of the new heaven and the new earth 21:1-8
2. the description of the new Jerusalem 21:9-27
3. the description of the river of the water of life 22:1-5
4. the description of the need to be ready 22:6-21

# The Introduction to Revelation

## Revelation 1:1-3

the revelation of Jesus Christ - verse 1a

the writer - verses 1b-2

the readers - verse 3

### The Revelation of Jesus Christ

revelation means uncovering or unveiling  
this revelation is shown to those who are His servants  
**a bondservant**  
**one who gives himself up to the will of another**  
this revelation is to show what will soon take place

**to the bondservant God makes His revelation plain**  
**to the carnal Christian this revelation may produce fear**  
**to the non-Christian it is a warning of coming judgment**

### The writer - John

John gave witness to the Word of God  
John gave witness to the testimony of Jesus  
John gave witness to all the things that he saw

### The readers - us

**we will be blessed as we read**  
as we learn Christ's directions and follow them, it brings true blessing  
**we will be blessed as we hear**  
this happens as we hear others read and explain Revelation  
this includes studying the book and remembering it  
**we will be blessed as we obey the things written in this book**  
this does not mean speculating about future events  
this does not mean reading it only to satisfy our curiosity  
it does mean reading it to discover the principles of life which God has revealed  
in it so that we can conform to these principles

# Greetings to the Churches

## Revelation 1:4-8

the greeting is to the churches - verse 4a  
the greeting is from the Godhead - verses 4b-5  
the greeting calls us a kingdom of priests - verse 6  
the greeting is from the One who is coming - verses 7-8

### **The words used in greeting the churches**

grace - a gift without any strings attached  
peace - a war that previously existed has ceased

### **The greeting is from the Godhead**

it is from Him who is  
it is from Him who was  
it is from Him who is to come

### **The greeting is from the seven spirits who are before the throne (the Holy Spirit)**

Christ was empowered by the same sevenfold Spirit when He was on the earth  
Isaiah 11:2

#### **the Spirit of the Lord**

the Holy Spirit is part of the Godhead

#### **the spirit of wisdom**

wisdom in administration, ethical and religious affairs

#### **the spirit of understanding**

understanding and discernment to act wisely

#### **the spirit of counsel**

counsel, advise and purpose

#### **the spirit of might**

might or strength of God

#### **the spirit of knowledge**

knowledge, perception and skill

#### **the spirit of the fear of the Lord**

reverence and respect for One who is awesome

**The greeting gives three titles for Christ  
Revelation 1:5**

**The Faithful Witness (Prophet)**

concerning the condemnation of the unbeliever - John 3:18  
concerning the love of God - John 3:16, Romans 5:8  
concerning God's intent and purposes for mankind - Luke 19:10  
concerning God's pleasure and displeasure - Psalm 116:15  
concerning the righteousness of God - Romans 3:26  
concerning His own obedience unto death - Philippians 2:8  
concerning individuals who refuse to believe - Revelation 20:12-15  
concerning the rewards for believers - Revelation 22:12; I Corinthians 3:12-15

**The First Begotten of the Dead (Priest)**

Christ has been raised once for all - Romans 6:10; Hebrews 5:5-10  
Christ has been exalted - Philippians 2:7-11  
Christ has made us fellow heirs - Romans 8:17  
Christ made it possible for us to sit with Him on the throne - Revelation 3:21  
Christ is able to help us when we are tempted - Hebrews 4:14-16  
Christ is making intercession for us - Hebrews 7:25, I Timothy 2:5; I John 2:1-2

**The Prince of the kings of the earth (King)**

**As King, Christ directs the affairs and destinies of nations and men**

God sees the world is in rebellion - Psalm 2:1-3  
God holds the boasting of man in vain contempt - Psalm 2:4-6  
God will complete His purposes through His Son - Psalm 2:7-9  
God says men must recognize Christ as King - Psalm 2:10-12  
God says Christ will rule forever and ever - Revelation 11:15

**God has made us a kingdom of priests**

God has transformed us into His kingdom - Colossians 1:13-14  
God has said we will reign with Christ - Revelation 20:6  
God has commissioned us as His representatives today - II Corinthians 5:20

**Christ brings judgment and restoration**

He is the one who is coming to rule - verse 7  
He is the Alpha and Omega who begins and ends all things - verse 8

# The Vision of the Glory of Christ

## Revelation 1:9-18

John is in exile - verses 9-11  
John sees Christ in His glory - verses 12-18

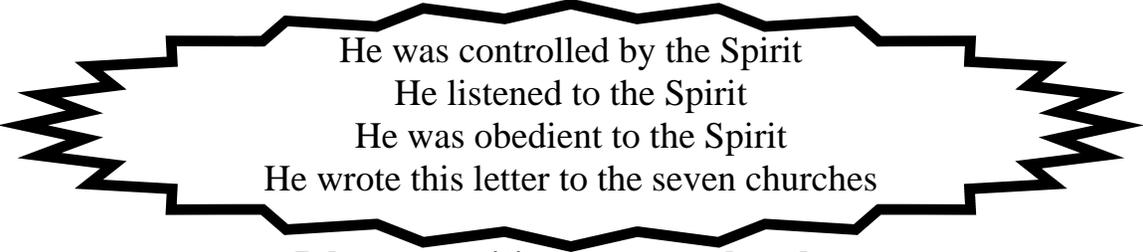
### **John was on the island of Patmos**

John is our brother  
John is our companion in tribulation  
John is our example of patience

the island of Patmos was about 50 miles across water from the closest city  
the island of Patmos was used to exile prisoners of Rome  
the island had no way to send messages to other places  
the island did not hinder John from expecting God to get out the message

John was on the island for proclaiming the Word of God  
John was on the island for proclaiming the testimony of the Lord

### **John was in the Spirit on the Lord's day**



He was controlled by the Spirit  
He listened to the Spirit  
He was obedient to the Spirit  
He wrote this letter to the seven churches

### **John was writing to seven churches**

the seven churches refer to seven literal churches in the time of John  
the seven churches picture various churches at any time in the history of the church  
the seven churches illustrate the history of the church from the time of John to the present

Ephesus - to 100  
Smyrna - 100 to 300  
Pergumum - 300 to 500  
Thyatira - 500 to 800  
Sardis - 800 to 1500  
Philadelphia - 1500 to 1850  
Laodicea - 1850 to rapture

## **John sees Christ in His glory**

### **Christ is in the middle of the churches**

this is contrast to Revelation 3:20 where Christ has been pushed  
right outside the door of the church

#### **Where is Christ today?**

Christ is everywhere

Christ is in heaven preparing a place for us - John 14:1-6

Christ is on earth preparing us for that place - I John 3:1-3

Christ will one day take

### **A Prepared People to a Prepared Place**

### **Christ is the Priestly Judge**

#### **His robe and girdle fits the description of the Old Testament priest**

as priest, Christ died for us and will come for us - Revelation 1-3  
as judge, Christ will keep out all those who reject - Revelation 4-20

#### **His head and hair are white like wool**

white speaks of purity from sin - Isaiah 1:18

Christ is in direct contrast to sinful man - Romans 3:9-20

#### **His eyes are like a flame of fire**

Christ sees and knows all things - I Corinthians 4:5

Christ will condemn and judge all evil - Revelation 20:11-15

Christ will reward Christians whenever possible - Matthew 10:42, I Corinthians 3:12-14

#### **His feet are like fine bronze (brass)**

brass speak of strength and judgment - Numbers 21:4-9

Christ is moving among His churches to cleanse and purify His churches

#### **His voice is like the sound of many waters**

the voice of Christ is the final Word

the voice of Christ will call the church - I Thessalonians 4:16

### **Christ will complete His work**

#### **He holds the seven stars (angels) in His right hand**

perfect rest, power and protection

#### **He holds a sharp two-edged sword**

the Word of God - Hebrews 4:12

#### **He has an appearance like the sun**

no one will be able to stand in His presence

#### **He has the keys of Hades and of Death**

# **The Outline of Revelation**

## **Revelation 1:19-20**

### **THE PAST - REVELATION 1:1-20**

the vision of Christ in His eternal glory

### **THE PRESENT - REVELATION 2:1-3:22**

the things which are - the Church Age

### **THE FUTURE - REVELATION 4:1-22:21**

the tribulation - 4:1-20:3

the kingdom - 20:4-6

the judgments - 20:7-15

the new heavens and the new earth - 21:1-22:21

## **THE MYSTERIES OF THE SEVENS**

**The seven stars are the seven angels of the churches**

**The seven lampstands are the seven churches**

Christ is the one who is the Light - John 8:12

Christ uses the churches as His means to bring His light  
to a dark world - Matthew 5:16; II Peter 1:19-21

Christ is in the midst of the churches so that He can  
examine each one individually to see how it is showing  
His light - Revelation 2:5; 2:16; 3:3

# The Seven Cities of Revelation 2 and 3

## Ephesus

was the capital of the Roman province of Asia  
had a fine harbor so it was a center of trade  
had a population of about 300,000 people  
had an amphitheater 495 feet in diameter that held 25,000 people  
city was the center of the worship of Diana (Artemis)  
the temple was one of the seven wonders of the world  
the temple measured 340 by 100 feet  
the temple had 100 columns that were 55 feet high  
Diana was called the goddess of fertility

## Smyrna

the city was built around 525 foot Mount Pagus  
the city had a street known as the “street of gold”  
this street had a great temple at each end  
the temple of Zeus was at the western end  
the temple of the mother goddess, Cybele Sipyrene, was at the eastern end  
the city also had many other temples and public buildings  
this city was very loyal to Rome  
this was part of the cause of the severe persecution in this city

## Pergamum

the city was built on terraces on the side of a 1000 foot hill  
it had an amphitheater that held 15,000 people  
the city was the center of a great health resort dedicated to the god, Asclepias  
the city was well known for its school of sculpture  
the city had the great sculptured altar of Zeus (125 feet by 115 feet)  
this is identified by some as Satan’s throne

## **Thyatira**

the city was a great center of trade  
this city had more trade guilds than any other city in Asia  
this is the city from which Lydia had come - Acts 16  
the area around the city produced the well known Turkey red dye  
which came from the madder root

## **Sardis**

this city was located on a main trade and military route  
this city was a rather wealthy city  
the temple of Artemis (160 feet by 300 feet) was located in this city  
this city was strong in its worship of the Roman emperor

## **Philadelphia**

the name of the city means the city of brotherly love  
the city was built on an 800 foot hill  
the city was on the main trade route leading east and west  
this city was a great center of grape growing  
this is the one city that still has a church existing today

## **Laodicea**

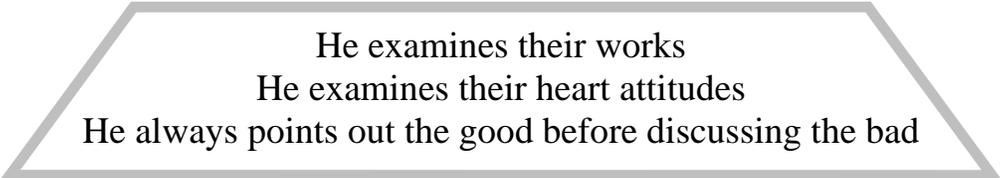
the city was located on the main highway 90 miles east of Ephesus  
this city was settled by Jews and Syrians from Babylonia  
this city was a very rich city  
it refused outside help when it was destroyed by an earthquake in 60 A.D.  
this trust in riches also became present in the church  
the city obtained its water from hot springs some distance away  
the water was carried by a three foot pipe  
the water was too cold for health baths by the time it arrived  
the water was too warm to drink by the time it arrived  
the water was used to picture the spiritual condition of the church

# The Church at Ephesus

## Revelation 2:1-7

- Christ is walking in the middle of the churches - verse 1
- Christ points out several good things about the church at Ephesus - verses 2-3
- Christ points out the one failure of Ephesus - verse 4
- Christ gave four R's in a return to our first love - verse 5
- Christ said the church at Ephesus hated the deeds of the Nicolaitans - verse 6
- Christ gives an appeal to us - verse 7

### Christ is in the middle of the churches



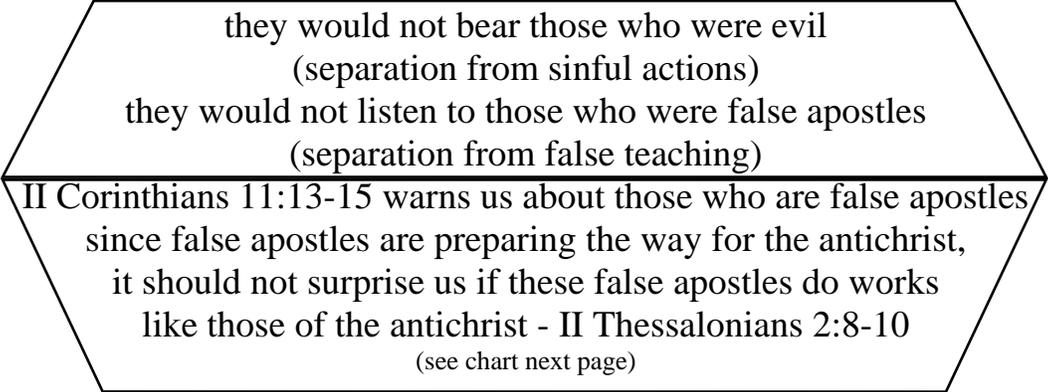
He examines their works  
He examines their heart attitudes  
He always points out the good before discussing the bad

### Christ points out several good things about the church at Ephesus

#### Ephesus was a working church

their works - they were serving the Lord all of the time  
their labor - even when work was really toil, they stuck with it  
their patience - they showed patient endurance in their service for the Lord

#### Ephesus was a doctrinally sound church



they would not bear those who were evil  
(separation from sinful actions)  
they would not listen to those who were false apostles  
(separation from false teaching)

II Corinthians 11:13-15 warns us about those who are false apostles  
since false apostles are preparing the way for the antichrist,  
it should not surprise us if these false apostles do works  
like those of the antichrist - II Thessalonians 2:8-10  
(see chart next page)

#### Ephesus was a church that did not give up

you have borne - to bear a burden  
you have patience  
you have labored  
you have not fainted

## **Seven tests for false teachers in I John**

### **Denial of our present sinful condition**

if we say we have no sin - I John 1:8

### **Denial of the seriousness of sin**

if we say we have not sinned - I John 1:10

### **Denial of the Deity of Christ**

if we deny that Jesus is the Christ - I John 2:22-23

### **Denial by works**

whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God  
nor is he who does not love his brother - I John 3:10

### **Denial of the humanity of Christ**

does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh - I John 4:1-3

### **Denial by lack of love**

claims to love God but hates his brother - I John 4:20-21

### **Denial of the Word of God**

rejects the record that God gave of His Son - I John 5:10-11

## **Christ points out the one failure of Ephesus**

*they had left their first love*

the difference between left and lost  
to lose means to lose something that you want to keep  
to leave means to abandon or forsake  
(they had actually turned away from the love that they once had)

### **What was that first love?**

**“fellowship with Christ”**

this fellowship is proclaimed - Philippians 3:7-14

this fellowship is illustrated - Luke 10:38-42

this fellowship is the basis for true service - II Corinthians 5:14-20

(we can become so busy serving the Lord that we have no time for fellowship with Him)

this fellowship is demonstrated in the contrast between the church at Ephesus and the church at Thessalonica - I Thessalonians 1:3

#### **The church at Ephesus**

works  
labor  
patience

#### **The church at Thessalonica**

work of faith - Romans 10:17  
labor of love - Mark 14:3-9  
patience of hope - I Thess. 1:9-10

## **The four R's involved in a return to our first love**

### **Remember therefore from where you have fallen**

remember your old sinful life  
remember how God saved you from that life  
remember the precious fellowship you enjoyed when you  
first committed your life to Christ  
remember when your fellowship was centered around love  
rather than works, labor and patience

### **Repent**

to turn back in heart  
to turn back in purpose  
to turn back in love  
II Corinthians 5:14

### **Repeat (do) the first works**

in order for our fellowship to be what it should be, it must be fresh  
(illustration of manna which must be gathered daily - Exodus 16:14-21)  
how much time do we spend with the Lord each morning?  
do we spend it with Him from duty or from love?

### **Removal**

if we fail to do the first three when we have left our first love,  
God will remove us from our place of service  
God will remove our churches from effective service

## **The church at Ephesus hated the deeds of the Nicolaitans**

Nicolaitans comes from two Greek words  
nikao - to conquer  
laos - people

from this we get our word laity (laymen)

The Ephesians were commended because they hated those who wanted to make a  
distinction between clergy and laity - spiritual leaders are not to be dictators

Diotrephes was such a man - III John 9-10

Spiritual leaders are to be examples (I Peter 5:3) and servants (Mark 10:42-45)

### **the results of Nicolaitanism**

The leaders become proud  
The followers become lazy and have no ministry  
The result is sinful living by both leaders and followers

## **The appeal to us**

Listen to what the Holy Spirit is trying to teach us from this church  
If we have detected a need in our own life now is the time to correct it

# The Church at Smyrna

## Revelation 2:8-11

Christ gave a message to the angel of the church of Smyrna - verse 8  
Christ points out several good things about the church in Smyrna - verse 9  
Christ offers rewards for faithfulness - verse 10  
Christ calls to us to hear - verse 11

### The message to those facing great suffering

**for those facing great persecution, Christ is the first and the last**  
He knows the beginning from the end and will bring  
all persecution to an end in His time and plan  
**for those facing death, Christ is the One who was dead and is alive**  
the persecutors could not do more to Christians than they had done to Christ  
just as Christ is alive, He will raise all to life who die in Him

in the church at Ephesus, we see that they had left their first love  
here we see Christ is allowing persecution to cause the church to return to their first love  
we see that this persecution caused cleansing  
however, we do not see that it caused the church to return to a first love

### Christ points out several good things about the church at Smyrna

**they continued to work hard for the Lord even in persecution**  
here we see that nothing was able to stop their work for the Lord  
**they were willing to suffer great tribulation for the Lord**  
regardless of how much the people suffered, they continued to serve the Lord  
here we see a real example of how we should face suffering  
**they experienced great poverty (but they were rich)**  
as a part of their persecution,  
all of their earthly possessions were taken and destroyed  
as a result, they had nothing on this earth  
however, God said that they had great riches in heaven  
**they also suffered from professing Christians who were actually followers of Satan**  
these people were blaspheming by acting and speaking like they served God  
they are described as the “synagogue of Satan”  
**Christ offers rewards for faithfulness**

**do not fear the things that you will suffer**

we do not face these things alone  
we are to rest in the strength that Christ provides  
*Christ did not deliver the three men from the fiery furnace  
but He went with them through that furnace - Daniel 3:19-30*

**recognize that the devil will test you further**

some of the people in Smyrna were going to be cast into prison  
although we may not be cast into prison, we may be tested in other ways

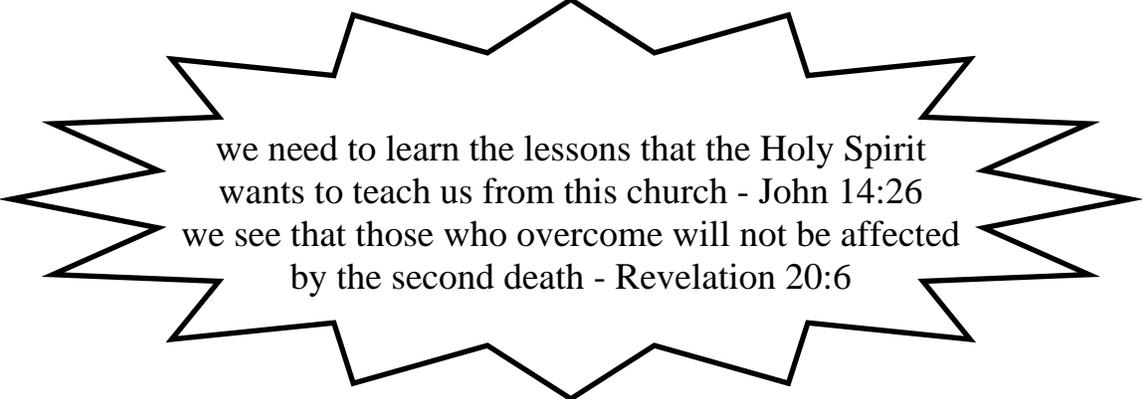
**God warned that there would be ten periods of great persecution**

under the Roman government, the church faced ten periods of intense  
persecution during the first three hundred years of the church  
three in the first century  
two in the second century  
five in the third century

**those who are faithful to death are promised a crown of life**

this points to the victor's crown which will be given  
to those who rule with Christ - James 1:12  
here we see that those who are faithful will be rewarded  
with the opportunity to rule with Christ

**The call to us to hear**



we need to learn the lessons that the Holy Spirit  
wants to teach us from this church - John 14:26  
we see that those who overcome will not be affected  
by the second death - Revelation 20:6

# The Church at Pergamum

## Revelation 2:12-17

Christ comes to this church with a sword having two edges - verse 12

Christ first examines the good works - verse 13

Christ tells the things which He has against this church - verses 14-15

Christ warns the church at Pergamum to repent - verse 16

Christ warns the church to listen to the Spirit - verse 17

### A Sharp Sword with Two Edges

Hebrews 4:12 describes that sword as the Word of God  
here we see that God is examining everything  
in the church according to the Word of God  
the fact that Christ called the Word a sword indicates that  
this church is going to face a thorough judgment

### The good works of the church at Pergamum

#### they were working hard for the Lord

This was true even though they lived in the center of idol worship

It was the place where Satan's throne was

Since Satan cannot be everywhere like God,

he must have a center for his activity on the earth

The place where Satan centered his activity would always be the most sinful area  
of the earth because he would face the least opposition there

It is interesting that the church would work so hard in such a sinful area

#### they were holding forth the name of Christ

Here we see that the church was still preaching the Gospel

#### they had not denied the faith

Here we see that the church still stuck to the basic teachings of the Word of God

#### they had seen Antipas killed as a faithful martyr

Here we see that the church was still so true to the Word of God  
that people were dying for their faith

## **The things which Christ had against the church at Pergamum**

### **they had those who held the doctrine of Balaam**

Balaam and his false teaching are recorded in Numbers 22-25  
Balak, king of Moab, offered Balaam a great reward to curse Israel  
Balaam tried several times to curse Israel but  
God caused his words to come out as a blessing each time  
Balaam still wanted the reward offered by Balak  
Balaam encouraged Balak to get the Moabites to marry the people of Israel  
he knew this would cause the people to join the idol worship  
he knew this would cause Israel to get involved in immorality  
Satan knows that if he can destroy the morality of a believer,  
he will soon be able to lead him into false worship  
there were those in the church who were involved in sinful living  
Christians were marrying idol worshipers  
Christians were participating in their old religions  
Christians were getting involved in the immorality  
that went along with their old religions

### **they had those who held the doctrine of the Nicolaitans**

this was the doctrine that was hated in the church at Ephesus  
remember the meaning of Nicolaitans  
nikao - to conquer  
laos - the people  
in Pergamum there were those who had set themselves up as dictators over the people  
when people set themselves up as dictators, two things happen:  
the leaders become proud  
the followers feel they do not need to do anything  
the result is that both live to satisfy themselves while claiming to be Christians  
God says that He hates this teaching

#### **Christ warns the church to repent**

God says that this repentance must come quickly

God says that if there is no repentance,  
there will be judgment according to the Word of God

#### **Christ warns the church to listen to the Spirit**

God wants to correct any of the churches that will listen

God promises to feed those who will listen

God promises to place His approval on those who obey Him

# The Church at Thyatira

## Revelation 2:18-29

Christ is pictured as He examines Thyatira - verse 18

Christ tells the good things in the church at Thyatira - verse 19

Christ tells the things which God has against the church at Thyatira - verses 20-21

Christ promises judgment to those in Thyatira - verses 22-23

Christ gives promises to those who have not known the depths of Satan - verses 24-28

Christ encourages all to listen to the Spirit - verse 29

### The picture of Christ as He examines the church at Thyatira

#### **His eyes are like a flame of fire**

here is a picture of the fact that Christ sees and knows all things

He is examining them according to what is true

like a fire, He will separate the chaff from the precious stones

#### **His feet are like fine bronze (brass)**

throughout the Old Testament, bronze gives us a picture of judgment

the bronze altar, the bronze serpent

after Christ examines the right and wrong, He will judge the wrong

### The good things about the church at Thyatira

#### **their works**

here we see that the church at Thyatira was a hard working church

in fact this is the first thing mentioned about them

#### **their love**

it is interesting to note that this church had a love for the Lord

however, it is important to notice that their works were ahead of their love

#### **their service**

this church was serving the Lord as they worked for Him

#### **their faith**

this church had a faith in the Lord

#### **their patience**

this church showed endurance in the middle of suffering and problems

#### **their works (the last more than the first)**

their service increased for the Lord as they grew in the Lord

they had not become satisfied with past achievement

# **The things which God had against the church at Thyatira**

## **Jezebel had been given leadership by the church**

Jezebel was a literal woman in Thyatira  
the fact that the church at Thyatira had not tested her claim to be a prophetess  
by the Word of God shows that the church was openly compromising  
Jezebel symbolizes the Old Testament Jezebel in I Kings 16-II Kings 9

### **the Old Testament Jezebel**

she not only worshipped Baal but was a real militant in getting others to worship Baal  
she controlled her husband, Ahab, so that he did not stop her opposition to God  
she attempted to destroy all of the true prophets of God  
she attempted to replace the Word of God with the words of men  
**this has always been a key in Satan's activity**  
**Satan is still using this approach today**

## **Jezebel was calling herself a prophetess**

false religious leaders always set themselves up as religious leaders  
false religious leaders often claim to base their teaching on the Bible  
the devil will often use imitation to deceive those who are interested  
in the Bible - II Corinthians 11:13-15

## **Jezebel was being allowed to teach by the church**

God specifically prohibits women from teaching men in church meetings  
I Corinthians 15:34-37; I Timothy 2:11-15  
God does tell the older women to teach the younger women  
Titus 2:3-5

we are not to allow men or women to teach unless we know that they will teach  
the truth - Jude 3-16

## **Jezebel was being allowed to seduce God's servants to commit fornication**

the problems of an experience oriented religion

## **Jezebel was being allowed to seduce them to eat things sacrificed to idols**

the problem of a compromising church

## **Jezebel was given time to repent, but refused to repent**

the problem of open sinful rebellion

## **The Judgment promised to those in Thyatira**

### **Jezebel will be cast into bed**

those who deceive others will themselves be deceived  
many of the followers of Jezebel think that they are true Christians

### **the followers of Jezebel will go into great tribulation**

here we see that those who follow her teachings are not even Christians  
in the Old Testament, Jezebel corrupted the government  
in order to destroy the worship of God  
then the corrupted government destroyed her - II Kings 9:30-37  
this same thing will happen in Revelation  
government will destroy organized religion - Revelation 17  
God still offers men an opportunity to repent

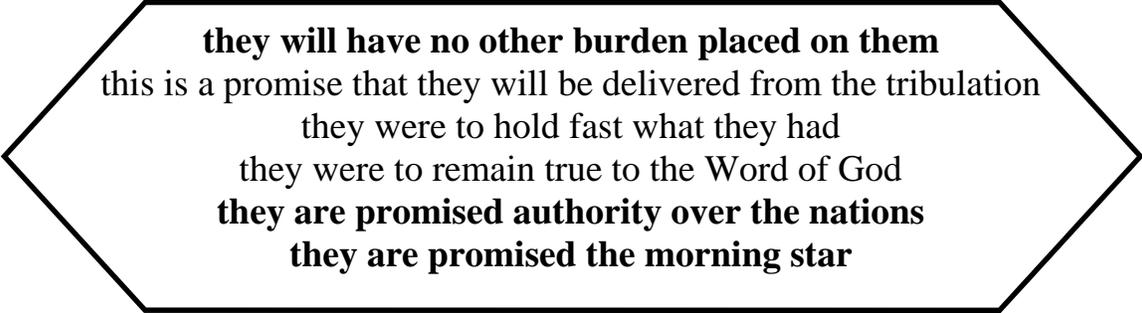
### **the children of Jezebel will be killed**

Jezebel's children are false teachers as well as unbelievers  
God's judgment on false teachers in the tribulation will be very severe

### **the Lord will search the minds and hearts of men**

people will have the thoughts of their hearts and minds revealed  
people will experience judgment according to their works  
this will result in either rewards or judgment

## **The promises to those who have not known the depths of Satan**



**they will have no other burden placed on them**  
this is a promise that they will be delivered from the tribulation  
they were to hold fast what they had  
they were to remain true to the Word of God  
**they are promised authority over the nations**  
**they are promised the morning star**

**The encouragement to listen to the Spirit**

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

# The Church at Sardis

## Revelation 3:1-6

Christ speaks to the church at Sardis - verse 1  
Christ speaks about the works of the church at Sardis - verses 2-3  
Christ speaks encouragement to the faithful remnant - verse 4-5  
Christ encourages us to listen to the Spirit - verse 6

### Christ speaks to the church at Sardis

**this is one of the two churches about which the Lord has nothing good to say**  
like each of the other churches, the Lord examined the works of Sardis  
**this church at Sardis claimed to be an active, living church**  
here we see that much activity does not produce a living church  
in this case much activity produced a dead church  
**this was a church which had compromised so long that nothing remained**

### The works of Sardis did not meet the requirements of God

These works were self centered rather than God centered  
These works were not based on love for Christ  
These works require drastic corrective action

**be watchful - this church needed to wake up**  
it was in this condition because dead ceremonies  
had replaced a true relationship with Christ  
**strengthen the things that remain**  
this is a great call to return to the Word of God  
the Word is our source of strength  
the lack of teaching can even take Christians  
back to babyhood - Hebrews 5:11-14  
**remember what you have received and heard**  
return to a true belief  
**hold fast and repent**  
turn away from the dead works which have corrupted you

These works will lead to immediate judgment if not corrected  
Christ will come as a thief and they will be unprepared for judgment

## **The message to the faithful remnant**

just as God remembered the faithful in the time of Noah  
and again in the time of Lot

### **God remembered the faithful remnant in the city of Sardis**

This faithful remnant had not soiled their garments  
This faithful remnant had been true to the Word of God  
This faithful remnant consists of those who walk in true fellowship with Christ

### **God recognizes the faithful remnant as worthy**

The faithful are not worthy in themselves  
The faithful are worthy through Christ

### **God promises the faithful remnant blessing**

Christ says the faithful will stand in the righteousness of Christ  
Christ says the faithful have eternal life which no one can take away  
Christ speaks of the faithful before His Father  
Christ speaks of the faithful before the angels

### **The encouragement to listen to the Spirit**

God is looking for people who will listen  
God is looking for people who are sensitive to the Spirit  
God is looking for people who hear what the Spirit says to the churches

### **The progression downward**

the church at Ephesus - had left its first love  
the church at Pergamum - had left the true doctrines  
the church at Thyatira - had stopped following godly leaders  
the Church at Sardis - had become dead because it was so self centered

# The Church at Philadelphia

## Revelation 3:7-13

Christ examines the church - verse 7

Christ places an open door before His true followers - verse 8

Christ will judge those who are false - verse 9

Christ will keep us from the hour of temptation - verse 10

Christ promises rewards to those who obey - verses 11-12

Christ encourages us to listen to the Spirit - verse 13

### **The picture of Christ as He examines the church**

Christ finds nothing wrong with this church  
It has one of the most beautiful pictures of Christ  
since it is not necessary for Him to come as the Judge

### **Christ is the Holy One**

Since He is perfect, His holiness is not compared to anything  
Instead we are given a standard of comparison for our own lives

### **Christ is the True One**

Holiness speaks of character while truth speaks of actions

Christ is the One who is genuine

Those who turn away from Christ are characterized by two things

a lack of holiness

a lack of truth

This is the reason why they are so easily deceived by the antichrist

II Thessalonians 2:9-12; II Timothy 4:3-4

### **Christ has the key of David**

A key is always a symbol of authority

This key is interpreted in the following passages

Isaiah 22:20-22 - the symbol of the authority of the king

Isaiah 9:6-7 - this authority would be laid on the shoulder of Christ

### **Christ is the One who opens and shuts doors**

Christ had all authority given to Him - Matthew 28:18-20

Christ shares the power with us through the Holy Spirit - Acts 1:8

Christ opens and shuts doors through our ministry of proclaiming the Gospel

## **Christ places an open door before His true followers**

On the basis of His examination,  
Christ places an open door before His true followers

### **Qualifications for going through the open door**

#### **you have a little strength**

Here we see that the group who can go through the open door is a small minority  
The world always counts strength by numbers  
Only when we realize that we have no strength in ourselves  
will we rest in the strength that Christ provides - Philippians 4:13

#### **you have kept My Word**

Here we see that the godly remnant has a total belief in the Word of God  
Today many churches question the inspiration of Scripture  
Christ warned that a departure from Scripture  
would characterize the last days - I Timothy 4:1  
Those who keep the Word of God love it and obey it  
Ignoring it is just as bad as rejecting it  
In order to keep the Word, we must obey the instruction of II Timothy 4:2  
We will not have an open door if we speak our words instead of the Word of God

#### **you have not denied My name**

Christ looks for those who honor His name  
The name of a person speaks of his character  
Here we see that the small minority meet the test that the church at Ephesus failed  
The open door is placed by Christ before those who have not left their first love  
Many Christians are so busy serving the Lord that they have no time to spend with  
the Lord and grow in their love for Him  
Here we see that it is individuals and not groups who meet the test  
to have an open door placed before them

### **Christ has set an open door**

He is the door of salvation through which we enter - John 10:9  
He opens the door to service as we follow Him - John 10:4  
He opens a door so we can present the Gospel - Acts 16:6-9  
He opens hearts as we go through open doors - Acts 16:14  
He has set an open harvest before us that has already been sown - John 4:35-38  
We can expect to reap if our hearts are right  
We must fulfill the commands of God in order to recognize open doors

## **Christ will judge those who are false**

Synagogue means a “bringing together” or “a gathering together” of religious people

Here we see that God is going to be the One who will deal with  
the religious union that is developing

**their gospel - Galatians 1:6-8**

**their leader - II Corinthians 11:13-15**

**their false doctrines - I John 2:22; I John 4:1-3**

**their relationship - John 8:44**

Those who are of the synagogue of Satan will be forced to worship before the feet  
of those who are true Christians

God will cause them to recognize those who are true Christians

## **Christ will keep us from the hour of trial which will come on the whole world**

Christ gives a great promise to all those who have placed their trust in Him

They will be kept from “The Testing”

“ek” - to be kept away from not to be preserved through

This is in contrast to Israel which will be saved out of it

Jeremiah 30:7; Revelation 12

This time is described in many passages as a terrible time for Israel

Daniel 12:1, Matthew 24:25; Revelation chapters 6-19

## **How will Christians be kept away from “The Testing”?**

Christians will be taken out of the way before the wicked one is revealed

II Thessalonians 2:7-8

Christians will be taken to heaven by the Rapture

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Christians will be taken by Christ very suddenly

I Corinthians 15:51-52

## **Christ promises rewards to those who obey**

No man will take our crown

We will be rewarded according to what we do

Galatians 6:7-10; I Corinthians 3:11-15; Luke 19:11-26

We will be a pillar in the temple of God

We will dwell with the Lord forever

## **Christ encourages us to listen to the Spirit**

# The Church at Laodicea

## Revelation 3:14-22

Christ is seen as He examines the church - verse 14  
Christ has a complaint against the church - verses 15-17  
Christ gives counsel to the church at Laodicea - verse 18  
Christ gives an appeal to repent - verses 19-20  
Christ has a promise for overcomers - verse 21  
Christ encourages us to listen to the Spirit - verse 22

### The picture of Christ as He examines the church

#### The Amen

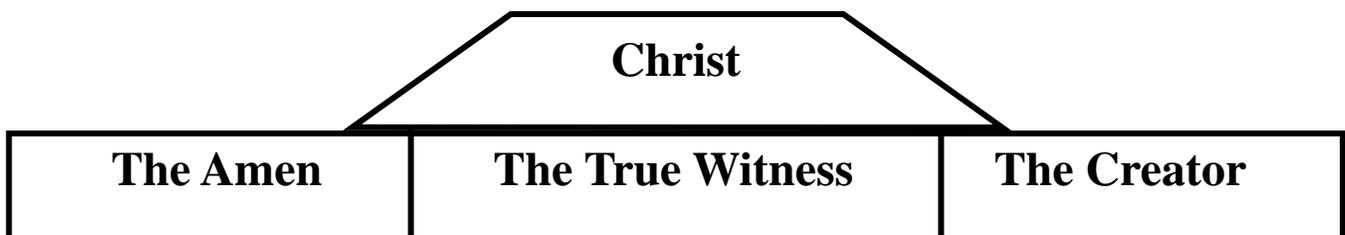
that which is established, sure or positive  
Christ is the One who is the Truth - John 14:6  
nothing can be added to or taken away from Him  
This is a message of encouragement to those who trust  
This is a message of judgment to those who reject

#### The True Witness

What Christ says is out in the open and nothing is hidden  
As the True Witness, Christ knows the hearts of men  
Nothing is hidden from Him

#### The Creator

He is the Creator and in Him all things consist - Colossians 1:15-18  
Today many churches have rejected Him as Creator and  
have accepted the teaching of evolution  
He is the Master of all that He created  
He is the source of life for every church



## **The complaint of Christ against the church at Laodicea**

Christ has nothing good to say about this church  
Laodicea means - the voice of the people  
This is in contrast to the voice of God

### **The church was neither hot or cold**

Hot speaks of a church that is totally dedicated to serving the Lord  
Cold speaks of people who are in rebellion against God  
These are people who are not a part of the true church  
These people make no claim to be Christians  
These people face judgment  
There is more hope for one who is cold than for one who is lukewarm

### **Lukewarmness is very dangerous because it is self deceiving**

The church at Laodicea thought that it was in good spiritual condition  
Lukewarmness has as its real problem a failure to recognize the Lordship of Christ  
types of lukewarmness

#### **lukewarm in love for the Lord**

neglect of personal fellowship with Christ - Romans 12:1-2

#### **lukewarm in love for the Word of God**

(may feel that certain Biblical doctrines and principles are not essential to our faith)

#### **lukewarm in love for the body of Christ**

neglect of love and service to one another - John 13:34-35

#### **lukewarm in love for the world**

neglect of evangelism - Acts 1:8

### **God's evaluation of the church at Laodicea**

#### **wretched - oppressed with a burden**

their earthly riches kept them from recognizing their true spiritual condition

#### **miserable - that which is in need of pity**

Christ was moved to pity as He saw the sad condition of this church

#### **poor - this is the word that is used for a beggar**

they had great riches in the world but no spiritual treasure

#### **blind - saw nothing clearly and had no spiritual vision**

they lacked spiritual vision because they lacked spiritual life

#### **naked - they lacked the robe of righteousness**

without that robe man cannot stand before a holy God

## **The counsel of Christ to the church at Laodicea**

### **buy gold that is tried in the fire**

Seek spiritual wealth instead of physical wealth  
Spiritual wealth is offered as a free gift  
Christ promises that He will develop quality of character  
This is the result of being tried in the fire

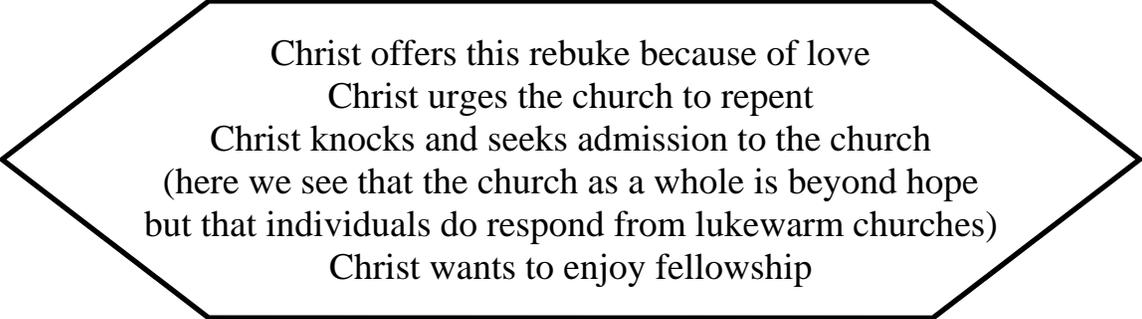
### **receive white raiment**

White raiment is the robe of righteousness  
We need the righteousness of Christ as a covering for our sin  
The robe of righteousness will cover and take away our sin  
We will no longer have the shame that accompanies sin

### **anoint the eyes with salve**

Without Christ we are spiritually blind - II Corinthians 4:3-4  
The Holy Spirit gives us light and understanding

## **The appeal of Christ to repent**



Christ offers this rebuke because of love  
Christ urges the church to repent  
Christ knocks and seeks admission to the church  
(here we see that the church as a whole is beyond hope  
but that individuals do respond from lukewarm churches)  
Christ wants to enjoy fellowship

## **The promise to the overcomer**

“Overcomer” means a conqueror  
Christ is the original overcomer - John 16:33; Hebrews 2:14-15  
We are now to be overcomers through Christ  
Faith is the key to overcoming - I John 5:4-5  
We are now to walk in faith - Colossians 2:6  
Overcomers will receive a reward  
We will sit with Christ in His throne

## **The encouragement to listen to the Spirit**

Christ wants us to listen  
Christ wants us to respond in obedience

# The Church Worships God

## Revelation 4:1-11

the movement from earth to heaven - verse 1

the view of God on the throne - verses 2-3

the twenty four elders on the thrones - verse 4

the action from the throne - verse 5

the four living creatures and the saints worship before the throne - verses 6-11

### Reasons why we say the church moves from earth to heaven

1. we move to the things which shall be hereafter (after the church age)

Revelation 1:19; Revelation 4:1

2. the next reference to the church it is called the wife

Revelation 19:7-10

3. four of the churches state that they will continue to exist until the coming of Christ

Revelation 2 and 3

4. the church is promised that it will be kept from the hour of trial

Revelation 3:10

5. we are placed “in Christ” at salvation - I Corinthians 12:13

believers in the tribulation are called saints but are not said to be “in Christ”

6. Christ comes for the church in I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Christ comes with the saints in Revelation 19 and 20

7. Christ meets the saints in the air - I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Christ touches on the Mount of Olives when He returns to rule - Zechariah 14:4

8. seventy weeks is for “my people” (the Jews) - Daniel 9:24-27

9. there are only three times heaven is opened in Revelation

a. for the church - Revelation 4:1

b. to encourage those on earth - Revelation 11:19

c. at Christ’s coming to rule - Revelation 19:11

**The real key to understanding Revelation is our system of Biblical interpretation**

**If we believe that the Bible is literal and interpret it literally,  
we will make a distinction between Israel and the church in prophecy.**

**If we interpret the Bible allegorically,  
we may confuse Israel and the church and not understand Revelation.**

**Matthew 5:17-18; II Timothy 3:14-17; II Peter 1:19-21**

## **The view of God on the throne**

**a throne was set in heaven (45 times in Revelation, 17 just in chapters 4 and 5)**

Set points to a permanent throne

This is in contrast to the temporary thrones of Satan and men

**throughout Revelation, unknown things are described by things known**

“And the first voice I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me” - 4:1  
the voice is compared to the sound of a trumpet

### **God is described as He sits on the throne**

He is like a jasper and sardius stone in appearance

a jasper stone is clear as crystal

a sardius is blood red

There was a rainbow around the throne

the rainbow looked like emerald - light green

Complete circle gives us a picture of God's eternal grace

The throne speaks of a ruler or judgment

### **The twenty four elders on the thrones**

#### ***they are not angels***

Angels do not receive robes of righteousness

Angels do not receive crowns (rewards)

#### ***they are not Israel***

The raptured are only those “in Christ” - I Thessalonians 4:13-18

The Old Testament saints will be resurrected at the end of the tribulation - Daniel 12

Daniel 12:1 speaks of the time of Jacob's trouble

Daniel 12:2-3 speaks of the resurrection the the Old Testament saints

Old Testament saints will be raised after 1290 and 1335 days - Daniel 12:11-12

Daniel will be raised at the end of those days - Daniel 12:13

#### ***the twenty four elders are the church***

The church is clothed in robes of righteousness

Romans 3:22; Revelation 19:8

Crowns are always pictured as the rewards of the church

## **The action from the throne**

Lightning, thunderclaps and voices come from the throne  
These are the signs which precede the actual arrival of a storm

The wrath of God will soon come on the earth  
God has been holding back the storm because of His mercy

II Peter 3:9

The Holy Spirit is also present before the throne

## **The four living creatures and the saints worship before the throne**

The four living creatures are probably cherubim - Ezekiel 10:20-21

The unknown can sometimes be described by the known

<b>The four creatures</b>	<b>The arrangement of Israel around the tabernacle</b>	<b>The four Gospels</b>
<b>A lion</b>	Judah on the east symbol was the lion	Matthew Christ is the King
<b>A calf</b>	Ephraim on the west symbol was the ox	Mark Christ is the Servant
<b>A man</b>	Reuben on the south symbol was a man	Luke Christ is the Son of Man
<b>An eagle</b>	Dan on the north symbol was the eagle	John Christ is the Son of God
	protected the tabernacle God's presence with man	fourfold picture of Christ

## **The ministry of the four living creatures**

To proclaim the holiness of God - Isaiah 6:2-3; Philippians 2:9-11

To give glory, honor and thanks to God

## **The worship of the Father**

Worship comes from the word "worthship"

Crowns are cast before the throne

Crowns are rewards for service - I Corinthians 3:13-14

Casting symbolizes that rewards are the result of grace

God is worthy because He is the Creator of all - Colossians 1:16; Ephesians 1:12

We need to make certain we will not be ashamed before Him - I John 2:28

# **Christ Takes the Scroll**

## **Revelation 5:1-14**

who is worthy to open the scroll? - verses 1-4  
Christ is worthy to open the scroll - verses 5-7  
the worship of the One who opens the scroll - verses 8-14

### **Who is worthy to open the scroll?**

#### **The scroll described**

The scroll was written on the inside and on the back  
The scroll pictures the need for a kinsman-redeemer  
On the outside of the scroll was a description of what was to be redeemed  
It might be property or some other item  
It also would have a list of the qualified kinsmen  
On the inside were written the three necessary details to redeem  
He had to be a near relative  
He had to be willing to act  
He had to be able to pay the price of redemption  
The book of Ruth is an illustration  
The scroll was sealed with seven seals  
(seven is the number of God's perfection)

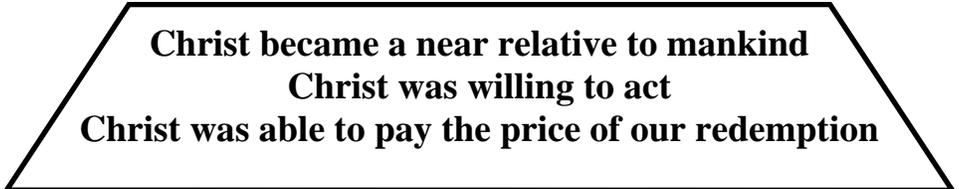
#### **The question of the angel about who is worthy**

A strong angel was not worthy  
No man is worthy

#### **The sorrow of John**

No man or angel was worthy to be the redeemer of mankind

**The three qualifications that Christ met that no one else could meet**



**Christ became a near relative to mankind**  
**Christ was willing to act**  
**Christ was able to pay the price of our redemption**

## **Christ is worthy to open the scroll**

The Lion of the tribe of Judah is worthy  
The contrast between His first and second coming

<b>Lamb</b>	<b>Lion</b>
speaks of meekness	speaks of majesty
speaks of a Savior	speaks of a Sovereign
was judged as a Lamb	will judge as a Lion
speaks of the grace of God	speaks of the government of God

The Lamb was standing in the midst of the throne  
seven horns - all power  
seven eyes - all knowing  
seven spirits - all present  
The Lamb takes the scroll

### **The worship of the One who opens the scroll**

#### **the worship by the four living creatures and the elders**

Worship by falling down because God is fulfilling His promises - Psalm 110:1-7

Worship with harps - an instrument of praise

Worship with bowls of prayers - presentation of our prayers to Christ

Worship is with a new song

this song will proclaim that Christ fulfilled the requirements of a Kinsman-Redeemer

He was slain to pay the price

He has redeemed us to God

He has made this payment with His own blood

Worship is through our ministry as a kingdom of priests

#### **the worship by the angels**

Worship is by an innumerable group of angels

Worship is through a spoken rather than a singing voice - a great speaking choir

Worship by proclaiming seven things Christ is worthy to receive

**power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, blessing**

#### **the worship by all creatures - Philippians 2:9-11**

Worship by all creatures (this will eventually include Satan and the fallen angels)

Worship by the four living creatures

Worship by those who follow God

# The Seven Seals are Opened

## Revelation 6:1-17

the first seal is opened (antichrist) - verses 1-2

the second seal is opened (war) - verses 3-4

the third seal is opened (famine) - verses 5-6

the fourth seal is opened (death) - verses 7-8

the fifth seal is opened - verses 9-11

the sixth seal is opened - verses 12-17

### **The first seal is opened**

*the seals are opened by the Lamb*

here we see that the rider on the first horse cannot be Christ

*the white horse*

white is the color of peace or surrender

the cry of the world today is for a ruler who can bring peace

*the rider on the white horse*

he has a bow - but no arrows

this is in keeping with the white horse

he comes with a cold war rather than a hot war

*a crown was given to him*

This is not a sovereign ruler's crown but a victor's crown

This speaks of gaining victory after victory peacefully

until he has gained a position as world ruler

he gains these victories by promising peace

*he went forth conquering and to conquer*

Here we see that he will accomplish his goal of becoming the world ruler

This rider is also the same rider on the following three horses

### **The second seal is opened**

*the red horse*

red speaks of war and bloodshed - a fulfillment of I Thessalonians 5:3

here the antichrist is beginning to reveal his real purpose to take peace from the earth

*the rider is given the power to do the following things*

take peace from the earth - worldwide war and conflict

they shall kill one another - the nations will work to destroy each other

there was given to him a great sword

here we see this war will cause great loss of life - Daniel 11:40; Ezekiel 38 and 39

## **The third seal is opened**

### ***the black horse***

black gives us a picture of uncontrollable inflation which is followed by famine  
we see that this often happens in periods following war

### ***the rider on the black horse***

he has a pair of balances in his hand  
balances were used to weigh out and ration food  
the situation will get so bad that men will eventually be forced to take the mark of the  
beast to even buy or sell - Revelation 13:16-17

### ***the cost of food***

a day's wages will buy enough for one meal of wheat  
a day's wages will buy enough for three meals of barley  
(barley is usually food reserved for livestock)

### ***the contrast of the very rich***

oil speaks of toiletries and beauty aids  
wine refers to all forms of liquor  
the rich will have plenty while most of the people will be close to starvation

## **The fourth seal is opened**

### ***the pale (pale green) horse***

this is a picture of the great death which the antichrist will bring to the earth

### ***the rider is Death and Hades***

Death and Hades

death refers to physical death  
hades refers to spiritual death

### ***power is given over 1/4 of the people of the earth***

1/4 of the people will die as a result of the previous seals

many will die through war

many will die through famine

many will die through plagues and diseases which follow war

many will die through the wild beasts that will begin to attack man

(this will follow crop failures which leave them with no food)

## **The four horses of Revelation**

**the white horse - the antichrist**

**the red horse - war**

**the black horse - famine**

**the pale green horse - death**

### **The fifth seal is opened**

we are now at about the midpoint of the tribulation  
*the slain for the Word of God and for the testimony which they held*  
*Who are they?*

they are not Christians - the Christians are already raptured  
they are not Old Testament saints - they will be raised at the end of the tribulation  
they must be tribulation saints because their persecutors are still living  
*the slain request judgment for those who killed them*  
the white robes are possibly a symbol of the righteous glory of God  
possibly similar to Adam and Eve before the fall  
the slain are told to wait until those still to be killed in the tribulation are also killed  
there are many more to die in the second half of the tribulation

### **The sixth seal is opened**

this seal concludes the first half of the tribulation and we now are ready to enter the  
second half known as the “Great Tribulation”  
the opening of the sixth seal results in six catastrophic events

#### *the great earthquake*

this is a great worldwide earthquake  
Ezekiel predicted a great shaking in the land of Israel at the time Gog comes against  
Israel - Ezekiel 38:18-23

#### *the sun becomes black as sackcloth of hair*

“as” is a word of comparison to show what the sun looks like not what it becomes

#### *the moon becomes like blood*

again a word of comparison

both look like they look when you look at them through thick smoke

#### *the stars of the heaven will fall to the earth*

a fall of meteors upon the earth will bring great destruction

they will be falling everywhere like figs in a great wind

#### *the heaven departs as a scroll when it is rolled together*

this is a reference to the atmosphere above us allowing destructive sun ray to  
penetrate

#### *every mountain and island are moved out of their places*

no “as” or “like” so it is a literal moving of every mountain and island

### **Results of these six catastrophes**

the world will try to hide from the wrath of the Lamb  
this judgment will affect every class of people and no one will escape  
chapter 6 closes with the question, Who will be able to stand?  
chapter 7 answers this question before we go on to read about further judgment

# The People Who Will Stand

## Revelation 7:1-17

the announcement of the sealing of the remnant - verses 1-3

the sealing of the 144,000 - verses 4-8

the great multitude saved out of all nations - verses 9-17

this chapter answers the questions that was asked in the last verse of chapter 6

### **Who will be able to stand?**

God is going to seal part of those saved during the first half of the tribulation  
so that they will not be killed

### **The announcement of the sealing of the remnant**

#### *the four angels prepare to hurt the earth*

these are the four angels who will bring great judgments during the tribulation

they are the angels that control the winds of the earth

they are going to completely stop the wind as a part of their judgment

#### *the appearance of another angel*

this angel comes from the east

this angel has the seal of God - a seal is a mark of ownership or possession

this angel will seal those that cannot be touched by the forces of Satan

#### *the message of the fifth angel*

wait to bring your judgments

the reason for the waiting period

God wanted to place His seal of ownership on a certain group of His servants so that  
Satan would not be able to touch that group during the second half of the tribulation

### **The sealing of the 144,000**

the 144,000 are from the nation of Israel

these are literal individuals from each of the tribes mentioned

*the reason why the tribe of Levi is included and the tribe of Dan excluded*

since all are now believer-priests, there is no need for a priestly tribe

Dan was the first to turn from God to idols and so is excluded

Dan will reappear later in Revelation

the 144,000 are sealed so that they can be witnesses which Satan cannot destroy  
during the last half of the tribulation

## **The great multitude saved out of all nations**

### *the salvation of the great multitude*

this multitude is more than any person can number

within this group are people of every:

nation - country

kindred - family group

people - tribe

tongue - language group

these will stand before Christ with white robes

this indicates that this great multitude is people who have placed their trust in Christ like the followers of Christ before His death, these will indicate their recognition of

Christ with palm branches

they will also proclaim that salvation is through both the Father and the Son

### *the rejoicing in heaven about this multitude*

this great multitude will cause great rejoicing by all of the angels

this has always been one of the ministries of the angels - Luke 15:7, 10

### *the identity of this great multitude*

the questions of one of the elders

who are these who are arrayed in white robes? from where did they come?

these are those who came out of the Great Tribulation

the Great Tribulation is the second half of the tribulation

### **there are three distinct groups of tribulation saints**

those killed during the first half of the tribulation - 6:9-11

the 144,000 who are sealed - 7:4-8

the great multitude saved during the second half of the tribulation - 7:9-17

they are saved by the blood of Christ - they washed their robes in the blood

### *the reward of the great multitude*

they will stand before the throne

here we see a contrast with the church

the church will sit on thrones and rule with Christ

the tribulation saints will serve Christ

they will experience the presence of Christ

Christ will provide all of their needs - food, drink, light, heat, leading

the Lord will remove all of their sorrows

## **The Opening of the Seventh Seal - Chapter 8:1**

all of the remaining judgments on the earth are a part of this seventh seal chapter 6 concluded by stating that the great day of the wrath of God had come as a result, we now enter the point where God really exercises His wrath upon sin when the seventh seal is opened, the amazement causes silence in heaven for 30 minutes

# The Seven Trumpet Judgments

## Revelation 8:2-11:19

the first six trumpets - 8:2-9:21  
the mighty angel and the little book - 10:1-11  
the ministry of the two witnesses - 11:1-14  
the sounding of the seventh trumpet - 11:15-19

**the seal judgments show how man destroys himself when given the opportunity  
the trumpet judgments show how the devil destroys mankind  
when given the opportunity**

**The angel who acts on behalf of Christ**

*seven angels are given seven trumpets*

the first four angels bring judgment against the elements of nature  
angels five and six bring judgment against man himself  
this is the same pattern when God allowed Satan to attack Job  
Job 1 Satan attacked the things which belonged to Job  
Job 2 Satan attacked Job himself  
however, Satan can do no more than God allows

*another angel comes with a golden censer*

the smoke of the incense is a reference to the worthiness of Christ - Ephesians 5:2  
it is the worthiness of Christ which gives value to our prayers because  
He promised to answer our prayers - John 14:14  
the angel fills the censer with fire from the altar  
throughout history the altar has shown the mercy of God toward mankind  
now this altar is going to be an altar of judgment  
the angel now casts the fire toward the earth  
the results of this action  
voices - God is the One who is directing what happens  
thunderclaps - announce the coming of the storm of God's wrath  
lightnings - God reverses the order of the thunder and the lightning  
to clearly show that He is in control  
earthquake - this is the response of the earth to the pressure of God's judgment

**The first trumpet**  
**Revelation 8:6-7**

God follows the order of creation in this destruction  
plant life was the first thing created after the heavens and earth  
this judgment is produced by hail and fire mixed with blood  
it destroys one third of the trees  
it destroys all of the grass

**The second trumpet**  
**Revelation 8:8-9**

the seas were all created on the third day  
this trumpet brings the judgment on the seas  
a word of comparison is again used to describe what hit the seas  
it was like a great mountain burning with fire  
this causes one third of the sea to become blood  
this causes one third of the sea life to die  
this causes one third of the ships to be destroyed

**The third trumpet**  
**Revelation 8:10-11**

again we have a comparative description  
a great star falls from heaven  
it burns as though it is a lamp  
this is an indication that it disintegrates  
this star falls on one third of the waters and rivers  
the name of the star is wormwood  
this star causes contamination of the water  
this star causes many people to die  
this is the reverse of Exodus 15:23-25 where bitter water became sweet

**The fourth trumpet**  
**Revelation 8:12-13**

the third part of the sun, moon and stars are smitten  
here God proves that He is in complete control by cutting the days from  
24 to 16 hours - Luke 21:25-26  
here we see that God is able to alter the laws of nature - Psalm 19:1-6 and Psalm 14:1  
however, these judgments are nothing compared to those that follow  
an angel announces three woes which will follow that will personally affect the  
inhabitants of the earth in a much greater way than anything previous  
the three final trumpets are very severe

## **The fifth trumpet Revelation 9:1-12**

### **the releasing of demonic spirits which look like locusts - verses 1-3**

the star falling from heaven (Satan) - Isaiah 14:12-14; Luke 10:18  
God allows Satan great power so that he can bring these great judgments on the earth  
remember that the goal of Satan is always to destroy life  
Satan is temporarily given the key to the bottomless pit in order  
to release the demonic forces to bring their judgment  
the smoke out of the pit is *like* the smoke of a great furnace  
it is like a great volcano erupting  
the sun and the air are darkened by the smoke  
out of the smoke come the demonic spirits that look like locusts  
they have power like scorpions

### **the activity of the demonic spirits - verses 4-6**

the spirits do not touch the trees or crops  
the spirits do not touch those who are sealed by God  
the spirits do not have the power to kill  
these limitations show that demons have no more power than God allows them  
they do have power to hurt any who have rejected Christ  
this power is given for only a limited time - five months  
rather than kill, they will torment men with stings like scorpion stings  
these stings will be so bad that men will wish for death  
men will even attempt suicide but fail

### **the description of the demonic spirits - verses 7-10**

throughout Scripture from Eden, demons have tried to use bodies for their activities  
these demons look *like* horses prepared for battle  
these demons have crowns of gold on their heads  
these demons have faces that look *like* men's faces  
these demons have hair that looks *like* women's hair  
these demons have teeth that look *like* lion's teeth  
these demons have breastplates that look *like* they are made of iron  
the sound of their wings is *like* horses going to battle  
their tails are *like* scorpions's tails - the stings are in their tails

### **the leader of the demonic spirits - verses 11-12**

the leader is probably Satan himself because the name means destroyer  
Satan is the prince of the power of the air - Ephesians 2:2  
Satan is the prince of this world - John 14:30

**The sixth trumpet  
Revelation 9:13-21**

**the loosing of the four angels - verses 13-15**

these four angels are demonic spirits who have been bound by God so that they cannot do evil until their appointed time - Jude 6

the river Euphrates has always been the center of idol worship  
Cain, Tower of Babel, Abraham came from there, Babylon  
these demons go out at the exact moment God plans  
year, month, day, hour

the purpose of these demons is to destroy one third of the population of the earth

**the army that follows the four demons - verses 16-19**

this army is an army composed of 200 million demons  
this is a demonic army and not the army of men who will come against Jerusalem  
the breastplates of the army look *like*

fire - red

jacinth - blue

brimstone - yellow

the weapons of these demons all come from hell  
fire, smoke, brimstone

the fire, smoke and brimstone destroy one third of the population of the world  
notice that it is the horses and not the riders which do the destruction  
these demonic animals have their power in their mouth and in their tails  
this is a war which involves the entire earth and not just one particular place

**the results of this judgment - verses 20-21**

one third of the population of the world is killed  
mankind fails to repent of his evil worship  
the worship of demons - this is rapidly increasing  
the worship of materialistic idols - gold, silver, brass, stone, wood  
these are idols which cannot see, hear or walk  
mankind fails to repent of his sins  
murders and thefts - these will become very common  
sorceries (from pharmakeia) - used of the mixing of poisons and drugs used by magicians

we see a tremendous increase in drug influence that the antichrist will use fully  
fornication - the emphasis on sex will greatly increase during the tribulation

**Mankind Will Fail to Repent of Any of These Sins**

# The Mighty Angel and the Little Book

## Revelation 10:1-11

the mighty angel seals the seven thunders - verses 1-4  
the mighty angel announces the completion of the mystery of God - verses 5-7  
the commandment to John to prophesy again - verses 8-11

### **The mighty angel seals the seven thunders**

#### *the appearance of the mighty angel*

the mighty angel is clothed with a cloud  
this is a reminder that Christ is coming soon - Acts 1:6-11; I Thessalonians 4:13-18  
the mighty angel has a rainbow on his head  
the rainbow is a symbol of God's mercy - Genesis 9:1-7  
mercy is available even when judgment is coming immediately  
the face of the mighty angel is as though it were the sun  
the angel is reflecting the radiance resulting from being with God - Exodus 34:29-35  
the feet of the mighty angel are like pillars of fire  
fire is used to picture coming judgment

#### *the action of the mighty angel*

the mighty angel had the opened scroll in his hand  
the seven seals have been opened and the time is coming close for Christ  
to take possession of the earth  
the scroll is the title deed to the earth  
Satan is a squatter who has taken possession of something which does not belong to Him  
the mighty angel places one foot on the sea and one on the earth  
since Christ is the only one who can open the scroll,  
the mighty angel is getting ready to take possession of the earth in the name of Christ  
the people of the earth are compared to a great sea  
later in the book we will see that this could also be a reference to the fact that Christ is  
the owner of all the peoples of the earth, both Jew and Gentile

### **The seven thunders**

the seven thunders are an additional series of judgments which are not described  
God has some purpose for not revealing the nature of these thunders

## **The mighty angel announces the completion of the mystery of God**

the mighty angel announces that there will be no more delay  
this is done in the name of Him who created all things  
this mystery is to be completed in the days of the seventh angel - Revelation 11:15  
this verse shows that this mystery is the kingdom in which Christ will rule on earth  
the kingdom is explained by a number of parables in Matthew 13  
the prophets have repeatedly spoken of the kingdom in which Christ will rule  
in order for this kingdom to be established,  
the judgment of this earth must be completed first

## **The commandment to John to prophesy again**

### ***John is commanded to take the scroll and eat it***

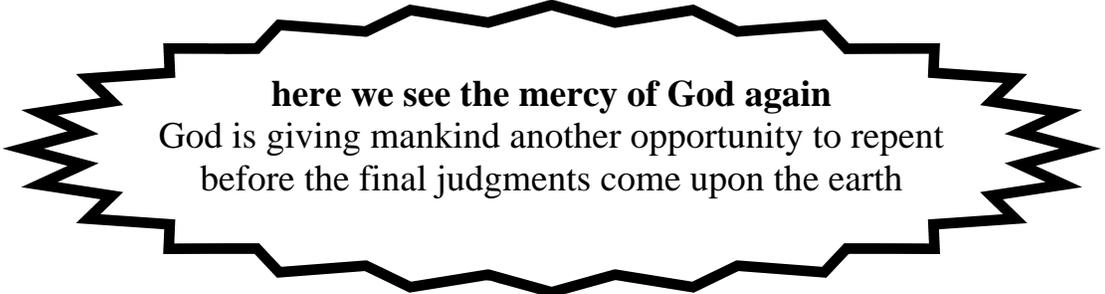
it is the Lord who speaks from heaven and tells John to eat the scroll  
to eat, means to take the Word of God and study it until we understand it  
Jeremiah 15:16; John 6:51-55, 63  
John is told to take these prophecies and study them until he understands them  
Christ says that this study will produce bitterness in his stomach  
even though it will be sweet to his taste

### ***John eats the scroll***

the prophecy was sweet to his mouth  
the message that Christ is about to establish His kingdom is a sweet message  
in fact this was the last question that the disciples asked Christ - Acts 1:6  
Will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?  
the prophecy was bitter to his stomach  
as John gave the message further thought, he was filled with great sorrow  
as he saw the great judgment that must come on the earth  
before the kingdom could be established

### ***John is told he must prophesy again***

this means that he must give a review of the judgments up to this point  
including additional information before telling of the remaining judgments



**here we see the mercy of God again**  
God is giving mankind another opportunity to repent  
before the final judgments come upon the earth

# The Ministry of the Two Witnesses

## Revelation 11:1-14

the measuring of the temple - verses 1-2  
the ministry of the two witnesses - verses 3-6  
the death of the two witnesses - verses 7-10  
the resurrection of the two witnesses - verses 11-14

### **The measuring of the temple**

The measuring of any object in Scripture was an indication that someone was preparing to take possession of that object

Christ here tells John to measure the temple and those who worship in it to see if they meet the standard of God

This measuring shows that both Israel and the nations fail to meet the standard of God  
The outer court shows that God is about to finish the times of the Gentiles because a time limitation is now placed on their activity

God says that the times of the Gentiles will end at the conclusion of the 1260 days

### **The ministry of the two witnesses**

The two witnesses are given power by God

Here we see that God prepares the two witnesses to do miracles as a part of their ministry

The two witnesses are told to prophesy for 1260 days  
Is this the first half or the second half of the tribulation?  
the first half

It is necessary for someone to witness to the 144,000  
and also to the saints who will be killed during the first half of the tribulation

The identity of the two witnesses

Scripture identifies one as Elijah - Malachi 4:5-6

Since the miracles are similar to those Moses did in Egypt, Moses is possible

Both Moses and Elijah were used by God to bring judgment on men

Elijah - II Kings 1:9-12

Moses - Numbers 16:29-33, 35

### **the judgment of those who try to hurt the two witnesses**

the two witnesses have fire go out of their mouths to destroy  
the two witnesses have power to stop the rain  
the two witnesses have power to turn water to blood  
the two witnesses have power to bring various plagues



**The seventh trumpet  
Revelation 11:15-19**

**This trumpet prepares for the coming of Christ**

This trumpet will contain seven bowl judgments which will pour out the wrath of God upon the earth and finish His judgment so that Christ can come to rule  
The angel announces that Christ will soon rule  
The world will be a part of this rule  
The reign of Christ will last forever and ever

**The church worships to hear that Christ will rule**

The elders fall on their faces in worship  
The elders give thanks  
The elders recognize that Christ is the One who is the same forever  
The elders recognize that Christ has all power  
The elders recognize Christ as ruler

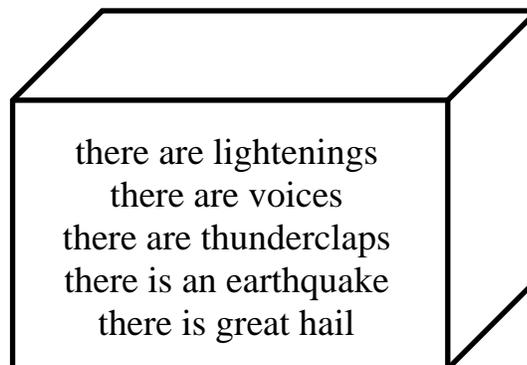
**The world rebels to hear that Christ will rule**

The time of God's wrath has come and the world knows that it cannot stand  
The people of the world are angry as they face judgment  
The people of the world are angry that God will reward His followers  
The people of the world are angry that God will judge evil men and Satan

**The temple of God is opened in heaven**

The ark of His covenant is in heaven  
This ark disappeared near the time of Jerusalem's destruction in 586 B.C.  
God prepares to pour out His final judgments

**The world experiences five warnings of judgment**



# The War by Satan Against God

## Revelation 12:1-17

the former attempts by Satan to destroy Israel - verses 1-5

the future attempts by Satan to destroy Israel - verses 6-17

*the promise of continued life for Israel - verse 6*

*the conflict in heaven - verses 7-9*

*the rejoicing in heaven at Satan's fall - verses 10-12*

*the devil pours out his anger against Israel - verses 13-16*

*the devil pours out his anger against the remnant - verse 17*

### **The former attempts by Satan to destroy Israel**

*the identity of the woman - verses 1-2*

Let Scripture interpret Scripture

The woman is clothed with the sun, moon and twelve stars

Genesis 37:9-11 shows that this is Israel

(verses 13-15 show that it could not be Mary because the woman

will still be suffering persecution during the tribulation)

The woman brings forth a child who is identified in verse 5

as the One who will rule the nations (Christ)

The nation of Israel suffered greatly before the birth of Christ because Satan tried two specific ways to wipe out the promises of God about Christ

Satan tried to destroy:

the lineage (family line) of Christ - verse 2

the life of Christ - verse 4

### **efforts of Satan to destroy the lineage of Christ**

the murder of Abel - Genesis 4:8

corruption of the line prior to the flood Genesis 4:25-6:2

the sin of Noah - Genesis 9:20-27

Ishmael - Genesis 16:1-16

the attempts of Saul to kill David - I Samuel

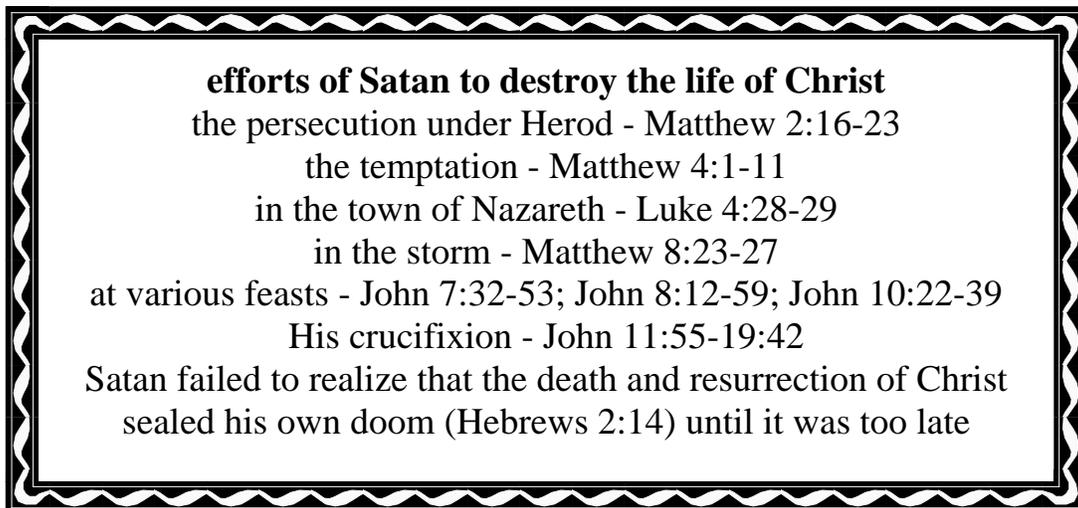
Jehoram tries to destroy the royal family - II Chronicles 21:4

Athaliah tries to destroy the royal family - II Kings 11:1-3

Haman tries to destroy the Jews - Esther 3:8-9

*the identity of the red dragon - verses 3-4*

He is identified as Satan in verse 9  
red - Isaiah 1:18 tells us that sin is red not black  
dragon - a picture of Satan's cruelty  
seven heads - picture his wisdom before his fall  
The heads also show that Satan is the one who gives power to the antichrist  
The ten horns also relate Satan to the antichrist  
The seven crowns show that Satan is the complete authority and ruler of the  
antichrist  
Satan drew one-third of the stars after him  
These are the fallen angels who became demons  
These were cast to the earth to carry out their demonic activities  
against all nations and especially against Israel  
Since Satan failed in his attempts to destroy the lineage of Christ,  
he prepared to destroy the life of Christ



*the identity of the child (Christ) - verse 5*

This is the Promised One who will rule all nations  
This is the One who will rule with a rod of iron  
This is the One who was caught up to heaven - Acts 1:9-11  
This is the One who sits on the right hand of the throne of God - Hebrews 1:3  
*the removal of Christ from earth to heaven in Acts 1:9-11  
gives us a time lapse between His first and second comings*  
During that time lapse Christ has not forgotten Israel  
Christ is still concerned about the future of Israel  
Christ shows this concern by the action taken in verse 6  
In verse 6 we see that Christ will preserve Israel prior to His second coming

## **The future attempts by Satan to destroy Israel**

### *the promise of continued life for Israel*

Before God tells about the attempts of Satan to destroy Israel,  
God promises to provide protection  
God will prepare a place to protect Israel  
God will provide for the needs of Israel  
God illustrated His provision for Israel for 40 years in the wilderness  
God will provide for Israel during the last half of the tribulation

### *the conflict in heaven*

Michael, the angel who has been the special protector of Israel (Jude 9),  
is commissioned by God to expel Satan from heaven  
Presently Satan still has access to heaven so that he can be  
the accuser of the brethren - Job chapters 1 and 2; Revelation 12:10  
The angels of God will fight against the angels of Satan in this battle  
The angels of God will cast out Satan and his angels so that they will have no more  
opportunity to enter into heaven  
The great dragon, that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan is cast out  
old serpent - deceiver  
Devil - slanderer  
Satan - adversary  
He is the one who has deceived the whole world  
He is cast to the earth  
As a result, he is no longer present in any of the three heavens - Ephesians 2:2  
His activity is now limited to earth where he will seek to bring all possible judgment  
This is the reason why it will be so terrible during the last half of the tribulation  
The angels of Satan will also be cast out with him

### *the rejoicing in heaven at Satan's fall*

Now heaven will be able to enjoy the full benefits of heaven  
without the presence of Satan  
Heaven will also rejoice because Satan will no longer be able to be  
“the accuser of the brethren”  
Satan has done this both day and night in the past and present  
The victory over Satan is obtained by three things  
(these are the same three things we use for victory over Satan today)  
see the chart on the next page

## **The three things used for victory over Satan**

### **They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb**

The blood of Christ purchased eternal redemption for us - Hebrews 9:12  
The blood of Christ is able to save us to the uttermost - Hebrews 7:25  
The blood of Christ makes it possible for Him to be our Advocate - I John 2:1  
The blood of Christ makes us more than conquerors - Romans 8:37-39  
The blood of Christ makes victory possible for us - Romans 6:11-13

### **They overcame him by the word of their testimony**

Christ defeated the devil by the Word - Matthew 4:4, 7, 10  
Christ says we will obtain victory through the Word - Ephesians 6:10-18  
Most of the weapons are defensive  
The Word and prayer are the only weapons for offence  
Christ says the Word will force the devil to flee - James 4:7-8

### **They loved not their lives unto the death**

This is the same attitude which Paul displayed in Philippians 1:21-24  
(this is the same attitude which we should have)  
We can rest in complete confidence knowing that God will complete His will  
through life or through death - II Timothy 1:12, Acts 20:24  
our victory is assured through Christ - I Corinthians 15:57-58

## **The results of Satan's fall from heaven**

Heaven is able to rejoice at the fall of Satan  
Earth is about to experience the full revenge of the devil  
**his fall brings the third woe to the earth**  
The devil is going to show his wrath against the earth  
The devil is going to show his wrath against the sea  
The devil is limited to the earth in his activities  
The devil is filled with great wrath  
The devil knows that his time is short

## **The devil pours out his anger against Israel**

When the devil sees that he is limited to the earth,  
he will single out Israel for his wrath  
God will provide the protection that Israel needs when the antichrist  
pours out his wrath against Israel

### **on eagle's wings**

God uses "eagle's wings" in Exodus 19:4 and Deuteronomy 32:9-11

In both passages God protected Israel

God will provide a place of protection for Israel in the wilderness

This protection will last for the last half of the tribulation

The devil pours out a flood to destroy Israel as God takes Israel into the wilderness

God has protected Israel from two literal floods in the past

God protected Israel at the Red Sea - Exodus 14:13-31

God protected Israel at the Jordan River - Joshua 3:14-17

God will again protect Israel from a flood

This could also be a reference to armies which overflow Israel

although actual water is more probable

God will open the earth to swallow this flood

God has opened the earth in the past - Numbers 16:31-33

## **The devil pours out his anger against the remnant**

When defeated in his attempts to destroy Israel,  
the devil will turn his anger against the 144,000

The 144,000 are the ones who keep the commandments of God

The 144,000 are the ones who share the testimony of Jesus Christ

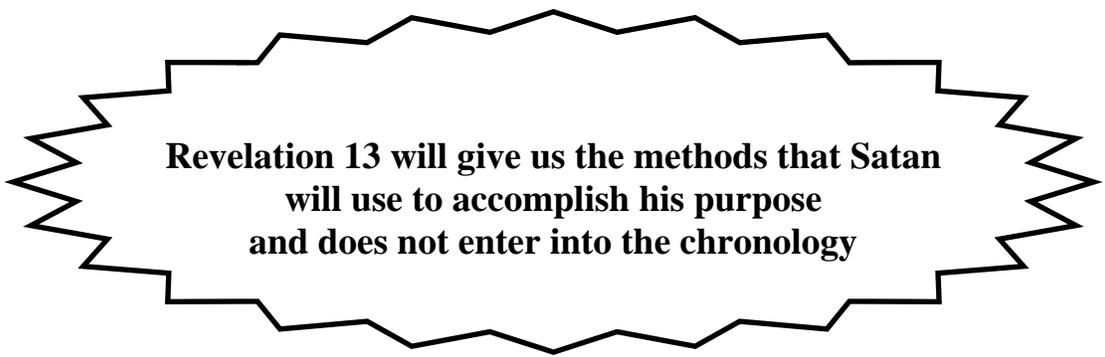
The 144,000 are the ones who have been saved

spiritually (Revelation 14:1-5)

and physically (Revelation 7:4-8)

so that Satan cannot touch them

As a result, Satan will again be frustrated in his attempts to get even



**Revelation 13 will give us the methods that Satan  
will use to accomplish his purpose  
and does not enter into the chronology**

# The Unholy Trinity

## Revelation 13:1-18

the worship of the beast - verses 1-4  
the activities of the beast (antichrist) - verses 5-10  
the rise of another beast (false prophet) - verses 11-18

**Throughout history, Satan has tried to imitate God**

this chapter provides Satan's two greatest imitations  
he tries to imitate the trinity  
he tries to imitate the death and resurrection of Christ

the unholy trinity imitation  
God the Father - Satan  
God the Son - the antichrist  
God the Holy Spirit - the false prophet

### **The worship of the beast**

#### ***The appearance of the beast (antichrist)***

The beast came up out of the sea  
The I should probably be he so this is Satan watching the beast  
come up out of the sea  
Satan is looking for a man who will completely yield to his control  
the meaning of the sea - Revelation 17:5  
This is a reference to the Gentile nations of the world  
When the peoples of the world are in a restless condition,  
Satan sees his opportunity - Isaiah 57:20-21

#### ***The beast will have political power to exercise his activity***

He will have ten kings under him (ten horns)  
Daniel 7:24 and Revelation 17:12 state this precisely  
He will have seven heads  
Revelation 17:9 says the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits  
This is a possible reference to the city of Rome, the city of seven hills  
since the Roman empire is the fourth empire which will be revived  
Seven heads may be a possible reference to the seven dynasties of the Roman Empire

*The beast combines all of the bad features of the various empires*

like a leopard feet of a bear mouth of a lion	Greece MedoPersia Babylon	brilliance, culture, swiftness strength, tenacity of purpose, brutality autocratic and majestic power
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Satan will give him power, a throne and great authority  
the way this world leader will gain control

***one of the heads was wounded as though it was wounded to death***

The antichrist will appear to die and then be raised to life again

He will not actually die because the devil does not have the power to give life  
Here we see that the devil will imitate the death and resurrection of Christ in the  
antichrist

This will be the thing which will totally deceive the world - II Thessalonians 2:9-12

This seeming miracle will cause the entire world to worship Satan

Men will feel that no one is greater than the antichrist

Men will be afraid to challenge him

**The activities of the beast (antichrist)**

***the length of his activity***

he will speak great things

he will speak blasphemies

he will only speak for 42 months

***the four types of blasphemy which he will speak***

Against God - the devil thinks he can hurt God not realizing He is untouchable

Against the name of God - Satan knows the power of the name of God and does  
everything to resist it

Against the tabernacle of God - the residence of God in heaven

Against the people of God that dwell in heaven - he will focus world attention on  
those who were raptured and blame them for all the evil that is happening

***the temporary victory by Satan***

Since the devil cannot touch the 144,000 Jews, he will turn his fury against the  
tribulation saints

God will allow Satan to have temporary victory over the saints

This temporary victory will extend to all nations

***there will be universal worship of the antichrist***

The only exception will be those who had their names written in the book of life  
before the foundation of the world

***God tells believers not to resist the antichrist***

Believers have much to gain by death

Those who destroy or capture believers will be destroyed or captured

The saints are encouraged to have their patience and faith in the promises of God

## **The rise of another beast (the false prophet)**

the first beast is a political leader  
the second beast is a religious leader  
this leader will head the ecumenical church which goes into the tribulation  
(this is the religious who have never placed their personal faith in Christ)

### ***the appearance of the second beast***

He will come up out of the earth  
The first beast came up out of the sea  
He has two horns like a lamb, but speaks like a dragon  
Here we see that he tries to give the appearance of meekness  
His real character is to speak with great authority to further the work of Satan

### ***the activity of the second beast***

*He exercises all the power of the first beast*  
Here we see that he has great power  
however, this power is not exercised on behalf of himself  
Just as the Holy Spirit testifies of Christ, the second beast testifies of the antichrist  
The second beast will cause everyone to worship the antichrist  
Failure to follow his command to worship will result in death  
*he does great miracles*

God allows Satan to exercise great power in his efforts to deceive the people of the earth

Satan is already exercising great power which he is using to deceive the nations  
*he deceives the people of the earth*

Miracles are the thing that Satan uses to deceive the people - II Thessalonians 2:12  
Following this deception, the false prophet will cause the people of the earth to make an idol to the antichrist so that they can worship it

This image is to the beast not of the beast - The Abomination of Desolation -  
Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15

### ***the mark of the beast***

The false prophet will appear to give life to the beast  
Since the devil does not actually have the power to create or give life,  
This will probably be an evil spirit speaking through the mouth of the beast  
The false prophet will bring death to all who refuse to worship the image of the beast  
This death will affect all classes of people  
This mark will be required for all  
mark refers to an impressed mark or engraving  
This mark must be seen to buy or sell

*The great multitude that dies during the last half of the tribulation will be believers who refuse to accept the mark of the beast*

The number of the false prophet is the number of man - 666

# The Final Triumph of Christ

## Revelation 14:1-20

the 144,000 with Christ on Mount Zion - verses 1-5  
the messages of the angels - verses 6-13  
a preview of the final battle of Armageddon - verses 14-20

chapter 12 describes the conflict between God and Satan  
chapter 13 describes the worship of the antichrist  
now chapter 14 assures us that Christ will be the victor  
before giving us the detailed instruction about that victory

### The 144,000 with Christ on Mount Zion

#### *the Lamb on the mountain*

This is interpreted by Psalm 2:6 which says Christ will rule from Mount Zion  
The 144,000 who stand with Christ are those who have come through the tribulation  
untouched by Satan because they are sealed

Here we see that this passage points to the fact that Christ will be victorious  
and will rule the earth

God will take the 144,000 through the tribulation  
just as He took Daniel through the lion's den  
and Daniel's three friends through the fiery furnace

#### *the harmony of heaven and earth*

The harpers will provide music for the 144,000 on earth to sing praises to God  
This will be the first time of harmony between heaven and earth since the fall of  
Adam

The rule of Christ on earth will make this harmony possible

The 144,000 will sing a song which no one else can learn

The 144,000 will be those who remain pure so that they can serve Christ most  
effectively

The 144,000 follow Christ wherever He goes

The 144,000 are only the firstfruits

This is an indication of the great spiritual harvest that will come from Israel

Romans 11:25-26 promises that great numbers of Israel will turn to Christ

The spiritual perfection that the 144,000 will have in the kingdom

They will have no guile

They will have no fault

Once we place our trust in Christ, we also stand without sin in the sight of the Father

## **The messages of the angels**

### **the message of the everlasting Gospel**

God has used many methods to bring the Gospel to the earth  
Today we are His messengers - II Corinthians 5:18  
The two witnesses will be His messengers during the first half of the tribulation  
During the final part of the tribulation,  
God will use an angel as He did many times in the Old Testament  
Since angels cannot be destroyed, Satan will not be able to touch him  
The proclamation of this message will be universal  
This angel will be flying in the midst of the atmosphere above the earth  
the emphasis of this message

**Fear God and give glory to Him**

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom - Proverbs 9:10  
Here we see that men are encouraged to trust in Christ  
This message is to be preached to many people  
to those who dwell on the earth  
to every nation  
to every kindred  
to every tongue  
to every people  
This angel will have a message like Jonah  
The hour of His judgment is come  
Men are warned to repent because judgment is very near  
The angel will also remind mankind that God is the One who made all things

### **the message of the fall of Babylon**

Babylon has always been the center of the development of anti-God religion  
As a result, God uses Babylon to picture a number of things  
the literal city  
the city of Rome - I Peter 5:13  
the religious system - Revelation 17  
the political system - Revelation 18  
God is going to bring an end to all political and religious systems  
as well as the cities which have produced those systems  
because those systems and cities have corrupted all nations

## **The message of the judgment of the worshippers of the beast**

The message of judgment is for all who take the mark of the beast  
Men will be required to blaspheme God in order to receive that mark  
They will receive the full judgment of God  
God has shown His mercy for a long time but now judgment must come  
This judgment will come without being diluted  
This judgment will be the torment of the lake of fire and brimstone  
This judgment will be seen by the angels and Christ but not the saints  
This judgment will be eternal  
The tribulation saints are told to be patient as they wait for God to judge evil  
Those who die for Christ are promised certain benefits  
They will rest from their labors  
(they will no longer need to fear persecution)  
Their works will follow them  
II Corinthians 5:10 says we will all appear at the judgment seat to be rewarded  
The tribulation saints will receive great reward

## **The preview of the final battle of Armageddon**

Armageddon is a campaign of many battles but this is the final battle  
*the harvest is ripe for judgment*  
Christ is the One who is the Righteous Judge  
Christ is also the King who is wearing a golden crown  
Christ, as Judge, has a sharp sickle in His hand  
*another angel is chosen by God to do the actual reaping*  
This angel is instructed to gather the grapes that are fully ripe  
fully ripe - to dry up or wither  
This indicates that judgment has been withheld for a very long time  
This angel casts men into the great winepress of God's wrath  
A winepress was an indentation in the rock  
grapes are placed in it and tramped upon until the juice runs down a low trench  
to a depression where it is dipped out  
This judgment will happen outside the city of Megiddo  
(hill of Megiddo or Armageddon)  
This city is in the north end of Israel at the head of a valley  
which becomes the Jordan River valley  
Blood will fill the entire valley (over 160 miles) to a depth of four feet

**This prepares us for the details of the final triumph of Christ**

# The Seven Bowl Judgments

## Revelation 15:1-16:21

the introduction to the bowl judgments - 15:1  
the final opportunity for man to repent - 15:2-8  
the seven bowl judgments - 16:1-21

### **The introduction to the bowl judgments**

These judgments are from God to vent His wrath against sin  
There are a total of seven plagues in this last judgment  
These will demonstrate God's wrath against sin

### **The final opportunity for man to repent**

Just before God brings His final judgments which will pour out His wrath against sin,  
God gives another view of heaven so that mankind will have one more opportunity  
to choose to trust in Christ

### *the singing of the tribulation saints*

These saints are standing on a sea of glass that looks like fire  
This is the area in front of the throne of God - Revelation 4:1-6  
The saints who are singing come from the tribulation because they have been  
victorious over the beast and his number

These saints will play the harps of God and sing the song of Moses - Exodus 15:1-21  
that song is a song of deliverance

These saints will also sing the song of the Lamb  
This song points out the greatness of the works of Christ  
This song points out that Christ is the Almighty God  
No one can be compared to Christ and His power  
Christ is the One who is Just  
His ways are truth  
He is the King of the saints

***Christ is the One that men must fear and worship***

Christ is the One who is holy  
One day all nations and peoples will be forced to bow before Him  
and recognize that He is God  
Mankind will be forced to recognize that the judgments of Christ are right

***the final offer of mercy***

The temple of the tabernacle of testimony is opened  
Revelation 11:19 tells us that the ark of the covenant is in this temple  
The ark has the mercy seat on the top where the blood was placed  
on the day of atonement  
The temple is still open and mercy is still available until the very last moment  
when God pours out His wrath

**The seven angels with the seven final judgments**

***the appearance of the angels***

The angels come out of the temple  
This indicates the fact that the final judgments come from the holiness of God  
and not from any desire for revenge  
The angels are clothed in pure and white linen  
The clothing pictures righteousness - Revelation 19:8  
This is an indication that the judgments of God are righteous  
The angels have their breasts girded with golden girdles  
This is the way that Christ was clothed in Revelation 1:13  
These angels are the representatives of Christ as they pour out the final judgments

***the angels receive the bowls of wrath***

These bowls are filled with the wrath of God  
These bowls come from the unchangeable God who lives forever

***the temple is filled with the glory of God***

In the Old Testament, the temple was filled with glory and men could only enter the  
Holy of holies to place blood on the mercy seat as a covering for sin  
Now we see that the temple cannot be entered until judgment is completed  
When the mercy of God is rejected, the wrath of God must be brought to remove sin

God has shown His mercy throughout the ages  
The time has come when judgment must now begin

II Peter 3:9-10

### **The first bowl**

The angels are all instructed to pour out their bowls  
As a result, these judgments will follow each other very closely  
The first bowl is a foul and painful sore  
foul deals with the smell  
painful - these will apparently be malignant and open sores  
which are even more painful than leprosy or cancer  
The first bowl is only poured on those who have the mark of the beast  
Like the nation of Israel in Egypt,  
God makes a separation between His people and unbelievers

### **The second bowl**

Although some of these judgments are similar to the trumpet judgments,  
they are much more severe  
In the second trumpet 1/3 of the sea life is destroyed  
In the second bowl judgment the following things happen:  
all of the water in the oceans becomes like the blood of dead men  
every living thing in the sea dies

### **The third bowl**

The third bowl is poured out on all the fresh water of the earth  
This causes all of the water on the earth to turn to blood  
The angel announces that God is righteous because He has judged mankind  
in the same way that mankind persecuted the saints  
Men are forced to drink blood because they have shed the blood of prophets and  
saints  
The angels are in agreement about the character of God  
He is the Almighty One  
He is the True One  
He is the Righteous One

### **The fourth bowl**

Just as the fourth trumpet affected the sun, the fourth bowl also affects the sun  
however, it has the reverse effect  
This judgment causes the sun to scorch men with heat  
Instead of repenting, men blaspheme God because of the heat  
They refuse to repent  
They refuse to give God the glory

## **The fifth bowl**

At the same time that the sun gives greater heat from the fourth bowl,  
there will be no light because God will use the fifth angel to bring darkness  
to the kingdom of the beast

This is a darkness which covers the kingdom of the beast  
This darkness will also intensify the pain of the first bowl judgment  
Men will gnaw their tongues for pain  
Men will blaspheme God because of their pain and sores  
Men will refuse to repent of their deeds

## **The sixth bowl**

The sixth bowl is directed at the Euphrates River to prepare for the battle of  
Armageddon

The river is 1800 miles long and is so large that it is navigatable for 900 miles  
This river has always served as a barrier and divider between the east and the west  
This bowl will cause the river to dry up so that the way will be prepared for the kings  
of the east to come against the nation of Israel without any barriers

Satan will see this as his perfect opportunity to destroy the nation of Israel  
Satan will send out his demons to gather all of the armies of the world together by  
persuading their kings to come and fight against Israel

God allows Satan to gather all the armies of the world for destruction  
God will allow Jerusalem to be captured before He enters the battle - Zechariah 14:1-3

Christ will then come as a thief to destroy the gathered armies  
Since there is no other hope, Israel will be forced to look to the Lord for help  
Christ will then judge the armies gathered together in the Valley of Armageddon

## **The seventh bowl**

Just as Christ said "it is finished" as He hung on the cross,  
the Father will say "it is done" when the seventh bowl is poured out

This seventh bowl will be a great earthquake  
It will be accompanied by voices, thunders and lightnings  
this earthquake will be greater than any previous earthquake

*the destruction of this great earthquake*

The great city will be divided into three parts  
All the cities of the earth will be destroyed

Great Babylon will be destroyed - chapters 17 and 18 give more detail  
The islands will be destroyed and the mountains will be flattened  
Hailstones about a talent in weight will fall on the earth causing great destruction

**Men will continue to blaspheme God for this judgment**

# The Destruction of Babylon

## Revelation 17:1-18:24

**The destruction of spiritual Babylon - Revelation 17**  
**The destruction of political Babylon - Revelation 18**

in the seventh bowl judgment we saw that Babylon was destroyed  
chapters 17 and 18 tell us more about that coming destruction

### The origin of Babylon

Babylon was the first major civilization after the flood  
It was founded by Nimrod who was a mighty hunter against the Lord - Genesis 10:8-10  
Babylon was originally built by Nimrod for the purpose of defying God  
the wife of Nimrod was Semiramis - a woman more wicked than Jezebel  
Semiramis originated the Babylonian religion which included many secret rites  
these secret rites included idolatry, consecrated prostitution and sprinkling holy water  
Semiramis outlived Nimrod by 42 years  
she later gave birth to a son named Tammuz (Ezekiel 8:14-16) as a result of immorality

Semiramis claimed Tammuz was the fulfillment of Genesis 3:15  
Semiramis also claimed that Tammuz was virgin born  
and she was the “queen of heaven” who was sinless

These basic rites of the religion of Babylon were the basis of all of the religions of  
Canaan, Egypt, Phoenicia, Assyria, Greece, Rome and many other countries  
When Israel turned away from God, it adopted many of these same practices

The god, Baal, was identical with Tammuz

When Christianity became the state religion under Constantine, these practices also  
came including the virgin mother and child teaching, images, sprinkling holy water  
and many others

### *present day religious Babylonianism*

Modern liberals have surpassed Rome in the incorporation of Babylonianism  
The ecumenical movement is laying the groundwork for development of a one-world  
religion which was the dream of Nimrod and Semiramis

Mystery Babylon is the one-world religion that the antichrist will use to gain world  
power

### *present day political Babylonianism*

the Babylon of Revelation 18 is the commercial and political version of apostate religion

## **The Apostate Church of the Tribulation - Revelation 17:1-6**

the great harlot that sits on many waters - verses 1-2

the appearance of the harlot - verses 3-4

the name of the woman - verse 5

the persecution by the woman verse 6

### **the great harlot that sits on many waters (organized religion)**

One of the angels invites John to see the judgment of the harlot

The great harlot sits on many waters

The waters are defined as the peoples of the earth in verse 15

The kings of the earth have committed fornication with the harlot

This is a reference to the fact that there will be a union

between the church and the state in the time of the antichrist

The harlot has caused the people to become drunk with the wine of her fornication

This is a reference to the fact that the earth has become controlled

by the religious forces which are against God

### **the appearance of the great harlot**

Apostate religion rides the beast (antichrist) during the first half of the tribulation

The antichrist allows this because it helps him to rise to power

The beast is full of blasphemy

This shows how completely apostate religion compromises to gain power

Today the ecumenical church is making accommodations to unify all world religions

The clothing of the harlot is purple and scarlet

The harlot is covered with great outward riches

The harlot has a golden cup in her hand

This symbolism is used in the Old Testament to picture those who claim to worship God while they are actually serving other gods

The word “harlot” here speaks of professing believers who are unfaithful to God

### **the name of the woman**

#### **Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth**

The true church was a mystery that was not revealed until Ephesians 2 and 3

The false church was a mystery that was not revealed until the writing of Revelation

This religion is the mother of all false religions

These religions will be bound together by their rebellion against God

### **the persecution by the woman**

Organized religion will be the leader in the persecution against the saints

So many saints will be destroyed that apostate religion is described as drunk with blood

## **The Destruction of Apostate Religion - Revelation 17:7-18**

the description of the beast (antichrist) - verses 7-13

the war against the Lamb - verse 14

the defeat of the beast - verses 15-18

### **the description of the beast**

#### ***his origin - verses 7-9***

“the beast was”

Here we see that the empire from which the beast will come was in existence at one time

“the beast is not”

Here we see that the empire would cease to be an empire for a period of time

(We will see that this empire is the Roman empire in the following verses)

The beast is about to come out of the bottomless pit

Here we see that the beast will come from a ten kingdom federation which is an outgrowth of the Romans Empire

The beast will go into perdition

The last empire from which the beast comes will be destroyed at the coming of Christ

The entire world will be amazed at the development of this empire and the beast that comes from it

The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits

This is a clear reference to the fact that the empire from which the beast comes is the Roman Empire

Latin poets often referred to Rome in this way

The Romans' coins referred to Rome as the city of seven mountains

#### ***the seven kings - verses 10-11***

This would have reference to either the seven dynasties of the Roman Empire or to the seven world empires

The facts of both would have fit the description of John in these verses

The beast is the eighth power and comes out of the seven

This is an indication of the fact that the antichrist's attitude which has been a characteristic of world empires will reach its full activity under the antichrist

#### ***the ten horns - verse 12-13***

The ten horns are ten kings which will all give the power of their federated kingdoms to the antichrist

These will rule until they have completed their purpose (hour - see use in Luke 22:53)

These kings all think alike and have as their desire to give power to the antichrist

They will be a source of military strength to the antichrist

## **The war against the Lamb**

The antichrist and the military power of these ten nations will attempt to destroy Christ  
This battle will be a part of the War of Armageddon in which all the of the armies  
of the evil one will be destroyed  
Christ is the One who is Lord of lords and King of kings  
We also see that the saints will be with Christ as He wins this victory over the  
antichrist

## **The defeat of the beast**

### *the waters where the harlot sits*

Here we see that apostate religion will be worldwide in its influence and control

### *the ten kings hate the harlot*

Here we see that the antichrist and the kings which follow him actually hate organized  
religion  
The antichrist has only made an unholy alliance with religion in order to expand his  
power and influence worldwide  
When the antichrist has gained control, he will break his alliance with Israel and also  
with apostate religion  
He will destroy the very ones who help him get power  
The antichrist will then take all of the wealth, possessions and everything else  
that belongs to apostate religion so that it will be completely destroyed  
The leaders will either take the mark of the beast or die  
Since the religious leaders have already blasphemed Christ,  
most will probably take the mark of the beast

### *the kings will actually be doing the will of God by destroying apostate religion*

God has often used evil nations to judge other nations  
The kings will actually place the control of their kingdoms under the beast  
until the Word of God is fulfilled

### *the woman is identified as that great city which rules over the kings of the earth*

Here is another indication of the fact that organized religion will be centered in Rome  
When apostate religion is destroyed,  
the situation will be no better because then worship  
will be focused on the antichrist and Satan - Revelation 13:4

## **The Destruction of Commercial and Political Babylon - Revelation 18:1-8**

Throughout this chapter we will see that the emphasis is on the destruction of the city of Babylon - verses 2, 10, 16, 18, 19

This destruction will take place after the events of chapter seventeen because the chapter starts “after these things”

the announcement of the angel - verses 1-2

the reason for this judgment - verse 3

the call for separation - verses 4-5

the judgment of Babylon - verses 6-8

### **The announcement of the angel**

This angel will have great power

The coming of this angel will make the earth bright with his glory

This angel announces that Babylon the Great is fallen

(the Greek tense that is used here indicates that this fall will happen suddenly)

When Babylon falls, it will become a prison for demons in the spirit world

and unclean birds in the physical world

According to Isaiah 13 and Jeremiah 50 and 51,

this destruction will be so complete that nothing will remain

It will be like Sodom and Gomorrah

### **The reason for this judgment**

Babylon will be judged because it has encouraged all nations to join it in its idolatry

Three groups who followed the wide influence of Babylon

the nations

the kings

the merchants

The nations and the kings have followed the religious worship of Babylon while

the merchants have been influenced by the godless materialism of Babylon

The entire city was centered around pride, pleasure and self-satisfaction

These were also the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah - Ezekiel 16:49-50

### **Two forms of idolatry**

**False religious worship**

**Godless materialism**

## **A call for separation**

The people of God who live in the city are called to come out and separate themselves before God brings destruction on the city

This is exactly what God did for Lot in Sodom

Today God also calls us to separate ourselves from those things which would cause Him to take second place in our lives

The people of God are here called to separate themselves from sin

Such separation is necessary to prevent judgment when Babylon is judged

The sins of Babylon have reached to heaven  
and God can no longer hold back total judgment

## **The judgment of Babylon**

Babylon will be rewarded in the same way that it has treated God

Babylon will be judged according to her own works

(this is the principle of personal responsibility)

the sins of Babylon detailed

she has glorified herself - pride

she has lived luxuriously - self satisfaction

she has called herself queen - idol worship

this goes clear back to the claim of Semiramus

she expected no sorrow - the attitude of the fool

(no preparation to meet God or death)

### **The Definition of a Fool**

**The fool has said in his heart, There is no God.**

**Psalm 14:1, Psalm 53:1**

## **The details of the judgment**

The entire judgment will be completed in one day

This judgment will include:

death

mourning

famine

fire

Babylon will be completely destroyed by fire

## **The Response of the Earth at Babylon's Judgment - Revelation 18:9-19**

the response of the kings - verses 9-10  
the response of the merchants - verses 11-16  
the response of those involved in sea trade - verse 17-19

### **The response of the kings**

The kings will be filled with great sorrow  
They are sorrowful because this city led their idol worship  
They are sorrowful because this city provided them with great riches and fancy living  
The kings will cry as they see Babylon burning  
The kings will stay a great distance from Babylon due to fear  
The kings will mourn because this great city is destroyed in one hour

### **The response of the merchants**

#### *the merchants will weep - verse 11*

Their reason for weeping will be due to the fact that they can no longer  
buy merchandise from Babylon  
Here we see that their sorrow is related to their own desires  
rather than a concern for the people

#### *the merchandise of Babylon - verses 12-14*

The listing of merchandise shows that Babylon will be involved in every type of  
business  
and commercial enterprise  
these include:  
metals, crops, cattle, vehicles,  
slaves  
and even the souls of men  
Everything that man has sought will be destroyed  
It will be so completely destroyed that nothing can be found

#### *the merchants will mourn - verses 15-16*

These merchants had become rich as a result of their trade with Babylon  
These merchants will watch this destruction from far off because of fear  
Their greatest sorrow will be to see the merchandise destroyed  
They will recognize that riches cannot help in the hour of judgment

*the response of those involved in sea trade - verses 17-19*

These will also watch from a great distance due to fear  
These will cry as they see the destruction of Babylon  
These will discuss the fate of the city and compare it to other cities  
These will show their sorrow by casting dust on their heads  
(the reason for sorrow is the fact that this city has been the city  
that made the shipping trade rich)

Here we see again that they have the same selfish concern as the kings and the  
merchants

Like the kings and merchants, they will be amazed at the suddenness of judgment

**The response in heaven at Babylon's judgment**

There will be rejoicing in heaven  
This rejoicing will be due to the fact that God has shown His holiness  
in judging sin  
This rejoicing will be due to the fact that God has avenged the blood  
of His apostles and prophets

**The method of Babylon's judgment**

*it will be a violent judgment*

A mighty angel will cast a great stone on the city  
This is the reason why the judgment will come so suddenly  
The city will sink completely below the surface  
so that no part of it will be heard from again  
All musicians in the city will be destroyed  
All workers in the city will be destroyed  
All lights in the city will be destroyed  
All marriage and life in the city will be destroyed

*the reasons for judgment summarized again*

The merchants were great men of the earth - pride  
The people of the city used their sorceries to deceive all nations - idolatry  
The people of the city killed the prophets, saints and many others - violence

***In its desire for commercial success,  
the city of Babylon will destroy any who are a hindrance  
especially those who try to proclaim the Word of God***

# The Coming of Christ to Rule

## Revelation 19:1-20:6

the rejoicing in heaven at the destruction of false religion - 19:1-6  
the marriage supper of the Lamb - 19:7-10  
the second coming of Christ in glory - 19:11-16  
the judgments of those on earth - 19:17-21  
the judgment of Satan - 20:1-3  
the millennium (one thousand years) - 20:4-6

### **The rejoicing in heaven at the destruction of false religion**

The saints in heaven will rejoice at the destruction of organized religion (the false bride) because that makes possible the marriage of the true bride to Christ

#### *the rejoicing in heaven - verses 1-3*

The rejoicing in heaven cannot begin until the destruction of religious and commercial Babylon has happened  
The rejoicing in heaven will include the voices of many people  
This rejoicing will recognize the salvation and power of the Lord  
This rejoicing will recognize that the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous (even though this judgment may include unsaved relatives and friends, we will be able to rejoice because we will be able to view it from God's perspective instead of our own)  
This rejoicing will emphasize the fact that organized religion corrupted the earth with its idolatry and persecution of the saints  
The saints will rejoice because the destruction of false religion is a permanent destruction

#### *the worship in heaven - verses 4-6*

The entire church will fall and worship before the Lord because of the righteous judgments of the Lord  
A voice from the throne will encourage the church in its worship of God  
The voices which are praising the Lord will sound out with such volume that it will sound like mighty thunder

## The marriage supper of the Lamb

### The three stages of an oriental marriage

*the betrothal arranged by the father some years before the marriage  
(it was legally binding)*

we are espoused to Christ - II Corinthians 11:2  
the Father chose the bride for Christ before the foundation  
of the world - Ephesians 1:3-4

*the second stage of the wedding was when the father  
got the bride and presented her to the Son*

God will present the church to Christ at the Rapture -  
I Thessalonians 4:13-18

*the third stage was the marriage supper  
(often lasting for several days - John 2:1-12)*

*in which the groom presented the bride to his friends*

this did not necessarily follow the marriage immediately but came at a time  
when the groom could officially present the bride to his friends

*the wife is prepared for the marriage supper - verses 7-8*

Here we see that the wedding follows the procedures of an oriental wedding

The bride is announced as the wife prior to the marriage supper

This indicates that the marriage was consummated at the rapture

The bride is now ready to come with the groom for the marriage supper on the earth

The marriage parables in Scripture

Matthew 22:1-14 - shows it is on earth as an unrighteous man is removed

Matthew 25:1-13 - shows that only the prepared participate

We also see that a special gown has been prepared for the bride

Today we stand in the righteousness of Christ

Throughout eternity we will stand in the righteousness of Christ

For the marriage supper our wedding gown will be the righteousnesses of the saints

*key questions about the wedding feast*

*when will it take place?*

It will take place when Christ and the church return to the earth

*how long will it last?*

The feast will last throughout the millennium

*who are the guests?*

No unbelievers

All saints who are not a part of the church (see following verse)

***the blessed who are invited to the marriage supper - verse 9***

no unbelievers - Matthew 22:13

John the Baptist - John 3:29

the Old Testament saints - Luke 13:28-29

the tribulation saints - Revelation 20:4

redeemed Israel - Matthew 25:1-13

believing Gentiles - Matthew 25:31-34

possibly angels - Hebrews 1:6

***the reaction of John - verse 10***

he worships the messenger

the messenger corrects John

(we are not to worship others)

the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy

(all true prophecy is centered in Christ)

**The second coming of Christ in glory**

***the appearance of Christ at His coming - verses 11-13***

He comes on a white horse

The white horse is the animal of the conquering general  
and is in direct contrast to his first coming on a colt

He is the One who is Faithful and True

Men throughout history have searched for truth

However, they failed to seek the one who is truth

He will judge and make war in righteousness

His eyes are like a flame of fire

No one will be able to hide from His judgments

He has many crowns on His head

He will now be the undisputed ruler of all nations

He has a name which no one knows

He is clothed in a vesture dipped with blood

(a picture of the fact that He comes as a judge)

His name is called the Word of God

This ties His coming to the fact that He is the Creator and  
that all that He does to His creation is just and right

***the armies which accompany Christ - verse 14***

All of the armies of heaven will follow Him

This includes the armies of angels as well as the church

***the victory over the nations - verses 15-16***

Although accompanied by the armies of heaven,  
Christ will do all of the fighting Himself  
Just as Christ created the heavens and earth by His Word,  
Christ will destroy the nations just by speaking the word  
He will smite the nations - total judgment throughout the earth  
He will rule - total victory  
He will pour out the wrath of God against sin  
He will rule as:



**The judgments of those on the earth**

***the battle of Armageddon - verses 17-19***

This will be the final great battle in which all of the unbelieving on the earth  
will be destroyed  
The birds of prey will have a feast of human bodies prepared for them  
The armies of the earth  
will actually think that they can destroy Christ  
by joining with the antichrist in this battle against Christ  
The armies of the earth  
will all come together to the nation of Israel to try and destroy Christ

***the doom of the beast and the false prophet - verse 20***

The beast and the false prophet  
will both be captured alive instead of being killed  
They will both be cast alive into the lake of fire and brimstone  
Here we see that the beast and the false prophet  
are the first to enter into eternal judgment

***the doom of the kings and armies - verse 21***

The kings and the armies will all suffer physical death  
The birds of prey will be filled with their flesh

## **The judgment of Satan**

This is not the final judgment of Satan but rather a thousand year judgment

The final judgment is described later in the chapter

An angel will be used by God to accomplish this judgment

here we see that Satan's power will be greatly diminished

so that one angel can control him

This angel will do the following things to Satan

he will lay hold on him

he will bind him for a thousand years

he will cast him into the bottomless pit

he will shut him up

he will set a seal upon him

he will prevent him from deceiving the nations

Afterward Satan will be loosed for a little season

*the reason for this is the fact that God wants to show  
that even under the ideal conditions of a perfect environment  
that man will rebel against God because of his old sinful nature*

## **The millennium**

Six times the length of this period is given as 1000 years

Usually God states something twice when He wants to emphasize it

Those who reject such a repeated statement of time

show their view of the inspiration of Scripture

Thrones will be given to the church to rule over the earth

These thrones are based on faithfulness - Luke 19:11-27

All unbelievers will remain in the place of torment until the final judgment

The tribulation saints will be raised to rule with Christ

All believers including the Old Testament saints will be raised to rule with Christ

The second death will have no effect on those who are raised

The believers will be priests of God and will rule with Christ

during the earthly kingdom

# The final Judgments

## Revelation 20:7-15

the physical judgment of the rebellious - verses 7-9  
the eternal judgment of Satan - verse 10  
the great white throne judgment - verses 11-15

### **The physical judgment of the rebellious**

Satan will be loosed for a short period of time  
to show the rebellious condition of the heart of man  
even under an ideal environment

Satan will go out to deceive the nations

This shows us that there is no repentance on the part of Satan  
even though he has experienced one thousand years of judgment

During the millennium millions of people will be born

They will show outward obedience to Christ

even though they are filled with inward rebellion

All these people need is a leader to lead their rebellion

Satan will provide that leadership

Satan will gather a great army together which will go against the city of Jerusalem

That army will be destroyed by fire from heaven

### **The eternal judgment of Satan**

Satan will be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone

Satan will join the beast and the false prophet who have already been there 1000  
years

This judgment will be eternal

**Those who will experience eternal judgment**

**Satan - Revelation 20:10**

**the beast and the false prophet - Revelation 19:20**

**the fallen angels - II Peter 2:4; Jude 6**

**all unbelievers - Revelation 20:11-15; 21:8**

## **The Great White Throne Judgment**

*all unbelievers will experience judgment after the millennium*

This judgment happens somewhere in space  
because both the earth and heavens flee from it  
This judgment cannot happen in the third heaven  
because no unrighteousness is allowed there  
This judgment will fulfill the judgment of the earth in II Peter 3:10-12

*all unbelievers will stand before Christ*

The Father has committed all judgment to Christ  
The book of life will be opened to show the names of those who are not there  
Other books will also be opened which list all of the evil thoughts,  
words and actions of every unbeliever  
The dead will be judged according to their works  
Those who have known more of the truth will receive greater judgment  
Luke 12:47-48

*all unbelievers will have their spirits, souls and bodies reunited*

Death speaks of the place of the dead bodies  
Hades speaks of the place of the departed souls and spirits  
All unbelievers will be judged according to their own personal works

*all unbelievers will experience the second death*

There are three types of death  
physical death - separation of the body from the soul and spirit  
spiritual death - separation of man from God  
eternal death - eternal separation from God in the lake of fire and brimstone  
Unbelievers will have their bodies, souls and spirits cast into the lake of fire

## **This Judgment Will:**

<b>Be in the Lake of Fire</b>	<b>Include All Unbelievers</b>	<b>Be Eternal</b>
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# The Eternal State

## Revelation 21:1-22:21

the new heaven, the new earth and the new Jerusalem - 21:1-2  
the changes that will happen on heaven and earth - 21:3-8  
the description of the new Jerusalem - 21:9-27  
the description of the river of the water of life - 22:1-5  
the concluding message of the Bible - 22:6-21

### **The Lord describes the new heaven, the new earth and the new Jerusalem - verses 1-2**

The new heaven and the new earth are needed  
because the first heaven and the first earth must be cleansed  
II Peter 3:9-13

The new Jerusalem has been prepared to be the eternal city of the saints

The new Jerusalem is the holy city

The new Jerusalem is coming down from God

The new Jerusalem comes out of heaven

The new Jerusalem has been prepared as a bride adorned for her husband

### **The Lord will dwell with His people - verse 3**

This good news is announced from heaven  
God is going to make his dwelling among men  
God is going to live with men  
God says that we will be His people  
God says that He will be with us  
God will be our God

### **The Lord will remove the results of sin - verse 4**

God is the One who will change the consequences of sin  
Tears will be removed  
death will be removed  
sorrow will be removed  
crying will be removed  
pain will be removed  
All of the former things are passed away

**The Lord will make all things new - verse 5**

God is the One who makes all things new  
God gives us two promises about His Word  
His Word is True  
His Word is Faithful

**The Lord will give an eternal inheritance to all believers - verses 6-7**

God will complete all things  
God is the Alpha and Omega  
God is the beginning and the end  
God offers a free gift to all who will respond

**Are You Thirsty?**

Christ said He was looking for thirsty people in John 7:37  
God is still looking for thirsty people  
God offers the water of life to those who are thirsty  
God offers this water freely  
As the book of Revelation clearly shows:  
judgment is certainly coming  
only those who receive the water of life will escape judgment  
each person needs to carefully examine his or her life

God says the overcomer will inherit all things  
God says He will be God to all overcomers  
God says all overcomers will be His children

**The Lord warns who will experience eternal judgment - verse 8**

Those who will have their part in the lake of fire and brimstone  
the fearful  
unbelievers  
the abominable  
murderers  
fornicators  
sorcerers  
idolaters  
all liars

## **The description of the new Jerusalem**

### ***the offer to show the bride of Christ - verse 9***

The messenger is one of the seven angels who have the final judgments

The messenger invites John to see the bride, the Lamb's wife

### ***the description of the walls and gates of the city - verses 10-14***

The messenger gave John a preview of the Lamb's wife

The messenger did this through the power of the Spirit

The messenger showed the holy Jerusalem coming down from heaven

The city comes down out of heaven

The city is filled with the glory of God

The city has twelve gates and twelve foundations

### ***the measurements of the city - verses 15-17***

The city is laid out in the shape of a square

Each side of the city is approximately 1500 miles

The walls of the city are approximately 216 feet thick

### ***the description of the foundations of the city - verses 18-20***

The city is made with pure gold

The foundations of the wall are made of precious stones

### ***the description of the gates of the city - verse 21***

The twelve gates are made of twelve pearls

The streets are made of pure gold

### ***the temple of the new Jerusalem - verse 22***

The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple

### ***the light and the glory of the new Jerusalem - verses 23-26***

The city does not need the sun or moon for light

The glory of God illuminates the city

The Lamb is the light

The saved of the nations will walk in its light

The kings will bring their glory and honor into it

The gates will not be shut

There will be no night

The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it

### ***the things excluded from the new Jerusalem - verse 27***

Nothing that defiles will enter the city

Nothing that causes an abomination shall enter the city

Nothing that is a lie shall enter the city

## **Those who will be in the city**

**Those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life**

**The river of the water of life**

*the source of the river is the throne of God*

The river is a pure river  
The river contains the water of life  
The river is clear as crystal  
The river comes out of the throne of God  
The river comes from the Lamb

*the banks of the river have the tree of life*

The tree of life is on both sides of the river  
The tree of life bears twelve different kinds of fruit  
The tree of life has a new kind of fruit each month  
The tree of life has leaves which are for the healing of the nations

*the curse is removed so our service for Christ will be perfect service*

The city has no curse in it  
The city has the throne of God in it  
The city has the Lamb in it  
As the servants of Christ, we will serve Him

we will have the privilege to see His face  
we will have His name written in our foreheads

*there is no night in the new Jerusalem*

There is no night in the new Jerusalem  
There is no lamp in the new Jerusalem  
There is no sun in the new Jerusalem  
The Lord God is the source of the light

**The Lord God says we will reign with Him forever and ever**

**The concluding message of the Bible  
Revelation 22:6-21**

the words of comfort as we wait - verses 6-17  
the words of warning as we wait - verses 18-19  
the words of benediction - verses 20-21

**The words of comfort as we wait**

***we are promised the Lord is coming quickly***

The Lord sent His angel to let us know what will soon happen  
The Lord said He is coming quickly  
The Lord says we will be blessed if we are obedient to His Word

***we are reminded to worship the Lord only***

John heard and saw the angel  
John started to worship the angel  
John was told not to worship the angel  
John was told that angels are fellow servants

**John was told to Worship God**

***we are reminded that the Lord is coming soon***

The message of John needs to be heard  
The message is important because it will soon happen

***we are promised a reward at His coming***

The unjust will continue to be unjust  
The filthy will continue to be filthy  
The righteous will continue to be righteous  
The holy will continue to be holy  
The Lord promises that He is coming quickly  
The Lord promises to bring rewards when He comes  
The Lord promises to reward every one according to his works

***we are reminded that the Lord is the first and the last***

The Lord is the Alpha and the Omega  
The Lord is the Beginning and the End  
The Lord is the First and the Last

*we are promised rewards according to our works*

The obedient will be blessed

The obedient will have the right to the tree of life

The obedient may enter through the gates of the city

The disobedient will be left outside the city

*the final invitation of Christ to come*

This invitation comes from the Root and Offspring of David

This invitation comes from the Bright and Morning Star

This invitation comes from the Spirit and the bride

(as the bride we are to be continually extending this invitation)

This invitation is to all who will hear

This invitation is to all who are thirsty

This invitation is to everyone who desires the water of life

### **The words of warning as we wait**

This warning is to be given to everyone who hears the words of this book

This warning is to any who might add to the words of this book

**God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book**

This warning is to any who would take away from the words of this book

**God will take away his part from the Book of life**

**God will take away his part from the holy city**

**God will take away his part from the things that are written in this book**

