

The Revelation of Jesus Christ



*Unveiling Christ's
Finished Work!*

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MY PERSONAL STORY:

Before we begin our study of the book of Revelation, I want you to be aware of several key issues to enhance your understanding and enjoyment of this study.

First of all, I admit that for many years, Revelation was a mysterious book to me, just as it may be to you. I have been exposed to many unusual interpretations, and each person putting forth the argument was convinced that he or she was right.

Several experiences during my late teens, impacted my approach to Bible Study in general, but specifically the Book of the Revelation.

First, I began following several gentlemen who claimed to be prophets. They prophesied a multitude of events, including earthquakes, droughts, floods, etc. Most of what they prophesied was the normal fare. However, the way in which they arrived at their prophesies was through a haphazard manipulation of the scripture.

I was impressed by these men's obvious sincerity, in that they were willing to risk so much, and to really "stick their necks out." However, as I listened to them, I recognized that with manipulation of the scripture as they were doing, the Bible could be interpreted to say anything at all. Over time, it became quite evident that these men, while sincere, were misguided.

Later, I went to see the movie, "Late Great Planet Earth." The movie was made from a book with the same title, written by a popular leader, Hal Lindsay. I expected to be thrilled with the movie, because I heard reviews, and was generally "on the same page" with Hal Lindsay. I had read his book, and even taught it in a Bible Study.

However, as I left the movie theatre, I had to admit to myself that, had I not been a Christian when I went, I would have left convinced that the Apostle John was experiencing hallucinations from too much solitude and hardship on the Isle of Patmos! While I believed, and even taught, many of the things contained in the movie, seeing them in "living color" suddenly turned the whole idea into science fiction.

I began reading Revelation again.

I realized that I had never applied the normal interpretive hermeneutics to Revelation! I had accepted the idea that this book was different and didn't yield to the normal rules of interpretation.

I recognized, furthermore, that I had not been exposed to *any* teaching that took a normal exegetic approach to interpretation of the book. I repented, admitting to myself that the teachings I had embraced were the result of haphazard manipulation of the scripture much the way the "prophets" I described earlier had done.

Being horribly disillusioned, I gave up understanding the book for some time.

However, the discussions concerning the "end times", continued to be popular, and I wanted an informed opinion of my own. So, I resumed my study.

This time with a determination to apply the same principles of interpretation that I had learned to apply to Biblical Study.

This required asking the usual interpretive questions: Who was the author? When was it written? Who were the first hearers? What was the purpose for which it was written? What was the culture of the day?

As I did research, I discovered that the interpretations that I had accepted, were very new from a historical perspective. Most were less than one hundred and fifty years old. Listening to several other teachers I respected, I was shocked at my own ignorance.

There was no evidence that scholars had historically viewed the book as unique or had interpreted the book in the way I had been taught. I discovered that the authors and books I turned to for understanding were all published in the 19th century.

The interpretations I had been exposed to had gained popularity early in the 1900's along with the popularization of Cyrus Scofield's Dispensational Theology.

At the same time, having followed Malcolm Smith's ministry since 1971, I decided to purchase his tape series on the Book of Revelation. It was the first exegetic treatment of Revelation I had been exposed to. Much of the material contained in this syllabus was originally influenced from Malcolm's material.

I admit, initially, I questioned Malcolm's claims concerning older understandings of the book. I didn't want to be duped by yet another weird teaching.

As I delved deeper into study of The Revelation, I discovered that the historical understanding of The Revelation was similar to other Scripture, written in the apocalyptic style of Revelation. (It is the only New Testament book written in this style, and therefore, the writing style must be considered in interpretation).

As you join me in this study, if you are unsettled by the fact that my understanding is different than you have heard from others, I totally understand. Your questions are to be expected, and I welcome further discussion regarding any topic.

I ask you to do two things:

First, set aside all of your biases. Unless something I teach calls into question your basic tenants of saving faith, dare to challenge the other things you have heard. Even if you decide that I'm wrong and you've been right all along, you will have had an edifying time considering an alternative view of the scripture.

Second, don't just take my word for it. Pick up some encyclopedias, especially Britannica (an *old* one), and research some of these things for yourself. Try to find some writings about Revelation that date over 200 years old, and were considered reliable. If you do this, you are bound to have an interesting journey. Even an older Catholic Bible with footnotes, will confirm a more traditional interpretation.

THE REVELATION - OVERVIEW

Revelation has become one of my favorite Books of the Bible. Another favorite is the Book of Hebrews. The writing style of Hebrews is not apocalyptic, and in broad strokes, it has many confirming revelations regarding Christ's Finished Work.

IN BOTH CASES, JESUS IS THE FOCUS OF GOD'S ETERNAL PLAN AND PURPOSE.

God's purpose is revealed through creation and God's interaction with humankind throughout the whole of history.

The Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament) record the arc of history from God's perspective:

- Creation of mankind
- Man's choice for independence (the desire to be one's own god)
- Destruction of Creation as a result
- God's redemptive process to restore Creation to its original intent
 - God makes a covenant with a specific people through whom He will accomplish His plan of restoration.
- That plan requires God, *Himself*, to become human in order to fulfill His plan and purpose
- God's plan is revealed ahead of time through the Covenants of the Old Testament
 - This revelation validates and assures us of God's purpose as revealed in the birth, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ.
- The New Testament Scriptures reveal how Jesus accomplished God's plan, which will be fully consummated at The Coming of Christ as the Exalted King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
 - MY PURPOSE IS NOT TO DISPROVE OR DISPARAGE THE POPULAR TEACHERS OF OUR DAY.
- I will not engage in argument.
- I will be respectful of any disagreement, and I understand if you have questions.
- Questions are welcome, argument is not.

MY PURPOSE IS TO PRESENT MY UNDERSTANDING OF REVELATION WITH CLARITY AND PASSION.

- I am honored and delighted that you have decided to join me in this study.
- Many folks have told me that what they have been taught from Revelation has been frightening and fearful.
 - If that is you, my prayer is that you will find comfort and encouragement for your journey of faith, in this study.

EXCERPTS FROM THE BOOK TO THE HEBREWS

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. (Hebrews 1:1-3)

But to the Son He says: "YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER; A SCEPTER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS THE SCEPTER OF YOUR KINGDOM. YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS; THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED YOU WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS MORE THAN YOUR COMPANIONS." (Hebrews 1:8-9)

YOU HAVE MADE HIM A LITTLE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND SET HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS. YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET."

For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. (Hebrews 2:7-8)

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:14-16)

Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man. (Hebrews 8:1-2)

But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. (Hebrews 9:11-12)

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

For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: "FOR YET A LITTLE WHILE, AND HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME AND WILL NOT TARRY. NOW THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; BUT IF ANYONE DRAWS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM." But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul. (Hebrews 10:36-39)

INTRODUCTION

- WE ARE NOT LOOKING FOR CHRONOLOGY:

Revelation is not a book of Chronology in History, it is a book of **PRINCIPLES** at work since the **Revelation of Jesus Christ**: His incarnation, life, death, resurrection, and ascension to heaven.

As He ascended, He **commissioned** His followers to take His **GOSPEL, (Good News of His completed Messianic Mission)** to all the peoples of the earth.

The visions run parallel, not in terms of Chronology, but in terms of principles. Each vision points to different facet of God's purpose being accomplished during history (time).

Since this is "The Revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ" we must look beyond our usual understanding of time to understand fully what is happening in these visions, we must realize that God's perspective of these events is outside the limitation of time and chronology as we tend to see and evaluate.

The purpose of the symbols used in Revelation is to help you hear the truth beyond just the literal understanding. The symbol invites us to see the larger meaning behind the symbol. Example: The flag.

Consider that the Bible tells us multiple times that Jesus was, as Revelation 13:8 says, "Slain before the foundation of the world." (Other similar passages: Ephesians 1:4; Hebrews 4:3; I Peter 1:20) Yet we know that Jesus came at a specific point in history, conceived in the womb of a virgin girl, and was born in Bethlehem, grew as a lad in Nazareth, walked the shores of the Galilee leaving *real* footprints in the sand.

From our perspective these are historical events. But from the eternal perspective, they are not **only** historical events, but events that God had preordained, and were fully accomplished even before history began, and will be consummated fully at Jesus' second coming as **King of Kings and Lord of Lords**.

It is important, then, that we don't put too much effort in trying to understand how these descriptions fit into our historical, or future, understanding of events, but rather to learn to view our history from God's eternal perspective which is always in light of the consummation of everything in Jesus Christ.

OUTLINE:

VISION ONE: - CHRIST IN THE CHURCH. (CH. 1 TO 3)

- ASSUMES BIRTH, DEATH, RESURRECTION, ETC., AND SHOWS US THE GLORIFIED CHRIST VITALLY UNITED TO HIS CHURCH IN THE SEVEN BRANCHED CANDLESTICK.
- SHOWS US PRINCIPLES AT WORK IN THE CHURCH THROUGH HISTORY, ILLUMINATED IN THE MESSAGES TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES.
- SIMPLY ENDS WITH A STATEMENT THAT THOSE WHO OVERCOME WILL HAVE A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE COMING KINGDOM.

VISION TWO: - CHURCH IN TRIAL AND PERSECUTION CH. 4 TO 7)

- ASSUMES THE BIRTH AND DEATH, BUT WE SEE THE THRONE IN HEAVEN.
- GOD'S PURPOSES SEALED WITH SEVEN SEALS.
- ONE APPEARS WHO IS WORTHY TO OPEN THE SEVEN SEALS.
- AS HE BREAKS THE SEALS THERE ARE PRINCIPLES (HORSES) THAT HAPPEN IN OUR HISTORY AS HIS PURPOSES ARE REVEALED.
 - WHITE HORSE - ANTI-CHRIST INTRODUCED.
 - RED HORSE - PERSECUTION AND MARTYRDOM.
 - BLACK HORSE - ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PERSECUTION.
 - PALE HORSE - NATURAL DISASTER.
- THOSE SLAIN FOR THEIR TESTIMONY APPEAR UNDER THE ALTAR.
- THE JUDGMENT OF THE EARTH AS THE EARTH SEEMS TO COLLAPSE UNDER US.
- IN THE MIDST OF THIS, WE ARE INTRODUCED TO THE CHURCH, THE 144,000.
- VICTORIOUS MULTITUDE, IN THE MIDST OF THE JUDGMENTS BEING POURED OUT ON THE EARTH.
- IN THIS VISION, THE FINALE IS ASSUMED AND DECLARES THAT WE ARE SEALED BY GOD AND MARKED OFF AS HIS POSSESSION.

VISION THREE: THE SEVEN TRUMPETS (CH. 8 TO 11)

- WE SEE THE TRUMPETS OF GOD'S JUDGMENTS BEING SOUNDED THROUGH HISTORY.
- MEN REJECT THE SOUNDING OF THE TRUMPETS, AND JUDGMENT INEVITABLY MUST COME.
- AS JUDGMENT IS POURED OUT, THE CHURCH IS A REJOICING WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY, WHOSE WITNESS LIES DEAD IN THE STREET, SILENCED BY THE BEAST AND THE DRAGON.
- IN THE END LET IT BE KNOWN THAT "THE KINGDOMS OF THIS WORLD HAVE BECOME THE KINGDOM OF THE LORD AND OF HIS CHRIST."

FOURTH VISION: THE WOMAN AND THE BEASTS (CH. 12 TO 14)

- WE SEE A WOMAN PREGNANT WITH A CHILD.
- THE CHILD HAS BEEN THE OBJECT OF EVERY EFFORT OF THE DRAGON TO DESTROY ALL THROUGH HISTORY.
 - BUT THE CHILD IS BORN, AND EXALTED TO THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD.
- STANDS IN OPPOSITION TO THE DRAGON, THE BEAST FROM SEA, AND THE BEAST FROM EARTH.
- IN ALL OF THIS, THE CHURCH, THE 144,000, ARE STILL STANDING BEFORE THE LORD'S THRONE WORSHIPPING.

VISION FIVE: HARVEST OF THE EARTH (CH. 15 TO 16)

- MOVES LABORIOUSLY TO THE SEVEN ANGELS WITH SEVEN PLAGUES.
- MOVES WITH AWESOME PATIENCE TO THE POURING OUT OF GOD'S WRATH.
- YET MOVES WITH DELIBERATE JUDGMENT AGAINST THE DRAGON, WORLD SYSTEM, AND THE BEASTS.
- THE FINALE' OF GOD'S SEVEN BOWLS OF WRATH AGAINST THE BEASTS.

VISION SIX: THE FALL OF BABYLON (CH. 17 TO 19)

- ECHOES THAT "BABYLON IS FALLEN IS FALLEN."
- ENDS WITH THE SAINTS CELEBRATING IN GOD'S PRESENCE AS THE RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE COMES PROCLAIMING HIMSELF AS KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.
- ENDS WITH FINAL JUDGMENT AGAINST THOSE WHO HAVE REJECTED HIS KINGDOM.

VISION SEVEN: FINAL JUDGMENT AND NEW JERUSALEM REVEALED (CH. 20 TO 22)

- SHOWS US THE DRAGON BEING BOUND UP.
- SATAN'S FINAL DOOM AT THE COMING.
- THE JUDGMENT OF THE DEAD.
- THE COMING OF THE NEW JERUSALEM.
 - THE RE-ENTRANCE TO THE TREE OF LIFE.
- THE FINAL EXALTATION OF JESUS CHRIST AS KING.

The Revelation calls us to anticipate the final day, at **JESUS COMING**, when we shall live in the very fullness of those things which are shadowed to us in the Spirit. We do not look for chronology, dates, years, or times in history, but the **summation of all history** from the perspective of **THE KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS!**

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 NKJV)

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

Therefore, let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 NKJV)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

INTRODUCTION TO THE REVELATION – REVELATION CHAPTER ONE

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

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV)

- The greeting in Revelation 1:4–5, is shaped like a Trinitarian blessing:
 - from the eternal Father (“Him who is, and Who was, and Who is to come”),
 - from “the seven spirits,” (a symbolic way of speaking about the one **Holy Spirit** in the fullness and perfection of His work).
 - and from Jesus Christ.

WHO WROTE IT?

- **John the Apostle**, while exiled on the Isle of Patmos by the Emperor Domitian.
 - Remember John was “the disciple whom Jesus loved” by his own description.
 - This is significant as it relates to his response in seeing the glorified Christ.
- **From Jesus Christ, the faithful witness,**

*John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and **from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,** (Revelation 1:5 NKJV)*

- Notice that the first three chapters are in **RED**

REASON JOHN WAS ON THE ILE OF PATMOS:

- John was exiled because he wouldn't die!
 - Put him in boiling oil... and he continued to preach.
 - Essentially banished to rock mines for life because of his testimony of the Lord. (Similar to being sent to the salt mines.)
 - Emperor exiled him so he wouldn't need to hear of his preaching.

*I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called **Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.** (Revelation 1:9 NKJV)*

WHEN WAS IT WRITTEN?

- Written Approx.: AD 95 or 96 while banished on the Isle of Patmos.
- It was likely written **before** the Gospel and Epistles

HISTORY OF AD 95...

- DURING A TIME OF SEVERE PERSECUTION of Christians under rule of Emperor Domitian, who was a fanatic in emperor worship.

POLITICAL CONTEXT: THE PAX ROMANA & IMPERIAL CULT

- **Roman Hegemony:** The seven churches (Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea) existed in the wealthiest, most urbanized province of the empire. Roman roads, military presence, and administrative stability enabled trade but also enforced loyalty.
- **The Imperial Cult (Emperor Worship):** This was the central flashpoint. The province of Asia was the epicenter of emperor worship, having built the first temple to a living Roman emperor (Augustus) in 29 BC.
 - **Domitian's Demand:** Unlike earlier emperors who accepted worship passively, Domitian (AD 81–96) actively demanded to be addressed as "*Dominus et Deus*" ("Lord and God") and required provincial officials to enforce participation in the cult as a loyalty test.
- **Christian Conflict:** For Christians, confessing "Jesus is Lord" was a direct, treasonous contradiction to "Caesar is Lord."
 - Refusal to burn incense to the emperor's image meant social ostracism, loss of trade guild membership, and potential execution or exile.
 - Revelation's "Beast" imagery directly critiques this blasphemous imperial theology.
- **Unions or Guilds** (similar to our trade unions) also had patron deities, and to belong to the union, one had to involve himself with much pagan worship,
 - Hence to be a Christian often meant loss of job

WRITTEN TO WHOM?

- To the Seven churches in Asia minor (modern day Turkey) of which he was Overseer
 - See above

John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, (Revelation 1:4)

- While it is specifically addressed to the seven churches, the expectation would have been that the "LETTER" (It was, after all, a letter no different from the other letters of the New Testament) would be passed around to all of the churches, and preserved for the benefit of all believers

WHAT KIND OF LITERATURE?

- **Apocalyptic Interpretation Style (Hermeneutics)**
 - Interpreting apocalyptic literature requires a distinct approach different from literal or propositional texts.
 - Malcolm Smith – "Cosmic Opera"
- The Book of Daniel and the Book of Revelations are the two most recognized Apocalyptic Books

THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETATION ARE:

- **Symbolic/Theological Reading:** Recognizes that images are **not literal predictions** but symbolic representations of spiritual realities, political powers, and cosmic conflicts. For example, a "beast" represents an empire or ruler, not a literal monster.
- **Contextual Anchoring:** Understands the text first in its original historical context (e.g., Roman persecution for Revelation, Babylonian exile for Daniel) before applying timeless principles.
- **Bottom Line:** Apocalyptic writing uses **coded, symbolic language** to reveal God's ultimate victory over evil to a persecuted audience, urging faithfulness by unveiling the supernatural reality behind earthly suffering

SUBJECT: THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST!

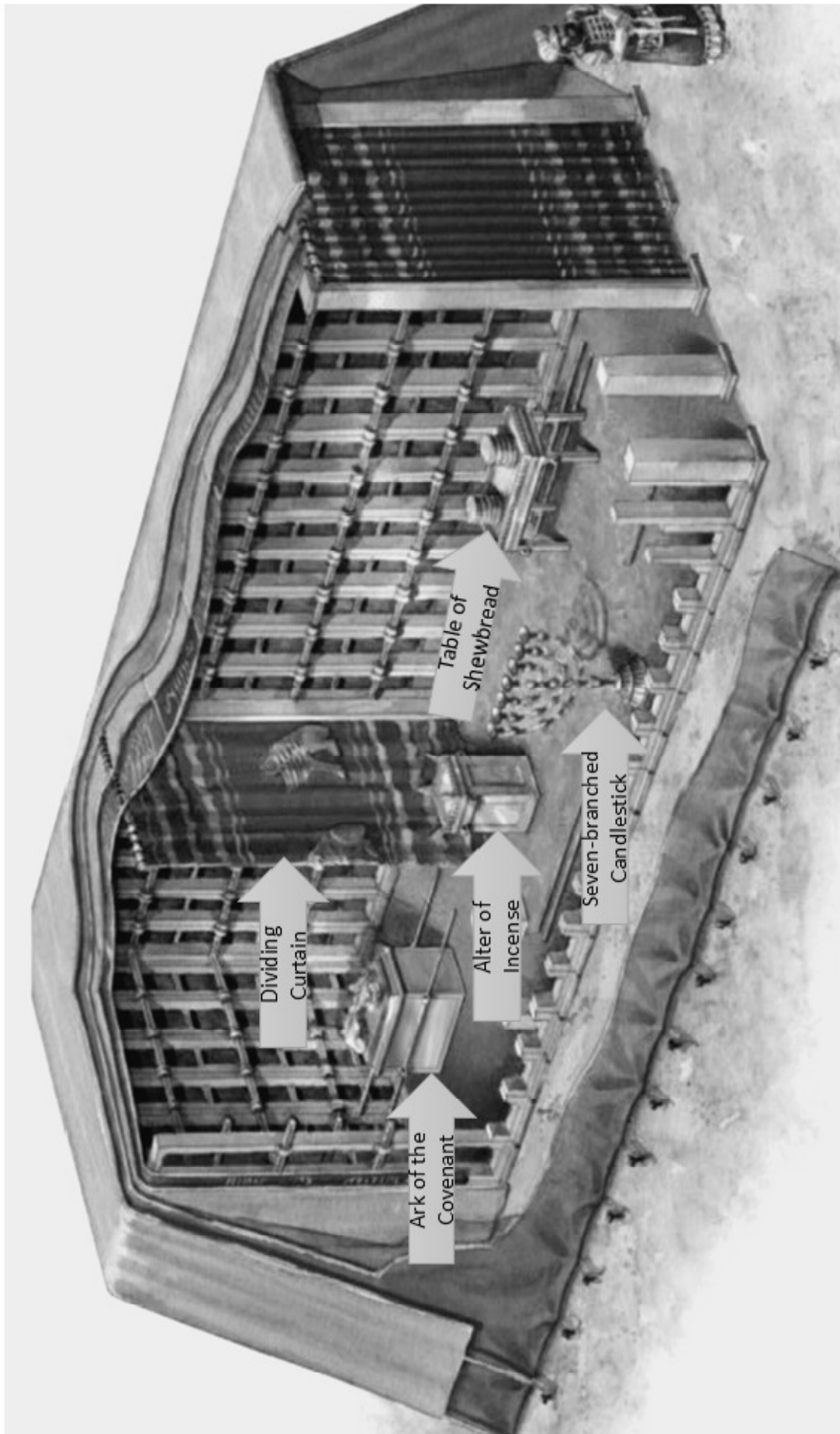
- **Revelation** means to draw back the curtain so one can see more clearly.
 - Hence the subtitle "Unveiling the Finished Work of Christ."
- The goal is to draw back the curtain on what the finished work of The Lord Jesus Christ accomplished!
- **Signified** - signed, symbolled, tokens.
 - Example: Cartoons... If I wrote from Washington DC, and said the Donkeys and Elephants are attacking Uncle Sam in the streets, no one would go to Washington expecting to see herds of donkeys and elephants running through the streets trampling a man in a red, white and blue striped suit.

SYMBOLS:

- Must be simple enough that any can understand if the blessing pronounced on the reader is true.

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near. (Revelation 1:3 NKJV)

- Last book of the Bible, not chronologically.
 - The symbols used are from the other 65 books which precede it, Especially Hebrew Scriptures
 - John was writing before the New Testament as we know it was compiled. At best they would have access to some of Paul's letters and possibly fragments of the early Gospels.
 - When I include reference to other New Testament writing, it is to reveal that the other New Testament writers understood Jesus' finished work similarly.
- John was writing to people familiar with the Old Testament, so to interpret the symbols, we must look to the same "manual" they carried.
- Suggest that the other reason for "signing" was so that the untrained scholar would **not** understand.
- An understanding of the Tabernacle is helpful!





FIRST VISION - CHRIST IN THE CHURCH

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet (Revelation 1:10 NKJV)

- Day the emperor ascended the throne, was called Emperor Day.
 - Celebrated every week on the same day.
- The Ephesians picked up on the Roman custom and called Sunday, "The Lord's Day"
 - The day the Lord ascended His throne.
- NIV Voice **LIKE** a trumpet.
- Just to get the feel for the book.
 - Voice was **NOT** a trumpet, but a voice **LIKE** a trumpet.

*Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; **and the sound of the trumpet was very loud**, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. (Exodus 19:16)*

*Then **I turned to see** the voice that spoke with me. And **having turned I saw** seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. (Revelation 1:12-13)*

JUDGE:

- Description of the Robe of ancient judges:
 - This One is the final judge of all... the final authority.
- White Hair - judge - white wigs, even today in England.
 - JOB 12:12

"I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened. (Daniel 7:9-10)

But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— that, as it is written, "HE WHO GLORIES, LET HIM GLORY IN THE LORD." (1 Corinthians 1:30-31)

*That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, **both of the Father and of Christ**, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Colossians 2:2-3)*

EYES:

*His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and **His eyes like a flame of fire**; (Revelation 1:14)*

- Blazing fire - burns through our pretenses.
 - We are known as we know ourselves.

FEET:

*His feet were **like fine brass**, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; (Revelation 1:15)*

- Judgment in His feet.
 - Enemies are judged; placed under His feet.

*"For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," Says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch. But to you who fear My name **The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings**; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves. You shall trample the wicked, For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet On the day that I do this," Says the LORD of hosts. (Malachi 4:1-3)*

*Let God arise; Let His enemies be scattered; Let those also who hate Him flee before Him. As smoke is driven away, So drive them away; **As wax melts before the fire, So let the wicked perish at the presence of God**. But let the righteous be glad; Let them rejoice before God; Yes, let them rejoice exceedingly. Sing to God, sing praises to His name; Extol Him who rides on the clouds, By His name YAH, And rejoice before Him. (Psalms 68:1-4)*

VOICE:

*His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and **His voice as the sound of many waters**; (Revelation 1:15)*

- Sound of many waters –
 - Sound of majesty. - Niagara Falls
 - Sound of awesome power - Sound of harmony.
- His voice strikes fear because of its majesty, yet it also calls one to worship.

*Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, **and the house was filled with smoke.** So, I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; **For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts.**" (Isaiah 6:1-5)*

SWORD:

*He had in His right hand seven stars, **out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword,** and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. (Revelation 1:16)*

- To do battle with His enemies, and to purge His church.
- Protects me, yet it calls me to repentance.

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

FACE:

- Shines like the sun.
 - Face reflects the whole person.
 - Example: Picture of me - face would be accepted... other parts would not.

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:6)

- Moses face shone from being in the presence of God.

THIS IS THE GLORIFIED PERSON ON WHOSE BREAST JOHN HAD RECLINED AT THE LAST SUPPER.

NOW SEEING JESUS AS LORD.

*And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; **I am the First and the Last.**" (Revelation 1:17)*

- **I AM** - the un-beginning first - the final unending Last.
 - There is no meaning in this life unless it finds its focus in the eternal-ness of Christ.

I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. (Revelation 1:18)

- **I AM THE LIVING ONE** - (reversal of death)
 - **I WAS DEAD**, I am alive forever and ever.
 - Not just resuscitated.
- **HOLD** the keys of death and hell.
 - Remember who **HOLDS** the keys for later study

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (John 15:1-5 NKJV)

- .JESUS IS THE CANDLELABRA: (SEVEN BRANCHED CANDLESTICK OF TABERNACLE)



-
- This is the **REAL TABERNACLE in Heaven** of which the Tabernacle of Moses was a visual Aide
- The first thing you encountered as you entered the Tabernacle Proper was the Seven-Branded Candlestick
 - In the Holy Place
 - The source of Light in the Holy Place

CANNOT SPEAK OF CHRIST WITHOUT SPEAKING OF THE CHURCH:

- Jesus is the stem of the candlestick, and vitally united to Him are the seven churches.
 - He is the life source.
 - Vine / branches
- One Candlestick, yet seven, yet one.
 - Seven local churches, yet only existed in their one-ness, and union with Christ.
 - No church joined to any other church, but each joined to one another in **Christ the stem.**

SEVEN STARS:

- Angels: Messengers - to churches.
- My opinion is that these were the Pastors /Elders / Overseers of the Church
 - No hierarchy – they were messengers not lords.
- The Union of church was to Christ not to stars
- Every Church was a lamp:
 - Christ is the Sun - for daytime - children of day.
 - Church is lamp - for darkness - the light for the darkness of the world.
 - Each receiving its oil for its light from the lampstand.
 - Result is that darkness hates light.

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:13-16)

THE SEVEN CHURCHES

EPHESUS:

- First church -... Timothy pastor.
- Parent church of the other six.
 - “Yet you've lost your first love”
- Artemis functioned as a massive bank and economic engine
 - Called Diana in Acts 19 (Roman name)
 - Largest port in Asia Minor
- Had become legalistic - Acts 19 - 45 years later.
- Seven stars in the right hand of power, special place, but not lords.
- Christ moves throughout the whole candlestick.

SMYRNA “THE PERSECUTED CHURCH”

- Key competitor to Ephesus, with a natural harbor.
- The city of idol to Caesar.
 - Under heavy persecution - wouldn't join unions
- I AM the first and the last
 - See affliction in the light of eternal one.
- I AM the one who died and rose again –
 - They may kill you, but the Eternal one will guard your life.

"Remember these, O Jacob, And Israel, for you are My servant; I have formed you, you are My servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me! (Isaiah 44:21)

If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself. (2 Timothy 2:12-13)

- You will suffer ten days
 - Ten days is not a literal ten days, but a fullness of time.
 - Were confined and tortured for ten days to coerce denial. If refused, they were killed or sent to the arena.
- “I know your poverty...”
 - Physical poverty because of the persecution
 - Also aware of spiritual poverty
 - Greek word was used for the begging poor –
 - Had no resources, and relied solely on grace.
 - This is the Spiritual condition of all, regardless of the degree to which it is true of our physical situation.
 - Spiritually poor. not working poor. Can't work for salvation.
- We are resurrection people.
- Jews were a recognized religious group, and exempt from declaring Caesar is Lord.
 - Christians were not recognized. They refused to declare Caesar as Lord, even on the pain of death.

PERGAMUM:

- Cultural and intellectual capital; major medical tourism destination.
- Satan's throne is pride

You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit on the mount of assembly on the heights of Zaphon. (Isaiah 14:13 NRSV)

- Emperor worship historically began here.
- The Great Altar of Pergamon – Alter to Zeus
 - Is considered to be one of the greatest surviving monuments from antiquity
- Nicholattains – Temple prostitution as a part of trade unions
 - Hold to the words of the two-edged sword, to purge and protect
- Overcome by the word of their testimony.

THYRATYRA

- Guild capital of Asia Minor; had more trade guilds than any other city, controlling every artisan trade
- Yielded inside to world system and flesh.
- The eyes of fire, the feet of judgment.
- I will uncover your attitudes.
 - v.23 He who searches the hearts and minds.

"I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. (Revelation 2:19)

- Opposite of Ephesus – Thiatyra was doing more
 - Ephesus had lost their first love.
- The deep things of Satan -
- Temple prostitution which promised prosperity and success.

SARDIS

- Gold refining, wool dyeing (scarlet), immense wealth and coinage.
- They are dead, but are being called to wake up
 - Because they were dead
- The other churches were either Persecuted or attacked. Not Sardis.
- Had the largest synagogue... You have a name.
- Attacked by false religion from the inside.
 - You have a reputation for life, but you are dead.
- Repent or be removed.

PHILADELPHIA

- Gateway to the eastern plateau; agricultural export hub
- **Holds** the key to the KINGDOM of David.
 - Heavy persecution - hold fast.
- Keys and names
 - Shebna.. Isaiah 22:15. - Steward of the king's resources... used it for himself.
- Master keys... if locked by master key, no other key could unlock... if unlocked by master key no other key could lock.

The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, And all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, Which the mouth of the LORD will name. You shall also be a crown of glory In the hand of the LORD, And a royal diadem In the hand of your God. (Isaiah 62:2-3)

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 16:18-19)

LAODICEA

- Wealthy financial center; famous for self-sufficiency and lukewarm mineral water.
- Black wool (distinctive breed of sheep), eye salve/medical ointments.
- Didn't have their own water supply
 - Built an aqueduct 6 miles to Hierapolis for hot water (famous hot springs) a
 - And clay piping to Colossae 10 Miles -for cold water
- Laodicea was famous for lukewarm water
- "If you drink water from Laodicea, it will make you vomit."
 - Suggest; "I wish when someone took a drink from you ,it would be hot or cold."
- Christ is standing **outside**.
- Is spirituality a charade, or do you have life.
- Attitude of "we're the biggest and best"

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! (Psalms 34:8))

"Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. (Isaiah 55:1-2)

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, (1 Peter 1:6-7)

NONE OF THESE CHURCHES REMAIN TODAY.

- Candlestick has been removed.
 - We have churches that have the charade of being churches.
 - "Not every building with a steeple is a church!" – Me
- HE WHO HAS "INSIDE EARS", LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT IS SAYING TO THE CHURCHES**

THE LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

Church	Background	Jesus Response	Commendation	Correction	Counsel	Reward
Ephesus 2:1-7	Boasted about being the first church	I AM first	v. 2-3 & v.6 Hard work Endured Did not tolerate evil	Left your first love v.4	Remember, repent and return Do the first works: Worship, Word, Witness	v.7 Tree of Life Paradise
Smyrna 2:8-11	Boasted that they have come back to life. Had almost become ghost town and revived	I AM the resurrection v.8	v.9 Endured Suffered and not grown weary	v.10 Don't be afraid	v.10 Be faithful unto death	v.10 Crown of Life
Pergamum 2:12-17	Boasted that they carried the sword. Where Satan's throne is	I have the two-edged sword.	v.13 Hold on to My name and have not denied	v.14 Nicolattains Compromise	v.16 Don't compromise to culture	White stone with a new name...
Thyatira 2:18-29	Smallest of the cities Boasted they had the most trade guilds. Had the statue of Appollo the Son of Zeus	I AM the Son of God	v.19 Growing in love, faith, service, and endurance	v.20 Tolerate Jezebel	Resist the enemy Stop allowing the immoral practices v.25 Hold on to what you have	v.27 Rule the nations Morning Star
Sardis 3:1-6	Had the largest synagogue... you have a name... but are dead	Seven Spirits of God	v.4 You have some of have kept their clothes clean	v.1 Known for being alive, but are dead	v.2 & 3 Remember what you have received and heard Obey and be alert Strengthen what is left	Pure ones will be acknowledged before the Father
Philadelphia 3:7-13	Had changed their name twice.	Key of David	v.8 Little strength, but you paid attention Have not denied my name	No Rebuke	v.11 Hold on, I am coming soon.	v.10 - 12 Because you have endured, I will keep you safe. Pillar in the Temple
Laodicea 3:14-22	Largest banking center (Rich). Largest medical center. Ophthalmology Largest clothing manufacturer. Had access to black wool.	Faithful and True Source of Creation	No commendation	v.17 Miserable, pitiful, poor, blind and naked	v.18 Buy gold, buy clothes, buy ointment	v.21 Sit with me on my throne. Will come in and share a meal

SECOND VISION - CHURCH IN TRIAL AND PERSECUTION

PICTURE OF THE TABERNACLE:

Once again read for yourself Exodus chapter 1

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: "On the first day of the first month you shall set up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting. You shall put in it the ark of the Testimony, and partition off the ark with the veil. You shall bring in the table and arrange the things that are to be set in order on it; and you shall bring in the lampstand and light its lamps. You shall also set the altar of gold for the incense before the ark of the Testimony, and put up the screen for the door of the tabernacle. Then you shall set the altar of the burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting. And you shall set the laver between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar, and put water in it. You shall set up the court all around, and hang up the screen at the court gate. (Exodus 40:1-8)

Therefore, it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; (Hebrews 9:23-24)

- IN THIS VISION WE SEE THE WORLD OF CAUSES!
- The Ark of the Testimony was the throne of God in Israel. Cherubim on either side, and in the very center of the Ark, was the Glory of God Himself. In front of the ark was the curtain with the cherubim woven throughout it.
- The Tabernacle was a visual-aide and Moses was given detailed instructions on the mountain in Exodus 19 and 20, in order that the visual aide could illustrate the REAL TABERNACLE in Heaven. This Vision shows the total fulfillment of the visual-aide.

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

- v. 1 - Door open in heaven - Mount Sinai.
 - Trumpet calling into God's presence.
- v. 2 - Throne in Heaven – Ark or the Covenant
 - Throne mentioned 17 times - message **GOD IS IN CONTROL!!!!**
 - God in His awe-full-ness!
- v. 3 - One Who sat on the Throne - looked like brilliant stones.
 - Sardius - blazing Crystal
 - Jasper - Red in Judgment.
 - Rainbow - seal of covenant - Noah
 - the God who will keep His Word.
- v. 4 - 24 thrones - 24 elders –

Around that throne were 24 other thrones, and on these thrones sat 24 leaders wearing white clothes. They had gold crowns on their heads. (Revelation 4:4)

- The ultimate Shewbread
- The church of all ages.
- 12 Patriarchs in the Old Testament - (12 loaves)
- 12 Apostles in the New Testament

BASIC NUMBERS: (SEE APPENDIX I - PAGE 70)

- God's purposes for man - 3 X 4 = 12
- Trinity X Universal world = 12
- Old Testament purpose among men + New Testament Church = 24

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, (Ephesians 2:4-6)

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22)

*EPH 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has blessed us in the heavenly realms** with every spiritual blessing in Christ.*

TWO ERRORS:

- God IS me, I am God, we are one.
- God is unapproachable.
- v. 6 - Sea of Glass - Veil - separation of His holiness.
 - Reminder that God is other than myself
 - He is objective to me.
- v. 6 - 10 (Ezekiel chs.10 and 11)
 - Ezekiel describes this same creature and calls them the Cherubim
 - Cherubim - Highest order of angels - the ones who bring about God's purposes among men

So, He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life. (Genesis 3:24)

- v. 5 - Lightenings and Thunderings
 - Echo Ex. 19. again.
 - Before the throne the sevenfold - candlestick.
 - Echo from the first vision

SCROLL OF GOD'S PURPOSES:

- Written on both sides –
 - Normally a scroll would be written on one side, and rolled up.
 - This scroll could not contain the mystery on one side. It was filled up and overflowing.
- In right hand of God – The hand of power.
- Sealed with seven seals
- Sealed by man's sin.
 - Because mankind was given dominion and authority in the beginning of creation, a **MAN** must open it.
 - Nobody in heaven could do it, because it must be a man.
 - Angels won't do.
 - Even God Himself of "no use"
 - Nobody on earth could do it, plenty of men, but none worthy.

- how that by revelation **He made known to me the mystery** (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), **which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:** that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power. To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles **the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God** who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, **according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord**, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him. Therefore, I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. (Ephesians 3:3-13 NKJV)
- v. 2 - Who is worthy - has authority.
 - Not dependent on power - strength.
 - Demanded a certain character - authority.
- v. 4 – John “wept greatly” - KJV - only time John weeps.
 - Sees some really scary creatures and awful events later, and just reports
 - Why was he so distraught over this situation?

THEN APPEARS A LION OF JUDAH - A LAMB AS IF SLAIN.

But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. (Revelation 5:5-6)

v. 6 - Lamb in center of throne encircled by Cherubim.

- Holy of Holies.
- Jacob blessing his sons:

You are a lion's cub, Judah; you return from the prey, my son. Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness—who dares to rouse him? **The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his. (Genesis 49:9-10)**

- Malcolm – “Lamb is theological shorthand for God's sacrifice.”
 - Seven horns - Gods perfect power - authority.
 - Seven eyes - God's perfect Seeing - Omniscience.
 - Sevenfold Spirit - Perfect Holy Spirit.
- v. 8 - Now have harps and incense - rejoicing and worshipping.

*By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept When we remembered Zion. **We hung our harps upon the willows in the midst of it. (Psalms 137:1-2)***
- v. 9 - a new song - new in kind.
 - Not a new car, I've had a car before.
 - This is like "Star Wars" a new kind of transportation.
- v. 11 - Multitudes encircle the throne.
- Ch. 6:1 - Lamb opens seals on scroll one seal at a time.
 - Does not happen at a "time in History", but represents God's purpose being fulfilled from the Resurrection until the Coming..

THE FOLLOWING PATTERN OF THE HORSES IS SIMILAR TO ZECHARIAH 6 CHARIOTS

FIRST SEAL - WHITE HORSE - v. 2 - He rides as a conqueror

- Anti-Christ rides out on the scene.
- He looks like the real victor from Ch. 19, but he is an impostor.

ANTICHRIST

- Not one over against Christ, but rather an alternative.
- Malcolm Smith – Doesn't say Christ isn't right, but sets up a new target

And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. (Revelation 6:2)

Cush was the father of Nimrod, who became a mighty warrior on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; that is why it is said, "Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the LORD." (Genesis 10:8-9)

GENESIS 10 IS THE BEGINNING OF BABYLON WHICH WE WILL DISCUSS AT LENGTH LATER.

SECOND SEAL - RED HORSE - the blood of persecution.

- This rider was GRANTED power.

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven. Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. (Matthew 10:28-38 Excerpts)

• v.4 – Given a “Great Sword”

- Sword of sacrifice.

THIRD SEAL - BLACK HORSE - Economic persecution.

- Loss of job, loss of friends, outcasts.
- America one of few places where Christians are not presently suffering under these horses.
- Food was available to those with enough money to buy it.

FOURTH SEAL - PALE HORSE - v. 7 (Ashen)

- GRANTED power to kill with sword, famine, plague
- Natural disasters - faced by both Christians and Non-Christians but GOD IS IN CONTROL.

FIFTH SEAL - v. 9 Altar of those who died through the first four seals.

- Souls UNDER the altar:
- The blood of the offerings and sacrifices was collected under the altar of sacrifice.

For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life. (Leviticus 17:11)

Because the life of every creature is its blood. That is why I have said to the Israelites, "You must not eat the blood of any creature, because the life of every creature is its blood; anyone who eats it must be cut off." (Leviticus 17:14)

- "Life (Nephesh) is in the blood, therefore blood can cover sin."

- v. 10 - WHEN will you avenge - not WILL you, but **WHEN**.

SIXTH SEAL - v. 12 - the answer to the question in v.10

- God's HOLINESS MUST PUNISH.
- The Great Day of God's wrath against sin.
- Sanity demands a God of Wrath. - Psalm 52.

*Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end. Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors. **As a dream when one awakes, So, Lord, when You awake, You shall despise their image.** (Psalms 73:17-20)*

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE CHURCH???? PARENTHESIS

- A pattern begins that follows in the other visions.
 - World events are described for the first six in the vision, then there is a parenthesis as we look at what is happening to God's chosen people.
- Hold God's wrath until I seal God's chosen ones.

*"Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees **till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.**" (Revelation 7:3)*

- Seal of God on our foreheads.
 - Forehead represents one's worldview
- God demonstrates His grace and love in His patience to bring judgment.
 - Example: Methuselah - "His death will bring it."
 - God's living visual-aide of His patience.
 - Lived 969 years - longest life ever.

- v.4 - **HEARD** a number of 144,000 = 12X12 X10 X10 X10.

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Revelation 7:9-10)

● THESE WERE NUMBERED

*Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: "When you take the census of the children of Israel for their number, then **every man shall give a ransom for himself to the LORD, when you number them, that there may be no plague among them when you number them.** This is what everyone among those who are numbered shall give: half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (a shekel is twenty gerahs). The half-shekel shall be an offering to the LORD.*

Everyone included among those who are numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an offering to the LORD. The rich shall not give more and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when you give an offering to the LORD, to make atonement for yourselves. (Exodus 30:11-15)

*Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, **but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.** (1 Peter 1:18-19)*

EXPLANATION OF TRIBE LISTING:

- Not intended to be a listing of the twelve tribes:
 - Levi is not listed among the tribes
 - The tribe of the priesthood.
 - Joseph is listed – Not a tribe
 - Replaced by Manasseh and Ephraim
 - Tribe of Dan is missing
 - Ephraim - Key tribe left out - Israel in O.T. sometimes called Ephraim for "short".

AS LISTED WITH THE MEANING OF THE NAMES:

- Judah - "Praise" - Lion of the Tribe first listing.
- Reuben - "Behold" the sons of God.
- Gad - "A Great Company" - the Lion brings.
- Asher - "Happy Joyful" - Company
- Naphtali - "Wrestle and Overcome"
 - Overcome - keyword in Rev.
- Simeon - "Hearing" - ears to hear. "He has listened."
- Levi - "Joined" - to the lamb - one spirit.
- Issachar - "Price paid" - "Redeemed"
- Zebulun - "A dwelling Place" - a habitation of God.

Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone... (Ephesians 2:20, NKJV)

- Joseph - "Add - Fruitful" - "He will add"
- Benjamin - "Son of my right hand"
 - Rachel's son - she died giving birth - Gen. 35:16-21
 - Rachel called him Benoni - "Son of my sorrow"
 - Jacob wouldn't hear of it - he called him Benjamin - "Son of my right hand."
 - Jesus, "Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief..."

THESE WERE SEALED

- Seal both shows ownership - and character –
- Signature God call us His - he protects us - owns us.
- Sealed with Holy Spirit of God.

*In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, **you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee** of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. (Ephesians 1:13-14)*

*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom **you were sealed for the day of redemption.** (Ephesians 4:30)*

WHEN HE OPENED THE SEVENTH SEAL, THERE WAS SILENCE IN HEAVEN FOR ABOUT HALF AN HOUR. (REVELATION 8:1)

WHEN THE FINAL SEAL IS BROKEN, AND FULL PURPOSE OF GOD IS FULLY REVEALED, HEAVEN IS SILENT IN AWE-FULL SILENCE

THIRD VISION: SEVEN TRUMPETS

THE WORLD HAS REJECTED THE LAMB OF GOD. SON HAS BEEN EXALTED

*Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us." **He who sits in the heavens shall laugh**; The LORD shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion." "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' " Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him. (Psalms 2:1-12)*

- World has rejected Lamb and persecuted the church.
- Therefore, the world must be judged.

WHAT HAVE TRUMPETS MEANT IN THE SCRIPTURE?

- Giving of the Law, Manifestation of God's Holiness.

*Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; **and the sound of the trumpet was very loud**, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. Exodus 19:16-19)*

- Trumpets warning of God's coming judgment.

*And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor. You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. It shall come to pass, **when they make a long blast with the ram's horn**, and **when you hear the sound of the trumpet**, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him." Then Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "**Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD.**" And he said to the people, "Proceed, and march around the city, and let him who is armed advance before the ark of the LORD." So it was, when Joshua had spoken to the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the LORD advanced and blew the trumpets, and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them. The armed men went before the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard came after the ark, **while the priests continued blowing the trumpets.** (Joshua 6:2-9)*

- Trumpets announce the Kings Coronation.

*There let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet **anoint him king over Israel; and blow the horn**, and say, 'Long live King Solomon!' (1 Kings 1:34)*

- Not everyone could see when the King was crowned, but when the trumpet sounded, you knew that the king had been crowned.
- Call to worship, call to assembly - preparation for war.

*And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: "Make two silver trumpets for yourself; you shall make them of hammered work; you shall use them for calling the congregation and for directing the movement of the camps. When they blow both of them, all the congregation shall gather before you at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. But if they blow only one, then the leaders, the heads of the divisions of Israel, shall gather to you. When you sound the advance, the camps that lie on the east side shall then begin their journey. When you sound the advance the second time, then the camps that lie on the south side shall begin their journey; they shall sound the call for them to begin their journeys. And when the assembly is to be gathered together, **you shall blow**, but not sound the advance. The sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow the trumpets; and these shall be to you as an ordinance forever throughout your generations. "When you go to war in your land against the enemy who oppresses you, **then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets**, and you will be remembered before the LORD your God, and you will be saved from your enemies. **Also, in the day of your gladness, in your appointed feasts, and at the beginning of your months, you shall blow the trumpets** over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; and they shall be a memorial for you before your God: I am the LORD your God."(Numbers 10:1-10)*

- A Call to repentance in preparation for the day of atonement

*'And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work. **For you it is a day of blowing the trumpets.** (Numbers 29:1)*

PARALLELS TO EGYPT AND EXODUS:

- Egypt persecuted Israel.
- God announced "I AM GOD".
 - You have touched Israel, My firstborn
 - You must pay with your firstborn

And the LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go. Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "Israel is My son, My firstborn. So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn." ' ' (Exodus 4:21-23 NKJV)

- God sounded warning trumpets (judgments, plagues).
- Finally moved with the judgment DEATH.
- Nine Plagues before death of firstborn.

EGYPT PRINCIPLE:

- God declares His purpose.
- Man rejects God's purpose
- Hardens heart.
- God pronounces judgment.
- God's patience and mercy demands time for repentance.
- He sounds warning trumpets.
- Man rejects warnings.
- Judgment comes to apparent fullness
- Finally, God turns man's own rejection and hardness of heart against himself, and **lures** him to final judgment in the sea.
 - A repetitive principle. We shrink from God's judgment as if God is less than love.
 - In reality a God without justice is no God at all.
- A God who does not judge man's rejection and sin cannot be holy.

ROMANS 1 PRINCIPLE.

FIRST TRUMPET:

So, the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up. (Revelation 8:6-7)

- Earth - man's source of life.
- 1/3 of earth - not all.
- Man, meeting with God at his very source of life
- Parallel - Egypt – Nile

SECOND TRUMPET:

*Then the **second angel sounded**: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. (Revelation 8:8-9)*

*"And I will repay Babylon and all the inhabitants of Chaldea for all the evil they have done In Zion in your sight," says the LORD. "Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, who destroys all the earth," says the LORD. "And I will stretch out My hand against you, **roll you down from the rocks, and make you a burnt mountain**. They shall not take from you a stone for a corner nor a stone for a foundation, but you shall be desolate forever," says the LORD. (Jeremiah 51:24-26)*

- Babylon is the world system. Beginnings in Nimrod in Genesis 10
- Discussed in detail in next few visions.
- Mountain thrown into the sea - Nations.
- One-third of sea turns to blood - death. - again, not all, 1/3

THIRD TRUMPET:

***Then the third angel sounded**: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter. (Revelation 8:10-11)*

- **Great star - Angel - Satan - Fallen on the waters.**
- WATERS - WHERE MY SPIRIT FEEDS.

*Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw. "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He." **The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, (John 4:13-28 Excerpts)***

- **Waters**
 - Become bitter and many people died.
 - Philosophies which lead to death.
- Recall bitter waters in the wilderness.
 - Tree thrown into the water to make it sweet.
- Again 1/3 - not all.

FOURTH TRUMPET:

Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night. (Revelation 8:12)

- Darkness - confusion no direction - no vision.
 - "Without vision people perish"
- A reproof against the prophets for not teaching truth and providing a vision.
 - providing bitter waters.
- Again, echo from Egypt – Plague of Darkness
- "Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!" says the LORD.
(Jeremiah 23:1 NKJV) (Exodus 4:21-23 NKJV)

"Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD to the shepherds: "Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, but you do not feed the flock. (Ezekiel 34:2-3 NKJV)

- This is why Jesus cleansed the Temple

FIFTH TRUMPET - FIRST WOE:

*Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was **given the key** to the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So, the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. Then out of the smoke **locusts came upon the earth**. And to them was **given power**, as the scorpions of the earth have power. They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. (Revelation 9:1-4)*

- Star **GIVEN** key to pit, releases locusts.
- One of the worst plagues in Egypt, because the locusts were blown from afar
 - God is God outside of Egypt also.
- Locusts from pit.
 - These locusts who don't eat green, they torment men.
 - Demon powers who destroy men
 - Led by Apollyon - chief destroyer.
- They cannot touch those with the seal of God on their foreheads!!!!

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, (1 Timothy 4:1-2)

SIXTH TRUMPET - SECOND WOE:

Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." (Revelation 9:13-14)

- Release the four angels who were bound at river Euphrates.
 - Euphrates represented final barrier into Israel.
 - Other side of Euphrates was Babylon - World system.

- **FOUR angels were released.**
- Angels release 200 million horsemen.
 - (200 thousand thousand) 2 X 10X10X10 X10X10X10
 - **This number is to fallen humanity what 144,000 is to redeemed humanity.**
- "I **HEARD** their number".
 - suggest - 1/3 of 6=2
- Mans refuses to repent even in the face of the judgments which he brings upon himself because of his rejection of God's purposes.

PARENTHESIS AS WITH SEALS - WHERE IS THE CHURCH?

*I saw still **another mighty angel** coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. (Revelation 10:1)*

- Angel Robed in a cloud.
 - **Cloud:**
 - Filled the Tabernacle
 - Filled the temple
 - Filled Solomon's temple
 - Filled tent where ark was kept at Mt. Zion.
 - Led Israel from Egypt and in Wilderness
 - Received Jesus out of sight at ascension
 - With a rainbow - first sign of covenant.
 - face like the Sun - again look back at Ch.1.
 - v2. - Holding a "**little scroll**" WHICH LAY OPEN.
 - **Roar like a lion, Voice of seven thunders** (recall chapter 1)
 - **EATING OF SCROLL v.10**
 - Parallel to Ezek. chapters. 2 & 3
 - Scroll of God's purposes are sweet as we receive them, but they quickly turn bitter in our stomach as we work out the call of God on our lives.
 - Brings glory to those who hear, bitterness to those who refuse.
 - Again, Egypt principle.
 - News came to Israel that God was going to deliver them.
 - Everyone rejoices, but a few days later, they are required to work harder, and they immediately grumble.
 - Our deliverance always ends up at the Red Sea surrounded on either side, with Pharaoh and Egypt behind, and Red Sea in front.
 - End up in the wilderness completely dependent on God's provision, supply and vindication.
 - **MEASUREMENT OF THE TEMPLE:**
- Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, "Rise **and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there,** (Revelation 11:1)*
- **MEASURE THE TEMPLE (NAAOS)**
Mark it off - set it apart to where it cannot be touched.
 - Measure the **ALTAR**, and count the worshipers.
 - hold for later. – Altar

WORSHIPERS:

- Worship reduces all to a common level.
- In worship, we are all creatures before the CREATOR.
 - Example: King David at bringing back Ark.
 - Danced and sang before the Lord.
 - Michael - You behaved like a peasant.
 - No kingly robes here, no hierarchy.
- **ONLY WORSHIPERS in the NAAOS**
- v.2 - EXCLUDE OUTER COURT, because Gentiles.
 - **Naaos** surrounded immediately by the outer court.
 - Beyond that is the rest of the city and the world.
 - Outer court belongs to the gentiles.
- The temple initially looks very big, but what God is interested in is only the **Naaos**, and the **worshippers**.
 - Most of what is called Temple (church) is actually being trampled by the Gentiles.
- How do you tell what is just temple, and what is Naaos?
 - Look at the worshippers.
 - A living relationship with the creator which calls me to worship
 - Anything less is just temple.

THE NAAOS - THOSE SEALED CANNOT BE TOUCHED!!!!!! THEY HAVE BEEN MARKED OFF BUT THAT ISN'T THE END OF THE STORY!

YOU CANNOT TOUCH THE TRUE CHURCH IN THE SPIRIT, BUT YOU CAN TOUCH ITS WITNESS (SILENCE IT'S VOICE)

TWO WITNESSES:

- Throughout scripture it becomes evident that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established!!
- Sought for two witnesses who could agree at the trial of Jesus.
 - Needed two witnesses to convict.
- Not to receive a charge against an elder except two witnesses
 - I Tim.6:19

These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. (Revelation 11:4)

- These are the two olive branches. - Zechariah chapters 4 & 5
- The church at witness - two who bring oil.
- Anointed to serve the Lord of all the Earth.

They have the power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire. (Revelation 11:6)

MOSES

- Turn waters to blood
- Strike the earth with every kind of plague
 - Sounding the trumpet of God's warnings that judgment is coming.

ELIJAH

- Power to shut the sky, while they are prophesying.
- Prophet - speak forth on behalf of God.
 - Clothed in sackcloth - repentance
- Represented repentance.
 - Thought he was the last witness.
 - Jezebel silenced his voice.
 - God said certainly not - " There are still seven thousand"
 - Naaos untouched.
 - Spoke for God and proved His word.

THE WITNESSES TORMENT THOSE ON THE EARTH.

- Zechariah Ch. 4 - testify against the mountain - Babylon.
- People refuse the testimony.
- Purposes of God turn bitter in our stomachs as the witnesses are slain.
- Two Witnesses appeared at Jesus Transfiguration.
 - Moses representing God's full intention in the Law.
 - Elijah representing God's full intention in the Prophets.

And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them, (Revelation 11:7)

- The beast - world power - develops more later in next vision.
- Their bodies lie in the street of the great city

TWO JERUSALEM'S EMERGE IN REVELATION

*Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. **Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother.** (Galatians 4:24-26)*

CITY OF JERUSALEM - REAL ESTATE

- Called "Sodom" - Immorality
- Egypt - Babylon - World system.
- "City where the Lord was crucified" – Jerusalem
- It was the world power system, and false religion that crucified Jesus in Jerusalem.
 - Acts 4:23-28
 - We have seen it happen to Jesus.
 - Now notice that they have threatened us also.

CITY OF JERUSALEM IS THE NEW JERUSALEM FROM ON HIGH.

But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here!" And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them. (Revelation 11:11-12)

- Elijah was taken up to heaven in a chariot.
- God, Himself, buried Moses
- In spite of the fact that the world tries to silence our witness, we are raised with the same resurrection power of the Lord, and our witness continues even in the face of all persecution, as we live in resurrection power.

Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed— always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I BELIEVED AND THEREFORE I SPOKE," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. (2 Corinthians 4:1-14 NKJV)

- **Anticipates final redemption of body.**

For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (Colossians 3:3-4)

SEVENTH TRUMPET - THIRD WOE:

Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." (Revelation 11:15)

- As the church celebrates in an ecstasy of worship, the judgment of God falls on those who are rejecting His purposes, and the world is crying Woe, Woe, Woe.
- God enforces judgment upon the earth to those who have rejected it, it is WOE!!!
- The Vision rushes to a conclusion saying simply that the temple in heaven was opened, and the Ark of the Covenant appeared once more.

FOURTH VISION: THE WOMAN AND THE BEASTS

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. (Revelation 12:1)

*Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, "Behold, I have dreamed another dream. **Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.**" But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? **Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?**" (Genesis 37:9-10)*

JOSEPH TELLING HIS VISION OF AN ISRAEL NOT YET BORN.

"Sing, O barren one, who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who have not been in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her who is married," says the LORD. (Isaiah 54:1)

I hear a cry as of a woman in labor, a groan as of one bearing her first child— the cry of Daughter Zion gasping for breath, stretching out her hands and saying, "Alas! I am fainting; my life is given over to murderers." (Jeremiah 4:31 NIV)

- The promise of the seed in Genesis 3:15 was a woman pregnant with a promise.
- Adam - Noah - Shem - Abram - Jacob - Joseph.
 - Promise continually renewed.
- Joseph - Egypt principle.
 - Sold for a slave
 - His brothers intended it for evil, yet through it, God preserved the entire nation.
- The woman - God's people are born.
 - Woman gives birth to a male child who rules with a rod of iron.

You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." (Psalms 2:9)

- Child snatched up - crucifixion and resurrection.
- Satan meant for evil, God meant to save many nations through it.

DRAGON ATTACKING WOMAN THROUGHOUT HISTORY. ATTEMPTING TO STOP SEED FROM COMING.

- Cain - Abel
 - Noah
 - Israel - Isaac - sacrifice.
 - Moses - attempted to be killed by Pharaoh
 - All Hebrew males sacrificed to river Nile.
 - II Kings 11 - Queen Athaliah killed all of the babies in the royal nursery
 - Only one spared - seed carried on.
 - Joseph.
 - Preservation of entire nation in Egypt.
 - Story of Esther
 - Herod - killing all babies in Bethlehem
- The ultimate attempt was The Crucifixion

DRAGON:

- 7 heads
 - Perfection, fullness.
- 10 horns
 - Fullness of power
- Ruler on earth
 - 7 Crowns
- fullness of Royalty.

Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” (John 12:31-32)

WAR IN HEAVEN: DRAGON CAST DOWN TO THE EARTH: V. 7

*Having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of **his glorious inheritance in the saints**, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, **far above all rule and authority and power and dominion**, and above every name that is named, **not only in this age but also in the one to come**. And he put **all things under his feet** and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. (Ephesians 1:18-23)*

*Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and **is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him**. (1 Peter 3:21-22)*

*And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “**Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come**, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. **And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death**. (Revelation 12:10-11)*

- Blood of the Lamb
 - We receive by faith.
- We are sealed and cannot be touched.
- The word of their testimony
 - The witness which proves God's power.
- And they loved not their lives unto death.
 - Sometimes we overcome by being Killed.
- Sometimes faith raises the dead, sometimes it dies in faith.
 - Hebrews Chapter 11

*Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!” And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, **he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child**. (Revelation 12:12-13)*

- When dragon sees he has lost child, he pursues woman.
- New Testament Church is the extension of Old Testament Israel.
- The woman delivered the child.
- Woman borne away on the wings of an eagle to a place prepared.

*‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how **I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself**. (Exodus 19:4)*

But the LORD's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage. "He found him in a desert land, and in the howling waste of the wilderness; he encircled him, he cared for him, he kept him as the apple of his eye. Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young, spreading out its wings, catching them, bearing them on its pinions, the LORD alone guided him, no foreign god was with him. (Deuteronomy 32:9-12)

Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:30-31)

- WILDERNESS - God's place of preparation for Canaan
 - The place of God's total covenant provision.
- v.15 Dragon spews a River of water to devour the woman.
 - Again I Tim.4:1 - Philosophies of demons.
 - Anything which sidetracks from the simple Lordship of Jesus Christ.
 - Holy days, Sabbath days, do this, do that.

So they shall fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun; for he will come like a rushing stream, which the wind of the LORD drives. (Isaiah 59:19)

*And I saw a **beast rising out of the sea**, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. (Revelation 13:1)*

- Sea again.
- Nations - World Governments.
- BEAST - 10 Crowned heads.
 - Completion of power.
- 7 Blasphemous heads - fullness of governments.
 - i.e. **all** governments.
 - Essence of blasphemy is the establishment of self as God.
 - Very American.

CHURCH IS THE EMBODIMENT OF CHRIST ON EARTH.

WORLD GOVERNMENT IS THE EMBODIMENT OF SATAN ON EARTH.

SATANIC TRINITY APPEARS SET UP "OVER AGAINST" CHRIST AND THE CHURCH:

CHRIST/CHURCH:	SATANIC:
○ FATHER:	○ LUCIFER:
○ GOD - CREATOR	○ DRAGON - FATHER OF LIES
○ SON:	○ BEAST FROM THE SEA:
○ JESUS - LAMB AS IF SLAIN ● Spoke only what He heard from the Father	○ NATIONS OF THE WORLD ● Inspired by the Dragon
○ HOLY SPIRIT:	○ BEAST FROM THE EARTH:
● Spoke only what He heard from the Jesus	○ FALSE RELIGION ● Inspired by the first beast.
○ CHURCH - NEW JERUSALEM:	○ HARLOT - BABYLON:
○ BRIDE OF CHRIST	○ MISTRESS OF THE BEASTS.

- No nation under God - if it was, Jesus would be King.
- Satan offered to give Jesus the world governments.
 - He must have had the power to, or it wouldn't have been a temptation.
- 10 heads, 10 crowns - Ruler on earth.

And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." (Luke 4:5-7)

- Jews also came and offered Him to be their King.
- Jesus came to establish a Kingdom very OTHER than the kingdoms of this world.
- Also tempted to draw the power of the masses by turning stones to bread.

And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority. (Revelation 13:2)

SIMILAR TO THE VISION OF DANIEL IN DANIEL 7, WHEN HE SAW BABYLON AS A LEOPARD, A BEAR, AND A LION.

Daniel declared, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it. (Daniel 7:2-4)

BABYLON BORN GENESIS 10.

- Nimrod was the first to set himself up over against God.
 - Ancient Babylon history.
- One of their gods - Atlas - lifting heavens away from man, breaking man free from his dependence on God.
 - Many others develop later.
 - Old Testament Baals all have their roots here.
- Elijah's outburst against prophets of Baal was a judgment against Babylon.

- Became an almost universal anti-god religion.

One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. (Revelation 13:3)

- At the crucifixion, I thought Jesus wrested the power and all rule and authority from Satan. I expected a deadly wound, but everything seems to continue as before. The wound seems to be healed.

Men worship the beast "Who is like the Beast".

- But time will show that the wound indeed was fatal.
 - but for now.... people stand in awe
 - "Who is like the beast."
- America the beautiful - who has such awesome power?
 - The American way of life - Who else offers such prosperity?
 - Who is like the beast.
- REPENTANCE DEMANDS THAT I SETTLE THE ISSUE WITH THE BEAST!!!
We worship our might, our prosperity.
- The beast has granted us our freedoms, surely, I must defend the beast.
 - NATIONALISM AND PATRIOTISM THAT PUTS NATION BEFORE GOD.
- Baptism states that I have been **CUT OFF - DEAD - to my citizenship on earth**, to become part of **ANOTHER KINGDOM WHICH IS NOT OF THIS WORLD**.
 - IT RESULTED IN THE DEATH TO THE ONE WHO FOUNDED THE KINGDOM, AND THE TRAIL INTO THE KINGDOM IS BLOODY WITH THE BLOOD OF THOSE WHO HAVE DARED TO PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE ONLY TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD, AND NOT RECEIVE THE MARK OF THE BEAST.

Also, it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, (Revelation 13:7)

- The beast was **GIVEN POWER** to make war against the saints (to kill their witness).
- He had power over EVERY tribe people, language, and nation.

and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. (Revelation 13:8)

If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints. (Revelation 13:10)

"THEY LOVED NOT THEIR LIVES EVEN UNTO DEATH!!"

DRAGON NEEDS HELP, APPEARANCE OF SATANIC TRINITY.

Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. (Revelation 13:11)

- Then appears a second beast
 - This one comes out of the earth.
- He exercised the authority of the first beast
- Made the inhabitants of earth worship the first beast.
- He deceived the inhabitants on behalf of the first beast.
-

FALSE RELIGION - THE THIRD IN THE SATANIC TRINITY

- Like a lamb, but not AS IT HAD BEEN SLAIN.
- Later called the false prophet.

ANTI-CHRIST.

- Anti-Christ is not opposed to Christ, but an **alternative** Christ!
 - One over against Christ.
 - Malcolm Smith – “Anti-Christ is not just missing the mark; it’s setting up a new target.”
- Nimrod again - Zoar-Astra - Seed of the woman.
- Satan doesn't say Christ is wrong, but says look at ME!
 - I allow all of the pleasures of the first beast.
 - You can have both - world and Christ.

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. (Matthew 7:15)

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So, it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds. (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)

- **Satan offered Jesus the support of the Second Beast.**
 - Float down off the pinnacle of the temple
 - God will guard you against dashing your foot against a stone.
 - Everyone will see the miracle and hail you as Messiah, and you will have the support of this very powerful religious system.

*...and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to **make an image** for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. (Revelation 13:14)*

- Recall the signs the Egyptian magicians and sorcerers were able to mimic when Moses showed the signs God had given him

*And **it was allowed** to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and **might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.** (Revelation 13:15)*

- Again, loved not their lives unto death.
 - Images of emperors in their cities demanding to be worshipped.
- v.16 forced everyone to have mark on hand and forehead.
- Mark of the Lamb that was slain - sealed on forehead.
 - This is Satan's mark.
 - Hand the way I fellowship, do business etc.
 - Head the way I think, my philosophies. Worldview
- The mark was either the name of the beast or the number of his name.
 - 666 MAN MAN MAN 3 as Deity. The original Lie, I can be my own God.
 - BUT ONCE AGAIN, THERE IS ANOTHER COMPANY!!!!

THE COMPANY:

Then I looked, and behold, **on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000** who had **his name and his Father's name** written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder.

The voice I heard was **like** the sound of harpists playing on their harps, and **they were singing a new song** before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders.

No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless. (Revelation 14:1-5)

- Standing on Mt. Zion
 - God's approachableness demonstrated
 - New era in worship.
 - Expression of worship involving body, soul, and spirit.
 - Where man exalted in God, in the very presence of God.
- Men LIVING in God's presence with "joy unspeakable and full of glory."

SEALED

- Name of the Father
- Name of the Lamb on my head.
 - Thoughts, attitudes, philosophies, decisions.
- The mentality that God is my Father
- Jesus is my elder brother.
- ABBA FATHER.
- We may not understand, but we have the seal in our forehead.

For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. **For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source.** That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, (Hebrews 2:10-11)

- SINGING A NEW SONG - new in kind - Song of Moses.
 - With harps - again back to Psa. 137
 - Only 144,000 know the song.
 - When you have been sealed, the song is born.
 - it's a song learned from experience of life in God
- Voice with sound of many waters.
 - IN CHAPTER 1:15, WHEN JESUS SPEAKS, SOUND OF MANY WATERS.
 - Now when the church speaks, the same sound.
 - Now a company which sound like their father.
 - When the church speaks it is God speaking.
 - We are His body. When I speak it is one voice.
 - Not my mouth speaking, then my chest.... but my voice.

SINGING BEFORE THE THRONE

- Ark of covenant was considered God's throne in Israel.
 - Altar of Incense before the ark of Covenant.
 - Highest peak of praise in Israel, incense offered.
 - Now the church has become the real altar of incense before the throne
 - The golden altar has become flesh.
 - A song born from a LIFESTYLE of worship.
- REMEMBER BACK TO CH.11:1 MEASURE THE ALTAR.

"So they brought the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. 2 Samuel 6:17

*"Therefore, they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne **will shelter them with his presence.** (Revelation 7:15)*

A Song. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised In the city of our God, In His holy mountain. Beautiful in elevation, The joy of the whole earth, Is Mount Zion on the sides of the north, The city of the great King. God is in her palaces; He is known as her refuge. For behold, the kings assembled, They passed by together. They saw it, and so they marveled; They were troubled, they hastened away. (Psalms 48:1-5 NKJV)

THE FINALE OF THE FEAST OF TABERNACLE IN THE SPIRIT.

- When David placed the Ark of the Covenant in the tent on Mount Zion, it was the only time in the Scriptures that the Presence of God on the Ark was open and available to anyone who wished to enter His Presence

David built houses for himself in the City of David; and he prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched a tent for it. Then David said, "No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the LORD has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever." And David gathered all Israel together at Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD to its place, which he had prepared for it. (1 Chronicles 15:1-3 NKJV)

- I believe that a number of the Psalms were written in the Presence of the Ark.

WHO PAID WHAT PRICE TO WHOM?

- May be tempted to think Jesus paid the price to the Devil so we could go free.
- **Before the blood was for me, it was for the Father.**
 - Sin had to be paid for.
 - God paying penalty of Law to Himself.
 - His Justice that needed to be satisfied by the sacrifice.
- Second great song arises; we have been redeemed.
 - We receive his purchase to salvation
- Celibate TO GOD, not sexuality.
 - The Bride of Christ kept only for Him.
- Follow the Lamb wherever He goes.
 - We are a tent people on the earth.

OFFERED AS FIRSTFRUITS.

- First day following the Sabbath of Passover, was the beginning of the feast of the firstfruits.
- Jesus was crucified on the Passover.
- He was resurrected on Firstfruits - first day following the Sabbath as the firstfruits.
- When He rose, we rose with Him.

*But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, **the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep**. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when **he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after** destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. (1 Corinthians 15:20-26)*

*But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, **made us alive together with Christ**—by grace you have been saved— **and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus**, (Ephesians 2:4-6)*

- -We were harvested as God's firstfruits "You are mine."
 - The whole earth is His harvest, as we see in the next vision.
- Those who are not firstfruits, will exhibit the righteousness of His judgment.
- While God's judgment is poured out, the church exalts in worship because His justice is proven.
 - Grand lie of all ages - "You shall be like God's."
 - No lie in their mouth

FIFTH VISION: HARVEST OF THE EARTH

Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. (Revelation 14:6)

- Gospel has been preached and proclaimed again and again.
- Still man refuses to repent.

And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water." (Revelation 14:7)

*Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. **Blessed are all who take refuge in him.** (Psalms 2:12)*

- The solution to God's judgment is not to flee, but to take **REFUGE IN HIM!!!!**
- "Those who go to Hell, do so, pushing and shoving past God's goodness, disregarding His mercy." – Malcolm Smith

THERE IS AN AWESOMENESS IN THIS VISION AS WE APPROACH GOD'S JUDGMENT.

JUDGMENT:

- One would expect that since man has rejected God for so long, and since the gospel has been preached, that now we would rush to judgment, because of God's anger, but as we read these verses, we sense **a reluctance to come to judgment.**

THREE ANGELS:

- v.6 - First angel proclaims Gospel.
 - Rider on white horse.
- v.8 - Second angel announces that Babylon's is fallen.
- v.9 - Third angel warns all not to worship the beast and his image, or to receive his mark in their hand and forehead, they will face God's judgment.
 - v.12 - Once again, "this calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints."
- v.11 - There is no rest for those who worship the beast, they are tormented day and night in the presence of the Lamb who they have rejected.

- **HOWEVER**

*And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: **Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.**" "**Blessed indeed,**" says the Spirit, "that **they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!**" Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a **sharp sickle in his hand.** (Revelation 14:13-14)*

THE HARVEST OF THE EARTH

- Appears the Son of Man, with a crown of gold on His head, and a sharp sickle (the harvester) in His hand.
 - the earth can be harvested because as we saw back in beginning of the chapter, the firstfruits have been taken.
 - The firstfruits is the church.

THE WHOLE HARVEST IS THE LORD'S BUT WE ARE THE FIRSTFRUITS.

And **another angel** came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, "**Put in your sickle, and reap**, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe." So he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, **and the earth was reaped.** (Revelation 14:15-16)

- Why hasn't God dealt with evil, the dragon, the beasts, Babylon, etc.
 - Let them grow together until the harvest, lest we destroy the wheat with the tares.
 - God is not willing that any should perish.
 - God waited for 400 years before bringing judgment upon the nation of the Amorites in the O.T. because "the iniquity of the Amorites was not yet full." (Gen. 15:16)
 - Remember visual aide of Methuselah.

Then **another angel** came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, "**Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe.**" (Revelation 14:17-18)

THE "WINEPRESS OF GOD'S JUDGMENT".

- The blood from this grape harvest flows for a distance of 1600 stadia. (200 miles)
- 1600 4 X 4 X 10 X 10
 - Universal, Universal, Complete, Complete

CH. 15:1 - SEVEN ANGELS WITH SEVEN LAST PLAGUES:

Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them **the wrath of God is finished.** (Revelation 15:1)

- Last because when this is finished, God's wrath is completed!"
 - Yet we still aren't ready for the final falling of God's judgment.
 - It's as if He is loath to continue.

V.2 - WE TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE COMPANY WHO HAS BEEN VICTORIOUS OVER THE BEAST, AND THE NUMBER OF HIS NAME.

And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also **those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name**, standing beside the sea of glass **with harps of God in their hands.**

And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, **and the song of the Lamb**, saying, "Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! (Revelation 15:2-3)

- As God's judgment is drawing nearer, **THIS COMPANY IS REJOICING!**
- Echo from Exodus
 - After God lured Pharaoh to pursue the Israelites into the Red Sea, the sea closes in on the Egyptians, and the released Israelites are on the shore singing the Song of Moses, led by Miriam.
- THE CHURCH TENDS TO APOLOGIZE FOR A GOD WHO JUDGES:
 - Somehow, we have gotten the idea that to judge is less than love.
 - So, when we speak of God's judgment, we do so with a sense of embarrassment.

A GOD WHO DOES NOT JUDGE EVIL, CANNOT BE GOOD.

- If God is to be ACTIVELY for Good, then He must of necessity be ACTIVELY AGAINST EVIL.
- Sure, we are in shock and horror at the pain of those who reject God, but we must say, "JUST AND TRUE ARE THY WAYS, AND THY RIGHTEOUS ACTS ARE BEING REVEALED."
 - To violate Love, is to violate LIFE.
 - the only possible result is death.
 - In Garden, God was not taking away the pleasure of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge, but He was trying to protect man from the death which would result from the fruit.

V. 3 - THE COMPANY IS SINGING THE SONG OF MOSES AND THE LAMB.

EGYPT PRINCIPLE:

- God comes announces "You have taken and bound my firstborn."
 - Let my firstborn go, or it will cost you your firstborn."
- They refused - God's mercy pleads through the series of nine plagues.
 - Trumpets saying judgment is coming.
 - They rejected all of God's warnings.

FINALLY, JUDGMENT COMES AND THE FIRSTBORN IS SLAIN.

- The Children of Israel – "God's firstborn" released, and come to the Red Sea.
- God **LURES** Pharaoh and his army to the Red Sea for a final vindication and judgment.
- Israel passes through the Sea.
- Pharaoh and the whole Egyptian army are drowned
- Next morning as Moses and the Children see the bodies of the Egyptians, and the wreckage of their chariots, they celebrate God's goodness and deliverance in singing the song of Moses.
- "GOD WILL NOT BE MOCKED!"

IN THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF THE LAMB AS IF SLAIN, GOD HAS AGAIN OFFERED HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON

- HE HAS ANNOUNCED "KISS THE SON - WORSHIP HIM."
 - Man, continually rejects the warnings
- The Trumpets announce JUDGMENT IS COMING!
 - AGAIN, GOD WILL NOT BE MOCKED
 - The Company is singing the Song of the Lamb.

THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS SEALED THE SALVATION OF EVERY BELIEVER, BUT IT ALSO SEALED THE DAMNATION OF EVERY ONE WHO REJECTS THE FIRSTBORN!

- You would expect that now we come to the judgment. Yet God patiently waits.

THE SEVEN BOWLS OF WRATH:

*Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the **seven bowls of the wrath** of God." (Revelation 16:1)*

- FIRST ANGEL'S BOWL - brings sickness to the body.
 - God's judgment in our body.
- SECOND ANGEL - Turned the sea into Blood.
 - World governments collapse
 - The beast we worshipped turns to blood - death.
 - Moses at the River Nile
- THIRD ANGEL - Rivers and Springs of water
 - Again, philosophies that bring us blood - death.
- FOURTH ANGEL - Sun scorches people with fire.
- FIFTH ANGEL - Throne of the little beast cast into darkness
 - The darkness of false religion.
 - Yet men curse God - reject His grace and refuse to repent.
- SIXTH ANGEL - Dries up the river Euphrates
 - Last barrier into Israel opens the path for God's judgment.
 - God is Luring Satan to a final Showdown.
 - As he dried up the Red Sea, and Lured Pharaoh to final judgment.
 - THE ANGELS ARE REMINISCENT OF THE FOUR HORSEMEN AND THE SEVEN TRUMPETS.

THE KINGS OF THE EARTH RUSH THROUGH THE "DRIED UP" SEA LIKE POSSESSED MANIACS TO DO AWAY WITH GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS.

- They gather at the place called Armageddon.
- The place of final battle.
- The place of "Waterloo".
- SEVENTH ANGEL - Throws bowl into the air, and we then approach the judgment of Babylon.
 - Reserved for the next, and final, vision.

SIXTH VISION: BABYLON IS FALLEN

WOMAN SITTING ON A SCARLET BEAST

- Red identified with Satan
 - from previous red Beast.
 - Satanic Trinity Again:

INTERESTING NOTES:

- TWO TIMES IN BOOK THAT JOHN IS TAKEN IN THE SPIRIT SOMEWHERE.
- First time here to see Babylon.
- Both times "in the Spirit".
- "This calls for wisdom" - spiritual discernment.
 - SECOND TIME CH. 21 TO SEE NEW JERUSALEM.
- The church is not "seeable" unless in the Spirit.
 - We will confuse Babylon with Church, unless in the Spirit.

WHO IS THE HARLOT?

And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." (Revelation 17:5)

GEN.10:8-19 - LISTS THE OFFSPRING OF NIMROD, AND THOSE WHO DESCENDED FROM HIM.

- These are the nations who are later driven out of the land of Canaan when Israel entered in.
- Consistently under judgment throughout the Old Testament

Therefore, its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth. (Genesis 11:9)

NOTE: This is the only time we go outside the scriptures to understand the full impact of a symbol in the book of Revelation. The reason this is necessary is simply that the people to whom the book was written were much more familiar with ancient religions than we are today, so it is important that we study the implications of the ancient religions surrounding Babylon.

AT THE TIME REVELATION WAS WRITTEN:

- Worship of Venus and other Gods was commonplace.
 - i.e. Diana in Ephesus etc.
 - Part of trade union rites.
 - All rooted in Babylon.

NIMROD:

- The first head of a government.
 - In a sense the first head of the beast.
- His wife's name was Semiramis.
 - A harlot, and very, very beautiful.
- Nimrod, came to be worshipped as the one who had emancipated the human race from the bondage to God's law, and ancient mythology says that the reason for the building of the tower of Babel was so that if God would again deluge the earth, there would be a means of escape.
 - Atlas - lifting earth away from us.

WHEN NIMROD WAS KILLED, HIS WIFE DETERMINED TO CONTINUE HIS LEGACY

- She claimed that Nimrod had not actually been killed, but that he had GIVEN HIS LIFE FOR THE HUMAN RACE.
- After his death, she became pregnant, and claimed that she was a virgin, and that the son born to her was Nimrod reincarnated.
 - This was the origin of the God "Zoar Astra" which means "the seed of the woman".
- Her son, was Nimrod, who had given his life as a sacrifice for the human race, "resurrected" through reincarnation as "the seed of the woman" (the promised messiah)
 - The result was that Semiramis was also deified and became the first female deity.
 - She has been worshipped almost universally as the god Venus.
 - The statue of a mother with a child at her breast was spread throughout the whole world, and became the statue of the "divine mother".
 - She is referred to as The "Queen of Heaven" in Jeremiah.
- She claimed to have given birth to Nimrod on December 24th, and December 25 was called "child's day as far back as 2000 B.C."
 - Should tell you something of how much Babylon has influenced the church.
- Her philosophies swept the known world:
 - "The Mother of Harlots"

BABYLON THE GREAT

The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?" While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! (Daniel 4:30-31 NKJV)

BABYLON MYSTERY:

- A deceitful mystery.
- Her philosophies are slowly revealed as one gets involved with her entrapments
- Trail of Babylon was always a trail of the blood of those who refused to worship her.
 - Her worship was a part of belonging to trade unions during the period of time when Revelation was written.

SHE CORRUPTED THE NATIONS

- Body, Soul, and Spirit.

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. (1 John 2:15-17 NIV)

- **The lust of the flesh, Lust of the eyes**
 - "Eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die."
 - Greed, Money, Affluence.
- **Pride of Life:**
 - Arrogance, "I am above judgment." "I will do my own thing."

SHE CORRUPTED ISRAEL WITH BAAL WORSHIP

BAAL WORSHIP:

- Baal by definition simply means "Lord / Master"
- Baals seem to be everywhere in the Old Testament.
 - They were the "spirit lords" over certain things.
 - Baal over the river, or harvest etc.
 - They were seen as the source of many blessings.
 - i.e. good crops.
 - Rain - Elijah.
- When Israel came into Canaan, they were nomads, and former slaves.
 - Knew nothing of Agriculture.
 - Now they were to become farmers, and rely on the land for sustenance.
 - They asked their neighbors how to raise good crops.
 - They said, "worship Baal...."
 - Result - Baals on every "high place".

DURING MUCH OF THE OLD TESTAMENT TIME:

- Supreme Baal was seen to be
 - Baal Melchart - God of power (war).
- His wife (or female counterpart) was Ashera.
 - HENCE ASHERA POLES.
 - Ashera - naked woman begging all to lust.
 - Goddess of fertility and sex.
 - Ashera poles were put in highest places, and they took the tallest tree and carved it into a phallic symbol.
 - These identified the places of Ashera worship (temples).

I will lift my eyes unto the hills. From whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 121:1-2 NKJV)

- Priests of Baal Melchart were largely homosexuals.
- Priestesses of Ashera were temple prostitutes.
- Worship involved all forms and manner of sexual perversion, including homosexuality, bestiality, temple prostitution.

CERTAIN CITIES WERE CAPITALS OF BAAL WORSHIP ETC.

- Ex: Abraham - UR - Ninga
- Sidon - Ef-Baal was king and high priest of Sidon.
- In the New Testament: Caesarea Phillipi

JEZEBEL WAS THE DAUGHTER OF EF-BAAL.

- Jezebel married king Ahab, King of Israel.
 - Jezebel built a great temple to Ashera in Samaria.
- Ahab and Jezebel had a daughter - Athaliah.
 - Athaliah married the king of Israel's son.
 - SHE BECAME VERY ANGRY AND TRIED TO DESTROY ALL OF THE CHILDREN IN THE ROYAL NURSERY. I KINGS 8

BABYLON IS THE MOTHER OF BAAL WORSHIP

- Isaiah Chapter 13 and 14; Chapter 21; chapters 46 to 48; Chapter 25; Chapters 50 and 51
 - Of course, judgment followed.
- God commanded Abram to leave Chaldea before making covenant with him, because to live in Ur was to live under the Babylonian gods Ninga and Nunga.

SHE IS DRUNK WITH THE BLOOD OF THE SAINTS:

- She is the spirit behind the governments.
- She is behind the political system. (including Washington DC)
- Smell her perfume in Sodom, New York, London.
 - the Spirit of this World.

WE NO LONGER THINK OF BABYLON AS A RELIGION, BUT WE STILL WORSHIP HER

- We aspire to her philosophies:
 - If it feels good, do it.
- Worship of the appetites.
 - We are a god to ourselves. - "Do your own thing"

POLITICAL MACHINES WHICH ACCUMULATED WEALTH AND POWER IN THE NAME OF RELIGION.

- Babylon religion in the church system.
 - Desire for political power.
 - Politics and competition in the church.
 - Example - Rohn Co.

SHE IS ALSO WORSHIPPED UNDER OTHER NAMES:

- In Egypt she was called - Isis.
- In Syria she was called - Ishta.

EGYPT AT THE TIME OF THE EXODUS WORSHIPPED MANY GODS.

- Nile river was a god, and the decree to throw all Hebrew children into the Nile was a form of child sacrifice to the gods.
- All of the plagues were directed at one of their gods.

WHERE IS SHE IN THE WORLD TODAY?

For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living.” (Revelation 18:3)

- World leaders.
- Merchants
- She is the key to affluence and wealth.
- v.9 Kings of the earth weep at her demise.
 - Their intercourse expressed in the cargoes they could sell through her.
- v.17 the ones who make their living from the “Sea”.
 - System of travel.
 - Communications
 - Trading.
- v.22-23 - all nations are led astray by her magic spell.
- "Craftsmen, harpists, etc. (art, sculpture)
 - She is the symbol of all beauty that leaves God out.
 - The merchants continually saying if you will only buy this product, then you can fulfill this appetite.
 - TV advertising - "I'll make you rich, powerful, sexy, etc....."

REPENTANCE DEMANDS THAT WE SETTLE THE QUESTION OF BABYLON:

- Be aware.
- How long can we do business without being involved in her worship?
- Can we do without the "benefits" of Babylon?
 - If we cannot do without Babylon (if our economy collapsed) we had better examine our Christianity.
- Many Christians have come to Christ because of their appetites, healing, prosperity, wealth, riches
 - God will not always strive with men
 - Babylon - judgment must surely come.

ANYTHING YOU ARE AFRAID TO LOSE, YOU DON'T OWN IT, IT OWNS YOU!

WHAT IS HER END??

REV 17:16 The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. (NIV)

- Mafia clearly shows this principle.
 - Greed calls us to ever more till we turn against ourselves.

THE HEART OF THE ISSUE IS THAT THE KINGDOM OF SATAN DOESN'T WORK. WHEN LUST HAS HAD ITS FILL IT CASTS ASIDE ITS MISTRESS.

- Men grieve because though they hated her, they still wanted her.

And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire, (Revelation 17:16)

IN THE END, EVIL DESTROYS ITSELF.

- Those who profited from her, become the ones to ruin her.

*After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! For true and righteous are His judgments, **because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her.**" Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!" And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!" Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!" (Revelation 19:1-5 NKJV)*

ONCE AGAIN, WE SEE THE COMPANY OF GOD REJOICING AT THE JUDGMENT OF GOD AGAINST BABYLON.

*Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and **His wife has made herself ready.**" And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, "Write: **'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'**" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God." And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." (Revelation 19:7-10 NKJV)*

THE BRIDE OF THE LAMB HAS MADE HERSELF READY.

- Introduced against the judgment of Babylon.

v.9-10 - It is interesting that this messenger, **a glorified man** was confused to be Jesus.

- The voice of His Body, His Voice.
- We have become one with Him.

THEN I SAW HEAVEN OPEN:

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. (Revelation 19:11-16 NKJV)

GOD'S PATIENCE HAS WAITED TILL THE FULLNESS OF TIME, AND THEN

- HE APPEARS IN FINAL AND COMPLETE JUDGMENT AGAINST THE WICKEDNESS OF MEN, OF THE BEASTS, THE DRAGON, AND THE HARLOT, BABYLON.
- THIS IS THE WHILE HORSE WHICH THE RIDER IN CHAPTER 6 IMPERSONATED

BUT LET'S TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT HIS COMPANY

ONCE AGAIN SET UP OVER AGAINST THE HARLOT, IS THE COMPANY OF GOD'S PEOPLE.

- While the world is going through terrible judgments, and Babylon is being destroyed, and the kings and merchants of the earth are wailing over her, and while "her smoke rises up forever and ever", the people of God are celebrating.

WHY DO GOD'S PEOPLE REJOICE AT HIS JUDGMENTS?

- God's judgment is part of His goodness.
- Ex. 33:19 - Moses asks God to reveal Himself to him, and God says, "I will make my GOODNESS to pass before you."

The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." (Exodus 34: 6-7)

GOD CANNOT BE GOOD UNLESS HE PUNISHES SIN:

- God is Sovereign - Sin says I too am sovereign; I can do as I please.
- God is Omnipresent - Sin behaves as if He isn't there.
- God is EVERYTHING - WITHOUT HIM THERE IS NOTHING.
 - There is nothing more beautiful than He.
 - Therefore, He delights in Himself.
- If God beholds evil with pleasure, how can He be good?
- A God of Goodness must:
 - be the AGGRESSIVE enemy of evil.
 - be AGGRESSIVELY for good.

DOCTRINE OF HELL IS A NECESSITY:

- The wrath of God allows me to have sanity in an evil world, because I know that sin will be judged.
- The company is rejoicing because in Chapter 6, they were seen under the altar asking "How long O Lord, till you avenge our blood."
 - NOW HIS VENGEANCE HAS COME.
- the LONGSUFFERING of God waits, **but judgment must come.**

V.6 - WE AGAIN HAVE THE VOICE OF THE COMPANY BEING THE SAME VOICE DESCRIBED IN CH. 3 AS THE VOICE OF GOD HIMSELF.

V.7 - THE WEDDING OF THE LAMB HAS COME, AND THE BRIDE HAS MADE HERSELF READY.

- HARLOT JUDGED - BRIDE REVEALED

THE BRIDE!

Eph. 5:22-32 - Read.

ADAM AND EVE REVEAL THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST AND THE CHURCH.

- Original Bride and Groom
 - God demonstrated His eternal intention by the picture given in creation.
 - Adam named all of the animals looking for one with whom he could share himself.
 - None found.
- After naming animals, he called himself - "Ish"
 - self, me, I, other.
 - Significant because he was the ONLY one like himself.
- While Adam slept, God made Eve.
 - When Eve came to Adam, he called her Isha
 - She is "Ish", but she is different
 - She isn't me - Isha.
 - She is my other self.
 - "Flesh of my flesh, bone of my bone."
 - Adam slept - from his side came eve.
 - On Cross - from Jesus side came blood and water.
 - Blood redeemed from my sin.
 - Water is life eternal.

CHURCH/BRIDE IS THE COMPANY OF PEOPLE IN WHOM THE VERY LIFE OF CHRIST IS!!!!

- "Flesh of His flesh, bone of His bones".
- Only what is OF God can be presented TO God.
 - EVE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN A MONKEY IMITATING MAN.
 - ONLY WHAT WAS OF ADAM COULD BE PRESENTED TO HIM.
 - No more doing my best to be LIKE Jesus!
- But now receiving HIS VERY LIFE INTO MYSELF, and presenting myself back to Him, with HIS LIFE in me.
 - We are not Jesus; any more than Eve was Adam.
 - But we are alive with HIS life!

OTHER PICTURES:

Gen. 22 - Abraham offers Isaac on Mt. Moriah - (Mount Calvary)

- Isaac is "raised" and returned to Abraham after three days journey
 - (Heb. 11:19)
- In Gen. 22, scripture seems to veer off at an angle, and says that word came that Uncle Nahor had some kids.
 - Makes sense when you realize that one of the kids was Rachel, Isaac's wife to be.

RUTH/BOAZ

- Ruth - Moabites - Outcast - Black - A Gentile.
 - Came into a poverty-stricken situation in Israel.
 - Boaz shows up - he is "goael"
 - "Goael" - Relative - Kinsmen - Redeemer.
- Because Ruth had married into the family Boaz was obligated.
 - Jesus is my "goael"
 - -My RELATIVE
- Heb. 2 - one like me - not an angel, but my relative.

NOW THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB HAS COME:

EASTERN MARRIAGES:

FIRST STEP - BETROTHAL - (ENGAGEMENT CONTRACT)

- Not as in western culture with romance and people "in love."
- You send a wise servant who knows a woman when he sees one.
- Ex. Gen. 24 - Eleazer sent to find a wife for Isaac. The most trusted servant. He knows what to look for.
- Eleazer comes to Padan Aram, and announces to Rachel that she can be the bride of Isaac.
 - This means that she will inherit all of wealth of Abraham.
 - She is to receive blessings of the promise to Abraham.
- Our Eleazer - (Holy Spirit) comes and finds us, announces to us that we can become the bride of Christ, and receive all the blessings of the Father upon us.
- Engagement was as binding as marriage.

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

STEP TWO - ENGAGEMENT FOLLOWED BY PERIOD OF TIME WHILE BOTH PREPARE FOR MARRIAGE.

- This is the period of time we find discussed all through Revelation.
 - We await the marriage feast.

SONG OF SOLOMON:

THE CHURCH IS BETROTHED TO CHRIST.

- The beast comes offering her riches, wealth, and perfumes.
- The real church responds with, "Oh, yes, but you should see my Beloved... He is fairer than all the rest..."
 - When the Beloved visited Jerusalem, nobody noticed, and we can't believe that they don't "see" our Beloved.
- Finally, the Bridegroom comes at the end of the Book, and we see the Bride leaning on her Beloved...
 - "Such love, fire cannot burn it, nor water quench it..."

BUT THE WEDDING FEAST ALSO BRINGS JUDGMENT AGAINST THOSE WHO HAVE REJECTED HIM.

- This is not the story of a great battle, He just shows up, and at His appearing, "Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that HE IS LORD!"

And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh. (Revelation 19:20-21)

THE MYSTERY OF GOD INCARNATE IN CHRIST.

- A Robe dipped in Blood.
 - We never can forget the cross.

v.19-21 Another description of Armageddon.

- Final Judgment.
- Men "lured" to meet their God.
 - THE THOUSAND YEARS:

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while. (Revelation 20:1-3)

IN SIGNIFICANT WAYS THE REDEMPTION FOLLOWS THE SAME ANTICIPATION OF JUDGMENT.

- We Keep being given hope and expectation
 - GLIMPSES OF WHAT IS TO COME, BUT THEM IT SEEMS TO BE POSTPONED
- We are introduced to the Bride, but we await the Wedding Supper and the appearance of the Groom
- We have a taste of the redemption of the Kingdom, but not the fullness

JESUS CLAIMED TO BE THE ONE WHO FROM HEAVEN CAME FOR THE PURPOSE OF BINDING THE DEVIL:

*But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore, they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, **then the kingdom of God has come upon you.** When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; **but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil.** (Luke 11:17-22)*

ATTACKED THE STRONGMAN'S HOUSE AND TAKEN AWAY THE STRONGMAN'S ARMOR AND DIVIDED HIS SPOILS

INDICATES THAT THE BINDING HAS ALREADY OCCURRED, AND THE STRONGMAN'S HOUSE HAS BEEN SPOILED.

Therefore, it says, "When he ascended on high, he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, (Ephesians 4:8-12)

He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. (Colossians 2:15)

HE STRIPPED THE DEVIL AT THE CROSS.

*Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, **and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.** (Hebrews 2:14-15)*

- DESTROY - means to render powerless... Mess up the works....
- The machinery is still there, but Jesus threw a wrench in the gears.

Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8)

And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. (John 16:8-11)

BUT THIS LEAVES NO ROOM FOR OUR ARROGANCE OR HAUGHTINESS IN OUR DEALING WITH THE DEVIL.

But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, (2 Peter 2:12-13)

- On the contrary...

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. (1 Peter 5:8-9)

- Resist "pretend" lions.
 - Only true LION is the LION FROM THE TRIBE OF JUDAH.
 - He defeated Satan as the LAMB AS IF SLAIN.

SUPPOSE FOR A MINUTE THAT REVELATION 20 WAS LITERAL:

- How can a chain of earth bind a spirit?
- Or the idea of a bottomless pit.

THE "CHAIN" THAT BINDS THE DEVIL IS THE FINISHED WORK OF JESUS CHRIST ON THE CROSS!

- The prophetic scripture from which Jesus drew the idea of the strongman.

Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, Or the captives of the righteous be delivered? But thus says the LORD: "Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, And the prey of the terrible be delivered; For I will contend with him who contends with you, And I will save your children. I will feed those who oppress you with their own flesh, and they shall be drunk with their own blood as with sweet wine. All flesh shall know That I, the LORD, am your Savior, And your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob." (Isaiah 49:24-26)

THE DEVIL IS STILL HERE:

- The limit to his binding is that he can no longer deceive the nations.
 - Cannot hold control over the minds of men.
- Missionaries tell stories continually of ministering where the gospel is being preached for the first time, and MEN'S HEARTS ARE FREE in that moment to receive.
 - We don't see that in America, because we as a nation have CHOSEN TO BE DECEIVED. We have had the gospel for years, and we have chosen to reject it, so God has given us over to the Romans 1 progression.

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. (Matthew 28:18-20)

"Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. (Matthew 18:18)

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. (Romans 1:16)

A THOUSAND YEARS:

- 10 X 10 X 10 - Completion, Completion, Completion.
- Period of time from Cross to the end of all things.
- During the thousand years, the martyrs reign with Him.

THE 144,000 COMPANY WHO LOVE NOT THEIR LIVES EVEN UNTO DEATH, BUT FOLLOW THE LAMB WHEREVER HE GOES.

PARTAKERS OF THE FIRST RESURRECTION:

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, (Ephesians 2:4-6)

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. (Colossians 2:13-14)

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:3-4)

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. (Ephesians 1:18-21)

Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule with justice. A man will be as a hiding place from the wind, And a cover from the tempest, As rivers of water in a dry place, As the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. (Isaiah 32:1-2)

- Some expect to see a kingdom with Jerusalem at the center:
 - Desire to be rulers in such a kingdom.
 - MY ONLY COMMENT IS THAT I CANNOT IMAGINE THAT BEING THE END OF THE "BLESSED HOPE OF HIS APPEARING" WHEN JESUS HIMSELF BEGAN THE KINGDOM BY SAYING, "MY KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD, ELSE WOULD MY SERVANTS FIGHT."
- We reign in the Spirit, and will one day, at THE COMING, see that in totality.
- Now we pray as Christ commanded, "THY kingdom come, THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH JUST AS IT IS IN HEAVEN."

- At the End of this thousand years SATAN IS RELEASED:
 - Again, note **HE DIDN'T ESCAPE!!**
 - Lures the nations to come against
- Again, the Egypt Principle
 - It seemed as if judgment was done after the ten plagues, but the final judgment was when God LURED Pharaoh to the Red Sea.
 - As Pharaoh came against the Children of God, in a last-ditch maniacal effort to take them back, God shows up, and miraculously delivers them through the Red Sea.
 - Again, Armageddon idea. – Waterloo

SEVENTH AND FINAL VISION; THE NEW JERUSALEM: (CHAPTER 21):

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also, there was no more sea. (Revelation 21:1)

NEW - NOT NEW IN KIND AS IS THE NEW SONG, BUT RENEWED, REJUVENATED EARTH.

- An earth totally different from the old one.
- We really know nothing of what that will be like.

This same time is described in "non-picture" language in Peter:

*Looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, **look for new heavens and a new earth** in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, **according to the wisdom given to him**, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, **which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction**, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; **but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.** (2 Peter 3:12-18)*

PETER DESCRIBES THIS PROCESS AS SIMILAR TO THE PROCESS WHICH OCCURRED DURING THE FLOOD.

- We know very little about the world in which Adam lived in, because it was destroyed by sin.
- We know very little about the world that existed from Adam till Noah, because it was destroyed by water.

A FEW GLIMPSES:

- No rain... animals all ate grass, etc.
 - Interesting that when sin entered the first world, man realized his nakedness, and was shamed in his nakedness.
- After Noah comes out of the ark, next recorded bit of information is that Noah got drunk, and was shamed in his nakedness.
- Any real discourse of what the new heaven and new earth are going to be like would be largely a Disney fantasy world, and not based on what we really KNOW.

MAIN FOCUS: NEW JERUSALEM

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (Revelation 21:1-2)

- Babylon described as the Harlot of the Beast.
- New Jerusalem described as the Bride of the Lamb.

V. 1 - NO MORE SEA

- Sea - restless turbulent nations.
- A new order - a rejuvenated earth.

These descriptions obviously refer to what we will be experiencing in eternity, but WHATEVER WE WILL BE EXPERIENCING IN ETERNITY, THE CHURCH IS NOW IN EMBRYO.

For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. (For they could not endure what was commanded: "AND IF SO MUCH AS A BEAST TOUCHES THE MOUNTAIN, IT SHALL BE STONED OR SHOT WITH AN ARROW." And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I AM EXCEEDINGLY AFRAID AND TREMBLING.")

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel. (Hebrews 12:18-24)

But the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written: "REJOICE, O BARREN, YOU WHO DO NOT BEAR! BREAK FORTH AND SHOUT, YOU WHO ARE NOT IN LABOR! FOR THE DESOLATE HAS MANY MORE CHILDREN THAN SHE WHO HAS A HUSBAND." (Galatians 4:26-27)

- v.4 - "WIPE AWAY ALL TEARS, NO LONGER ANY DEATH, OLD THINGS PASSED AWAY.
 - THERE IS A FINALITY IN THAT, BUT JESUS SAID, "I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE, HE THAT BELIEVES IN ME WILL NEVER DIE."
- We are those who **NOW** live in joy unspeakable and full of glory.
 - No more death

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14)

OLD THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY...

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, **all things have become new.** (2 Corinthians 5:17)*

NEW IN KIND

- Not a tadpole become a frog,
 - A tadpole become a canary.

*In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is **the guarantee of our inheritance** until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. (Ephesians 1:13-14)*

- Deposit is a little bit of a whole lot more.

WHAT IS DESCRIBED IS THE PERFECTION OF WHAT WE NOW HAVE IN EMBRYO ARCHITECT'S VIEW.

- Architect sees the finished building even before building is started.;
 - The builders take the architect's plans and translate them into reality.
- Usually on the job site you see a picture or a model of the architect's rendering of the finished building.
 - This is the architect's renderings.
- As we look at the church, we see a city in the making and all of the dirt and problems with that kind of construction.
 - But don't lose site of the architect's plan.

CHURCH IS CALLED A CITY - WHY?

- The coming together of a people in community
- Place of fellowship.
- A place of rest and permanent residence.
- Jesus said (John. 14) In my father's house are many dwelling places.
- The first people of God in shadow, lived in tents, the fulfillment of the shadow lives in a city.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. (Hebrews 11:8-10)

NEW JERUSALEM IS DESCRIBED AS HOLY:

- Babylon was described as Great.
 - Great says something about me.
- Holy talks about being set apart.
 - It speaks of the one to whom I am set apart.
 - Creation is set apart to God.
- God is HOLY - He is set apart to Himself.
- All creation delights in God, and He delights in Himself, because there is no greater.
- The New Jerusalem is a company set apart for God's exclusive pleasure.
 - God giving Himself back to Himself.
 - Flesh of His flesh.

THIS CITY ORIGINATES WITH GOD:

- A city coming down out of heaven.
 - Earthly cities rise up from the earth.
 - We build a foundation in the earth, and then build on top of it, but this city originates in heaven.

"You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. (Daniel 2:31-35)

REPRESENTS A CONTINUUM....

- Head of Gold, Chest of Silver etc.
- Each taking over where the other left off. But there is a kingdom which is described as a little rock, that becomes a large mountain, and takes over.
 - This is not other kingdoms, but a kingdom very other than the rest.
 - My kingdom is not of this world.....

v.11 - HAVING THE BRILLIANCE OF COSTLY STONES - GLORY OF GOD.

- Brilliance of Jasper – Remember chapter 4
 - the light of the un-beginning God.
- Now the church is the manifestation of the same
 - "I AM the light of the world"...then turned to the disciples and said, "YE ARE the light of the world. (Mat.5:14)
- We partake of who He is, and become HIS light.
 - Ish - Isha.
- II Cor. 4 "We have this treasure of His glory in earthen vessels. Made manifest in Us.

THE CHURCH IS THE GRAND AIM OF ALL AGES - THIS IS GOD'S FINAL PURPOSE - THE ARCHITECT'S VISION IN PERFECTION.

v.15 MEASURED THE CITY 12000 STADIA CUBED:

- $12 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10 = 3 \times 4 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10$
- CUBE - only other cube in scripture was Holy of Holies, both in the Tabernacle and in Solomon's Temple. (I Kings 6:20)
 - Naaos - the very place of God's glory.
 - We are now a PART of the Naaos. We have not come to it, but we are a PART OF IT.

WALLS 144 CUBITS THICK:

- 12 X 12 thick
 - Set apart to God
 - Set apart from Evil
- When Man fell in the Garden - CHERUBIM were assigned to guard the way to the tree of life.
 - In the Garden man lived in the very Glory of God.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:21-24)

- We worship God in a new dimension, in fact, we are a part of the new dimension.

*Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. **Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.** And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that **your bodies are members of Christ?** Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "THE TWO," He says, "SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH." **But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.** (1 Corinthians 6:13-17)*

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, **but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God**, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, **in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.** (Ephesians 2:19-22)

This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. In that day "HOLINESS TO THE LORD" shall be engraved on the bells of the horses. The pots in the LORD's house shall be like the bowls before the altar. Yes, every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness to the LORD of hosts.

Everyone who sacrifices shall come and take them and cook in them. In that day **there shall no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts** (Zechariah 14:19-21)"

HOLY TO THE LORD" - WAS THE INSCRIPTION OF THE HIGH PRIESTS MITER, AND INSCRIBED ON ALL THE UTENSILS OF THE TABERNACLE.

- The day is coming when the horses in the busy streets, and in the kitchens, everyone will be able to experience the inscription "HOLY TO THE LORD", BECAUSE WE HAVE BECOME HIS DWELLING PLACE.
- Isaiah 4 - Prophecy that all of Mount Zion will be covered with the cloud of His presence, not just the temple.

WE HAVE RETURNED TO EDEN WHERE GOD'S GLORY IS - OUR NAKEDNESS IS AGAIN COVERED BY HIS GLORIOUS PRESENCE, BECAUSE HE IS OUR COVERING!

CH. 22:3-4 - NO LONGER ANY CURSE AND THE THRONE OF GOD IS IN IT:

- We will see God face to face.
 - No more priest.
 - Curse of sin is gone - no more sacrifice.
- Sealed in the forehead - GOD'S POSSESSION - "HOLY TO THE LORD."
 - A repeat of the terms of covenant in Heb. 8.

v.22 - NO MORE TEMPLE, FOR GOD IS IT'S TEMPLE.

- What makes a temple? - The Glory of God.
- God has chosen to place His glory in the worshipping community.

v.23 - NO SUN OR MOON OR LAMP:

- Has no need for the Sun/Moon/Or Lamp.
 - Sun and moon - light outer court of tabernacle
 - Lamp lit Holy Place.
 - But Holy of Holies was lit by the Glory of God Himself
 - He WAS IT'S LAMP.

WALLS - 1500 FT. HIGH.

- I could live in the Hill district with walls that high.
- Separation - not too much communication with my neighbors.
 - Evil cannot enter.

V.14 - TWELVE FOUNDATION STONES:

- Eph. 2:20 - foundation of apostles and prophets.
- I Cor. 3:9 - YOU ARE GOD'S BUILDING.
 - Church is not a MYSTICAL experience, but is built solidly on a foundation.
 - We don't know God just because of Experience, but because of who HE IS IN REALITY.

v.18-21 PRECIOUS STONES OF THE FOUNDATION:

- Similar description of the stones on the High Priest's breastplate,
 - representing the people of Israel held on the High Priests heart.
 - the Breastplate of God Himself, brought to His very heart.

TWELVE GATES - TWELVE PEARLS:

- Each gate had the name of one of the tribes.
 - 3 north, 3 south, 3 east, 3 west.
 - 3 X 4 again
- O.T. Israel camped the same way around the tabernacle. And there in the center was the "Throne of God in Israel." The fulfillment of the shadow.
- This is the true Israel camped around the very throne of God.
 - Note that Pearl is the only precious stone made by blood and suffering.
 - Others result from pressure and heat.
 - Pearl demands the giving of life.
- Jesus - the Pearl of Great Price.
- Jesus is the Gate - "I am the Way."
 - But we are the city and the gate is a part of the city.
 - Once again - "I am light - Ye are the Light"
 - Jesus is the only way, but we are the ones who must show the way.
 - Cornelius - Angel comes and said, I don't know what to tell you, but call for Peter, he knows about the Pearl.
 - SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE SAY COME!!

OBSERVATION: FOUNDATION STONES 12 APOSTLES, GATES THE 12 TRIBES

CITY FILLED WITH GOLD - GOD'S DIVINE NATURE.

- We are united to His Light
- United to His Life - Partakers of His nature.

As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (2 Peter 1:3-4)

And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. (Revelation 21:24)

- Its gates are always open
- We are the glory of the nations.
- We are always open to receive all
- Gospel is available to all.
- Isaiah 2 - All nations flow into it.

EPH. 3 BOTH JEWS AND GENTILES.

CH. 22 - DESCRIBES THE CITY AS A GARDEN:

- The eternal Eden.
- The garden of God - Peace
- Bible begins with a garden and ends with a garden.
- Jn. 7:37 - River of Life through the center.

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. (John 7:37 NKJV)

- Ezekiel 47: Prophecy that the River of water would flow from under the temple.
- Flowed from there to all the nations.

IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY IS THE THRONE OF GOD.

- We are the center of God's rule on earth.
- Matt. 28:18 - "All power given... go therefore...."
- "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

CHURCH BRINGS ABOUT THROUGH PRAYER IN FAITH, GOD'S WILL ON EARTH.

“ Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in Heaven.”

THE FINAL FINALE OF ALL THINGS:

JESUS CHRIST HAS CONQUERED - EVERYTHING IS DONE!!!!

THIS IS THE BLESSED HOPE OF THE APPEARING OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST!!!!!!!!!!!!

EVEN SO COME QUICKLY!!!!!!!!!!!!

SUMMARY:

While I do not believe that the Book of Revelation is an eschatological book, the eschatological questions always get asked. I will make some summary comments which may be helpful in resolving some of the plaguing questions about these issues.

I think that it is likely that as was the case in the Old Testament, prophetically given announcements such as the Book of Revelation, have multiple fulfillments.

Example: Many times, in the New Testament, scriptures are lifted out of the original exegetic context, to be quoted as "This is that...." They had a fulfillment in the context of the person to whom it was given, yet it had a future fulfillment as well.

- The most obvious and foundational such case is Abraham.
 - Told he would inherit the land.
 - 40 some generations, his offspring indeed did inhabit the physical literal real estate as God had promised.
 - However, Abraham himself, understanding the ultimate intention of that promise, lived in tents, "because he looked for a city that had foundation, whose Builder and Maker was God."

Hence, I believe that Revelation probably has similar implications. However, as is also the case with the Old Testament prophesies, it was not fully understood until **after** the events, and we could LOOK BACK and say, "This is that."

One of these days as we look back from the other side of time, we will be amazed at the incredible intricacy with which God has woven together every event in history with multiple overlays, each displaying ever more of His glory and majesty.

ONE FINAL THOUGHT:

Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (2 Peter 3:1-13 NKJV)

APPENDIX I

NUMEROLOGY

- 1 – God as the ultimate, singular, almighty, and ONLY true God.

“Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one . (Deuteronomy 6:4 TLV)
- 2 – Fallen Mankind
 - Humankind is two (Male and Female)
 - 6 divided by 3
 - Reflect Man separated from God.
- 3 – Trinity – The Godhead – The *person* of God
- 4 – Universal
 - “Four Corners” of the earth.
 - Four horns on the altar
 - Many 40’s = 4 X 10
- 5 – Grace – God’s kindness.
 - 50 = 5X10 is the measure (cubits) of the Holy Place in the Tabernacle and Temple
 - The approach to God.
 - Note: This is the only one that is not generally mentioned.
 - Rabbis also see it as representing the Law – Five Books of Moses
- 6 – Mankind
 - Created on day 6
 - 666 – man declaring himself to be God
- 7 – Perfection
 - Creation finished, and God declared day 7 as Holy
 - Sabbath – Marked God’s people even when scattered among the nations
- 8 – New Beginnings
 - 8th Day begins a new week.
 - A new cycle of life.
 - Child named and circumcised on day 8
- 10 – Completion
 - When you count to 10, you begin again at 1
- 12 -People of God in ordered fullness (twelve tribes of Israel, twelve stones, twelve loaves in the Tabernacle).

SOME VERY IMPORTANT MULTIPLES

- 40 – Probably the most frequent
 - 4 X 10
 - Universal completion
- 50 – Pentecost
 - 5 X 10
 - Completion of Grace
- 70 – Complete fullness
 - 7 X 10
 - The number of Israel's offspring that went to Egypt
 - The number of the Nations
 - Sanhedrin has 70 elders
- 100 – Human completion
 - 10 X 10
 - 10 to the 2nd power.
 - Human ability.
- 1000 – God's completion
 - 10 X 10 X 10 = 1000
 - 10 to the 3rd Power
- 12 – Foundarions
 - 3 X 4
 - 12 Tribes
 - 12 Apostles
- Special Multiples of 12
 - 24 = 12 +12
 - Old Covenant and New Covenant
 - 144 =12 X 12