Revelation

Chapter One

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:

The Revelation of Jesus Christ: This book is the revealing of Jesus Christ, not the concealing of Jesus Christ. It is written so Israel can recognize their Messiah when he returns.

 This title is also mentioned in 1st Peter 1:13, and it refers to the time when Jesus returns to earth at the end of the tribulation period, when every eye shall see him.

*1st Peter 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*

To shew unto his servants: John is identified as one of his servants, so the servants mentioned here must also be servants like John.

 The servants are the Jewish believers during the times spoken about in this book, that both hear and keep the things written in it. Leviticus 25:55, Isaiah 65:9, and Revelation 7:3-4 are places where Israel alone is identified as God’s servants.

Things which must shortly come to pass: Most of the events in the book of the Revelation will happen during the seven-year tribulation period. Revelation 22:6.

He sent and signified it by his angel: This same angel is mentioned in Revelation 22:16 which uses the word “show” instead of “signified” to let you know the angel wanted the prophecy to be shown to God’s servants.

 God gave the revelation of Jesus Christ to his Son, to give it to his servant John, to shew unto his servants Israel, the things which must shortly come to pass.

 To help his servants to endure the 70th week of Daniel that has been determined upon them by God, so that they may enter into the kingdom. Daniel 9:24-27.

2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

The word of God: John bare record of the word of God in that it was sent to him by God’s angel. 1 John 1:1.

The testimony of Jesus Christ: This refers to the spirit of prophecy mentioned in Revelation 19:10.

All things that he saw: The things of the future that he saw when he was caught up in the spirit on the Lord’s day.

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.

Blessed is he that readeth: Blessed is used seven times in this book. Revelation 14:13, 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, 22:7 & 22:14.

 The person who does all three things in this verse will be blessed by being allowed access into the kingdom. You, in the body of Christ today, cannot do these things as you are not Israel in the time of Jacob’s trouble.

And they that hear the words of this prophecy: Some in the tribulation period may not have access to a copy of the word of this prophecy, but they get to hear it, and they keep what they have heard, they will be blessed with eternal life in the kingdom.

And keep those things which are written therein: This is speaking to those who are the believing remnant during the tribulation period, not to you and I today.

For the time is at hand: The time of Jacob's trouble (Israel's) mentioned in Jeremiah 30:7, Matthew 3:2, 4:17, 10:7, James 5:8 & 1st Peter 4:7.

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;

To the seven churches which are in Asia: John is speaking to seven actual churches, and that will exist in the tribulation period in what was previously known as Asia Minor, or modern-day Turkey.

 They are not symbolic churches that represent seven church ages. There is not one verse of scriptural evidence to support such a teaching. The Bible teaches the imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ, he can return at any moment.

 You cannot have the doctrine of Jesus’ imminent return, and also claim that Jesus has to wait to return until all seven church ages run their course.

 This “theory” was strongly, and wrongly promoted by Clarence Larkin, an early dispensationalist, who did a lot of good with his dispensational charts, but some of them have some errors in them.

 Things at the beginning of the tribulation period will be just like they were in the first century when Jewish believers were persecuted and had to flee from their homeland to neighboring countries. Acts 8:1.

Grace be unto you, and peace: This is different from what Paul says in his epistles.

 Paul always says that grace and peace are from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, but John says that this grace and peace comes from Jesus three different times, and from the seven spirits which are before his throne.

From him which is: This is present tense in John’s day, when Jesus gave these revelations to John. Jesus was alive, and seated at the right hand of the Father till his enemies be made his footstool. Psalm 110:1.

Which was: This is past tense in that this speaks about Jesus’ earthly ministry to the nation of Israel.

And which is to come: This is future tense speaking about Jesus’ return to set up his kingdom. Revelation 2:5, 16, 3:11, 22:7 & 12-20. Contrast this verse with the beast in Revelation 17:8. He is the Antichrist impersonating Christ in many ways.

From the seven Spirits which are before his throne: These are the seven lamps of fire burning before the throne.

*Revelation 4:5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.*

 These are also the seven eyes of the Lord, which are sent forth into all the earth mention in Zechariah 3:9, 4:10 & Revelation 5:6.

5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

The faithful witness: Jesus Christ was faithful in that he spoke only those things which he had heard from his Father. John 8:14, 29, Deuteronomy 7:9, Isaiah 49:7, Jeremiah 42:5 and Revelation 3:14.

The first begotten of the dead: Jesus was the first to die, and rise again from the dead, never to see death again. Colossians 1:18.

*Psalm 2:7 Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.* This happened at his resurrection.

The prince of the kings of the earth: There is coming a day when he shall be King of kings, and Lord of Lords. Revelation 17:1 4 & 19:16.

Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood: Jesus came to die and to shed his blood for the forgiveness of sins. 1st John 1:7, Hebrews 9:12, 13:12 & Revelation 7:14.

6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

And hath made us kings and priests: The “us” that is spoken of that are to be made kings and priests are the servants mentioned in the first verse of this letter.

 They are the Jewish believers enduring the time of Jacob’s trouble. Not believers in this present dispensation of grace. You are not a priest in the dispensation of grace.

*Exodus 19:6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.*

 In 1st Peter 2:5-9 Peter is writing to Jewish saints scattered throughout Pontus, Cappadocia, Asia, etc.., not to us. Acts 2:9 mentions that these same Jews were at Pentecost. 1st Peter 1:1.

*1st 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. 6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. 9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

*1st Peter 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,*

To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever: Jesus will have glory and dominion forever and he will reign on the earth with his servants (believing Israel) for a thousand years, while the church will be in heavenly places. Daniel 7:14, & 1st Peter 5:11.

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

He cometh with clouds: This speaks of Jesus’ revealing to the world at his return when he comes in judgment. Daniel 7:13, Zechariah 12:10, and in Acts 1:9-11 where two men prophesy it as well in white apparel.

And every eye shall see him: This occurs at the end of the time of Jacob’s trouble. Revelation 19:11-21.

 This is not the rapture of the church which happened seven years earlier. The rapture is us going to meet Jesus in the clouds, and the only ones who will see him, will be those in the clouds.

And they also which pierced him: This is a reference to Israel. Psalm 22:16 & Zechariah 12:10.

All kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him: Jesus will be coming as their judge, but notice that even though it is a dreadful time, John says, Even so, Amen.

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

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending: Jesus is stating that he is the first, and the last, and that he is the Almighty.

 Jesus is both fully man, and fully God, the Godman. Isaiah 44:6, 48:12, Revelation 1:17, 2:8 & 22:13.

Which is, and which was, and which is to come: Jesus Christ has always been the Almighty.

 He was God at the time this was written by John, he was God while he walked this earth, and before his incarnation, and he will be God when he returns. He has never ceased being God.

The Almighty: Another title for God. Genesis 17:1 & Revelation 21:22.

9 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 John, who also am your brother: He was their Jewish brother, and a fellow believer in Jesus.

And companion in tribulation: John identified himself as a companion to the Jewish remnant that will be going through the tribulation period, where the gospel of the kingdom will once again be preached. Matthew 24:14.

 Some believe he will prophesy again in the tribulation period the things mentioned by the seven thunders that he was told to seal up until that time. Daniel 9:24, 12:4 & Revelation 10:4.

The kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ: Luke 8:15, 21:19, Hebrews 6:13, 10:36, 12:1, James 1:3-4, 5:7-11, Revelation 2:2, 3, 19, 3:10, 13:10 & 14:12.

 The patience of Jesus Christ is speaking about believers enduring unto the end of the tribulation period to enter their kingdom.

Was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God: Nowhere does it say John was imprisoned on the Island for his faith, he went there to receive the word of God.

For the testimony of Jesus Christ: Revelation 1:2 above. The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

*Revelation 19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*

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

I was in the Spirit: John was receiving supernatural revelations by the power of the holy Spirit of God. Ezekiel 37:1, Revelation 4:2, 17:3 & 21:10.

 John had to be caught up to heaven in the Spirit because his sinful body could not stand in the presence of God without being destroyed. The word Spirit is capitalized, thus denoting that it was by the holy Spirit that he was seeing this vision.

On the Lord’s day: This is the only time in the Bible the Lord's day is ever mentioned, and it is a reference to the time period known as “the day of the Lord” used twenty-seven times in the old testament. Isaiah 2:12.

 This day is both a literal twenty-four-hour day at the end of the tribulation period, and the time period of seven years when God is judging the earth.

 John sees things that will happen thousands of years ahead of his time, and retells what has already seen. At other times he tells what will happen, as though it was a live event happening right before his eyes.

A great voice, as of a trumpet: Exodus 19:16, 19, Hebrews 12:19 & Revelation 4:1.

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

I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: Alpha is the first letter in the Greek alphabet, and Omega is the last one.

What thou seest, write in a book: John saw the events of chapters four through twenty-two unfold before him in a vision, and he wrote what he saw, which makes up most of the book of the Revelation.

 The Greek word for book is “biblion” which means literally, a scroll. It is where we get the word “Bible” from.

 He did not see what was written in Revelation chapters two and three happen, he was just told to write to the angels of these seven different churches in Asia telling them that God had seen what they were doing.

Send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia: Why are these churches in Asia (modern-day Turkey)? Believers will once again be scattered there from Israel just as they were in John’s day.

 These will be new churches as all true believers will have gone up in the rapture. They will be started by Jews that believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God at the beginning of the tribulation period. They will be Jewish kingdom churches.

 The doctrine in chapters two and three agree with Israel’s kingdom church, not with the doctrine of the churches that were started by Paul, the apostle of the Gentiles. Romans 11:13.

 These letters are cyclical letters, which are to be read, and obeyed by all the other churches during the tribulation period.

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

The voice that spake with me: The great voice from v:10.

Seven golden candlesticks: These are the seven churches first mentioned in verse eleven. The candlesticks were not speaking, Christ was speaking in their midst. Revelation 1:20 below.

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.

One like unto the Son of man: John saw him as a Lamb during his earthly ministry, and now he was seeing him in his heavenly role.

 The Son of man is a title meaning a son of Adam, but this verse says John saw one “like unto” the Son of man. Jesus was a descendant of Adam, and the Son of God. Daniel 7:13.

Clothed with a garment down to the foot: Which was white as snow according to Daniel 7:9.

Girt about the paps with a golden girdle: The breast area. Luke 11:27.

14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow: This is also used to describe the Ancient of days:

*Daniel 7:9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.*

 The thrones being cast down are the fallen angels being cast down to the earth at the mid-point of the tribulation period. Luke 10:17-19.

His eyes were as a flame of fire: Revelation 2:18 & 19:12. The Son of God appeared as the Angel of the LORD in a flame of fire. Exodus 3:2, Acts 7:30 & Hebrews 1:7.

15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

His feet like unto fine brass: Brass is symbolic of judgment. Revelation 2:18.

His voice as the sound of many waters: Psalm 29:3, Ezekiel 43:2, Revelation 14:2 & 19:6.

16 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.

In his right hand: The hand that a person bestows honour with. Genesis 48:13-18.

Seven stars: They are the angels (messengers) over the seven churches. Revelation 1:20.

A sharp two-edged sword: The word of God. Hebrews 4:12.

His countenance was as the sun shineth: This can be seen in the story on the mount of transfiguration in Luke 9:29.

17 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:

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead: Matthew 28: 4 & John 18:5-6.

I am the first and the last: John is then comforted by Christ as he tells him not to fear, because the one he ministered with for three and a half years is the first and the last, a title reserved only for God himself. Isaiah 44:6.

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.

I am he that liveth: Present tense.

And was dead: Jesus was dead physically three days, beginning at his crucifixion, but he was alive in the heart of the earth (paradise). Mark 15:37-47 & Luke 23:43.

And, behold, I am alive for evermore: Which began at his resurrection. Mark 16:1-9 & Revelation 2:8.

The keys of hell and of death: Both death and hell will be cast into the lake of fire at the last day. Hell is the abode of the dead.

 David’s soul went to hell (the abode of the dead), but he was in the Paradise side, also known as Abraham’s bosom, not in the torment side, while he was awaiting the resurrection: Revelation 20:13-14.

*Psalm 16:10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.*

 There is a key to this pit mentioned in Revelation 9:1, & 20:1, which is in the heart of the earth as well.

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

The things which thou hast seen: These are the events happening during the seven-year tribulation period. Revelation 4:4.

 John writes absolutely nothing about anything prior to his vision because they are recorded already in his other epistles, so this comment refers to events that he has seen already in his vision during the seven years.

The things which are: The things that are occurring on the day of the Lord when he returns. The last day of the last days. A.K.A The day of the Lord.

The things which shall be hereafter: The things that shall be happening during the millennial kingdom and beyond. Revelation 4:1.

 That means that John was taken to a point in time in the future, and then he is allowed to see things that had already happened, and things that were happening on that day, and things that would happen after that day.

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.

The seven stars: The angels of the seven churches. The angels are the messengers of these churches.

In my right hand: This is a position of honour for faithful service. The seven sealed book is mentioned as being in God’s right hand in Revelation 5:1 & 7.

The seven golden candlesticks: These are the seven churches in verse 20. Again, the seven churches do not represent seven church ages, they are literal churches.

Chapter Two

The Seven Churches

 These seven letters are written to the angels of the seven churches. The term Angel in the Bible means a messenger.

 During the time of Jacob’s trouble (the tribulation period) angels will once again begin to deliver messages to believing Jews to help them in their time of great need, this is not happening today in the dispensation of grace.

1 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;

The angel of the church of Ephesus: John writes to the Angel/messenger of this future church in Ephesus. Ephesus is the closest city to the Island of Patmos of all seven of these churches.

 This is not the same group that Paul writes to in Ephesians much later. John writes to future kingdom saints, while Paul writes to the body of Christ. The word Angel is transliterated from the Greek word Aggelos, a messenger.

 It is not written to the Pastor of the church, as this angel is also identified as the first angel in Revelation 8:7 that sounds his trumpet, and that later pours out a golden vial of the wrath of God in Revelation 15:6-8.

 The Greek never supports the word Angel being translated as a Pastor.

He that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand: Jesus Christ holds these seven angels in his right hand. This is a position of honour and blessing. Genesis 48:13-18.

 Jesus Christ is the right hand of God, and he holds these messengers to these tribulation churches in his right hand. Revelation 1:20.

Who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks: Jesus literally walks in the midst of the seven candlesticks in heaven, which represent seven literal churches in Asia. Revelation 1:20.

 He says this to let the recipients of this letter know that he will be there for them in this terrible time.

2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

Thy works: The deeds they are doing.

Thy labour: Their labour has to do with their struggles that they are enduring.

Thy patience: This has to do with their patiently enduring unto the end. Matthew 24:13, Revelation 1:9, 2:19, 3:10, 13:10 & 14:12.

Thou canst not bear them which are evil: They don’t put up with false teachers that come their way.

Thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not: An apostle means a sent one.

 They will be able to test who is a true apostle in that day, by seeing if they can do what Jesus sent his apostles to do 2,000 years ago. If they will not confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, then they are not apostles.

 A real apostle in those days will go and preach the gospel of the kingdom in all the world. They will heal all manner of sickness, and disease among the people, just as Jesus sent the apostles to do: Matthew 24:14 & 28:19-20.

*Matthew 4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.*

3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

Hast borne: Carried. Matthew 20:12 & John 20:15.

Hast patience: Revelation 1:9, 3:10, 13:10 & 14:12.

Hast laboured: The struggles they have endured.

Hast not fainted: They were enduring unto the end.

4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

 This is synonymous with the first commandment. Deuteronomy 6:5 & Mark 12:30.

*Mark 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.*

5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works: This implies that their repentance should be quick as well.

I will come unto thee quickly: This is said only six times in scripture, and each time it is to the seven churches in the book of the Revelation. 2:16, 3:11, 22:7, 12 & 20.

And will remove thy candlestick from out of his place: The candlestick represents the church of Ephesus that will be removed out of his place, in the midst of the throne of God, if it doesn’t repent and do the first work.

 God is saying to these tribulation churches, “You are in my midst at the present time, but I will remove you out of your place in my midst if you don't repent of leaving me.” If that happens, they will not enter into their kingdom.

6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate.

The deeds of the Nicolaitanes: This is the elevation of the clergy over the laity. The word “nico” means to rule, while the word “laitane” means the laity.

7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches: This statement is made to each of the seven churches.

 Jesus also said it about John the Baptist in Matthew 11:15, and twice in the parable of the sower in Matthew 13.

 It is also used of Jesus about what defiles a man in Mark 7:16, and in Luke 14:33-35 concerning people forsaking all to be his disciples.

To him that overcometh: This phrase is only used of the apostle John in the scripture. The overcomers are the ones which endure unto the end of the tribulation. Matthew 24:13.

 An overcomer is someone who believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God in those days. 1st John 5:4-5:

*1 John 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. 4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?*

*Revelation 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*

The tree of life: This tree gives the overcomers eternal life in the kingdom when they partake of it.

 Those who believe during the tribulation period will not be sealed by the holy Spirit as we are today in the dispensation of grace, so, they will need to partake of this tree. 1st Corinthians 12:13.

Which is in the midst of the paradise of God: In Luke 23:43 Jesus tells a thief on the cross that he will join him in paradise on that same day, which was in the heart of the earth, a.k.a. Abraham’s bosom.

 Later, Paul speaks about John’s being caught up into paradise in 2nd Corinthians 12:4. Which places paradise in heaven sometime after the resurrection. Ephesians 4:8-10.

The Church in Smyrna

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

The angel of the church in Smyrna: This letter is not written to the pastor of the church. This angel is also called the second angel in Revelation 8:8 that sounds his trumpet, and that later pours out a golden vial of the wrath of God in Revelation 15:6-8.

The first and the last: This is a title for God used in Isaiah 44:6, 48:12, Revelation 1:8, 17 & 22:13.

Which was dead, and is alive: This is a description of the man Christ Jesus, who died in front of John on the cross, and is alive today because he rose from the dead.

 This verse connects the first, and the last, with the one who was dead, but now is alive. They are the same. Jesus is God in the flesh.

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

Thy works: The deeds they are doing.

Tribulation: The word comes from the same Greek root word for trouble. The time of Jacob’s “trouble” is called the great “tribulation.” Jeremiah 30:7 and Revelation 2:22 & 7:14.

Poverty: They were poor in man’s eyes, but rich in God’s.

The blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not: Who is a Jew in God’s eyes? A Jew is first a descendant of Abraham, and then they must also be circumcised in their heart. That means that only believing Israel are real Jews in the tribulation period.

 The unbelieving "Jews" who are physical descendants of Abraham, but not spiritual descendants during the tribulation period, are the ones committing this blasphemy.

The synagogue of Satan: These “Jews” go to worship at a synagogue, which God calls the synagogue of Satan, because those that are in it reject Jesus Christ whom Moses spoke of.

 They can be a descendant of Abraham, and still not be a Jew in God’s eyes, if they do not believe in God the Father, and his Son.

*1st John 5:11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

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.

That ye may be tried: The tribulation period is referred to as a fiery furnace used to refine his servants. Daniel 3:1-30.

*Isaiah 48:10 Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.*

*Revelation 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.*

Ye shall have tribulation ten days: They will have ten days to change their mind and take the mark of the beast or else they will be beheaded for their faith as enemies of the one world government. Daniel 1:12-14.

Be thou faithful unto death: Endure unto the end. Matthew 24:13.

A crown of life: Eternal life in the kingdom.

*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.*

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

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches: This statement is made to each of the seven churches.

 Jesus also said it about John the Baptist in Matthew 11:15, and twice in the parable of the sower in Matthew 13. It is also used of Jesus about what defiles a man in Mark 7:16, and in Luke 14:33-35 concerning people forsaking all to be his disciples.

He that overcometh: This phrase is used in each of the seven letters to the seven churches in Asia. An overcomer is defined for us in 1st John 5:4-5 as someone who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

*Revelation 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*

The second death: Revelation 20:6 & 21:8.

*Revelation 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

The Church in Pergamos

12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; 13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

The angel of the church in Pergamos: This angel is identified as the third angel in Revelation 8:10 that sounds his trumpet, that later pours out a golden vial of the wrath of God in Revelation 15:6-8.

The sharp sword with two edges: This is the word of God.

Thy works: The deeds they are doing.

Antipas was my faithful martyr: Antipas is a future martyr in the tribulation period. Antipas was actually a popular name in those days. Agrippa’s uncle was Herod, whose full name was Herod Antipas.

Satan’s seat: This seat is where Satan will dwell during the last three and a half years of the tribulation period.

 Satan himself will have his seat of authority in actual Pergamos, but his eyes are on the prize of Jerusalem where the Antichrist will be.

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

The doctrine of Balaam: Doctrine has to do with teaching.

 Just as Balaam taught Balak to cast a stumbling block before Israel, so will some in Pergamos be doing to these tribulation saints. Numbers 22-2 4 & 31:16.

To eat things sacrificed unto idols: While everything is to be accepted today in the dispensation of grace if it is received by thanksgiving, it was not so in Israel’s program in the past, nor will it be okay in the tribulation period. 1st Timothy 4:3 and 4.

To commit fornication: The word fornication comes from the Greek word Porneo. This could be referring to spiritual adultery. Idol worship.

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

The doctrine of the Nicolaitanes: This is a separation in the classes of believers. They have religious leaders who hold the laity in bondage, dependent upon them for their distorted versions of salvation.

16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

Thee: The “thee” is the church as a whole. God spares the wheat (believers in Pergamos).

Them: The them are the ones that Christ will actually fight against with the sword of his mouth, who he burns up the chaff (the unbelievers) with unquenchable fire.

The sword of my mouth: The word of God, which is a twoedged sword. Revelation 1:16, 19:15 and 19:21.

17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches: This statement is made to each of the seven churches. Jesus also said it about John the Baptist in Matthew 11:15, and twice in the parable of the sower in Matthew 13.

 It is also used of Jesus about what defiles a man in Mark 7:16, and in Luke 14:33-35 concerning people forsaking all to be his disciples.

To him that overcometh: An overcomer is described in 1st John 5:4-5, as someone who believes that Jesus is the Son of God in those last days.

*Revelation 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*

The hidden manna: This is Christ himself, who for the time being is in exile in heaven, hidden from view.

 He will supernaturally provide bread in the wilderness for three and a half years during the latter half of the tribulation period to the remnant. He is the manna that came down from heaven. John 6:35.

A white stone: This is Jesus as well, for he was the stone that was rejected and set at naught by the builders and is become the chief of the corner.

A new name: A new name of God is written in the stone, and not on the stone. Isaiah 62:2 & Revelation 3:12.

The Church in Thyatira

18 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;

The angel of the church in Thyatira: This is not the Pastor of the church.

 This is the fourth angel mentioned in Revelation 8:12 that blows the fourth trumpet, and he is also one of the seven angels that pour out the wrath of God in Revelation 15:6-8. Pastors do not have these abilities.

His eyes like unto a flame of fire: Exodus 3:2, Acts 7:30, Hebrews 1:7, Revelation 1:1 4 & 19:12.

His feet are like fine brass: Revelation 1:15.

19 I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.

Thy works: The deeds they are doing.

Charity: This is from the root word Agape in the Greek. A deep abiding love. Translated as love numerous times. John 21:15-17.

Service: Their ministry. It is from the same word that we get the word Deacon from. 1st Timothy 3:10 & 13.

Faith: What they believe.

Thy patience: Revelation 1:9, 2:2-3, 3:10, 13:10 & 14:12.

Thy works; and the last to be more than the first. The new works that they were doing later on were more than the works that they were doing in the beginning.

20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

That woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess: Notice that she does the same thing as Balaam did in Pergamos, in causing Israel to sin. She also is a self-proclaimed prophetess.

To teach and seduce my servants: Whoever Jezebel is, the church there should not allow her to teach God’s servants. What she is teaching is seducing them away from what is required of them in that day and time.

 At that time, the middle wall of partition will be back up between Israel and the Gentiles, and Israel will not be allowed to eat things sacrificed unto idols. Ephesians 2:14.

 They will not be under the dispensation of grace then, but under the law of Moses.

My servants: These are the believing Jews identified in Revelation 1:1.

To commit fornication: The word fornication comes from the Greek word Porneuo.

To eat things sacrificed unto idols: Everything is to be accepted today in the dispensation of grace if it is received by thanksgiving, that was not so in Israel’s program, nor will it be okay in the tribulation period. 1st Timothy 4:3-4.

21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. 22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

I gave her space to repent of her fornication: God will send 144,000 missionaries out into the world to warn this false church, and its inhabitants, of the spiritual adultery she is committing against God, but she will not repent.

I will cast her into a bed: Those that remain inside this after they are warned for a space of time to repent and do not, they will go into the great tribulation period which happens in the second half of the tribulation period. Ezekiel 32:25.

Them that commit adultery with her: This is not speaking of a literal woman in bed with a bunch of men, but a religious system, like Baal worship disguised in a global church, that entices his servants to commit spiritual adultery.

Great tribulation: Those that come out of this harlot church will be protected in the wilderness for three-and-one-half years.

 God will send the lost strong delusion and they will believe a lie, but those that have heard the truth will need to purge these false believers out of their tribulation churches. Matthew 24:21 & 7:14.

23 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.

I will kill her children with death: They are the little harlots spoken of in Revelation eighteen called: Mystery, Babylon the great, the mother of harlots, that have broken from the mother church.

 They infiltrate this church as Jezebel did, but God here warns them to watch out for this during their short seven-year existence. Revelation 6:8.

I will give unto every one of you according to your works: Rewards and punishments are meted out based on a person’s work, of what sort it is. This is not dealing with salvation, but rewards.

24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. 25 But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.

The depths of Satan: Those who have been deceived by Satan’s prophetess (Jezebel), have sunk as low as is humanly possible.

 Those who have not taken Satan’s mark yet are encouraged to hold fast until Christ comes back at the end of the seven-year tribulation period.

Hold fast till I come: Endure unto the end. Matthew 24:13, Hebrews 3:6, 4:14, 10:23, Revelation 3:3 & 11.

26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

He that overcometh: This phrase is used in each of the seven letters to the seven churches in Asia. An overcomer is defined for us in 1st John 5:4-5 as someone who believes that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

*Revelation 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*

And keepeth my works unto the end: This is the key issue concerning works in the tribulation period, they need to be his works, not just being busy in a religious exercise that makes you feel good in the flesh.

 They need to work the works of Christ, not religion.

To him will I give power over the nations: Those believers in the tribulation period who keep Christ’s works unto the end of that time will rule the nations with Christ, with a rod of iron.

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.

He shall rule them with a rod of iron: The “them” are the Gentile nations that will be ruled over by the believing children of Israel during the kingdom.

 The man child in Revelation 12:5 is said to rule with a rod of iron in the kingdom as well.

28 And I will give him the morning star.

The morning star: This is Jesus Christ, who is the Sun of Righteousness. Those who keep his works unto the end of the tribulation period get to rule with Jesus with a rod of iron. Numbers 24:17, 2nd Peter 1:19 & Revelation 22:16.

29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

 This statement is made to each of the seven churches. Jesus also said it about John the Baptist in Matthew 11:15, and twice in the parable of the sower in Matthew 13.

 It is also used of Jesus about what defiles a man in Mark 7:16, and in Luke 14:33-35 concerning people forsaking all to be his disciples.

Chapter Three

The Church in Sardis

 1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

The angel of the church in Sardis: This angel is identified as the fifth angel in Revelation 9:1, that sounds his trumpet, and who later pours out a golden vial of the wrath of God in Revelation 15:6-8.

The seven Spirits of God: The seven lamps which stand in the presence of God. Revelation 4:5 & Isaiah 11:1-2.

The seven stars: These are the seven angels (messengers) of the seven churches of Asia. A church that is alive according to the world, is dead to God. Revelation 1:20.

Thy works: The deeds they are doing. These works are religious works, but they only satisfy their flesh, God is not accepting their works, but the world loves them.

Thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead: Alive according to the world, but dead to God.

2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: They are to be looking for his return. They will need to strengthen the works they were doing instead of stopping them because of the fear of persecution.

I have not found thy works perfect before God: They need to work the works that Christ worked while he ministered to Israel.

 Sell all that they have, visit the sick, the widow, the orphans, feed the poor. The word “perfect” here means complete.

3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

How thou hast received and heard: They received this letter by God sending his angel to deliver it to them (his servants). Revelation 1:1.

Hold fast: Which means to endure unto the end. Hebrews 3:6, 4:14, 10:23, Revelation 2:25 & 3:11.

Repent: To change one’s mind about something, which causes a change of action.

If therefore thou shalt not watch: They were not to forget what they had learned before, and they were to go back to what it was that they had learned and were doing.

I will come on thee as a thief: This passage, and the ones surrounding Matthew 24:43 are referring to a rapture to judgment that occurs at the end of the tribulation period.

Thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee: If they are watching these events, they can know the year, month, and the week, but no one will know the day, nor the hour of his return, not the rapture. Matthew 24:36-44.

4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments: Their garments (spiritually speaking) are defiled by taking the mark of the beast.

They shall walk with me in white: This is speaking about the remnant (a few names) of end time saints as being undefiled. Daniel 12:10, Revelation 6:11, & 7:9.

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.

He that overcometh: This phrase is used in each of the seven letters to the seven churches in Asia. An overcomer is defined for us in 1st John 5:4-5 as someone who believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God.

*Revelation 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*

Clothed in white raiment: White is symbolic of God’s righteousness. Daniel 12:10 & Revelation 3:18.

I will not blot out his name out of the book of life: Believers in the tribulation period are not sealed by the holy Spirit and must be overcomers, or else their names will be blotted out of the book of life.

 Their names are placed there when they believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, but it can be blotted out because they are not under grace as we are today.

 Today, in the body of Christ, we are sealed unto the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:30.

 The holy Spirit did not take up permanent residence in the believer during the old testament time period, neither will He during the tribulation period. The tribulation saint will have to overcome the temptation to take the mark.

 During the last three and one-half years, sin will abound, but grace will much more abound, and God will return signs and wonders to God's spokesmen during that age.

 No one in the dispensation of grace today has to worry about having their name blotted out of the book of life, because this refers to those in the tribulation period.

I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels: *Luke 12:8.*

6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

 This statement is made to each of the seven churches. Jesus also said it about John the Baptist in Matthew 11:15, and twice in the parable of the sower in Matthew 13.

 It is also used of Jesus about what defiles a man in Mark 7:16, and in Luke 14:33-35 concerning people forsaking all to be his disciples.

The Church in Philadelphia

7 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;

The angel of the church in Philadelphia: This angel is also identified as the third angel in Revelation 9:13-14, that sounds his trumpet, and that later pours out a golden vial of the wrath of God in Revelation 15:6-8.

The key of David: This is a reference to opening the door of salvation by believing the gospel of the kingdom. Matthew 24:14.

*Isaiah 22:22 And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.*

8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

I know thy works: The deeds that they do.

An open door: Here Christ is contrasted with the key of David, and an open door.

 This door would remain open because of their faithfulness in not taking the mark of the beast, even under the threat of death. Jesus said that he was the door that Israel must enter through to be saved in John 10:9.

9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

The synagogue of Satan: God says that those who steal the promises that belong to Israel and apply them to themselves, that he will make them “of” the synagogue of Satan.

 Those that will be a part of the synagogue of Satan will come and worship (Christ) before the feet of those that did not bow to Satan’s temptation by taking his mark.

 They will worship next to the real Jews who are circumcised in their hearts because they believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Revelation 2:9.

I will make them to come and worship before thy feet: They will worship God before their feet, not at their feet.

10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

The word of my patience: Revelation 1:9, 2:2-3, 13:10 & 14:12.

I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation: This speaks of God’s protection of these tribulation saints in the wilderness, and it should not be confused with the pre-tribulational rapture of the church.

 The church is the body of Christ, and it will not go through the tribulation period, but there will be churches formed during the tribulation period by the 144,000.

 After the midpoint of the tribulation period the world will have to receive the mark of the beast to pledge their loyalty to the one world system, and this will be done during the ten days mentioned in Revelation 2:10.

11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Hold fast that which thou hast: Endure unto the end. Hebrews 3:6, 4:14, 10:23, Revelation 2:25 & 3:11.

That no man take thy crown: Those who hold fast in the tribulation period, will receive a crown of life. Revelation 1:10. This crown can be taken away from someone during that time if they give in to the temptation to take the mark of the beast.

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.

Him that overcometh: An overcomer is someone who believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God in those last days. 1st John 5:4-5.

*Revelation 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*

A pillar in the temple of my God: An important worker in the temple during the millennial kingdom.

The name of my God: Revelation 14:1.

The name of the city of my God: Which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven. Verse 12 & Revelation 21:2.

My new name: The word of God. Revelation 2:17 & 19:13.

13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

He that hath an ear: This statement is made to the seven churches, and about John the Baptist in Matthew 11:15, and twice in the parable of the sower. Matthew 13.

 It is also used of Jesus about what defiles a man in Mark 7:16, and in Luke 14:33-35 concerning people forsaking all to be his disciples. Everyone has an ear, but all do not listen, or understand spiritual things.

The Church of the Laodiceans

14 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; 15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. 16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

The angel of the church of the Laodiceans: This angel is identified as the seventh angel in Revelation 10:7 & 11:17 that sounds his trumpet, and that later pours out a golden vial of the wrath of God in Revelation 16:17. Pastors cannot do these things.

The Amen: Jesus, as God is the Amen. Amen means the Word of God. Jesus is God.

The faithful and true witness: Jesus as a man was the faithful and true witness unto the end. Revelation 19:11 & 22:16.

The beginning of the creation of God: Jesus Christ created all things, which makes him God. Mark 10:6 & 13:19.

I know thy works: The deeds they are doing.

I will spue thee out of my mouth: God will spew the lukewarm church out of his mouth in those days. During the tribulation period churches must be like their Saviour, who was a faithful and true witness, or else they will be rejected.

17 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:

 There will be churches that just keep right on going after the rapture because most of their membership was not saved to start with. New believers will join them, and they will be faced with a dilemma to leave it, or to stay and compromise.

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

Buy of me gold tried in the fire: This speaks of the persecution and adversity found in the tribulation period. Zechariah 13:6-9 & 1st Peter 1:1-7.

*Zechariah 13:7 Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones. 8 And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. 9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.*

White raiment: Is received by enduring temptations in the time of Jacob’s trouble. Daniel 12:10 & Revelation 3:5.

Anoint thy eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see: Eyesalve is another word for medicine.

 Regular medicine will not give someone spiritual eyes to see the truth of God’s word. Jesus asked his disciples when they saw him do miracles why they did not believe his word.

 They had forgotten his works. Those that see many marvelous works, do not connect them to his word, and they will be blind to what is going on. Mark 8:14-21.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Rebuke: To tell someone their fault.

Chasten: To discipline.

Be zealous therefore, and repent: God loves these tribulation churches, and he warns them to be zealous in their testimony of him at that time before it is too late.

 He also shows his love by rebuking, and chastening them, just like a loving parent does a wayward child.

Repent: To change one’s mind. God repented, by changing his mind. Exodus 32:1 4 & Numbers 23:19.

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

I stand at the door: Jesus is standing outside the door of this tribulation church wanting to fellowship with its members, but because they will not collectively repent, he fellowships with the individuals in it that will.

*Isaiah 3:13 The Lord standeth up to plead, and standeth to judge the people.* Acts 7:56.

 They better take heed while the Lord is standing up and pleading for Israel, because the next time he stands it will be to judge the people of Israel. Luke 12:35-38.

 Remember what happened when Stephen’s preaching was rejected, God gave him a vision of Jesus standing at the right hand of God in Acts 7:54-60 ready to judge Israel in wrath.

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

To him that overcometh: An overcomer is someone who believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God in those last days. 1st John 5:4-5.

*Revelation 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*

My throne: The promise to sit with Christ in his throne is not given to those individuals who overcome the persecution that comes to them as they are pressured to be a lukewarm church.

 The overcomers in the tribulation period will rule and reign with Christ for a thousand years, who is the King of kings. Revelation 20:4-6.

His throne: This is throne of God the Father.

22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

 This statement is made to each of the seven churches. Jesus also said it about John the Baptist in Matthew 11:15, and twice in the parable of the sower in Matthew 13.

 It is also used of Jesus about what defiles a man in Mark 7:16, and in Luke 14:33-35 concerning people forsaking all to be his disciples.

Chapter Four

A door was opened in heaven

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 door was opened in heaven: This also happens one other time in the Revelation 19:11 when Christ returns to earth riding on a white horse.

 Two other times the scriptures say that the temple of God in heaven is open, but not heaven itself. Revelation 11:19 & 15:5.

The first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet: John heard an audible voice here (as it were of a trumpet), he did not hear an actual trumpet.

 In 1st Corinthians 15:52 Paul says that when the rapture occurs that it will be at the last trump, for the trumpet shall sound, this is an actual trumpet, not a voice, so these are not the same event. 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18.

Come up hither: The word hither means here. This is not the rapture of the body of Christ as many teach today!

 In the rapture God does not call us up to heaven to meet him there, as he does with John here. In the rapture the Lord descends from heaven first, and then he calls us up to meet him in the clouds. Similar, yet quite different.

 John is already in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, which is the day of the LORD spoken of all throughout the old testament. John talks about events that happen in Revelation 19 with the four and twenty elders.

 You cannot separate these two chapters from one another, they are talking about the same events. You must study chapter nineteen along with this chapter for a better understanding of that future day.

 This three-word phrase is only used one other time in the scriptures, and it is not used in Paul’s epistles to the body of Christ, but to Elijah and Moses in Revelation 11:12. Both times it is used for Jews under Israel’s law.

 But more importantly, the rapture is for the body of Christ, not for Israel. John was an apostle to Israel. He was not a member of the body of Christ. Israel has a date with the 70th week of Daniel.

The things which must be hereafter: This is the second reference to the threefold statement made in Revelation 1:19 that outlines the book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

 John was caught up to heaven in the spirit (spiritually) to see the things that will happen during the tribulation period while the body of Christ is safe in heaven with the Lord.

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

I was in the spirit: This is usually a reference to the Holy Spirit carrying someone to another place. Ezekiel 37:1, Revelation 1:10, 17:3 & 21:10.

Like jasper and a sardine stone: These three verses correspond with Revelation 19:4-5.

There was a rainbow round about the throne: A rainbow is formed by reflecting the light around it.

 The radiance of God’s glorious light reflects in a twelve-colored rainbow. Here in this verse, we see three of the colors that emanate from God that are like unto Jasper, Sardine, and Emerald stones.

In sight like unto an emerald: The rainbow itself looked like an emerald.

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.

Four and twenty seats: The word “seat” is the Greek word “Thronos” where we get the word thrones from.

Four and twenty elders: They are not representatives of the church, which is Christ’s body. They could be elders from each of the twelve tribes of Israel. Revelation 4:5, 10, 5:8, 14, 11:16, 19:4.

 They could possibly be two from each tribe that were a part of the 144,000 witnesses serving as representatives for their tribe, or the leaders of the twenty-four courses of priests that were set up by king David in 1st Chronicles 24.

Clothed in white raiment: Daniel 12:10 & Revelation 3:5 & 18.

*Revelation 19:7 The marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints.*

They had on their heads crowns of gold: The four and twenty elders are representatives that are from, or a part of, the Lamb’s wife, who hath made herself ready and were given fine linen, clean and white.

 The Lamb’s wife were members of the churches during the tribulation period who received crowns.

 The elders received crowns as well because they are from the same group of end time believers that make up the Lamb’s wife. They are not members of the church, which is Christ’s body.

5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Lightnings and thunderings and voices: This is one of five times these three things are mentioned together in a verse. The other times are Revelation 8:5, 11:19 & 16:18. Exodus 19:16.

Seven lamps of fire burning before the throne: They are mentioned in Revelation 1:4 without any clue as to who they are, until now, they are the seven Spirits of God.

 These are not the seven golden candlesticks in Revelation 1:12. They are also called the seven eyes in Revelation 5:6.

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.

A sea of glass like unto crystal: This sea of glass is mentioned again in Revelation 15:2-4 where those who had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stood singing the song of Moses. The sea looks like crystal.

Four beasts full of eyes before and behind: These beasts are not the Cherubim mentioned in Ezekiel 10. There are four beasts mentioned here each having only one face, while a Cherub is one beast with four faces.

 Lucifer was the most powerful of them all, but he lost his place as the anointed cherub that covered the throne when sin was found in him. Ezekiel 28:12-19.

 Cherub is singular in Hebrew, while Cherubim is plural. The suffix “im” at the end of a Hebrew word always makes it plural.

 Elohim means that the God who is one, is “im” plural. A triune being. The one rule in the biblical Hebrew language is that Hebrew rules never change.

7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.

 These four separate beasts possibly represent the four different views of the Messiah that Israel saw in the four gospels:

The first beast was like a lion: In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

The second beast was like a calf: Also called the face of a cherub in Ezekiel 10:14. The gospel of Mark depicts Jesus as a servant.

 Cows were used to pull plows as beasts of burdens. This sheds a little light on Genesis 3:14 where the serpent was cursed by God above all cattle (a calf).

The third beast had a face as a man: The gospel of Luke depicts Jesus as the Son of Man.

The fourth beast was like a flying eagle: The gospel of John depicts Jesus as God above.

 When comparing the order of Ezekiel 10:14 and Revelation 4:7 the order does not line up because these are the four beasts each with one face each.

 In Ezekiel 10:14 there is a description of only one beast with four heads. These are most likely the seraphims mentioned in Isaiah 6:1-3.

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.

Six wings about him: There were three pairs of wings, each with a specific purpose:

*Isaiah 6:1 In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. 2 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. 3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*

9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, 10 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, 11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

The four and twenty elders: Each had received crowns for their faithfulness through the tribulation period. Revelation 4:5, 10, 5:8, 14, 11:16, & 19:4.

Cast their crowns before the throne: *Revelation 4:4.*

Chapter Five

A seven sealed book

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.

In the right hand of him: This phrase is used to denote a position of honor and power given to one for their loyalty. Genesis 48:14. The seven stars/angels are also said to be held in God’s right hand. Revelation 1:20.

A book written within and on the backside: This was a scroll that had words written on the backside of the scroll, and in it.

Sealed with seven seals: The seals are opened one after the other in chapter six.

 Each seal was a different seal, which was allowed to be opened only by the one with authority from the author to open that particular seal. In Daniel 12:4 Daniel is told to “shut up the words and to seal the book.” Isaiah 29:11.

2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? 3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

A strong angel: This was most likely Michael.

Who is worthy to open the book: No one is worthy to open the book because of their sin. Not David, or Daniel, not John the Baptist, not Peter, or Mary was worthy to open the book.

 No saint today in the dispensation of grace, or any law-abiding Jew of the past, or future could open this book because all are sinners.

To loose the seals thereof: The seals are those of a king. 1st Kings 21:8 & Esther 8:8. Daniel chapter twelve tells us about a book that is sealed until the time of the end, and also of a strong angel.

*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 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. 3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. 4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. 5 Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river. 6 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? 7 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. 8 And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? 9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. 10 Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand. 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. 12 Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days. 13 But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.*

4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. 5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

The Lion of the tribe of Judah: See the prophecy of Jacob to his sons.

*Genesis 49:8 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. 9 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? 10 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.*

The Root of David: The offspring of David. Revelation 22:16.

6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

The four beasts: Seraphim in Isaiah 6:1-3.

The elders: The four and twenty elders.

A Lamb as it had been slain: He was introduced as a Lion, but when John turned to see him, he saw a Lamb with seven horns and seven eyes.

Seven horns: The horns represent the seven world rulers that the Lamb defeated by his death on the cross.

Seven eyes: These eyes are the seven Spirits of God which are described as the seven lamps which are before his throne. Revelation 1:4 & 4:5.

 These lamps are synonymous with the seven candlesticks which refer to the seven churches which each had a messenger associated with it. Revelation 1:20.

7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. 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.

The four beasts: Seraphim of Isaiah 6:1-3.

The four and twenty elders: Israel represented by their twenty-four elders. The fact that they were redeemed out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation is another key as to who they are.

 Israel had been dispersed by God into all of the nations, amongst all the different kindreds, tongues and peoples and nations. Revelation 4:10, 5:14, 11:16, 19:4.

Harps: Musical instruments seen with each of the four and twenty elders. David played the harp. 1st Samuel 16:16.

 He also wrote many prophetic psalms. The prophets also on occasions used harps when prophesying. 1st Samuel 10:5, 1st Chronicles 25:3 and Psalm 49:4.

Golden vials full of odours: Which are the prayers of the saints.

9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

A new song: The song of the 144,000. Revelation 14:3.

For thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood: The “us” spoken of here is believing Israel, as they will finally receive the promise made to them back at mount Sinai in Exodus 19:5-6, to make of them an holy nation.

Out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation: Israel, God’s elect is redeemed out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation wherein they have been dispersed.

And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: Exodus 19:5 and 6. See also 1st Peter 2:9 which spoken by the apostle of the circumcision to the remnant of believing Jews that believe in Jesus.

We shall reign on the earth: It is Israel that is to reign on the earth as kings and priests, while the church is reigning in the heavens. Matthew 5:5 and Ephesians 1:3.

11 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;

Many angels round about the throne: There were ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands. The word thousands in the Greek is myrias, or myriad, meaning innumerable.

*Daniel 7:10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.*

The beasts: The Seraphim. Isaiah 6:1-3.

The elders: There were four and twenty of them. Revelation 4:10, 5:8, 14, 11:16, & 19:4.

 These verses tell us plainly that it is not the 144,000 witnesses from the tribulation period, by mentioning a number far greater than that. The multitude were the angels.

 These verses also tell us that Jesus has finally received his kingdom from his father.

12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. 13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

Power be unto him: The usurped power that resided with Satan as the god of this world, will in this day reside with Jesus Christ forever more.

14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

The four beasts: Seraphim in Isaiah 6:1-3.

The four and twenty elders: Revelation 4:5, 10, 5:8, 14, 11:16, & 19:4.

Chapter Six

The Four Horsemen

1 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.

The Lamb opened one of the seals: The Lamb is Jesus Christ, and seals are first mentioned in Revelation 5:1-2.

The noise of thunder: A Seraphim speaking with a thundering voice.

The four beasts: Seraphim of Isaiah 6:1-3.

Come and see: This phrase is used eight times, seven of them are by John himself. Psalm 66:5.

 It is used four of those eight times in this chapter, and it is only used of the first four seals. Apparently, there is a time for Israel to come and see some things, and there is time that it is too late for them to come and see.

2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

A white horse: This rider is the Antichrist impersonating Jesus Christ. Matthew 24:4-5 where Jesus prophecies many false Christs for the time of Jacob’s trouble.

 While white is the color of surrender and peace, he will not be a peaceful man. He will use peace as a means to an end, and that end is the attempted destruction of Israel.

 In Daniel 11:21-24 we read about this rider coming in peaceably and obtaining the kingdom with flatteries.

And he that sat on him: Nothing is said describing how the rider looks, just what he does with what is given to him.

A bow: A bow is used for warfare, and not peace. As you may expect he uses both it, and his crown to conquer many.

A crown was given unto him: A position of power was given unto him. He did not have this power in him, because he is a created being.

He went forth conquering and to conquer: To rule over people.

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

When he had opened the second seal: The “he” here is the Lamb (Jesus Christ) that also opened the first seal.

The second beast: The second of the four Seraphim. Isaiah 6:1-3.

Come and see: Israel’s servants are to examine this rider and his deeds.

Another horse that was red: Zechariah 1:8, 6:1-7 and Matthew 24:6 where wars are predicted by Jesus for the time of Jacob’s trouble.

And power was given to him that sat thereon: Power had to be given to him, because he is not all powerful as God is.

A great sword: As more power is given to the Antichrist, he uses it to inflict death on as many people, in as short as time as possible, to send as many people to hell as he can.

5 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.

He had opened the third seal: The “he” is the Lamb (Jesus Christ) that had opened the first two seals already.

A black horse: Matthew 24:7 where famines are prophesied by Jesus for the time of Jacob’s trouble.

A pair of balances: This is probably the one world government stepping in with disaster relief after the plagues and wars. All the people will have to do to get help will be to take the mark, which will be the mark of the beast.

6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

The four beasts: Seraphim of Isaiah 6:1-3.

A measure of wheat for a penny: A penny was a day’s wages according to Jesus in Matthew 20:2.

Three measures of barley for a penny: Elisha gives us a little clue as to the meaning of this verse. 2nd Kings 7:1-18.

 He says with a shekel you could get two measures of barley in Samaria the next day after the famine.

 A shekel today is about a quarter. So, three measures of barley for 37.5 cents is not bad, but the day before it would cost you a whole day’s wages.

See thou hurt not the oil and the wine: This phrase is used only one other time in scripture, and it is in the parable of the good Samaritan, who binds up the wounds of a Jew and pours in oil and wine.

 There is even a horse in this story as well. Luke 10:34. It was a voice in the midst of the four beasts (the Seraphim) that says, “See thou hurt not the oil and the wine.”

 It could have been one of them, or it could have been Jesus himself. While things will be scarce God will take care of the remnant, not by the religious, but by Samaritans, and Gentiles who will bless Israel in that day.

 At the judgment of the nations, those nations that give food, water, and shelter to one of these “my brethren” (the Jewish believers) they will have done it unto Christ and will receive a reward. Matthew 25:31-46. Genesis 12:1-3.

7 And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.

He had opened the fourth seal: The “he” is the Lamb (Jesus Christ) from verse one who opens all four of these seals.

The fourth beast: The fourth Seraphim. Isaiah 6:1-3.

Come and see: This is the last time a Seraphim tells John to come and see. Israel, God’s servants, is to examine this rider so they do not follow the Antichrist in that day.

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.

A pale horse: It will be an unending cycle of death during this time, and half of the world’s population will die as a result of the wars, plagues and famines caused by the Antichrist and his horde of demons.

 Matthew 24:8-9, where Jesus prophesies death for many in the time of Jacob’s trouble. Notice the color of the fourth horse, Pale.

 The word Pale comes from the Greek word Chloros, it means green, or greenish. Chloros is used only five times in scripture and four times it is translated green in Mark 6:39, Luke 23:31, Revelation 8:7, 9:4, and here as Pale.

His name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him: Power was given to Death and Hell over a quarter of the earth, and they used that power to kill people with war (sword) hunger, sickness and even the beasts of the earth. Revelation 20:13-14.

*Isaiah 28:15 Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves: …, 18 And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down.*

 So, we have the four horses each represented by a different color, white, red, black, and pale (greenish). Is there any significance to those four colors?

 What are the four colors of the flags of most of Israel’s enemies today? White, red, black, and green.

 These colors represent the four Caliphates that have ruled that area of the world at one time or another. The devil had the power of death:

*Hebrews 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;*

 Contrast that verse with this one:

*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.*

9 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:

He had opened the fifth seal: The “he” is the Lamb (Jesus Christ) that had opened the previous seals.

 Notice that there is no fifth Seraphim mentioned here to tell John to come and see, that is because God is not describing the rider on another horse this time. That time has passed. Now John sees the results of this rider.

I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God: This is the altar of incense, used to offer up the prayers of the saints to God. Matthew 24:9.

 The altar in that first tabernacle in the wilderness was really just a shaded picture of the real one in heaven, where the souls that were slain were kept by God as a constant reminder to God of their sacrifice.

 These souls were those of the tribulation saints that were martyred for their faith in Christ and their obedience to the word of God.

 Notice it says the souls of them that were slain, and not their bodies. We have a soul that looks similar to how our body looks.

 These martyred souls were not out in heaven just going to and fro, but they were being held for the time being under the altar of God.

 This was most likely a window into paradise where God has these precious souls always on his mind, and in his sight, who will stand strong in the time of the great tribulation period.

 Their souls would be awaiting the resurrection that would unite them with their bodies to rule and reign on the earth in the kingdom.

And for the testimony which they held: The word testimony means a witness that told what they saw and knew. Some people can witness something, but they never testify as to what they saw. These did, and they lost their life for it.

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

They cried with a loud voice: These cries were their prayers for vengeance, not for themselves, but for God’s holiness, which demanded a just recompense for their sin.

 Prayers were to be heard by God at the altar of Incense. Their prayers will be answered by God when the seventh seal is opened in Revelation 8:1-5.

 God is long suffering, and just, and not willing that any should perish, and those followers of the devil will get what is coming to them.

How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge: Judging and avenging are separate, but related things. 1st Samuel 24:12.

And avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth: Deuteronomy 32:43.

11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

White robes: Daniel 12:10 speaks about robes being made white.

Their fellowservants: They are the brethren that are killed in the tribulation period, they are the saved Jews that are slain during this time.

A little season: This phrase is only used twice in the scriptures, and both are found in the book of Revelation. Revelation 20:3.

 Since the tribulation period lasts only seven years and we can conclude that the little season will be considerably shorter than that, then we can assume that the little season mentioned in Revelation 20:3 is a similar amount of time.

Their fellowservants: In Matthew 18:21-35 we see one of only a few times that the word “fellowservants” is mentioned in it. The fellowservants are the good who repent and follow the Son like the remnant in those days.

Their brethren: The servant in Matthew 18:21-35 is unjust, and unforgiving. Those who are like him will die, sooner or later at the hands of Satan or the plagues, but then they will spend an eternity in torment for their rebellion.

12 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;

He had opened the sixth seal: The “he” is the Lamb (Jesus Christ) that had opened the four previous seals.

A great earthquake: This of course is the complete fulfillment of the prophecies of Joel which Peter mentioned in Acts 2.

 The prophecies he quoted were only partially fulfilled on the day of Pentecost. Matthew 24:7, where Jesus prophecies earthquakes for the time of Jacob’s trouble. Isaiah 13:13 and Haggai 2:6 & 21.

The sun became as black as sackcloth of hair: The Sun did not change as described in Joel or Acts 2, on the day of Pentecost, but it will on a future day of Pentecost in the tribulation period.

The moon became as blood: The moon did not change as described in Joel or Acts 2, on the day of Pentecost, but it will on a future day of Pentecost in the tribulation period.

13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. 14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

The stars of heaven fell to the earth: This is a reference to the fallen angels (demons) that held positions in the heavens, which they received from Satan, who will be removed from them by force.

 They will be gathered for their future punishment. Revelation 12:4.

As a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind: Satan, and his minions are nothing to God. They are like figs falling from a tree in a mighty wind.

 God is going to shake the heavens as he said he would in Isaiah to shake out these usurpers. Isaiah 34:4.

*Isaiah 13:13 Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.*

*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! 13 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: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. 15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. 16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; 17 That made* the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?

 This is the bottomless pit; it only has sides.

*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:*

The heaven departed as a scroll: At that moment, the darkness that rules the heavens will be rolled back (a curtain of darkness) and the inhabitants of this earth with see the LORD on His throne in heaven.

 Verse sixteen also speaks of this amazing time when the earth will be able to see into the very throne room of God. The lost will flee, and run and hide, they will be afraid to look at the face of Him they had cursed for so long.

*Isaiah 34:4 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. 5 For my sword shall be bathed in heaven:*

15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; 16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: 17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains: *Isaiah 2:21.*

The great day of his wrath: This is the day of the Lord that has been promised in the old testament, when Christ returns to claim this world as his own.

 Chapter six is in chronological order, and it takes you through the tribulation period, but it skips over many details, and takes us to the day of Judgment.

*Isaiah 2:19 And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.*

Chapter Seven

The sealing of the 144,000

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.

Four angels standing: These will hurt the earth and the sea after the 144,000 are sealed. These are not to be confused with the four angels that were bound in the great river Euphrates in Revelation 9:14.

The four corners of the earth: The earth does not have corners. You do not live on a square shaped planet.

 Genesis 28:14 says that Israel is spread abroad to the North, South, East and West, and in Isaiah 11:12 it says that Israel is dispersed to the four corners of the earth, and they will be re-assembled in their land.

 It means they were standing in four directly different positions.

The four winds of the earth: They are mentioned as being from the four quarters of heaven in Jeremiah 49:36.

 In Ezekiel 37:9 they are used to bring life back to a bunch of dry bones. Daniel 7:2 mentions them as striving upon the great sea. Daniel 8:8, Zechariah 2:6 & Matthew 24:31.

That the wind should not blow on the earth: God is merciful even in the time of great tribulation, and he will hold back his vengeance to ensure those who have found grace in his Son would be protected.

2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

I saw another angel ascending from the east: John saw an angel ascending from the east which probably meant he was ascending to heaven.

This seal of the living God: This is the name of God written on the foreheads of the 144,000. The seal is mentioned in Ezekiel 9:1-11 as a mark. Since God has a mark, the Antichrist has to have one.

*Ezekiel 9:4 And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. 5 And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: 6 Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.*

The four angels: It was given to them to hurt the earth and the sea. These are not the same four angels as the ones bound in the great river Euphrates in Revelation 9:14.

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

Till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads: 144,000 Jewish male virgins are sealed with God's name in their foreheads.

 They go about doing his will throughout the first half of the tribulation period, preaching the gospel of the kingdom. Matthew 24:14.

 These 144,000 are immune from the calamities that will befall the children of this world. These are not the only ones who get saved in the tribulation period but are the "firstfruits" of that age.

 They are a special group that will have a special ministry around the throne of God in eternity.

There were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand: Twelve times twelve is one hundred and forty and four. Their jobs in the kingdom will correlate with their jobs that they had on the earth during the tribulation period.

5 Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand.

The tribe of Judah: Judah is mentioned first, even though Reuben is the first born, because it is the tribe of the kings of Israel, from which Christ came.

Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. 6 Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand. 7 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. 8 Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.

Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand: The tribe of Manasses replaces the tribe of Dan, who is missing from this list. Also, Ephraim is not listed.

 The reason is that the tribe of Dan was totally given over to idolatry and it is excluded from this privileged group who have a special ministry in the future. 1st Kings 12:29-30.

 The tribe of Dan will be brought back into their earthly inheritance in the kingdom. Ezekiel 48:1, 2 & 32.

 Dan will of course be a smaller tribe than the rest of the tribes in the kingdom because Dan does not have 12,000 Danites sealed as do the other tribes during the tribulation period, and it will suffer numerically because of that.

 Joseph's eldest son Manasseh did not receive the blessing from Jacob, because it went to his younger brother Ephraim instead. Genesis 48:15-22.

 And here he receives this honor over his younger brother. Ephraim descendants are considered those of Joseph's lineage. Joseph still gets two portions thanks to the tribe of Dan.

9 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; 10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

After this: After the sealing of the one hundred and forty and four thousand.

A great multitude: The words “after this,” denote a space of time that has elapsed (three and a half years) from the time of the sealing of the 144,000, and the time that the tribulation saints sing praises unto God, prior to entering into their earthly kingdom.

 The connection of these two groups in this same chapter seems to indicate the possibility that the 144,000 witnesses were considered prominently in this multitude praising Christ, along with all the other tribulation saints that were martyred for their faith.

Clothed with white robes: Daniel 12:10 about robes being made white.

And palms in their hands: Leviticus 23:40 & John 12:13.

11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, 12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

The four beasts: Seraphim of Isaiah 6:1-3.

13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? 14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

One of the elders: One of the four and twenty elders. Revelation 4:10, 5:8, 14, 11:16, & 19:4.

What are these which are arrayed in white robes: Notice that they came out of great tribulation, which is a reference to the second half of the tribulation period.

 Their robes were made white in the blood of the Lamb, while God operates differently in different dispensations, it is still His blood that washes away every sin. Daniel 12:10 about robes being made white.

And have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb:

*Revelation 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,*

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. 16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

Therefore are they before the throne of God: These tribulation saints minister in the temple after the time of great tribulation. They will be taken care of as no one ever was. John is seeing things here that are occurring after the tribulation period.

They shall hunger no more: They will be filled who hungered after righteousness instead of taking the mark of the beast to get a meal.

Neither thirst anymore: Those who thirsted after righteousness instead of taking the mark of the beast will be filled.

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.

The Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them: They shall hunger no more because the Lamb will feed them. Isaiah 53:7. Jesus is called the Lamb of God in John’s gospel, while the other three gospels use different titles to describe him.

 John then continues this imagery of Jesus as the Lamb in Revelation twenty-seven more times beginning in chapter 5.

Living fountains of waters: These will not thirst anymore because in the kingdom Jesus will lead them unto fountains of living waters. He actually is the fountain of living waters. Jeremiah 2:13.

*Zechariah 14:8 And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.*

 Many in Israel in the past forsook Jesus, who is the fountain of living waters, and unfortunately this will happen again in the time of Jacob’s trouble.

*Jeremiah 2:13 For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.*

 They trusted in their own works to supply their needs, but the cisterns they dug could not hold any water.

*Jeremiah 17:13 O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters.*

 We do not need to partake of the tree of life as these will, nor do we need to drink of these living waters as we already have eternal life today in the dispensation of grace.

God shall wipe away all the tears from their eyes: This is speaking about the saints who die in the tribulation period, who will have endured the most terrible time of tribulation anyone has ever seen.

Chapter Eight

The Seventh Seal

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

He had opened the seventh seal: The “he” is the Lamb (Jesus Christ) that had opened the six previous seals mentioned in chapter six.

Silence in heaven: The silence was due to the awesome vengeance that was about to fall upon the earth for the martyring of the saints whose souls have been crying out to God from underneath the altar in Revelation 6:9.

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

The seven angels which stood before God: These are the seven angels which are the seven messengers to the seven churches mentioned in 1:16, 20 & chapters 2-3.

To them were given seven trumpets: These are used to make a pronouncement that something new was about to take place.

3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

Another angel came and stood at the altar: The altar of incense in Exodus 30:27. Also called the golden altar in verse three.

 Here we see the altar, and the throne of God in heaven, that are mentioned in chapter seven, which will remain in heaven, even when the city of new Jerusalem comes down to earth during the millennium.

 Jesus will be interceding on Israel’s behalf as their high priest during the tribulation period concerning their prayers.

A golden censer: Censers were torches used for light. Here the censer would be lit first, and then used to light the incense on the altar.

Much incense: Much incense is used because the incense represents the prayers of the saints. Much prayer will be offered up from saints at this terrible time. Revelation 6:9.

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

The prayers of all the saints: As seen in Revelation 6:9.

 It is possible that the servants that were slain in the great tribulation period, will minister in the presence of God and the Lamb on earth in the kingdom. Just not in the city of new Jerusalem.

 So, it would be consistent that these saved martyrs of the tribulation period would ministerwhere the Lamb is ruling on earth, and not in the temple in heaven.

4 And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. 5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

The smoke of the incense: When God was not pleased with the odor of incense, which represented mankind’s sin, he immediately responds in righteous judgment as we see about to take place here.

 When God was pleased with the incense, then the nation of Israel was blessed and the world with them.

The prayers of the saints: His response here is to the prayers offered up by the tribulation saints mentioned in Revelation 6:9-10.

The censer: Also called the golden censer above, was a torch for carrying the fire from the lampstand to the altar of incense.

And cast it to the earth: A tempest of hail. verse seven below. Isaiah 28:2.

There were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings: This phrase is mentioned four other times, in the book of the Revelation. Revelation 4:5, 11:19 & 16:18. This time the order of their appearance is reversed. Exodus 19:16.

And an earthquake: This time an earthquake is mentioned as part of God’s punishment for those who were killing his servants.

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

The seven angels: These are the angels of the seven churches of Asia mentioned in chapters two and three.

The first angel sounded: This is the angel of the church of Ephesus.

And there followed hail and fire mingled with blood: One-third of all the trees will be burnt up, and all the grass will be consumed at this time, near the close of the tribulation.

 The blood that is mingled with it will be a result of this hail fire, which would also account for the enormous loss of life we read about in other portions of scripture related to this time. Isaiah 28:2. A tempest of hail.

 This could be more centrally located around the nations surrounding Israel than worldwide, or it could be across the whole planet.

 Verse seven says that the hail fire was cast upon the earth, but it does not say upon the whole earth. I believe it will span at least the three continents surrounding Israel. Was there hail fire in Moses's day? Yes. Exodus 9:24.

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;

The second angel sounded: This would be the angel of the church of Smyrna.

As it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: This was around the Mediterranean Sea, and not the whole earth. This also happened in Moses' day to the Nile River.

The third part of the river became blood: *Exodus 7:18.*

9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

The third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died: This probably happens when the fiery mountain hits initially.

 This is part of the reason why the kingdom is referred to as the regeneration in Matthew 19:28 & Acts 3:19-21. The earth will have to be regenerated after all of this happens. Did any creatures in the Nile die in Moses' day? Yes. Exodus 7:18.

The third part of the ships were destroyed: The ripple effect of the massive tidal wave caused by the great burning mountain crashing into the seas will capsize a third of the ships in the sea.

10 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;

The third angel sounded: This would be the angel of the church in Pergamos.

A great star: This star could be a large meteor, that falls and breaks up upon entry into earth's atmosphere and pollutes one-third of the rivers and fountains.

 It could also be a fallen angel, which are called stars in the Bible, who do indeed fall from heaven. See the next chapter for more on this.

The third part of the rivers: A third part of the rivers that run into the sea (Mediterranean) would have the backwash of this great mountain, combined with the salt water that overflows into the rivers, and together they will kill much in the rivers.

The fountains of waters: The underground aquifers where the rivers also get much of their water supply from.

11 And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

The third part of the waters became wormwood: This is possibly a broken-up star/meteor that falls from the heavens and breaks up over that area, which poisons all the water it hits, or it is some sort of fallen angel that has power to hurt these waters.

The name of the star is called Wormwood: Wormwood is mentioned numerous times in the old testament, and it is always associated with something bitter or poisonous.

 It is translated as hemlock in Amos 6:12, a very poisonous plant. The poisonous water will not harm God’s servants that believe Jesus is the Christ, because he promised that these signs would follow them in those days, not in our days:

*Mark 16:18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

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.

The fourth angel sounded: This would be the angel of the church in Thyatira. The theme here is the phrase one-third, which leads many to believe that this punishment is reserved for the one-third of the world centered around Israel, Europe, and Africa.

 It could be America is preserved the brunt of these terrible judgments, but I doubt it. America has turned so far from God in her later years.

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

Woe, woe, woe: The three woes are mentioned in the next two chapters. With every tragedy there follows an even worse aftermath, due to disease and famine.

 The first woe is in Revelation 9, and it is the locusts that come out of the pit. The second woe ends in Revelation 11:14.

 The third woe begins in Revelation 12:12. Satan has been thrown out of heaven here, and because of all the chaos the world cries out for help.

Chapter Nine

A star fall from heaven

1 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 pit.

The fifth angel sounded: This is the angel of the church of Sardis which sounds his trumpet which causes a star to fall from heaven.

A star fall from heaven: Here John sees an angel (called a star) fall to earth with the key to a pit. Luke 10:18-19.

 This star is called Abaddon in Hebrew, and Apollyon in Greek, who was originally called Lucifer:

*Isaiah 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which did weaken the nations!*

To him was given the key of the pit: A key is something that is used to unlock something. This was a supernatural key because nothing has ever been able to open this pit before.

 This key will be used again in Revelation 20:1, which would most likely be the fifth angel since he had it in verse one above.

2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.

He opened the bottomless pit: The “he” is the star that fell from heaven. The word for bottomless in Greek is Abussos, which is where we get the word Abyss from.

There arose a smoke out of the pit: When this bottomless pit is opened, much of the sun’s rays will be blocked by the intense smoke from it, which creates a period of great darkness.

 This is a fulfillment of Joel 2. The angel of this pit brings nothing but darkness to this world. Revelation 9:11.

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

3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

Locusts: Does this remind you of the promise Christ gave to his disciples in Mark 16:17-18?

 These locusts will have the power of scorpions to hurt all that are not sealed. Scorpions have power like serpents to sting people with poison. verse 5.

 This is a dispensational truth that is in effect while the gospel of the kingdom is being preached during the tribulation period. Matthew 24:14.

*Mark 16:17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

 Remember chapter eight when Wormwood affects the world's water supply? It will not affect God’s sealed servants).

 This promise is for the tribulation saint who will need these gifts to help them supernaturally endure to the end during the tribulation period, and to assist them in taking the gospel of the kingdom to every creature.

4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.

And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree: This commandment was from God, not from the king over them.

Only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads: Only the 144,000 Jewish young men have the seal of God in their foreheads, so this means everyone else is fair game for these locusts.

 They torment people, and they leave the grass and trees alone. This is a supernatural army.

5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.

It was given that they should not kill them: Over and over again the statement is made that “it was given,” so, you should ask who did the giving, God, or Satan?

They should be tormented five months: These beasts let those they sting get a five-month taste of what the torment in hell will be like.

 Those who help these people who have been stung will see their torment, and hopefully some of them will turn to God. There is no fire associated with these locusts, but in the next portion of scripture there will be plenty of fire.

6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.

In those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it: This is a five-month period when men get a glimpse of what hell is like.

 The torment will be so bad that all effected will desire death. Because people are eternal beings, and they would go to hell immediately if they could die, but they cannot. There are some who are not stung, and this probably sobers some into trusting Christ.

7 And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. 8 And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.

The shapes of the locusts were like horses prepared unto battle: These are unlike any locust the world has ever seen, or ever will see.

 These are not military vehicles they are supernatural creatures that look like tiny horses prepared for battle with armor on them. If someone steps on them, or hits them, they just keep on stinging.

Crowns like gold: Shiny.

The faces of men: Beards possibly.

The hair of women: Long hair.

The teeth of lions: Sharp and strong.

9 And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. 10 And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.

Their power was to hurt men five months: The phrase five months only appears in one story and that is Elisabeth hiding her pregnancy for five months, that is 150 days on the biblical calendar, and the number 150 appears in the story of the flood:

*Genesis 7:21 And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: 22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. 23 And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and* *the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark. 24 And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.*

 I know that being tormented for five months is not the same thing as being destroyed from the earth, but these two incidents have different participants.

 In Noah’s day, all flesh was corrupted (See Genesis chapter six) except for Noah and his family, so God destroyed them to save the last remnant of humanity left.

 In this chapter, in the last book of the Bible, God is being merciful by giving people a small taste of what hell will be like for five months so as to warn the rest of the world to not continue rebelling against their Creator and Redeemer.

11 And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.

They had a king over them: Proverbs 30:27 tell us that locusts travel in bands regardless of the fact that they have no king over them. Here however, we read about a different kind of locust that actually has a very bad king over them.

 Satan is cast down from heaven at the middle-point of the tribulation period, and he will release Abaddon, or the spirit of Antichrist, upon the world.

 Satan may think that he is accomplishing something for himself in his personal war with God, but he is only helping God do exactly what he has ordained would be done to those who reject his Son.

In the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon: A destroying angel.

In the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon: A destroyer.

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

One woe is past: The locusts.

Two woes more hereafter: Revelation 11:1 4 & 12:12.

13 And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

The sixth angel sounded: This would be the angel of the church of Philadelphia. The Euphrates River is the actual border of Israel's territory that they will inherit in their kingdom:

*Genesis 15:18 In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.*

 For everything that happens in the physical realm, there is something going on there to control it in the spiritual realm.

A voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God: This is the altar of incense mentioned in the previous chapter, where voices are mentioned in verse five. Revelation 6:9 & 8:3-5.

14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. 15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.

Loose the four angels which were bound in the great river Euphrates: These angels were bound in the great river Euphrates, so they are not good angels.

 Were there any angels in scripture that were ever bound by God in the past? 2nd Peter 2:4 and Jude 6 each mention angels that are bound in chains of darkness, but they are bound in hell, not in the Euphrates river.

 Perhaps God bound all but four of those angels which left their first estate in hell, and he reserved these four just for this purpose.

Which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year: While these four angels prepared in the spiritual realm, there was probably preparation going on in the physical realm that coincided with these horsemen in the following verses.

 This verse provides a way for tribulation saints to mark time during that period as 391 days, and 1 hour has to pass before one-third of men are killed. They will know it is coming in advance.

To slay the third part of men: That would be two billion people if this were to occur soon.

16 And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand: and I heard the number of them.

The army of the horsemen: The army mentioned here is a supernatural army according to the prophet Joel. Joel 2 below.

Two hundred thousand: Here comes the army of horsemen led by the four angels that were bound in the Euphrates River. This army of horsemen will kill one-third of all the people alive on the earth.

17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. 18 By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.

The fire: What did God use to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah? Fire and brimstone.

The smoke: Genesis 19:28 & Revelation 14:10-11.

The brimstone: Genesis 19:24, Psalm 11:6 and Revelation 14:10-11.

19 For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.

 If John were able to describe things so someone in our time period could relate, it would not have made sense to all of those generations that have come before ours.

Their power is in their mouth, and in their tails:

*Joel 2:1 Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand; 2 A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. 3 A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them. 4 The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run. 5 Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array. 6 Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness. 7 They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks: 8 Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded. 9 They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief. 10 The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: 11 And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?*

And had heads, and with them they do hurt: With their lion like teeth.

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

Yet repented not of the works of their hands: Even though their idols could not help them, they do not repent because they have taken the mark of the beast, and can’t be saved.

Neither repented they of their murders: Those that survive keep on doing what they have been doing.

Chapter Ten

The Seven Thunders

1 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:

Another mighty angel: This mighty angel is most likely Jesus Christ appearing as an angel/messenger because of the amazing things associated with him in the description that follows.

 This mighty messenger was delivering a message to John. Revelation 1:13, 5:2 & 18:21. The word angel is from the Greek word “Angelos” which means a messenger, it does not mean a being with two wings, and a halo.

 There are all kinds of individuals who are messengers, and many of them are called angels in the Bible, but they are not all angels, as most people think when they think of an angel.

 Jesus often appeared as the "angel of the LORD" in the old testament, but it is clear from scripture that Jesus is God, who took upon himself human flesh. He did not take on the nature of angels:

*Hebrews 2:16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.*

Clothed with a cloud: The first cloud in the Bible is found in Genesis 9:13. Numerous times you will find clouds associated with those ascending or descending to and from heaven.

Exodus 19:9, 34:5, Deuteronomy 5:22, Psalm 78:14, Ezekiel 10:4, 38:9, Daniel 7:13, Matthew 24:30, Mark 13:26, Luke 21:27, 1st Thessalonians 4:17, Revelation 1:7 & 14:15.

A rainbow was upon his head: Where do we find the most famous rainbow of them all in scripture? Immediately following the flood when God destroyed the world that then was. Genesis 9:13.

 Watch the context of this chapter and see if there are any similarities. Ezekiel 1:28 & Revelation 4:3. God made a promise that he would never again destroy the world with a flood. The next time it will be with fire.

His face was as it were the sun: Daniel 10:6, and the transfiguration in Matthew 17:2.

His feet as pillars of fire: Daniel 10:6 & Revelation 2:18.

2 And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, 3 And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.

A little book open: The little book contains prophecy about the tribulation period that we are not privileged to know.

 It is sealed up until the tribulation period when it will be revealed to his servants (Israel), because they are the ones who will need it. Daniel 12:1-4 & Jeremiah 3:16.

 Notice it says that he appears “clothed with a cloud, and a rainbow upon his head.” The only other time a rainbow is mentioned in the Bible is Genesis chapter nine. God put a "bow" in the sky to serve as a reminder that he was not going to destroy the world by a flood?

 The only other time the word "rainbow" is mentioned in the Bible is also in Revelation 4:3 when John is caught up to heaven and he sees the rainbow round about the throne of God.

 No doubt John got some comfort from seeing this rainbow because he would naturally assume that God was going to spare mankind.

 God said he would never let Israel be utterly destroyed because of the covenant he made with them. Deuteronomy 4:31.

 This “little book” will no doubt help the new believers endure the latter part of the tribulation period. It may also contain doctrinal information specific to that time period.

 The preceding generations did not obtain this knowledge because it is sealed up to us so that God’s will would be done at that time.

He set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth: This tells us which way the angel is facing. If the sea is the Mediterranean Sea, and the land is Israel, which they are, then the angel was facing towards the south.

 Egypt and Arabia are to the south. It does not say that he put his right foot in the sea, but upon the sea. Who do we know from scriptures that can walk on water? Jesus.

Seven thunders uttered their voices: Thunders are often associated with voices in scripture. James, and John were called the sons of thunder. Mark 3:17.

 They were to thunder out the word of God. Notice in Psalm 29:3 that the words thunder, voice, and water all appear together. Exodus 19:16 below, and Revelation 16:18.

*Psalm 29:3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth: the LORD is upon many waters.*

4 And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.

The seven thunders had uttered their voices: Their voices thundered.

Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered: Daniel was not allowed to write about many things that John was to write about. John was not allowed to write about things that will occur to bring the mystery of God to its conclusion.

 Paul mentions that he knew a man caught up into paradise, who had heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter in 2nd Corinthians 12:4. That man was John. Revelation 10:7.

And write them not: Psalm 118:89 For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. When the words that the seven thunders are needed by God’s people, the seals will be opened, and their message will get to those that need them.

5 And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, 6 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:

The angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth: *Revelation 10:3.*

Lifted up his hand to heaven and sware: This is the swearing an oath, just like what we do when we swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth in court.

There should be time no longer

There should be time no longer: Jesus, as the angel of the Lord, swore by God the Father that there should be time no longer.

 There literally will be a time when time will be done away with. Ephesians calls this the dispensation of the fullness of time in Ephesians 1:10. Sin exists in time, not outside of time.

 This occurs after the Millennial kingdom runs its course of a thousand years, and then the new heaven and the new earth are created.

 These seven thunders will either be revealed during the tribulation period for his saints at that time, or at the time when Satan is loosed for a little season.

Him that liveth for ever: This is from the Song of Moses in Deuteronomy 32:39-40.

*Deuteronomy 32:39 See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand. 40 For I lift up my hand to heaven, and say, I live for ever.*

7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

The seventh angel: This is the angel of the church of Laodicea.

The mystery of God: Notice that it says, "in the days of the voice of the seventh angel," not in the day of the voice of this angel.

 This angel sounds his voice out over many days, not just one. Then it says when he (the seventh angel) begins to sound, not sounds once. This lasts for days.

 How many times he sounds, we do not know for sure. This is not when the rapture occurs! "At the last trump" because it is the last trumpet in the tribulation period.

 There are trumpets in the kingdom as well that are mentioned later on, but the rapture happens at the end of the dispensation of grace, not during the tribulation period.

 This mystery of God has to do with the Gentiles, for Mystery, Babylon the great, the mother of harlots is the false one-world church of the Antichrist.

 Notice that the mystery of God had to be finished during this time, as it had been declared, or spoken to his servants the prophets.

 This mystery has nothing to do with any of the mysteries revealed to the apostle Paul concerning the body of Christ. It has to do with God defeating Satan’s plan for dominion on the earth.

*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 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. 3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. 4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. 5 Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river. 6 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?*

Or, when will the mystery of God be finished?

7 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.

 Verse seven here in Daniel chapter twelve helps us better understand. Revelation 11:7.

8 And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? 9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. 10 Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand. 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. 12 Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days. 13 But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.

 Notice that there are a thousand two hundred and ninety days mentioned in Daniel, but the two witnesses in chapter eleven witness for only 1260 of those 1290 days.

 One additional month of thirty days is mentioned here that is after the two witnesses are killed. This is the time in which the seventh angel is blowing his trumpet. Remember he does not just make one noise from his trumpet, but it blasts for days.

 Most likely for all thirty days mentioned here, where the third and final woe from chapter eleven occurs. It is best for you to go ahead and read Revelation 11:1-15 now to better understand what is going on here, and Daniel 12.

 Then Daniel mentions another date even further out which is “the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.” Forty-five more days after the previous 30 days just described which occurred after the two witnesses in the next chapter are killed and rise again.

 The people that patiently wait until that day will be blessed; we know this from the first part of the verse.

As he hath declared to his servants the prophets: The prophets have spoken to Israel since the world began of God's dealings with them specifically because they are the nation that will rule during the kingdom:

*Luke 1:70 As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:*

*Acts 3:21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.*

 The times of restitution of all things in Acts 3:21 is a reference to the millennial kingdom. The mystery program for us was kept secret, or hidden since the world began, during the time that God was speaking to the world through his prophets.

*Romans 16:25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began.*

 The first time in the Bible where it talks about a thunder, and a voice and a trumpet, was at the giving of the law to the nation of Israel, so they may know how to live in the land once they entered it.

 Here, His word is being delivered to Israel again just before their kingdom begins. What had to happen before they entered the promised land?

 The unbelievers had to die off in the wilderness. Here the unbelieving Israelite is being purged from their ranks, so only believing Israel will enter into their kingdom.

*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.*

8 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.

The little book: It is little because it is a small, but specific part of God’s plan to deal with Satan’s rebellion on the earth. See verse above.

The angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth: *Revelation 10:3.*

9 And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.

Take it, and eat it up: This also happened in Ezekiel’s day:

*Ezekiel 3:1 Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, eat that thou findest; eat this roll, and go speak unto the house of Israel. 2 So I opened my mouth, and he caused me to eat that roll. 3 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. 4 And he said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the house of Israel, and speak with my words unto them. 5 For thou art not sent to a people of a strange speech and of an hard language, but to the house of Israel; 6 Not to many people of a strange speech and of an hard language, whose words thou canst not understand. Surely, had I sent thee to them, they would have hearkened unto thee. 7 But the house of Israel will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto me: for all the house of Israel are impudent and hardhearted.*

It shall make thy belly bitter: The little book consisted of the words that John was to prophecy “before” many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.

 Some wrongly state it is the gospel of John, or his other writings, which makes no sense at all. Why would the gospel of John, or 1st, 2nd, or 3rd John need to be kept a secret at that time? It would not need to be kept secret.

It shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey: God, by having John eat up this little book, caused it to become a part of him that he would not be able to forget. It was God’s way of preserving his word. Song of Solomon 5:16 & Psalm119:103.

10 And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. 11 And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

Thou must prophesy again before many peoples: Notice John would prophesy again “before” many people, it does not say “to” many people, because John is an apostle to the circumcision.

 The circumcision, the Jews, are spread out into every nation because of their breaking the covenant they made with God.

 Some believe that John will be sent back during the tribulation period to deliver the contents of this little book he received two thousand years ago. That is a possibility because both Elijah and Moses make appearances during the last days.

 It may also mean that as one of the twelve judges during the millennial kingdom, John will prophesy again concerning the words of these seven thunders when Satan is released from the bottomless pit at the end of the kingdom.

 Those who will be believers in the tribulation period will have a much greater understanding of this book than us today, as they will have the wisdom that goes along with experiencing it. They will learn firsthand from the 144,000, and then the two witnesses mentioned in the next chapter.

Chapter Eleven

My Two Witnesses

1 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.

A reed like unto a rod: John is given a reed to measure the tribulation temple.

 A golden rod shows up later on with one of the seven angels, who had the vials full of the seven last plagues, to measure the city of new Jerusalem in Revelation 21:15-17.

Measure the temple of God: The temple during Jesus’ day had four courts, not one, which proves that they are not the same temple.

 There will be worship on the temple mount by the Jews during the tribulation period, prior to the middle of the seven-year period, then Antichrist will enter it and proclaim that he alone is God.

And the altar: This is the brazen altar that is to be placed in front of the temple, where animals are to be offered as a sacrifice, as the altar of incense was inside of the temple.

And them that worship therein: There will be a temporary place given for the Jews to worship as a result of the seven-year covenant, but that will be broken at the mid-point of the tribulation period.

2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.

The court: This is a reference to the courtyard that will still be in use by the Gentiles in the tribulation period, where Islam has a Mosque.

The holy city: In Nehemiah 11:1 and 18, Jerusalem is first called the holy city. Psalm46:4, Isaiah 48:2, 52:1, Daniel 9:24, Matthew 4:5 & 27:53. It is later used of new Jerusalem in Revelation 21:2 & 22:19.

Shall they tread under foot forty and two months: The middle of the tribulation period is forty-two months of thirty days each, according to the Jewish calendar, which is exactly 1260 literal 24-hour days. Verse 3.

 It has to be trod under foot during the second half of the tribulation period when the antichrist breaks the covenant he made with Israel. Jesus actually tells us when Jerusalem will be trodden under foot for forty and two months in Luke 21:20-24 below:

*Daniel 9:27 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.*

 The “one week” is a time period of seven years, with the first forty-two months being referred to as the tribulation period. The following forty-two months of 1260 days being called the great tribulation. See Genesis 29:27 for a description of a biblical week.

*Luke 21:20 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. 21 Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the* *mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. 22 For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. 23 But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. 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.*

 The times of the Gentiles does not end until Christ reigns from Jerusalem in his kingdom.

Let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto: Jesus is talking about Jews getting out of Jerusalem, and those in the country not entering into Jerusalem, because the armies are coming to carry them away as slaves.

 Then the plagues will begin to happen, and a terrible earthquake will happen at the end of the forty and two months. Revelation 11:10.

3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

I will give power unto: God is the one giving power unto “his” two witnesses, for 1260 days which is 42 x 30 = 1260. Forty-two months of 30 days each, totaling 1260 days, or three and one-half years.

My two witnesses: The words “two” and “witnesses” are only used together in two books of the Bible, here and in Isaiah 43 and 44 where God calls Israel his witnesses.

*Isaiah 43:10 Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen:*

 Here we read about His two witnesses. Why two witnesses?

*Deuteronomy 19:15…, At the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.*

A thousand two hundred and threescore days: Forty-two months, consisting of thirty days each, is exactly one thousand two hundred and sixty days. Each year was 360 days.

 A leap month is occasionally added in the Jewish month of Adar, Adar Alef (1) and Adar Beit (2), to make up the difference. The days are literal 24-hour days just as the scriptures go out of their way to prove to the reader.

 This 360-day year is a part of the lunar calendar which counts how many times the moon rotates around the earth, where a solar year calendar counts the earth revolving around the sun every 365 days.

Clothed in sackcloth: Sackcloth is black in color and is associated with mourning. Genesis 37:34 & Revelation 6:12. It is mentioned 46 times in the scriptures.

4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

The two olive trees: These two witnesses are Moses and Elijah. We are sure of the identity of Elijah because scripture is clear on his identity.

 We also have Moses and Elijah appearing with Jesus, Peter, James, and John at the transfiguration in Mark 9:2, Matthew 16:24-28 & 17:1-4.

 Some claim Enoch is the second witness because he was the only other man besides Elijah not to taste of death, and the scripture says:

*Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.*

 So, based on this, they say that Enoch and Elijah would both have to come back and die. At least one scripture is used on this guess, but we all know what the Bible says about only having one scripture to build a doctrine off of.

*2nd Peter 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.*

 Enoch was a Gentile, and therefore he is unqualified to be a witness during this time of Jacob's (Israel's) trouble.

 No law keeping Jew is going to follow a Gentile preacher. The miracles performed by one of these two witnesses are identical to those which Moses performed.

 Moses represents the law, while Elijah represents the writings of the prophets, and who better to come back and preach for three and a half years to Israel than these two? Israel is identified as an olive tree in the book of Judges:

*Judges 9:8 The trees went forth on a time, to anoint a king over them; and they said unto the olive tree reign thou over us.*

 Israel is represented in the next eight verses as four different types of trees. An olive, fig, vine, and bramble. See also Isaiah 3:13 where Israel is called a vine. Israel is usually referred to as an olive, or a Fig tree. One tree is national Israel, and the other religious Israel.

 In Romans 11:11-24 we read from the apostle Paul writing to the body of Christ about Israel that Israel is an Olive Tree being cut off because it was dried up like a bramble, and producing no fruit because of their unbelief.

The two candlesticks: In Revelation 1:20 we learned that the seven churches in Asia were called seven golden candlesticks, and here these two individuals are called candlesticks.

 A candlestick bares light for all to see. That is what these two prophets do for Israel. You get light from olive oil.

*Zechariah 4:11 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?*

 One on the right side and the other on the left side of the candlestick. If the two prophets are represented as olive trees, then who is the candlestick?

 Jesus. Who wanted to sit on both sides of Jesus in his kingdom? James and John. They couldn’t because God said it would be given to them for whom it is prepared. Mark 10:40. Who does God tell us in Zechariah 4 will stand on either side of the candlestick (the Light)? The two witnesses.

12 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? 13 And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. 14 Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth. *Zechariah 4:1-10.*

 There is also an argument that they are actually Joshua the priest, and Zerubbabel, because they are called that very thing in their day by the LORD, and they are anointed and stand by the Lord of the whole earth.

5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

If any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed: Both Moses and Elijah had their enemies consumed by fire during their earthly ministries, while Enoch did not. Numbers 16:35, & 2nd Kings 1:10.

6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

 The first part of verse six speaks of Moses, and the second, and last part, both point to Elijah, not Enoch, a Gentile.

These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not: Elijah mentions this in 1st Kings 17:1.

And have power over waters to turn them to blood: God says this to Moses in Exodus 7:17.

And to smite the earth with all plagues: Moses did this in Exodus 8-11.

7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

When they shall have finished their testimony: One thousand two hundred and sixty days later, according to verse three:

The beast that ascendeth out of the pit shall make war with them: The beast (the antichrist) cannot kill them until God allows it to happen.

 When does the beast ascend out of the pit? After he is killed, and rises again from the wound to his head. That is how he becomes the son of perdition.

 Perdition is a place, it is the bottomless pit, and it is a place of death. From there he is birthed, or born again, as the son of the pit, or the son of perdition, or the son of death.

 This beast ascends out of the bottomless pit the exact moment that the Dragon (the angel of the pit is cast down to earth with a key to the pit, and he resurrects the beast, who until this time was never referred to as the beast.

 Satan now incarnates himself into the man of sin, so that the world will wonder after him from then on.

*2nd 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;* 2nd Thessalonians 2:1-12.

*John 17:12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.*

*Acts 1:24 And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, 25 That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.*

 Some versions sadly say, “That he should go where he belongs,” which has a totally different meaning.

 This all occurs at the mid-point of the tribulation period, because the two witnesses are to preach for three and a half years. Once they are finished preaching, God allows the devil to kill them, and not before.

And shall overcome them, and kill them: Moses and Elijah are killed. Where did Moses die at? On the other side of the Jordan River.

 He never entered the promised land except for the brief time with Elijah talking to Jesus about his death there on the mount of transfiguration. What does the book of Jude tell us about Moses’ death? That Michael contended with Satan over Moses’ body.

*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.*

 Why? Did they both want the body of Moses? When God resurrects Israel, he will re-unite the body with the spirit.

 Satan wanted Moses’ body to try to prevent that from happening. Satan lost the dispute, because Michael said, the Lord rebuke thee.

*Luke 13:33 Nevertheless I must walk to day, and to morrow, and the day following: for it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem.*

 Both of the prophets Moses and Elijah will then be killed in Jerusalem to fulfil this verse.

8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

The great city: This is unfortunately the city of Jerusalem.

Which is spiritually called Sodom and Egypt: Jerusalem’s spiritual leaders led the nation away from the Messiah instead of to him at his first coming.

 Because of that, it has remained the most tumultuous city in the world, and will remain so until they acknowledge their Saviour.

9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.

Shall see their dead bodies: This would not have been possible even seventy-five years ago, but with the invention of the television, and now the internet, the whole world will know what is going on.

 Remember, the devil is the prince of the powers of the air, which includes the airwaves, and he will use them to deceive the world into following him.

 The average lost person when he realizes that these two individuals are causing it not to rain will hate these two, because they are causing them much hardship.

 The world does not care that it is a judgment from God, they just care whether they are going to be able to grow the food they need, or that they will have water to drink.

Three days and an half: Why three days and a half, and not three? Because that is how many years these two witnesses prophesied to them.

10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

 This verse implies that these plagues are global, and not just centered around the Middle East. The people of the earth will know that the two prophets were the ones tormenting them, and yet they do not repent.

11 And after three days and an half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

After three days and a half: One day for each year they prophesied to Israel. verse 5. They prophesied forty and two months which is three-and-one-half years. Thirty-six months make three years, and six more make forty and two months.

 They served Israel for half of a biblical week. A biblical week lasts for seven years according to the story of Jacob and Laban in Genesis 29:27.

The spirit of life from God entered into them: This will be just as it was with Adam's lifeless body on the sixth day of creation when God breathed in Adam’s nostrils the breath of life and he became a living soul.

 Here we have the second, and third people being begotten from the dead in the scriptures, with Christ being the first prior to this event. Begotten to die no more. Romans 8:2.

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.

A great voice from heaven: Revelation 14:2 & 16:17.

Come up hither: Here we see a rapture of these two old testament saints after their resurrection from the dead. They were literally begotten of the dead never to die again.

 The same words "come up hither" are used as were used in Revelation 4:1 to call John up in the Spirit except these two were called up physically. They both will put on incorruption and will be able to stand in God's presence.

They ascended up to heaven in a cloud: Numerous times in this book, and throughout the Bible, we see clouds associated with ascending and descending to and from heaven.

 In Acts 1:9 a cloud received Jesus at his ascension. In Revelation 1:7 it says that “he cometh with clouds” at the end of the tribulation period (which is his revealing).

13 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.

A great earthquake: The tenth part of the city that fell is a reference to the old city of Jerusalem.

In the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: It is interesting thing to note is that there are about 35,000 people that live in the old city today. If a bunch of the Jews flee into the wilderness, then the numbers would be spot on, and they will be. Luke 21:24.

The remnant were affrighted: Notice the reference here to the remnant. It is a reference to the Jewish believers that have survived unto this point.

 The fact that it is not the remnant of people remaining on the earth is clear by the statement that they gave glory to the God of heaven.

 Even with all the signs and wonders the lost continue rebelling against God. So, it is clear that the remnant of Jewish believers were not the ones crushed when the earthquake happens, but her enemies will be.

 Perhaps when the two witnesses speak their last message those who were there continually to oppose them notice that they are no longer being protected by God.

 When they kill these two prophets, God allows an earthquake to kill 7,000 people in that city that opposed God's men.

 The remnant of believers will see what has happened and give glory to God. Just like in Goshen, Egypt where Israel’s enemies suffered, but God’s people were protected.

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

The second woe is past: This began in Revelation 12:12. There is no way the two witnesses minister in the first three and half years alongside the 144,000.

The third woe: The seventh trumpet will open the seven vials. Notice that the third woe cometh quickly, soon after the second woe.

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.

The seventh angel sounded: This is the angel of the church of Laodicea.

The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord: When it says that glory and honour and power are given to Christ, it is all that was usurped by Satan, as the god of this world.

 This is the long-awaited fulfillment of old testament prophecy. The apostles even asked after Christ's resurrection if He would at that time restore again the kingdom to Israel, and now it is finally at hand. Acts 1:6.

 This is the point in heaven where all of Satan's armies are removed from the thrones, and principalities, and powers which they were usurping, and they are replaced by the body of Christ.

 We in the church have a heavenly destiny, while Israel has an earthly destiny. Heaven will at that time operate completely in accordance with God’s will as Satan has been evicted forever more.

 With the church in its place in the heavens the final three and a half years known as the great tribulation begins. The kingdoms of this earth are humbled so that at the onset of the kingdom they will fall right in line under the Messiah's reign.

16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, 17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O LORD God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

The four and twenty elders: Revelation 4:5, 10, 5:8, 14, 11:16, & 19:4.

18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

The nations were angry: Why do the heathen rage. Psalm 2:1 below:

Thy wrath is come: *Isaiah 13:9.*

The time of the dead, that they should be judged: The dead believers from Israel’s program will be raised and receive rewards in their kingdom at this time.

Thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and to them that fear thy name: *Revelation 22:12.*

And shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth: *Isaiah 13:9.*

*Psalms 2:1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, 3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. 4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. 5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. 6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. 7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. 8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. 9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. 10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. 11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.*

 Saints that will have gone on to heaven will not try and talk God out of these judgments, because we will be like him in that we shall see his plan, and our wills will be aligned with his perfect will once we are changed.

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

The temple of God was opened in heaven: We see here a temple in heaven at the end of this chapter that is not the same temple that is found in the first verses of this chapter.

 This temple is without sin; and it will always have the glory of God residing in it. It is the temple of God in heaven, that the earthly one is patterned after. Revelation 15:5.

The ark of his testament: The place where Jesus sprinkled his blood on the actual mercy seat. Revelation 15:5 also.

And there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings: This is now the third time that these three words are used together.

 The other two times are in Revelation 4:5 and 8:5, and the order of their appearance is different, plus, they are also used in Exodus 19:16 at the giving of the law.

And an earthquake, and great hail: These do not occur in heaven, or there would have been a heaven quake instead. These originate in heaven from the temple of God, because of the sinfulness of mankind.

Chapter Twelve

A woman clothed with the sun.

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:

A great wonder in heaven: A great sign. John saw a vision which he said was a great wonder. This is the first of only two times a wonder is seen in heaven.

 The second, and last time, is in verse three of this same chapter. The last wonder is not a great wonder, it is just pure evil.

A woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet: This woman is the nation of Israel. The sun represents Jacob (Israel) while Rachel is represented as the moon, as seen in Genesis 37:9-11.

Upon her head a crown of twelve stars: These crowns represent the twelve tribes of Israel. Jacob’s name is changed to Israel in Genesis 32:28. Notice the use of stars in Joseph’s dream related to his brothers in Genesis 37:

*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.*

 Joseph told his dream to his family, and he said that he saw eleven stars make obeisance to him. We know that he meant his eleven brothers, because his father Jacob interprets the dream for us in the following verse:

*Genesis 37:10 And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?*

2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

Being with child: This woman (the nation of Israel) gives birth to many in the future tribulation period, not in the past.

 Israel will also be born again in a day according to Isaiah 66:7 and 8 at the end of the tribulation period, before she can enter into her literal kingdom.

*Isaiah 66:7 Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. 8 Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.*

 Since the woman here represents the nation of Israel there is precedent here that the man-child that she bares also represents a future group of people that are males (144,000 of them). They make up the firstfruits of a nation:

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.

Another wonder in heaven: The first, and only other time a wonder appears in heaven is in Revelation 12:1 above. The first one was a great wonder; this one was not so great.

A great red dragon: This is the devil, and the seven heads with crowns, and ten horns, represent two things, the nations under his control during the tribulation period, and their leaders.

Seven heads: A seven-headed dragon is what John sees, but the dragon is symbolic of Satan, and his seven world rulers.

 The first head/leader that ruled over Israel was Egypt, then Assyria, then Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome makes the sixth that was ruling at the time of John's writing the book of the Revelation. The seven heads:

*Revelation 17:9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. 10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.*

 The seventh that is not yet come, and it will be the last which will continue for a short time in the tribulation period, before his kingdom is destroyed by Christ. Christ will establish an everlasting kingdom as seen in Nebuchadnezzar’s vision:

*Daniel 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.*

Ten horns: These ten horns are later identified as kings who give their power to the beast.

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

Seven crowns: These crowns are on the seven heads, which denote that they have power given to them to rule at different times throughout history.

4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

The stars of heaven: One third of the angels are cast down to the earth by the dragon. Angels are depicted as stars in several places in the Bible. Luke 10:18-19.

 Here John records a future event that will happen in the tribulation period. This is not telling about an event that already happened with Jesus' birth, and Herod trying to kill Jesus, but a yet future event.

The woman: This is the nation of Israel, and she is about to give birth here again, to form the nucleus of a nation that will rule all nations in the kingdom, which thing the dragon hates, and he will try to stop.

Her child: Who is Israel's child that she gives birth to supernaturally in the tribulation period? The 144,000 witnesses. They are the firstfruits of the next dispensation after the dispensation of grace is over.

 Their birth as the man child occurs when they are sealed at the beginning of the tribulation period in Revelation chapter seven. Revelation 14:4.

 Satan, the Dragon, knows that the man child (the 144,000) will rule over the nations with a rod of iron along with Christ during the kingdom, so he wants to try to kill them.

 The man child however is protected by God and caught up to new Jerusalem a while after they are sealed in their foreheads according to Revelation 7:3.

As soon as it was born: Jesus was not devoured as soon as he was born, he lived on earth for thirty-three years.

 The man child comes into being quickly, and in just three and one-half years is caught up to heaven after it’s sealing mentioned in chapter seven.

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 man child: Now we see the nation of Israel giving birth to "a man child" during the tribulation period that will rule and reign with Jesus Christ over all nations. Who is this man child?

 Since the woman represents more than one person i.e., the nation of Israel, and the dragon represents more than just the devil, he represents the seven nations and ten kings.

 The man child also represents more than just one person. The man child represents the 144,000 male Jewish, virgins in the first half of the tribulation period.

To rule all nations with a rod of iron: *Revelation 19:15 and 2:26-27:*

Her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne: Notice that it says that "the man child" gets caught up (raptured) unto God and his throne.

 This is the only "mid-trib" rapture found in the Bible, and it is made up solely of the 144,000 male Jewish, virgins. We as the church, the body of Christ, will already be in heaven for the past three and a half years.

 Read John's letter to Thyatira again, and notice a comment about who besides Christ rules with a rod of iron during the kingdom. It is those that overcome in the first half of the tribulation period.

 Those that lay in the bed with the prophetess Jezebel during that day will also go into the great tribulation.

 Which implies that those who do not will miss that time. The only way they can miss it is to die or be raptured. They (the man child) are raptured.

 The man child cannot be Jesus because the context is the tribulation period when the man child is born, and when he is caught up to heaven.

*Revelation 2:26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: 27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron;*

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

The woman fled into the wilderness: The woman (Israel) flees into the wilderness (the city of Petra, in Jordan) and is protected there for three and a half years.

 This is also prophesied in the old testament in Deuteronomy 32:11 & Hosea 2:14-19. God will protect those Jews in the future that go into the wilderness completely.

Where she hath a place prepared of God: The woman goes into the wilderness after her man child is taken into heaven for the second half of the tribulation period (the great tribulation) after they are sealed in their foreheads.

 This is at the same time that Satan sets up his image in the temple, after he and his fallen angels are cast out of heaven at the midpoint of the tribulation period.

That they should feed her there: Who are the “they” that feed her (Israel) there? Angels, Gentiles? The “her” here is the woman that is identified as the nation of Israel above.

 Gentiles will also be blessed in the kingdom for obeying Genesis 12:1-3, by feeding Israel in the time of Jacob’s trouble. She will also eat the hidden manna in the wilderness once again. Revelation 2:17 & Matthew 25:31-46.

A thousand two hundred and threescore days: Forty and two months, or three and one-half years.

 If God did it before for forty years, he can do it again for forty-two months. See also the feeding of the 5,000, and the 4,000 in the gospels. Matthew 16:8-10.

7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

There was war in heaven: This war did not take place around the throne of God in the third heaven, but rather in the second heaven.

 This is where the Sun, Moon, Stars, and Planets all reside. The second round of wars will take place here on the earth, and it will last for three and a half years.

Michael and his angels fought against the dragon: Michael is one of the chief princes (Angelic principalities). He is Israel’s prince. Daniel 10:13 and 21.

 Two-thirds of the stars (angels) make up the angelic host that fight here with Michael against Satan and his third of the angelic host. Daniel 12:1 & Jude 9. Principalities: Romans 8:38, Ephesians 3:10, 6:12, Colossians 1:16 & 2:15.

The dragon fought and his angels: This is the great red dragon that was first introduced in Revelation 12:3.

 The dragon, and his angels, lose this fight to Michael, and his angels, and they are all cast out of the second heaven down to the earth.

 The dragon had one third of the angelic host follow him when he rebelled. Revelation 12:4.

Neither was their place found any more in heaven: They had been in places of authority in heaven, but now they are going to be removed from the offices they held.

 These positions were originally given to them by God before they followed Lucifer in his rebellion. There will be a shaking of the heavens at this time. Hebrews 12:26-27.

 Since that day they have been usurping the places of authority they held, to do the bidding of the god of this world, Satan. These positions will be occupied by members of the body of Christ in the future.

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. *Revelation 20:2.*

The great dragon was cast out: Isaiah 27:1 is a prophecy about God punishing Leviathan, and slaying the dragon that is in the sea. Revelation 13:1.

That old serpent: This is a reference to the serpent in the garden of Eden. Genesis 3:1-14

Called the Devil: Diabolos in Greek. Satan is never called the devil in the old testament.

Satan: The word is from the Hebrew language, and it means an adversary.

He was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him: Satan drags his minions to earth to make war with Israel, which brought forth the man child (the 144,000), and with the remnant of her seed (believing Israel).

 This begins the second half of the tribulation period known as the great tribulation period. Luke 10:18-19 & Revelation 12:4.

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Now is come salvation: The heavens are delivered, or saved from any more of Satan’s influence in them, and all of his principalities (fallen angels) are cast down with him.

The kingdom of our God: Now the heavens have been purged of all those angels that rebelled against him, and nothing will ever happen again in the heavens that is not something that is a part of God’s plan.

 Power is then given to Christ in the heavens that was being usurped by Satan for the past 6,000 years for his evil plan.

 The kingdom reign of God can begin in the heavens at this point, but the earth must wait another three and a half years for it to exist down here.

The accuser of our brethren is cast down: John is identifying for us who it is specifically that Satan is accusing before God day and night; it is his brethren, Israel. Not believers in the body of Christ today.

 This happens at the halfway point of the tribulation period because we read that the kingdom of our God is come sometime soon after the casting out of Satan and his devils.

 Three and one-half years will be a long time to those going through that period, but in God's timing it is a short time. Luke 10:18-19.

 When Satan and his fallen angels are cast out of heaven, all the thrones, principalities, and powers that they usurped after their rebellion will be occupied by the body of Christ.

 We have a heavenly destiny, while Israel has an earthly one in their kingdom promised to them by the Father.

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

They overcame him: The “him” is Satan.

By the blood of the Lamb: 1st Peter 1:19 & Revelation 7:14.

By the word of their testimony: These are Jewish believers in the tribulation period who are the overcomers mentioned in Revelation chapters 2 and 3, as well as other believers in those times from all over the world.

 These tribulation saints will lose their lives for their testimony for Christ. Matthew 10:32-33 below:

*Matthew 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.*

They loved not their lives unto the death: This is what Jesus meant by taking up their cross and following him in the gospels:

*Mark 8:34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. 36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? 37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? 38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.*

12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabiters 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.

Rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them: The heavens will be purged of Satan and his forces forever.

Woe to the inhabiters of the earth and of the sea: The devil will soon be cast into the bottomless pit for a thousand years, and he wants to kill as many people as possible.

 The first two woes are mentioned as having passed in Revelation 9:12 & 11:14.

The devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time: Forty and two months.

13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

When the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth: Jesus mentioned this to the seventy in the gospel of Luke:

*Luke 10:17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. 18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. 19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.*

He persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child: Why not persecute the man child as well?

 Because he cannot, the man child was caught up into heaven as we read earlier. We will read about him again in heaven singing on mount Sion in Revelation 14:1-5.

 This verse tells us that the devil will persecute the Jews unlike any other time in their history. Hitler was an evil man, but even he pales in comparison to the devil who will try to finish what he inspired Hitler to do.

 Why does Satan hate the woman (Israel) so much? Because of the man child she produced, and the remnant of her seed (believing Israel) will soon rule all nations with a rod of Iron.

 The very same nations that for 6,000 years Satan had been ruling as the god of this world. 2nd Corinthians 4:4.

14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

Two wings of a great eagle: Israel is given the means to escape into a place of safety.

 The method of their flight is not as important as the fact that she is rescued. She may have to walk all the way there. Has this ever happened before in scripture? Yes, it has:

*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.*

 Will he do it again? Yes, he will.

*Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*

That she may fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished:

*Isaiah 16:1 Send ye the lamb to the ruler of the land from Sela to the wilderness, unto the mount of the daughter of Zion. 2 For it shall be, that, as a wandering bird cast out of the nest, so the daughters of Moab shall be at the fords of Arnon. 3 Take counsel, execute judgment; make thy shadow as the night in the midst of the noonday; hide the outcasts; bewray not him that wandereth. 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. 5 And in mercy shall the throne be established: and he shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle of David, judging, and seeking judgment, and hasting righteousness.*

A time, and times, and half a time: It will not be the antichrist; he already rescued them from a previous invasion to gain their trust before committing the abomination of desolation.

 Isaiah 16 tells us that the remnant will flee into the land of Moab (Jordan) to be protected from the spoiler (the antichrist).

 God will provide manna from heaven again during the final three and a half years to feed his people once again in the wilderness.

 He did it for forty years the first time, three and a half he can do with his eyes closed. He will probably send them some Quail as well. Revelation 2:17.

From the face of the serpent: See the face of the spoiler in Isaiah 16:5 above:

15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

The serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman: Here we read of one of the many ways that Satan will try to destroy the Jews during the time of Jacob's trouble.

 Some have said that he will release the water from a dam in the north to accomplish this. The serpent is also the prince of the power of the air, he can stir up floods supernaturally:

*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.*

 If you have ever been in the Middle East when heavy rains come, whole areas can be wiped away because the ground is so hard and dry that it cannot absorb the water immediately and raging floods result.

16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

The earth helped the woman, and the earth opened up her mouth, and swallowed up the flood: The dragon has a mouth, but the earth also has a mouth that God opens as he watches over Israel.

 God keeps his promises to Israel, even when she does keep hers, that she will never be totally destroyed by her enemies. Genesis 4:11 & Numbers 16:30-32.

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

The dragon was wroth with the woman: Satan was angry at the nation of Israel.

And went to make war with the remnant of her seed: During the tribulation period only a remnant of the Jews will keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

 These are the ones Satan is the most concerned with, and whom he focuses his attack on, not the ones worshiping the antichrist back at the temple. He already has them.

 Why not make war with her man child (The 144,000)? They were caught up to heaven.

Which keep the commandments of God: During the tribulation period the believing Jews will keep the laws of Moses i.e., the commandments.

 All of these religious groups that are trying to obey these commandments today, that are meant for Israel under the law, are being disobedient to God by not following Paul today. Romans 6:14-15 and 1st Timothy 1:15-16.

The testimony of Jesus Christ: Is the spirit of prophecy according to Revelation 19:10. The gift of prophecy will be in use a lot during the time of Jacob’s trouble, and it will give the remnant a greater understanding of all the things written in the Bible.

*Matthew 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.*

Chapter Thirteen

A beast rise up out of the sea

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.

I stood upon the sand of the sea: This represents the land of Israel. John was on the shoreline facing the Mediterranean Sea.

And saw a beast rise up out of the sea: It has seven heads, but how is that possible? Each head is a leader of a Gentile kingdom that ruled over Israel and the world at one time.

 The beast is the same beast as the one that the woman is riding in Revelation 17. The beast is the antichrist. Isaiah 27:1 & Revelation 12:9.

 The beast is mentioned in chapter twelve, and it is the world's kingdoms, with their leaders controlled by Satan himself, and it is the political system where the antichrist himself will arise from.

Having seven heads: The first head/leader that ruled over Israel was Egypt, then Assyria, then Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome makes the sixth that was ruling at the time of John's writing the book of the Revelation.

 One head is yet to come, who will set up his ten-nation confederacy during the tribulation period, three of them will be destroyed, and the number will become seven.

 Seven Gentile kingdoms will rule over the earth led by the god of this world Satan, through his self-appointed leaders that typify him, the last one he will literally possess at the mid-point of the tribulation period.

 It was mentioned in chapter twelve that this beast (a Leviathan) from the sea (Gentile nations) had only seven crowns, and now we see it with ten.

 These seven heads were the leaders of the seven Gentiles nations that would rule over Israel during what scripture calls “the times of the Gentiles” When Israel is not the "head" nation on the earth, as it will be in the kingdom.

*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.*

Ten horns: A head, and a horn are different; they are not the same thing. The last group of ten nations that will come against Israel are the ten horns, and their leaders, that all give power to their leader:

Seven crowns: Each of the first six Gentile world leaders had a crown affiliated with their rule over Israel, and so does the seventh and final one. He is the last leader to rule over Israel while she is in the wilderness. He is the antichrist himself.

And upon his heads the name of Blasphemy: Notice at the end of verse one that it says that upon each of its (the beast's) heads were the name of blasphemy. Each of these kingdoms’ leaders had the "name" of blasphemy accredited to them.

 Satan is the controller of these leaders trying to set up his kingdom on the earth, which is opposed to God's kingdom, with Israel ruling under their Messiah. God has to intervene over and over again to deliver Israel from the beast in each of its seven manifestations over time.

 But there is coming a day when the stone that is cut without hands (Daniel 2:44-45) will crush all these kingdoms, and he rule with a rod of iron for a thousand years.

2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

 This is a reference to the beast mentioned a half century earlier in Daniel 7:4-6. These beasts are explained to Daniel as four world empires, the last of which is Rome.

 They are in reverse order from Daniel 7:4-6. Remember that two of these beasts had come and gone, Egypt and Assyria, by the time Daniel is with his countrymen in captivity in Babylon.

Like unto a leopard: Daniel 7:6. This beast is diverse from it however, having the parts of three other kingdoms making up its being.

His feet were as the feet of a bear: Daniel 7:5.

His mouth as the mouth of a lion: Daniel 7:3-4.

The dragon gave him his power: The “him” here is the antichrist.

And his seat: As leader over a confederacy of nations.

And great authority: Ten other kings give their allegiance to him.

3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

One of his heads as it were wounded to death: This refers to the seventh king during the tribulation that comes against Israel in the middle of the tribulation period.

 The antichrist here imitates the resurrection of Christ. Because of his "as it were" resurrection, he will fool the world into thinking he is the Christ. See the comments in Zechariah 11 below and notice the connection with Judas Iscariot:

*Zechariah 11:12 And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. 13 And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD. 14 Then I cut asunder mine other staff, even Bands, that I might break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel. 15 And the LORD said unto me, Take unto thee yet the instruments of a foolish shepherd. 16 For, lo, I will raise up a shepherd in the land, which shall not visit* *those that be cut off, neither shall seek the young one, nor heal that that is broken, nor feed that that standeth still: but he shall eat the flesh of the fat, and tear their claws in pieces. 17 Woe to the idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! the sword shall be upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened.*

And his deadly wound was healed: He was resurrected at the same time that Satan is cast down to the earth, and he enters into him and resurrects the beast/antichrist, who went into the bottomless pit when his deadly wound occurred.

And all the world wondered after the beast: He does not have complete control over all the world, because God does not allow him to.

4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

They worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: Here we see some of the signs and wonders the devil will use to deceive the world at this time. The antichrist will use his newfound fame to increase his power, and he will make war with Israel.

 Satan wants to get a foothold in the land, and then he reveals himself to Israel for who he really is, and believing Israel will be forced to flee into the wilderness.

 He gave power unto the beast, whose body was slain with a deadly wound, when he entered into him. He also had previously entered into Judas on the night of Jesus’ betrayal in John 13:2, 27, Luke 22:3 and John 6:70.

They worshipped the beast: They thought that no one could make war with him and win, because even if you were to kill him, he can just rise from the dead to fight you again.

5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

There was given unto him a mouth speaking great things, and blasphemies: This beast is a prominent person in the push for peace in the Middle East at the beginning of the seven-year peace treaty which he himself confirms with many according to Daniel. Daniel 9:24-27.

 He is elected, or appointed, to office because of his efforts for peace, and then he turns his focus against Israel.

And power was given unto him to continue forty and two months: Three and one-half years.

6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

To blaspheme his name: The name of Jesus.

And his tabernacle: The temple.

And them that dwell in heaven: All the saints that have been martyred before that time.

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.

It was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: Since he cannot really defeat a believer on the battlefield, he will also attack them with his mark of the beast.

And power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations: All the power that is given to the beast comes from Satan. Remember he is still the god of this world; he wields a lot of power.

 This is the power that he once offered to Jesus in the wilderness temptation, if he would just fall down and worship him:

*Matthew 4:8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

 The temptation that Jesus endured, and was victorious over, will be offered to the world in the tribulation period. Most will succumb to it.

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.

And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him: Anyone not taking the mark will be hunted down as an enemy of the one world government, and destroyed.

 The world will be engulfed in great famine and wars, and this beast will unite them and promises a recovery if everyone will be a part of this new government by showing their allegiance by taking his (the beast's) mark.

 There will be no neutral position during this time. Either your name is in the book because you have trusted in Christ, or you worship the dragon, and the beast, and you name is not in the book.

 There is no half in, half out. If someone claims to be an Atheist in those days, they are really on the devil's side.

Whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb: Power is given to him over all whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb (Jesus) who was slain from the foundation of the world.

 People who do not endure unto the end of the tribulation period, and who take the mark of the beast, have their name removed from the book of life of the Lamb.

 Their names were written there when they first believed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God.

 It is removed when they chose not to follow Christ any further. This is not possible in the dispensation of grace that we are in today, but it will be during the tribulation period. Revelation 21:27.

Slain from the foundation of the world: It was a part of God’s plan from the foundation of the world that Christ should suffer at the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. Luke 24:7.

9 If any man have an ear, let him hear. 10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

If any man have an ear, let him hear: This is speaking of believers who have discerning ears.

He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: Just as Israel's rebellion against God caused God to bring Babylon down upon her to punish her, so God will here as well.

 Israel will flee for her own good, and God will supernaturally protect those who will flee.

He that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword: Those who stay, and fight, will be destroyed by the sword. Those who flee, are those who have ears to hear.

The patience and the faith of the saints: These saints will have to be patient, and trust in God to take care of them, and to resist the mark of the beast, to enter into their earthly kingdom. Revelation 1:9, 2:2-3, 3:10 & 14:12.

Another beast coming up out of the earth

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.

Another beast coming up out of the earth: The first we saw in verse one was a beast that rose up out of the sea.

 The sea often represents the Gentiles, but this one comes up from out of the earth, which is symbolic of coming from Israel, meaning he is a Jew.

He had two horns like a lamb: Because he looks like a lamb to the world, because he is a peace maker.

He spake as a dragon: He can rally the world with his fair speeches that are filled with empty promises and lies that damn the soul.

12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

To worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed: He is resurrected.

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

He doeth great wonders: Spectacular signs that are supernatural, but demonic. 2nd Thessalonians 2:6-12.

An image of the beast

14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image of the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

In the sight of the beast: His power comes from the first beast, and it appears he must be in a close proximity to him to perform his miracles.

An image of the beast: This worshipping of an image will repel any Jewish ideas that this man might still be their Messiah as they flee to the wilderness. Israel will realize that their true Messiah came 2000 years ago. Revelation 14:9-11, 15:2, 16:2, 19:20 & 20:4.

The wound by a sword: Notice we see here that beast will be wounded by a sword during a coup attempt, or in a battle, and Satan uses that to fool the world. Satan is the great imitator.

*Zechariah 11:17 Woe to the idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! the sword shall be upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened.*

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 that would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

He had power to give life unto the image of the beast: He will be accompanied by the antichrist, who will perform many miracles, such as causing fire to come down from heaven to deceive the people into following him.

 The religious leader (the antichrist) will make an image of the political leader.

And cause that as many as that would not worship the image of the beast should be killed: He will demand that everyone pay homage to, or worship, the image of the beast (political leader), like in Daniel chapter three.

The mark of the beast

16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

A mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: Other versions say, “on their right hand, or on their foreheads.”

 You could make a mistake reading the wrong version of the Bible in those days, that will cost you your soul for eternity. In and on are two totally different words, which mean different things.

17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

No man might buy or sell: This mark is to gain financial power. The love of money will cause many to take the mark.

The mark: This could possibly be a bar code with just lines on it. The lines represent numbers.

The name of the beast: This second option is the most mysterious, but it has the same consequences. Damnation. This is the sin mentioned in Hebrews that cannot be repented of.

The number of his name: The value of this man’s name. See also the number of a man below.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

Here is wisdom. *Revelation 17:9.*

Let him that hath understanding: A believer who understands biblical numerology.

Count the number of the beast: The number is 666.

It is the number of a man: Man was created on the sixth day. Genesis 1:26-31

Six hundred threescore and six: This is an old English way of saying six hundred and sixty-six. A score of years equals twenty years. Three scores is three times twenty, or sixty. Notice in verse seventeen that people could have any one of the three identifiers, and not just one.

 Some will identify with the devil by having his name on them, while others will choose the mark, and others will choose the number, each one will damn their souls to hell.

 To determine the numerical value of a person’s name you must first assign a numeric value to each letter in the alphabet. The Hebrew alphabet actually assigns numerical values to each Hebrew letter.

 You cannot figure out who the antichrist is before the rapture occurs. Only when the Holy Spirit raptures us out can he be revealed.

ALPHANUMERIC CHART

A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, E=5, F=6, G=7, H=8, I=9, J=10, K=20, L=30, M=40, N=50, O=60, P=70, Q=80, R=90, S=100, T=200, U=300, V=400, W=500, X=600, Y=700, Z=800

 Remember Greek and Hebrew are not English, and just because a person's name equals 666 in one language does not make it equal that in another.

 Today almost everything that we buy now has a U.P.C code (bar code) on it. Each bar code has two series of numbers on them divided by two long thin lines.

 These two lines serve as a signal to a bar code scanner to break what it is reading momentarily, and then to start scanning the second half of the U.P.C. symbol.

 The two sets of identical longer lines at the beginning of the bar code and at the end, also serve as signals to the scanner to start scanning, and to stop scanning.

 It is no coincidence that the numerical equivalent of these lines are the number six. On each product we buy there is the number 666.

 So, should we stop buying things because they have 666 on them? No. The mark that the Bible is talking about is one that is implanted "in" our forehead or "in" our right hand.

 Today, new technology has been developed with 5G that has made it so much easier to track people.

 A person who reads a modern Bible during the tribulation period will determine that he can take this mark, because in his Bible it says the mark will be “on” the hand, or “on” the forehead, instead of “in” them.

 This will damn a person to Hell eternally. Revelation 13 says that everyone who does not take the mark will be killed, but it also says in later chapters that everyone who receives the mark will die and spend eternity in hell.

 According to the book of Revelation the mark of the beast is not mandatory until the mid-point of the tribulation period, but nowhere does it say that it cannot be in place prior to that point on a limited basis.

 We only know that it is optional up until the midpoint of the tribulation. I believe we are living in some of the most interesting times the world has ever seen, or will see.

The six different roman numerals

I=1, V=5, X=10, L=50, C=100, M=500

1 + 5 + 10 + 50 + 100 + 500 = 666

What a coincidence!

Chapter Fourteen

The earth was reaped

 Revelation fourteen begins in heaven after the tribulation period is ended but remember that the book of Revelation is not always in chronological order, and bounces back and forth in time.

 The events of the seven-year period are actually described three or four different times, and from different vantage points, like the four gospels describe the ministry of Christ.

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.

A Lamb stood on the mount Sion: Which mount Sion is John talking about? Notice that it says "the" mount Sion, instead of just mount Sion.

 There is a mount Sion in Israel, but the mount Sion here is the mount Sion in heaven. Deuteronomy 4:48 & Hebrews 12:22.

And with him an hundred and forty and four thousand: The 144,000 have been caught up to heaven at the mid-point of the tribulation period in Revelation 12:5.

His Father’s name written in their foreheads: The seal of God that is placed in his 144,000 servants; it is the name of the Father.

 YHVH is the Hebrew consonants that make up the name of God. Pronounced YaH-VeH or YaH-WeH.

 Satan has his counterfeit seal in Revelation 13:17, where a person could have his name, or his number, written in their forehead.

2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

A voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters: Psalm 29:3, Revelation 14:2 & 19:6.

The voice of harpers: These are not angels. These are the 144,000 servants mentioned earlier, as you will see in the next verse.

 David played a harp in 1st Samuel 16:16. The prophets on occasion used harps when prophesying. 1st Samuel 10:5, 1st Chronicles 25:3 & Psalm 49:4.

3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

A new song: These do not sing the song of Moses, but rather a new song which commemorates the latest trials that Israel and the world's believers will have faced during the tribulation period.

 This song is for the 144,000 only to sing, and notice that they were redeemed “from the earth.” This happened at the mid-point of the tribulation period. Revelation 12:5.

*Isaiah 42:10 Sing unto the Lord a new song.*

The four beasts: Seraphim in Isaiah 6:1-3. The general class of angels does not have any wings at all, the Seraphim have six, while the Cherub have only two. 1st Kings 6:24.

 The number of Cherubim in the Bible can be counted on one hand. Angels are always referred to as masculine in the Bible, never feminine.

The elders: The four and twenty elders from Revelation 4:5, 10, 5:8, 14, 11:16, & 19:4.

The hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth: The 144,000 are the man child that was caught up at the mid-point of the tribulation in Revelation 12:5.

4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

They which were not defiled with women: These witnesses are all Jewish men who have devoted themselves wholly to God's service during the first half of the tribulation.

 A Jewish young man who is not a virgin is not qualified to be one of the 144,000, because God will require these special young men to follow him wherever he goes.

 They cannot serve God as they are required to do if they have a wife that needs them during this terrible time. They will have responsibilities there that will disqualify them, and in a sense defile them, from being able to do this job.

For they are virgins: When the scriptures are clear, we have no right to spiritualize them.

These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth: Jesus told his disciples while he was with them, that they had to forsake all, and come and follow him or they could not be his disciples:

*Luke 14:26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. 27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.*

*Luke 14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.*

These were redeemed from among men: Revelation 12:5.

Being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb: These 144,000 are the firstfruits of those that are redeemed in the tribulation period.

 Which means they were the first, there were none before them. That means they ministered in the first half of the tribulation period, not the second. Leviticus 23:10-20.

 Those who believe on Christ after the 144,000 are taken up will be the rest of the harvest (a sort of second fruits). They are the innumerable multitude who get saved in the second half of the tribulation period. Leviticus 23:10-20.

 What happens when the firstfruits appear according to Leviticus 23? You would count seven weeks (49 days) until Pentecost (which means 50). At that time, you would put in the sickle.

 5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God. Psalm 32:2, John 1:47 (Nathaniel) and 1st Peter 3:10.

Guile: Subtilty, deceit, craft, trickery.

6 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,

I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach: The next verse tells you what the angel preached:

7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

The everlasting gospel: There is no mention here of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ in this gospel that is preached.

 This is the everlasting gospel which will begin to be preached there at the end of the tribulation period as they cross into the new dispensation known as the kingdom age.

 Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom solely to the lost sheep of the house of Israel during his earthly ministry. This angel, at the correct time, will preach the everlasting gospel, which is the proper message for that particular time period.

 Today we preach the gospel of the grace of God, which was given to the apostle Paul by revelation, and which can be clearly seen in 1st Corinthians 15:1-4. Acts 20:24.

 The 144,000 witnesses will all preach the gospel of the kingdom as being at hand, just as the apostles were commissioned to do.

The hour of his judgment is come: This is a reference to God’s judgment against Babylon.

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.

Another angel: The first angel spoke of the good news that people needed to believe to go into their kingdom, while this angel spoke of what would happen to those who did not believe.

The wine of the wrath of her fornication: Wine is used to intoxicate someone into doing something they would not normally if they were sober.

 Babylon has gotten all nations to become intoxicated with her wine, which was spiritual fornication, that would cause the nations to commit spiritual adultery by departing from God, and worshipping false gods.

9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, 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:

The third angel: This is the angel of the church of Pergamos, which could mean that the two preceding angels were the angels of the first two churches mentioned in Revelation two.

 The world will still a few people left at this time in the tribulation period that have not yet chosen Christ, nor have received the mark of the beast.

Which is poured out without mixture: His wrath will not be diluted, or softened any.

The cup of his indignation: Cups are often used prophetically to describe spiritual things related to suffering, like in Matthew 20:22.

He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone: The place of this torment is in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb. Genesis 19:24, Psalm 11:6, Luke 17:29 & Isaiah 30:33.

11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

The smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: *Isaiah 30:33.*

12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

The patience of the saints: This is for those Jews in the tribulation period, who will once again keep the commandments of God as they were commanded to do prior to the church age.

 During the dispensation of grace today there is no difference between the Jew and Gentile, they are all one in Christ. During the tribulation period, God is dealing with Israel differently than he is dealing with us in the church.

They that keep the commandments of God: *1st John 5:2-3.*

The faith of Jesus: They believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. 1st John 5:4-5.

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.

They may rest from their labours: Their labours are the struggles they face. Revelation 2:2-3.

Their works do follow them: The tribulation saints’ works follow them into their kingdom, where they receive a reward.

*Revelation 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*

A Sharp Sickle

14 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.

A white cloud: This is the only time the color white is associated with a cloud in the Bible, because of the person who is sitting upon it.

Upon the cloud one sat: Christ is seen as sitting here, because the Lord standeth up to plead, and standeth to judge the people according to Isaiah 3:13.

 The time to plead will be over, while the time to judge will be just ahead when he will stand up, to mount his white horse, and return.

*Isaiah 3:13 The LORD standeth up to plead, and standeth to judge the people.*

Like unto the Son of man: A title of Christ found in the gospels (especially Luke’s gospel) and in Ezekiel 93 times.

On his head a golden crown: Christ is seated on a white cloud to receive the 144,000 unto himself. He is not standing because he is not judging Israel yet. Isaiah 3:13.

In his hand a sharp sickle: This is the reaping that takes place at the end of the tribulation period, that is not the rapture of the church, which is Christ's body.

 Those who mix up Israel and the church, almost all eventually start to teach that they will go through the tribulation period, because they do not understand how to rightly divide the word of truth. 2nd Timothy 2:15.

 I believe the Philadelphian church mentioned in chapter three will be involved in this tribulation rapture of mostly Jewish believers.

 The body of Christ, however, has been in heaven for many years already at this point, and does not go through any of the tribulation. We have not been appointed unto wrath:

*1st Thessalonians 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,*

15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

Him that sat on the cloud: This is now the second of three times in all of the Bible that someone is said to be sitting on a cloud.

 The previous time is in the previous verse, and the final one is in the next verse. Three times helps us to remember that Jesus was not standing, yet. Isaiah 3:13 above.

16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

He that sat on the cloud: Three times in three consecutive verses John emphasizes that Christ was sitting, and not standing. His posture changing has a purpose.

17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

Another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle: Two angels with sharp sickles reaping one after the other, why?

 Why not at the same time? The reaping was to take place over seven weeks (the feast of weeks) and culminate at Pentecost. The first angel (Jesus) gathers the Firstfruits (the 144,000), the second angel gathers the chaff. Leviticus 23:10-20.

18 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.

Another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire: Possibly the fourth angel in Revelation 16:8.

The clusters of the vine of the earth: They are the fruit on the vine. 1st Samuel 25:18 & the Song of Solomon 7:7-8.

19 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

The vine of the earth: All the bad fruit that is to be destroyed.

The great winepress of the wrath of God: The winepress was meant for wine, but if Israel would not produce good fruit in the vineyard that God gave to them, then he will reap them, and cast them into a winepress of his wrath.

 These are the chaff spoken of in Matthew 3:12 that are cast into the fire and burned (tormented).

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.

The winepress was trodden without the city: The city is Jerusalem, but the winepress is throughout the land, and without the city.

And blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles: This is how high the blood splatters from the ground upwards. Isaiah 63:3 below.

By the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs: 80 miles in length, which covers a lot of central Israel.

God’s Vineyard is Israel

*Isaiah 5:1 Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: 2 And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes. 3 And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard. 4 What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes? 5 And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: 6 And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briers and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. 7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.*

I have trodden the winepress alone

*Isaiah 63:1 Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. 2 Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? 3 I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. 4 For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. 5 And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. 6 And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.*

Chapter Fifteen

Another sign in heaven

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.

Another sign in heaven: The previous sign is found in Revelation 12:1-4. The man child.

Great and marvellous: This term is used here, and in verse three just two verses later as part of the song of Moses which connects these sayings.

Seven angels: The seven angels are the great and marvelous sign mentioned in verse one.

Seven last plagues: They begin to be poured out in chapter 16.

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.

As it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: It looked like a sea of glass. Revelation 4:6.

Mingled with fire: Exodus 9:2 4 & Revelation 8:7.

Them that had gotten the victory over the beast: These are tribulation saints, not us. The beast is the antichrist. Revelation 11:7.

His image: An image of the antichrist for people to worship. Revelation 13:14.

His mark: The mark of the beast in Revelation 13:16-18.

The number of his name: *Revelation 13:17.*

Stand on the sea of glass: Which tells you it is not a normal sea. The sea was like unto crystal. Revelation 4:6.

The harps of God: The tribulation saints will stand on the “crystal” sea with the harps of God, and they will be singing. Revelation 5:8. David established 24 courses of priests. Some played harps: 2nd Samuel 6:5 & 1st Chronicles 15:16.

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

The song of Moses: This is found in Deuteronomy 32:1-43.

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

The temple of the tabernacle of the testimony: The tabernacle of the testimony is speaking about the ark of the covenant, which is the place that houses the ark where the tablets of the testament reside.

6 And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles.

The seven angels: These are the same angels mentioned as before. They are the messengers to the seven churches of chapters two and three.

The seven plagues: All are found in Revelation 16:1-21.

Clothed in pure and white linen: Jesus, these angels, and all the tribulation saints will be arrayed in white garments, but only Jesus and the angels will have their breasts girded with golden girdles.

7 And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever.

The four beasts: Seraphim in Isaiah 6:1-3.

The seven angels: These are the seven angels that served as messengers to the seven churches in Asia in chapters two and three.

Seven golden vials: The seven last plagues full of the wrath of God, as seen in the next chapters.

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.

The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God: This also happened in Isaiah’s day when he saw the lord sitting on the throne in the temple in heaven, and the house was filled with smoke. Isaiah 6:1-4.

No man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled: These begin to be poured out beginning in chapter sixteen.

Chapter Sixteen

The vials of the wrath of God

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.

The seven angels: These are the angels of the seven churches of Asia found in Revelation chapters two and three.

The vials of the wrath of God: These are poured out in seven different places. Upon the earth, upon the Sea, upon the rivers, and fountains of water, upon the Sun, upon the seat of the beast, upon the great river Euphrates, and into the air.

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.

The first went: This is the first angel identified as the angel of the church of Ephesus.

And poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore: Like an ulcer. Revelation 16:11.

The men which had the mark of the beast: The sore falls only upon those who have the mark of the beast, his political supporters. Revelation 13:16-18.

 God supernaturally protects those in the tribulation period who worship him, just as he promised he would in Mark 16:15-18.

Them which worshipped his image: This vial tormented his religious followers as well.

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.

The second angel: This is the angel of the church of Sardis.

Upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: This vial destroys one of mankind's best sources of provision in order to judge this Christ rejecting world.

 The blood of a dead man coagulates. Just like the punishment upon Egypt prior to Israel's Exodus, the sea turns to blood and everything in it dies, but God’s people can drink poisonous things. Mark 16:18.

4 And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.

The third angel: This is the angel of the church of Pergamos.

Upon the rivers and the fountains of waters: Once again God is slowly closing down man's abilities to fend for himself by poisoning the water supply, and yet man does not turn to God.

 The water becomes poisonous for men to drink, but what promise is given to believers in Mark 16:15-18? If they drink any deadly thing it will not hurt them.

 This is not so under our dispensation today, but only for believing Israel under the gospel of the kingdom message, and only when the kingdom is at hand as it will be in the tribulation period. Matthew 24:14.

5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. 6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

Thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy: *Exodus 7:17-25.*

7 And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.

I heard another out of the altar: Another Angel. Revelation 8:3-5 & 14:18.

8 And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.

The fourth angel: This is the angel of the church in Thyatira.

Upon the sun: Intense heat surrounds the earth as God seeks to get men's attention because they resisted the 144,000 witnesses, as well as the two witness’ testimony previously, and now they even begin to blaspheme God.

 They are getting a little taste of what is ahead for them in hell.

9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.

And blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: This is possibly them using Jesus’ name blasphemously.

10 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, 11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

The fifth angel: This is the angel of the church of Smyrna.

Upon the seat of the beast: Satan wants Jerusalem more than any other city, and Paul tells us that he will sit in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

 We do know that the beast rules over a ten-nation kingdom, and we learned in chapter three that Satan's seat will be in Pergamos initially. 2nd Thessalonians 2:3-4.

And his kingdom was full of darkness: The ninth plague in Egypt was a plague of darkness that lasted three days. Egypt did nothing because the darkness was so thick.

 They could not see a thing, but the children of Israel had light in their dwellings. The same thing will happen again here for the believing remnant during this time. Exodus 10:21-23.

They gnawed their tongues for pain: The only thing they had to do during those three days was to endure the constant thirst from the lack of clean water, and the pain from the heat, and the grievous sores sent by the angels from the vials of God’s wrath.

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

The sixth angel: This is the angel of the church of Philadelphia.

Poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates, and the water thereof was dried up: A similar thing was said by Rahab the harlot about the children of Israel crossing the Red sea. Joshua 2:10.

That the way of the kings of the east might be prepared: The kings of the east (modern day Asia) will launch an all-out attack.

 Of course, the goal spiritually is for Satan to destroy Israel, which is now in captivity, but he will try for domination of the whole region, and every victory he enjoys will be short lived.

13 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. 14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Three unclean spirits like frogs: The Satanic trinity will seek to destroy as much life as possible in one final battle in which all the armies of the world will meet to destroy these invaders from the East.

The spirit of devils, working miracles: The satanic trinity mentioned above can also do signs and wonders to such a level that kings of the earth will wonder after them and follow them into battle, and ultimately to their deaths.

A Parenthetical Warning

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.

I come as a thief: God admonishes the saints that remain during the tribulation period to watch and to keep their garments.

 This implies there is a responsibility to this class of believers to keep their garments that is never said to anyone ever in church age. Matthew 24:36-51, 1st Thessalonians 5:2-4, 1st Peter 3:10, Revelation 3:3 and 6:12.

Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments: Revelation 3:4 & 3:18 below:

*Revelation 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.*

16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

Armageddon: This is the world's most perfect battlefield, and it has been the host of many of the world's battles.

 Satan's Army will be utterly destroyed here with no casualties on God's side. This is the valley at the center of the world where three continents come together.

17 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.

The seventh angel: This is the angel of the church of Laodicea.

Poured out his vial into the air: It is mentioned in verse 21 as the plague of hail.

It is done: These three words are used together seven times, six are in the book of the Revelation.

 Five of the times this saying is used to describe God speaking, the other two times it was used about God. Deuteronomy 5:22, Revelation 1:10, 11:12, 16:1. 19:1 & 21:3.

18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

 Babylon, Mystery Babylon, and all of those that have ever lifted their hand against the Lord and his anointed, shall pay for their rebellion.

There were voices, and thunders, and lightnings: This is now the fourth time these three words are used together. A pattern has been developing with them that we need to see. Exodus 19, Revelation 4:5, 8:5 & 11:19.

There was a great earthquake: The great city is rebuilt Babylon, and it is prophesied to be destroyed by God in Jeremiah 49-50. Isaiah 2:19-22 & Revelation 6:12.

*Isaiah 2:19 And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth. 20 In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats; 21 To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.*

19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

 This verse can be confusing if you do not read it slowly, first it speaks of Jerusalem (the great city), then all the cities of the nations, then great Babylon. The two greats are not the same city.

The great city was divided into three parts: This great city is Jerusalem. God’s city.

And great Babylon came in remembrance before God: The great “notorious” city of Babylon, Satan’s city.

The cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath: *Revelation 14:10.*

20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. *Revelation 6:14.*

21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

The weight of a talent: A hundred pounds. Exodus 9:18.

Chapter Seventeen

The Great Whore

1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will show unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

One of the seven angels: One of the seven angels that were originally sent as messengers to the seven churches of Asia.

Come hither: These words are not the same as when it says “come up hither” in Revelation 4:1 & 11:12. They are also totally different Greek words. They just mean come here. Revelation 21:9.

The judgment of the great whore: There is a judgment day coming for this great whore.

 Just what exactly is this great whore that the Bible speaks about, and what are the characteristics that make up this whore? First, we know gender wise, a whore is a woman.

*Leviticus 19:29 Do not prostitute thy daughter, to cause her to be a whore; lest the land fall to whoredom and the land become full of wickedness.*

*Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.*

 This great whore has feminine "characteristics" attributed to her, but she is not an actual woman. She is an institution.

 We also know that a whore is someone who is loose with her body. She does whatever brings pleasure, or capital gain to herself, without regard to the consequences.

 A virgin, however, will save herself for her future husband so that she may present herself to him as a chaste virgin. A whore on the other hand does with her body that which was not intended for it by her Creator.

 This whorish woman lures the masses to commit spiritual adultery by taking people away from the true worship of God to a counterfeit one.

That sitteth upon many waters: Jeremiah 51:13 and surrounding verses.

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.

The kings of the earth have committed fornication: This fornication is not a physical union between a man and woman, but a spiritual union between herself and others (i.e., the kings of the earth).

 The Kings of the earth represent the governments which offer financial benefits to this whore in exchange for her agreement not to get involved in political issues.

 It is bribe money to keep her silent, as well as money to purchase her support come election time. This woman, which is represented here as a whore, is a spiritual body (a church). This is not Christ's church; it is Satan's church.

 Mystery Babylon is more than an apostate church; it is the Babylonian mystery religion which worships Baal. Once the true church is raptured any light that remained in those churches will be wholly given over to Baal worship.

 There are those today who worship Christ and unknowingly have elements of Baal worship in their practices.

 When Satan deceives the world, he tells them that he is the one they have been praying to and serving. Everything that God has, Satan attempts to counterfeit. (Satan also has his own Bibles, and his own saviours:

*2nd Corinthians 11:14 And no marvel for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*

 This false church represented by a whore gives the kings of the earth whatever pleases them (silence on political issues) in exchange for financial enumeration.

 The Bible also says in verse one that this church (Satan's church), sits on many waters. Many churches believe in the unity of church and State, and they are definitely committing spiritual fornication as far as the Word of God is concerned.

The inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication: Revelation 14:8-10, 16:19 & 18:3.

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.

He carried me away in the spirit: Ezekiel 37:1, Revelations 1:10 & 21:10.

Into the wilderness: The wilderness is always a desert place in the Bible, uninhabited like modern day Babylon. This actual city was recently rebuilt, but it is uninhabited currently.

 It could begin to be inhabited at any time given the situation. It could also mean that it is surrounded by the desert as well.

A woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast: A religious whore in collusion with a political power, a union of ten nations that all want to kill Jewish believers in the end times.

Full of the names of blasphemy: Any number of false religions that deny that Jesus is the Christ will be guilty of this sin.

Have seven heads and ten horns: Seven world leaders (six former ones) and ten current kings that all pledge their allegiance to the seventh world leader.

 John saw this woman, the false worldwide religious system, sitting upon a scarlet-colored beast, the political system that will be ruled by the antichrist, and it is full of the names of blasphemy.

 The secular world leaders have no place for religion, and will use this whore as long as it serves their purpose. When the time is right to attempt to establish a secular world order, one without a church to dictate what it can and cannot do, they will gladly let it be destroyed.

 Also, in verse three it says that this beast has seven heads (world leaders of different ages) and ten horns (ten nations). It will be made up of a conglomeration of ten countries possibly from the nations surrounding Israel.

4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

Purple and scarlet colour: The official colors of this whore are purple and scarlet. What is her sin that is mentioned here?

 She is in bed with the State. When a church gets in bed with the State it is not far down the road before it compromises its doctrinal stand.

 The colors themselves are first found in the tabernacle in the wilderness along with two other colors, so their colors have religious meanings behind them.

 The fact that half of the colors are missing tells you that it is religious in nature, but the two entities are not the same.

Decked with gold and precious stones and pearls: This woman is filthy rich because of her followers.

A golden cup in her hand: Is identified by the prophet Jeremiah:

*Jeremiah 51:7 Babylon hath been a golden cup in the LORD'S hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.*

5 And upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon the Great, The Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth.

Upon her forehead was a name written: *Revelation 14:1.*

Mystery, Babylon the Great: What is the mystery?

 Simple, this Babylon is not the same Babylon that once ruled the world. It is another Babylon, a mystery Babylon. It is similar in some respects with the original Babylon, but it is not located in ancient Iraq. Its location is mentioned later on.

The mother of harlots: She has given birth to numerous daughters who themselves pervert the truth of God and cause those who follow them to commit spiritual adultery by worshipping as they want you to worship, which is adultery in God’s eyes.

Abominations of the Earth: The Canaanites committed many abominations, which were sexual in nature, and they were dispossessed of the land for defiling it. Leviticus 18:26-29.

 This whore in the end times will be in favor of many perversions in spiritual and carnal ways, and will encourage others under her influence to do them as well with the wine of her fornications.

 Verse two also says "the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication". Wine is used to get you to do something you would not normally do.

 This great whore (false church) has to use something that appeals to their flesh to entice the inhabitants of the earth to commit fornication with her.

 God has given a woman everything she needs to attract a man, but a harlot has lost those things which attract a spiritual man, i.e., her modesty, meekness, and her virginity.

 When a woman does not have these qualities anymore, she has to resort to other methods to seduce her victims. The wine referred to here is money.

 The true church (the body of Christ) does not need the government to prop it up because it is standing on a solid foundation, the Lord Jesus Christ.

6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

The woman drunken with the blood of the saints: This is the blood of Jewish and Gentile believers in Jesus for the last 2,000 years represented by the saints who are persecuted by the antichrist, the political powers supporting the religious whore.

The blood of the martyrs of Jesus: This is the blood of the believers who stand up to the wicked state church ran by the false prophet.

7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

The mystery of the woman: The whore mentioned above is the religious system led by the false prophet at that time.

The beast that carrieth her: The beast has seven heads. The political ruler and his government and armies that are at the disposal of the woman (the great whore).

Which hath seven heads and ten horns: The heads are described as the seven mountains on which she sits, while the ten horns are ten kings that give their power to the beast (antichrist).

8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

The beast that thou sawest was: The beast is alive on the earth for three and one-half years. The first half of the tribulation period. He is called the man of sin at this time.

And is not: At the moment this angel is speaking to John he says in the present tense that the beast “is not.”

 That means at that moment the beast (antichrist) was dead, which occurs when he is struck with a sword according to the prophet Zechariah:

*Zechariah 11:17 Woe to the idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! the sword shall be upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened.*

And shall ascend: The beast (the antichrist) ascends out of the bottomless pit at the moment the dragon (Satan) is cast down from heaven and opens the pit to release his army of locusts.

 More importantly to resurrect the man of sin (the antichrist) and make him the Son of perdition. 2nd Thessalonians 2:3.

The bottomless pit: An Abyss. It is the place where locust come from to torment all those on the earth that are not sealed with the seal of God. Revelation 9:1-11.

 They have a king over them, who is the angel of the pit (Satan, who is the great red dragon in Revelation 12:3).

 It is the place where Satan will be bound for a thousand years until the end of the kingdom when he shall be loosed for a season to deceive the nations for the last time for a season. Revelation 11:7, 20:1-3.

Go into perdition: Both Judas and Satan are called “the son of perdition” in scripture.

 It is possible that Satan could use a dead man in similar fashion as God uses Elijah, and Moses during those same days, because there is a biblical precedence for it. John 17:12.

The book of life from the foundation of the world: There are people in verse eight who are mentioned who at no time in their life had ever placed their trust in Jesus as their Messiah and their name then was never written in the book of life.

The beast that was, and is not, and yet is: Note the similarity with Jesus in Revelation 1:8.

9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. 10 And there are seven kings; five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

The seven heads: They are seven world governments, and their leaders. Five are fallen, one fell (Rome) later, and the seventh is yet to come.

 Many believe this seventh to be either the European Community, and its end time leader, or a revived Grecian kingdom once ruled by Alexander the Great, but now made up of mostly of the Muslims nations around Israel.

 That kingdom was divided into four kingdoms because Alexander left no heir to the Empire. This whore will definitely play a major role in the persecution of the true believers during the tribulation period.

 Many end time churches will drop their differences and unite because of the signs and wonders that they see performed by the beast and the false prophet.

One is: This one that is, was there at the time of John’s writing the book of the Revelation. It was the Roman Empire.

The other is yet to come: The end-time government of the antichrist.

A short space: This will only last seven years.

Seven mountains: Mountains are referred to prophetically as kingdoms in numerous places in the scriptures. Daniel 2:31-45.

11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition. 12 And the ten horns which though sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

He is the eighth: He was the seventh, but he was killed by a sword at the mid-point of the tribulation period.

 Immediately after the dragon was cast out of heaven with the key of the bottomless pit, he resurrects him and he becomes the eighth world ruler as well, but now totally possessed by Satan himself.

The ten horns: Ten kings. See in Esther the story of Haman’s ten sons. Types of the antichrist who wants to destroy Jews that are believers, and he has ten sons who eventually are destroyed, as the ten rulers with the antichrist will be.

13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

These have one mind: The ten kings of verse 12.

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.

The lamb: Is the Lamb from earlier. The leader of this confederation comes from the seventh kingdom, and since he is called the Assyrian, that would mean he comes out of the Grecian Empire once ruled by Alexander.

 The ten horns represent the final form of this large union of nations which pledge their allegiance to the beast system, and its leader. They shall surrender their sovereignty over to the beast to make it the world's most powerful organization.

 Note that this conglomeration does not control the whole world. Numerous nations rise up against it, the Russians, armies of the East, according to prophecy; they are just the major players in the world at that time.

The Lord of lords, and King of kings: He is the one who is the rightful heir to rule both the heavens and the earth.

 Kings are similar, but different than lords. Jesus is both, overall, in every way. The word Lord means a master, and king means a sovereign.

They that are with him: These are those Jews in the tribulation period that believe that Jesus is Christ, the Son of the living God and who endure unto the end.

Called: Those who are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. Revelation 19:9.

Chosen: This is the word Elektos in the Greek. They are not elected to salvation, but chosen to rule and reign with him in the kingdom, because they endured unto the end (they were faithful).

Faithful: Faithful unto death. Revelation 2:10.

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

The waters: They represent the world. The beast (the world political leader) is none other than Satan incarnate (The devil in human flesh), a third part of a Satanic Trinity.

 According to verse eight because it says that this beast shall ascend out of the bottomless pit and go into perdition (the Lake of Fire), and we know because of the verses in Revelation 19:20:

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 the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

 Mystery, Babylon the Great which we determined to be the religious system of the antichrist will also not be the only type of worship going on during the tribulation period.

 There will be every denomination that you see today still operating only under stricter control.

 This will not be a problem with all the Christians out of the way after the rapture, because Satan and his associates do not care about the name that is on the door.

 They only care that false doctrine is being preached indoors. Some truth is okay with Satan to make it plausible, but there must be just enough error to mislead those who are too busy making money or enjoying life to send them to hell.

 In verse sixteen, God allows the beast with its ten kings and kingdoms to turn against the Whore (the false religious system) to destroy it.

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

The ten horns: They hate the whore, and eventually attack the whore (that great city, Mystery, Babylon the great, the mother of harlots) and make her desolate.

The beast: The antichrist. Revelation 11:7.

17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

Their hearts: The ten horns who agree to give their kingdom to the antichrist (the beast). Verse eighteen further identifies the whore.

 It is definitely referring to the city that rules kings in a religious sense, and that would be Babylon, where Satan will undoubtedly rule from.

18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

The woman: That great city, as we saw earlier, was a reference to Babylon. There are today different cities that could be candidates to be Mystery Babylon because they have many characteristics of Baal worship.

That great city: Many cities can be said to be ones that have reigned over the kings of the earth, either religiously or politically.

 This city is mentioned in the present tense as one that is reigning at the time at which the events of this book are unfolding, but the words seem to also imply that this city has been reigning over the kings of the earth for a very long time.

Chapter Eighteen

Babylon the Great is fallen

1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

I saw another angel come down from heaven: This angel (messenger) is the Lord Jesus Christ, coming as the messenger of God, announcing the destruction of God's enemy.

 Jesus is not an angelic being, but he often appears as the angel (messenger) of the Lord throughout scripture. The word angel means messenger.

The earth was lightened with his glory: No angel could light anything with their own glory. Numbers 14:21, & Psalm 72:19.

2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

 If Babylon fell, then it fell from a place where it originally belonged, until the devils and the foul spirits started to inhabit her.

And cage of every unclean and hateful bird: Birds are often used to symbolize devils in the Bible, like in the parable of the sower:

*Matthew 13:3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; 4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:*

*Matthew 13:19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.*

3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. 4 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 5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

Come out of her, my people: This brings us to a better understanding of who Babylon the great is by the voice from heaven commanding God's people to come out of her.

 I believe this is much more than just a nation, but a religious system, which has corrupted God's word, and killed its ministers.

 Imagine a church without Jesus, because Satan will tell the world Jesus was not their deliverer, but that he is. If you throw out Jesus and what little they have right and put the antichrist in his place, you have pure Baal worship.

 When the rapture happens, and Satan causes all to follow after him instead of Jesus, they will return to their original form of pure Baal worship.

6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.

According to her works: These works are the damning of billions of souls to hell and killing those that have stood up to her over the centuries.

 This is the works of this mystery Babylon, she is a chameleon that changes in whatever culture she finds herself in, to intoxicate that culture into some form of Babylonian mystery religion.

In the cup which she hath filled: God instructs his angels to attack this whorish system, in retaliation for the treatment she has dished out over her history.

7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

 Jeremiah 7:18 & 44:17-25. Also compare this with the words of the prophet Zephaniah:

*Zephaniah 2:15 This is the rejoicing city that dwelt carelessly, that said in her heart, I am, and there is none beside me: how is she become a desolation, a place for beasts to lie down in! every one that passeth by her shall hiss, and wag his hand.*

8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. 9 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 burnings, 10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying,

Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgement come.

In one day: Gulf war one was only four days, but it was nothing close to this event when God judges his enemy.

In one hour: Only God can cause such an abrupt end as this.

11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:

 This is possibly rebuilt Babylon. We can be confused easily by not remembering that there is a religious Babylon as well as a commercial Babylon. To force one to be both will lead to confusion.

12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and 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, 13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men. 14 And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.

 Imagine the nations of the world uniting under one political, and religious leader, and what power he would hold. We are moving very quickly in that direction today.

15 The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, 16 And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! 17 For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, 18 And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city?

 This sounds like an attack which dwarfs the events of 9/11 dramatically. This is God’s judgment on his enemies, not one enemy against another.

19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate. 20 Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets, for God hath avenged you on her.

 They will rejoice on that day because the devil's system that has destroyed multiple billions of souls in hell will itself be destroyed. That is what is being rejoiced over.

 On this day, the deceiver that is the cause of most of the world's suffering will be being put out of business and that will be something to rejoice about.

21 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 in thee; 22 And the voice of the harpers, and the 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;

A mighty angel: *Revelation 10:1.*

A great millstone: The great city Babylon is where musicians come to play, and craftsman come to make it rich.

 If Babylon itself, which is near the sea, is ever re-inhabited, could it ever match what other major cities have become? It is still uninhabited due to the recent wars there.

*Matthew 18:6 But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a* *millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.*

That great city Babylon: Satan has his great city, Babylon, because God has his, Jerusalem.

23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.

For by thy sorceries were all nations deceived: This city has influenced all the nations with her religious sorceries which deceived them into believing a lie, and condemned them to an eternity in hell.

24 And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of the saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

In her was found the blood of prophets, and of the saints: In this chapter we have discovered the identity of Mystery, Babylon the Great the Mother of Harlots, it is false religion.

Chapter Nineteen

The Marriage Supper

1 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:

After these things: The destruction of Babylon in chapter eighteen.

I great voice of much people in heaven: These are those who are saved in the tribulation period.

Alleluia: This is the only chapter in the whole Bible where the Hebrew word Hallelujah is used. It is used four times. It means “praise the Lord.”

 It is the Hebrew word that means praise Yah, short for Yah-WeH, or the name of God, but it is not translated as such from the Greek, but it is rather transliterated.

 It is said four times in a chapter that describes the awfulness of the battle of Armageddon. This tells us that God, and his saints in heaven have the proper perspective about what is really going to transpire on that day.

 Whereas we may see the horrendous loss of life, the saints in heaven see God avenging the deaths of millions of martyrs and ending the works of the devil for the next thousand years.

2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

For true and righteous are his judgments: What judgments? The slaughter of his enemies.

The great whore: *Revelation 17:15.*

His servants: The Jewish believer in Jesus. Millions of true believers have been martyred and will be for their faith at the hands of this whore who is a religious whore deceiving the nations that pledged allegiance to her.

3 And again they said, Alleluia, and her smoke rose up for ever and ever:

And her smoke rose up for ever and ever: This is the smoke of the great whore mentioned in Revelation 18:9.

4 And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.

The four and twenty elders: Revelation 4:5, 10, 5:8, 14, 11:16, & 19:4.

The four beasts: The Seraphim. Isaiah 6:1-3.

5 And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

Praise our God: This is English for Alleluia.

All ye his servants: These are Jewish believers.

And ye that fear him: These are Gentile believers that bless Israel. Genesis 12:1-3.

6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying,

The voice of a great multitude: *Daniel 10:6 & Luke 19:37.*

The voice of many waters: Psalm 29:3, Jeremiah 10:13, 51:16, Ezekiel 1:24, Revelation 14:2 & 19:6.

As the voice of mighty thunderings: Revelation 4:5, 8:5 & 11:19.

Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. 7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

Alleluia: Praise the Lord is proclaimed for the fifth time, once in English.

Omnipotent: All powerful.

The marriage of the Lamb is come: The Lamb is Jesus, and his wife is believing Israel.

His wife hath made herself ready: Jesus’ wife made herself ready by enduring unto the end and obeying the commandments of the Lord.

*Luke 1:17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.*

8 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.

Fine linen, clean and white: It is the reward given by God for Israel’s obedience to the commandments of God. Daniel 12:10, Revelation 3:5, 18 & 19:14.

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.

Blessed are they which are called unto the Marriage supper of the Lamb: This is between the Lamb (Jesus Christ), and his wife, who is no longer his bride, because the wedding has already taken place.

 The Lamb’s wife is believing Israel as Revelation 21:9 tells us that it is the inhabitants of the city new Jerusalem are Jewish.

*Revelation 19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; \** The parable of the great supper in Luke 14:16.

10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: We are to bow before Jesus alone.

I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren: A believer, and a Jew.

That have the testimony of Jesus: Which is the spirit of prophecy. Notice also how this person identifies himself. He said that he was a fellow servant and of thy brethren (a Jew), and that he had the testimony of Jesus, which is the spirit of prophecy.

The spirit of prophecy: This is the ability of a believer to understand this book and rightly divide it instead of spiritualizing it. No lost religious person can do that because he refuses to open his eyes to God’s word. It will soon be too late.

The Second Advent

11 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.

I saw heaven opened: Here we see heaven opened for the second time in the book of the Revelation.

 The first time was to let John see in, in chapter four. Many wrongly teach in verse one of chapter four that that is a picture of the church being raptured. The church has to be raptured before Revelation 1:1.

 The churches in chapters two and three are not churches in the dispensation of grace, they are tribulation churches.

 Their doctrine is identical to what Jesus taught in the gospels, and especially Matthew chapters twenty-four and twenty-five, when Jesus was telling Israel about enduring unto the end of the tribulation period to enter into their kingdom.

 This is not doctrine for us today in the body of Christ. Our doctrine is found in Romans through Philemon, written to us by Paul, the apostle of the Gentiles. Romans 11:13.

A white horse: This time heaven is opened for Christ to come down to the battle of Armageddon. Jesus Christ is described here as the rider on a white horse.

Faithful and True: Both are titles describing Jesus, and both are capitalized denoting Deity.

In righteousness he doth judge and make war: He standeth to plead, before judgment, and he standeth to judge when the time of pleading is done. Revelation 11:7, 12:17, 13:4, 7, 19:11 & 19.

12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. 13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

His eyes were as a flame of fire: Revelation 1:14, 2:18, Exodus 3:2, Acts 7:30, & Hebrews 1:7.

On his head were many crowns: This is the Greek word Diadem which is different from the Stephanos crown of Revelation six.

 Just imagine the look in the eyes of God's enemies on that day as they see Jesus returning to earth not as a lamb that had been slaughtered, but as a conquering King with a fierce countenance.

A name written: The Word of God.

He was clothed in a vesture dipped in blood: This is found in Isaiah’s prophecy:

*Isaiah 63:1 Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. 2 Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? 3 I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. 4 For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. 5 And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. 6 And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.*

14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

The armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses: Not one army, but armies.

Clothed in fine linen, white and clean: One army is made up of those who were purified and made their robes white by suffering during the tribulation period.

 They are the ones who endured unto the end and resisted taking the mark of the beast. Daniel 12:10, Revelation 3:5, 18 & 19:8.

 The other army is the angelic host of the LORD, it is not the church coming back to live on the earth. Our dwelling place is in heavenly places.

15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

A sharp sword: Jesus Christ himself will fight with the word of his mouth, and the battle will be over in seconds.

And shall rule them with a rod of iron: The reason for ruling with a rod of iron in the kingdom is that all will not willingly obey him at that time, and when they don’t the rod will be used on those rebellious nations.

And he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God: Isaiah 63:3 says that Christ did this alone.

 This is the marriage supper of the Lamb where Israel’s enemies are destroyed in front of them, and the fowls of the air eat their flesh, and Israel’s kingdom is established.

16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

 Jesus Christ will be KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS forever, so they are not just titles, they are actually part of his name.

17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; 18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

An angel standing in the sun: This may be the fourth angel from Revelation 8:12 & 16:8.

The fowls that fly in the midst of heaven: These fowl are prophesied in Ezekiel 39:

*Ezekiel 39:1 Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: 2 And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel: 3 And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand. 4 Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.*

*Ezekiel 39:17 And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD; Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, even a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood. 18 Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan. 19 And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you. 20 Thus ye shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, saith the Lord GOD.*

*Matthew 24:26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. 27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 28 For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.*

The supper of the great God: In a moment, his foes will be crushed under his feet, and he will be stained in their blood.

19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

The beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies: The kings of the earth’s armies.

Him that sat on the horse, and against his army: Jesus returns with his army of martyred saints, but Jesus does all the fighting with the sword of his mouth.

 These are not the saints of all ages, but those that had been killed during the tribulation period. His army is the armies in heaven mentioned above. The angelic host also returns with Christ.

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.

The beast: The antichrist was cast alive into a lake of fire.

The false prophet: The false prophet was cast alive into a lake of fire.

The mark of the beast: They were deceived by the beast and the false prophet.

These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone: On this day over 200 million souls will perish and go to a Christ-less eternity in a lake of fire because they choose to believe a lie. Hell has to enlarge itself to receive them. Isaiah 5:14.

21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

The remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse: They were slain by the word of God, which is a sword. Although their flesh was consumed, their souls will never be consumed, they will be tormented in the lake of fire forever.

All the fowls were filled with their flesh: Goliath told David that he would feed David’s flesh to the fowls of the air, but God turned it around and the fowls feasted on Goliath instead, as it will be in this day. Psalm 79:2.

Chapter Twenty

The First Resurrection

1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the pit and a great chain in his hand.

An angel come down from heaven: This angel came down on his own instead of falling down. This implies that he was a good angel.

 This angel in verse one is probably the fifth angel mentioned in Revelation chapter three, because the fifth angel is the angel that had the key of the pit originally in Revelation 9:1. The fifth angel is the angel of the church of Sardis.

The key of the pit: The key opens the pit (the bottomless pit), not hell, or the lake of fire. This is to be Satan’s place of confinement for the next thousand years. This key is first mentioned in Revelation 9:1.

A great chain: Satan is also bound with some sort of supernatural chain, for a thousand years. He will be released then to fight against God's anointed again after that time.

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

The Dragon: Psalm 91:13, Isaiah 27:1, Revelation 12:3, 4, 7, 9, 13, 16, 17, 13:2, 4, 11 & 16:13.

That old serpent: Revelation 12:9.

The Devil: Used 52 times in the “New Testament.”

Satan: This title is used 56 times.

And bound him: The supernatural chain enabled the fifth angel to bind Satan, without it the fifth angel did not stand a chance.

A thousand years: There is going to be a thousand-year period in the future that will be ruled by Christ. Satan will not be able to deceive the nations during this time.

 Today, he has the nations of this world deceived because he is the god of this world. 2nd Corinthians 4:4.

3 And cast him into the 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.

And cast him into the pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him: We know from earlier scriptures that the pit had a key to it. The fifth angel had the key to the pit, but now a seal is set upon Satan himself, a seal from God, that only he could open.

*Isaiah 24:21 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth. 22 And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited.*

After many days shall they be visited: The host of the high ones (fallen angels) will be released for a season with Satan.

That he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: For 1,000 years Christ will rule over the Gentiles with a rod of iron.

And after that he must be loosed a little season: During this little season Satan gets much of the Gentile world to come against God and those who do are destroyed and cast into the lake of fire forever.

 This will be mankind’s last test to see how every nation, under a perfect world government, with priests sent out to them will respond to the rule of God on the earth.

 They will fail miserably according to scripture, and prove that mankind needs God regardless of what environment they are in.

 They cannot do it on their own, not even when they had 1,000 years without Satan’s influence to corrupt them. It will only take a short season for Satan to get the masses to follow him at that time, and the masses will be destroyed.

4 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.

I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: Here we see the fulfillment of a promise made by Jesus to his twelve disciples that they would sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel in Matthew 19:28.

I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God: This was during the tribulation period, because the body lies in the grave awaiting the resurrection, when the body and soul will be reunited together in immortality.

 It is the tribulation saints that have victory over the mark of the beast, that reign with Christ, and live with him here on earth for a thousand years. These are the overcomers mentioned there. Revelations 2:26.

Which had not worshipped the beast: The antichrist.

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

The rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished: They will be a part of the second death mentioned below.

The first resurrection: This resurrection is for all the saints from Adam unto the little flock, this also will be for the martyrs during the tribulation period.

 The lost will await their judgment after Satan has been defeated permanently at the end of the kingdom at the great white throne judgment. Revelation 20:11.

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.

On such the second death hath no power: The lake of fire, Hell and death are cast into the lake of fire. The second death cannot touch anyone involved in the first resurrection. Revelation 2:11, 20:1 4 & 21:8.

They shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years: These tribulation saints will reign with Christ in the kingdom as priests along with all of righteous Israel that believed under the law program, who are also resurrected at this time. Exodus 19:5-6.

 This includes the twelve apostles to the nation of Israel. They were not apostles to the body of Christ, Paul was, as the apostle of the Gentiles. Romans 11:13.

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

When the thousand years are expired: This is mentioned six times in relationship to the kingdom.

 The world is roughly six thousand years old because the Bible says so. It backs it up with dates and ages from Adam all the way to Christ equaling four thousand years exactly.

 And since there have been two thousand years since then, you come up with six thousand years roughly since creation until now, with the millennium of rest which is soon to come.

Satan shall be loosed out of his prison: His prison is also called the bottomless pit. Isaiah 24:21-22 above.

8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth: The Gentiles spend a thousand years under the reign of Christ, with his government set up on the earth, and Israel is serving as the kingdom of priests. Exodus 19:5-6.

 But at the end of the thousand years of Christ reigning on the earth in perfect righteousness, with Satan and his influence non-existent for all those years, the Gentiles will be faced with a test at that time.

 Unfortunately, many will fail and choose to follow Satan at that time, and they will be destroyed. How many of them?

The number of whom is as the sand of the sea

Gog, and Magog: The scriptures says that Gog and Magog are the nations in the four corners of the earth. Not two cities in Russia. Ezekiel 38:1-39:11.

9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them:

They went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints: *Ezekiel 38:22.*

The beloved city: The beloved city of Jerusalem.

And fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them: 2nd Kings 1:10-14.

10 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.

The lake of fire and brimstone: First mentioned in the previous chapter as “a lake of fire,” it now becomes known as “the lake of fire and brimstone. Being cast into the lake of fire is called the second death. verse 14 below.

Where the beast and the false prophet are: They were not destroyed when they were cast into the lake of fire and brimstone.

 They, along with the devil, are going to be in there day and night, forever and ever tormented. The beast is the antichrist.

The Great White Throne Judgment

11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

A great white throne: This is the final judgement for the lost. We are judged at the judgment seat of Christ immediately after the rapture. This judgment occurs at the end of the millennial kingdom.

*Revelation 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, And him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away:*

*Psalm 102:25 Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. 26 They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed:*

*Isaiah 34:4 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.*

And there was found no place for them: 2nd Peter 3.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

The books were opened: Not just one book, but books. People at the great white throne judgment are judged according to their works.

 Lost people from the dispensation of grace will be there as well to be judged. There are the people there that are from the kingdom as well as those that are lost throughout all ages.

 All people that appear at the judgment seat of Christ are saved, and will be judged for their works that they have done in his body, and for the motives behind them for rewards.

 There will not be a soul cast into hell at that judgment because that judgment seat of Christ is for believers only.

 What is also true is that there will be both saved and lost people judged at the great white throne judgment because they will not be sent back into time to be judged with the church at the judgment seat of Christ, but must stand before the Judge of the universe as all others.

 Unfortunately, the vast majority of attendees at the great white throne will be lost. The book of life will be opened, and those saved in the kingdom will find their names written there.

And another book was opened: Under Israel’s law program a person could have their name blotted out of the book of life as seen in Revelation 3:5. also Exodus 32:32-3, Deuteronomy 9:14 & 29:20.

 The book of life is described by its full name in Revelation 13:8, where John calls it “the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

 In this verse, and in the one found in Revelation 17:8, it mentions the ones who worshipped the beast and who had received his mark.

 They both say that their names were not written in the book of life. That is because they had been blotted out in accordance with violating Revelations 3:5.

 The book of life is also mentioned by Paul of two men who helped Paul in Philippians 4:3, who were a part of Israel’s kingdom program.

 They assisted Paul, because Israel's prophecy program had been put on hold due to Israel’s diminishing and her fall because of unbelief.

Accord to their works: The deeds that they have done, whether they were the works of Christ, or their own works.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: Here both death, and hell sound like a place, and in Revelation 6:8 death is personified as a person.

Proverbs 5:5, 7:27, Isaiah 28:15, and Revelation 1:8 tells us that there are keys to both death and hell.

They were judged every man according to their works: There is a judgment of works for the lost to determine the extent of their punishment in the lake of fire. While it will be eternal in its length, it will vary in its intensity for the worst sinners.

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Death and hell: No one who was saved in any age will experience this second death. Those inhabitants of hell will get a new permanent dwelling place in the lake of fire.

 Hell is only a temporary dwelling place until the last rejecter of God's Son breathes his final breath. Hell is located in the center of the earth.

The lake of fire: Its location is unknown.

The second death: Being thrown into the lake of fire forever.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

The book of life: No person saved during the church age, or during the tribulation period will be judged on this day for they will have already been judged. Philippians 4:3, Revelation 3:5, 13:8, 17:8, 20:12, 21:27 and 22:19.

 People in the dispensation of grace today do not have their names in the book of life, because it is not for the body of Christ. We already have eternal life indwelling us the moment we got saved.

 Heaven and earth will be recreated possibly at the same time this judgement is occurring. Then once it is over the believers in the kingdom program will return to a new earth.

The lake of fire: *Revelation 19:20, 20: 10 & 14.*

Chapter Twenty-one

A new heaven and a new earth

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 new heaven and a new earth: A new heaven, and are earth are going to be created by God after the millennial reign of Christ, because of the effects of sin in both realms.

 Satan sinned in the heavens, and he led one third of the angels to rebel in the heavens, and they are there currently awaiting their eviction. 2nd Peter 3:7-13.

 This will occur at the mid-point of the tribulation period, when God shakes the heavens, and casts them out. Revelation 12:3-4.

 Mankind sinned on the earth in the garden when the serpent tricked Eve in Genesis two, and the earth was cursed along with mankind. God will remove any effect of Satan’s and man’s sin from every corner of the universe.

 The millennial kingdom has ended at this point, and the eternal kingdom now begins with none of the effects of the fall, because there is a new heaven, and a new earth. Sin has been done away with.

And there was no more sea: God does not need the seas anymore to separate mankind from killing one another in the new earth. God divided the lands (continents) back in the days of Peleg. Genesis 10:25.

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.

The holy city, new Jerusalem: It comes down from God out of heaven after the kingdom is over, and the new heaven, and new earth are created.

Prepared as a bride adorned for her husband: The city is identified as the bride later on in this chapter. Nowhere in scripture is the church, which is Christ's body, ever called the bride of Christ. This is a man-made doctrine that permeates Christendom.

 When Jesus said he was going to prepare a place for them, he was speaking to the believing remnant of Jews about the city of new Jerusalem. John 14:2. He also said in John 14:3 that when he returns, he would receive them unto himself in that city. Isaiah 62.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

The tabernacle of God: This is fulfilled, not upon the death of a believer today, nor after the tribulation, or even during the kingdom, but in eternity future.

He will dwell with them: Immanuel (God with us). Matthew 1:23.

They shall be his people: Hosea 2:23.

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.

God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes: It is at this time in the distant future that God wipes away all tears from their eyes. In eternity future without sin and death there will be no reason for sorrow of any kind.

There shall be no more death: Because sin has been dealt with.

Nor sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be no more pain: Pain is a result of fallen man.

The former things are passed away: Sin is the cause of all these things, and when it is gone the need to cry will be gone as well.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

I make all things new: A new heaven, and a new earth. Revelation 21:1.

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

I am the Alpha and Omega: This is defined in the next five words, the beginning, and the end.

The fountain of the water of life: Remember these words are not for the church in the dispensation of grace, they are for the tribulation saints who are not sealed with eternal life by the holy Spirit as we are today. John 7:38 & Ephesians 4:30.

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

He that overcometh: This phrase is used in each of the seven letters to the seven churches in Asia.

 An overcomer is defined for us in 1st John 5:4-5 as someone who believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God during that time when the kingdom is at hand. The kingdom is not at hand today in the dispensation of grace.

Inherit all things: *1st Peter 4:7 & Revelation 21:7.*

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.

The lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: The lake of fire.

The second death: This is being cast into the lake of fire for eternity. Revelation 20:6.

9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

One of the seven angels: This angel was one of the seven angels that were messengers to the seven churches in Asia. Revelation 1:16, 20 and chapters two and three.

The seven vials: They were poured out already. Revelation 16:7.

The bride, the Lamb’s wife: Notice again the bride of the Lamb (Jesus Christ) is called that great city, the holy Jerusalem, that is to descend down from heaven, with her bridegroom.

 Since Israel has an earthly destiny, this is Israel's city. Jerusalem, and holy Jerusalem are different places, one is even called new Jerusalem so as not to confuse the reader.

10 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,

He carried me away in the spirit: *Ezekiel 37:1, Revelations 1:10 & 17:3.*

A great and high mountain: Two possibilities are Matthew 4:8 & Isaiah 14:13.

That great city, the holy Jerusalem: The city of Jerusalem as the world has known throughout history, even in Solomon’s day, cannot compare to the glory that will be new Jerusalem.

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

The glory of God: *Acts 7:55, Revelation 15:8 & 21:23.*

Her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal: Her light, means the city of new Jerusalem’s light. Revelation 4:3 and 21:18-19.

12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: 13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.

 It is a Jewish city every way you look at it. Twelve is the number of Israel in the Bible. It is the city of the bride, the Lamb's wife.

 The word “bride” is only mentioned in the Bible fourteen times, and never in any of Paul's writings about the body of Christ. It is mentioned in reference to Israel though.

A wall great and high: The wall is as tall as it is wide.

Twelve Gates: There are three gates on each wall.

Twelve Angels: There were three angels on each side stationed at each gate.

The names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: These are written on each gate in the same order they appeared around the tabernacle in the wilderness.

14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

*Matthew 10:2 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James, the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; 3 Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Labbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Canaanite,*

*Acts 1:26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.*

 Matthias replaced Judas, who betrayed Christ, and was numbered with the eleven, not Paul. Acts 1:26. Paul was the apostle of Gentiles. Romans 11:13.

15 And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. 16 And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. 17 And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.

A golden reed: John was first given a reed in Revelation 11:1 to measure the temple during the tribulation period.

 It was not a golden reed, like this one, it was like unto a rod. That was not God’s temple that he would build, but a cheap replica designed by men. Gold represents deity, and God is the maker of this city.

The city lieth foursquare: Here we have the dimensions of the city that Christ has prepared for his bride. Just as a Jewish man would do for his bride in preparing a place for her, so Jesus does here.

 Scriptures do not state that God has been preparing a place for us in the heavens for the last 2,000 years.

 God created the world in six days, not because it took him that long, but because he wanted to teach us about himself in the seven days of creation. God has had our place prepared for us for quite a while longer.

Twelve thousand furlongs: 1,500 Miles.

An hundred and forty and four cubits: A cubit is the length between a man’s elbow and the tip of his middle finger.

 There is a correlation to the 144,000 Jewish, male, virgins found in Revelations 7:4, and the city of new Jerusalem, which is 144,000 square cubits high, wide, and deep.

The measure of a man: The refers to the measurement mentioned above.

18 And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. 19 And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones.

The first foundation of the wall of the city was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; Peter, Andrew, James & John.

 20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolyte; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.

Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Labbaeus, Simon the Canaanite, & Matthias.

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.

Twelve pearls: Oysters were considered unclean for Jews to eat, but the believing remnant is compared to a pearl of great price by Jesus in Matthew 13.

 They are the pearls in the midst of unclean oysters. This is symbolic of believing Jews amongst heathen idol worshipping Gentiles.

 Notice the numbers twelve, and 144,000 again used in this city, numbers always associated with Israel. These are the same colors in Israel’s priestly garments.

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

And I saw no temple therein: John was saying that in eternity future when new Jerusalem comes down there will not be a temple in it. A temple was necessary because sins needed to be atoned for. There will be no more sin in eternity future.

 We do not have a temple today in the dispensation of grace because the temple was for Israel, and our bodies are temples of the holy Spirit. John 2:21 & 1st Corinthians 6:19.

 The Jews had a temple on earth, and they will have one in the kingdom, which is described for us in Ezekiel 40.

23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

The city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon: *Isaiah 24:23.*

The Lamb is the light thereof: Jesus is the Lamb, and he is the light of the world. Genesis 1:3.

24 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.

The nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: Isaiah 2:5 & 60:3.

The kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it: There will be a gathering of gifts for Christ by the nations of the earth as was the custom of the kings who were subject to a conquering king. Isaiah 66:20.

 Jesus Christ is that King, and the world will come annually to recognize him as such once and for all.

25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. 26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

The gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there: When sin is gone there will be no need to lock your doors, or gates. Satan will not bother anyone ever again. Isaiah 60:11 & 20.

And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it: The Gentiles will bring offerings to the Lord in Jerusalem:

*Isaiah 66:20 And they shall bring all your brethren for an offering unto the LORD out of all nations upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon swift beasts, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the LORD, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD.*

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.

Any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: Sin has been dealt with, and no sin will ever enter into this city. Satan will mount no more attacks ever again against God’s creation.

But they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life: It will be the home of the Israel of God, the body of Christ. Our destiny in the body of Christ will be in heavenly places, while new Jerusalem will be on the earth.

 Paul names some kingdom saints who laboured with him in the work whose names were in the book of life. Philippians 4:3.

Chapter Twenty-two

A pure river of water of life

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.

A pure river of water of life: This river water is a giver of life to those kingdom saints who partake of it, it is not for those in the body of Christ who already have eternal life. Ezekiel 47:1 & Revelation 21:6.

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

The tree of life: This tree is not on earth today; it is in heaven. It will be associated with the city of new Jerusalem after the 1,000-year kingdom has ended. Genesis 2:9.

 It will be partaken of by all those saints from Adam unto the tribulation period, and the kingdom saints, but not by the body of Christ.

Twelve manner of fruits: The tree of life has twelve manner of fruits on it, which is not a coincidence, because it is related to Israel, and her program for the earth. One for each month.

The leaves of the tree: The healing of the nations. These will heal people from all nations from the curse of sin.

3 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:

There shall be no more curse: The curse was a result of Adam's sin in the garden, when he partook of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

 That has been removed here by the second Adam (Jesus Christ) and God is sitting on his throne along with his Son, and the 144,000 are serving him in this city.

The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it: The it is the city of new Jerusalem.

And his servants shall serve him: In eternity future his servants in new Jerusalem will have work to do, just as members of the body of Christ will continue serving our Lord in heavenly places.

4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

His name shall be in their foreheads: Satan had his counterfeit of this with his mark of the number of his name in the foreheads of all that followed him.

 I am sure he will probably tell them that his mark is the mark spoken of here in verse four to deceive many at that time.

5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

There shall be no night there: The light of the sun is not necessary to lighten new Jerusalem, because God will supply the light with his glory.

 There will be no more night there because God is light. We will still have a moon in the sky, but as for new Jerusalem there shall never be night. Revelation 21:23.

6 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.

These sayings are faithful and true: Jeremiah 42:5, Revelation 3:14, 19:11 & 21:5.

The holy prophets: The events of this book are to occur quickly. They are not drawn out over two thousand years. Most of the events will happen in a seven-year period.

His angel: Genesis 24:7, Daniel 3:28, 6:22, Acts 12:11 & Revelation 1:1.

His servants: The believing Jew in the time of Jacob’s trouble. They are also first mentioned in Revelation 1:1.

*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:*

The things which must shortly be done: This is also mentioned in Revelation 1:1. What begins in Revelation chapter one comes to its climax here in this final chapter.

7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

Behold, I come quickly: *Revelation 3:11.*

Blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book: This was said at the beginning of this book:

*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.*

 We in the body of Christ cannot keep the sayings of this book, because they are not for us, but they are for those who find themselves in the tribulation period.

8 And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.

I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel: This was a case of mistaken identity here because, Jesus was one of the angels/messengers that had spoken to him.

9 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.

I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets: He was also a prophet during the time of the tribulation period when there will be a need for prophets.

 John thought this messenger must be God because of all the things going on around him, and he was corrected so that we might know not to bow down before anything except God.

10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: This ending statement is in sharp contrast to Revelation 10:4-11 where John was told to seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered and write them not.

 John will reveal the seven thunders when Israel is going through the time of Jacob’s trouble, or at the end of the millennial kingdom when Satan is loosed for a season.

 Do not believe someone if they tell you they know what the seven thunders utter, it is impossible to know today.

The time is at hand: This is a comment for the spiritually discerned. It is for God's prophetic time clock, that differs from ours.

 God speaks to Israel as if there was no church age, by just continuing on as if 2,000 years of church history never happened, while the Jew was blinded in part. Then he just starts right where he left off without so much as a mention of the large gap in time.

11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: See Luke 16:10 and its context surrounding it in verses 1-13.

 When a person dies in faith, he is righteous, and he will remain as such, but when a lost person rejects Christ, he is unjust (not justified), and he will remain lost (unjustified) for all eternity.

12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Behold, I come quickly: God is going to reward every believer based on his works for Christ.

My reward is with me: The tribulation saints rewards are laid up for them in heaven, so when Jesus comes back quickly, he brings their rewards back with him.

According as his work shall be: It is talking about a reward for labour, not salvation.

13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

I am the Alpha and the Omega: The first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet.

The beginning and the end: It is easy to understand that there was nothing but God in the beginning, but what does it mean when he says he is also the end.

 This means that God created time, and he will do away with it, and that after all the small g gods are all forgotten he alone will be the last and only God with a capital G. Isaiah 44:6, & 48:12.

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.

Blessed are they that do his commandments: Those who do God's commandments in the tribulation period will have the right to eat of the tree of life, and enter into new Jerusalem as part of an if, then, covenant.

 Those of us in the church today already have eternal life indwelling us, so we have no need to eat of the tree of life.

 This is the tribulation period, and not the church age, the holy Spirit does not indwell believers during that period as he does today.

 If you force the doctrine of eternal security into the old testament, or the tribulation period, it will not fit, because it was never intended to. Eternal security is exclusively for us today.

That they may have right to the tree of life: They could eat of the tree of life because they did his commandments. Revelation 2:7. We do not do anything today to receive eternal life today accept believe the gospel found in 1st Corinthians 15:1-4.

And may enter in through the gates into the city: Only those who have done his commandments are able to enter through the gates into the city. Again, he is not speaking to us.

15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Without are dogs: Without the city of new Jerusalem. Does this mean all the lost souls for all of eternity are outside the city walls of new Jerusalem? No!

 But you do not have to go far to find the entrance to hell, where the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever. Revelation 14:11. The Bible calls unbelievers, dogs. Psalm 22:16, Isaiah 56:10-11, Matthew 7:6, 15:26 & Philippians 3:2.

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. 17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Mine angel: See his angel in Revelation 1:3.

To testify unto you these things in the churches: The whole book is written to churches during the tribulation period that will endure these events. It is not written to the church which is Christ’s body.

 We will not be here for any of these things as we are not appointed unto wrath, we will have been raptured prior to the start of the time of Jacob’s trouble. 1st Thessalonians 5:19 & Jeremiah 30:7.

I am the root and the offspring of David: A descendant of David.

The bright and morning star: Numbers 24:17 & Revelation 2:28.

The Spirit and the bride say come: The holy Spirit and the bride, which are the inhabitants of the city, new Jerusalem.

 John says the same thing to two different groups, “let him that heareth say, Come.” This is a plea by kingdom believers (the bride) for the kingdom to come. Matthew 6:10.

And let him that is athirst come: God is still speaking to the seven churches from chapters two and three which should tell you that the whole book is written to them, not just the first three chapters.

The water of life: The tribulation saints will need to partake of the water of life as well. It is the Spirit and the bride which are inviting these tribulation saints who are not sealed by the Spirit to partake of the water of life, as well as the tree of life.

18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: By adding to the words of the prophecy of this book a person in the tribulation period will invoke the very punishments proclaimed for the unbelievers.

 You can’t you have the plagues added to you unless you are going through the tribulation period?  God’s word was added to by Eve in the Garden.

19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

God shall take away his part out of the book of life: If someone in the tribulation period believes that Jesus was the Christ, but he perverts the prophecies of this book, he will have his part in the book of life taken away.

And out of the holy city: The holy city new Jerusalem is prepared for his Jewish bride, not the body of Christ.

And from the things which are written in this book: This is referring to the promises made to the overcomers in the book of the Revelation.

 This is not doctrine for us in the dispensation of grace. It is for Israel in the time of Jacob’s trouble. Jeremiah 30:7.

20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. 21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Surely I come quickly. Amen: Six times in this final book of the Bible, Jesus tells Israel, that he is coming quickly.

 The first two are in Revelation 2:5 & 16 where he says, “Repent or else I will return quickly,” the next three times he says, “Behold, I come quickly,” before saying, “Surely I come quickly.”

 John, after the two initial warnings, says, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus.” Even though all this must come to past, come, Lord Jesus.

The End

Revelation Tests 5.5 Credit hours

   To submit your test simply copy and paste the questions and your answers in bold font into the body of an email and send it to:

tests@dofgbi.org

Chapter One Test

1. What is the correct title of the last book of the Bible?

2. Who is the author of the book?

3. When was it written and why is its dating important?

4. Was John one of the twelve apostles to Israel or to the Gentiles?

5. Is it a book that is meant to be understood? How do we know that?

6. Is the book written to Christians in the church age?

7. How many blessings are mentioned in Revelation 1:3?

8. What is the threefold division of the book?

9. Where was the book written from and why?

10. What does “the time is at hand” refer to?

11. To whom is the book addressed?

12. Did all of these seven churches exist in John's day?

13. Can a Christian today keep all the things written in this book?

14. What does John mean when he says the events are to shortly come to pass?

15. What does “first begotten from the dead” mean?

16. Who has their sins washed away in Christ’s own blood?

17. Does verse seven speak of the rapture or the second coming?

18. What does the reference to the Lord's day mean?

19. What does the sharp two-edged sword represent?

20. What is meant by the keys of death and of hell?

21. What is meant by the things which thou hast seen?

22. What do the seven stars represent in verse twenty?

Chapter Two Test

1. Who are the letters addressed to?

2. Were the letters written to seven churches in John’s day?

3. Does the Holy Spirit operate with believers during the tribulation?

4. What were two biblical qualifications to be an apostle?

5. Can a church today ever have its candle removed by God?

6. Where is the tree of life today?

7. Will a Christian partake of the tree of life in the kingdom?

8. Does a Christian need to be faithful unto death to be saved?

9. What is the second death?

10. What is the doctrine of the Nicolaitans?

11. What does the sword of Christ's mouth represent?

12. List five things that each of these letters have in common.

13. What does it mean to overcome?

14. What does “he that hath an ear let him hear” mean?

Chapter Three Test

1. What does “be watchful” mean to the church at Sardis?

2. What scripture in Matthew describes Jesus' second advent?

3. Can a Christian's name be blotted out of the book of life?

4. What is the key of David?

5. What will God make of those that falsely claim they are Jews?

6. What is meant by the hour of temptation?

7. Is there a temple in the city of new Jerusalem?

8. What is God’s new name?

9. How is Christ contrasted with this church?

10. Who is promised to sit with Christ from this church?

11. Where is Christ in relation to the church at Laodicea?

Chapter Four Test

1. What do the words “after this” refer to in verse one?

2. What did John mean by being in the spirit?

3. Who are the twenty-four elders?

4. Where are they mentioned in the old testament?

5. Why are their seats empty in the old testament?

6. Who are the seven Spirits of God?

7. What are the four beasts?

8. What is one of the four beast's jobs in heaven?

Chapter Five Test

1. Who was worthy to open the seals and to look thereupon?

2. How was the only one worthy to open the book described?

3. How did John see him?

4. What do the seven horns and the seven eyes represent?

5. What do the scriptures say that Israel shall be one day unto God?

6. Who was redeemed by the Lamb's blood?

7. Who do the twenty-four elders represent?

8. Where does scripture say that his servants (Israel) shall reign at one day?

9. What does the Lamb receive at the end of the tribulation?

Chapter Six Test

1. Who is the rider on the white horse?

2. What was the power given to the rider on the red horse?

3. What did the balances represent in the hand of the third rider?

4. What is meant by death and hell being the fourth rider’s name?

5. Who were the souls under the altar that were slain?

6. What old testament verse is fulfilled during the sixth seal?

Chapter Seven Test

1. What is the seal of the living God?

2. What is the nationality of the 144,000 servants?

3. What tribe is not listed here and why?

4. Who are the great multitude and where are they from?

5. What will the tribulation saints do in the kingdom?

6. Will the tribulation saints need to partake of the tree of life?

Chapter Eight Test

1. Does prophecy always happen in chronological order?

2. Why is there silence in heaven for half an hour?

3. Are the religious objects mentioned used in a church or a temple?

4. Which old testament prophet performed similar signs in Egypt?

5. Were these judgments local of worldwide?

6. Where does chapter eight end up chronologically in time?

Chapter Nine Test

1. What is the star that fell from heaven?

2. What was the affect upon the earth when the pit was opened?

3. Who alone were protected from the stings of the locusts?

4. How long were people tormented by the locust stings?

5. What was the response of those stung?

6. How many were killed by the horsemen?

Chapter Ten Test

1. Who was the angel in verse two?

2. What did the little book contain?

3. Why are the seven thunders not told to us by John?

4. What is the mystery of God?

5. Did John ever get off the Isle of Patmos and preach again?

 Chapter Eleven Test

1. Where is the Temple in verse one located? Heaven, or earth?

2. How long are the months that are mentioned?

3. Who are the two witnesses?

4. How long do the two witnesses prophecy?

5. What powers do they have?

6. Describe what happens to the two witnesses?

7. What are the three woes?

8. What does verse fifteen prophecy of?

9. Is the temple in verse nineteen the same temple as verse one?

10. How do the people around the world see the witnesses’ bodies?

11. What city is spiritually called Sodom and Egypt?

12. Who is the beast that ascends out of the pit?

Chapter 12 Test

1. Who does the woman clothed with the sun and moon represent?

2. Who do the twelve stars represent?

3. Who is the man-child born to the woman?

4. Who does the great red dragon represent?

5. What do the seven heads and crowns represent?

6. What do the 10 horns represent?

7. What is meant by the dragon casting a third part of the stars to earth?

8. What does the child being caught up to heaven represent?

9. Explain verse six?

10. When is Satan cast out of heaven?

11. Who will Satan persecute more than anyone?

12. How is the woman rescued from the serpent?

13. How does the serpent try to kill the woman?

14.  How does God protect the woman?

15. How does the serpent attempt to destroy the woman later?

16.  What do the horns & crowns represent on the serpent's head?

 Chapter Thirteen Test

1 What does the sand of the sea represent?

2. What does the sea represent in verse one.

3. What or who is the beast?

4. What old testament book of prophecy portrays the beast?

5. Who is the dragon?

6. Who is the head that is "resurrected”?

7. When is the time period that the horn rules?

8. Who does the beast make war with?

9. In what book are the saint’s names written in?

10. What is meant by “leading and going into captivity”?

11. What is meant by “killing and being killed by the sword”?

12. Who is the other beast with two horns?

13. How did the second beast deceive the world?

14.  Where is the mark of the beast located and why is it important?

15.  What is the number associated with the mark of the beast?

16. What do the six different Roman numerals add up to?

Chapter Fourteen Test

1. At what point in time does Revelation 14 begin at?

2. What four letters make up God the Father’s name in Hebrew?

3. What five unique things are said about the 144,000?

4. What does it mean to be the first fruits unto God and the Lamb?

5. Can a woman, Gentile, or married person be one of the 144,000?

6. What is the everlasting gospel?

7. Who is Babylon?

8. What torment is promised to those who take the mark?

9. What is the patience of the saints?

10. What does it mean that their works follow them?

11. What is the reaping connected with at the end of the tribulation period?

12. What does the gathering of grapes refer to?

Chapter Fifteen Test

1. What are the seven last plagues referred to as?

2. Who was standing on the sea of glass?

3. What two things did they have victory over?

4. What was the song that these servants were able to sing?

5. What was in the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony?

6. When were men allowed to enter into the temple again?

Chapter Sixteen Test

1. What are in the last seven vials?

2. Upon whom did the sores fall from the first vial?

3. What happened to the water after the second vial was opened?

4. Where was the third vial poured, and what was the results?

5. Where was the four vials poured out and what was the results?

6. What happened with the fifth vial?

7. What happened with the sixth vial?

8. What do the three unclean spirits do to the leaders of the world?

9. How does God return to some who are not watching?

10. To what place does God gather his enemies?

11. What happened to destroy many great cities?

Chapter Seventeen Test

1. Who is the great whore that sits upon many waters?

2. How did the kings commit fornication with the woman?

3. Why did John wonder with great amazement at the woman?

4. Where was John carried away to and what does it represent?

5. What are the colors of the woman?

6. The Ten horns represent what?

7. The woman sits upon what?

8. Who is the beast?

9. What will the ten horns do to the whore?

10. What do the waters upon which the whore sits represent?

11. What city reigns over the kings of the earth?

Chapter Eighteen Test

1. Is Babylon the great, the actual city of Babylon?

2. What are God’s people to do in regard to this woman?

3. How severe will the woman’s punishment be by God?

4. How quick will this woman be judged by God?

5. What cities are possibly Mystery Babylon?

6. Who is guilty of the blood of the Martyrs?

7. Where will the bride and her Groom’s voice never be heard?

8. Is Mystery Babylon a commercial, or spiritual city, or both?

Chapter Nineteen Test

1. What is the marriage supper of the Lamb?

2. Who is the Lamb and who is his wife?

3. What is the spirit of prophecy?

4. Who is the rider on the white horse in this chapter?

5. How many times is heaven opened in Revelation?

6. What is Christ’s vesture dipped in?

7. What does Christ’s army ride back to earth on?

8. Who makes up the army that returns from heaven with Jesus?

9. What is written on Christ’s thigh and vesture?

10. What will be the main course at the great supper for the birds?

11. Where were the beast and the false prophet cast alive into?

12. What did Christ use to defeat his enemies?

Chapter Twenty Test

1. What throws Satan into the pit?

2. How long will Satan be bound in the pit?

3. What will Satan do once he is released from the pit?

4. What method was used to kill tribulation saints?

5. What is the first resurrection?

6. How are Gog and Magog destroyed in the later days?

7. Where is Satan’s final abode?

8. What is the book of life?

9. What is the second death?

10. What does death and hell being cast into the lake of fire mean?

11. Who will be judged at the great white throne judgment?

Chapter Twenty-one Test

1. New Jerusalem is prepared as a \_\_\_\_\_\_ adorned for her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. When will God wipe away all their tears?

3. What is the second death?

4. Is new Jerusalem ever called the bride?

5. What names are on the gates and foundations of the city?

6. How many furlongs does the city measure?

7. How many cubits is the wall around new Jerusalem?

8. How are the nations that are saved blessed by new Jerusalem?

9. What do the nations bring annually into the city?

10. Is there a temple in the city of new Jerusalem?

11. Will the unregenerate in the millennium be allowed to enter?

12. Who alone are allowed into the city?

Chapter Twenty-two Test

1. What is the river of the water of life for?

2. Where is the tree of life today?

3. How many types of fruit does the tree of life have on it?

4. What are the leaves for on the tree of life?

5. How often did the tree of life bare its fruit?

6. Will the curse on the earth ever be lifted?

7. Will we be able to finally see God’s face and live one day?

8. Tribulation saints get what for keeping God’s commandments?

9. What will tribulation saints receive for their works?

10. What penalty is given for altering the bible?

11. Can a person be removed from the book of life?

12. Who invites people to drink of the water of life?﻿