

Unlocking the End Book

1902 *Writer, The Apostle
John.*
4288 *Analysis of the book,
Outstanding Personality*
Christ, the Lamb

2494 *Revelation*
2500 *Christ*
3240 *God*

417 *...*
145 *A...*

1902 *John*
3801 *Te...*
3805 *Live...*

Blessing
Reading

376 *Bles...*

942 *Spi...*

1774 *Pro...*

3886 *Wo...*

348 *Full...*

The M...

seven

's G...

lave

ernal

14.6

THE REVELATION OF SAINT JOHN THE DIVINE

CHAPTER 1
The preface. 7 The
THE Revelation
Christ

seven churches which
un-A'gia; unto Eph'esus, a
serv-to Smyr'na, and unto
hortly mos, and unto Thy-a-ti
and unto Sar'dis, and unto

Jack W. Hayford

Studies
in the Book of Revelation

Unlocking the End-Book

Study Notes

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THE ALPHA-OMEGA CODE: Key to Discerning the “End-Book”

A study in the Book of Revelation – Pastor Jack Hayford

I. Unveiling the Book of Revelation

The Apocalypse (Gk. *Apokalupsis*; unveiling, revealed) is the crowning Book of the Bible. It capsulizes the ultimate *triumph* of the Kingdom of God (11:15) and the *gospel* that invites all mankind to share in it (1:5-6; 5:9-10; 22:17). Traditional attitudes, forged over the past century, have become so entrenched in the minds of many believers that it is almost impossible to approach this Book in the way that John did himself: (1) He had no preconception of prophetic pattern except the promised return and rule of Christ Jesus, and (2) he had no goal in writing except encouraging believers toward steadfastness. It's not necessary to suppose that Jesus meant this book to be as confusing as it has been made by many to seem.

It is exciting to speculate on the pattern by which these prophecies shall eventually be worked out. It is possible that many of our contemporary suggestions may be accurate and attitudes developing around us are possible fulfillments of some of these prophecies. But it is unwise to presume either a dogmatic opinion or to presume the accuracy of a particular prophetic chart—scheme. In John 13:19 and 14:29, Jesus makes clear that prophecies have never been given to *construct* charts, but to *confirm* and to verify God's sovereign rule in all of life after it has been fulfilled.

The purpose of our study, then, is threefold:

- A. **To seek to divest** the Book of any prefabricated structures of interpretation that have been pressed upon it; which structures hinder a simple view of its content, and close-up passages to single possibilities—a violation to a basic rule of prophetic study (2 Peter 1:20). We are not denying truth, but avoiding presumed interpretation.
- B. **To gain a grasp** of the whole Book, so that the multiple parts are seen in an integrated way. The *discursive* nature of biblical prophecy (i.e. the method in which the prophet relates what he sees, ranging from one topic to another without any particular regard for a synchronization of time or order) recommends the likelihood that chapter sequence or the length or detail of any passages is in no wise controlling in ascertaining application or interpretation.
- C. **To know those principles** which are taught in the Book, so that practical faith and personal obedience may be increased. The obvious and original reason for the Book of Revelation is the establishing of believers in a commitment to (1) purity in life and teaching, (2) endurance in spite of vicious persecution, and (3) confidence in Christ's triumph over all things.

II. Applying This Approach To Revelation

A commonly popularized approach to this Book (1) puts the Rapture at 4:1 and (2) treats all that follows as future matters. Though it has barely 150 years of tradition in the Church, *and* is generally not accepted by the majority of Christians, it still commands center stage too frequently. The problem is that such a view tends to sensation more than substance. Remembering that those who hold such an approach are not less intelligent, spiritual or sincere than those who do not, note the following:

- A. We see the unfolding chapter to chapter reading of the Book *not* as a constant succession of events listed in chronological order. BUT the Book of Revelation *is* a record of prophetic visions and words recorded by John in the sequence he received them, not intended to relate the order of their outworking or fulfillment.
- B. The Seven Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls are best understood as being overlapping and integrated judgments. (See Diagram on reverse side.)
 1. The Seals begin with the birth of the Church and are *continuing* age-long until the final expression of Divine wrath (cp. 6:12-17 with 16:17-21);

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2. The Trumpets are *cumulative*, announcing the processes of decay as fallen man's sinful rule of a doomed planet erodes all human life and our environment and gives place to evil spiritual activities;
3. The Bowls are *climactic*, following the pre-wrath rapture of the Church and consummating God's dealings with rebellious flesh and devils.

THE MESSAGE OF THIS BOOK *Summary Lessons from the Study of Revelation*

1. Jesus Christ is Lord of the Church and is actively present all the while,
 - a. to receive our worship;
 - b. to evaluate our actions;
 - c. to sustain us in trial; and
 - d. to lead us to overcoming victory.
2. Jesus Christ is Lord of the Earth, and as Creator/Redeemer
 - a. has unfolded the "deed" (scroll) to reclaim it;
 - b. has commissioned His own to evangelize it;
 - c. is executing justice and judgment toward its ultimate cleansing and renewal; and will ultimately rule it in righteousness
3. The Godhead's tireless dealings with Israel as a people,
 - a. are constant in a personal sense *now*;
 - b. are suspended in a national sense until "about now"; and
 - c. will be ultimately realized in a way yet undefined; though partially prophesied.
4. The Adversary, the Devil, is a relentless, age-long foe, who
 - a. is manifest in the world system by controlling it;
 - b. is systematic in opposing God by blaspheming all that pertains to Him;
 - c. is merciless in his deployment of demon beings to torment and destroy mankind; and
 - d. is to be ultimately and conclusively judged and consigned to eternal torment.
5. This world is on a certain "path" of deterioration; so that,
 - a. all its environment is deteriorating as man violates it;
 - b. all its political, economic, and spiritual systems are damned; and
 - c. it will ultimately be disintegrated and replaced by a new creation.
6. Each member of Christ's Church is called:
 - a. to ever live in faithful anticipation of Jesus' return;
 - b. to stand firm when experiencing apparent defeat, being confident of ultimate victory;
 - c. to faithful intercessory prayer and constant praise-filled worship "Unto Him Who is worthy!"; and
 - d. to hear the Spirit's voice, to know the Father's Word, and to walk the Savior's pathway of obedience.

THE UNLEASHING OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE SCROLL'S UNFOLDING

The Path and the Price of Evil's Overthrow and the Son of Man's Restored Rule

The “core” of the events constituting Revelation is in the three sets of *sevens*—the *seals*, *trumpets*, and *bowls*. Our approach to this study does not interpret these as historically sequential—i.e., following one another. Rather, they are seen as integrated and overlapping, except for those events which are defined as “God’s wrath.”

SEALS *These seem to be AGE-LONG, as with Jesus’ prophecies, and essentially involve Man’s Actions.*
Ch. 6 **30 A.D.** _____ **(*) THE END**
COMPREHENSIVE (throughout)

TRUMPETS *These seem to be PROPORTIONS of destructiveness cumulative through the age, and essentially involve demonic action. (See also Rev. 11:15-19.)*
Ch. 8 & 9 **30 A.D.** _____ **(*) THE END**
CONTROLLED (increasing intensity)

BOWLS *These are clearly CLIMATIC outpourings of His final “wrath,” and essentially involve God’s action.*
Ch. 16 _____ **(*) ► (**) THE END**
CULMINATIVE (begins in Last Times)

The common denominator or coordinating factors regarding “The Rod” are earthquakes (“an earthquake” or “a great earthquake”—Rev. 6:12; 11:13; 16:18). There seem to be two: one () at the beginning of God’s wrath outpoured (6:12) which is the probable time of the rapture of the Church (1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9; and the second (***) at the conclusion of this display of wrath in judgment (16:18). Some feel the 7th Trumpet is the same as “the last trump.” (See 1 Cor. 15:52 and 1 Thess. 4:16.)

THE ALPHA-OMEGA CODE: Key to Discerning the “End-Book,” Part 2

Pastor Jack Hayford

I. Primary Events Usually Occupying Prophetic Interest

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Restoration of the Jews | Ezekiel. 37, Matt. 24:32-34, Luke 21:24 |
| 2. The Rebuilding of the Temple | Ezekiel 40-48 |
| 3. The Conflict between Israel and “Gog” | Ezekiel 38-39 |
| 4. The Tribulation | Rev. 6-9, Matt. 24:21-22 |
| 5. The Revelation of Antichrist | Rev. 13, Daniel 11:21-31, Matt. 24:24-26, 2 Thess. 2:3-12 |
| 6. The Rapture of the Church | 1 Thess. 4:15-17, Matt. 24:36-51, 1 Cor. 15:51-58 |
| 7. The Coming of Christ in Glory | Matt. 24:27, Rev. 19:11-21 |
| 8. The Judgment Seat of Christ | 1 Cor. 3:13-15, 2 Cor. 5:10, Matthew 25:14-30 |
| 9. Marriage Supper of the Lamb | Rev. 19:1-10, Matt. 25:10 |
| 10. The Battle of Armageddon
(and destruction of “Babylon”) | Rev. 14:18, Zechariah 14:3-5 |
| 11. The Judgment of the Nations | Matt. 25:31-46 |
| 12. The Millennium | Rev. 20:1-6 |
| 13. The Consummation of all Things | 2 Peter 3:7-14, Matt. 24:35 |
| 14. Final Judgment—Great White Throne—
Hell | Rev. 20, Malachi 4:1; Matt. 7:13-25, Mark 9:43-48 |
| 15. HEAVEN—Eternal Blessing | Rev. 21, John 14:1-3 |

II. Attitudes To Hold Toward Bible Prophecy

A. Personal Attitudes

1. Sobriety Significance of Issues
2. Humility We receive some facts (in no precise time or order) that after the fact we may be reminded of our God's Sovereign rule.
3. Honesty Flexibility and Teachability
4. Pragmatic Should cultivate growth, service, witness and wisdom.

B. Attitudes to Maintain

Important to approaching Revelation is knowledge that devoted Christians interpret it different ways:

1. Symbolic Insight into nature of spiritual struggle. Encouragement.
2. Preterist (fr. "preterit," past action or state)
Entirely fulfilled in the Early Church (Ch. 2, 3 addresses) except Second Coming
3. Historical Ties events to the progress of the Church through the ages. Illustration:
Luther/Reformers saw "the Beast/AntiChrist" as the Pope. These see Synoptics (Jesus' prophecies) as First Century, and Revelation as through to conclusion of Roman Empire.
4. Futurist Chapter 4 and on, the Great Tribulation (Dispensational)

III. Help In Our Interpretive Approach

A. Literary Style

Like some others, I see elements of each of the above as key to grasping Revelation. Helpful is to see literary elements wrapped up in the prophetic method of prophets in the Bible.

Discursive:

1. "Moving from one topic to another, including digressions";
2. "Passing rapidly and irregularly from one subject to another." For example, John relates a record of what he SAW...and "Then I saw..." or "After this I saw" only refers to HIS running commentary/perspective, NOT necessarily to the order of the events, as they will come to pass.

Within the discursive mode, we will find

Excurses: "Digressions in a literary work"

Examples: Eclectic: Unattached to any one school of thought
 Proleptic: See things that are not yet, as if already done

B. Prophetic Approach: Problems in the study of prophecy

1. "Line of Sight" vision; chronological data rarely present
2. Discursive Style: almost never given sequentially
3. "Symbolic" Terminology: Subjected to varied views
4. Multiple Episodes: Recurrent applications
5. Remembering God's Purpose: To reveal His omniscience and underscore our dependence.

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2. Briefly:
- Seals 1-6: Report *all history's agony and action from the time of Christ until He comes again.*
Compare: Matthew 24 (Comprehensive/Continuing)
- Trumpets 1-6: Reflect both *the sum of earth's ecological deterioration and humanity's demonization.*
Compare: II Timothy 3:1-3 (Cumulative/Corrupting)
- Trumpet 7/
Bowls 1-7: Reveal *the brief and climaxing events attending God's visitation of wrath.*
Compare: II Thessalonians 2:1-12 (Consummate/Culminating)

B. Blending these E-Quake reports

Revelation 6:12-17

- 12 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.
- 13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.
- 14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.
- 15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains.
- 16 and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!
- 17 "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?

Blending these E-Quake reports:

6:14b; 16-20—Both

describe
this as a *global cataclysm*.

6:17; 16-19—Both identify
this event as *God's wrath*.

6:17; 16-18—It is unprecedented *in time*—"the day...;" and unprecedented *in scope*, "not since."

6:12; 16-17—Both use terms making this "The End." (Join 6:12 to Mt. 24:25/Acts 2:20; and 16:18 to 1 Cor. 15:51-54 and 2 Thess. 4:16.)

Revelation 16:17-21

- 17 Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"
- 18 And there were noises and thunders and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.
- 19 Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.
- 20 Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.
- 21 And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.

II. GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY AND TODAY'S CREDIBILITY.

III. GOD'S REDEMPTIVE ACTION AMID EARTHQUAKES.

THE E-QUAKE: Correlating The E-Book's "7's"

Pastor Jack Hayford

Text: Revelation 6:1-17

The Three Sevens: Revelation's Unfolding Judgments

Having studied Chapter 5's depiction of Jesus' arrival at the Throne of Heaven, as the Lamb—the Son of God triumphantly returning to glory after perfecting salvation's provision—we see his next action. He begins to break the seals on The Scroll—releasing the execution of God's will—to recover earth from evil, and to reinstate His original intent and benevolent purpose for humankind. What follows is the unleashing of the Scroll, revealing three series of "sevens."

Seals: #1-6 (6:1-17); #7 (8:1-6...introduces The 7 Trumpets)

Note: The separation of the 7th seal and the 7th trumpet from the first six of each in John's vision, is the literary device provided to assist our seeing the "7's" as non-sequential. They are sometimes chronologically separate, sometimes integrated and overlapping, and other times—especially at the climax—they are simultaneous, as with the E-Quake.

Trumpets: #1-6 (8:7-9:21); #7 (11:15-19...opens to "Wrath")

Note: The last trumpet sounds over a season of time (10:8) as a climax to "Time" (10:7). See 1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thess. 4:16.

Bowls: The Prelude (15:1-8); the Execution of #1-7 (16:1-21); and the Aftermath of the wrath of God (17:1-18:24).

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UNLEASHING THE SCROLL'S UNFOLDING

The path and price of Evil's overthrow and the Son of Man's restored rule.

The “core” events constituting Revelation is in three seven—seals, trumpets, and bowls. Sound biblical interpretation does not require interpreting these as historically sequential—i.e., following one another. Rather, we see them as integrated and overlapping, except for specific events described as “God’s wrath.” The common denominator or coordinating feature of these “sevens” is “an earthquake” or “a great earthquake”—Rev. 6:12; 11:13; 16:18. This climaxing event—“The E-Quake”—is the meeting point of the 3 “sevens” of judgment.

7 SEALS Ch. 6

These parallel the AGE-LONG “troubles” Jesus prophesied (Matt.24). His prophecy describes all *these* and all *this* time as “the tribulation of those days.” These essentially involve Man’s action.

30 A.D. Age-Long “Tribulation” EQ—THE END
A COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW (throughout the whole of the period)
from the Church’s birth (6:2) to The End (6:17).

7 TRUMPETS Ch. 8 & 9

These merge EVENTS and EVIDENCES—accumulating destruction as “the last days” draw toward their conclusion. They reflect man’s lost “rule” of earth giving place to demonic expediting of creation’s decay and humankind’s suffering. These essentially involve satanic activities released under God’s sovereign will.

Crises and Cumulative: Increasing Intensity EQ—THE END
A CORRUPTING CREATION resultant of human irresponsibility which has released the rule of satanic animosity.

7 BOWLS Ch. 16

A CONSUMMATE outpouring of the judgment, which human sin and rebellion had invoked upon humanity and upon earth, mankind’s habitation. These essentially involve God’s action, dealing to the residue of human rebellion what it has chosen for itself (9:20:21; 16:10-11, 21).

?? A.D.

The Finale: Revelation 10:7 EQ—THE END
A CULMINATIVE CONSEQUENCE—brief and conclusive, finalizing the history of fallen man’s government of earth.

REVELATION AND THE RAPTURE

Pastor Jack Hayford

Text: Revelation 7:9-17

INTRODUCTION: Jesus promised and taught of His end-times *return* and of a *gathering* of His own unto Himself at history's conclusion.

At the Last Supper, Jesus promised, "I will come again: (John 14:3) and receive you unto myself; that where I am you may be also."

At His trial: "Tell us if you are the Christ." Jesus: "It is as you said, ...you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." Matt. 26:63-65

At His ascension: Angels, "This same Jesus..." (Acts 1:11)

Opening Book of Revelation: "Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him...all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him." Rev. 1:7 (Close 22:20 "Surely...")

Let us see the rapture in Revelation.

I. The Bible And The Rapture

A. The definition of the term: *harpadzo* (Grk) – 13x in NT.

—to seize, with a sudden, overwhelming force.

John 10:12, as Jesus describes a wolf taking the sheep.

Same context (vs. 28, 29) "no man *plucks*" from my hand.

John 6:15, as crowd seeks to take Jesus and force Him to become king (after feeding of the 5000).

—to transport to another setting.

Acts 8:39, as Philip is "caught away" by the Spirit, from the desert encounter with Ethiopian, "found at Azotus, preaching."

—to seize and rescue from imminent peril.

Acts 23:10, as Apostle Paul is about to be literally torn or "pulled to pieces" by an angry mob in Jerusalem.

Jude 23, describing the spirit of compassion motivating our evangelism: "pulling them (KJV—"snatch") as brands..."

B. The definition of the time.

1. This will occur in conjunction with "the last trumpet"

1 Cor. 15:51-52 – "...for the trumpet shall sound and the dead will be raised...we (the living) shall be changed."

1 Thess. 4:17, as we are told, "...we shall be caught up together..." at the coming of the Lord, when "the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the trumpet of God..."

2. This will occur in conjunction with the climax of age-long struggle/travail of humanity Jesus calls "great tribulation."

Matt. 24:29-31 – "Immediately after..." (see 24:1-22).

Same text reveals a time of cataclysmic consummation on earth: "sun/moon/stars"

—compare with Rev. 6:12, 13.

II. The Rapture Texts of Revelation

A. The text at hand—7:9-17. Basic facts about the throng—

1. There are people “of all nations, etc.” celebrating a victory (palm leaves, v. 9) and shouting triumphantly v. 10.
2. They have suddenly arrived, and prompt praise, v. 11, 12.
3. They have just come out of “the great tribulation” v. 13, 14.

Though this passage presents the basics re “raptured host,” there are other “prophetic view points” of this event in this book.

B. Three other Revelation perspectives on the rapture—

1. Rev. 11:11-13, as the Two Witnesses are called “up.”
2. Rev. 14:1-5, as the 144,000 (earlier “sealed”) arrive.
These two entities seem to many to be the most difficult to identify in Revelation. Reason: Because they both relate to the “mystery” role (Rev. 10:7) of the combined witness of believing Jews and Gentiles—a joint, anointed testimony that has continued since the Church’s birth, and will till the end.
3. Rev. 19:1-9, as the joyous redeemed celebrate the Great Supper (v. 9—see Mt. 25:1-13; 22:1-14; Lk. 14:15-24).

III. Rapture Truth and Your Life Today

A. The promise of being “caught up together” is only available to those who have “washed their robes in His Blood” 7:14

B. There is an ultimate promise of great deliverance.

“...the ones who come out of the great tribulation” vs. 14

C. The moment of deliverance will be related to the moment

“...in your patience, possess your souls” (Luke 21:19) that the E-Quake occurs.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11. We are *not* appointed to wrath (Rev. 6:17; 17-19), but we are called to sobriety (v. 6, 7) and sensitive preparedness (v. 8).

D. There will be great relief from distress and great comfort from pain and heartbreak, as great reward awaits us (vs. 16, 17).

Conclusion: Who will notice “the rapture” has occurred? The awesome likelihood is that no one will, except those who are gone! Society’s disposition to disbelieve will attribute all to “the cataclysm.”

THE TRAIL OF TRIAL AND TRIUMPH IN REVELATION

Pastor Jack Hayford

Struggle, Warfare, Suffering, Persecution, Tribulation, Trial

Promise, Hope, Victory, Grace, Strength, Triumph

1:9 John's imprisonment/persecution

1:18 Jesus visits to announce, "I have the keys."

2:9-10 Jesus to Smyrna: "I know your works, tribulation, poverty—those who blaspheme you." Don't fear (prophecies) suffering, imprisonment. Devil will bring tribulation for 10 days (extended period).

2:11 You'll never be hurt by the second death.

Perspective: You can't have anything here that will deprive you of your greatest hope!

3:9, 8 Those who accuse you of having an unworthy or inferior faith (and would seek to slam the door on your plans/opportunities).

3:10 I will hold the door; I will humble them; and I WILL KEEP YOU FROM THE ULTIMATE "HOUR."

CHAPTERS 4, 5 – Throne Scene /Scroll Taken

6:9-11 Those slain for Christ...
Age-long killings of believers

6:2 Still, the key is leading the Church forward, "conquering and to conquer."

7:16-17 Those who suffered hunger, thirst, abandonment and tears.

7:16-17 ...are rewarded with the personal, eternal presence of the "Shepherd-King."

CHAPTERS 8, 9, 10 – Trumpet Judgments

11:7-10 Re: 2 Witnesses—Beast was against them, overcomes and kills them. World mocks & rejoices.

11:2 They ascend to heaven in sight of those who killed them.

CENTERPIECE OF PRINCIPLE

13:6, 7a Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.

It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them.

12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the Death.

13:10 He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

CERTAINTY OF JUSTICE / ABIDING REWARD

14:11-13 “And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name” Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’”
“Yes says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.”

18:20 “Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!”

18:24 “And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.”

CHAPTERS 16-18 – Summary of “The Wrath” Results

*The Final Scenario at The Climax of the Struggle
Chapters 19-22 – Vanquished Foe /Victorious Church*

20:10-15

- v. 10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

21:22-22:5

- v. 21-23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.
- v. 22:5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.