

Revelation

Chapter 1

I. The Title

Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

- A. Revelation means unveiling or to disclose
- B. The Greek work for “revelation” is the source of the word apocalypse
- C. Apocalypse as used today refers to a catastrophic event and the complete destruction of the world
- D. This revealing of future events cannot be separated from the person of Jesus Christ
 - 1. Christ is the exalted Priest-King ministering to His churches in chapters 1-3
 - 2. Christ is the Lamb of God reigning on His throne in chapters 4-5
 - 3. Christ is the Judge of all the earth in chapters 6-18
 - 4. Christ is the conquering King of kings in chapter 19
 - 5. Christ is the Heavenly Bridegroom at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in chapters 20-22

II. The Author

Revelation 1:1-2 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

- A. God used the apostle John to write three different kinds of inspired Scripture
 - 1. The Gospel of John – believe
 - 2. The Epistles of John – be sure
 - 3. The Book of Revelation – be ready
- B. John wrote this book while in exile on the island of Patmos – he was being persecuted for not worshiping the Roman emperor as Lord and God
- C. The book was written to shew us a preview of things to come although we are not given every detail

D. John speaks about the source of his information

- 1.** God gave it to Jesus Christ
- 2.** Jesus Christ had it delivered to John by an angel
- 3.** John recorded what he heard and saw

III. The Readers

Revelation 1:3-4 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand. John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

- A.** Although John wrote this to seven specific churches, there is a blessing to anyone who reads
- B.** The blessing is not in just hearing the words but in obeying them

Seven Beatitudes

- **Revelation 1:3** Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.
- **Revelation 14:13** And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.
- **Revelation 16:15** Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.
- **Revelation 19:9** And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.
- **Revelation 20:6** Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.
- **Revelation 22:7** Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.
- **Revelation 22:14** Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

C. The time is at hand – Christ’s return could happen at any time

IV. The Dedication

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

A. The book begins similar to an epistle with grace and peace

B. The source of grace and peace

1. God, which is, which was and which is to come

2. The Holy Spirit – seven Spirits before the throne

Isaiah 11:1-2 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

3. Jesus Christ

a) The Reliable One – faithful witness

b) The Resurrected One – the first begotten of the dead (the only one who has risen from the dead and didn’t die again)

c) The Ruling One – the prince of kings

d) The Revering One – Him that loved us

e) The Redeeming One – who washed us in His own blood

f) The Royal One – made us kings and priests

g) The Returning One – he cometh with clouds

C. The book written to give Him the glory

V. The Theme

Revelation 1:7-8 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

A. The overwhelming theme of the book is the return of Jesus Christ to defeat all evil and establish His reign

- B. Jesus' return to this earth is not the same as His return in the air – the rapture
- C. Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet which speak of His omniscience – He is all knowing
- D. The beginning and the ending refer to His omnipresence – He is everywhere
- E. That which is, which was and is to come refers to His omnipotence – He is all powerful

VI. The Occasion

A. What John heard

Revelation 1:9-11 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

1. John was exiled on the island of Patmos being persecuted for his faith in Christ
2. He heard the voice of Christ on the Lord's day – a voice he had not heard for over 60 years
3. Write down the things that you will see and send them to the seven churches

Seven Churches

- Ephesus
- Smyrna
- Pergamos
- Thyatira
- Sardis
- Philadelphia
- Laodicea

B. What John saw

Revelation 1:12-16 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst

of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

1. He turned to see where the voice was coming from and saw seven golden candlesticks and Jesus nearby
2. He heard, he turned, he saw he fell at His feet – He worshiped
3. Christ’s garment down to the foot speaks of His dignity as Prophet, Priest and King
4. Christ’s golden girdle around His chest speaks of His deity – He is God
5. His white hair speaks of His purity
6. His eyes of fire speak of His scrutiny – His eyes see all
7. His feet covered in brass speak of His judgment – He will conquer His enemies
8. His great voice speaks of His majesty
9. In His hand are the angels of the churches
10. Out of His mouth is the Word of God
11. His shining face speaks of His glory

C. What John did

Revelation 1:17-18 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

1. To see Christ caused John to be overwhelmed
2. Jesus told him to not fear
3. He that lived was dead and is alive again
4. He that has the keys (control and power) of hell and death – He will resurrect the dead and will spare the believers from hell
5. All will stand before Christ and recognize His glory

VII. The Outline

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

- A.** The things which you have seen (chapter 1)

- B. The things which are (chapters 2-3)
- C. The things which shall be (chapters 4-22)

VIII. The Explanation

Revelation 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

- A. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches
 - 1. The right hand is a symbol of power and authority
 - 2. Some think that this may be the pastors or messengers of the churches
 - 3. Why wouldn't John have referred to them as bishops, elders or pastors?
 - 4. God may have an angel for each of His churches
- B. The seven candlesticks are the seven churches that John would be writing to

IX. Summary

- A. Revelation is a Christ centered book
- B. Revelation is a book that can be understood
- C. Revelation is a book that contains symbolism
- D. Revelation is a book of prophecy
- E. Revelation is a book with a blessing
- F. Revelation is a relevant book
- G. Revelation is a majestic book – throne of God
- H. Revelation is a universal book for all people
- I. Revelation is a climactic book – Christ's return and His eternal reign as King

Revelation Chapter 2

I. How to View These Seven Churches

- A. We view them as actual historical churches around A.D. 95
 - 1. These were historical churches in which actual conditions described existed
 - 2. Christ speaks words to commend, condemn and correct each church
 - 3. Words of rebuke, encouragement and warning
 - 4. Christ gives an accurate picture and analysis of these churches – we may think that we are rich – but are actually poor spiritually
- B. We view them as having conditions that are typical of all churches
 - 1. There are good qualities that can be commended in today's churches
 - 2. There are condemnations applicable to today as well
 - 3. Churches that are busy but lacking in love, those that have forgotten the truth and those who are growing and prospering
- C. We can view the churches as representing various stages of church history with the church today being represented by Laodicea
 - 1. The period of time of the apostles (A.D. 30-100)
 - 2. The persecuted church under the Roman empire (A.D. 100-300)
 - 3. The blending of church and state under Constantine (A.D. 300-500)
 - 4. The influence of paganism during the Dark Ages (A.D. 500-1500)
 - 5. The Protestant Reformation (A.D. 1500-1700)
 - 6. The revivals of the 1800's (A.D. 1700-present)
 - 7. The modern day church (A.D. 1900-present)

II. Ephesus – the careless church

Revelation 2:1-7 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works;

or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

A. Author and Recipient

1. Written to the church at Ephesus – Paul, Timothy and the Apostle John had serve here in leadership
2. The angel is the minister, messenger or maybe pastor
3. Written by Jesus Christ – giving them protection, correction and direction
 - a) He holds the churches in His hands
 - b) He walk in the midst of the churches

B. Analysis and rebuke

1. Commendation
 - a) They were a serving church – busy doing the work of the Lord
 - b) They were a sacrificing church – laboring tirelessly
 - c) They were a steadfast church – patiently enduring challenges, difficulties and trials
 - d) They were a separated church – carefully handling the truth and rejecting false teachers and their teaching (the deeds of the Nicolaitans)
 - e) They were a suffering church – continuing on without fainting
2. Condemnation
 - a) They had left their first love
 - b) These good works were not done out of motivation for the love of Christ
3. Correction
 - a) Remember what you have left
 - b) Repent and do the first works – confess your sins
 - c) Repeat
 - d) There were in danger of losing their candlestick – this speaks of their shining light for Christ and not their eternal salvation

C. Admonition and warning

1. Hear these words
2. The blessing of the tree of life to those that overcome

III. Smyrna – the suffering (crowned) church

Revelation 2:8-11 And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

A. Author and Recipient

1. Written to the church at Smyrna
2. The angel is the minister, messenger or maybe pastor
3. Written by Jesus Christ – giving them protection, correction and direction
 - a) The first and the last
 - b) Who was dead but now is alive

B. Analysis and rebuke

1. Commendation
 - a) He knew of their good works
 - b) He knew of their persecution
 - c) He knew of their physical poverty although He reminded them that they were spiritually rich
 - d) He was aware of the blasphemy of false Jews – the synagogue of Satan – the fallacy of trying to combine Judaism and the church
2. Condemnation – none
3. Challenge
 - a) Don't be afraid
 - b) Persecution will continue for 10 days or periods
 - c) A crown of life awaits you

James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

C. Admonition and warning

1. Hear these words
2. The blessing of not tasting of the second death

IV. Pergamos – the compromising church

Revelation 2:12-17 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

A. Author and Recipient

1. Written to the church at Pergamos
2. The angel is the minister, messenger or maybe pastor
3. Written by Jesus Christ – giving them protection, correction and direction
 - a) He who has the sharp two edged sword
 - b) The sword condemns or converts

B. Analysis and rebuke

1. Commendation
 - a) They had good works
 - b) Their dwelling place is mentioned – Satan's seat
 - c) They held true to Christ's name in spite of their situation
 - d) They were suffering as well – Antipas was a faithful martyr
2. Condemnation
 - a) Some are holding to the doctrine of Balaam

Jude 1:11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

- (1) This teaching encouraged them to intermingle and intermarry with the heathen
- (2) No separation between the godly and the ungodly
- (3) Compromising with the world instead of standing strong
- (4) Being married to someone or something other than Christ

- (5) Tolerating sin
- b) The doctrine of the Nicolaitans
 - (1) The belief that the priests are to conquer the people
 - (2) Elevating the priesthood (clergy) over the laity
- 3. Correction
 - a) Repent quickly
 - b) Christ would come with the sword of punishment

C. Admonition and warning

- 1. Hear these words
- 2. The blessing of the hidden manna (Bread of life) and a white stone (not guilty)

V. Thyatira – the corrupted (adulterous) church

Revelation 2:18-29 And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass; I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

A. Author and Recipient

- 1. Written to the church at Thyatira
- 2. The angel is the minister, messenger or maybe pastor
- 3. Written by Jesus Christ – giving them protection, correction and direction

- a) The Son of God
- b) He who has eyes of fire
- c) He who has the brass feet of judgment

B. Analysis and rebuke

1. Commendation

- a) They had good works
- b) They demonstrated love
- c) They were servants
- d) They had faith
- e) They had endurance

2. Condemnation

- a) They were being influenced by Jezebel – maybe not the name of an actual woman – but appears to be a woman led false religion

1 Kings 18:19 Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.

- b) She encouraged immorality and idolatry
- c) Blending of religion and paganism

3. Challenge

- a) No additional burden than what you already have
- b) Hold fast till He comes

C. Admonition and warning

- 1.** Hear these words
- 2.** The blessing of being a ruler
- 3.** The blessing of the morning star

Revelation Chapter 3

I. Sardis – the lifeless church

Revelation 3:1-6 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

A. Author and Recipient

1. Written to the church at Sardis
2. The angel is the minister, messenger or maybe pastor
3. Written by Jesus Christ – giving them protection, correction and direction
 - a) He who has the seven spirits of God – source of power
 - b) He who has the seven stars in His hand

B. Analysis and rebuke

1. Commendation – they had works
2. Condemnation
 - a) They had a name which insinuated life
 - b) They were spiritually dead – they were barren, unfruitful and unproductive
 - c) It has been said that a church may have the following cycles: man, movement, machine, monument
 - d) This church needed the power of the Holy Spirit
3. Challenge
 - a) Be watchful and alert – wake up and see our present condition
 - b) Strengthen the things that remain – not all is lost
 - c) Remember what you have received and heard – recall the blessings and promises of God
 - d) Hold fast and repent – don't regress any more

- e) The Lord will break up this church suddenly either by chastisement or His actual coming
- 4. Challenge – all had not fallen asleep – there was a remnant
 - a) The few who have not defiled their garments
 - b) They will walk in white garments
- C. Admonition and warning
 - 1. Hear these words
 - 2. The blessing of white raiment – purity
 - 3. The blessing of having your name in the book of life

II. Philadelphia – the fruitful church

Revelation 3:7-13 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

A. Author and Recipient

- 1. Written to the church at Philadelphia
- 2. The angel is the minister, messenger or maybe pastor
- 3. Written by Jesus Christ – giving them protection, correction and direction
 - a) He that is holy and true
 - b) He that holds the keys and has the authority to open and close doors
 - c) The king of David is the key that will open the storehouse of treasure and blessing

B. Analysis and rebuke

1. Commendation

- a) They had works
- b) They had before them an open door of opportunity that God would hold open
- c) They had little strength in themselves – God was their strength
- d) They had kept God's Word
- e) They had not denied God's name

C. Admonition and warning

- 1. Hear these words
- 2. He would take care of their enemies
- 3. He would keep them from the hour of temptation and testing – the church will not go through the 7 years of Great Tribulation
- 4. Hold fast lest you lose your crown – not salvation but reward
- 5. He would honor them – we will be identified with the name of Christ

III. Laodicea – the lukewarm church

Revelation 3:14-22 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

A. Author and Recipient

- 1. Written to the church at Laodicea
- 2. The angel is the minister, messenger or maybe pastor

3. Written by Jesus Christ – giving them protection, correction and direction

a) The Amen

b) The Faithful and True Witness

B. Analysis and rebuke

1. Commendation – they had works

2. Condemnation

a) They were neither cold nor hot – lukewarm

b) Lukewarm does not speak of Christ wanting us either all for Him or rather all against Him

c) Cold and hot water were piped into Laodicea but both were lukewarm by the time they got there

d) Heat is needed to keep something hot and ice is needed to keep something cold – without Christ we are stagnant

e) They thought they were rich but were spiritually poor

f) They were poor, blind and naked

3. Challenge

a) Buy gold tried in the fire to be rich – they were proud of their material prosperity

b) Buy a white raiment to be clothed – they were missing the clothing of Christ’s righteousness

c) Buy eyesalve so that they could see – they were blinded to their own condition

The Blind Church – John Phillips

- Fundamentalism – having the right doctrine but no love
- Exclusivism – we are the only one who is right – separation means isolation
- Ritualism – rituals practiced year after year because that is the way we have always done it
- Rationalism – we have to be tolerant of society and sin – not separation
- Socialism – taking care of the environment and participating in society without Biblical truth
- Occultism – looking for supernatural healings, tongues, visions without considering their source
- Ecumenicalism – let’s all have one church without considering our doctrinal differences and beliefs
- Materialism – money is the solution to all problems

4. Correction
 - a) I love those who I rebuke and chasten
 - b) Be zealous and repent
 - c) Open the door of the heart to Christ – not an invitation to salvation but a challenge to the believer although it can be applied because there are unbelievers in the church – the handle is on the inside

C. Admonition and warning

1. Hear these words
2. He will come in and sup with us
3. The blessing of sitting around the throne
4. The blessing of being near Christ

IV. Summary of the Seven Churches

A. General descriptions

1. Ephesus – the church is sound in doctrine but they have lost their first love
2. Smyrna – the church being persecuted by the world
3. Pergamos – the church becomes married to the world
4. Thyatira – the church begins to look like the world
5. Sardis – the church has a dim light but is practically dead
6. Philadelphia – the church is growing
7. Laodicea – the church is lukewarm – they think they are doing much but without Christ we are nothing

B. Eternal blessings to them that overcome

1. The tree of life – eternal provisions
2. No taste of the second death – eternal security
3. The hidden manna and the white stone – eternal rewards
4. We will rule with him – eternal authority
5. White raiment and names in the book of life – eternal acknowledgment
6. Associated with the name of Christ – eternal exaltation
7. Seated by the throne – eternal enthronement

Revelation Chapter 4

I. The Trumpet

Revelation 4:1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

- A.** After this speaks of the things which were – commendations and condemnations of the seven churches

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

- B.** The door was opened in heaven – there is an obvious transition in the writing

- C.** The voice of the trumpet is obviously the voice of Jesus

Revelation 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

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

- D.** Come up thither reminds us of the meeting in the air

- E.** The word rapture is not in the Bible but is a word which means a catching away – the same definition of the Greek word harpazo meaning caught up

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be **caught up** together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

- F.** Similar language is used to describe the two witnesses who are martyred

Revelation 11:12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

- G.** That which shall be hereafter

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

II. The Transition

Revelation 4:2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

- A. John shares this spiritual experience – a spiritual vision
- B. Paul had shared a similar account of a spiritual vision

2 Corinthians 12:2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.

III. The Throne

Revelation 4:2-3 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

- A. We are taken to the throne of Heaven – the centerpiece

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Revelation 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

- B. God Himself is seated on the throne – John describes the colors as of a jasper and a sardine stone

1. The jasper stone may have been like a clear diamond

Revelation 21:11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

2. The sardine stone is fiery red

- C. The rainbow surrounding the throne speaks of the fact that God keeps His promises

- D. Ezekiel describes the throne that he saw

Ezekiel 1:26-28 And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it. And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had

brightness round about. As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.

IV. The Twenty-Four Elders

Revelation 4:4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

- A. We are not absolutely certain about the 24 elders – some have suggested it is the 12 sons of Jacob and the 12 disciples
- B. A probably suggestion is that the 24 elders represent all believers
 1. David divided the Levites priest into 24 groups that would serve
1 Chronicles 24:3-4 And David distributed them, both Zadok of the sons of Eleazar, and Ahimelech of the sons of Ithamar, according to their offices in their service. And there were more chief men found of the sons of Eleazar than of the sons of Ithamar; and thus were they divided. Among the sons of Eleazar there were sixteen chief men of the house of their fathers, and eight among the sons of Ithamar according to the house of their fathers.
 2. Zacharias was serving his course as a priest in the temple
Luke 1:5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.
- C. Those seated are described as having white raiments and crowns
Revelation 3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.
Revelation 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.
2 Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

1 Peter 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

1 Corinthians 9:25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

1 Thessalonians 2:19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

V. The Attendants Around the Throne

Revelation 4:5-8 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

A. Lightning, thunderings and voices

Revelation 10:3 And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.

Exodus 19:16 And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.

B. Seven lamps of fire burning before the throne

Revelation 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

C. Sea of glass

Exodus 24:10 And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness.

Revelation 21:18 And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.

Revelation 21:21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

D. Four beasts – living creatures

1. Their place is around the throne
2. They are full of eyes – seeing all around them
3. They are describe as a lion, calf, man and eagle
4. They each had six wings
5. Some parallel these beasts with the four gospels
 - a) Matthew speaks as Jesus as the Lion of the tribe of Judah
 - b) Marks speaks about Jesus as a Servant, submissive to the Father’s will
 - c) Luke speaks of Jesus as the Son of man
 - d) John speaks of Jesus as the Son of God
6. Ezekiel saw a similar site and referred to these as angelic cherubim

Ezekiel 1:1 Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.

Ezekiel 1:5-11 Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man. And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings. And their feet were straight feet; and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf’s foot: and they sparkled like the colour of burnished brass. And they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings. Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward. As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle. Thus were their faces: and their wings were stretched upward; two wings of every one were joined one to another, and two covered their bodies.

Ezekiel 1:14 And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning.

Ezekiel 1:24 And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty,

the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings.

Ezekiel 10:1 Then I looked, and, behold, in the firmament that was above the head of the cherubims there appeared over them as it were a sapphire stone, as the appearance of the likeness of a throne.

VI. The Theme of Their Praise

Revelation 4:8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

- A.** They do not rest day or night
- B.** They are in constant worship crying Holy, holy, holy
- C.** Three words describe the Trinity
 - 1.** Holy, holy, holy
 - 2.** Lord, God, Almighty
 - 3.** Which was, is, to come
 - 4.** Glory, honor and thanks

VII. The Thanksgiving Blessing

Revelation 4:9-11 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

- A.** Worship is shown to God on His throne
- B.** The 24 elders will cast their crown at His feet
- C.** Only God is worthy to receive glory, honor and praise as the Creator of all

Colossians 1:16-17 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Revelation Chapter 5

I. The Seven Sealed Scroll

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

A. Seated on the throne

1. God the Father is seated on the throne and holds in his hand a sealed book or scroll
2. The Greek word is biblion from which we get the words book, bibliography and Bible

B. Seven sealed scroll

1. The writing on the scroll was visible being written on both the front and the back
2. The scroll was sealed with seven seals

C. What is written on the scroll?

1. Some have suggested that this scroll is the title deed to the earth – Jesus will be claiming what is rightfully His
 - a) There is an Old Testament illustration of the prophet Jeremiah buying a piece of property that he would not be able to take ownership of for many years
 - b) The earth rightfully belongs to Jesus
Psalms 24:1 The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.
 - c) Satan has taken over this world but only temporarily
2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.
Ephesians 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:
2. The contents of the scroll contain a vivid description of what will take place in heaven and earth during the end times as the seals are opened – the seven seal leads to seven trumpets and the seventh trumpet leads to the seven bowls of wrath

II. The Search for Someone to Open the Scroll

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

A. The angel

1. John hears an angel call out with a loud voice
2. Who is worthy to open the book and loosen the seals

B. Those who are present

1. No man or woman was worthy to open the book
2. Revered Bible characters of all ages are present and yet no one is worthy because of sin

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

C. John

1. It would seem that there was some time that had passed considering if anyone was worthy to open the book
2. John weeps because there is no one worthy to open the book

III. The Savior – the Lamb

Revelation 5:5-7 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

A. The elder speaks

1. Don't weep
2. There is one who is worthy to open the book

B. Jesus – the Lion and the Lamb

1. The Lion of the tribe of Judah reminds us that Jesus came through Jacob's son, Judah

Genesis 49:8-10 Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's

children shall bow down before thee. Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

2. The Root of David reminds us that Jesus was not only a descendant of David but He also was before him

Isaiah 11:1-2 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

Matthew 22:45 If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?

Revelation 22:16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

3. John may have expected to see a Lion but instead he sees a Lamb

- a) The Lamb had been slain

Genesis 22:8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

1 Peter 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

- b) The Lamb had seven horns

Luke 1:68-69 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;

- c) The Lamb had seven eyes – which are the seven spirits of God

2 Chronicles 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

Isaiah 11:2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

Lion and the Lamb

As a Lion, Jesus is the rightful Ruler of Israel

As a Lamb, Jesus is the Savior of all

As a Lion, Jesus is the Mighty King

As a Lamb, Jesus is the Suffering Savior

As a Lamb, Jesus came as the Savior of the world

As a Lion, Jesus will come as the Judge of the world

4. The Lamb took hold of the book

Revelation 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Revelation 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

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

IV. The Song of Praise

Revelation 5:8-14 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto

him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

A. The singers

1. The four beasts are the four angelic creatures that worship God day and night around the throne
2. The 24 elders represent all of the saints clothed in white robes

B. Instruments and offerings

1. We will worship with stringed instruments (not angels with harps)
2. We will offer vials of sweet incense to God

Psalm 141:2 Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Hebrews 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

C. The song

1. Jesus was worthy to open the book
2. Jesus was the Lamb slain
3. Jesus is our Redeemer

Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

I Will Sing of My Redeemer

I will sing of my Redeemer,
And His wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross He suffered,
From the curse to set me free.

I will sing of my Redeemer,
And His heav'nly love to me;
He from death to life hath brought me,
Son of God with Him to be.

Sing, oh, sing of my Redeemer,
With His blood He purchased me,
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
Paid the debt, and made me free.

4. Jesus has given salvation to every people and nation
5. Jesus has made us kings and priests

1 Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Revelation 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.
6. Jesus will reign and we with Him

D. The angels

1. The voice of many angels
2. 10 million angels plus thousands and thousands

E. The response of the angels

1. Worthy is the Lamb that was slain

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.
2. Worthy to receive Power – all things were made by Him

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Colossians 1:16-17 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.
3. Worthy to receive Riches – we became rich through Him

2 Corinthians 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.
4. Worthy to receive Wisdom – His wisdom comes from God

1 Corinthians 1:24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

5. Worthy to receive Strength

Revelation 2:27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

6. Worthy to receive Honor

1 Timothy 1:17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Philippians 2:9-11 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

7. Worthy to receive Glory

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

8. Worthy to receive Blessing

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

F. The response of all creation – blessing and honor and glory and power be to the Lamb

G. The response of the four angelic beasts around the throne – AMEN

H. The response of the believers – worship (bowing down)

The Heavenly Song that We Will Sing - Wiersbe

It was a Worship hymn – Thou art worthy

It was a Gospel song – We have been Redeemed by His Blood

It was a Missionary song – People of all nations and tongues

It was a Devotional song – we are kings and priests

It was a Prophetic hymn – we will reign on earth with Him

It was a Doxology – the four beasts cried AMEN

It was a Responsive song – we will bow down and worship the Lamb

Revelation Chapter 6

- This chapter begins the details which will take place during the 7 years of Great Tribulation and continues till chapter 19
- Jesus spoke of this time
Matthew 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.
- Jeremiah called it the time of Jacob's trouble
Jeremiah 30:7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.
- The seal judgments are the first part of the Tribulation – each one lasting some time and compounding with the next one to come
- The Church will not be present
1 Thessalonians 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.
1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,
Hebrews 2:3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;
- This 7 year time period is the 70 week of Daniel (Daniel 9:24-27)

I. The First Seal

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

- A. Jesus Christ the Lamb has taken the seven sealed book out of the Father's hand and is going to reveal to us a description of the 7 year tribulation that will take place after the rapture of the church
- B. The white horse represents peace
- C. The antichrist will come and at first make peace
- D. He has a bow but no arrows
- E. He has a crown of authority that has been given to him
- F. Paul spoke of the antichrist being revealed

2 Thessalonians 2:3-12 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that **man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God,** or that is worshipped; so that **he as God** sitteth in the temple of God, **shewing himself that he is God.** Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that **Wicked be revealed,** whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, **whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,** And with all **deceivableness** of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

1. This passage speaks of the Holy Spirit being withdrawn from the earth – He indwells believers who will be raptured

2. Those who remain will believe a strong lie

G. One day Jesus will come on a white horse

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

II. The Second Seal

Revelation 6:3-4 And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from

the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

- A. Jesus open the second seal
- B. The red horse represents worldwide war
- C. The man who brought peace to the earth has now brought war
- D. The sword represents war
- E. Jesus spoke of the these last days

Mark 13:6-8 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And when ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows.

- F. Daniel prophesied about a time of trouble

Daniel 12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a **time of trouble**, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

III. The Third Seal

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

- A. Jesus opens the third seal and again one of the beasts encourages John to take a look
- B. The black horse represents famine
- C. The balances represent the price of food and daily rations

IV. The Fourth Seal

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

earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

- A. Jesus opens the fourth seal
- B. The pale (greenish yellow) horse represents death
- C. Twenty-five percent of the population will die
- D. Death will come by the sword, hunger and wild animals
- E. Jesus spoke of this judgment

Matthew 24:6-7 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

- F. Ezekiel spoke of this judgment

Ezekiel 14:21 For thus saith the Lord GOD; How much more when I send my four sore judgments upon Jerusalem, the sword, and the famine, and the noisome beast, and the pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast?

Pestilence – diseases and plagues

V. The Fifth Seal

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

- A. Jesus opens the fifth seal
- B. John sees souls under the altar – believers who have been martyred for their faith during this time of Tribulation
 - 1. Killed for their stand on the Word of God
 - 2. Killed for their testimony
- C. Hebrews speaks of a holy Tabernacle

Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Hebrews 9:23-24 It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly

things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

- D. They cried out asking how much longer this judgment would last
- E. They were given white robes
- F. They are to wait as they are at this time until other martyrs will join these

- G. These martyrs will be raised at the end of the tribulation

Revelation 20:4-5 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

- H. This seal reminds us of God's grace in the midst of judgment

VI. The Sixth Seal

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

- A. Jesus opens the sixth seal
- B. There was a great earthquake
- C. The sun was darkened
- D. The moon turned red
- E. Falling stars and meteors shower the earth

Matthew 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

Joel 2:30-31 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.

F. The winds will cause the fruit of the trees to fall off prematurely

G. The heaven is opened

Isaiah 34:2-4 For the indignation of the LORD is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter. Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcasses, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood. And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.

H. Maybe the heaven will be opened so that they can see God on His throne

I. Mountains and islands are moved out of their places

J. The mighty and courageous men will hide themselves and desire to die by the mountains falling on them rather than suffer the judgment and wrath of God

Revelation Chapter 7

- Chapter 7 is a short pause between the opening of the 6th seal of judgment and the trumpet judgments which lead to the 7th seal of judgment
- It is a reminder of God's mercy and grace in the midst of judgment
- The chapter takes us through the scene on earth in verses 1-8; and the scene in heaven in verses 9-17

I. The Special Angels

Revelation 7:1-3 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

- A. Some angels are connected with carrying out God's judgment
 1. Angels are connected with the winds of destruction
 2. Winds of hurricanes, tornadoes, typhoons, storms etc.
 3. The four corners of the earth do not mean that the earth isn't round, but symbolize the four points of the compass – winds come from the north, south, east and west
- B. Another angel speaks with a loud voice
 1. These angels of judgment are told to wait to carry out their judgment until some are sealed by God
 2. Wait to destroy the earth until these servants of God are sealed with a visible mark in their forehead

II. The Sealed Israelites – 144,000

Revelation 7:4-8 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were

sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.

- A. There will be 144,000 Jews sealed by God and they will be God's witnesses in the midst of Great Tribulation
- B. This sealing implies God's protection, authority and their authenticity
- C. This seal will be visible just as the seal on the unbelievers who support the antichrist
 - 1. The seal of God's evangelists – the Father's name
Revelation 14:1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.
 - 2. The seal of the antichrist – 666
Revelation 13:16-18 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.
- D. Even though Jews today have no way of substantiating what tribe they descended from God knows their genealogy
- E. There are 12,000 sealed from each tribe
 - 1. Reuben the firstborn is not mentioned first – Judah is mentioned first from whom Jesus Christ descended
 - 2. Joseph is mentioned along with his son Manasseh – his son Ephraim is not mentioned
 - 3. Levi is mentioned
 - 4. Dan is not mentioned
Genesis 49:17 Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path, that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward.
 - 5. Dan and Ephraim fell into idolatry which may be why they are not mentioned

III. The Saved Multitude

Revelation 7:9-17 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues,

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

A. There is a multitude of people who will believe in Christ during the Tribulation

- 1.** These will be those whom the 144,000 Jewish evangelists witnessed to
- 2.** These will be people who have not heard the gospel or rejected the gospel
- 3.** It would seem that those who had heard the gospel and rejected it before the rapture will not come to Christ but will believe the lie of the antichrist

2 Thessalonians 2:8-12 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might

be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

4. God will not leave people without a witness – even though the Church age believers have been raptured – He will raise up new witnesses – copies of the Word of God will also provide a witness
5. These are people of every language, race and nation
6. There will be more people than can be numbered
7. These are those who were martyred during the Tribulation
8. These people are not the same as those in Revelation 4

Revelation 4:4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

- a) These will stand before the throne as compared to the Church Age saints which were seated around the throne
- b) These will be arrayed in white robes as compared to the Church Age saints which were clothed in white raiment
- c) These will have palm branches in their hands as compared to the Church Age saints which will have crowns on their heads

Those Tribulation Saints

- Their status – stood before the throne
- Their salvation – salvation to our God
- Their safety – came out of great tribulation
- Their singing – saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.
- Their service – serve him day and night in his temple:
- Their shepherding – they shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more

B. The Worship around the throne

1. Salvation only comes from God

Philippians 2:9-11 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2. Falling down to worship
 - a) Worship is to bow down.
 - b) Today's worship doesn't seem to be like the way that worship is described in heaven
 - c) Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honour, power and might

C. The Lamb in the Middle

1. Jesus provides
 - a) He will dwell among them
 - b) They will not be hungry or thirsty
 - c) He will feed them and lead them to living waters
2. Jesus is always in the midst
 - a) The tree of life in the middle of the garden of Eden
Genesis 2:8-9 And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
 - b) Jesus spoke to Moses in the midst of the burning bush
Exodus 3:1-2 Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb. And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.
 - c) Jesus was in the midst of the fiery furnace
Daniel 3:25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.
 - d) Jesus was in the midst of the seven churches
Revelation 1:13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.
3. Jesus gives comforts
 - a) He will wipe away all tears
Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor

crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

- b) Jesus is there when we need Him even if we don't know that He is there
- c) In the midst of God's judgment and Great Tribulation is God's wonderful grace and mercy

Grace and Mercy of the Lamb

- Sustained – hunger no more
- Refreshed – thirst no more
- Sheltered no sun or heat
- Nourished – fed by the Lamb
- Led – led by the Lamb
- Supplied – fountains of living water
- Comforted – tears wiped away

Revelation Chapter 8

- The seventh seal is opened
- Contained within this seventh seal are seven trumpet judgments
- These final judgments increase with great intensity

I. Silence

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

A. Just as there is a quiet stillness right before a storm, there is a time of 30 minutes of silence just before the contents of this seal are revealed

B. This silence represents awe, surprise and the magnitude of the wrath and power of God that is yet to be revealed

Zephaniah 1:7 Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD: for the day of the LORD is at hand: for the LORD hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests.

C. The praise and worship around the throne is quiet as we await these magnificent judgments about to take place

II. Seven Angels

Revelation 8:2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

A. The sounding of the trumpet was used for various things in the Old Testament

1. Trumpets could be used to call people together

Numbers 10:3 And when they shall blow with them, all the assembly shall assemble themselves to thee at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

2. Trumpets could be used to announce war

Numbers 10:9 And if ye go to war in your land against the enemy that oppresseth you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the LORD your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies.

3. Trumpets could be used on special days

Numbers 10:10 Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the

sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your God: I am the LORD your God.

4. Trumpets could be used when a new king was installed
1 Kings 1:34 And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel: and blow ye with the trumpet, and say, God save king Solomon.

B. These seven angels are about to sound seven trumpets of war and destruction

C. The battle of Jericho reminds us of the silence before the trumpets declared victory

Joshua 6:10 And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout.

Joshua 6:15-16 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times. And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city.

III. Jesus Christ the Savior

Revelation 8:3-5 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

A. It would seem that this angel is none other than Jesus Christ

1. Through Jesus we offer sacrifices of praise

Hebrews 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

2. Jesus is our advocate with the Father

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

3. Jesus is the mediator between God and man
1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;
- B. Jesus is often referred to as the angel of the Lord
 1. Hagar
Genesis 16:7-8 And the angel of the LORD found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur. And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence camest thou? and whither wilt thou go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai.
 2. Abraham
Genesis 22:11-12 And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.
 3. Moses
Exodus 3:2 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.
 4. Gideon
Judges 6:12-13 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour. And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.
 5. Samson's mother
Judges 13:3 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son.
 6. Elijah
1 Kings 19:7 And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee.

C. Incense is symbolic of prayer

Psalms 141:1-2 LORD, I cry unto thee: make haste unto me; give ear unto my voice, when I cry unto thee. Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Malachi 1:11 For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts.

Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

D. The altar is the altar of incense in heaven

Hebrews 8:5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.

IV. Sounding of Seven Trumpets

A. The Preparation

Revelation 8:6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

B. The First trumpet – brewing storm upon the earth

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

1. One third of vegetation will be destroyed

2. Possible fallout of a nuclear explosion

C. The Second trumpet – boiling sea

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

1. A giant burning object falls into the sea – possibly a meteor, asteroid, planet

2. One third of the ocean becomes blood

3. One third of living sea creatures will die

4. One third of the ships will be destroyed – maybe by a tsunami

D. The Third trumpet – banished star affecting fresh water

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

1. Another giant burning object lands in the fresh water sources
2. Wormwood means poison
3. One third of the fresh water sources are contaminated with poison and many men die

E. The Fourth trumpet – blackened sky affecting the atmosphere

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

1. One third of the light sources from the sun, moon and stars is darkened
2. The sun may shine one third less in brightness or shine one third less in longevity per day
3. Much fire, burning and destruction will cause heavy atmospheric problems such as smoke, and smog

V. Exclamatory Statement

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

A. The first four trumpets are war trumpets that affect the earth

B. The second three trumpets are woe trumpets upon mankind

Revelation 9:12 One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.

Revelation 11:14 The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

Revelation Chapter 9

I. The First Woe – the Fifth Trumpet

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

A. The unnamed personality

1. This star from heaven seems to be none other than Satan himself
2. The tense is the star has already fallen from heaven – Satan was thrown out of heaven
 - a) Jesus referred to Satan as lightning fallen from heaven
Luke 10:18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.
 - b) Isaiah talks about Lucifer outcast from heaven
Isaiah 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

- c) Revelation chapter 12 seems to elude to Satan being cast out of heaven – possible that Satan is cast out of heaven more than once

Revelation 12:7-9 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

B. The unlocked pit

1. What is this bottomless pit?

- a) The Greek word used here for bottomless is abyss
- b) Satan does not have the keys to hell but he is given the keys
Revelation 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.
- c) This pit is not the same as the lake of fire which will be the final abode of Satan and his demons and those who have rejected Christ
Revelation 20:10, 14-15 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.
- d) The beast will ascend from this pit
Revelation 11:7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.
- e) A bit of hell is going to be released on the earth during this judgment

2. Where is this bottomless pit?

- a) It is possible that this pit is in the center of the earth – the description of smoke arising out of the pit lends us to believe that they may be an entrance to the pit from earth
- b) The sun and the atmosphere are darkened because of the smoke that arises from the pit

3. Who is in the pit?

a) The pit is the abode of the fallen angels

(1) Jesus spoke to the demons who had possessed a man and they dreaded being cast into the abyss

Luke 8:27-31 And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not. (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.) And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him. And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep.

(2) Some demons are in chains today, others are not imprisoned

Jude 1:6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

(3) Jesus preached in this place to the demons

1 Peter 3:18-19 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;

(4) This pit will be where Satan is bound for almost 1,000 years

Revelation 20:1-3 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should

deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

b) Demonic locusts are released from this pit

C. The unleashed power of these demons

1. It would seem that these are not real locusts
 - a) They were given instructions not to hurt the vegetation of the earth
 - b) Typically a locust would affect vegetation but these have been given power to hurt mankind
2. These demonic locusts will bring pain and suffering upon mankind
 - a) They cannot touch those who are sealed by in their foreheads – the 144,000 Jewish evangelists
 - b) They will torment mankind for 5 months
 - c) They will not kill men – they will torment them like a biting scorpion
 - d) Mankind will seek death and not be able to find death nor flee from this torment
3. These locusts have an interesting description
 - a) They will look like horses in their bodies – prepared for war
 - b) They will have the faces of men – intelligence
 - c) They will have golden crowns on their head
 - d) They will have the hair of a woman – seductively attractive
 - e) They will have teeth like a lion – destruction
 - f) They will have breastplates for protection – merciless
 - g) They will have wings – travel with speed
 - h) They will have tails like scorpions
4. These locusts have a king over them
 - a) This king is probably not Satan himself but a higher ranking fallen angel
 - b) The king of the bottomless pit is named Abaddon or Apollyon – both names mean destruction

II. The Second Woe – the Sixth Trumpet

Revelation 9:13-19 And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen were two

hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.

A. The voice heard by John

1. The voice is from the golden altar in heaven
2. The command is to loose the four angels bound in the river Euphrates
3. God's judgment will be unleashed

B. The four angels

1. Who are these angels?
 - a) These angels are not the same angels referred to in chapter 7
Revelation 7:1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.
 - b) These angels are demonic angels that will lead an army in war
2. These angels are bound in the river Euphrates
3. These angels are released for a special period of time
4. These angels would kill one third of the population – one fourth of the population has already been killed – this means half of the population of the world will die not counting those taken in the rapture
Revelation 6:8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

C. The army

1. The army consists of 200 million soldiers
2. This may be a human army or it may be a demonic army
3. The horses are described as having fire and brimstone come out of their mouths – they have power in their mouths and in their tails

III. The Wickedness and Unrepentance of the World

Revelation 9:20-21 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

A. Still alive – not everyone will die of these plagues

B. Unrepentance – they will still not repent

- 1.** Worshipping devils
- 2.** Idolatry
- 3.** Murderers
- 4.** Sorceries – drug use and abuse (pharmacy/medication)
- 5.** Fornication – sexual sins
- 6.** Thefts

Revelation Chapter 10

- Just as there was a parentheses in chapter 7 between the opening of the sixth and seventh seal, there is also a parentheses in the Revelation record between the sounding of the sixth trumpet and the seventh trumpet
- We have definitely reached the halfway point of the 7 year tribulation
- The emphasis in this chapter is on God as opposed to the wickedness of man

Revelation 9:20-21 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

I. The Mighty Angel

Revelation 10:1-3 And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.

A. His identity

1. Some believe that this angel is Jesus Himself
2. Some believe that this is another unidentified angel

B. His attire

1. He is clothed with a cloud
2. God manifested Himself in a cloud in the Old Testament

a) Speaking to Moses

Exodus 19:9 And the LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever. And Moses told the words of the people unto the LORD.

b) Leading Israel in the wilderness

Exodus 16:10 And it came to pass, as Aaron spake unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

3. Jesus ascended in a cloud and will return that way
Acts 1:9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.
Acts 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.
1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

C. His adornment

1. There is a rainbow around his head
2. The rainbow reminds us of God's promise to Noah
Genesis 9:13 I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.
3. The rainbow is mentioned as being around the throne of God
Revelation 4:3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

D. His appearance

1. His face shined like the sun and his feet were as pillars of fire
2. A similar description is given of Jesus
Revelation 1:14-16 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

E. His actions

1. In his hands are a little book
 - a) This may be the same book which had seven seals
Revelation 5:1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

- b) This may be another book – the Greek word used is bibliaridion which means booklet as opposed to biblion – book or scroll
 - 2. He set his right foot upon the sea and his left foot on the earth
 - a) This reminds us that Jesus is in control of all heaven and earth
 - b) This may be symbolic of Jesus taking ownership of the earth
- Joshua 1:3** Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.

F. His announcement

- 1. He cries with a loud voice
 - 2. His voice sounded like a roaring lion
- Revelation 5:5** And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.
- Joel 3:16** The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

II. Seven Thunders

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

A. The sounds of seven thunders were voices

B. The sounds of these voices were kept secret

- 1. John was told to seal up the things which he hear and not write them down

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

- 2. God does not reveal everything to us – some things are secret

Deuteronomy 29:29 The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

- 3. Daniel also was not permitted to write what he saw

Daniel 12:8-9 And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? And he said, Go thy

way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

III. Time is Up

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

A. The angel raises His hand as if to swear an oath

1. If the angel is Jesus, He could swear to no higher authority than Himself

Hebrews 6:13 For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself,

2. Daniel also saw a similar vision

Daniel 12:6-7 And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders? And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.

a) A man clothed in linen with his feet on the waters swearing to heaven

b) The end has come – the final three and one half years of the Tribulation period – time, time and a half

B. His statement is that time is no longer – time is up

1. The mystery of God will be fulfilled
2. All that has been prophesied will be fulfilled
3. The mystery of God is the final sum of all God's dealings in judgment and restoration for Israel, leading to the reign of the Messiah. It is the unveiling of God's plan for the bride of Christ and reign of the New Testament saints
4. The mystery of God is what will He do about the evil in this world?

IV. The Little Book

Revelation 10:8-11 And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

A. Take the little book and eat it

1. Rather than literally eating this book, it suggests that John was to take information and digest it – meditate on it
2. The Scripture speaks of God's words as food
 - a) Bread.
Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.
 - b) Milk
1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:
 - c) Meat
1 Corinthians 3:2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.
3. Ezekiel and Jeremiah had similar experiences
Ezekiel 3:1-3 Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, eat that thou findest; eat this roll, and go speak unto the house of Israel. So I opened my mouth, and he caused me to eat that roll. And he said unto me, Son of man, cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this roll that I give thee. Then did I eat it; and it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness.
Jeremiah 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.
4. David spoke of tasting the words of God
Psalms 119:103 How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Psalm 19:10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

B. Its taste

- 1.** It was sweet as honey on his lips and his tongue
- 2.** It was bitter in his belly
- 3.** There is joy in speaking God's truth but sorrow in recognizing God's judgment on those who do not believe

C. More prophesy to come

- 1.** John had more to prophesy
- 2.** More judgment is to come

Revelation Chapter 11

I. The Temple on Earth

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

A. The measuring rod

1. John was given a reed to use as a measuring rod
2. John was going to measure the temple on earth
 - a) The first temple – Solomon’s temple destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar
 - b) The second temple – Zerubbabel’s temple destroyed by Antiochus Epiphanes
 - c) The third temple – Herod’s temple destroyed by Titus
 - d) The fourth temple will be the temple used during the Tribulation
 - e) Ezekiel also spoke of a millennial temple in Ezekiel 40-44

B. The measurement

1. The measurement may have been a literal measurement establishing the existence of a temple again in Jerusalem
Ezekiel 40:5 And behold a wall on the outside of the house round about, and in the man's hand a measuring reed of six cubits long by the cubit and an hand breadth: so he measured the breadth of the building, one reed; and the height, one reed.
Revelation 21:15 And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.
2. The measurement may also have been symbolic of proclaiming that temple did exist and that the Jews were worshipping there

C. The specific measurement

1. Historically the Gentiles were not permitted to enter the temple area but were allowed in the outer courtyard
2. The measurement seems to indicate that there will be Jewish people worshipping in the temple up until the mid-point of the Tribulation

II. Time Periods

Revelation 11:2-3 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months. And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

A. The Gentiles will occupy this temple for 42 months – the second half of the Tribulation

Luke 21:24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

B. Two witnesses will prophesy and witness for 1,260 days – the first half of the Tribulation

C. The prophet Daniel prophesied about this mid-point of the Tribulation
Daniel 9:24-27 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

1. A week is equal to a 7 year period

2. 69 weeks have been fulfilled and there is a pause between the 69th and 70th weeks – the church age of grace

3. The 70th week will be the 7 years of Tribulation

4. He, the antichrist will confirm his covenant with Israel for one week – one week of 7 years

5. At the midpoint of the 7 year tribulation the antichrist will cause the worship and sacrifices taken place in the Jewish temple to cease
6. 3 ½ years equals 42 months or 1,260 days
7. The antichrist will sit in the temple at that time setting himself up as God himself

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

III. Two Witnesses

Revelation 11:3-12 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

A. The timeframe

1. These Two Witnesses seemingly will witness during the first half of the Tribulation

2. Maybe these two witnesses have an important role in the sealing of God's 144,000 Jewish evangelists
- B. What we know**
1. They are people
 - a) Some have considered them the Old and New Testaments or the Law and the Prophets
 - b) The fact that they will die lends us to believe that they are actually people and not angels
 - c) They are wearing sackcloth which represented an outward visualization of an internal mourning
 2. They are prophets
 - a) They are referred to as two olive trees and two candlesticks
 - b) The prophet Zechariah referred to olive trees and candlesticks **Zechariah 4:11-14** Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof? And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.
 - c) These two witnesses will shine as the light in a dark world – the candlestick being the light and the olive oil being the fuel
 3. They are powerful
 - a) They will be given supernatural power to protect themselves
 - b) They will be able to call down fire from God
 - c) They will have power to stop the rain
 - d) They will have power to turn the water to blood
 - e) They will have power to send plagues
 4. They are persecuted
 - a) The beast out of the pit (the antichrist) will make war with them and kill them (Revelation 13 will speak about this beast)
 - b) Their dead bodies will lie in the streets of Jerusalem for three days
 - c) All of the world will be able to witness what takes place during these three days
 - (1) Their dead bodies will remain in the streets
 - (2) People will rejoice over their deaths – giving gifts to each other and celebrating

- 5. They are preserved
 - a) After three days, they will rise from the dead while the world watches
 - b) They will ascend up to heaven
- C. Who they might be?
 - 1. They might be two individuals who are unnamed
 - 2. They might be two individuals who already have lived
 - a) Elijah
 - (1) Malachi referred to Elijah
Malachi 4:5-6 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.
 - (2) Elijah did not die but was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind
 - (3) Elijah prayed and it didn't rain
 - (4) Elijah was seen on the Mount of Transfiguration
 - b) Moses
 - (1) Moses has been seen with Elijah
 - (2) Moses was used to turn water into blood and send plagues upon Egypt
 - c) Enoch – the only other man that did not die
 - d) Joshua and Zerubbabel (Zechariah 3-4)

IV. A Terrible Earthquake

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

- A. There will be a great earthquake in Jerusalem and 10% of the city will be destroyed
- B. There will be 7,000 men killed
- C. This is the end of the second woe
 - 1. The first woe is the 5th trumpet and the demonic locusts
 - 2. The second woe includes the 6th trumpet and the great earthquake in Jerusalem

V. The Seventh Trumpet

Revelation 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

- A. The seventh angel sounds his trumpet
- B. It would seem that this trumpet blast is a long blast that will last for the remaining 3 ½ years of Tribulation
- C. Jesus Christ will take back the earth which is rightly His

VI. The Thankful Response from Heaven

Revelation 11:16-18 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

- A. The church age saints (24 elders) will give praise and thanks to God in Heaven
- B. We will watch and look forward to God judging the unbelievers and rewarding His servant
- C. These events spoken about will not occur till the end of the 1,000 years millennium – just seeing the mountain peak without the valley in between

VII. The Temple in Heaven

Revelation 11:19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

- A. We are given a glimpse of the heavenly temple
 - 1. Moses patterned the earthly tabernacle after a heavenly pattern
Exodus 25:40 And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount.
 - 2. Jesus placed His blood on a heavenly mercy seat

Hebrews 9:23 It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

- B.** The visualization of the ark reminds of us Jesus' sacrifice and God's mercy is ever present in the midst of Tribulation
- C.** John later tells us there will be no temple in the new heaven and the new earth

Revelation 21:22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

Revelation Chapter 12

I. The Great Wonder – a Woman

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

A. A great wonder

1. The word “wonder” means a sign
2. This wonder is something that is symbolic, mysterious and important

B. Who is this woman?

1. The symbolism of a woman
 - a) The saved are referred to as the Bride of Christ
 - b) Jezebel refers to pagan idolatry
2. The woman is not the church
3. The woman is not Mary the mother of Jesus
4. The woman is the nation of Israel

C. How is this woman described?

1. Clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet
2. Wearing a crown with 12 stars

Genesis 37:9 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.

3. Pregnant with child and experiencing the pains of childbirth

D. The woman is symbolic of the nation of Israel who gave birth to the Messiah, Jesus Christ

II. The Great Wonder – Dragon

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

A. The dragon present description

1. He is great and powerful
1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

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

3. He has seven heads with seven crowns and ten horns

B. The dragon's past

1. His tail and his influence led 1/3 of the angels to follow him

2. Some of those demonic angels are present on this earth

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

3. There is no doubt this dragon is Satan himself

Isaiah 14:12-15 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Ezekiel 28:13-15 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

C. The dragon's efforts to destroy Israel

1. The Egyptian Pharaoh wanted to enslave and kill the Israelites

2. The wicked Haman wanted to destroy Esther and the Israelites

3. King Herod tried to kill the Israelite babies

4. Adolf Hitler massacred many Jews
5. The Arab nations are at war with the Jews

III. The Man Child

Revelation 12:5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

- A. Jesus was the promised son of a virgin

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

- B. Jesus will rule all nations

Revelation 2:27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

- C. He is sitting at the throne of God

Hebrews 1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

- D. Jesus ascended into Heaven after His resurrection

Mark 16:19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

IV. The Place of Protection

Revelation 12:6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

- A. Israel will flee into the wilderness during the second half of the Tribulation (1,260 days)

- B. God will prepare a place to protect them during this time – some have suggested the modern city of Petra in Jordan

Psalms 60:9 Who will bring me into the strong city? who will lead me into Edom?

Isaiah 16:4 Let mine outcasts dwell with thee, Moab; be thou a covert to them from the face of the spoiler: for the extortioner is at an end, the spoiler ceaseth, the oppressors are consumed out of the land.

V. The Great War – Heaven

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

A. Where does this war take place?

1. In heaven – a spiritual battle that is taking place

Daniel 10:12-13 Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.

Jude 1:9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

2. Satan has had access to heaven

Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

Luke 10:18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

B. Who is fighting in this war?

1. Michael, the archangel and his angels

Daniel 12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

2. Satan and his fallen angels

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

C. What happens when Satan is cast out of heaven?

1. There is rejoicing in heaven from the saints

a) Salvation, strength and the kingdom of God

b) The accuser has been defeated

2. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth

a) Satan will come to earth with a vengeance

b) Satan knows that he only has little time remaining

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

VI. Satan's Persecution of Israel

Revelation 12:13-17 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

- A. Satan will do all that he can to persecute Israel
- B. God will protect Israel in a supernatural way
 - 1. The two wings represent God's protection
Exodus 19:4 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.
Ruth 2:12 The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.
 - 2. God will protect them for 3 ½ years
- C. Satan will send a flood of judgment upon Israel
 - 1. A flood of actual water or probably a flood of judgment
 - 2. The earth will absorb the flood
- D. Satan attacks the remnant
 - 1. It would seem that this remnant is the 144,000 Jewish evangelists
 - 2. Theses evangelists are seen in heaven in chapter 14
Revelation 14:1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.
 - 3. This remnant could be all of those who believers remaining on the earth
 - 4. The Seventh Day Adventists believe they are this remnant

Revelation Chapter 13

I. The Beast Out of the Sea

Revelation 13:1-10 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If any man have an ear, let him hear. He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

A. The beast out of the sea – the antichrist

1. The sea is probably not a literal sea, but refers to the Gentile nations of the world

Revelation 17:15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

2. The prophet Daniel spoke of a similar situation

Daniel 7:2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.

B. The beast with seven heads and ten horns with crowns

1. This description reminds us of the description of Satan himself

Revelation 12:3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

2. Daniel describes these horns as representing 10 kingdoms or nations
Daniel 7:24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.
 3. The antichrist will be a worldwide political leader
- C.** The beast describes like an animal
1. He is describes as a leopard, a bear and a lion
 2. Daniel described a similar site
Daniel 7:4-8 The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it. After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.
 3. These animals may represent four main kingdoms in history
 - a) Lion – Babylon
 - b) Bear – Medo-persian
 - c) Leopard – Greco-Macedonian
 - d) Roman empire
 4. The antichrist will unite the world into one kingdom
- D.** The beast given power from the dragon
1. Satan himself will give power to the antichrist
 2. Satan desires to be God and will use the antichrist as a counterpart to Jesus Himself
 3. Just as Jesus is God in man, the antichrist will be Satan in man

- E.** The beast with a wounded head
 - 1.** The wound will appear as deadly – it is possible that the antichrist will die and be brought back to life – maybe Satan will indwell him
 - 2.** Just as Jesus has wounds in His hands and feet the antichrist will appear in a similar fashion
- F.** The beast who is worshipped by the world
 - 1.** All of the world will admire him
 - 2.** No one will be able to overtake him
 - 3.** He will have power for 3 ½ years
- G.** The beast who will persecute believers
 - 1.** He will blaspheme the name of God
 - 2.** He will make war with the saints

Daniel 7:21-23 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.
 - 3.** **Daniel 7:25** And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

Names Describing the Antichrist

- Antichrist

1 John 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.
- Man of sin

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;
- The little horn

Daniel 7:8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

- The prince
Daniel 9:26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.
- A king
Daniel 11:36 And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.
- Abomination of desolation
Matthew 24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

Note: If Satan does not know at what time Jesus will return is it possible that he always has someone in mind that he could raise up to be the antichrist at any given moment?

II. The Beast Out of the Earth

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

- A.** The beast out of the earth – the false prophet
Revelation 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.
- B.** The beast described
1. He is a dragon in sheep's clothing
 2. He is the completion of the unholy Satanic trinity
 3. He will be the religious leader of the world
- C.** The beast and his actions
1. He will point others to worship the antichrist
 2. He will have power to do miracles
 3. He will deceive the world
- D.** The beast and the image of the antichrist
1. An image will be created of the wounded antichrist
 2. This image may be the abomination of desolation
Matthew 24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)
Daniel 12:11 And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.
 3. The false prophet will give power to this image that it will speak
 4. Those who do not worship the image will be killed
- E.** The beast and the mark
1. Everyone will receive a mark on his hand or on his head
 2. No one will be able to buy or sell without the mark of the beast
 3. The number of the beast is 666
 - a) Number 6 is the number of man
 - b) There are many speculations about what the mark might be and there have been plenty of formulas written to incorporate someone's name with the number 666

Revelation Chapter 14

Introduction

- Chapter 14 gives us a panoramic view of the final days of the Great Tribulation
- There are seven different visions that are given
- The first vision is of the 144,000 sealed believers
- The second through seventh visions refer to the final days of God's wrath and judgment on mankind

I. The Singing Witnesses

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

A. The Lamb

1. The Lamb is Jesus Christ

Revelation 5:5-6 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

Revelation 5:11-12 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

Revelation 7:17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

2. Jesus the Lamb is in contrast to the false prophet mentioned in chapter 13

Revelation 13:11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

B. Mount Zion

1. The earthly Mount Zion is Jerusalem

1 Kings 8:1 Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto king Solomon in Jerusalem, that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion.

2. The heavenly Mount Zion pictures Heaven or the new Jerusalem
Hebrews 12:22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

C. The 144,000

1. Who are they?

- a) They are not the Jehovah Witnesses or the 7th day Adventists
- b) Some have suggested that these are an elite group of believers from the church age
- c) It would seem that this is the same group of Jewish evangelists that was mentioned in chapter 7

Revelation 7:3-4 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

2. What have they been doing?

- a) They have been witnessing during the first half of the tribulation
- b) They have been protected by God from the seal judgments
- c) They have the name of God sealed in their foreheads as opposed to the mark of the beast (666)

3. What happened to them?
 - a) We may be viewing them in the heavenly Mount Zion with the Lamb because they have been martyred during the Tribulation
 - b) We may be viewing them as standing with the Lamb at the end of the Tribulation just before the battle of Armageddon
4. What are they doing now?
 - a) They are singing a new song accompanied by choirs and stringed instruments (harps)
 - b) They are singing a unique song that only they can sing
5. How are they described?
 - a) They are called virgins
 - (1) They have given themselves to witnessing and have not taken wives or had children
 - (2) They have separated themselves unto the work of God and from the idolatry and wickedness of the antichrist

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

2 Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.
 - b) They are the firstfruits unto God – the first Jewish believers saved during the Tribulation
 - c) They brought a true message in the midst of the deceit of the antichrist and the false prophet – no hypocrisy – genuine witnesses

II. The First angel

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

- A. This angel has the everlasting gospel which will be given to all that remain on the earth
- B. This is their last opportunity to turn to Christ before the end of the Tribulation – God continues to give ample opportunities

III. The Second Angel – the fall of Babylon

Revelation 14:8 And there followed another **angel**, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

- A. Babylon can either refer to an actual city that will be rebuilt during the Tribulation or the system of government that the city represents
- B. The political, religious and economic system of the antichrist will fall
- C. Revelation chapter 18 will give more explanation

IV. The Third Angel – a Warning

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

- A. A final warning to those who have taken the mark of the beast – they will experience the judgment of God
- B. They will be tormented with fire and have no rest day or night from their punishment

V. The Fourth Angel – the Tribulation Martyrs

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

- A. Those who have not taken the mark of the beast have endured suffering
- B. They will die a martyrs death – they die in the Lord
- C. They will find rest from their suffering and fine rest in Jesus, the Lamb

VI. The Fifth Angel – the Sickle of Judgment

Revelation 14:14-16 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another **angel** came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

- A.** Jesus is described as having a sharp sickle in his hand
- B.** The illustration is given of the final harvest – the wheat will be separated from the tares

Matthew 13:37-43 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

- C.** The wicked and the righteous will be separated

VII. The Sixth Angel – the Battle of Armageddon

Revelation 14:17-20 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

- A.** This reaping describes the final judgment of God like the treading of grapes in the winepress

- B.** The bloodshed during the battle will be significant
 - 1.** Some have suggested that there is an exaggeration of the depth of the blood
 - 2.** The blood would meet the horse's bridle if he lowered his head
 - 3.** The blood will flow into the valley as high as the horse's bridle
- C.** The battlefield will be 180 miles long – 1,600 furlongs

Revelation Chapter 15

Introduction

- Chapter 15 is an introduction to the chapter 16 which will reveal the 7 bowls of wrath – God’s final judgment upon the earth
- Chapter 15 is a vision of God in Heaven while chapter 16 is a vision of what God will do on the earth

I. The Sign in Heaven

Revelation 15:1 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.

A. The word “sign” is the same word that we have seen earlier translated as wonders or wonders

1. The sign of the woman – Israel

Revelation 12:1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

2. The sign of the dragon – Satan

Revelation 12:3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

3. The wonders exhibited by the false prophet

Revelation 13:13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

B. Great and marvelous – the mercies of God and the judgment of God are both great and marvelous

C. Seven angels having the seven last plagues

1. Seven is the number of completion and finality

2. The seven seal judgment led to the seven trumpet judgments which lead us to the last seven bowl judgments

D. These bowl judgments are filled with the wrath of God

Revelation 14:10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

Revelation 14:19-20 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

II. The Sea of Glass

Revelation 15:2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

A. John sees something like it were a sea of glass

B. The sea of glass takes us to the throne of God

Revelation 4:6 And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

C. The walls of the new Jerusalem will be made of gold so pure that it is like glass

Revelation 21:18 And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.

D. Gathered at the sea of glass are those who have been victorious over the antichrist – those who came to be believers during the Tribulation and were martyred for their faith

1. Victory over the beast

Revelation 13:7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

2. Victory over his image

Revelation 13:15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

3. Victory over his mark

Revelation 13:16-17 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

- E.** These martyrs will be resurrected at the end of the Tribulation
Revelation 20:4-5 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.
- F.** These have the instruments of harps to praise God
- 1.** The church saints will have harps
Revelation 5:8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.
 - 2.** The 144,000 Jewish evangelists will have harps
Revelation 14:1-2 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:
 - 3.** The tribulation martyrs will have harps

III. The Song of Moses and of the Lamb

Revelation 15:3-4 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

A. These martyrs are singing a special song

B. The song of Moses

- 1.** The song of deliverance from the Egyptians at the Red Sea
Exodus 15:1-2 Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. The LORD is my strength and song, and he is

become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

2. Moses song of worship

Deuteronomy 32:3-4 Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

3. This song emphasizes

- a) God's works
- b) God's ways
- c) God's holy name
- d) Pure worship to God

IV. The Sanctuary in Heaven

Revelation 15:5 And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:

A. The tabernacle on earth was made after the pattern of the tabernacle in Heaven

Exodus 25:40 And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount.

Hebrews 9:23 It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

B. When we see the temple of God in heaven we are reminded of God's mercies – the ark of God was covered with the mercy seat – the place where Jesus blood was placed for atonement for our sins

Revelation 11:19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

Revelation 15:5 And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:

Hebrews 9:11-12 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Hebrews 9:24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

V. The Seven Vials

Revelation 15:6-7 And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever.

A. These seven angels may be the same seven angels who sounded the trumpet judgments

Revelation 8:2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets

B. These angels come out of the temple with the final plagues of God's judgment

C. They are clothed in white

D. They are given seven golden vials or bowls from the four beasts around the throne containing the wrath of God to unleash on the earth

Revelation 4:6 And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

Revelation 4:9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

VI. The Smoke in Heaven

Revelation 15:8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.

A. The glory of God many times was represented by a cloud

Exodus 19:16-18 And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled. And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke

thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.

Exodus 40:33-38 And he reared up the court round about the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the hanging of the court gate. So Moses finished the work. Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all their journeys: But if the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of the LORD was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

1 Kings 8:1 Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto king Solomon in Jerusalem, that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion.

1 Kings 8:10 And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD,

- B.** The smoke in the temple represents the presence of God and His forthcoming judgment

Revelation Chapter 16

I. God's Wrath Poured Out

Revelation 16:1 And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

- A. These final seven judgments are an outpouring of God's wrath
- B. The fact that these angels are coming out of the temple reminds us of the Abrahamic covenant – these judgments are the fulfillment of that promise

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

- C. We as believers have been spared this wrath – the church will not go through the Tribulation

1 Thessalonians 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

II. The First Bowl

Revelation 16:2 And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.

- A. These grievous sores are a boil like disease
- B. We are reminded of the boils during the ten plagues of Egypt
Exodus 9:9 And it shall become small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast, throughout all the land of Egypt.
- C. These boils will fall on those who have taken the mark of the beast and have worshipped his image – believers will be spared

III. The Second Bowl

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

- A. This judgment will turn the salt water into blood and every thing that lives in the sea will die
- B. We are reminded of the second trumpet judgment
Revelation 8:8 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;
- C. We are reminded of the first plague against Egypt
Exodus 7:20-21 And Moses and Aaron did so, as the LORD commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood. And the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.

IV. The Third Bowl

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

- A. Turning the salt water into blood is extended now to fresh water sources as well
- B. We are reminded that although these judgments are terrible, they are justified
- C. Those who have martyred the saints during the Tribulation will now be punished for their deeds

V. The Fourth Bowl

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

- A. The fourth judgment will not lessen the intensity of the sun, but increase it
- B. This intense heat will scorch men and yet they will not repent

- C. Author Henry Morris suggests that this intense heat will melt the polar ice caps thus increasing the ocean levels destroying many coastal cities around the world
- D. Some have surmised that the earth will leave its orbit and move closer to the sun – if God chose to do this it would certainly cause destruction

VI. The Fifth Bowl

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

- A. The fifth judgment will bring darkness
- B. We are reminded of the plague of darkness against Egypt
Exodus 10:21-23 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt. And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days: They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.
- C. Volcanic activity can create darkness over a locality
- D. The people are still feeling the effects of the boils – they are gnawing at their tongues because of the pain and sores

VII. The Sixth Bowl

Revelation 16:12-16 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

- A. The sixth judgment will dry up the river Euphrates – it is 1800 miles long

- B. Henry Morris suggests that the source of this river is snowcapped mountains which will have been melting
- C. God will supernaturally dry up this river to prepare the way for the last great battle which will take place at Armageddon
Zechariah 10:10-11 I will bring them again also out of the land of Egypt, and gather them out of Assyria; and I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon; and place shall not be found for them. And he shall pass through the sea with affliction, and shall smite the waves in the sea, and all the deeps of the river shall dry up: and the pride of Assyria shall be brought down, and the sceptre of Egypt shall depart away.
- D. The Euphrates River flows through many modern Iraqi cities
- E. The kings of the east could include leaders from Russia, Iran, India, China and Japan
- F. Demonic spirits will empower these armies who will fight against God Almighty – they are not actual frogs
- G. Christ will come as a thief – when they least expect it
- H. There will still be some who have not taken the mark of the beast
- I. The final battle will take place at Armageddon – Hebrew Megiddo
 1. This a vast valley in Palestine north of Jerusalem in Samaria
 2. This place has been prophesied about and used as a battlefield before
Zechariah 14:2-4 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.
Zechariah 14:9 And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.
2 Chronicles 35:22 Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself, that he might fight with him, and hearkened not unto the words of Necho from the mouth of God, and came to fight in the valley of Megiddo.

VIII. The Seventh Bowl

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

- A. It is done – this is the last judgment of God’s wrath
- B. This last judgment will be an earthquake of great magnitude
- C. The city of Babylon will be divided into three by this great earthquake
- D. The islands will disappear and mountains will crumble
- E. There will be hailstones that fall from heaven that weighing up to 100 pounds each

IX. Summary

- A. Since Christ is the healer of all disease – the first judgment plagues those who have rejected Him with boil like sores and disease
- B. Since Christ’s blood was shed for the sins of the world – the second judgment will remind mankind by turning the seas to blood
- C. Since Christ’s witnesses have offered the living water to all and yet have been rejected – the third judgment will affect the fresh water supplies
- D. Since Christ is the light and men love darkness better than light – the fourth judgment will leave scorch men with the heat of the sun and the fifth judgment will leave men in darkness
- E. Since Christ is the King of Kings – the sixth judgment will prepare the way for this final battle between Christ and mankind by drying up the Euphrates River
- F. When Christ comes to earth and says it is done – the world will forever be changed – the seventh judgment will change the physical landscape of earth as we know it

Revelation Chapter 17

This chapter will discuss mystery Babylon – a one world church and a religion without God

I. The Harlot – a Woman Representing the One World Religious System

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

- A.** The great whore – she is not an actual woman
 - 1.** She will be judged – this chapter begins to detail the final judgment of God upon the antichrist and the false prophet
 - 2.** She has influenced many people
 - 3.** The kings of the earth have united with her – fornication
 - 4.** The inhabitants of the earth have become influenced and controlled by her – drunk
- B.** She is sitting on a scarlet beast – this beast is the antichrist
- C.** She is clothed in purple and scarlet
- D.** She is decked with gold and precious jewelry
- E.** She is holding a golden cup full of abominations
- F.** Her name is mystery Babylon, the mother of harlots and abominations
- G.** She has indulged in the blood shed of many believers
- H.** The woman is the final world superchurch – a system, a philosophy and a religious power
- I.** Some scholars will associate the woman with the religion of Roman Catholicism

II. The Scarlet Colored Beast – the Antichrist

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

Revelation 17:7-8 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

A. Full of names of blasphemy

B. Seven heads and ten horns

Revelation 13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

C. Was and is not – the antichrist in trying to imitate Jesus will live and die from a wound and then will be resurrected

D. Some scholars believe this beast refers to a restoration of the Roman empire

E. Unbelievers will marvel and wonder at the antichrist

Revelation 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

III. The Seven Heads

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

A. Some scholars believe that the seven heads may represent seven mountains which may refer to the city of Rome which was built on seven mountains

B. Some scholars believe that the seven heads may represent the world civilizations of Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome and one unmentioned – the eighth would be a restored Roman empire

- C. These mountains may refer to the seven kings who are referenced
 1. Five kings have already fallen
 2. One king is reigning
 3. One king is yet to come – he will reign for a short time
- D. The resurrected antichrist will be the eighth king

IV. The Ten Horns

Revelation 17:12-13 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

- A. The ten horns represent ten kings – these may be European nations
- B. These kings will receive power from the beast for one hour or a short period of time
- C. They will unite and yield themselves to the antichrist
- D. They will war against the Lamb of God

V. The Victorious Lamb

Revelation 17:14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

- A. The Lamb will overcome them
- B. The Lamb is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords
- C. The Lamb has faithful followers

VI. The Many Waters

Revelation 17:15-18 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

- A. The apostle John gives some further explanation of what he saw
- B. The waters are peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues
- C. The ten kings will rise up against this one world religion (the woman)
- D. The goal is power – the one world religion will have power

- E.** The ten kings will destroy the one world religion so as to take control and power
- F.** These kings will then give control and power to the antichrist
- G.** The woman is the great city which reigneth over the kings of the earth
 - 1.** Some scholars will refer to this city as Rome
 - 2.** The woman is mystery Babylon – the one world religious power who will eventually be overtaken by ten nations who will give their power and control to the antichrist

Revelation Chapter 18

- Chapter 17 deals with the demise of mystery Babylon – the one world religious system that will worship the antichrist
- Chapter 18 deals with the demise of the political and economic Babylon
- Some commentators believe that Babylon refers to the city of Rome or even a form of Roman Catholicism – others believe that the ancient city of Babylon will be rebuilt
- Babylon symbolizes mankind’s rebellion against God

I. The Voice of Condemnation

Revelation 18:1-3 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

A. An angel declares that Babylon the great will fall

Revelation 14:8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

B. Using the word fallen twice may add dramatic effect but also may refer to the religious Babylon falling in chapter 17 and the political and economic Babylon falling in chapter 18

C. Babylon will become the habitation of demons and vultures

1. Isaiah referred to the destruction of the ancient city of Babylon

Isaiah 13:19-22 And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there. But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and owls shall dwell there, and satyrs shall dance there. And the wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in their pleasant

palaces: and her time is near to come, and her days shall not be prolonged.

2. Jeremiah also prophesied of the fall of ancient Babylon

Jeremiah 51:37 And Babylon shall become heaps, a dwellingplace for dragons, an astonishment, and an hissing, without an inhabitant.

- D. Judgment is coming upon Babylon because of idolatry – false worship
Revelation 17:2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.
- E. Judgment is coming upon Babylon because the world has been intoxicated with her pleasures and her riches

II. The Voice of Separation

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

- A. Another voice cries from heaven that believers should come out of Babylon
 1. Jeremiah the prophet spoke similar words
Jeremiah 51:6 Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this is the time of the LORD'S vengeance; he will render unto her a recompence.
 2. There are still some who have not taken the mark of the beast and have not followed the antichrist
 3. The warnings given
 - a) Be not partakers of their sins against God
 - b) Avoid the coming judgments of God

B. The sins of Babylon

1. Idolatry – false worship
2. Pride – glorifying herself
 - a) She felt as if she were a queen that could not be overthrown
 - b) Isaiah the prophet had similar words

Isaiah 47:7-9 And thou saidst, I shall be a lady for ever: so that thou didst not lay these things to thy heart, neither didst remember the latter end of it. Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children: But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments.

3. Lived deliciously – in pleasure and luxury

C. God's judgment will come in a day – a short period of time

1. Death, mourning and famine
2. The city will be burned with fire

III. The Voice of Lamentation and Mourning

Revelation 18:9-19 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men. And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all. The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet,

and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.

- A.** The kings will mourn over the fall of Babylon
- B.** The merchants will mourn over the fall of Babylon – no one can buy any more of her merchandise
 - 1.** Valuables and ornaments
 - a) Gold
 - b) Silver
 - c) Precious stones
 - d) Pearls
 - 2.** Costly array
 - a) Fine linen
 - b) Purple
 - c) Silk
 - d) Scarlet
 - 3.** Luxurious furnishings
 - a) Thyine wood
 - b) Vessels of ivory
 - c) Vessels of precious wood
 - d) Vessels of brass
 - e) Vessels of iron
 - f) Marble
 - 4.** Aromas and Ointments
 - a) Cinnamon
 - b) Frankincense
 - c) Ointments
 - 5.** Luxurious meals
 - a) Wine
 - b) Oil
 - c) Fine flour
 - d) Wheat
 - e) Animals
 - f) Sheep

- 6. Transportation
 - a) Chariots
 - b) Horses
- 7. Slaves
- C. The ship captains will mourn

IV. The Voice of Celebration

Revelation 18:20-24 Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her. And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

- A. Heaven will rejoice over the fall of Babylon
- B. God will punish those who had martyred His believers
 - 1. There is no happiness because sinners are being judged
 - 2. The happiness is God's righteous judgment – justice for all
- C. Babylon will fall like a stone cast into the sea
 - 1. No more music
 - a) No harpers
 - b) No musicians
 - c) No pipers
 - d) No trumpeters
 - 2. No more manufacturing
 - a) No craftsmen
 - b) No industry
 - 3. No candles
 - 4. No marriages
- D. Babylon is fallen because of the shed blood of believers

Revelation Chapter 19

I. The Hallelujah Chorus

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

A. Praise to God for His salvation

1. This is the first time that the word alleluia is used in the New Testament – it means “praise the Lord”
2. This is the end of the Tribulation – the overthrow of Babylon marks the end of evil and wickedness

B. Praise to God for His judgment of sin

1. At times it may seem that God is too patient – putting up with sin and wickedness for too long – it may seem that He doesn’t care
2. In the end, God will judge the sinner and all sin

C. Praise to God – Amen

1. Amen means “it is true”
2. The 24 elders who are the church age saints and the four angelic beasts who worship God around His throne shout Amen!

D. Praise to God He is Ruler of all

1. All creation will give praise to God
2. God is omnipotent – He is the powerful ruler of all things – the Almighty!

II. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Revelation 19:7-10 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he

saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

A. The Bridegroom

1. Jesus Christ, the Lamb is the groom
2. The marriage relationships is similar to the relationship between Christ and the church

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

Ephesians 5:23-32 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

B. The Bride

1. The saints of this age are the Bride of Christ – He is preparing a place for us

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

2. The judgment seat of Christ has been completed

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

1 Corinthians 3:13-15 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

3. The bride is adorned in fine linen

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

C. The Guests

- 1.** Those invited to the marriage include saints of all ages
- 2.** Old Testament saints, tribulation martyrs and the 144,000
- 3.** Friends of the groom

John 3:27-29 John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

Matthew 8:11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 26:29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

D. The Supper

- 1.** The celebration has just begun
- 2.** The celebration will last for all of eternity

E. John's Worship

- 1.** John falls to his feet to give worship to the messenger
- 2.** The angel reminds him that all worship must be directed to Jesus

III. The Second Coming of Christ

Revelation 19:11-16 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in

righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

A. Heaven is opened

1. Heaven has opened for us to peek in
2. Now heaven is opened for Christ and the saints to come out
3. This may be a permanent opening between heaven and earth

B. Christ will return

1. Jesus will come to earth on a white horse
 - a) This is the second coming of Christ
 - b) The rapture is not the second coming as Christ will not come to earth but meet us in the air

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

2. Jesus described

a) Faithful and true

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

b) The Righteous Judge

c) He is come to make war

d) His eyes are as flames of fire

e) He is crowned with many crowns

f) He is clothed with a vesture dipped in blood – maybe His own blood to remind us of Calvary – maybe the blood of His enemies

Revelation 14:20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

g) His name is the Word of God

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

C. The armies will follow

Jude 1:14-15 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

1. The church age saints clothed in linen
2. We will arrive on horses but not with weapons – we will not need to fight

D. The battle that will take place

1. Jesus' sword will smite all nations
2. Jesus will rule the earth with a rod of iron
3. Jesus will tread out wickedness and sin like a winepress
4. Jesus will be King of Kings and Lord of Lords

Revelation 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

IV. The Antichrist Overthrown

Revelation 19:17-21 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

A. Another great supper

1. An angel calls of the birds of the air to a great supper – they will dine on the enemies of Jesus
2. The dead will include: kings, captains, mighty men, horses and men both small and great

B. A great battle

1. The antichrist (the beast) and the kings of the earth and their armies will gather to fight against the Lamb (Jesus)
2. This battle will take place at Armageddon
Revelation 16:16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.
3. The prophet Zechariah describes this battle
Zechariah 14:1-4 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

C. An eternal punishment

1. The beast and the false prophet will be the first inhabitants of the lake of fire
2. Everyone in the armies fighting against Christ will die
3. The birds will be filled with the flesh of those die

Revelation Chapter 20

I. Removal of Satan

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

- A. The events during the end of the Tribulation including the Second Coming of Christ and the antichrist and the false prophet being thrown into the lake of fire are culminated with Satan being thrown into the bottomless pit

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

- B. The bottomless pit is not the same as hell or the lake of fire – the original Greek word gives us our English word “abyss”
- C. Satan will be bound with a chain in this bottomless pit for 1,000 years so that he will no longer be able to deceive anyone anymore

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

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

- D. This is the first mention of an actual time period we call the Millennium – 1,000 years
- E. The names given for Satan comprise his entire life – the dragon, the serpent, the devil and Satan
- F. He will be loosed for a short time after the 1,000 years before his eventual demise

II. Resurrection Unto Life

Revelation 20:4-5 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

A. There are two resurrections spoken of in the Scripture

1. Resurrection unto life

1 Corinthians 15:20-23 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

a) This resurrection occurs in several phases

b) This resurrection is only for believers

2. Resurrection unto death

John 5:29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

a) This resurrection will not take place until the end of the Millennium

b) This resurrection is only for unbelievers

c) The unsaved will all be resurrected and stand before Jesus at the Great White Throne judgment

B. Those on the thrones

1. They are there to judge and rule during the Millennium

1 Corinthians 6:2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

2. These would include raptured saints, resurrected New Testament saints and Old Testament saints

C. Those martyrs

1. Those who were beheaded during the Tribulation

2. Those who refused to worship the beast

3. Those who had not taken the mark of the beast

III. Reign of Christ

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

A. Why a Millennial kingdom?

1. A time for rewards

Matthew 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Matthew 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Matthew 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Colossians 3:24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

2. The time for a physical kingdom as promised

Matthew 6:9-10, 13 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

3. A time to reflect on Christ's salvation

a) Those who are born during the Millennium will still need to be saved – they will need to trust Christ as their Savior

b) With Satan out of the picture, man will be reminded that he sins because of a sin nature and not because of a sinful environment or influence

B. Who will rule?

1. Jesus will rule for 1,000 years

a) He will divide the believer from the unbeliever

b) He will divide the sheep and the goats

Matthew 25:31-34, 41 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then

shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

2. We will rule with Him as priests
 - a) We are blessed because we will only participate in the first resurrection – the resurrection unto life
 - b) The second death has no power over us – we have been promised eternal life
3. The disciples will rule over the 12 tribes of Israel
Matthew 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

What will it be like during the Millennium?

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make
His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love

- A time of peace
Micah 4:2-3 And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.
- A time of replenishing – animals and children born
Isaiah 11:6-8 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.
- A time of joy
Isaiah 35:10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
- A time of long life
Isaiah 65:20-22 There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed. And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

IV. Release of Satan

Revelation 20:7-10 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast

into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

A. Satan's temporary release

1. Satan will be given one last chance before he is cast into the lake of fire
2. He will go out and deceive the nations gathering one last army to attack Jesus
3. There will be descendants of the survivors of the Tribulation who will be deceived and will gather with Satan in an attempt to attack Jerusalem

B. The last battle

1. Satan will gather together this army from the four corners of the earth – north, south, east and west
2. They will surround Jerusalem
3. Gog refers to the prince and Magog to the people – probably not the same reference as written in Ezekiel 38-39
4. God will destroy this army with fire

C. Satan's demise

1. Satan will be cast into the lake of fire forever
2. Notice that even after 1,000 years the antichrist and the false prophet are still there detailing the fact that their suffering is eternal – they do not burn up – they continue in torment

V. Resurrection Unto Damnation

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

A. This throne is the judgment throne – not to be confused with the judgment seat of Christ

B. All unbelievers will stand before God at this time – this is the second resurrection

Daniel 12:1-2 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

- C. The books are opened – these are the records of the lives of all of these unbelievers
 - 1. Salvation comes by accepting a pardon by trusting Jesus Christ as Savior – they have rejected this
 - 2. Their judgment will be by their works – only sinless perfection will keep them from punishment – all will be guilty
 - 3. This leads us to believe that there are probably varying degrees of punishment in the lake of fire
- Matthew 11:24** But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.
- D. The book will be opened
 - 1. This is the Lamb’s book of life
 - 2. Only believer’s names are found written in this book
- E. There will be no escape from this judgment
 - 1. All who were cast into the sea
 - 2. All who have ever lived and died without Christ
- F. The second death is an eternal death
 - 1. Death and hell were cast into the lake of fire
 - 2. Eternal punishment for all unbelievers is the lake of fire
 - 3. Death is the separation of the body and spirit
- James 2:26** For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.
- 4. The second death is the final separation of the lost from the God who created them
- G. Final thoughts
 - 1. A person is condemned because of the absence of good works, but because of the absence of their name in the book of life
 - 2. A person is condemned not because of their evil works – man sinners have accepted Christ’s pardon
 - 3. All names written in the book were written before this day – no names are added at this time

Revelation Chapter 21

I. The New Heaven and a New Earth

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

- A. The word “new” as used here refers to a new kind rather than something new in time
- B. The first heaven and earth will be purged with fire
2 Peter 3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.
2 Peter 3:10-13 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.
- C. The new heaven and earth will be without the curse and presence of sin
- D. The fact that there will be no more sea doesn't mean that there won't be water – rather it refers to the new world that will not need the massive water supplies in the oceans for the weather and atmospheric cycles – less ocean means more land masses

II. The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

- A. The new Jerusalem will come down from heaven like a chandelier city
- B. The new Jerusalem will be a heavenly city
Hebrews 12:22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,
- C. This new city is as a bride adorned in her best on her wedding day

III. The Population in the New Heaven and Earth

Revelation 21:3-4 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

A. God will dwell with man and man will dwell with God

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

B. God will be the one and only God

C. With the presence of God some things are no more

- 1.** No sadness and tears
- 2.** No sickness or pain
- 3.** No separation by death
- 4.** No sin – the old sin nature is no more

IV. The King in the New Heaven and Earth

Revelation 21:5-8 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

A. The King will make all things new

B. It is done – just as Jesus finished His work of paying the price for our sin – now God’s judgment of wickedness and sin is no more

C. This will be a satisfying home for us – we can drink freely of the water of life

D. We as overcomers will enjoy the benefits of that inheritance

E. We are the sons and daughters of God – a family relationship

F. We will have a safe home free from sin and harm

V. Those Excluded from the New Heaven and New Earth

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

A. The description of unbelievers

1. Fearful – refusing salvation for fear of losing something
2. Unbelieving – those who refuse the truth and the gospel
3. Abominable – the unclean and impure
4. Murderers
5. Whoremongers – unrestrained lust and sexual sins
6. Sorcerers – drug users
7. Idolaters – false worship
8. Liars

B. The destiny of unbelievers

1. The lake of fire
2. Burning with fire and brimstone
3. The second and final death

VI. The New Jerusalem

A. It will be a great city

Revelation 21:9-10 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

1. The new Jerusalem is the home of the bride of Christ
2. This new city will descend out of heaven like a chandelier

B. It will be a lighted city

Revelation 21:11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

C. It will be a walled city with gates

Revelation 21:12-14 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve

foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

1. The city will have a great wall
 - a) The city won't need walls or gates
 - b) The ancient cities were great because of their walls of protection – Nehemiah went back to Jerusalem and first rebuilt the walls
2. The city will have twelve gates
 - a) There will be an angel at each gate
 - b) There will be three gates in each direction
 - c) The gate of the city was where business was transacted
3. The city will have a visible foundation
 - a) There will be twelve layers of foundation
 - b) The names of the apostles will be in the foundation
 - c) Jesus Christ is the foundation and the apostles were witness of what Christ did on the cross

Ephesians 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

D. It will be a large city

Revelation 21:15-17 And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.

1. The city will be 1500 miles wide
2. The city will be 1500 miles in length
3. The city will be 1500 miles high
4. The wall will be 216 feet in width

E. It will be a city like no other

1. The details of this city

a) Jasper walls

Revelation 21:18 And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.

b) Foundations

Revelation 21:19-20 And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.

- (1) Jasper – green
- (2) Sapphire – blue
- (3) Chalcedony – clear white
- (4) Emerald – green
- (5) Sardonyx – reddish brown
- (6) Sardius – ruby red
- (7) Chrysolyte – gold
- (8) Beryl – sea green
- (9) Topaz – golden orange
- (10) Chrysoprasus – apple green
- (11) Jacinth - violet
- (12) Amethyst – purple

c) Gates of pearl

Revelation 21:21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

d) Street of transparent gold – the main street

Revelation 21:21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

2. Things missing from this city

a) No temple

Revelation 21:22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

b) No need for the sun or moon

Revelation 21:23-24 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

c) No secrets

Revelation 21:25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

d) No sinners

Revelation 21:26-27 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation Chapter 22

I. The Last Things John Saw

Revelation 22:1-5 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

A. The river of life

1. The emphasis in Heaven is eternal life as opposed to death
2. The source of this river is the throne of God

B. The tree of life

1. It would seem that the street is a divided street with the river of life flowing in the center surrounded by trees on either side
2. The tree will bare 12 different fruits – either a different fruit each month or 12 different varieties of trees bearing every month
3. The leaves of the tree will be healing – preventative medicine

Ezekiel 47:12 And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.

C. The curse lifted

Genesis 3:17-19 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

D. Christ's servants

1. We will see His face

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

2. His name will be on our foreheads – maybe inscribed on a crown

Revelation 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

3. Given light by the Lord God

a) There is no need for the sun

b) There is no need for artificial light

4. Reigning with Christ forever

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

II. The Last Things John Heard

Revelation 22:6-16 And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book. And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God. And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do

his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

- A. These sayings are faithful and true – the Word of God is accurate
- B. Behold, I come quickly – be ready for the rapture
 - Titus 2:13** Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;
 - John 14:3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.
- C. Blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book
 - 1. We are to receive these words as divine instruction
 - 2. We are to obey God's Words
- D. Worship God
 - 1. John falls down to worship at the feet of the angel
 - 2. The angel reminds him that only God can receive true worship
- E. Seal not the saying of the prophecy of this book
 - 1. These words must be read by others and shared
 - 2. The time for these future events is at hand – not too far away
- F. The time is at hand
 - 1. The time of the Lord will come without warning
 - 2. At the final judgment, those who are unjust and wicked will still be punished and those who have been saved will not lose their salvation
- G. My reward is with me
 - 1. Every man will be rewarded for his works
 - 2. Righteous works will be rewarded just as wicked works will be rewarded with punishment
 - Matthew 16:27** For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.
- H. I am the Alpha and Omega
 - 1. Christ is the beginning and the ending
 - 2. We can trust Him for our present salvation and our eternal salvation
- I. Blessed are they that do His commandments
 - 1. Obedience gives access to the tree of life

- 2. Salvation gives access to the gates of the heavenly city
- 3. Disobedience denies access to the city
 - a) Dogs – the unclean
 - b) Sorcerers – drug users
 - c) Whoremongers – male prostitutes
 - d) Murderers
 - e) Idolaters
 - f) Liars
- J. I, Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you
 - 1. These very words came from Jesus
 - 2. These words were written to the churches
- K. I am the root and offspring of David and the bright and morning star

III. The Final Words of Scripture

Revelation 22:17-21 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

A. Last Welcome

- 1. Come to Christ
- 2. He that is thirsty – come to Christ and drink of the water of life freely

B. Last Warning

- 1. Do not add to the words of this prophecy
- 2. Do not take away from the words of this prophecy

C. Last Word

- 1. I come quickly
- 2. John agrees, even so, come, Lord Jesus

Authors used as resources: Woodrow Kroll, Warren Wiersbe, David Jeremiah, Henry Morris, Jim Combs, John Phillips